

First In Vietnam

THE OBSERVER

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Sept. 12, 1966



Widow of Sgt. Ha Van Be receives Silver Star from General Westmoreland at Joint General Staff Headquarters ceremony.

Gen. Westmoreland Presents First U.S. Silver Stars To Vietnamese Soldiers

Story and Photos By Sp4 Brian Halton, Staff Writer, USA

Saigon—For the first time in the history of the war in Vietnam, two Vietnamese soldiers have been awarded the United States' third highest award for gallantry in action—the Silver Star.

Lt. Col. Ma Sanh Nhon and the widow of Sgt. Ha Van Be received the decoration from Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, during special ceremonies at Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Joint General Staff Headquarters.

Colonel Nhon's decoration resulted from his actions during an ARVN-American operation in Phuoc Long Province in March of this year. As sector commander of Vietnamese ground forces,

Colonel Nhon personally led his unit in an attack against a reinforced Viet Cong company which had heavily damaged American aircraft and wounded several U.S. personnel. Colonel Nhon continuously exposed himself to automatic weapons fire in directing the attack.

Colonel Nhon's sound tactical decisions, leadership and aggressiveness were instrumental in neutralizing the enemy automatic weapons fire and resulted in a highly successful Vietnamese and United States operation, which terminated in the complete rout of the communist force.

Sgt. Ha Van Be has been decorated posthumously for his gallantry in action while serving as an interpreter with the 2nd Airborne Battalion,

8th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division in a ground action near Pleiku, during November 1965. During an attack against well fortified Viet Cong positions, several Viet Cong were taken prisoner and immediately interrogated by Sergeant Be who was able to obtain tactical information which was of significant importance to the successful accomplishment of the mission. Realizing that his new knowledge was vital to the success of the attack in progress, Sergeant Be while under intense hostile fire, immediately moved to the most forward friendly position to deliver the needed information to the commanding officer. Moments after completing his

(See Silver Star P 4, Col 2)

Green Beret Teams Wear Many 'Hats' In Vietnam

Sp4 Dan Shafer, USA

Bien Hoa (III Corps IO)—"When you set up a camp, the first thing you do is look for the spot or trail in your area that the Viet Cong want. Then you simply go out and take it from him."

Talking is Lt. Col. Jay B. Durst, out-going commanding officer of Special Forces Detachment C-3 in Bien Hoa and top Green Beret in the III Corps area of Vietnam. He's discussing the role of the elite A teams in the counterinsurgency fight.

"You can't hope, with a small number of troops, to control the entire circular area round your camp. So you find the part Charlie wants and when you succeed in evicting him, you win control of the circle by default."

Durst, who controls two dozen A teams and five B Detachments, in addition to the reaction battalion known as Mike Force, has perhaps one of the biggest jobs in Vietnam. Under his control are 100 officers and 400 noncommissioned officers.

One of the biggest aspects of his many-faceted position is that of paying frequent

visits to the A teams. These are the small detachments of top soldiers who perform the special job that the Green Berets were designed to do, at the grass-roots level. In the course of his visits, Durst sees much and is told more.

But killing the enemy and controlling areas are only two parts of a job that encompasses nearly everything imaginable in jungle combat.

Training Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) at each camp location is another important mission of the Special Forces men. At present, this job entails advising and assisting in the training of more than 7,500 men. In addition Durst points out, "We act as the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam advisory team at more than half of our locations."

Perhaps the three best-known missions of Special

Forces are the one Durst listens most about when he visits his A teams. These missions are border surveillance, penetration of war zones and interdiction of VC internal movement.

"We've been particularly successful in the second one," Durst says with a note of pride in his voice. "Frai Bi is the first permanent troop force in War Zone C since 1946 and Xoin Cat is the first such post in Zone D since that same year."

In controlling VC movement and activity within a province area, Special Forces teams often encounter severe resistance. "Two years ago," Durst points out, "Tay Ninh Province belonged to the VC. Today it is the most pacified province in III Corps."

Day in and day out, Special Forces in III Corps advise their Vietnamese counterparts, hamper the enemy's ability to fight, and work at winning the hearts and minds of the people.



Vietnamese Lt. Col. Ma Sanh Nhon salutes as General Westmoreland pins Silver Star Medal on his chest. The U.S. decoration, third highest for valor, was awarded at Joint General Staff Headquarters near Tan Son Nhut.

EDITORIAL

The New Savings Plan

Thrift has always been considered one of the worthy virtues, but for servicemen overseas, President Johnson has just enhanced that worthiness more than two-fold.

With his signing of Public Law 89-538 and Executive Order 11298, servicemen overseas are afforded an opportunity to receive an unprecedented return on their investment dollar.

The President authorized a 10 per-cent interest rate on Uniformed Services Savings Deposits for all servicemen, including officers, who are stationed overseas.

Think or it! That's a return of 10 cents on every year that you remain overseas. Few people, other



than stock market speculators, have ever received such return on their money, and certainly no one has ever obtained it with such a high degree of safety in their investment.

Most of us, while overseas, have spent idle moments dreaming about things we'd like to do when "we get back home."

Most of these things, you'll recall, cost money. Now those dreams can come true much faster with the increased interest rates.

As an added bonus, you can be helping your country become stronger while fattening up your own pocketbook. Each dollar you save will be a dollar that won't be spent overseas, thereby lowering our nation's balance of payments deficit.

So, you save and your country benefits as well. Who could ask for a more pleasant prospect? Why not check into the Uniformed Services Deposits program today? Ask your finance office about it. (AFNB)

Wearing Of Uniform

7th Air Force Announces Changes To AFM 35-10

Saigon (USAF) Seventh Air Force Supplement to AFM 35-10 is in the process of publication. It contains some changes which are being brought to your attention. Effective immediately, the following items will NOT be worn:

The tropical or "Aussie" hat.

Baseball type caps.

Unit emblems or patches of any type.

Enlisted grade insignia on caps.

Black leather pistol belts (May be worn until Sept. 30, 1966).

The following items are

authorized in addition to normal uniform:

Short sleeved fatigue shirts for ground personnel. The previously announced Dec. 1, 1966 deadline for wear of short sleeved fatigue shirts is, therefore, waived.



Aircrew members wearing fatigues in lieu of flying suits must wear long sleeved shirts.

Issue camouflage clothing, including black tapes for Air Policemen. Other personnel may wear them when authorized by the Wing or Group Commander.

Commanders and supervisors are urged to bring these changes to the full attention of all assigned personnel; and take positive steps to insure immediate and continuous compliance. Violators will be cited and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Christmas Packages Must Be On The Way By Dec 13

Saigon — Operation Pine Tree is one operation officials of the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam want to talk about before it gets underway. Unlike search and destroy missions against the Viet Cong, this one involves not only people here, but also those back home.

The operation can be launched anytime now but to insure that the folks back home get their Christmas presents in time they must be on the way before Nov. 1 if they are being sent by surface mail and before Dec. 13 if they are going airmail.

Maj. Jack Forgy of the MACV postal branch explained that parcels weighing less than five pounds, paid at surface or fourth class rates are being sent to the U.S. by air on a space available basis. Once they reach the West Coast, he said, they are treated as surface mail.

He emphasized that these parcels must be mailed before the Nov. 1 deadline.

Mail to servicemen sometimes is delayed in delivery because addresses are incorrect or incomplete. To prevent this, Major Forgy said the servicemen should make certain that correspondents at home have the complete address—to include complete

name, service number, unit and, most important APO or FPO.

Want to make sure that "certain someone" gets that ring or watch? You can, because these items must be sent by registered

mail if they have a value in excess of \$10.

Active duty personnel in Vietnam get a break on customs duties. On all parcels—regardless of value—there is a duty exemption of \$50. The statement it is a "bonafide gift—with \$50 exemption claimed under Public Law 89-368," must be noted on the outside of the package.

This duty exemption is available also for personnel who are on R & R, providing the gift is mailed from an APO or FPO, and the person can show evidence that he is assigned to Vietnam.

There are exceptions. The gift or package cannot be mailed to the person sending it nor can it be mailed for a civilian or anyone who does not have APO or FPO privileges.

People who have military mailing privileges cannot act as intermediaries for orphanages and other non-military welfare agencies who do not have these privileges.

The hundreds of parcels of clothing, food and other items sent to individuals here result only in the mails being flooded with these packages—and this can be illegal.

During the Christmas rush—October through January—military postal officials estimate that more than 57,000 tons mail will be sent and received by people in Vietnam. To handle his increased load civilian air lines will increase their fleet of mail carriers from 21 to 35 planes a week during that period.

Prohibited Items In Christmas Mail

Saigon — How would you like to get a jarful of bamboo pit vipers as a Christmas present? Or perhaps a boxful of baby boa constrictors?

If it hadn't been for a couple of alert postal clerks these reptiles just might have gotten through the mails from Vietnam to addresses in the United States.

Things like this might make the Army and Air Force postal clerk's job interesting, but they come under the list of items that are "potentially dangerous to postal personnel and cannot be mailed," according to Maj. Jack Forgy of the MACV postal branch.

Other items on the prohibited list include ammunition, paints, matches, grenades—some souvenir-happy troopers have tried to send these through the mails—and some types of plants.

"If a serviceman is not sure about mailing an item home, he should consult the local APO or FPO, which has the entire listing," Major Forgy said.

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Soldier Hopes To Rotate Before 'Spec' Supply Goes

Phu Loi (USA) — Teddy Roosevelt went into the Battle of San Juan Hill with 13 pairs of pinch on glasses. It was reported that he was afraid of losing his glasses and missing the action, so he had the extra pairs stuffed into his pockets and sewn on his shirt and hat.

A present day warrior, PFC Richard F. Campbell, arrived in Vietnam in September 1965, with four pair of glasses. While crossing from one landing craft to another, the boats drifted apart and Campbell fell into the South China Sea. "I lost my first set of glasses there," said Campbell. "With all the equipment I had on, I thought I was going to sink and be the first casualty of my unit."

Campbell survived his unscheduled swim and was assigned to the 121st Signal Battalion, where he soon lost his second pair of glasses. "I was working in the sun one day when I noticed that my glasses were becoming distorted. The sun was so hot that the nose piece had warped. When I tried to straighten them, they broke."

Down to two pair and with more than six months to go he knew that he had to be extra careful.

He was transferred to C Battery, 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery, where his third pair was destroyed. Campbell said, "I always left my glasses on my footlocker at night. One morning before daylight we had an alert and in the rush, someone must have knocked my glasses to the floor. When I got out of bed I was standing on my glasses."

"I had less than three months to go when the ear piece broke loose from my last pair. I was determined to make them last, so I tied them back together with a piece of string. Now I have only 19 days left and with luck, my glasses should

hold together and I'll be home before I go wall-eyed!"

Advisor Has Close Call

Rach Gia (IV Corps IO) — SFC Benjamin Williams, American advisor to the 43rd Ranger Battalion, sat in a rice paddy looking at his steel helmet.

After a moment he said, "Well, I guess that was pretty close."

Williams had run into a rice paddy the evening before to pick up a wounded ranger when the VC spotted him and opened up and knocked off his helmet. He brought the wounded ranger back but left his helmet out in the paddy.

When he picked it up the following morning there was a hole in it. A VC round had gone in the front and came out through the rear, after apparently circling Williams' head.



HAPPINESS—Mother and child at Minh Tan School watch a concert given by the 25th Infantry Division Band. Their faces reflect the happiness of the occasion. (USA Photo)

Coastal Patrol Boats Aid Navy Operations

Bien Hoa (III Corps IO) — It's night and the Viet Cong are trying to move a load of rice and weapons down the coast of Binh Tuy Province. As they near their destination, lights suddenly blaze about them and a voice orders them to halt. The game is up; they have been caught by one of the boats in Coastal Patrol Group 31.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, a patrol craft churns up the waters off the coast of Binh Tuy Province. Group 31, based at Ham Tan, consists of 104 Vietnamese Navy enlisted men, 2 Vietnamese officers and 3 American advisors.

The group operates with five new Japanese-designed boats called Yabutas and six older-style junks, all with four-man crews.

The Vietnamese patrol commander is Navy Lt. Tao. His American Navy advisors include Lt. Gordon R. Tround, senior advisor, Lt. Robert E. May, deputy senior advisor, and Boatswain's Mate First Class Windom D. Fitzgerald.

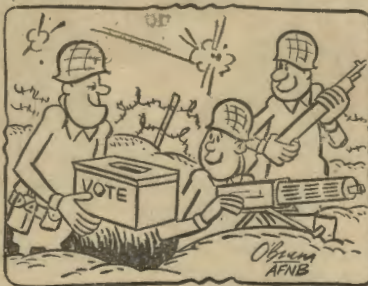
Every boat is armed with a machine gun, an M-79 grenade launcher, five M-14 rifles and two .45 caliber pistols. Although the bulk of the contraband goods the sailors seize is food, they have also

taken weapons and VC prisoners.

The boat's maximum speed is 10 knots, with a cruising speed of six knots. Lt. Tround points out that, "Being able to run in water as shallow as three feet makes it easy to come in close to shore to check out all vessels."

Although the patrol's main task is stopping and searching coastal traffic, they also assist the Navy and Coast Guard on operations by landing U.S. and Vietnamese troops needed for ground operations against the Viet Cong.

Your Other Duty



Can Tho Has New Hospital

Can Tho (IV Corps IO) — The newly completed Phan Thanh Gian Military Station Hospital was officially opened Sept. 1, after 14 months in the making. Among those present for the opening ceremonies were Lt. Gen. Dang Vau Quang, IV Corps commander, Maj. Gen. Carroll H. Dunn, head of MACV J-4, Brig. Gen. William Desobry, IV Corps senior advisor and Col. Vu Ngoc Hoan, deputy minister of health.

The 500 bed hospital for Vietnamese war casualties was built under the supervision of U.S. advisors. It has a surgical suite with four operating rooms, an X-ray lab, dental clinic, an air conditioned recovery room and 15 wards among its facilities.

VC Folk Singer Changes His Tune

Pleiku (USA) — American folk singers aren't the only balladeers who have used the Vietnamese conflict for song material.

Recently, a former Viet Cong turned himself into a unit of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division after spending a year serenading local villagers with tunes from the Ho Chi Minh Song Book.

He told of having been recruited by the enemy to visit Montagnard villages in the central highlands to spread propaganda via his folk songs.

Word of the "Chieu Hoi" (Open Arms) program came to him through the loudspeaker of an American plane in his area. The voice instructed him to bring a chicken to an open field, then hold it by its legs to make it scream.

After doing this he found himself surrounded by the American unit. With a large smile on his face, he reached into his shirt pocket and pulled out a safe conduct pass.

He was accepted as a Chieu Hoi but hasn't given up his singing. After his experiences, however, he now has a different tune.





PRE-FLIGHT PREPARATION— Maj. Edward Bradley, chief of professional services, 337th Air Force Dispensary, Tan Son Nhut, assists with pre-flight preparation for PFC Robert Deering, a wounded 1st Infantry Division trooper.

VN Battle Casualties Airlifted To Andrews

Story By Sp5 George Hicks, USA
Photos By Sp5 C. Jones, USA

Saigon— Aiming for a patch of blue, the "big angel" airlifts Vietnam battle casualties home. Cruising at 500 miles an hour the big angel, a C-141 jet transport, makes three round trip medical evacuation flights a week from Saigon to Andrews AFB, Md. Staffed by nurses and medical technicians the craft completes its journey in less than a day.

With facilities for 84 patients, half walking and half litter, the transport flies the "Polar route" making stops in Japan and Alaska. The aircraft is operated by the Military Airlift Command.

The last pre-flight stop for

outbound Vietnam patients is the 21st Casualty Staging Flight Hospital (CSF) at Tan Son Nhut.

"Our job is to make a man ready to travel but not all the patients go back to the States. Some are sent to other areas in the Pacific depending on what type of case the individual is," said Senior Master Sergeant Leonard D. Williams, 21st CSF NCOIC.

"If he is Stateside bound, we interview him and ask him where he would like to go," he added. "If the treatment warrants, more than likely the patient will be relocated in a military hospital nearest his home."

Making afternoon medical rounds, a doctor checks the casualty records and recommends where a patient should be located. A normal stay for a patient at the staging hospital is 24 hours.

"Without communications we are dead," remarked Williams, "for we relay all patient information and

the doctor's recommendations by phone to the Office of the MACV Surgeon and this is later transmitted to the Joint Medical Regulating Office in Washington, which decides a patient's destination."

In addition to providing special equipment for the wounded, MAC nurses brief patients on flight procedures and prepare aircraft loading plans. Medical technicians give mandatory ditching procedures.

Typical thoughts were expressed by a 1st Infantry Division casualty who said, "I sure want to get on that big angel so I can get back to my wife and family."

Chopper Carried Former President

Ky Ha, (USMC) — Helicopters, like people, can have a personality all their own. One such chopper belongs to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) — 364.

Sgt. William J. Rich tells about it with a lot of pride. The sergeant's plane is one of the oldest planes that he knows of in any helicopter squadron, and also the best running.

When you first see the UH-34 it looks like any other chopper that flies around Ky Ha. On closer inspection you notice that it has a few things other choppers don't have. Inside the plane is full of snaps that were once used for special padding. There is also a large radio unit just above the cargo door.

The reason behind this is simple... along with four other planes, they were stationed at Marine Experimental Helicopter Squadron at the Marine Corps Air Station in Quantico, Va.

These five helicopters had a very special job. From April 1957 until November of that year, Rich's plane was one of the five that carried former President Dwight Eisenhower from different parts of Washington to the White House.

Since that time, according to the helicopter's service record book, it has served at more bases in the United States than most Marines will ever see. It has been in Guam, Japan, the Philippines, and since July of this year the former Presidential chopper has been in Vietnam.



DISCHARGING PATIENTS — Engulfed by the clamshell doors of an Air Force C-141 transport, a bus discharges litter patients on their way to Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Youngsters At Nha Trang 'Swing Out' At Kiddie Park

Nha Trang (USA) — Keeping pace with the fast moving younger generation, Vietnamese youngsters at this seaside resort town have become real "swingers," and sliders and skaters, too, as they take advantage of a complete "kiddiepark" constructed for their enjoyment by members of the 568th Medical Company.

The playground, the first such public recreation area built here, has swings, slides, teeter-totters, hop-scotch courses and a large concrete pad for skateboards and scooters.

The project was initiated by Capt. Johnny R. Jackson, executive officer of the medical company, a unit of 1st Logistical Command after noting the lack of a recreation area for local children.

On hand for the dedication ceremonies were the Khanh

Hoa Province chief, Maj. Le Khanh, officials of Nha Trang

Sub-Area Command and plenty of children.

Silver Stars...

(Cont'd from P-1, Col. 5)

self-appointed mission, Sergeant Be was killed by enemy fire.

Sergeant Be's heroic actions saved the lives of many of his American comrades and were instrumental in defeating the enemy force. Sergeant Be's widow and mother accepted the Silver Star along with personal condolences from General Westmoreland.



'Gun Birdie' Not 'Chicken'

Cu Chi (USA) — "Hey! There's a chicken!"

"What's a chicken doing on an eight-inch howitzer?"

"I don't know. It must be a gun birdie."

Gertrude, the watch hen of Battery D, 3rd Battalion, 13th Artillery is hardly "chicken" when it comes to supervising a night fire mission.

She doesn't even move from her perch aboard the gun when it is being fired.

PFC John J. Waga is Gertrude's "sponsor" and, now that she isn't nesting anymore, Waga is caught in a one-way deal. He doesn't mind; he and his friends have gotten to like the courageous chicken.

One time Gertrude walked into the muzzle of the howitzer just as a fire mission was called. Before she became creamed chicken, one of the gun crew extracted the indignant hen, who considers the gun her boudoir.

It seems as if the only thing that will drive Gertrude from her favorite perch, aside from brute force, is a heavy rain even then she stays aboard the weapon, sleeping on top of the tracks underneath an overhanging steel floor.



BARTERING — Market place is scene of serious bartering. Women of the village gather there daily to buy or trade foodstuffs

IN RURAL VIETNAM

Market Place Hub Of Village

The grass is green, the sun is high and a man must work by the sweat of his brow. Such is rural life in Vietnam.

If you were to travel the rural route, you would find the market place to be the hub of the village, the rice field a garden of labor, the river a source of food, and a cart the mode of transportation.

A man leads a boar through the countryside on weekly breeding missions and as the old man said, "we call him big papa."

Extensive self-help programs in cattle and poultry breeding have been initiated by agriculture development teams. Fish hatcheries are a common sight.

A man's tools are his hands, hammer and chisel, and with few exceptions, saws and grinding stones are his machines.

You do not have to visit the remote areas to see these things for they are present in the cities. You may walk the street in the present and turn the corner into the past.

Story By SP5 George Hicks, Staff Writer, USA
Photos By SP5 Cornelius Jones, Staff Photographer



PAINTING — Locally-made caskets are both carved and painted by hand



FISHING — A man and his wife seine for catp in their hatchery. Some of the catch goes to market, the rest they keep.

'Last Operation' Old H



Advisors and ARVN soldiers inspect body of VC killed during firefight between guerrillas and APC unit

"This is my last operation," commented Capt. Jon H. Frost, senior advisor to the 2nd Squadron, ARVN 7th Armored Cavalry, as the armored personnel carriers (APCs) rolled down Highway One. Then he laughed, "I've been saying that for the past week. So far I've had three 'last operations!'"

Capt. Frost is down to his last few hours in Vietnam. During his tour he served as both a Regional Force and Armor advisor, and has been decorated by both Vietnamese and American governments for gallantry in action.

He doesn't like to talk about the Silver Star Medal he earned as an advisor with the 4th Squadron, ARVN 7th Cavalry at Quang Ngai, when he exposed himself to enemy fire to permit the safe evacuation of several wounded soldiers, although he himself was wounded. If you ask him about it he just shrugs his shoulders and says "Nothing much."

He would rather talk about the heroic actions of his enlisted advisor, Sgt. Bruce L. Burger.

"During Lam Son 283, a combined Infantry-armor night assault on a VC stronghold, the command carrier had just started into the village," stated Frost. "As we neared a hedgerow a VC machine gun opened up on us. The APC's driver started to back up but was hit by the second volley of fire and we were stuck directly in front of the gun."

"Sergeant Burger, who was riding in the support vehicle further down the line of APCs, brought his vehicle up behind ours and exposed himself to the enemy fire as he hooked up the tow cable to pull us out of the area," continued Frost.

His narrative was interrupted as the APC moved forward. The first objective was to capture the village and home base of the VC. The more immediate objective was to capture the more immediate objective.

Overhead the spotter plane circled. The pilot passed on his observations to Frost.

"The pilot does not see movement in the area," said Frost. Then he turned over to the support vehicle to see if Burger had ignored the radio.

Burger signalled that he understood. Both vehicles moved forward. That when a vehicle deserted, there were Viet Cong inside the village.

As the carriers moved forward, the VC with small arms fire.



Weary soldiers of ARVN 7th Armored Cavalry climb from their APCs after operation



Capt. Richard M. Bosserman
Sgt. Bruce L. Burger

Hat To Armor Advisor

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alled that he
Both men knew
a village was
were probably
side waiting for

iers entered the
VC opened up
ns fire.

The .50 caliber machine
guns on the APCs returned
fire and the VC panicked
and began running for
the rice paddy at the
edge of the village.

The spotter plane located
one in the paddy and dropped
a smoke grenade near his
position so that the APCs
could locate him.

The carriers cleared out all
resistance, then pushed on
through to their other objec-
tives, finally joining up with
Regional Force soldiers from
Quang Dinh district who
were in a blocking position.

By the end of the opera-
tion the total VC killed was
37. Numerous weapons were
captured including a B-40
anti-tank weapon and a
machine gun.

As the APCs prepared
to head for home, a heli-
copter which had been

called to take two VC
suspects to Hue for ques-
tioning landed nearby. It
brought Captain Frost's
replacement, Capt. Richard
M. Bosserman Jr.

On their way into the
compound, Frost briefed his
replacement and compared
his first operation with APCs
to his last.

"On my first operation,"
he said, "we had a high VC
kill and didn't lose a man,
the same as today's operation.
I can't think of a better way
to start and finish my tour."

Story And Photos
by
Sp4 D. R. Brown
Staff Writer, USA



Capt. Jon H. Frost, (left) and Maj. Robert Conroy, RF-PF advisor
for Thua Thien Province, inspect captured B-40 anti-tank weapon



erman Jr. (left) chats with
e L. Burger



APC provides cover for withdrawing infantry troops after operation
in Quang Dinh district

DEEP IN VC COUNTRY

RF Training Center Resupplied



SHOULDER LIFT — More than 200 tons of supplies required by Song Mao are shoulder-lifted ashore

A U.S. Navy advisor and a Vietnamese Navy ship sailed deep into Viet Cong territory to prove the economic advantages of seaborne resupply.

Lt. Cdr. Richard N. Peterson, an advisor to the Vietnamese Navy accompanied the Vietnamese ship down VC-infested jungle rivers and up the coast. The ship delivered supplies to Vietnamese Army Regional Forces Training Center at Song Mao, 140 miles northeast of Saigon.

The center normally requires more than 200 tons of supplies monthly.

Previously, nine airlifts supplemented by truck convoys from Phan Thiet, 35 miles distant, were needed to make the deliveries.

Peterson and the Vietnamese Navy set out to solve

the problem with Operation Icebreaker.

More than 200,000 pounds of rice and other materials were loaded aboard a Vietnamese Navy ship, LSM 404 at Saigon. The final phase of loading was at Nha Be where 360 barrels of petroleum, oil and lubricant were taken on.

From Nha Be the trip through the Rung Sat Special Zone to the South China Sea began. The 404 arrived safely at her destination.

Because of surf conditions, the ship was beached on a sandbar 50 yards offshore for unloading.

Problems began when the bow ramp was dropped. As the ship was still in deep

water, trucks were unable to reach the supplies.

Navy ingenuity went to work. The POL barrels were rolled into the water and successfully floated to the beach.

Later, with the tide out, trucks were able to unload the ship.

During unloading, the 404 was a perfect target for nearby small Viet Cong units.

The Viet Cong tried to reach the ship but were driven off by Regional Forces troops. Further protection was provided by a spotter aircraft circling overhead.

From Song Mao, LSM-404 proceeded seaward to complete two other missions. She then returned to Saigon.

Story and Photos By PHC Jack C. Deckert, USN



WELL EARNED MEAL — Their mission accomplished and the Operation Icebreaker concept a proven success, Lt. Cdr. Richard Peterson and officers of the LSM 404 sit down to a Vietnamese meal



LOADING — At low tide, trucks were able to drive out to the ship and speed up the unloading



OIL UNLOADED — Barrels of petroleum, oil and lubricant are rolled off the Vietnamese Navy ship LSM 404. During high tide the barrels had to be floated ashore



FLOATING — Vietnamese "swimmers," aided by the tide, move the POL barrels ashore

Navy Support Activity Nestles In Sandy Cove

Qui Nhon (USN) — It's newly developed on beachfront property hugging deep blue and crystal clear water. Food, prepared by the finest chefs in the world, is often flown in to meet special demands. Management spares no effort or expense to satisfy clientele. Employees are eager to serve.

Sound like a new in-country R and R center? Sorry. It's a far cry from a resort.

The idyllic sounding haven is actually another of the U.S. Navy's support detachments which are springing up along the coastline and in the Delta region of this embattled Republic.

Officially known as the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon Detachment Qui Nhon, the base provides repair, administrative and logistic support to coastal patrol and harbor defense units.

Though the base is still under construction, most of the pre-fab buildings are up and the base has been operational for months.

The relatively small encampment nestles in a sandy cove of a peninsula jutting from the central coast of South Vietnam in the II Corps area. The finger of land forms a natural harbor on the South China Sea coastline.

You travel by water to reach the base, unless you

want to trudge miles through dense undergrowth and over sweeping hills.

From the base, heavily armed Swift boats ply up and down the coastline on lookout for Viet Cong trying to infiltrate men and equipment by sea. Other boats and crews patrol the harbor to protect shipping. It is the base's job to keep boats



ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME? Rigging showers at the isolated base took some ingenuity but after all, cleanliness is a byword in the Navy. And salt water is better than nothing. (USN Photo)

and crews on the line.

The Navy detachment is on a round-the-clock routine to support day and night operations. At night the men take their turn at standing security watches in the hills surrounding the base.

Fortunately, units of the Vietnamese and Korean Armies are in the general area which keeps the VC threat down to snipers. Constant alertness is mandatory.

Because of its isolated location recreation is confined to the base. It consists mainly of movies.

If you want to find out what the men have done with their limited spare time, wander into the tiny Vietnamese village snuggled alongside the Navy facility.

The school house you see, not fancy — but serviceable, was built by the Navymen as a civic action project. The sailors are contributing enough money monthly to hire a teacher for the village kids, most of whom have never seen a school before.

'Log' Soldiers Win Fight Against Time

Vung Tau (USA) — The success of a major Army movement operation hung on the ability of 1st Logistical Command soldiers at Vung Tau Sub-Area Command to fight monsoons and time.

The job—to get a condemned airfield operational in 24 hours and air-transport more than 3,000 newly arrived infantry troopers to Vietnam's combat arena.

About 30 men from various units in the Vung Tau area and 100 Vietnamese laborers used everything from large modern cranes to primitive tools, hands and feet in their fight against time.

They started at 8 a.m. and finished in time for Air Force C-130 Hercules planes to land at 9 a.m. the following day to transport the newly arrived 196th Light Infantry Brigade from Vung Tau to Tay Ninh.

Vung Tau airfield normally handles about 500 aircraft landings and take offs a day. This heavy traffic, together with torrential rains of the monsoon season, was just too much, and the pierced steel planking began to give way and sag in a number of places. The field had been placed "off limits" for large

planes by an Air Force safety officer.

The steel planking was raised by cranes, sand was hauled in, dumped and packed down by the Vietnamese workers. To complete the urgent task, the military men stayed on the job throughout the night.

"We told the men that 3,000 combat troops were depending on their skill and determination to get the job done. It was clear we needed the airfield and nothing but hard work by each man would complete it on time," said Col. C.R. Church. "They did what had to be done and the success of the mission made it all worthwhile," the colonel added.

Other units contributing men and machines to the mission were the 536th Port Construction Detachment of the 159th Engineer Group, the 193rd Combat Support Company, the 148th Ordnance Company and the 508th Engineer Detachment.

Miss Sharon Chayra works at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas. Anyone for the desert?



- Vietnam News Wrap-Up -

Casualty Rate Drops

The number of U.S. and Free World casualties decreased and the number of enemy killed and captured decreased during the week ending Sept. 3, according to an American spokesman.

U.S. battle losses were 74 killed and 570 wounded, while Free World forces lost 4 killed and 15 wounded. Death toll of enemy forces was 885.

Enemy weapons losses of 345 were higher than the July and August figures, the spokesman said.

Strength of U.S. armed forces in the Republic increased to 305,000. Estimated enemy strength in-country continued at 282,000.

Ground Operations

Operation Macon, a battalion-size operation of the 9th Marines continued in Quang Nam Province with light contact. Friendly casualties were moderate. Enemy losses were 312 killed, 2 captured, 31 suspects detained, 6 individual weapons and 1 crew served weapon captured.

Operation Prairie, a multi-battalion size operation of the 4th Marines continued in Quang Tri Province. Friendly casualties remained light. Enemy losses in the operation were 219 killed, 2 captured, 68 individual and 3 crew served weapons captured.

Operation Paul Revere III, a brigade-size operation of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division continued in Pleiku Province with light contact. Friendly casualties were light. Enemy losses in the operation were 14 killed, 2 captured, 6 suspects detained and 5 individual weapons captured.

Operation John Paul Jones, a multi-battalion operation conducted by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division continued in Phu Yen Province. Friendly casualties remained light. Enemy losses in the operation were 253 killed, 41 captured, 352 suspects detained, 80 individual and 1 crew served weapon captured.

Operation Toledo, a multi-battalion combined operation by elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and ARVN Rangers continued in Phuoc Tuy and Long Khanh Provinces. Friendly casualties remained light. Enemy losses in the operation were 7 killed, 9 captured, 24 suspects detained, 42 individual weapons and 10 crew served weapons captured.

Air Operations

Over North Vietnam Air Force pilots continued interdiction of supply routes and storage facilities.

Moderate to heavy antiaircraft fire was encountered by most flights. Twenty-two of the sites were destroyed or damaged. Two Air Force planes were downed Sept. 1. The crew is listed as missing in action.

Primary Navy targets were transportation facilities, waterborne traffic, and POL storage, supply and military areas.

Over the Republic of Vietnam fighter-bomber pilots of the Air Force attacked enemy strongholds with nearly 2,000 tons of ordnance destroying or damaging 1,840 enemy structures, 91 bunkers, 35 sampans, and numerous trenches, foxholes and fortified position. The air strikes set off 37 secondary explosions in enemy storage areas.

Much of the air action in the Republic was in the northern provinces, near Da Nang and south of the demilitarized zone.

On Aug. 31, 60 enemy were killed and 60 buildings destroyed during afternoon air strikes on an enemy stronghold 30 miles northwest of Hue.

B-52 Stratofortress crews flew 12 missions against enemy troop concentrations, base camps, storage and infiltration routes.

Naval Surface Operations:

U.S. Navy ships, boats and aircraft and U.S. Coast Guard cutters continued surveillance of the Republic's coastline. A U.S. Navy Swift boat investigating two sampans came under enemy small arms fire from a VC land position. The PCE returned the fire with .50-caliber machine gun and 81mm mortar fire, obtaining a secondary explosion which destroyed the VC position. There were no U.S. casualties.



- World News Summary -

Legion Accepts VN Veterans

President Johnson has signed into law legislation that permits veterans of the Vietnam war to become members of the American Legion.

The man tapped as the first Vietnam veteran in the Legion is Gordon Saffold, 23, of Saltville, Va. He recently completed a three-year stint in the Army, including four months in Saigon.

Military Court 'Very Competent'

A military court trying an Army private for refusing to serve in Vietnam decided that it is "very competent" to rule on the legality of the war. The court added at Fort Dix, N.J., that it would have to, in its words, "meet the question head-on sooner or later."

The ruling came during a pretrial motion by Stanley Faulkner, defense counsel for Dennis Mora of New York. Faulkner questioned whether the war was legal.

Highway Funds Asked

The House sent to the President a bill authorizing nearly \$20 billion in federal highway grants over the next five years. The House vote was 359 to 1. The bulk of the money is for the 41,000 mile system of limited access interstate highways.

Louisiana School Integrated

Five negro boys have enrolled in a previously all-white school in Louisiana's Plaquemines Parish. All white students remained away from the school. No negroes attempted to enroll at any other white schools in the parish. Meanwhile, Federal District Judge Herbert Christenberry in New Orleans threatened parish officials with an investigation if pressure is brought to have white parents remove their children from public schools.

Heart Pump Patient Goes Home

Mrs. Esperanza Del Valle Vasquez, history's first recovered heart pump patient, walked out of Houston's Methodist Hospital to return to her home in Mexico City. The petite, dark-haired Mexican beautician stepped into a waiting car for a trip to the Houston Air Center where she was to board a private plane owned by a Mexican newspaper publisher. The 37 year-old woman underwent surgery less than one month ago to repair two valves in the left side of her heart damaged by rheumatic fever. The revolutionary heart pump was implanted and took over up to 40 per cent of the work of her heart to allow her heart to heal.

U.S. Appeals To U. Thant

The United States has officially appealed to U Thant to reconsider his decision against a second five-year term as Secretary-General of the United Nations. The chief United States delegate to the U.N., Arthur Goldberg, called a news conference in New York to read the official government statement. It declared that the United States along with other U.N. members hope Thant would reconsider his decision.

Blue Angels Flier Killed

A member of the famed Blue Angels—the crack Navy aerial acrobatic team—was killed when his plane crashed and burned while he was performing at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. The pilot, 31-year old Dick Oliver, was performing a difficult set of maneuvers when the accident occurred.

Old Salt Answers Call Of Sea

The call of the sea was too much for Anthony (Tony) Rieber. He was back on board this week at the age of 77. Rieber, who retired 20 years ago, holds a chief engineer, unlimited live steam license.

He came out of retirement to fill the shortage of licensed personnel in the Military Sea Transportation Service.

The white-haired native of St. Louis was only 10 years old when the Spanish-American War started but he took part in the next two conflicts. Rieber helped patrol the Great Lakes canals during World War I and commanded the merchant ship Sarcokie in World War II. He remembers staying more than two hours in the water before being picked up after the ship Lake Edon was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland in World War II.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

By Bob Kinsman

The West Coast comedy team of Koufax-Drysdale have done it again! This time, however, they haven't decided to give up baseball for the movies... they just don't want to play. And so informed their boss, Mr. Walter O'Malley.

In the event you haven't followed this interesting situation... here's the dope.

It seems that the Yomiuri



BOB KINSMAN

Shimbun, a Japanese newspaper, has extended an invitation to the Los Angeles ball club to tour Japan following the Fall Classic. The junket will feature an opening game between the 1965 Japanese baseball champions, the Yomiuri Giants, against the bums and then fill out the 17-game goodwill trip with an All-Star Nippon squad providing the opposition. The best players in the country. Sound good? You bet! Here's the rub.

Koufax informed the management flatly that he will not make the trip. Likewise says nine game

winner Drysdale. And then, believe it or not, an outfielder by the name of Ron Fairly joins the wealthy pair and says he doesn't feel like it either.

Let's be perfectly fair about this thing. Koufax does have a bad elbow. Nonetheless, the rabid Japanese baseball fan would enjoy just seeing him at the park in a ball suit. Drysdale is a big name despite the fact he isn't getting anyone out this year. At 90-grand yet! And Fairly, who's hitting the ball at around a .260 clip... we'd trade him to Louisville for three broken bats!

You know what the real reason for their reluctance to make the trip amounts to? Scratch, mam! Gold! Filthy Lucr! The Los Angeles management pays their darlings \$500.00 and expenses to make the barnstorming trip. That's all.

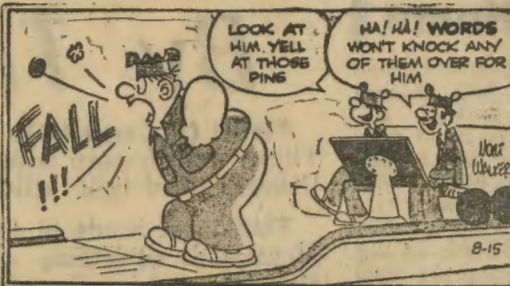
And when you consider the fact that our Gold Dust twins spill that much in an evening on the town... it ain't much.

But a few athletes named Ruth, Gehrig, Musial and Mays considered the visit to the "land of the rising sun" worthy.

They call them "pros."

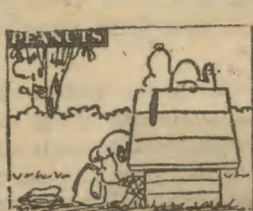
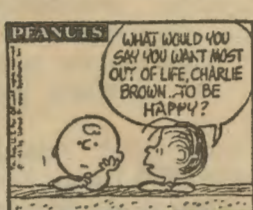
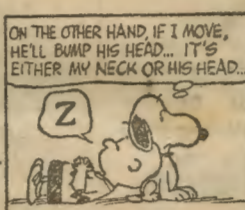
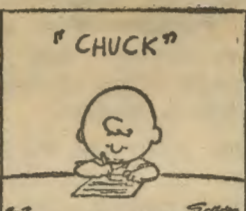
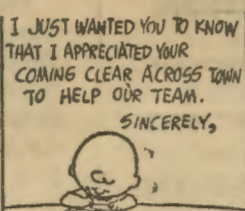
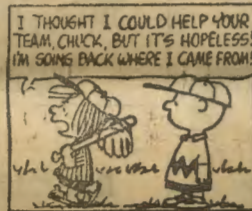
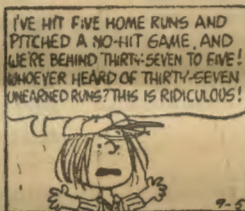
BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



PEANUTS

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



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Elephant's tooth
- 5-The sweetsop
- 9-Whips
- 11-Felonies
- 13-Symbol for erbium
- 14-Clothing
- 16-A state (abbr.)
- 17-High mountain
- 19-Musical sounds
- 20-Fruit seed
- 21-Weight of India (pl.)
- 23-Ethiopian title
- 24-Liberate
- 25-Mediterranean vessel
- 27-Woody plants
- 29-Preposition
- 30-Roman bronze
- 31-Poetry
- 33-Eyes closely
- 35-Father
- 36-Moccasin
- 38-Supercilious person
- 40-Rate of lettuce
- 41-Express
- 43-Prefix: three-
- 44-Indian mulberry
- 45-Hermit
- 47-Symbol for tellurium
- 48-Savor
- 50-Forest warden
- 52-Sound a horn
- 53-Employed

DOWN

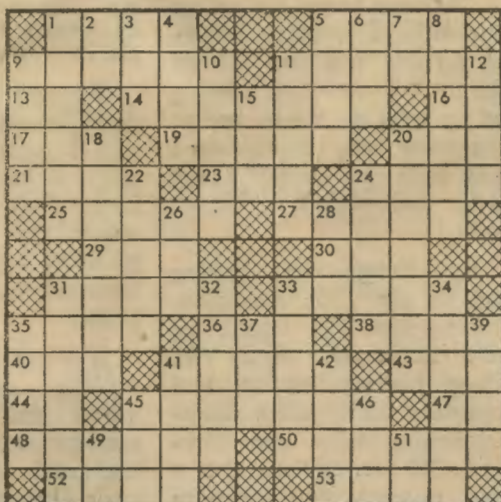
- 1-Articles of furniture

2-Pronoun

- 3-The ural
- 4-Retained
- 5-War god
- 6-Sesame
- 7-Printer's measure
- 8-Set
- 9-Meadows
- 10-Primitive reproductive body
- 11-Peak
- 12-Location
- 15-Collection of facts
- 18-Chooses
- 20-Gift
- 22-Retail establishment
- 24-Senses
- 26-Bitter vetch

- 28-Tattered cloth
- 31-Flowering shrub
- 32-Period of time
- 33-Happen
- 34-Classified
- 35-Mark left by wound
- 37-Be ill

- 29-Coffin and its stand
- 41-Waistcoat
- 42-Brother of Jacob
- 45-Spanish for "river"
- 46-Abstract being
- 49-Behold!
- 51-Earth goddess



Open Arms Rallier Joins Winning Team

Trai Bi (III Corps IO)—A year ago, the young man was a Viet Cong platoon leader. He fought in a raging battle at Duc Lap Ranger Training Center. Today, he's a rifleman in the same ranger battalion his VC regiment lost that battle to. And he's proud of it.

The former communist rallied to the Government through the Chieu Hoi "Open Arms" program shortly after that famous battle at Duc Lap. He joined the Vietnamese Army and told officials, "I decided after that terrible night at Duc Lap that the only fighting I would do from then on would be with a South Vietnamese battalion."

He got his wish. He's joined the winning team of freedom fighters in Vietnam.

VC See Machine Gun, Leave Weapon, Ammo

Lai Khe (USA) — "The early bird gets the worm."

This old saying proved true to members of the Big Red One's Company B, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, during a recent operation.

After completing a long day in the field, Sp4 Elliot N. Riser and PFC John E. Magnuson were setting up their machine gun for the night. The sound of approaching footsteps interrupted them.

Waiting silently in the brush, they discovered that the intruders were a Viet Cong machine gun team intent on setting up their own weapon in the area.

But when the VC found themselves staring into the flash suppressor of an M-60 machine gun, they broke and ran, leaving their weapon and ammo behind.

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 Australian Servicemen
Joseph C. M. Clarkin
New York City

PLEDGE

Students & Faculty
Eastern Oklahoma
Agricultural & Mechanical
College
656 Signatures

RESOLUTION

Ukrainian Committee
of the
United States
Buffalo, N. Y.

THOUGHTS ABOUT VIETNAM

Sixth Grade Students
Rancho Elementary
School
Novato, Calif.
30 Poems

RESOLUTION

Grand Pup Tent
Fertile Hunting
Grounds of Georgia
Military Order
of the Cootie of the
United States
Augusta, Georgia

RESOLUTION

14th Armored
Division Association
Philadelphia, Pa.

DECLARATION of Support

Citizens of Bergen
County, New Jersey

Montagnards Praised By Traveling Medic

Pleiku (II Corps IO)—Wonderful. Proud. Trustworthy. Industrious. Dedicated. These words were used by SSgt. Horace H. Steele to describe the Montagnard tribesmen of four villages 10 miles north of Pleiku.

Those same words, or the Montagnard equivalent, are probably used by the same Montagnards to describe Steele.

Since February of this year, Steele has given freely of his time and talents to assist the Montagnards in achieving better health and a better standard of living.

Since that first day, Steele has treated an average of 15 patients a week. "Everything from cuts to malaria," Steele said. "Cuts are by far the most predominant ailment because as you know, they wear nothing on their feet and that subjects them to numerous cuts."

"I treated one little girl's cut foot every day for three months," Steele said, "because when she came to me, gangrene had started."

With the help of the villagers, Steele has built an aid station on the outskirts of one village. He tries to get there every day, military duty permitting, to hold sick call.

For the most part, the people from all four villages come to this aid station to have their illnesses

diagnosed and treated. In those instances where someone cannot make it to the aid station, "Doc" Steele makes "house calls."

Helping with their medical needs is not the only way Steele has aided the Montagnards.

In a nearby stream, that was a mudhole at the base of an earthen dam, there now stands a large concrete flooring at the base of a concrete dam. Water runs over the dam through five two-inch pipes creating "shower heads" and a continuous

source of running water. Now many more people are able to bathe or do their laundry at any given time.

What does Steele get in return for his untiring efforts? In his words, "The satisfaction that I get from helping an appreciative group of people."

Steele has been training one of the girls of the village in the art of first aid. "She is bright and catches on quickly so I am sure that she will carry on and administer to the others at the aid station," he said.

Two Missing..

Two VC Companies Attack Recon Platoon

By Sp4 Dan Shafer, USA

Dong Xoai (III Corps IO) — The young Special Forces sergeant at this isolated outpost seldom smiled as he told of his narrow brush with death and the Viet Cong.

Sgt. Larry B. Rader was leading a reconnaissance platoon on a sweep about 18 miles northwest of Dong Xoai. The night started with a few encounters.

About 6:30 p.m., Rader and his 25-man reconnaissance platoon of Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) troops ran into a squad of Viet Cong. When the enemy broke contact and withdrew, the Special Forces sergeant and his counterpart pursued the enemy for 500 yards through dense jungle brush.

When it became evident that Charlie had melted into the jungle, the platoon withdrew to a much-used trail they had crossed and began setting up their ambush for the night.

"As soon as we had set up our defense positions, I looked up and saw five VC on the trail. I immediately opened up with my M-16 and at the same time the 15 men I had with me began firing with their carbines," Rader said.

But things were getting hot for the little reconnaissance group. The interpreter told Rader he heard Viet Cong platoon leaders and company commanders shouting orders in the near-darkness. "It was obvious after a few minutes that we were

being surrounded by two companies of VC," Rader said.

At that point, Rader advised his counterpart to withdraw to a better position and wait out the night.

"All night long, we could hear the enemy shouting and shooting all around us. I don't think any of us could sleep for more than a few minutes." But their position remained undiscovered and at daybreak they moved to a trail where, with two O-1 aircraft providing escort cover for them, they moved to an opening in the thick jungle from which they could be lifted out by choppers.

Rader's eyes saddened as he related his only casualties—two members of the platoon missing. "There's a battalion of VC up there," the young sergeant said. "I hope those two make it."

No sooner had he said that than his interpreter ran up and reported excitedly that the two had found their way back. Rader turned toward where the interpreter was pointing and there stood two battered men with ear-to-ear grins.

It was a happy ending for another case in Vietnam where the VC had been outsmarted and outfought by dedicated Vietnamese and their U.S. advisors.

Cattle 'Attack' Command Post

Pleiku (USA) — While troops of the 1st Air Cavalry Division were chasing elusive North Vietnamese regulars during a recent operation the division's forward command post near Pleiku was attacked... by a herd of cattle.

A bull, evidently "squad leader" of the attacking force, sent six cows in a skirmish line against the rear and side of Maj. Gen. John Norton's mess tent, just as lunch was about to be served.

Lt. Joseph Roberts, security platoon leader, immediately dispatched two erstwhile cowboys to round up the trespassers and eliminate the menace.

The men, S/Sgt. Adolph Nolde and PFC Dennis Donahue, reported the bovines belonged to a main force of some 50 that were foraging for food.

Lt. Roberts was not available for comment when reporters attempted to ascertain if the cattle were part of a Viet Cong infiltration scheme.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

CAPT. ROBERT E. MACDONALD
05704524
HQ USMACV J2 (IOD)
APO SAN FRANCISCO, 96243

TO:

ANNE MARIE MACDONALD

ANNE MARIE MACDONALD

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98168

