

Landing Lights Stop Enemy Sniper Fire

Qui Nhon (USAF)— Air Force pilots recently used landing lights on A-1E Skyraiders so effectively they were able to stop Viet Cong snipers during a ground battle near Tuy Hoa.

Capt. Paul V. Graybill, leader of a flight of the attack planes had already destroyed an important enemy gun position, but snipers continued to harass U.S. soldiers bringing wounded down a hillside to a level area where a helicopter could be landed.

Graybill conceived the plan of using landing lights mounted under the wings and on the nose wheel strut of his aircraft.

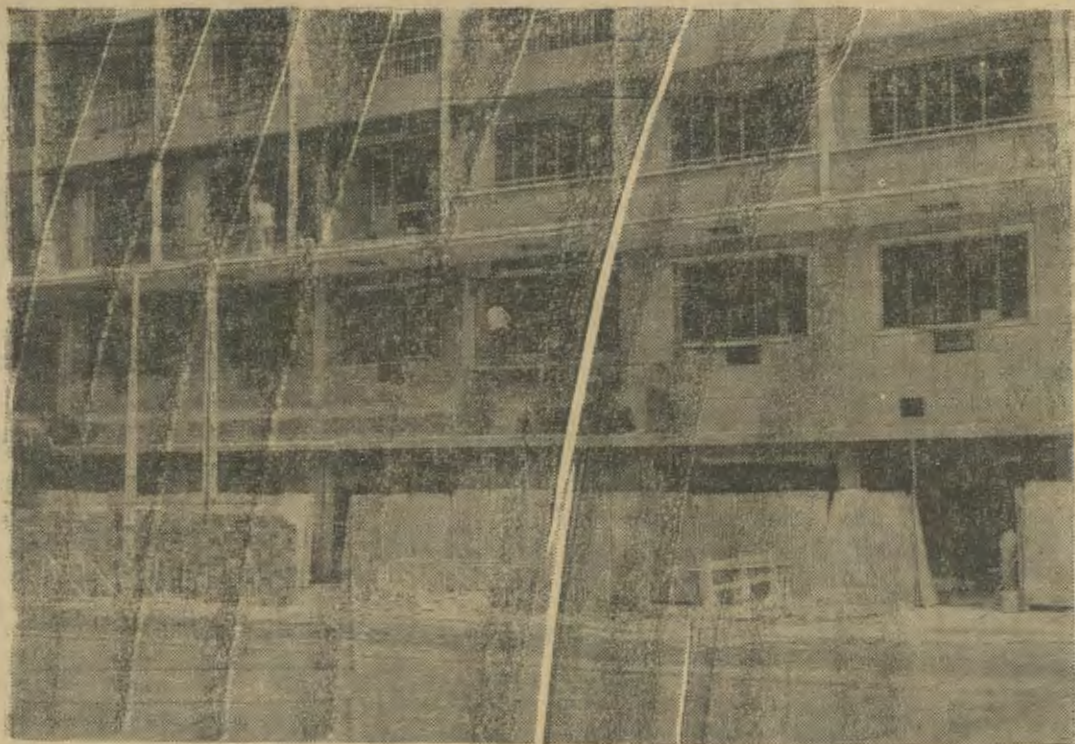
The lights on the wing, when turned on, swing from a side position to one straight

ahead of the aircraft.

Graybill's wingman, Capt. Richard J. Robbins said the overall impression of the lights was that of "search lights trying to find a target." He called the lighting effect, "weird."

After the first pass with their lights on, the pilots received a radio report from the ground that the sniper fire had stopped.

Graybill said in all probability the VC were hiding from the light because they did not want to be spotted by troops guarding the medical evacuation team.



REPAIR WORK PROGRESSES — Repairs to the Victoria Bachelor Officers Quarters are progressing rapidly. Part of the outer walls have been replaced on the three floors which were hit hardest by the explosion that tore through the hotel in the early morning hours April 1. (See hotel immediately after bombing, Page 4)

First In Vietnam

THE OBSERVER

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Advisor's Friends Remember Village

Phuoc Lam (USA) — SFC Gordon R. Wittman will be remembered in this tiny fishing village near Vung Tau in the III Corps area even though he was killed in a Viet Cong ambush.

His widow, knowing of his fondness for the village and for Father Baptiste, its Catholic priest, sent the villagers a gift of 52,000 plasters (about \$500) in memory of her husband.

Mrs. Wittman of Utica, N.Y., asked that people donate money to the village instead of sending flowers to Sergeant Wittman's funeral.

In a letter written to Father Baptiste, Mrs. Wittman said that her husband had written often of his friendship with the people and had asked her to raise some money for the village.

"Please accept this," she

wrote, "in memory of my husband and all Americans who have died in your country trying to help your people in their fight for freedom."

The money and a Vietnamese translation of the letter were presented to Father Baptiste by III Corps Catholic Chaplain (Capt.) William Mulligan.

Wittman was a member of a three-man advisory team at the Long Hai Training Center near Phuoc Lam. All were killed in the same attack on January 8, 1966.

'I Knew He Was Dead,' Recalls Wounded Soldier

By Sgt. Bob Barry, USA

Nhon Co (USA) — "I was about three feet from the lieutenant when the ground seemed to erupt, and I saw a blur of bullets hit him," said the wounded sergeant. "They seemed to come right out of the ground. I knew he was dead."

Sgt. Edward J. Laria, a squad leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, then wheeled and poured 20 rounds into the ground where he thought the fire had come from.

"As I did," he said, "I fell back into some vines. My pack got stuck in them, and as I hung there a hand grenade landed between me and the dead lieutenant."

The nightmarish event which finally put Laria in the hospital began when a platoon leader told him to take his squad up a trail and set out security for a medevac of wounded personnel.

"I had deployed my squad and moved 130 yards up the trail when a machine gun opened up on us," explained Laria. "We were pinned down and I didn't know where the gun was. It was so thick you

couldn't see 10 yards."

The lieutenant, a platoon leader, told Laria to take his squad on a flanking movement to the left, and called up two more squads. Meanwhile another machine gun opened up on Laria's squad and pinned it down for the second time.

Again and again Laria's squad moved out and again and again a hidden machine gun barked a withering volume of fire at his men, but the position of the enemy gun was so well concealed it could not be spotted.

Then the lieutenant called for Laria to move up with him. As he approached, Laria saw the bullets pumping into the lieutenant and wound up in a tangle of vines with a grenade in front of him.

"My whole squad was there," said Laria. "I yelled grenade! and kept

trying to get out of my pack and harness and onto the ground before it went off. It popped and fizzled; it was a dud, and I didn't know until later another dud had landed behind me."

The sergeant finally shook off his harness and ordered his squad back to cover. The machine gun was still firing bursts at Laria and his men. Laria tried once more to finish the machine gun with a full-automatic burst and then pulled his men back to a group of trees.

"We moved back fast and must have made a lot of noise, hitting the bushes and all. I guess the enemy thought we were withdrawing. We got on line and had just about regrouped when a

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

Child's Question Leads To His Adoption

Da Nang (USMC) — Nearly a year ago, Cpl. Ronald W. Field, attached to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Comptroller's office, was on liberty in the city of Da Nang.

As he neared an intersection, the 22-year-old Marine paused, waiting for a safe moment to cross. Those few, brief moments added a new chapter in his life.

"American, you be my

friend?" asked a ragged looking little boy, peering anxiously up at the Marine towering above him.

The "American" thought about the unusual offer and at the same time studied the youngster.

The boy repeated the question.

Almost cautiously, the Marine made his decision.

"Yeah," he said finally,

"I'll be your friend."

A wide smile broke across the boy's face as he reached up, took hold of the American's hand. Together they walked up the street.

"I don't know what there was about him that appealed to me," reminisced Field. "May be it was his straight forward approach. His clothes were dirty and so was he. Worst of all, we really couldn't under-

stand each other."

Field took his new friend to one of the many vendor stands in the city and outfitted him with clothes and shoes.

"He must have thought I was Santa Claus or something. He was happy and I felt good," recalled the corporal.

The boy's name is Doan Van Hoa. He's small for his 10 years, and he limps slightly, the result of a bout with polio while still an infant.

Doan's father was killed by the Viet Cong two years ago. His mother has been ill and unable to work. The family is supported by Vietnamese Army survivor benefits.

As the days turned into months, Doan, now nicknamed "Billy," and Ron Field became close friends. They spent all their free time together. Teaching Billy English

(Cont'd on P-9, Col. 1)

EDITORIAL

Memorial Day — 1966 A Day To Remember

Memorial Day is a somber occasion for Americans. It is a time to awaken memories of friends, relatives, and thousands of young men who have died in the service of the nation. This year, it is also a time to learn to live with the fresh loss of those who have given their lives in the Republic of Vietnam.

For the men and women of the armed forces, Memorial Day is all these things and more. John McCrae, in his poem, "In Flanders Fields," wrote. "If ye break faith with us who die/We shall not sleep, though poppies grow/In Flanders fields."

If Ye Break Faith With Us Who Die



The first line of the triplet. "If ye break faith with us who die," echoing from the battlefields of World War I, should ring through the thoughts of every man and woman in uniform.

Those who died, not just in World Wars I and II, but through all our nation's struggles, including the Cold War, have left behind a trust that their sacrifices be given meaning by the continuation and growth of the American nation in a free world.

The serviceman and woman of today carries a heavy part of this trust. It is only through keeping faith, through courage and steadfastness, that those who lie in Flanders fields, in Hawaii, at Arlington, Valley Forge and Gettysburg, and those who have died in the sweating jungles of Vietnam, may sleep. (AFNB).

Conduct Of War

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee March 3, 1966, where he answered a number of questions pertinent to the conduct of the war in the Republic of Vietnam. For the next few weeks, *The Observer* will publish some of the questions and the Secretary's answers for the benefit of its readers. (Editor) Eighth of a series of nine questions.

QUESTION

Do not our political commitments in Southeast Asia and elsewhere exceed our economic ability to support them?

ANSWER

The answer to this question is no. The relevant facts and figures should allay this concern.

At no time since World War II, indeed never before in history, has the United States been in a better economic position to fulfill its commitments abroad. To take a comparable period by way of illustration, during the Korean War our annual military spending rose from four per cent of the gross national product to 14 per cent. In FY 66 and 67, military expenditures will approximate 7.7 and 7.8 per cent of gross national products and less than in any one of the five years 1960, 61, 62, 63 and 64. In order to approach the Korean War figure of 14 per cent it would be necessary for us to spend an additional 44 and 46 billion dollars in FY 66 and FY 67.



Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense

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 periodically.)

SCRAPBOOK

For Hospitalized Servicemen
Mr Joseph C. M. Clarkin
New York City

SCROLL

Hundreds of Signatures
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

RESOLUTION

Vilas County
Board of Supervisors
State of Wisconsin

RESOLUTION

Senate and House
of Representatives
State of New Mexico

PETITION

786 Signatures
The American Legion
Post 112, Indiana

RESOLUTION

General Assembly
State of Virginia

PETITION

1,157 Signatures
N. D. State School
of Science
Wahpeton, North Dakota

PETITION

1,263 Signatures
Veterans of World War I
of the U.S.A., Inc.
Norfolk, Virginia.

Publish First Volume Of MacArthur Reports

The first of a three-volume series, "Reports of General MacArthur" has been published. Called "MacArthur in Japan — The Occupation: Military Phase," the new book covers the Japanese occupation from its beginning in August 1945 to the end of 1948.

The book may be purchased for \$5.25 from: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401.

Questions & Answers

The War In Vietnam

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 are the last three questions of 20 questions most widely asked, with concise, factual answers. Information taken from Headquarters, Field Force Vietnam, Troop Topic "The War In Vietnam." (Editor)

QUESTION: Will the war continue until one side or the other achieves a clear-cut military victory?

ANSWER: This is solely a matter for decision by Hanoi and its supporters in Peiping. The war was started by the North and could be ended by the North at any time. All that is necessary is for Hanoi to withdraw its forces and order a halt by its Viet Cong agents. U.S. Secretary of State Rusk has emphasized: "We ask only that they cease their aggressions, that they leave their neighbors alone."

QUESTION: What stands in the way of a negotiated peace?

ANSWER: This question can only be answered by Hanoi. President Johnson has repeatedly proclaimed that the United States is ready to begin unconditional peace discussions "at any place, at any time" and with any government. Exploratory moves toward a peaceful settlement have been made by the Commonwealth nations, by the United Kingdom, by a group of 17 nonaligned nations, by the President of India, by Secretary General U Thant of the United Nations, and others. The United States, in May, opened the door for a favorable communist response by briefly suspending its air attacks on military installations in North Vietnam. President Johnson, in addition to his many public statements of willingness to negotiate without pre-conditions, has urged all member states of the United Nations to help find a way to the conference table. So far, however, every peaceful gesture has been rejected with scorn by Hanoi and Peiping.

QUESTION: Does this mean that hopes for peace in Southeast Asia must be abandoned?

ANSWER: This is certainly not the intention of South Vietnam and its allies. The channels for communication of a change of mind in Hanoi and Peiping are constantly kept open. The United States and South Vietnam, at the same time, are determined that communist aggression shall not succeed. It is their hope that, once Hanoi is convinced of this, the way to a peaceful solution will be cleared. "I pray every night," President Johnson said recently, that "the day will come when others will be willing to accept our proposals and join us in our hope of satisfying those problems and dealing with these differences by talking instead of fighting."

THE OBSERVER

(CIRCULATION: 60,000)

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LIFT OFF—A Marine Attack Squadron 311 jet reaches the end of a catapult thrust and lifts off after reaching a speed of 165 mph. (USMC Photo)

Jets Catapult From Land For Combat Zone 'First'

Chu Lai (USMC)— Jet aircraft have been launched from a land-based catapult at the Marine Expeditionary Force airfield for the first time in a combat zone.

The aircraft carried 250-pound bombs and were armed with 20mm cannons for the operation.

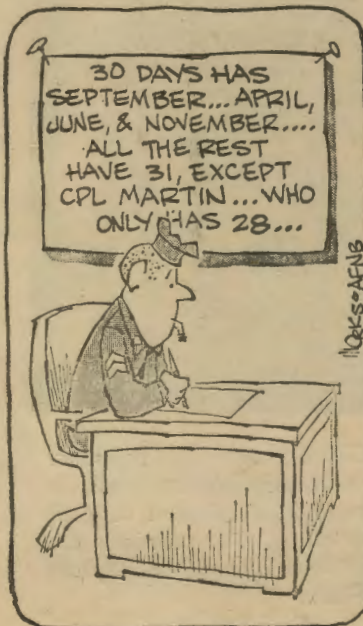
Two jet engines, the same as those used in the F4B Phantom, provide the power for the catapult. The engines push a 1,300-pound dolly up to speeds of 195 knots. The system can launch aircraft either north or south.

The 20-man launch crew, split in two teams, can launch an aircraft every 90 seconds. The crew is attached to the Marine Air Base Squadron 12.

There are several major differences in the land-based system and the catapult system used aboard an aircraft carrier.

The catapult on the carrier has a 300-foot power stroke, while the land-based catapult has a power stroke of more than 2,000 feet with a continuous cable 4,559 feet long.

This cable, which is below deck on a carrier, is all above ground in the land-based system.



Nungs Make Stand In New Island Home

Phu Quoc (USA)— A group of refugees is making its last stand in its flight from communist domination on this island in the Gulf of Siam.

These people, originally from the China-North Vietnam border country, are Nungs. They started their exodus some 17 years ago from their border homeland, fled to South Vietnam and now are attempting to make a living from the sandy soil and newly cleared forests.

With an assist from the U.S. Aid for International Development, (AID) the Nungs are building a camp to house their 127 families in this valley home. Each family is given enough money to build a house and provide food for six months, according to Cal Mahler, AID representative. "After that, they are on their own."

Although the camp has been open less than seven months, Mahler said, much of the sandy soil has been seeded for crops of melons and black pepper and the wood that has been cleared from the forest slopes has been made into charcoal.

The people have set up a school in a tin-covered building—which will serve until the government builds a permanent school—and some 60 children are attending classes. Most of the families can afford only to send one child to school, Mahler added.

There still are obstacles to overcome, the AID official explained. "But, with their willingness to work and their strong hatred of communism, perhaps, after 17 years, the Nungs have found a permanent home."

'Screaming Eagles' Fight Monsoon; Secure Jittery Montagnard Village

Nhon Co (USA)— In an area where it is very likely no Americans or French have ever been seen before, the 101st Airborne Division is bringing help through its civic action program to the Montagnard tribesmen of Bu Bong.

The village had been moved three times by the Munong Montagnard inhabitants because of Viet Cong harassment.

The 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry of the 1st Brigade spent most of the night struggling through monsoon-soaked mountains to reach the village.

Shortly before dawn, they surrounded it, and at sunrise the waiting troopers moved in to "get with the people," as one officer said.

Medics, the men most needed by the villagers, set up shop. Vietnamese interpreters, who spoke the Montagnard dialect, aided the medics.

After several hours, faces began to get familiar as the tribesmen came back again to get yellow or gray and pink pill their neighbors had received.

Bu Bong had been relocated three times, but the Viet Cong kept finding it. Only six days before the 101st arrived, they kidnaped the village chief for ransom.

In the houses, the troopers found pieces of wood covered with pictures of American aircraft and vehicles. The villagers said the Viet Cong, who did not speak their language—the Montagnards have no writing—would point at each picture and ask how many had been seen by the villagers.

The troopers decided one more move of Bu Bong would

be needed to insure the villagers' safety and the cessation of a VC supply source.

The chiefs were asked and after a few minutes of discussion, agreed to the move.

A representative of the province chief and the senior American advisor of the area were flown in and arrangements were made for the move.

Before the representative and the advisor left, the villagers made one request. Would the American paratroopers please stay and protect them until they were moved?

The paratroopers dug in.

VN Youngster Joins Marine Band

Hue-Phu Bai (USMC)— The 3rd Marine Division Band received an unexpected assist during a concert at the village of Gia Le near here.

Bandmaster WO Bill Black noticed a four-year-old boy in the front row of the Vietnamese audience. The youngster was trying to accompany the Marine musicians on a battered harmonica.

Black lifted the boy from the audience and deposited him in the clarinet section where he continued to huff and puff away on the mouth organ for the remainder of the concert.

New Togs For Tots Set Off By Smiles

Bien Hoa (USA)— The children of a Vietnamese village near here now are decked out in new clothes and shoes and are sporting cleanly scrubbed faces.

The shoes, clothes and soap were part of the nearly half a ton of contributions by the people of Griffin, Ga.

Sgt. James Winzell, a paratrooper in D Company, 16th Armor, 173rd Airborne Brigade was home on emergency leave. He told the editor of his hometown newspaper of his company's civic action program in a small community near Bien Hoa.

When the story appeared in the paper, the people of Griffin, a community 40 miles south of Atlanta, began sending contributions. Soon Winzell had more clothing and equipment than he could bring back.

He petitioned the governor of Georgia to arrange for a transport plane of the state's Air National Guard to fly the goods to Bien Hoa.

The contributions from the citizens of Griffin were distributed to families in the local area by Winzell and men from his company.



PAPERS CHECKED— The owner of a Vietnamese sampan passes over his identity papers and boat registration during a check by an American Navy patrol boat in the river which runs to Saigon. Both American and Vietnamese Navy units carry out constant security patrols of all rivers and canals south of Saigon. (UPI Radiophoto by Steve Northrup)



DEVASTATION—The Victoria was hit by the VC at 5:15 a.m. on April 1. Four Vietnamese and three Americans were killed. An explosive charge was transported to the hotel by a truck. (JUSPAO Photo)

Special Forces Camps End Viet Cong Control

Duc Phong (USA)—There are three major ways to deprive the enemy of the real estate he wants in Vietnam.

Constant search-and-destroy missions can be run through an area to clear it and keep it cleared or civic action programs can be used to win the people over.

The third way is setting up a Special Forces camp in the area and depriving "Charlie" of his territory. This was done by Capt. John Andrew and a Special Forces team near Duc Phong.

The area was one "from which we've drawn a powerful lot of ground fire," according to Andrew.

Accompanied by some 134 Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) troops, and 500 men of the crack "Mike Force," a reaction and assault force, the Special Forces team cleared the enemy infiltration routes and razed the villages that harbored the Viet Cong.

"We ran into surprisingly little opposition," Andrew said. "After we cleared the area, we started patrolling actions encountering enemy snipers every so often."

These patrols brought back refugees, innocent civilians who had been forced to leave their homes and live in the jungles while the VC exerted their influence.

The word spread to other refugees, and soon the Special Forces camp was giving shelter and protection to more than 1,000 people.

The area around Duc Phong still is not considered secure, but it is safer than it was. Supplies are dropped by helicopter and an occasional air drop brings in rice and other foods for the refugees.

"The mountain is within

mortar range, but 'Charlie' doesn't have many mortars to use against us in this area," Andrew remarked. "Even if he did, there's no water or means of livelihood on the hill, so he probably won't use it as a staging area."

Even as the captain spoke, a patrol came in from the mountain. They reported there had been no contact. He looked around the area, which now has engineer units helping to construct a permanent camp, the "Mike Force" troops, the CIDGs and the Special Forces advisors.

He smiled with confidence as he turned toward his tent. "We're here to stay."

Call For Medic Is Viet Cong Ruse

Cu Chi (USA)— "Medic, Medic," yelled the wounded U.S. soldier as he fell to the ground with a bullet wound in the leg.

A medic from the 25th Infantry Division crawled out to give first aid.

The cry for a medic came again, this time from in front of the first casualty.

The platoon medic was busy and a rifleman crawled out to administer first aid.

Suddenly, the second "wounded" man who called for a medic jumped up and opened fire with an automatic weapon.

The Viet Cong had discovered a ruse that veterans of Korea may painfully recall.

Survival Odds Favor Vietnam War Wounded

Saigon (USA)—A soldier tramping through the jungles of Vietnam naturally worries that a bullet or piece of shrapnel is about to be launched with his name on it, so does the door gunner on an Air Force helicopter and the Navy advisor traveling the murky delta rivers.

But the soldier, airman and sailor can take heart in knowing that their odds of survival are high in the war in Vietnam.

About one per cent per month of American forces in Vietnam receive battle wounds, and only one per cent of those wounded die from their wounds, according to the U.S. Army's 1st Logistical Command.

Col. James A. Wier, director of 1st Log medical services, reports that admissions to hospitals from diseases and wounds number less than one for each 1,000 men per day.

"Never in American battle history has medical support of the fighting man been so efficient and so effective," said Wier. "For one thing, medical science continues to take giant steps forward. New medicines and new techniques play major roles in saving lives which were otherwise lost in the wars of the past."

A major addition to the life-saving role in Vietnam is a fleet of 50 air ambulance helicopters operated by medically trained personnel who rush the wounded to one of nine key hospital installations. No man is more than 30

Survivor Of Bataan March Dedicated To Aiding Others

Bien Hoa (USA)—A Filipino doctor who survived the Bataan Death March is dedicating his life to helping others in need in the III Corps area.

Dr. Napoleon G. Sanchez is a dentist by profession. He came to Vietnam in 1955 with Operation Brotherhood. He explained his reasons for staying in this war-torn Republic helping others as he looked at a picture of himself as a 20-year-old soldier.

"God spared my life," the dentist said. "I wondered for a long time why He did that. I decided it could only be so I could help others in need of something I could give them."

Since 1955, Dr. Sanchez has been helping the brothers at a Catholic missionary hospital near Bien Hoa operate on harelip cases from the surrounding area. In what he describes as a "very difficult and somewhat delicate operation," Dr. Sanchez makes a few expert cuts with the scalpel and a careful sewing job and the child or adult no longer has a harelip.

Capt. Harold L. Rodgers, civic action advisor at Bien

Hoa sector headquarters, described Dr. Sanchez' work as "most dynamic. The Viet Cong cannot cope with real and visible results of this kind," he said.

The young officer described how 25 Viet Cong rallied to the Government of Vietnam's cause after two harelip cases, in two different areas of the Corps, returned to their villages transformed.

Harelip cases come to Dr. Sanchez after being referred to the sector headquarters by American advisors in the various sub-sectors in the Corps area. The operation costs 1,000 piasters, which includes a 10-day convalescent period for the patient, who is accompanied to the hospital by a relative.

Dr. Sanchez pays for his own equipment and supplies and receives no pay for his work at the hospital.

Captain Rodgers points out that the 1,000 piasters to pay for the operation comes from a special fund for revolutionary development at the sub-sector level. A special revolving fund was set up for civic action projects at sub-sector last September on a trial basis and is now supporting the entire program, he added.

At the hospital, Dr. Sanchez is assisted by Brother Benard, a French Canadian, who has been in Vietnam 12 years as a missionary for the Catholic Relief Services.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS—The Eternal Life Insurance Company of the Marble Mountain Air Facility opens for business. Chaplain (LTjg) Donald T. McGrogan designed the sign which denotes a Marine chapel. The premiums are reportedly low and the "cash-in" value after 60 or 70 years can be astronomical. (USMC Photo)

Advisor Trains Regional, Popular Force Fighters

Bao Loc—Charging through a plantation in the tea capital of South Vietnam, Lam Donh Province, a squad of Regional Force (RF) soldiers learns the ways and means of war via basic training.

In another area of the training center at Bao Loc, a classroom of Popular Force (PF) soldiers listens attentively to a Vietnamese cadre instructing in the use of the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). Each man will learn how to dismantle and assemble the weapon before going into a tactical training area for practical testing.

On the grenade range, a PF trooper cocks his arm and prepares to throw. U.S. Army Lt. David B. Craig, PF/RF advisor, kneels beside him and watches closely.

The lieutenant says that most of his advisory effort is done behind the scenes with his Vietnamese counterpart. He points out that the Vietnamese cadre are as well qualified to teach trainees as Stateside training instructors.

In the tactical training area, individuals assault a harmless "enemy" objective with M-1 blanks. Friendly protective fire is dubbed in by smoke pots to add a note of realism.

"The main difference between the basic training of Vietnamese soldiers and American trainees is that they are learning to fight on the same ground where they will engage the enemy," Lieutenant Craig emphasized.

The training center turns out more than 100 qualified "killers" a month. Each man receives target practice in five different weapons to include the BAR, carbine, M-1 rifle, Thompson submachine gun, and live grenades.

The graduate trainee knows the fundamentals of squad tactics, weaponry, signal communications, first aid, hand-to-hand combat, chemical warfare, counter-intelligence,

and the motives for the war he is fighting.

The troops are trained in one of three programs each lasting four, seven and 12 weeks. Regional Force soldiers are also trained in the knowledge of battalion operations. They will be used in larger operational areas along Route 20, the lifeline between Dalat and Saigon, while Popular Force troops will return to their villages

and guard their homes from the Viet Cong.

Bao Loc's basic training center can house 300 soldiers and is usually filled to capacity, according to Lieutenant Craig.

Trainees built the quarters, mess hall, outside classroom shelter and are in the process of constructing an indoor classroom in preparation for the monsoons.

**Story And Photos
By Sp4 H.B. Bryan, USA**



CHARGE — A squad of Vietnamese soldiers moves across a road camouflaged with the foliage of the land. Lieutenant Craig watches the squad tactics near the Bao Loc training center. This squad will be fighting in the war in two weeks.



HAND-GRENADE THROW — A group of trainees line up on the ground for target practice with training grenades. Each man will practice form and throwing before using live ammunition. The training instructor (left) and Lieutenant Craig check each man's position.



THE BAR — A Vietnamese training instructor teaches the fine points for using the Browning Automatic Rifle to a class of Regional Force trainees. Upon completion of their

training at Bao Loc, the soldiers will fight the Viet Cong not far from their classroom.

'Of The Troops, For The Troops'

With the ever increasing military buildup of U.S. forces in the Republic of Vietnam, American military policemen are moving in to perform a wide variety of duties to restrict Viet Cong terrorist activities.

Protecting the lives of American servicemen in a combat zone is a task that carries heavy risks and responsibilities.

Guarding hotels, patrolling Saigon's streets, protecting ships up and down the Saigon River are all jobs that represent occupational hazards to the military police.

Perhaps the most familiar function of the city-bound police force in Saigon is the guarding of American officer and enlisted bachelor quarters. Working closely with the Vietnamese military and civilian police, the static post

MPs often work 12-hour shifts through the relentless heat of midday and the lonely, silent hours of darkness.

Installation and airfield security also comes under the heading of MP work and the Corps now has more than 200 trained german shepherd sentry dogs assigned throughout the country. Working mostly at night, the man-dog teams have proven an excellent combination for guarding warehouses and other military sites.

Many military policemen spend as much time on water as they do on land. Working in five-man teams assigned to ship security, the MPs board incoming vessels at the seaport of Vung Tau and ride "shotgun" throughout the unloading at Saigon. Armed with concussion grenades, auto-

matic weapons and a .50 caliber machine gun, the MPs protect the vessel from attack from the shore or by enemy frogmen.

Lt. Col. Jasper C. Vance, formerly the provost marshal for the now defunct Headquarters Support Activities, Saigon, now head of a new MP unit which recently arrived in-country, says "Our mission is unique in many ways. Along with performing normal duties, our MPs are providing protection for vessels and escorting truck convoys. They are everywhere, from Hue in the north to Vung Tau in the South. Keeping with the Military Police Corps' tradition of being 'of the troops for the troops'."

Story and Photos
By PFC Brian Halton



A motor patrol approaches a Vietnamese



Military Police team checks a bar on Tu Do Street



Standing guard at a downtown hotel at high noon



ese police traffic post in downtown Saigon



Alert MP stands guard on a ship in the Saigon Harbor



One of the walking patrols gives street directions to an Australian soldier



THE THING— A Marine Corps Ontos, which means 'The Thing' in Greek, moves across sodden rice paddies in search of Viet Cong. Its six 106mm recoilless rifles have taught the VC to fear the squat, tracked weapons. (Photo by LCpl. D. D. Kinton, USMC)

VC Wish 'The Thing' Would Get Out Of Here

Da Nang (USMC) — "Get out of here with that Boom! Boom! Boom!" were lyrics in "The Thing," a popular song in America some years back, and now its lyrics are making a comeback among the ranks of Viet Cong.

The Ontos (which means 'The Thing' in Greek), a six-barreled tank killer, has leveled its terrific firepower at the black-clad Viet Cong guerrillas in Vietnam. Thus, they chant, "Get out of here with that Boom! Boom! Boom!" or at least wish they knew how to talk the Marines into getting it out.

Used in support of Marine riflemen, the squat, tracked Ontos with its cluster of six long-barreled recoilless rifles is proving highly effective in the Da Nang area. Affectionately known as "Iron pig" to the Marines who man it, the Ontos uses its 106mm recoilless rifles to hurl high explosive shells at the VC.

The Ontos' gunner can

discharge his rifles as quickly as he can push the appropriate buttons. If necessary, the guns may also be fired in pairs or even in an ear-splitting broadside of six rifles.

During a busy week it is not uncommon for an Ontos to fire as many as 450 rounds at the Viet Cong.

Churning across country, the Ontos can reach out as far as 7,000 yards to shell the guerrillas or blast caves suspected of harboring them.

The crew has armor between them and the Viet Cong, but the vehicle's speed and low configuration give it a surprising amount of protection. The little tank killers have been known to survive as many as three hits by VC 57mm recoilless rifles.

Of the three-man crew, Ontos commander, driver and loader, the most ticklish job on a search-and-clear operation falls to the latter. When the "pig" has fired its six rounds, he has to leave the protection of the armored hull to reload the externally mounted guns.

The Viet Cong are learning to respect the strange vehicle with its long rifles. The sight alone is enough to make the enemy think twice before moving forward, and wish the Marines would "Get out of here with that Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Former PF Soldier Works In Hospital

Bien Hoa (USA) — A Vietnamese civilian employed at the 3rd Surgical Hospital here considers himself more than amply compensated for his work.

Pham Viet Thung, a member of a Popular Force unit on an operation with the U.S. Special Forces, was badly wounded when a land mine exploded.

The blast ripped off his left leg, shattered his right foot and broke his left arm. Shell fragments peppered his entire body.

A helicopter rushed him to the 3rd Surgical Hospital near the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

At the hospital, Thung received massive blood transfusions before he was taken to the operating room. More than 30 shell fragments were removed from his arms, legs and chest. He underwent surgery to close the wounds.

He recovered quickly and soon was ready to be fitted with an artificial leg. The limb was obtained through the efforts of the doctors from the Special Forces unit.

While Thung was recovering, he volunteered to work in the hospital mess hall.

Now, he walks without a limp and holds a full time job. With his earnings, he supports his mother and himself.

Medic Saves Pal's Life By Cutting His Throat

Nhon Co (USA) — The man wearing the medical badge over the left pocket of his jungle fatigues smiled as the trooper entered the tent.

"Hey, I thought you were dead," he joked.

"Yeah, you probably did after you cut my throat," the other man replied with an answering smile.

It had been two months since the two men — both with the 101st Airborne Division — had seen each other. On that day, the medic, PFC Joe Connolly, had run through a hail of machine gun fire to the spot where the severely wounded trooper had fallen.

Quickly, he assessed the injuries of his long-time friend. The bullet had hit the trooper in the back, pierced his lung and come out the front.

Carrying the man to cover, Connolly injected a syrette of morphine to ease the pain. He ignored a burst of gunfire from an automatic weapon which sprayed the bushes to his right.

As he finished dressing the wound, there was a burst of gunfire to his front and he leaned over the wounded trooper to protect him from further injury. Something hit him. He checked, found no blood, and continued treating the wounded man.

The fallen paratrooper was having difficulty breathing and was spitting blood. Connolly quickly made an incision in the wounded man's throat.

He dabbed at the blood that flowed from the cut and continued to make shallow, careful incisions.

Finally, he saw the trachea. He punctured it and heard the air escape from the wounded man's lungs. He inserted a tube, uttered a few words of encouragement to the now unconscious man, and went for a litter.

Minutes later, he returned with an improvised litter and two men to carry it. As gently as they could, they placed the injured man on the litter and carried him across the open field under fire.

Connolly turned and answered another call for a medic.

Over his shoulder he watched as a medevac helicopter carried his friend to a hospital for further treatment. He saw enemy gunfire strike the helicopter, but the ship continued on its way.

Now, for the first time since that day, the two men faced each other, neither really knowing what to say.

Finally, the trooper with the scar on his throat spoke. "It was rough, wasn't it?"

"Yeah, it was. C'mon, I'll buy you a beer," replied Connolly.



BIG BITE— Forward air controller aircraft have been nicknamed Grey Ghosts With Fangs by the Viet Cong. An Air Force pilot checks his map with a Vietnamese Army lieutenant before takeoff in his Grey Ghost on a mission to search out enemy locations. (AFNS)

Lightning Flash Exposes VC

Cu Chi (USA) — Lightning struck once near a squad from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, on a recent operation northwest of Cu Chi. That once was enough.

The squad, led by SSgt. Cleophus Gibson, moved into a pre-dusk ambush site, set up Claymore mines and waited for the Viet Cong.

"It was just starting to get dark when a big rain came up," Gibson said, "and we could hardly see anything."

A lightning flash illuminated the sky, and the squad saw four Viet Cong. One of them was bent over the Claymores.

The Claymores were detonated. Two of the enemy were killed in the blast and two others were either wounded or killed, then carried off.

"If it wasn't for the lightning, they may have been able to turn those mines toward us," the sergeant said.



BUDDIES — Cpl. Ronald W. Field of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Comptroller's office, shares a laugh with Doan Van Hoa, a 10-year-old Vietnamese boy, nicknamed "Billy." They met nearly a year ago and now Field has taken steps to adopt Billy. (USMC Photo)

▲ Child's Question Leads...

(Continued from P-1, Col. 5)

became one of Ron's major projects.

"He speaks and understands it great," said the Marine. "The kid's real sharp, a quick learner, and he's got a great sense of humor."

In Chicago, Field's wife, Mickey, had been receiving letters filled with accounts of her husband's 10-year-old Vietnamese friend.

"One day, in one of her letters, she suggested that we adopt him. I couldn't believe it. I had been thinking about it but didn't know how to break the news to her," said Field. "We already have a 17-month-old boy of our own."

The wheels for adoption began turning, slowly at first, in January when Field spoke with Billy's mother about the possibility of taking her son to the United States. She rejected the idea at first, but after much thought, agreed.

Armed with the mother's consent, the young Marine threw himself into the legalities of adoption. He conferred with Marine Corps lawyers for Marine Corps approval, requested permission from the welfare board of Illinois, sought the approval of the American Embassy in Saigon, and the courts of Da Nang, where the case now awaits judgement.

"So far, everything has gone like clockwork," said the hopeful Marine. "The only one that still has to approve it is the Vietnamese court." Optimistically, Field doesn't expect any problems there.

Field will soon complete his tour of duty. He'll have to leave Billy behind until the courts reach their decision.

Two close friends Cpl. Frank Edgar and PFC Charles Mark have agreed to look after the boy. When they rotate home they hope to

have the boy on the same plane, with the approval of Marine authorities.

Before they start their leave, the two Marines plan to deliver Billy to the waiting Field family.

Both Field and the boy will be looking forward to that day. They've come a long way since little Doan Van Hoa asked the question which took the American so long in answering.

If Billy could express himself completely, he might agree that the American did, indeed, become his friend.

Chopper 'Walks Tight Rope' In Medevac From Navy Ship

Soc Trang (USA) — Making his chopper "walk a tight rope," a medical evacuation pilot with the U.S. Army's 1st Logistical Command successfully removed three seriously ill U.S. sailors from a pitching ship at sea.

The 82nd Helicopter Ambulance Detachment "dust-off" aircraft, commanded by Lt. Daniel A. Thomas, was on a routine escort mission near Ca Mau in Vietnam's southern delta area when a request was received to evacuate three Navy men from a ship at sea.

"When we arrived on the scene three miles off the coast," Thomas recalled, "we discovered we couldn't land on the ship, and we were forced to hover over the bow in a stiff wind."

A three-foot-high safety cable around the ship prevented the aircraft from landing on the deck to load the litter patients. Thomas carefully manipulated the chopper so that it was precariously balanced on the cable with the wheels touching the line.

The crew's medic and crew chief, Sp5 Ervin Phelps

Chopper Team Rescues 11 From Flaming Jungle Crash

Bien Hoa (USA) — When a CH-47 helicopter crashed and burst into flames in the swampy jungle of the Rung Sat Special Zone southeast of Saigon, the pilot of a light observation aircraft predicted, "It's impossible for anyone to survive in that hell of fire and twisted metal."

But Lt. Mick Byerly, a fire team leader with the 145th Aviation Battalion, who was flying a river patrol, prepared his fire team for a medical evacuation mission. "Fire Mission! Fire Mission! Fire Mission!" yelled Byerly into his helicopter radio. "All Dragon aircraft jettison rocket pods... prepare for medevac mission."

Locating the jungle-bound flaming inferno, Byerly and his team of armed helicopters made a low, slow pass over the disaster scene. Sure enough, they spotted a small cluster of survivors huddled together in the swamp.

"I didn't know how I was going to get them out," said Lieutenant Byerly, "but I knew I had to try."

Moving to a safe area, the fire team jettisoned their rocket pods to compensate for the extra weight of the survivors. Then they began searching for an entrance into the tangled morass of jungle vines and trees.

Byerly hovered his aircraft directly over the mud-covered survivors and lowered a rope. But the crash victims were too shaken to climb up to the helicopter.

Setting a helicopter down in that swamp could easily have resulted in disaster. But

with his crew chief, Sp4 J. D. Hernandez, and his gunner, Sp4 Robert Slater, standing on the chopper skids and calling directions, Byerly eased his aircraft down between the trees until his rotor blades were clipping the tops out of them.

Byerly lifted out the four most critically injured in a vertical ascent every bit as dangerous as the entrance and headed for Tan Son Nhut.

Following Lieutenant Byerly's example, his wing man, WO Walt Greaves, made the perilous descent and picked up five more survivors. And, then, Lt. John Dolton, who had been providing overhead cover against enemy fire, repeated the sequence to rescue the last two survivors.

Crew Adopts Baby Born Aboard Ship

Cam Ranh (USA) —

Nguyen Xuan Phuong, the first child born aboard a 1st Logistical Command ship, has been officially adopted by crew members of the coastal transport Lt. Col. John D. Page.

Little Nguyen, whose adopted name is "Page," was born during a voyage relocating 832 refugees from Tuy Hoa to Cam Ranh Bay.

Army Capt. Ange Lobue of the 161st Medical Detachment delivered the five-pound-boy in the ship's passenger quarters. He was assisted by Vietnamese Dr. D-Ang Van Ha Long, and Army medics Sp5 Elbert M. Borgen and Sp5 William Kendell.



HOLLYWOOD HOPEFUL — Pretty Salli Sachse is working her way toward stardom. Salli has already had parts in several recent releases.

- Vietnam News Wrap-Up -

Kill Totals Show Rise

The death toll for Americans killed in action during the week May 15-21 reached the highest figure for any week since last November, according to a military spokesman. Losses for the period, announced May 26, revealed that 146 U.S. troops were killed and 820 were wounded as a result of hostile fire.

The high toll was reached, the spokesman said, because "casualties were above normal in Operation Crazy Horse (a 1st Air Cavalry Division search-and-destroy operation) and more U.S. battalions are in the field."

Free World force lost four KIA and 29 wounded during the same period.

Enemy losses for May 15-21 were 1,235 killed for a 3.4 to 1 ratio in favor of the U.S. and Free World force. This figure was twice the weekly average in the month of April. Contact with enemy forces, both in small unit actions and battalion-size operations, also showed an increase over the April average, the spokesman added.

Generally, the number of large unit actions remained at about the same level as that of the previous period (May 7-14) but the total enemy losses—killed and captured—were more than 12 per cent higher, the spokesman said.

Two Operations End In II Corps

Operation Crazy Horse, a brigade-size search-and-destroy operation, was kicked off May 16 in Binh Dinh province by the 1st Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division. The operation started after a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) unit captured enemy documents that revealed the presence of an enemy battalion which planned to attack a Special Forces camp. Enemy losses, reported May 26, have reached 265 killed, 9 captured and 56 enemy weapons captured.

Elements of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade have terminated Operation Austin IV in Quang Duc and Phuoc Long provinces. At the operation's end May 18, enemy losses totaled 101 killed, 6 captured and 39 weapons seized. The enemy also lost 81 tons of rice. Operation Davy Crockett, a search-and-destroy operation by the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cav. Div., ended May 16. Enemy losses included 344 killed, 82 captured and 52 weapons seized.

Birmingham Ends, Paul Revere Begins

A multi-battalion operation in Tay Ninh province of III Corps, dubbed Birmingham, saw elements of the 1st Infantry Division kill 119 enemy, capture 28 plus 30 ralliers, and 113 individual enemy weapons. Materials seized or destroyed included nearly 2,500 tons of foodstuffs, more than 8,500 gallons of fuel, 7,000 uniforms and 160 boats.

Elements of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, kicked off Operation Paul Revere in Pleiku province May 10. Enemy losses as of May 21 were 9 killed, 2 captured and 9 weapons seized. Other elements of the "Tropic Lightning" division in Operation Wahiawa, which started May 16 in Han Nghia province, netted 86 enemy killed, 2 captured and 20 weapons seized as of May 21.

USAF, Navy Fly 1,770 Missions In RVN

U.S. Air Force pilots flew 1,151 sorties in the Republic against enemy troops, camps and river shipping in the May 15-21 period. This included five strikes by B-52 bombers. Navy planes from the carriers Hancock and Intrepid flew 619 strike sorties. The planes destroyed 370 buildings and 11 sampans and damaged 925 buildings and 14 sampans.

Mu Gia Pass in North Vietnam was hit for the 100th time by Air Force planes. Seventh Fleet attack carriers Kitty Hawk, Hancock and Enterprise launched 116 missions against enemy targets in the North.



- World News Summary -

Gemini-9 Flight Set

The Gemini spacecraft, manned by astronauts Thomas Stafford and Eugene Cernan, is scheduled for a May 31 launch. The Agena rocket, which was to have accompanied the space riders, has been replaced by another unmanned craft, the ADTA, called the "Blob" by space scientists as it has no motor.

Another spacecraft, the Surveyor-1 lunar lander, is set to be launched May 30 to attempt a soft landing on the moon. An orbiting geophysical observatory also is tentatively set to follow the Gemini launch.

Nurses Walk Out In New York

All but 12 of New York City's more than 480 public health nurses failed to show up for work May 23 because the city refused their pay demands. Doctors and assistants reported for work at all but one of the 122 health centers, but the assistants said they would not work.

The Health Department said that more than half of the public health nurses had turned in their resignations. The nurses have demanded the same 20 per cent pay raise given senior city hospital nurses last week.

Polish, U.S. Attaches Expelled

Poland has expelled three American Embassy military attaches from Warsaw and the United States has expelled three Polish military attaches from Washington, according to a U.S. Embassy spokesman in the Capital.

The spokesman said the military attaches in Warsaw had "been subjected to severe harassment in the course of carrying out official duties during the past several months." Two of the attaches were said to be spies by the Polish government. They added the third man to the list without any specific charges against him.

McCormack Hits Pullout Talk

House Speaker John W. McCormack has denounced the "destructive notion" that the U.S. might pull out of Vietnam. He said that the U.S. has no intention of turning its back on its allies in Southeast Asia. "Our retreat would be a cruel blow to them," he said.

He attacked unidentified sources for suggestions of a possible American withdrawal. He termed the idea one that could cause uneasiness at home and resistance among the enemy to any negotiations to end the war.

Award Giver Dies On Stage

A crowd of 700 persons who had gathered to watch the presentation of an award to Mrs. W. C. Westmoreland, wife of the U.S. commander in Vietnam, saw the award giver collapse and die on the stage of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel May 23.

Fred C. Black, 53, chairman of the Honorary Innkeepers of the 13 Colonies, was preparing to present the group's "Freedom Sword" to Mrs. Westmoreland when he collapsed. A son rushed to his side and administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but Black sank to the floor dead.

Hawaii Named R & R Site

The Defense Department has announced that Hawaii has been designated an official rest and recreation area for troops on Vietnam "on a experimental basis."

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has asked Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, U.S. commander in Vietnam, to begin a "pilot program" to expand the number of leave areas for U.S. troops and to "increase the utilization of Hawaii for R & R as he deems appropriate and feasible."

Birchers See Red

A publicity agent in Belmont, Mass., painted the words "The Russians are Coming" in red paint on the office door of the John Birch Society publications in the Massachusetts town.

He was taken to court, charged with malicious damage and inciting a riot. The judge laughed and dismissed the charges.

EDITORIAL

Memorial Day — 1966 A Day To Remember

Memorial Day is a somber occasion for Americans. It is a time to awaken memories of friends, relatives, and thousands of young men who have died in the service of the nation. This year, it is also a time to learn to live with the fresh loss of those who have given their lives in the Republic of Vietnam.

For the men and women of the armed forces, Memorial Day is all these things and more. John McCrae, in his poem, "In Flanders Fields," wrote. "If ye break faith with us who die/We shall not sleep, though poppies grow/In Flanders fields."

If Ye Break Faith With Us Who Die



The first line of the triplet. "If ye break faith with us who die," echoing from the battlefields of World War I, should ring through the thoughts of every man and woman in uniform.

Those who died, not just in World Wars I and II, but through all our nation's struggles, including the Cold War, have left behind a trust that their sacrifices be given meaning by the continuation and growth of the American nation in a free world.

The serviceman and woman of today carries a heavy part of this trust. It is only through keeping faith, through courage and steadfastness, that those who lie in Flanders fields, in Hawaii, at Arlington, Valley Forge and Gettysburg, and those who have died in the sweating jungles of Vietnam, may sleep. (AFNB).

Conduct Of War

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee March 3, 1966, where he answered a number of questions pertinent to the conduct of the war in the Republic of Vietnam. For the next few weeks, *The Observer* will publish some of the questions and the Secretary's answers for the benefit of its readers. (Editor) Eighth of a series of nine questions.

QUESTION

Do not our political commitments in Southeast Asia and elsewhere exceed our economic ability to support them?

ANSWER

The answer to this question is no. The relevant facts and figures should allay this concern.

At no time since World War II, indeed never before in history, has the United States been in a better economic position to fulfill its commitments abroad. To take a comparable period by way of illustration, during the Korean War our annual military spending rose from four per cent of the gross national product to 14 per cent. In FY 66 and 67, military expenditures will approximate 7.7 and 7.8 per cent of gross national products and less than in any one of the five years 1960, 61, 62, 63 and 64. In order to approach the Korean War figure of 14 per cent it would be necessary for us to spend an additional 44 and 46 billion dollars in FY 66 and FY 67.



Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense

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 periodically.)

SCRAPBOOK

For Hospitalized Servicemen
Mr Joseph C. M. Clarkin
New York City

SCROLL

Hundreds of Signatures
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

RESOLUTION

Vilas County
Board of Supervisors
State of Wisconsin

RESOLUTION

Senate and House
of Representatives
State of New Mexico

PETITION

786 Signatures
The American Legion
Post 112, Indiana

RESOLUTION

General Assembly
State of Virginia

PETITION

1,157 Signatures
N. D. State School
of Science
Wahpeton, North Dakota

PETITION

1,263 Signatures
Veterans of World War I
of the U.S.A., Inc.
Norfolk, Virginia.

Publish First Volume Of MacArthur Reports

The first of a three-volume series, "Reports of General MacArthur" has been published. Called "MacArthur in Japan — The Occupation: Military Phase," the new book covers the Japanese occupation from its beginning in August 1945 to the end of 1948.

The book may be purchased for \$5.25 from: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401.

Questions & Answers

The War In Vietnam

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 are the last three questions of 20 questions most widely asked, with concise, factual answers. Information taken from Headquarters, Field Force Vietnam, Troop Topic "The War In Vietnam." (Editor)

QUESTION: Will the war continue until one side or the other achieves a clear-cut military victory?

ANSWER: This is solely a matter for decision by Hanoi and its supporters in Peiping. The war was started by the North and could be ended by the North at any time. All that is necessary is for Hanoi to withdraw its forces and order a halt by its Viet Cong agents. U.S. Secretary of State Rusk has emphasized: "We ask only that they cease their aggressions, that they leave their neighbors alone."

QUESTION: What stands in the way of a negotiated peace?

ANSWER: This question can only be answered by Hanoi. President Johnson has repeatedly proclaimed that the United States is ready to begin unconditional peace discussions "at any place, at any time" and with any government. Exploratory moves toward a peaceful settlement have been made by the Commonwealth nations, by the United Kingdom, by a group of 17 nonaligned nations, by the President of India, by Secretary General U Thant of the United Nations, and others. The United States, in May, opened the door for a favorable communist response by briefly suspending its air attacks on military installations in North Vietnam. President Johnson, in addition to his many public statements of willingness to negotiate without pre-conditions, has urged all member states of the United Nations to help find a way to the conference table. So far, however, every peaceful gesture has been rejected with scorn by Hanoi and Peiping.

QUESTION: Does this mean that hopes for peace in Southeast Asia must be abandoned?

ANSWER: This is certainly not the intention of South Vietnam and its allies. The channels for communication of a change of mind in Hanoi and Peiping are constantly kept open. The United States and South Vietnam, at the same time, are determined that communist aggression shall not succeed. It is their hope that, once Hanoi is convinced of this, the way to a peaceful solution will be cleared. "I pray every night," President Johnson said recently, that "the day will come when others will be willing to accept our proposals and join us in our hope of satisfying those problems and dealing with these differences by talking instead of fighting."

THE OBSERVER

(CIRCULATION: 60,000)

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Landing Lights Stop Enemy Sniper Fire

Qui Nhon (USAF)—Air Force pilots recently used landing lights on A-1E Skyraiders so effectively they were able to stop Viet Cong snipers during a ground battle near Tuy Hoa.

Capt. Paul V. Graybill, leader of a flight of the attack planes had already destroyed an important enemy gun position, but snipers continued to harass U.S. soldiers bringing wounded down a hillside to a level area where a helicopter could be landed.

Graybill conceived the plan of using landing lights mounted under the wings and on the nose wheel strut of his aircraft.

The lights on the wing, when turned on, swing from a side position to one straight

ahead of the aircraft.

Graybill's wingman, Capt. Richard J. Robbins said the overall impression of the lights was that of "search lights trying to find a target." He called the lighting effect, "weird."

After the first pass with their lights on, the pilots received a radio report from the ground that the sniper fire had stopped.

Graybill said in all probability the VC were hiding from the light because they did not want to be spotted by troops guarding the medical evacuation team.



REPAIR WORK PROGRESSES — Repairs to the Victoria Bachelor Officers Quarters are progressing rapidly. Part of the outer walls have been replaced on the three floors which were hit hardest by the explosion that tore through the hotel in the early morning hours of April 1. (See hotel immediately after bombing, Page 4)

First In Vietnam

THE OBSERVER

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Advisor's Friends Remember Village

Phuoc Lam (USA) — SFC Gordon R. Wittman will be remembered in this tiny fishing village near Vung Tau in the III Corps area even though he was killed in a Viet Cong ambush.

His widow, knowing of his fondness for the village and for Father Baptiste, its Catholic priest, sent the villagers a gift of 52,000 plasters (about \$500) in memory of her husband.

Mrs. Wittman of Utica, N.Y., asked that people donate money to the village instead of sending flowers to Sergeant Wittman's funeral.

In a letter written to Father Baptiste, Mrs. Wittman said that her husband had written often of his friendship with the people and had asked her to raise some money for the village.

"Please accept this," she

wrote, "In memory of my husband and all Americans who have died in your country trying to help your people in their fight for freedom."

The money and a Vietnamese translation of the letter were presented to Father Baptiste by III Corps Catholic Chaplain (Capt.) William Mulligan.

Wittman was a member of a three-man advisory team at the Long Hai Training Center near Phuoc Lam. All were killed in the same attack on January 8, 1966.

'I Knew He Was Dead,' Recalls Wounded Soldier

By Sgt. Bob Barry, USA

Nhon Co (USA) — "I was about three feet from the lieutenant when the ground seemed to erupt, and I saw a blur of bullets hit him," said the wounded sergeant. "They seemed to come right out of the ground. I knew he was dead."

Sgt. Edward J. Laria, a squad leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, then wheeled and poured 20 rounds into the ground where he thought the fire had come from.

"As I did," he said, "I fell back into some vines. My pack got stuck in them, and as I hung there a hand grenade landed between me and the dead lieutenant."

The nightmarish event which finally put Laria in the hospital began when a platoon leader told him to take his squad up a trail and set out security for a medevac of wounded personnel.

"I had deployed my squad and moved 130 yards up the trail when a machine gun opened up on us," explained Laria. "We were pinned down and I didn't know where the gun was. It was so thick you

couldn't see 10 yards."

The lieutenant, a platoon leader, told Laria to take his squad on a flanking movement to the left, and called up two more squads. Meanwhile another machine gun opened up on Laria's squad and pinned it down for the second time.

Again and again Laria's squad moved out and again and again a hidden machine gun barked a withering volume of fire at his men, but the position of the enemy gun was so well concealed it could not be spotted.

Then the lieutenant called for Laria to move up with him. As he approached, Laria saw the bullets pumping into the lieutenant and wound up in a tangle of vines with a grenade in front of him.

"My whole squad was there," said Laria. "I yelled grenade! and kept

trying to get out of my pack and harness and onto the ground before it went off. It popped and fizzled; it was a dud, and I didn't know until later another dud had landed behind me."

The sergeant finally shook off his harness and ordered his squad back to cover. The machine gun was still firing bursts at Laria and his men. Laria tried once more to finish the machine gun with a full-automatic burst and then pulled his men back to a group of trees.

"We moved back fast and must have made a lot of noise, hitting the bushes and all. I guess the enemy thought we were withdrawing. We got on line and had just about regrouped when a

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

Child's Question Leads To His Adoption

Da Nang (USMC)—Nearly a year ago, Cpl. Ronald W. Field, attached to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Comptroller's office, was on liberty in the city of Da Nang.

As he neared an intersection, the 22-year-old Marine paused, waiting for a safe moment to cross. Those few, brief moments added a new chapter in his life.

"American, you be my

friend?" asked a ragged looking little boy, peering anxiously up at the Marine towering above him.

The "American" thought about the unusual offer and at the same time studied the youngster.

The boy repeated the question.

Almost cautiously, the Marine made his decision.

"Yeah," he said finally,

"I'll be your friend."

A wide smile broke across the boy's face as he reached up, took hold of the American's hand. Together they walked up the street.

"I don't know what there was about him that appealed to me," reminisced Field. "Maybe it was his straight forward approach. His clothes were dirty and so was he. Worst of all, we really couldn't under-

stand each other."

Field took his new friend to one of the many vendor stands in the city and outfitted him with clothes and shoes.

"He must have thought I was Santa Claus or something. He was happy and I felt good," recalled the corporal.

The boy's name is Doan Van Hoa. He's small for his 10 years, and he limps slightly, the result of a bout with polio while still an infant.

Doan's father was killed by the Viet Cong two years ago. His mother has been ill and unable to work. The family is supported by Vietnamese Army survivor benefits.

As the days turned into months, Doan, now nicknamed "Billy," and Ron Field became close friends. They spent all their free time together. Teaching Billy English

(Cont'd on P-9, Col. 1)