

2759NP610095

154 Eminent Figures Have Used GI Bill

TRAINING UNDER WWII and Korean GI Bills was obtained by 116 members of the House of Representatives, 12 state governors, 3 members of the President's Cabinet, 1 Justice of the Supreme Court, 6 astronauts and 5 of the President's special assistants in the White House.

THE OBSERVER

Published Weekly For U.S. Forces In Vietnam
(Circulation: 60,000)

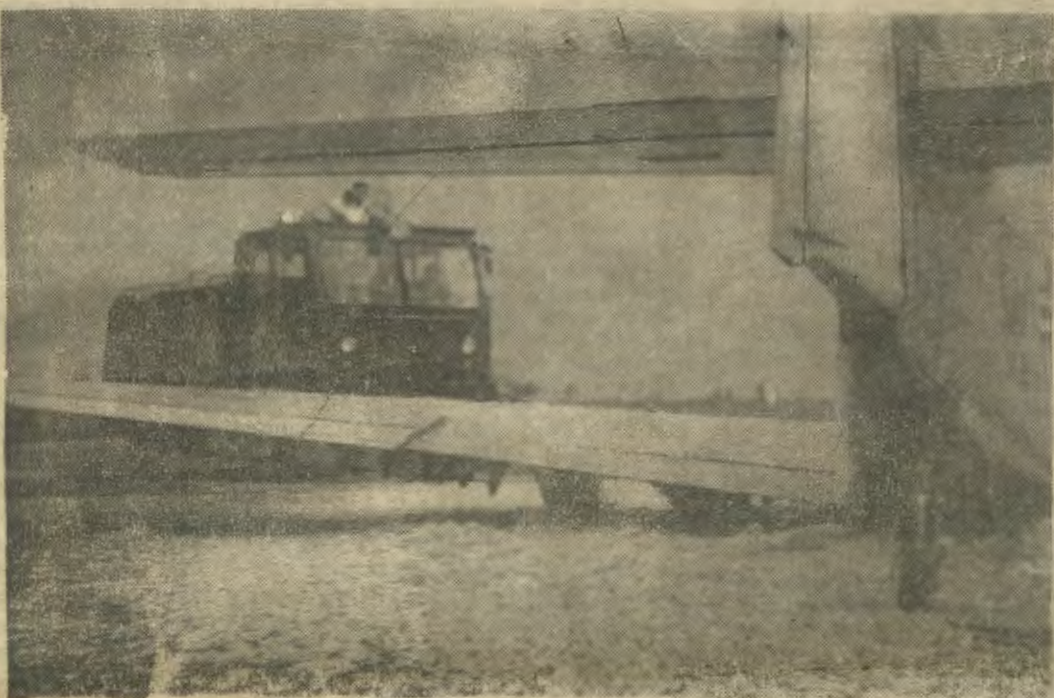
Vol. IV, No. 47

SAIGON, VIETNAM

March 26, 1966

On The Inside...

	Page
Ann-Margret	11
Crossword Puzzle	12
Delta Air Support	8
Editorials	2
Guerrilla Trap	6
175mm Guns	5
Little Winged Tigers	9
Mail Box	12
Peanuts	12
Commo Cache	4
Sports	12
Vietnam News	10
Washington Memos	2
World News	10



CRASH RESCUE— An Air Force crash rescue crew stands by after spraying a fire extinguishing foam on a Navy A-1H Skyraider which crashed at the Da Nang Air Base. Trained in fire fighting, emergency rescue and first aid, the Air Force rescue teams meet crippled aircraft landing at air bases throughout the Republic of Vietnam. (USAF Photo)

MACV Advisors Guide Viet Armored Units

Quang Ngai — The armored personnel carriers of the ARVN 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment moved through the gates of their compound into the dense fog on a seize-and-secure operation 275 miles northwest of Saigon.

An hour earlier the 2nd Battalion, 4th Vietnamese Infantry Regiment had seized the village of Phu Thuan.

"The 2nd will secure the town to provide protection for the left flank of the 5th Airborne Battalion coming in from the north," Maj. Frank Walton, regimental advisor, explained prior to the start of the operation.

As the carriers moved over the twisting, fog-shrouded roads, they passed elements of the 5th Airborne on their way to seize a series of villages.

Capt. John H. (Jack) Frost, advisor to the 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, said, "The air-borne has two missions today—seize four villages and link up with the air-mobile force being flown in by Marine choppers."

Overhead, jet fighters from the Marine Corps began their pre-strike attack, swooping

low over suspected VC positions with machine guns blazing.

For an hour the personnel carriers continued through the rice paddies, deep furrows showing where the tracks had crossed.

Suddenly an excited Vietnamese voice crackled from the radio:

"There they go," exclaimed SFC Ben Myers, enlisted advisor to the 4th Squadron, as three figures broke from the rice paddy and headed for the jungle.

Instantly the squadron's machine guns opened up on the scattering trio.

"The VC are tricky," commented Capt. Frost, "They have underground tunnels crisscrossing this whole area, usually they get away. Maybe this time we'll be lucky."

As the APCs moved across

(Cont'd on P-12, Col. 1)

'Operation Harrison'

101st Makes Good Use Of Support

Tuy Hoa (USA)— There is a potent punch in the Army, Navy, Air Force team, and the Army's "Screaming Eagles" put it to good use near Tuy Hoa, 225 miles northeast Saigon, during "Operation Harrison."

Duty-Free Gift Limit Raised

The President has signed Public Law 89-368 which authorizes Armed Forces personnel serving in a combat zone to send home gifts tax and duty free to the extent such gifts in any shipment do not exceed fifty dollars in aggregate retail value in the country of shipment if such articles were purchased in or through authorized agencies of the Armed Forces of the United States. Detailed regulations will be out in the near future.

"Don't pour that water directly on it!" shouted the chief. The firefighters doused the ground, allowing the

water to run under the wheel.

"You have to cool this sort of fire slowly," said Fire Chief MSgt. Gothard N. Ostby Jr. "If you pour cold water directly on that red-hot brake drum, it's likely to explode."

An external fuel tank hung under the belly of the Skyraider just a few feet from the wheel. A rack of bombs hung suspended beneath the wing.

After a few minutes of careful splashing, the wheel was cool. The fire vehicles pulled out.

"Our first job," Ostby says, "is to save lives."

(Cont'd on P-11, Col. 2)

U. S. A. Has Jayne, France Has Brigitte; VC Have Ho Chi Minh

Bong Son (USA)— American servicemen are world famous for their love of pin-ups—but who wants a picture of Ho Chi Minh?

While pushing through a mountainous area where they were engaged with the enemy the previous day, the men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Airborne Brigade tangled with a large force of Viet Cong who were desperately trying to keep their escape route open.

The company saturated the area with mortar fire and called in artillery support from a nearby unit. They pushed forward and the Viet Cong were routed from the field.

As the "Sky Troopers" reached the valley floor, they discovered a large VC aid station containing crude bunks, and several medical kits contained a small picture of Ho Chi Minh. No wonder the enemy ran!

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

INSURGENCY IN VIETNAM IS A HOME-GROWN AFFAIR.

REALITY

The insurgency in Vietnam is a product of Hanoi. It was created by Hanoi and is directed and supported by Hanoi. It is true that most of the VC cadre are Southerners and that large numbers have been recruited in the South by persuasion and intimidation. But the leadership and the hard-core of the Viet Cong movement are people trained in the North by Hanoi and infiltrated South to provide direction and control of the VC movement. These cadre fall into two categories. During the earlier periods of VC activity, the infiltrators from the North were largely Southerners who had gone North at the time of the 1954 partition, received years of training and been returned South to join with communist cadre left behind for purposes of subversion and insurgency.

More recently, there has been a large scale infiltration of ethnic North Vietnamese — initially as cadre for VC units and then in the form of full-fledged North Vietnamese army elements. These cadre provide the political and military direction, the specialists, the framework on which the VC effort is structured. It is clear from available evidence that the initiation of insurgency in the South was a result of carefully executed plans by Hanoi.

At the time of partition in 1954, arms caches were left behind in the South by the Viet Minh. From 1954 to 1959, preparations for the insurgency were developed and there was a gradual and systematic escalation from assassination, terror and belicose propaganda to sabotage and subversion. Small-scale guerrilla attacks were initiated in 1959 and led in due time to the present stage of large-scale military assaults. The most dramatic evidence of Hanoi's involvement in the insurgency is the recent infiltration of as many as nine North Vietnam regiments in South Vietnam in the past year.

The fact is that there is no evidence that the large mass of the Vietnamese people would support the VC by choice. There has been no cases of defection to the VC by prominent leaders; there are no cases of mass defection by military units; there has been no demonstration of VC hold on the people in the form of mass response to appeals for work stoppages or demonstrations.

All this leads to the inescapable conclusion that rather than a home-grown affair, the insurgency in the South is a deliberate, intensive act of subversion by North Vietnam, designed to impose a communist regime under Hanoi control upon the people of South Vietnam.

THE OBSERVER

(CIRCULATION: 60,000)

THE OBSERVER, an authorized publication with a weekly circulation of 60,000 copies, is published by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Hq. USMACV, for U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam and is printed in Saigon by Vietnamese personnel.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or of any of the Service departments. This paper uses the facilities of Armed Forces Press File, Armed Forces News Bureau and news services of the Service departments to augment local news. Mailing Address: THE OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO 96243, U.S. Forces.

C.G. Gen. W. C. Westmoreland
Info. Off. Col. R. R. Banksen

STAFF

OIC Capt. G.C. Dellinger, USA
EDITOR JO1 J.V. Dorman, USN
ASS'T EDITOR SSgt. T.J. Feeney, USA
MSgt. C.R. Brown Jr., USA SFC Ed MacKay, USA
Sp4 D. G. Shafer, USA Sp4 H. B. Bryan, USA
Sp4 Donald Brown, USA

Washington Memos

REGULATION CHANGE

★ **ALLOWS** overseas Army personnel to send a greater portion of their overall pay home through the allotment method. Types of pay that may be allotted now include hostile fire, foreign duty and proficiency pay. The change is designed to help ease the gold flow problem. Class E allotments may be used for sending money to dependents or for establishing or increasing stateside bank accounts. The change only applies to overseas personnel.

★ **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE** has released casualty figures showing 2,335 U.S. military personnel killed in hostile action in the RVN from Jan. 1, 1961, through Feb. 28, 1966. In addition, 601 deaths from other causes were recorded.

★ **ORGANIZATION OF THE 1st U.S. Army Aviation Brigade, Vietnam, brings into one headquarters all non-divisional aviation units in RVN. The brigade was organized at Tan Son Nhut under command of Brig. Gen. George P. Seneff Jr., Army's former aviation director. The 1st will provide and supervise all Army aviation support for combat, logistical and counter-insurgency operations by United States and other Free World forces.**

★ **FIRST SERVICE WOMEN** to lose their lives in RVN were two Army nurses. A helicopter crash near Saigon, Feb. 18, claimed the lives of 2nd Lts. Carol A. E. Drazba and Elizabeth Ann Jones. An Army doctor and four helicopter crew members were also killed.

★ **PUERTO RICAN RESIDENTS** on active duty with U.S. Armed Forces or Puerto Rico National Guard stationed outside Puerto Rico, can now register to vote by mail.

★ **U.S. TREASURY PERMITS** taxpayers to receive tax refunds in risk-free, interest paying U.S. Savings Bonds. Check right box on return and the rest is automatic.

★ **UPON SIGNING THE Veteran's Readjustment Act of 1966.** President Johnson reaffirmed President Franklin D. Roosevelt's pledge of 22 years ago; "We are saying to the brave Americans who serve in uniform, in camps and bases, in villages and jungles, that your country is behind you; that we support you; that you serve us in time of danger."

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: Why were free national elections never held for the reunification of North and South Vietnam?**

★ **ANSWER:** Although the Geneva accords called for "free general elections by secret ballot," it was soon apparent that this type of voting would be impossible under existing conditions. The communist regime in Hanoi quickly demonstrated its dictatorial character by liquidating opposition elements in the North through force and terrorism.

★ **It was evident that the more populous northern half of the divided country, whose inhabitants now had no choice but to vote as Hanoi directed, would have dominated any reunification referendum that could have been held. Saigon recognized this and refused to participate in an election which would have amounted to national suicide.**

★ **President Diem of South Vietnam, explaining this stand in a July 1955 radio broadcast, pointed out that his country was pledged to the goal of "unity in freedom and not in slavery... We do not reject the principle of free elections as peaceful and democratic means to achieve that unity. However, if elections constitute one of the basis of true democracy, they will be meaningful only on the condition that they are absolutely free. Now, faced with a regime of oppression as practiced by the Viet Minh, we remain skeptical concerning the possibility of fulfilling the conditions of free elections in the North."**

★ **In subsequent years, Hanoi made it increasingly clear that it was not interested in elections it cannot control, or reunification arrangements it cannot dominate. Any remaining doubts as to the North Vietnamese regime's real intentions were removed long ago when it launched the campaign of military aggression and political subversion through which Hanoi still seeks to subjugate the free South Vietnamese people.**

EDITORIAL

Military Construction Team — Bullets, Bulldozers, Can-Do

★ **The struggle in the Republic of Vietnam has posed many problems for the armed services. Not the least of these has been the provision of physical facilities for the tremendous number of men and machines poured into the country.**

★ **This problem is being met, with dollars, yes, but more important, with the energy, skill and ingenuity of groups of military and civilian specialists.**

★ **At places like Cam Ranh Bay, Bien Hoa and Marble Mountain there was nothing but untamed areas not long ago. Military construction units turned them into massive bases, converted jungle scrub and sand dunes into operating airfields, mess halls and workshops, in a matter of weeks.**

★ **The Republic of Vietnam lacked port facilities to handle the heavy flow of cargo needed to support Free World effort. Empty bays were turned into booming ports complete with pier facilities, roads, pipe-lines and storage areas.**

★ **Operating with a tradition of bullets, bulldozers and a "Can-Do" spirit, military construction teams—the Army's Corps of Engineers, Navy Seabees, and Air Force engineers in "Prime Beef" teams—along with civilian contractors—have surpassed their own prior records in building the foundations to support the modern fighting force. (AFPS)**



WELL DIGGER — Members of E Troop, 17th Cavalry dig a much needed well for a school near Bien Hoa.

Labor, Sweat By Airborne Troops Prove Goodwill

Bien Hoa (USA) — In War Zone D and on the Plain of Reeds the "Sky Soldiers" of the 173rd Airborne Brigade are a rough and tumble lot, but when they put away their guns, they turn their energies to less violent methods of aiding this war-torn country than killing communist invaders.

Near their home base the troopers of the 173rd are always greeted with waves, smiles and shouts of "Airborne!" because those people have seen and felt the goodwill in the hearts of the "Sky Soldiers."

Each unit in the brigade has projects they work on during off-duty hours. Building schools, helping orphanages and arranging medical care for the ill are just some of the projects. One unit

regularly sends volunteers to a local school to teach English.

Perhaps one of the most helpful projects undertaken by the "Sky Soldiers," is one of the least expensive. Digging wells for villages and hamlets have provided the natives with much needed water. The well digging costs practically nothing, requiring only goodwill and a lot of manual labor.

Other projects the fighting men of the 173rd have begun are building playgrounds at orphanages and schools, erecting hospitals and dispensaries and holding regular sick calls.

Observer Editor Departs Vietnam

Saigon — Air Force MSgt. Glenn E. Catt, who has served as editor of The Observer since April 1965, will depart Vietnam for a new duty station in Puerto Rico Apr. 3.

During Sergeant Catt's tenure as editor he guided the newspaper from an 8-page weekly with a circulation of 20,000 to its present status of a 12-page weekly with a circulation of 60,000.

The increase in size and scope of coverage of The Observer was necessitated by the massive influx of American troops to Vietnam during 1965.

Well qualified for service as editor of a joint service newspaper such as The Observer, Sergeant Catt has seen service in the Army, Navy and Air Force. In addition he has had a special interest in the welfare of Vietnam-based service personnel with a son, Sgt. Don Catt, assigned to the 101st Airborne Division.

Danger Haunts Re-Supply Of Navy Ships In Heavy Seas

South China Sea (USN) — Like ground combat units in the field which are re-supplied by truck and airlift, U.S. Navy ships operating in the South China Sea run short on supplies too. Their methods of re-supply can often be a harrowing experience for ship's skippers and crews in storm-tossed seas.

Angry black clouds tumbled past overhead and thick gusts of sea spray lashed the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga, as she butted headlong into 10-foot swells of a tropical storm. The ship's crew was preparing for an underway replenishment of ammunition from the ammunition ship USS Paracutin steaming alongside.

The Paracutin, heavy with 100 tons of munitions for Ticonderoga, wallowed and pitched like a drunken duck in the heavy seas, and with each breaker her bow disappeared beneath the troubled waters.

Lines, fired from the carrier to the ammunition ship, were fixed to the superstructures to carry cargo between the two pitching vessels, and the underway replenishment began.

A one-ton pallet of fragmentary bombs started a treacherous journey from the ammunition ship, but midway a 20-foot wave crashed into the pallet. Both bombs and pallet were swept away by the force, but struggling boatswain's mates, scrambling and slipping on the carrier's weather decks, managed to haul the bombs aboard.

A second pallet was readied, but before it could be transferred, the Paracutin smashed into a 20-foot wall of water and dived under the wave. Surfacing it veered wildly and was lifted out of the sea until its hull was visible.

A hoarse cry carried on the wind to the crew, "Emergency breakaway! Bear a hand!" and frantic crewmembers swung axes and sledge hammers severing the stretching cables that tethered the ships together.

Underway replenishment is not always so harrowing. Newer cargo vessels are being built to cope with the problems of re-supplying in

heavy seas.

The USS Sacramento, nearly as long as the 912-foot Ticonderoga completed her re-supply mission in the same heavy seas that endangered the Paracutin.

Steaming along side the Ticonderoga, at a safe distance, the Sacramento ferried cargo to the aircraft carrier in two Sea Knight helicopters:

Viet Cong Presents Gifts To Brigade Commander

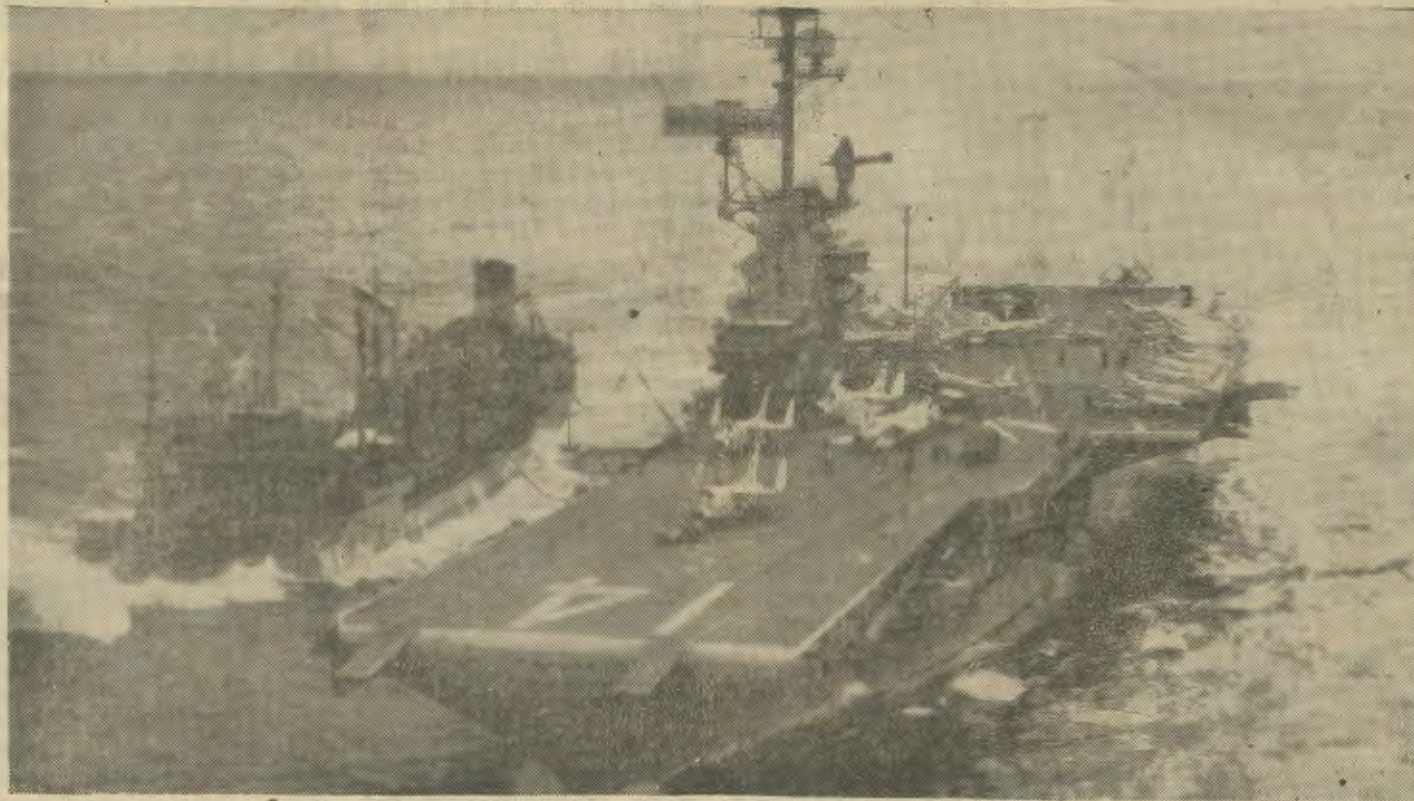
Dau Tieng (USA) — A local Viet Cong force near Dau Tieng, 50 miles northeast of Saigon, gave Col. A. E. Milloy, 2nd Brigade commander, a bottle of fine Anisette liqueur plus a carbide lantern to add atmosphere to his quarters. The 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry was given the honor, in a more or less around about way, of presenting the gifts.

The story of this good will gesture began on the opening day of the 1st Infantry Division's "Operation Mastiff." Company C met three Viet Cong couriers bearing gifts and other sundry items (a Russian automatic rifle, ammunition, clothing, food, etc.) as they rode bicycles along a jungle trail.

At first there was a reasonable question by the gift bearers as to whether or not the "Vanguards" had the authority for such a presentation, instead of a personal Viet Cong visit to the Brigade's headquarters.

This question was settled fast when the Americans flicked their M-16 rifles' selectors on automatic and set about disturbing the tranquil jungle.

A UH-2B arrived and the gifts, along with the rest of the confiscated material, were flown to Colonel Milloy. The 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry's Information Office heard that the brigade commander was pleased with the hospitality of the local guerrillas, but was disappointed in their reluctance to let his infantrymen make the presentation without a bit of a fireplay first.



DECKS AWASH — The oiler USS Ashtabula refuels the carrier USS Ticonderoga in heaving seas off the coast of Vietnam. Although the seas were running high, the ships

completed the replenishment and Ticonderoga received 175,000 gallons of black oil. (USN Photo)



CONTRAST— A tank from the U. S. Army's first armor unit to arrive in Vietnam rumbles past a native ox cart at an intersection on Saigon's outskirts. The tanks, which belong to the 25th "Tropic Lightning" Infantry Division, were off-loaded from LSTs by the 1st Logistical Command at the port of Saigon. (US Army Photo)

Largest Commo Cache Discovered By 1st Cav.

An Khe (USA)— The largest cache of VC communications equipment ever discovered was captured by the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.

While on a routine patrol 20 miles southwest of Bong Son, SFC Marion Cooper, acting platoon leader of the 3rd platoon, Company C, received word that enemy communications equipment was operating in the area. Coming upon a nearly hidden trail running through the mountainous terrain, he dispatched his point squad to investigate.

As the group approached a carefully concealed hut, Sp4 Ronald Simoneaux halted the group while he checked the area for possible enemy resistance. Finding none, Simoneaux and the squad entered the hut to discover an estimated \$100,000 worth of radios, parts, supplies and tools.

The equipment and supplies were found to be of American, Russian and Chinese manufacture.

Sergeant Cooper radioed the find to intelligence sources.

Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, division commander, flew at once to the area where he personally congratulated Cooper and his platoon on uncovering "the largest cache of communications equipment yet found during the war in Vietnam."

High Schoolers Give Donation For Chapel

An Khe (USA)— A chapel for men of an isolated unit of the 1st Air Cavalry Division will be named in honor of the high school students who contributed a major share of the cost of construction.

The student body of Kuemper High School in Carroll, Iowa, donated more than \$150 to the aerial surveillance and target acquisition platoon of the 11th Aviation Group toward the project.

Members of the platoon added \$300 and the construction of Kuemper Chapel was under way.

Capt. Gordon L. Wagner of the platoon wrote a letter to his sister, a teacher at the Catholic school, and told of the desire to have the chapel built.

Sister M. Theodosia, his sister, told the members of her class, and the students started a drive for funds.

The students also expressed their desire to further help the people of Vietnam. Captain Wagner replied that they could send clothing, soap, vitamins and school supplies and he would insure its distribution.

Largest Traveling Laundermat Goes Were Action Is To Give Service

Saigon (USA)— What is probably the world's largest traveling laundermat service—capable of going anywhere there's water to wash some one million pounds of laundry a month—is operated by the Army's 1st Logistical Command.

Seven major laundries, each with 63 enlisted men and an officer, manage 17 portable hot-water laundermat stations for American combat troops. Each station, working in 12-hour shifts, can do the wash of an infantry division (16,000 men) in one week. If necessity demands, the laundermats can offer one-day service.

The highly mobile and completely portable laundermats can go "where the action is," their sole requirement being a stream sufficient to keep two 3,000-gallon, collapsible plasticized water tanks filled. The laundries bring their own electric

Long Range Recon Squad Patrols Deep Into VC Land

Phu Loi (USA)— "If you want to find out what 'Charlie' is doing, you have to get out where he is and look," according to Capt. John P. Sanders, commander of the 1st Infantry Division's long range reconnaissance patrol.

Capt. Sanders and a group of specially trained division troopers do just that.

Sometimes they don't find the Viet Cong, but that is just as important as locating them. They look for storage caches, VC positions and routes of travel and communications. If they don't find "Charlie" or any of his signs

it saves deploying a unit into the area.

An all-volunteer outfit, the long range patrol was formed when 12 volunteers underwent training in reconnaissance techniques with Special Forces personnel at Nha Trang.

For graduation, they participated in combat patrols with the Special Forces and then returned to the division and set up a school at Phu Loi to train the additional volunteers that make up the 40-man unit.

Now permanently based at Phu Loi, the long range patrol unit is available to all brigades in the division and will go any place, any time on a mission to help division units.

When a commander requests a long range patrol, aviators from Troop D (Air), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, fly the patrol members into the area and pick them up later at a predetermined spot.

Since their primary mission is to bring back information, the unit avoids direct contact with the Viet Cong. They haven't lost a man, but have had many close calls.

According to some members, the biggest danger is getting shot by friendly troops who don't know they're out there in a remote jungle area.

Marine Captures VC In Unusual Meeting

Chu Lai (USMC)— Capturing a Viet Cong in the jungle single-handed was as easy as falling in a hole for PFC Warren J. Bacon—in fact, that is exactly how it happened.

While on patrol with Company E, 7th Marine Regiment, during a search-and-clear operation in the Chu Lai area, Bacon fell into a camouflaged trench.

It seems a Viet Cong had picked that particular hole to hide in. "I don't know which of us was more surprised," Bacon said. "I was just moving along and all of a sudden I'm underground face to face with a Viet Cong."

"I recovered quicker than the VC did though, and grabbed his hand grenade before he had a chance to pull the pin. He gave up without much of a fight."

Army Truckers On Heels Of 1st Cav.

Qui Nhon (USA)— U.S. Army truckers were "on the heels" of the 1st Air Cavalry Division during their operations at Bong Son with 9,000 tons of general supplies and petroleum products.

Seven units of the 1st Logistical Command's 27th Transportation Battalion drove their trucks and tankers some 60 miles into enemy territory, marking the deepest penetration up Highway 1 since their arrival in Vietnam.

Some 750 trucks were used by the battalion, an element of the 4th Transportation Command, of which three were hit by enemy fire and mines. No casualties resulted.

The battalion, during the past six months, has traveled over 3,000,000 miles transporting more than 1,000,000 short tons of supplies and petroleum products in support of U.S. and Free World combat troops in the Qui Nhon area.

Each laundermat is equipped with its own generators, hundreds of pounds of laundry powder, two washers and three dryers. Water is filtered and heated to 140 degrees and the three dryers work with 250-degree temperatures.

Now and then the quartermaster soldiers encounter expected problems, as happened near Bien Hoa recently when one of the water tanks was shot up in a Viet Cong attack. But it only delayed the service a little. Plugging the holes when the firing ceased, the laundermat team turned immediately back to the business at hand.

175mm Guns Join Artillery Arsenal In VN

(Story, Photos by Sp4 D.G. Shafer)

Pleiku — The sign in the headquarters tent reads: "This is a professional battery." And the attitude of the men assigned to the 6th

Gun Battalion of the 14th Artillery exemplifies this motto.

Located on a hill overlooking Pleiku, the battalion

supports operations of American and Vietnamese forces operating in its area with three batteries of 175mm guns and a battery of eight-inch howitzers. The howitzers were added recently to provide the battalion with more flexibility in its missions.

The "Long Toms," nickname for the big 175s, are the longest-range artillery piece in the Army and the eight-inch howitzers are generally considered to be the most accurate artillery piece in the Army's arsenal.

The men of the unit, which has been in Vietnam since late October 1965, have shown their professionalism in combat supporting the 1st Cavalry Division and, in their present mission, firing in support of the 25th Division, the 1st Cav, II Corps units and Vietnamese Rangers.

Recently the battalion received word that a small village was in danger of being devastated by a raging forest fire. The unit reacted by firing several rounds of 175mm ammo into the path of the blaze. This made a fire wall and the blaze soared around the village, leaving it virtually unscathed.

Monument Hill, which is what the unit calls its new home after a monument erected at the summit, has a history of its own. During the French fight with the Viet Minh, French defenders fought a bloody battle from which scars still remain today; the hillside is pocked with craters from large shells which exploded in a Viet Minh effort to take the hill. The monument atop the rise was erected in 1961 by the Vietnamese as a tribute to the valiant French who fought and died there.

Although the unit was organized in 1963 at Fort Sill, Okla., it claims a history

dating back to the days of the Old West. All its guns are named after famous Kiowa

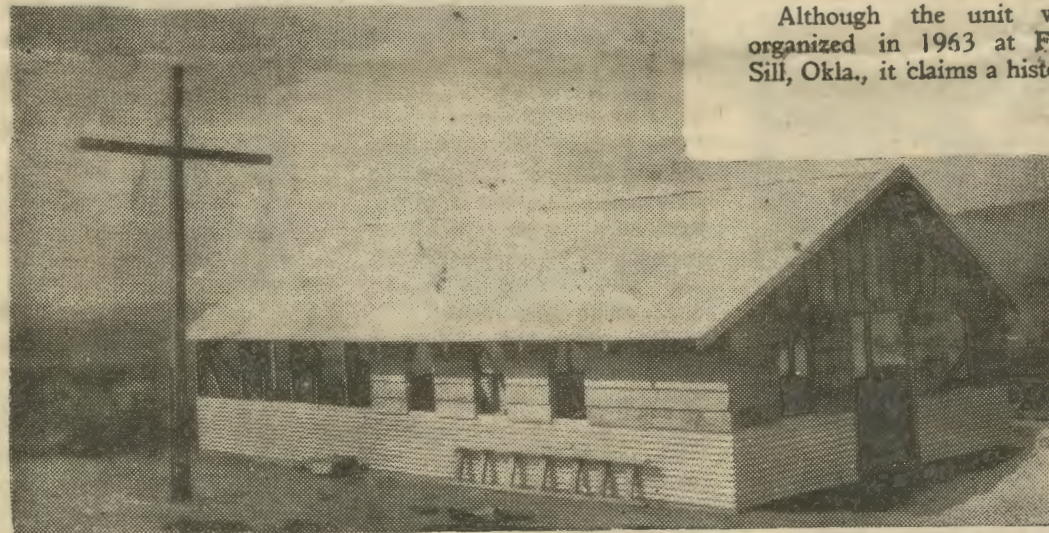
Indian chiefs and the head-dress of the tribe is a major part of the unit's crest.



TRIBUTE TO FRENCH—A monument stands atop a hill on which the 6th Gun Battalion of the 14th Artillery is stationed near Pleiku. The monument was erected in 1961 as a tribute to French defenders who made a valiant stand at the hill during a bloody battle with the Viet Minh.



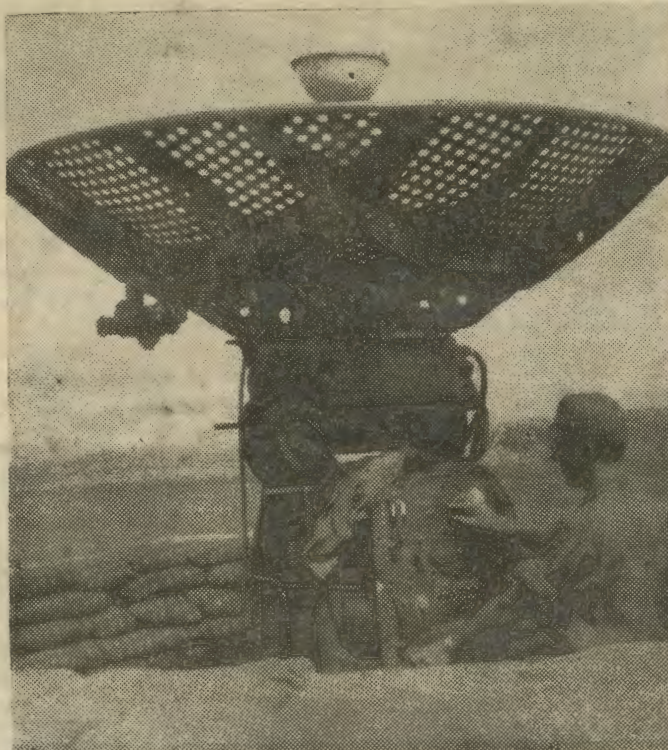
FIRE! — Crew prepares to fire one of the "Long Tom" 175mm guns of the 6th of the 14th near Pleiku. The artillery battalion fires in support of II corps, Vietnamese Rangers, U.S. 25th Infantry Division and 1st Cavalry Division soldiers in range of their big guns.



NEW CHAPEL—Atop Monument Hill near Pleiku is a new chapel being built by men of the 6th Gun Battalion, 14th Artillery. The materials for the new chapel were bought by the men and they are doing the work.



BIG GUN—A 175mm "Long Tom" is silhouetted against a cloudy sky near Pleiku. The 175, longest-range artillery piece in the Army arsenal, can hurl a 147-pound projectile some 21 miles. It is being used in combat for the first time in Vietnam.



ELECTRONIC WEATHER — Sp5 Fred Allen, member of the meteorological team assigned to the 6th Gun Battalion of the 14th Artillery near Pleiku, checks the automatic radio-direction finder which forms a major part of the team's electronic weather equipment. The team provides accurate and current weather information by tracking balloons and can give wind direction, velocity, temperature and pressure at altitudes up to 100,000 feet.

37 Dead Viet Cong

Small Exercise Turns Into Big Trap For Guerrillas



ROUGH GOING— Vietnamese troopers of the 67th Regional Force Battalion, on an operation near Soc Trang, cross one of several huge waist-deep ponds they encountered on their way to the objective. Rapidly drying during the end of the dry season, the receding pond left a fissured surface as difficult to negotiate as the muddy pond itself and a hazard to knees and ankles.



CHOPPER VICTIM— Capt. Bruce L. Gill, senior advisor to the 67th Regional Force Battalion, looks at a dead VC caught in the open and killed by a Huey gunship from Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion at Soc Trang. The Captain holds a crude, homemade gas mask of plastic and gauze the guerrilla was carrying.



SKIRMISHERS— Members of the 671st Company, 67th Regional Force Battalion, move across parched rice paddies toward the tree line in the distance, still two hours away. The uncut stubble of the rice plants, the blazing sun and cracked earth made going difficult. Awaiting them at the tree line was a futile VC mortar barrage that climaxed an operation costing the Viet Cong 37 dead.

Soc Trang — "This is just a small tactical exercise," the captain explained, "We probably won't get into anything, but it's good training for the battalion."

Capt. Bruce L. Gill, the tall, hefty senior advisor for the 67th Regional Force Battalion, at Soc Trang, 95 miles south of Saigon, nosed his jeep into the convoy as it moved out in the predawn darkness.

"We've got two companies of the 67th with us," the

captain said. "The 671st and 186th. The 2nd Battalion, 33rd ARVN Regiment, is also going along. They're part of the 21st Division, and a damned sharp outfit."

The convoy ground to halt about halfway between Soc Trang and Bac Lieu, and the units strung out across the parched, cracked rice paddies on which foot-entangling stubble still remained.

Two hours of torturous trudging under a blazing sun brought the units to a small canal, and the columns swung around to become a solid, kilometer-long line of skirmishers, which moved out toward a line of trees marking the path of a large canal.

As the line started forward, PFC Donald L. McKinnon, the radio operator moving with the command group of 67th, called to Captain Gill.

"The Popular Force platoon that was blocking to the east has been hit by a VC company," he told the captain, and in the distance, the stuttering chatter of automatic weapons came faintly to the troops.

Overhead, three Huey gunships appeared and moved toward the tree line, their rockets whooshing from their pods and slamming into huts and buildings along the canal.

One of the choppers, finishing a rocket run, suddenly veered off and dropped down to almost ground level, its pilot whipping his ship from side to side like an angry dragon fly. Prolonged bursts from the plane's machine guns accompanied the maneuvering, and as the chopper pulled up into the sky above the command group, the insignia of Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion, was visible on its stubby nose.

In an open space in the heavy vegetation to the front, a small group of black-clad figures scurried across the bare ground and into the banana trees lining the canal, and again the sound of small arms drifted from the left.

McKinnon's radio crackled, and he told Captain Gill: "The Popular Force platoon has forced the VC south along the canal. That was a group of them we just saw. The 33rd is going in to head them off, and we'll swing over and cover their right flank."

The way led across a sluggish, arm-pit-deep river, and as the battalion neared the canal, flooded rice paddies hip-deep in mud and water.

Another flight of gunships from the 101st began to work over the area along the canal bank, and SFC John M. Cruz,

enlisted advisor to the 67th, led a platoon of the 186th to a position for an assault on the canal.

On the platoon's left, elements of the 33rd moved out, receiving a blast of VC mortar fire from the canal, and the fragments whined through the air above the 186th, wounding one trooper in the arm.

Moving forward, the company fired into the trees lining the canal, but as they neared the waterway, it was apparent that it couldn't be crossed under these conditions. Sergeant Cruz suggested to the platoon leader that they move back behind a rice paddy dike.

The unit of the 33rd, having moved to the canal, also started pulling back, and the two units halted on a line a hundred yards from the canal.

A flight of VNAF Sky-raidors and U.S. Air Force jets joined the choppers in smashing at the enemy across the canal, and then the firing ceased.

At a command from the radio, the entire force headed for a burning village on the canal bank. The 33rd crossed the canal in sampans and began a sweep back toward the Popular Force platoon while the 67th strung itself out along the canal bank. Sporadic fire from across the canal indicated that the 33rd was making contact.

Combing the fields around the village, Regional Force troopers flushed three women and two children out of cleverly camouflaged spider holes in the rice paddies, and the bodies of three VC killed by the straffing chopper of the 101st that morning were found in open fields where they had been cut down.

Hours later, the 33rd recrossed the canal, and the long, three-mile trek to the assembly point began, back across the flooded paddies, the small river and through the dry, barren wasteland of rice stubble to the waiting trucks.

That night in the team house, Captain Gill grinned happily.

"For a tactical exercise, we had quite a day," he said. "Body count of 37, and there must have been more out there where the air strikes were made. We captured 1 and picked up 11 suspects, 8 weapons and 50 rounds of Chinese rocket launcher ammo. Not a bad day for something that was just supposed to be a long walk. Not bad at all."



NEAR DISASTER — Aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Point White, Lt. Eugene J. Hickey Jr., shows where an 81mm mortar round cannister was hit by a VC bullet during a firefight with a VC junk in the Soirap River. The cannister, stored in the open ready box behind Lieutenant Hickey, was also scorched by burning propellant charges from three other mortar rounds hit by the VC fire. Hickey pulled the hot 81mm mortar rounds out of the ready box and threw them over the side. (USCG Photo)

Viet Cong Wish Him A 'Happy Birthday'

Phu Loi (USA) — Celebrating his 31st birthday in a rice paddy surrounded by Viet Cong is not what CWO W-2 Floyd S. Roper had in mind when he took off on a mission of moving troops of the 1st Infantry Division.

Assigned to the 128th Aviation Company, 11th Aviation Battalion, Roper and 1st Lt. Charles E. Silva were flying the lead ship in the second flight. Suddenly a strange odor was detected followed by a fluctuation of the engine oil pressure gauge.

"Flying at 2500 feet over the Iron Triangle is no place to have your engine quit," said Silva, **"we immediately went into autorotation and turned the chopper away from this known enemy stronghold."**

"On the way down all attempts at regaining engine power failed," stated Roper, **"so we picked out a rice paddy and made a successful landing."** Two gun ships came to our rescue within seconds and flew overhead cover. A maintenance helicopter came into the area and made the necessary pre-

parations to have the chopper sling loaded out by a CH-47 Chinook.

"With the Viet Cong converging from the North and South, I'm sure we would have been gonners had it not been for the gunships," said Silva. **"The enemy fire was so heavy around the area one of the gunships received four rounds during a firing pass."**

"On the way out of the area in a Huey piloted by Maj. William Lawrence, two rounds came whistling through the fuselage and out through the engine compartment," stated CWO Roper. **"By this time I wondered if I would ever see my 32nd birthday."**

Although this "party" was not part of the operation plan, the mission was completed without further incidents.

U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Battles VC Junk; Sinks Same

Saigon (USN) — "It was a question of standing out in the middle of the street and whoever could put out the most firepower was going to come out on top. The crew just stood up there toe to toe and slugged it out. There's nothing to hide behind on these boats."

This is the way Lt. Eugene J. Hickey Jr., commander of the Coast Guard cutter Point White, described a firefight between the Point White and a Viet Cong junk.

The "street" was the Soirap River 17 miles south of Saigon and Point White came out on "top." Seven VC aboard the junk were killed, four captured and the junk sunk in the half hour action.

Petty Officer Joe Moody was bow lookout when the fight started.

"We were definitely expecting trouble," he recalls. **"We knew that we had VC on both sides of the river. All day long we saw a lot of activity—helicopters, ground fire, bombing—big stuff like 105s was coming in. We could hear mortars going off."**

Petty Officer Gerald M. Sampont, was on watch at the rear of the cutter.

"I had the headphones on," Sampont said, **"and heard boarding stations, so I went to the 50-caliber mount on the port side aft. I couldn't see the junk but at this time Moody fired. Then the junk was illuminated. I opened up and fired a quarter of a box (about 30 rounds)."**

Lieutenant Hickey was on the bridge. After sounding the alarm he took the helm and maneuvered the boat while directing his crew in the fight.

"The fire was very heavy," Hickey said. **"There was at least one automatic weapon of a small caliber plus quite a few other weapons being fired. It seemed like the firefight had been going on for an hour and a half but I think it was probably less than a minute."**

To end the battle without further danger of losing members of his crew to the intense fire the VC junk was putting out, Lt. Hickey decided to ram the VC vessel.

The Point White struck the junk a glancing blow and fire from the junk stopped. Fire from one of the cutters set off an explosion aboard the junk.

"We had the junk alongside," Moody recalls. **"There was one man lying in the port quarter of the junk on his back. He was badly wounded. He jacked a round into his rifle, lying on his back, aimed up at me and fired. I shot back but he got off another round even though I had hit him several**

times. Finally a Vietnamese Navy man in a junk on the other side leaned over and finished him off."

"We stayed alongside the junk for approximately 10 or 15 minutes," Lieutenant Hickey said, **"while the Coastal Group junks came up on the opposite side. There was one man lying on top of the junk with his hands up."**

"They were plenty willing to come aboard the WPB so the crew helped them climb up. We pulled weapons and gear off the junk. The junk was taking on water quite rapidly. I gave orders for the submersible pump to be aboard the junk, but just about this time her

decks were awash and it was too late."

"Immediately the junk sank. We marked the spot and moved away. We found another couple of VC swimming and got one of them to come aboard. We could only pick up one at a time and the other one swam away. The one we got didn't want to come aboard either. He kept diving down, trying to stay under as long as he could. We just sat alongside of him with a light on the water. He'd come up for air, see us still there and go back down again. Finally he got tired of swallowing water so he came up our scramble net. That was the fourth prisoner."

Controlling Combat Support 'Tremendous Undertaking'

Tuy Hoa (USA) — Vietnamese, Korean and American troops are working together in a hot, sweltering tent on the beach at Tuy Hoa to provide coordination between allied forces fighting Viet Cong insurgents with the 101st Airborne Division in II Corps area.

With the tongue-twisting title of Combat Support Coordination Center (CSCC), the men working in the tent coordinate all support required in a combat operation, including air strikes, naval gunfire and artillery fire.

The CSCC concept is not

new, but its establishment at Tuy Hoa, under the direction of Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, is the first time it has been used by allied units in Vietnam. General Pearson is also the 101st's 1st Brigade commander.

A U.S. Air Force liaison officer with the Center controls forward air controllers of the major units and plans air strikes on priority targets anywhere in the sector.

An Army aviation element from the 10th Aviation Battalion controls troop movements and re-supply from between 30 and 50 missions daily.

"The coordination of the vast and varied fire power available to the field commander is a tremendous undertaking," says Lt. Col. William J. Huma, deputy director of the center.

Col. Huma, who is also commander of the 101st's 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery, added, **"The officers and men—Vietnamese, Korean, and American—of the CSCC have shown a spirit of 'can do' and cooperation during the past two months. This cooperation, I believe to be the equal of any allied operation I have seen anywhere in the world."**

Bank Opens In Nha Trang

Nha Trang (USA) — It wouldn't be stretching the point too far if you were to call it "the First Barbed Wire National Bank of Vietnam."

That description pretty well fits the operation of the 22nd Finance Section of the 1st Logistical Command operating under canvas and surrounded by concertina as it carries on its day-to-day business here.

Using two conex shipping containers as temporary vaults, the 22nd operates not only in its primary function of paying the troops, but also exchanges currency and handles all treasury checks from individuals, clubs, mess associations and their biggest customer, the Army postal unit.

In one month over 10,000 military payment vouchers were processed, 6,650 checks written and \$369,899 in piaster sales made.

Grenades Bolster Delta Air Support

Can Tho — It looks just like any other Huey as it heels over and makes its run at the VC position, but a closer look as it passes overhead reveals an ugly blister on the nose of the ship that the Huey following it in does not have.

As the chopper swoops in toward the canal, where VC fire has a group of "friendlies" pinned down, a heavy stuttering sound overrides the groundfire, and smashing explosions rip the VC positions.

This is a half-hog of Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion, fitted with the new M5 kit. The explosions are bursting rounds of 40mm ammunition originally designed for the M79 grenade launcher, and the Huey splits them out at the rate of 200 per minute.

The choppers of Co. A are part of the 13th Aviation Battalion, located in the IV Corps city of Can Tho, but whose operational units are dispersed at Soc Trang and Vinh Long.

The 13th is the operating headquarters for gunships, troop carriers (slicks), reconnaissance units and medical evacuation (Dustoff) teams supporting ARVN units throughout the vast Mekong Delta. As such, it is the only U.S. combat unit in IV Corps.

Typical of the fighting companies that make up the 13th is Co. A, 502nd Aviation Battalion, whose parent unit is in the States. It operates from the airfield at Vinh Long.

"We are located so as to be able to scramble and support any ARVN unit in a matter of minutes," says Maj. Richard W. Leister, company commander. "We have a complete maintenance capability, and can even replace complete engines in the field under fire."

In the maintenance hanger, Sp5 Alvin R. Moist, technical inspector, wipes off an already gleaming new Huey engine.

"We can install one of these in the field in less than 90 minutes," he said, "depending on how many are firing at us. Our gunships circle the area to make the VC keep their heads down, the maintenance chopper drops its crew, and we install a new motor or make other repairs, then fly it out."

On the flight line the half-hog sits. The deadly kit is bolted to the nose of the ship, and the belt of squat, lethal M79 rounds comes up through the floor into a container in the back seat.

"We carry 300 rounds, but have to reduce the number of rockets," explains

CWO James C. Hardabeck, who flies the half-hog. "A full-hog carries 48 2.75-inch rockets, we carry only 24. Even so, we can tear up a lot of VC with those 40mm rounds squirting out the nose.

On a map of IV Corps at Can Tho there are several hundred red map pins scattered, each representing a ship of the 13th that has been hit by ground fire. Certain areas contain a veritable jungle of red pins, with the heaviest concentrations around Ca Mau and the delta formed between the mouth of the Mekong and Bassac Rivers.

It was during a 14-hour operation near Ca Mau that the 121st Aviation Company, in support of the ARVN 21st Division, earned the Presidential

Unit Citation. President Johnson cited the unit for its "...indomitable courage..." The battalion itself has twice received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm.

At the airfield at Soc Trang, gunships and slicks of Co. A, 101st, and the 121st, squat like ungainly bugs at the edge of the runway. The light fixed wings of the 221st Aviation Company, the "Eyes of the Delta," fly their recon missions from Soc Trang, and at one end of the runway, the huge Caribous of the newly arrived 184th Aviation Company await cargo.

At Vinh Long, the two fighting units are the 114th Aviation Company and Company A of the 502nd. At both Soc Trang and Vinh Long, red crosses on the

sides of the choppers distinguish the ships of the 82nd Medical Detachment.

Tall, graying Lt. Col. William J. Maddox Jr., commander of the Delta Battalion, visibly displays the tremendous pride he has in his unit.

"We've taken some losses," he said. "That's to be expected. But our ratio is one casualty to every 7,000 flight hours. That's a fine tribute to the skill of our pilots, the accuracy of our gunners and the outstanding efficiency of our maintenance crews."



DEADLY NOSE — CWO James C. Hardabeck, left, a chopper pilot, and Maj. Richard W. Leister, Company A commander, 502nd Avn. Bn., now attached to the 13th Avn. Bn. in the Delta, check the mechanism of the M5 kit recently installed on Hardabeck's Huey. The lethal modification fires belted 40mm ammunition at 200 rounds a minute, the same round used in the M79 grenade launcher.



FINAL CHECK — The tail rotor on this gunship of Co. A, 502nd Avn. Bn. at Vinh Long received four rounds of small arms fire and had to be replaced. Sp5 Alvin R. Moist, (right), final technical inspector, checks the setting of the new blades which Sp5 Jack Sizemore (left) installed.



FIRING PASS — A hog gunship of Co. A, 101st Avn. Bn. now operating with the Delta's 13th Avn. Bn., sweeps off a rocket — firing run and gives its door gunners a chance at the target as ARVN soldiers of the 67th Regional Force

Battalion await the signal to advance on the distant tree line. Carrying two pods of 24 rockets each, the hog ships pack a murderous punch with the 2.75-inch missiles.

'Con Cop Bay Nho' Hated By Viet Cong

Da Nang (USAF) — It is four o'clock in the morning somewhere in the teeming jungle north of the Da Nang Air Base.

Without warning, a shrill whine rents the sky and a needle-nosed aircraft streaks across the lush landscape raining death and destruction on Viet Cong hiding below.

Deafening explosions, punctuated by shrill screams and muffled curses, break the early-morning silence. One by one, seven more of the tiny planes race by, each adding to the fury.

Now there is silence once again. But only for a moment. Across the compound a cleverly camouflaged truck roars to life and the stillness is broken by the sound of its tires crunching across the rubble of what was once an orderly military supply complex.

A slender young man, not more than 22 years old, races into a shack, picks up a small radio transmitter and frantically twists dials in an attempt to contact his superiors.

In the distance the aircraft climbs in a slow, lazy turn and streaks back toward its objective. Dropping down to little more than treetop height, they rip through the sky intent on but one thing—complete destruction of the buildings below.

Five hundred feet below, the frantic officer has finally reached someone. It is his superior, located some fifty miles to the north. He barely has time to say a single

phrase before a slow, twirling bomb crashes through the roof of the hut and blows him into oblivion. The single phrase he utters is, "Con Cop Bay Nho."

"Con Cop Bay Nho"—"The Little Winged Tigers."

This is the name that even the most hard-bitten Viet Cong has chosen to give Air Force pilots of the 4503rd Tactical Fighter Squadron and their F-5A Freedom Fighters.

Capable of delivering more than three tons of death-dealing armament in a single sortie, the Freedom Fighters and their superbly trained pilots are a team not to be taken lightly.

Since arriving in Vietnam in late October, they have accomplished more than 2,500 sorties against the Viet Cong. Comprised of 20 pilots plus maintenance support personnel, the squadron has been continuously testing the F-5A in a combat environment.

Their tests fall under project "Skoshi Tiger"—a combination of English and Japanese words meaning "Little Tiger."

The Skoshi Tigers were originally formed at Williams AFB, Ariz., last July. Although all the pilots were drawn from Tactical Air Command resources, maintenance and support personnel

were drawn from a total of nine commands and 73 bases.

In addition to the men of the fighter squadron, a separate evaluation team was also formed and travels with the unit to evaluate test results.

Viet Cong will know the meaning of fear so long as they look up and see "Con Cop Bay Nho"—the Air Force's little winged tigers.

Gus The Goose Captures Troops

An Khe (USA) — Charlie Company of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Airborne Battalion, 12th Cavalry, has a new trooper who hasn't even enlisted yet.

"Gus the Goose" hooked up with the Sky Soldiers on "Operation White Wing" northeast of Bong Son. He liked the Cavalrymen and the possibility of three squares a day, so he decided to stick with them.

PFC Johnny L. Shepard, company clerk, said. "He's better than a watch dog—you can always tell when a chopper is flying over because Gus heads for cover."

When he's not sunbathing Gus may be found eating vegetable soup and crackers beside the orderly room.



CAPTURED VC RICE—Members of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry load rice onto a "Chinook" helicopter during Operation "Silver City." This load is part of 73 tons of rice that was captured by the 1st Infantry Division during the operation.

VC Grabs For Pistol, Gets Lead In Head

Bong Son (USA) — "I just wanted to make sure Charlie didn't get hold of my pistol," said Sp4 Garry Westcott, a forward observer with B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

Westcott, with his platoon on a daylight patrol, had come face to face with the Viet Cong in a tunnel. The VC reached for his weapon, then make a grab for Westcott's .45-caliber pistol.

Without thinking, Westcott fired three times, and each shot, hit the VC in the head.

The platoon had received

automatic rifle fire from the entrance to the tunnel earlier in the patrol action. A grenade, thrown by Lt. Henry Butler, had apparently silenced the fire, and the patrol continued its pursuit of other Viet Cong.

The patrol returned to the area to set up positions for the night, but received fire from the tunnel before they could set up.

Westcott volunteered to silence the enemy fire.

The VC had closed the entrance, but Westcott opened the hole and, with the aid of a flashlight, looked around.

He saw nothing, and lowered himself into the hole. Then he found that the tunnel branched off to the right and left.

He moved into the left portion of the tunnel, where he found the VC squatting in the corner, an arm's length away.

When the VC reached for his weapon and then for Westcott's pistol, the Air Cavalry trooper said, "I didn't have time to think, I just didn't want him to get my pistol."



WAIT A MINUTE, I'LL GIVE YA' A HAND — "You're doin' it all wrong," says this youngster as he strides toward Capt. Lawrence L. Anderson, (right), team chief of Special Forces A Team at Hai Yen, and Air Force Capt. Dearld L. Tusler, a visiting medic. The remote Special Forces camp, the southernmost U.S. outpost, had just received a lolex air delivery, and the two officers were packing air items when the officious youngster picked his way carefully over the airstrip matting and sat down between the men. Work stopped until the impediment could be removed.

- Vietnam News Wrap-Up -

'Screaming Eagle' Ambush Nets VC

Elements of the 101st Airborne Division, Mar. 21, hit a small Viet Cong force in an ambush near Tuy Hoa. They reported four VC killed, one wounded and the capture of four weapons and other equipment.

Other "Screaming Eagle" troopers, also engaged in "Operation Harrison," received small arms fire during a helicopter assault. Gunships suppressed the fire and no U.S. casualties were reported.

Ten enemy bodies were found in an area where the 101st Airborne had engaged the VC in a seven-hour battle last Sunday. Totals for the operation, which started Feb. 26, now stand at 250 VC killed and 19 captured.

'Garfield Continues, Contact Light

The 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, killed seven VC, Mar. 23, during the continuing "Operation Garfield" in the Ban Me Thuot area. Light contact was reported Mar. 21 and 22 by the "Tropic Lightning" Division operation which has netted 111 VC dead and 15 captured.

Marines, VC Clash In 'Texas'

A new, multi-battalion force of Marines, supporting a Republic of Vietnam Army operation dubbed "Texas," continued to engage the enemy near An Hoa Mar. 22. The first significant contact was made Mar. 21, when the Marines reported killing 46 VC. Later reports, noting little further contact, upped the kill to 170 enemy dead and a confirmed 88 VC killed by air strikes.

The Marines ended "Operation Oregon" Mar. 21, netting another 99 VC killed and eight VC suspects detained.

Combined Air Flies 406 Sorties

In air action over South Vietnam Mar. 22, Air Force, Marine and Navy pilots flew a combined total of 406 combat sorties against VC troop positions, supply and storage areas and enemy river shipping. The Navy sorties were launched from the carrier USS Hancock.

Forward air controllers directed air strikes against 16 different bands of enemy units. Reports listed 60 VC possibly killed. Air Force and Marine pilots teamed to attack an enemy camp in I Corps area, with 50 possible kills reported.

Strikes were made in III Corps area in support of "Operation Silver City" and VC troop concentrations and fortifications were hit. Air strikes throughout the III Corps area and several enemy buildings were destroyed or damaged.

Navy pilots from USS Enterprise and USS Ticonderoga flew 19 reconnaissance missions over North Vietnam Mar. 2. Roads and bridges near Vinh and Dong Hoi were hit. Poor weather, smoke and dust over the target areas made bomb assessment damage difficult.

Enemy Sampans, Storage Areas Hit

Navy and Air Force pilots reported hitting sampans in the IV Corps area, destroying 22 and damaging several more. Explosions were noted in strikes on enemy ammunition and other storage areas. The Air Force and Navy also teamed in II Corps to fly air cover and close support for ground operations. A number of enemy buildings were reported destroyed or damaged.

In night support action, Air Force pilots flew nine flare-drop sorties. More than 200 flares were dropped in support of ground forces.

Naval Gunfire Silences Snipers

During "Market Time" patrols Wednesday, Navy and Coast Guard vessels inspected, boarded and searched more than 800 vessels. The USS Implicit silenced enemy sniper fire coming from the beach while she was providing gunfire support to a Vietnamese Navy junk.

- World News Summary -

President Signs Viet Aid Bill

President Johnson, Mar. 19, signed a \$415 million bill to help fight the war in Vietnam and provide economic aid to South-east Asia.

The bill also contains an aid program to the Dominican Republic and a \$100 million contingency fund for use in any trouble-spot around the world.

Short Circuit Cut Space Flight

A short circuit in one of the Gemini 8's thrusters probably caused the gyrations that forced the emergency landing of the space craft in the Pacific, according to the Space Agency.

Astronauts Neil Armstrong and David Scott were ordered back to earth after the craft went wild while it was docked with the Agena rocket.

French Troops Leaving NATO

France will begin to withdraw its troops from the NATO forces within two weeks, according to reliable French sources. President Charles de Gaulle expects to have all U.S. and Canadian troops and bases out of France by the end of the year.

Canada's External Affairs Minister, Paul Martin, said Mar. 18, Canada would abandon its two military bases in France as quickly as possible rather than accept French command.

New Rocket Project Begins

An Atlas-D intercontinental ballistic missile and a Nike-Javelin probe were launched seconds apart Mar. 19, at Vandenberg Air Force Base in a test of rocket exhaust products.

The launchings were the first in a project called "High Altitude Target and Background to Noise," according to an Air Force spokesman. Other large rockets are to be launched together with the Nike-Javelins.

Syria Rejects U. S. Protest

Syria has rejected a protest by the U.S. concerning an American citizen who was kept incommunicado for almost two years after crossing the frontier from Israel.

A Syrian foreign ministry statement contended that Edward Levy was an Israeli citizen and that Washington had "greatly exaggerated" the case. Levy was released Mar. 10 and handed over to the UN Armistice Commission in exchange for a Syrian prisoner.

Newspaper Strike Continues

The Boston newspaper strike moved into its 14th day Mar. 19, with no negotiations scheduled for the weekend. The walkout by printers and mailers shut down Boston's five daily and three Sunday newspapers.

Federal and state mediators met, Mar. 18, with representatives of six non-striking unions but there was no indication that a key to solving the dispute was found. The striking workers want a \$12 pay raise in a two-year contract.

Chief Justice Not Retiring Yet

Earl Warren, chief justice of the U.S., has celebrated his 75th birthday, and says he has not given any serious thought to retiring.

The former governor of California said, however, he thinks it would be a good idea to have a compulsory retirement age for all public officials, provided Congress and the people agree.

UFO 'Ball' Chases Car

Two men in La Porte, Ind., told a policeman that a large orange ball with protruding antennas chased them as they drove from Michigan City to La Porte.

The two men, who did not give their names to Patrolman Michael Spivak, stood watching it with the patrolman for 15 or 20 minutes as it increased altitude and disappeared.

Tiger in His Trunk

The man who stole Ruth Rush's car may not know it but he is sitting in a potential bomb. Miss Rush loaned the car to her brother, who reported it stolen to New York police.

He told police there "may be some trouble if it is recovered." Asked why, he explained that a friend had asked him to store six grenades, two sawed-off shotguns and rifle in the trunk.

Fire Mission Called; Rat Pack Dispersed

An Khe (USA) — In the highland wilderness not far from An Khe there is a hill known simply as the "Rock." To its occupants, it is the Observation

Post and is manned by a garrison of infantry, an artillery observer and at least a reinforced battalion of voracious, and somewhat irascible rats—who are slightly confused about who the enemy is. "We've tried to train them," said Lt. Howard H. Clutter. "But its hopeless, its impossible to discipline them and they eat us out of house and home."

"Even a C ration tin doesn't stop them," he continued, "they'll sit in a circle around a can on their haunches and gnash the lid open with their teeth—no sweat."

"We had all we could take" he said, "bait, traps, sticks, rifle butts, boots—anything handy became a weapon."

"But the rats are fast and hard to hit and we weren't doing very well. We were wounding a few, but no K.I.A.s."

"We had to come up with

a better method. My Radio-Telephone Operator, PFC Dwight W. Lewis solved the problem."

"Call a mission sir," he said. The idea was adopted. With detonators, commo wire and a radio battery the set up was complete.

First the men opened a C ration tin of boned chicken and emptied it on a prominent rock. They rigged a detonator next to the bait and ran commo wire to a hidden CP. Next Lieutenant Clutter took his binoculars and stationed himself behind a tree stump. They waited.

A shadow appeared on the rock and approached the bait. It hesitated, and then left. In a minute it returned. "Fire mission," Lieutenant

Clutter whispered into his radio mike. "Send your mission", whispered back Lewis from the command post 50 meters to the rear. "Several rats were on the rock."

Clutter said, "rats in the open, fire at my command, over."

A huge rat, probably a battalion commander, was rocking back and forth on his tail, stuffing his jowls in the middle of the rest, "fire" Ka-boom—"end of mission, rats dispersed."

Later Clutter was heard to say, "Wow, you should have seen them tumble and somersault, the big battalion commander especially. He must have been six feet into the air. We ought to try that with the Viet Cong."

Hot Bombs, Lives At Stake

(Continued from P-1, Col. 5)

We try to get the crew members out of an air-

plane on fire. With bombs on board, we have about five minutes."

"And what do you do if the crew is still trapped after those bombs have been burning for five minutes?" he was asked.

"That's the tough part of my job. I have to decide whether to withdraw my men to save their lives, or try for another 30 seconds, hoping to get the crew out. I lay awake nights worrying about that."

Last August, when a B-57 Canberra bomber crashed in the heart of downtown Nha Trang, the decision was easier. Hundreds of lives were at stake as numerous bombs burned in the smoldering ruins. The fire crews plunged into the midst of it, and stayed until all the bombs were removed.

In the first half hour three bombs exploded, wounding several firemen. Ostby himself was put in the hospital when a bomb fragment pierced his shoulder.

"But that's the job," he says matter-of-factly. "That's what we're paid to do."



SHUTTERBUG—Everyone and his doctor turned shutterbug when Ann-Margret smiled for the cameras at the 93rd Medical Evacuation Hospital near Bien Hoa. The curvaceous singer plans to film her next picture "Wildcat" when she returns to the U.S. from her tour of entertaining servicemen in Vietnam.

Invited For Chow, Many Friends Come

Cu Chi (USA) — The man who came to dinner, so the story goes, at least came alone. The man who came to dinner at the "home" of Capt. William D. White Jr., brought 277 friends—and it looks as if they'll be around for quite a while.

White, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Infantry Division, had a nice, quiet dinner table spread for his 122-man family a few months ago. The family began developing acute growing pains when the division's 2nd Brigade began preparing to depart for Vietnam from Hawaii.

A platoon from the 25th Military Police Company was the first group of callers, added to the company for convoy control and security. Then came the men from 25th Military Intelligence Detachment.

Next, 125th Signal Battalion sent a platoon of radar and radio operators and repairmen.

For good measure, an information team of three men quickly appeared, followed by a legal section and one representative from the American Red Cross.

The growing pains began to let up a little as the last possible day for more attachments neared, but someone left the door open and a 21-man finance team moved in on departure day.

First Sgt. Francis L. Holmes sighed, took a deep

breath, looked across his orderly room and said, "Freed, we have 21 more to add to the morning report."

And Sp4 Richard D. Freed, the company clerk, peering from behind his pile of personnel reports, grumped, "Yeah, sure. Okay, Sarge."

Then for two weeks at sea aboard the USNS General Walker there were no new additions.

But, after the brigade arrived in Vietnam, a new staff section—civil affairs—was added and two more men joined the company.

And then, out of the clear blue sky, the U.S. Air Force came roaring in with four officers and 10 enlisted men to make up the forward air controller section.

With the company now a multi-service unit, the story should end. But it doesn't.

The company has gone international now by adding one officer and 14 enlisted men from the Army, Republic of Vietnam.

That ends the story at the moment, but the spirit lingers and the first sergeant's wounded howl still echoes from the orderly room, "Bring on the Navy and the Marine Corps!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Unit of Siamese currency
4. Sixth President
9. New Deal agency (abbr.)
12. Indonesian tribesman
13. Citrus fruit
14. Uncooked
15. Province in India
17. Marine reptile
19. Dillseed
21. Proceed
22. Supercilious person
25. National Educational Association (abbr.)
27. Tibetan priest
31. Cushion
32. Runs away in panic
34. Prefix: not
35. Old French coin
36. Relative (colloq.)
37. Saint (abbr.)
38. Make merry
41. Compass point
42. Paradise
43. Before
44. Hebrew measure
45. Compass point
47. Stumble
49. Ball
53. Speckled
57. Native metal
58. Pick out
60. Devoured
61. Condensed moisture
62. Shuts noisily
63. Man's nickname

DOWN

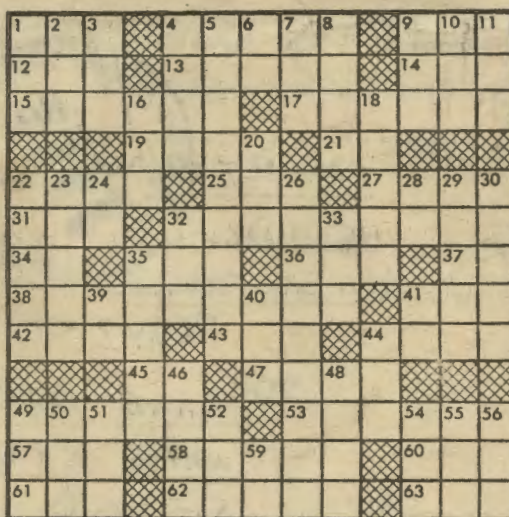
1. High mountain
2. Greek letter
3. Metal
4. Wolfhound

5. Certificate issued as evidence of debt
6. Part of "to be"
7. Witty remark
8. Comfortable
9. Worthless leaving
10. Crony (colloq.)
11. Reverence
16. Short punch
18. Parts in play
20. Afternoon party
22. Condiment
23. Designated
24. Hypothetical force
26. City in The Netherlands
28. Paid notice
29. Middle (law)
30. Showy flower
32. Cry
33. Baker's product

PAC EDITS MAR
AGO VITAL ATE
LARDER ROASTS
KINGS WET
OPEN EOS SERF
PARES NAG RIO
EL SOT CAN NI
RET DAY LOESS
AREA TAN TRET
NIT KOREA
SITTER VASSAL
ODE LAPEL ERA
WAR AMOLE RAG

35. Feeling
39. French article
40. Skill
41. Printer's measure
44. Choose
46. Units of energy
48. Electrified particles

49. Turf
50. Prefix: before
51. Cut
52. Cloth measure
54. Youngster
55. Greek letter
56. Lair
59. Babylonian deity



Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 16

▲ MACV Advisors

(Cont'd from P-1, Col. 2)

the open area, Sergeant Myers commented. "We're advising ourselves right out of a job. Six months ago they wouldn't have taken the carriers across the field, they would have let the infantry go across first."

As the APCs came to a stop, the crew dismounted for a ground search of the area, but the elusive guerillas had gotten away, leaving a battered hat as a reminder that they had been there.

For the remainder of the morning the APCs traveled over flat, level terrain, occasionally passing through villages where the crew would stop to administer first aid to ailing villagers.

"Now we wait," declared Captain Frost. "The APCs will be held in reserve in case the recon unit in the valley gets into a scrap and needs some help."

Throughout the afternoon the men of the APCs waited in the hot sun, as the gunfire continued below.

Toward evening the sound of gunfire diminished. "Guess

the guys didn't need us after all," said Sergeant Myers, as the line of infantry moved towards the carriers' position. "We'll let the infantry go through our lines and provide cover for them then move out."

Relaxing in his room that evening, Sgt. John Fortin, enlisted regimental advisor, discussed the role of the advisor on operations.

"The term advisor means just that. We don't tell a commander to do something, just suggest what to do. Then it's up to him to decide whether or not to follow our advice."

"When we go on an operation with ARVN units much of our time is spent coordinating U.S. artillery support, naval gunfire, and medical evacuations," he continued.

Discussing the day's operation, Sergeant Fortin said, "We didn't do too badly. We killed 2 VC guerillas, captured 1, destroyed 300 kilos of rice and 25 pairs of boots."

The Week's Sports Highlights

By Ed MacKay

Cassius Clay, muttering that he was tired from "too much roadwork," was knocked down by a sparring partner during his first workout for the Mar. 29 bout with George Chuvalo. James Ellis, a 190-pound heavyweight, who fights out of Louisville, Ky., floored Clay in the third round of a training session with a right. Some observers said the knockdown may have been part of the champion's psychology, intended to put Chuvalo off guard.

Two of Clay's entourage have moved over to Chuvalo's camp. Joe Louis joined the Chuvalo ranks early last week and watched as the Canadian battered his way through 15 rounds against four sparring partners. Clay's ex-trainer Bundini Brown has volunteered his services to Irv Ungerman, Chuvalo's manager.

World junior-lightweight champion Gabriel (Flash) Elorde blasted his way to a unanimous 10-round decision

over Panama's Ismael Laguna last Saturday at Manila. The Filipino southpaw dropped Laguna for the mandatory eight-count in the fourth and eighth rounds.

It is expected that Elorde will ask for another shot at the lightweight crown of Carlos Ortiz on the strength of his win. Laguna said that he "was watching the wrong hand" in the fourth round knockdown. He was watching Elorde's left, as the Filipino fights from a southpaw stance, but it was a right cross that sent Laguna to the canvas.

• The Baltimore Bullets, assured of second place in the Western Division of the National Basketball Association, were taking it easy while San Francisco and St. Louis battled it out to see which team will make the playoffs.

In the Eastern Division, the Philadelphia 76ers still were one full game ahead of the Boston Celtics with last Saturday's game as yet to be played.

• New York's amazing Mets continued their winning ways as they barged the St. Louis Cardinals with 17 hits in a 8-7 decision. The Mets used four pitchers in taking their fifth straight exhibition game.

Roger Maris made his first appearance of the season, playing seven innings. It was little help to the Yankees, as they dropped a 7-0 contest to the Atlanta Braves. Maris went hitless in two trips to the plate and walked in his third appearance.

The Minnesota Twins pounded the hapless Washington Senators for 15 hits and extended the Senator losing streak to eight games last Saturday. Washington gave up five errors in losing 12-8. The Chicago White Sox had blanked the Senators, 5-0 Friday as a Washington error in the fifth frame opened the door on what had been a scoreless game to that point.

The Cleveland Indians handed the San Francisco Giants their first loss in seven games. Five of the Indian runs came in the sixth inning as they topped the Giants, 6-2.

• Former Southern California football star Mike McKeever regained consciousness last Friday after more than three months in a coma. McKeever, twin brother of Los Angeles Ram star Marlin McKeever, had been unconscious since he was injured in a traffic accident last Dec. 3.

• Don Eagle, a retired wrestler, was found dead on an Indian reservation near Montreal last Saturday. Police said a revolver was found near the body. Eagle, who had a sizeable following in Canada and the U.S., was reported to be despondent over setbacks to his dream of developing an Indian tribal cultural center.

• South Africa's Harold Henning last Friday fired a one-under-par 71 to share the lead with Japan's Tadashi Kitta with 213s in the third round of the Thailand Open Golf championship.

PEANUTS

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



Several servicemen from the field have been mailing the below mail box to THE OBSERVER thinking we will mail a copy of THE OBSERVER home for them. The mail box is in the paper to make it more convenient for you to fold THE OBSERVER, staple or tape it and mail. We are bound by current regulations against mailing THE OBSERVER to the general public. We're sorry, we wish that we could provide you with this service. (THE EDITOR)

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

★ (Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.)

From:

CAPT R.E. MacDonald
HQ USMACV J-2
APO SAN FRANCISCO
96243

TO: ANNE MAC DONALD

SEATTLE, WASH
98168