

Lands On Half A Wing

7/13AF - Air Force Captain Alan Milacek of Waukomis, Okla., and his AC-119 Shadow crew on a combat mission in Southeast Asia did not think they could pull it off, but they successfully landed their seriously crippled aircraft on half a wing and a prayer.

"We were working a series of night targets recently when there was a bright flash in the cargo compartment. We had been flying in a 30 degree left turn, but we were violently swung into a 60 degree right bank and

began diving," the captain stated. He did not know that half his right wing had been shot away.

"I called in a May Day three times to escort aircraft and told the rest of our 10-man crew to prepare to bail out. Captain Brent O'Brien of Monroeville, Pa., my copilot, and I fought to regain control of the plane and get out of that dive. We finally did, but not until we had lost about 1,000 feet of altitude," Milacek continued.

Captain Roger Clancy of

Sherburn, Minn., the navigator, gave the pilot a heading to avoid high terrain while the escorts, flying well above the damaged craft, assisted the AC-119 which was too low to receive radio navigational aid. Milacek added, "At this point we had to gain altitude if we were going to safely clear mountainous terrain. I told the crew in the cargo compartment to dump ammo and anything else to lighten the aircraft. As soon as this was done, I started to rapidly climb to a fairly safe altitude. Terrain

was no longer a problem."

But a much more serious problem soon developed when Clancy and Technical Sergeant Albert Nash of Easton, Md., the flight engineer, made fuel assessments by calculating air speed, altitude, remaining fuel and other variables. Their conclusion: fuel would be gone at least 30 miles short of their base.

With the amount of control necessary to hold the plane in level flight and with our autopilot inoperative, I knew

that I would have little or no chance of getting out of the aircraft myself," Milacek explained.

"In order to conserve fuel, once we cleared very high terrain, I pulled off power which put the craft in a slow descent. This increased my air speed getting us to home base more rapidly, and less power would require less fuel. I did prepare the crew for a controlled bailout in case we weren't going to make it," he added.

"But this time we had additional escorts, and the HH-53 Jolly Green rescue helicopters were on their way. The crew chief told me over the intercom that something was sticking out of the right wing, but he couldn't see very much because of the darkness," the captain continued.

At this point in the flight, the navigator and the engineer took another fuel reading and found that Milacek's attempts to conserve fuel were working. They would now have 600 pounds of fuel remaining by the time they reached the base.

"The aircraft was now handling well, and I elected to bring it on in to home base. In addition, the HH-53 had now rendezvoused with us. O'Brien was handling communications with the base tower and other control agencies while I determined to bring her in on a straight approach with an extra long final run. I wasn't about to risk everything by attempting turns on approach," he added.

The aircraft touched down, without flaps at about 140 knots. The right engines were pulled to idle. "It was routine, but looking over the right wing after parking we discovered 14½ feet of its leading edge and nearly 17 feet of the trailing edge shot away. We also had lost one aileron, and had a hole in a hatch and one in the right vent," the captain said.



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSEVER

Vol. 9, No. 12

Saigon, Vietnam

July 24, 1970

New NSF Opens In Da Nang

NAVFORV - The U.S. Navy in I Corps has a new shore facility. Established as the Naval Support Facility, Da Nang, it will be responsible for the support of all U. S. Navy Vietnamization programs in I Corps Tactical Zone, the five northernmost provinces of the Republic of Vietnam.

The command is being created following the disestablishment of Naval Support Activity, Da Nang.

NSF will concentrate on the Navy's Vietnamization program called ACTOV (Accelerated turnover of U. S. Navy Assets to the Vietnamese Navy). Assets turned over were navy craft and bases, and the support to go with them.

ACTOVLOG (the logistics aspect of the program) has also been created to turnover repair bases, such as the Small Craft Repair Facility in Da Nang. Included in this program is the training of VNN personnel to maintain and repair ACTOV craft and to develop sufficient logistic capability within the Vietnamese Navy to support their expanding forces.

Preparations for ACTOVLOG began in March when the first VNN personnel began training and working alongside U. S. Navymen. Upon completion of their training, VNN personnel will gradually replace their U. S. counterparts as they acquire the experience to carry on the job.

NSF is located at Camp Tien Sha (CTS) and Small Craft Repair Facility (SCRF) Complex at the foot of Monkey Mountain on the Tien Sha Peninsula.

Current plans for the CTS/SCRF Complex to be established as a combined USN/VNN Deputy with USN department heads and VNN assistant department heads. The assistants will relieve the department heads as they become qualified.



Coming Home

This sign, made from a piece of canvas and a can of shaving cream, greets the men of Company C, 2nd Bn., 22nd Inf., 25th Inf. Div. The "Triple Deuce" company was one of the last 25th Div. units to leave Cambodia. (USA PHOTO By: SP4 Henry G. Zukowski Jr.)

Allies Uncover Complexes

101ST ABN DIV - In a recent combined operation in northern I Corps, the 2nd Squadron (Ambl), 17th Cavalry, and the 1st ARVN Division's Hac Bao (Black Panther) Company uncovered regimental-sized caches and bunker complexes.

A total of 64 NVA soldiers were killed by Cobra gunships, aerial rocket (ARA) and air strikes during the operation.

The all-volunteer Hac Bao Company captured more than 52 tons of rice and extensive ammunition supplies. Both units uncovered approximately 2,000 enemy bunkers in numerous complexes, which included huts and firing positions.

In addition, Screaming Eagles from the Cav's Troop A found an NVA base area for 400 to 600 personnel. The complex was destroyed by the 2/17th and 4th Bn (Ambl), 77th Artillery (ARA).

"We knew that we were chasing elements of an NVA Regiment," said Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Molinelli,

commander of the 2/17, "and the results of our operation gives me reason to believe we have seriously hurt their supply and support elements.

"This was to be a swift and

Magazine Hunt

MACV - There is an immediate requirement for all available ammunition magazines for the AK-47 Rifle.

MACJ4 Requests all commands conduct search to the lowest level and turn in magazines as soon as possible to the USARV collection points.

hard-hitting operation from the start", continued the colonel, "but we needed more ground support, so we called on the Hac Bao Company - fortunately."

"Most of the caches were actually found by the Hac Bao," said Captain Lloyd Mason, 2/17th operation officer. "Every time our intelligence indicated enemy activity, they assaulted right in, and it paid off."

"We already knew that the Hac Bao was a crack unit - that's been proven; what we really gained from this operation, in addition to the caches and NVA casualties, is that we now know we are able to work effectively with this unit - and that we can count on each other."

A breakdown of the caches included 52 tons of rice, more than three tons of salt, 20,000 AK-47 rounds, 3,500 rounds of 12.7mm ammunition, 370 B-40 RPG rounds, 16 122mm rockets, 40 82mm mortar rounds, 150 hand grenades, 36 claymore mines and seven 55-gallon drums of fuel.

Aviation Kills 24 Enemy

1ST AVN BDE - Gunships from the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion recently killed 18 enemy in separate actions in the Mekong Delta.

A dozen of the kills were the results of the efforts of the 121st Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) commanded by Captain Charles E. Cowan of Anderson, South Carolina.

Six occurred in the morning when the Tigers were operating approximately 20 miles south of Can Tho and the remaining six came in afternoon contact 10 miles west of Soc Trang.

Later in the day the 16th Cavalry added five kills to the day's total approximately 10 miles south of Vi Thanh.

Cobra gunships rolled into the area and silenced the machine guns. A subsequent pass by the LOHs revealed five bodies.

Fixed wing aircraft of the 221st Utility Airplane Company accounted for six kills approximately 10 miles southeast of Can Tho and the 191st AHC killed one enemy 60 miles west of Can Tho.

Now It's 'Bicycle Charlie'

4TH INF DIV -- When an infantryman in the field decides to "take five" from his job, a lot of things may enter his mind. He may think about his girlfriend or his wife back home, what a cold beer would taste like right now, or an upcoming R&R. Probably the last thing he would think about is a pack of NVA soldiers riding right up to him on bicycles.

But this was the case with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry during one of their operations two and one-half miles southeast of FSB Currahee in Cambodia.

Sergeant James Bass of Palestine, Tex., said, "We had six NVA soldiers on bicycles ride up on one of our platoons--Wow, we were shocked!" The enemy soldiers were armed with AK-47 rifles, so getting run over wasn't the only thing men of Company B were worried about. "Everybody got down on the trail and let them have it," said Bass.

The bicycle seems to be a primary means of travel for the NVA soldiers. They use it to transport rice among other things. "You wouldn't believe all the smooth bicycle roads they have over here (Cambodia)," Bass added.

New ARC Director

SAIGON -- Harry L. McCullohs, Jr., veteran of 15 years service with the American Red Cross (ARC), assumed the position of Director of Operations for the organization's Southeast Asia Area on July 23rd.

McCullohs replaces Joseph P. Carniglia who is returning to CONUS to become Director of Red Cross Service at Military Installations for Eastern Area with headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

In his new position,



McCullohs will be responsible for overall direction of some 330 staff and ARC services to U.S. military personnel in the RVN and Thailand. McCullohs' previous assignment since March, 1970, was Director of Service at Military Installations in the area.

McCullohs first served in the RVN in 1965 and 1966. During that time, he established an administrative headquarters for ARC operations in Southeast Asia to meet the needs for services to the military created by the manpower buildup.



War And Cookies

This young Cambodian boy eats some C-ration "John Wayne" crackers handed out to refugee children by men of the 1st Air Cav Div. (USA PHOTO By: Sgt Dean Sharp)

Are Miracles Real? Ask This Soldier

1ST CAV DIV -- Many soldiers leaving the RVN take some type of war trophy with them. Not many have one like PFC Donald H. Light, a rifleman with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry.

It's an AK-47 round -- the one that was extracted from his heart by Dr. Elias Hanna, cardiac surgeon at the U.S. Army's 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon, in what medical authorities there call an operation unprecedented in the Vietnam Conflict.

"There have been cases in which the heart was punctured by fragments, but as far as I know, this is the first time a whole bullet has been removed from the heart," Dr. Hanna said.

"Usually an AK-47 bullet will shatter the heart. It's a miracle that Don Light is alive."

Light and other members of Company B were on a late afternoon patrol six miles inside Cambodia when the unit made contact with an unknown size enemy force. In the ensuing fire fight, an AK-47 bullet hit Light in the left shoulder, broke a rib and went through his left lung into his heart.

The bullet made two holes in the heart and came to rest at the bottom of the right ventricle,

which pumps blood to the lungs.

Less than two hours after Light was hit, Major Jack Lee examined him at the 3rd Field Hospital and sent him to the operating room.

Hanna and his team of surgeons first closed the two holes in Light's heart. Then they made an incision at the bottom of the right ventricle and removed the bullet.

Several days later, well on the road to recovery, he talked by phone to his brother, James, in Waterloo, Illinois.

"I got hit in the shoulder," he told this brother. "Then it went down and busted my rib, and went through my lung into my heart."

"Into your what?" his brother replied.

"My heart,"

"Into your heart...?"

"Yeah, I guess I'm pretty lucky."

Light has been flown back to the States for further medical treatment and recuperation, as well as reunion with his family.

Vitamins And Candy

AMERICAL DIV -- Each week Captain Kenyon Kugler of Kansas City, Kan., 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry surgeon, conducts MEDCAPs for the 5,000 Vietnamese and Montagnard residents of Tu My resettlement village.

Each time Kenyon is met by hundreds of people who come with their many ailments. With the aid of an interpreter, the young and old gather near the medics to receive their life-saving medicine.

The old people form a single line and the procession begins. Medics dispense vitamin pills, penicillin, and band-aid patches. Occasionally a youngster will simply ask for a piece of candy and an aspirin and then go on his way.

Vietnamese nurses and medics occasionally work side-by-side with 11th Infantry Brigade medics helping them to administer aid to as many people as possible.

"With enough training and adequate medical supplies" stated Specialist 6 Harold Ward of Orlando, Fla., "the Vietnamese medical personnel will be quite capable of assuming more of the medical mission."

New Housing Program

A Big Morale Booster

7TH AF -- VNAF Staff Sergeant Nguyen Sau hammered some personal modifications into his new home, preparing for his mother, wife and three children who soon would come from Nha Trang to join him.

IT'S THEIR FIRST
It was his first new home. "I'm very happy," he said.

Within the sound of his hammering a few doors away, Airman 2nd Class Gia Le drank tea with his wife and two daughters, feeling comfortable and pleased in his new house. His wife was especially pleased; their previous quarters were smaller and had no electricity.

TO PROVIDE 2,400 UNITS
Both men are among the 60 VNAF airmen who are moving themselves and their families into new quarters as a result of a program to provide 2,400 new housing units for VNAF personnel.

Through a joint USAF/VNAF pilot project, a ten family housing unit has been completed at Binh Thuy, Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut, Da Nang and Pleiku Air Bases.

BUILT IN 45 DAYS
Working in 20-man teams, VNAF and USAF

airmen and Vietnamese civilian masons, carpenters and plumbers built the housing units within a 45-day period. The purpose of the pilot program was to compile labor and cost statistics, provide training for VNAF civil engineering personnel, demonstrate the type of housing proposed and provide much needed VNAF housing.

A plan to continue the building program is now pending approval from MACV. Labor would be provided by the Vietnamese, most construction materials by the Americans.

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM PLANNED
"The follow-up housing construction program is anticipated to be scheduled and accomplished by the VNAF in a timely manner," said Colonel Joseph M. Kristoff, former 7th AF deputy chief of staff for civil engineering. "Knowledge gained from the pilot housing project will provide the construction force with the experience they need to schedule their work crews accordingly."

"Self pride in this effort will be evident as it will be a total VNAF undertaking, and the people will have a stake in their housing by having built the units themselves."

Spaghetti And Lead

101ST ABN DIV -- Captain Eddy Larson of Hoquiam, Wash., recently found an unusual surprise in his C-ration can of spaghetti -- and it wasn't a meatball.

The artillery liaison officer for the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, was conducting a visual reconnaissance mission northwest of Hue when the helicopter in which he was riding received enemy ground fire.

Safely back at FSB Rakkasan, Larson pulled a case of C-rations from under the chopper's seat. When he selected his favorite meal -- spaghetti and ground meat -- he found it had been preheated by an AK-47 rifle slug, which was still lodged in the can.



Some of the hundreds of refugees fleeing the Communists wait to be processed by elements of the 25th Div's 3rd Bde at a collection point near the Cambodian border. (USA PHOTO By: Maj Warren J. Field)

The Judge Say...

PFC Rocky Sack was having one of those days. He was in the early stages of recovering from the night before, when he'd fortified himself with a few beers and decided to challenge for the middleweight championship of the local EM Club. Although he'd managed to land some stunning blows on his opponent's fists with his face, he was declared a knockout loser in the second round.

Waking up the following day, Rocky found himself in the sterile surroundings of a hospital...equipped with a tremendous hangover, no front teeth, a broken jaw, and an Article 15 for getting into a fight.

And just as recovery began to set in, he was informed that his injuries were not incurred in the line of duty, which meant that all the time spent at the hospital would have to be made good on the other end of his tour. Understandably, this news sent him into shock, which cost him another week in the hospital.

The moral of PFC Sack's sad story: injury or disease brought on by his intentional misconduct and willful neglect -- and not incurred in the line of duty -- brought a pile of real "pain" down upon him.

But our PFC's predicament wasn't as bad as that of his friend in the next bed, SP4 Sam Speed. Sam was recovering from a bummer brought on by a couple weeks of ingesting pot, uppers, downers, acid, and sundry other kickers into his bod.

It all came to the surface the day he started flitting around the barracks declaring that he was going to marry a platypus. Those who knew his girl didn't suspect that anything was amiss at first, but finally wiser heads decided that Sam belonged in a hospital.

The moral of SP4 Speed's story: he was going to

have to make up his lost time, he wasn't going to get paid for the days spent in the hospital, and he was facing a court-martial.

Now while all this was happening, there was another patient down on the other end of the ward who was also sobbing softly over having to make up the time he was spending in the hospital. It was good ol' SGT Crash Carson.

At least Crash went out in a blaze of glory. After downing a Pacific Theater one-evening record of 371 beers at the EM Club, he had jumped into his jeep and driven it through three supply tents, four rows of barbed wire, the colonel's quarters, and, finally, into the side of a Sheridan tank. "Who owns this waffle?" the MP had said, surveying the compressed vehicle and driver.

The moral of SGT Carson's story: besides the bad time incurred in the hospital, he was liable for the damages incurred during his excursion. Uncle doesn't like his vehicles getting unceremoniously wiped out.

Our final case concerns the situation of PVT Frank Footloose, who was seriously injured one night when a deuce-and-a-half careened out of control and smacked into him. Clearly, Frank was in no way careless regarding the accident. But the permanent disability he suffered came as the real blow: being AWOL at the time, he was not considered entitled to a disability pension.

The moral of all these sad tales: the Army doesn't reward anyone who injures himself, gets injured, or catches a disease, either through intentional misconduct and willful neglect or while he is AWOL. Guys like Sack, Speed, Carson, and Footloose learn this every day...the hard way. (USASPTCMD)

Be A Bonus Baby

Did you know that some States have traditionally paid bonuses to their residents for wartime military service? There are seven of these states: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. And the real beauty of the whole thing is that the state bonus is wholly exempt from Federal and State income taxes, and need not be reported on tax returns.

Connecticut gives ten dollars for each month, up to 30 months, to Vietnam veterans who have served since 1 January 1964. The individual must have been domiciled in the state for at least one year immediately prior to entering active duty, and have spent at least 90 days in-country.

Delaware pays fifteen dollars a month up to a \$225 maximum for domestic service and twenty dollars a month up to a \$300 maximum for foreign service. The requirements are a minimum of 90 days honorable service and a year's residency prior to entering the service; also, similar payments cannot be received from other states.

Illinois counts eligibility from 1 January 1961, requires a year of residency immediately preceding entry on active duty, and grants a flat \$100 bonus. The individual must have earned the Vietnam Service Medal.

Louisiana gives its veterans \$250, and stipulates that the individual must be a citizen of the state at the time he enters the service. It requires that he furnish evidence of service in the Vietnam Combat Area, such as the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal-Vietnam, and that his tour be dated since 1 July 58.

Massachusetts is unique in being the only State with Korean War and World War II cash bonuses still payable, in addition to the one in force for the Vietnam War. For the World

War II bonus, the veteran must have been resident in the state for six months prior to entering the service and have served between 6 September 1940 and 31 December 1946; his payment is \$100 for six months or less, \$200 for more than six months, or \$300 for service outside the continental U.S. Requirements for the Korean bonus are similar, with the terminal dates set from 26 June 1950 to 31 January 55, but the individual receives the minimum sum of \$100 for 90 days of service. For the Vietnam bonus, requirements are again similar; the period of service must be since 1 July 58, and the amounts set are \$200 for service outside the Vietnam area and \$300 for service in the Vietnam area.

Pennsylvania grants twenty-five dollars for every month of qualifying service, up to a maximum of \$570, and requires that the serviceman have listed the State or a specific place within it as his place of residence when entering the service. He must also have qualified for the Vietnam Service Medal.

For additional information on the service requirements, survivor compensation, and application deadlines set forth by these seven bonus-paying States, see your Personal Affairs Officer and ask for DA pamphlet 360-609, "State Bonuses for Wartime Service."

Sandsuit?

A lightweight desert uniform made of ventilated weave design has been approved by the Army for development.

The uniform, proposed by the Army's Combat Developments Command, Fort Belvoir, Va., has dustproof flaps on jacket and trouser pockets and a jacket collar to guard the head and neck from the sun. (AFPS)

The OBSERVER

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The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the American Forces Press Service and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, Hq MACV, (MACOI-C), APO 96222. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 80,000.

Mule Train

A recent ruling by the Post Office Department has made some changes in the handling given to "free" mail entering CONUS from the Republic of Vietnam. Namely, it is no longer being treated as airmail when it arrives Stateside.

The letters now receive regular first class handling within the land of the Big PX, so they may take a bit longer to get where they're going. But cheer up! More and more first class mail is going by air, too, so the changeover isn't exactly like going back to the mule train. (MACV)

Das Ist Verboten

Many contraband articles are entering CONUS in parcels mailed in the Republic of Vietnam, to the increasing concern of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Bureau of Customs, and the U.S. Post Office Department.

Many of these items are especially designed to kill or maim, and they are tremendously dangerous to have flowing through routine postal channels...a real threat to the personnel and equipment of the postal system.

Accordingly, post office and customs people are now using fluoroscope and mine detection equipment to examine the flow of parcels. And postal clerks are enforcing the provisions calling for a declaration of the contents and value of a parcel's contents and the proper identification of its sender and addressee.

The whole point is that someone can get hurt, and besides, it's not worth chancing the legal repercussions. The offender is not only subject to punishment for violating military laws and directives, but also for breaching U.S. customs laws. Federal courts especially frown on this sort of offense, and can impose a sentence of up to five years in a federal prison and a \$5,000 fine.

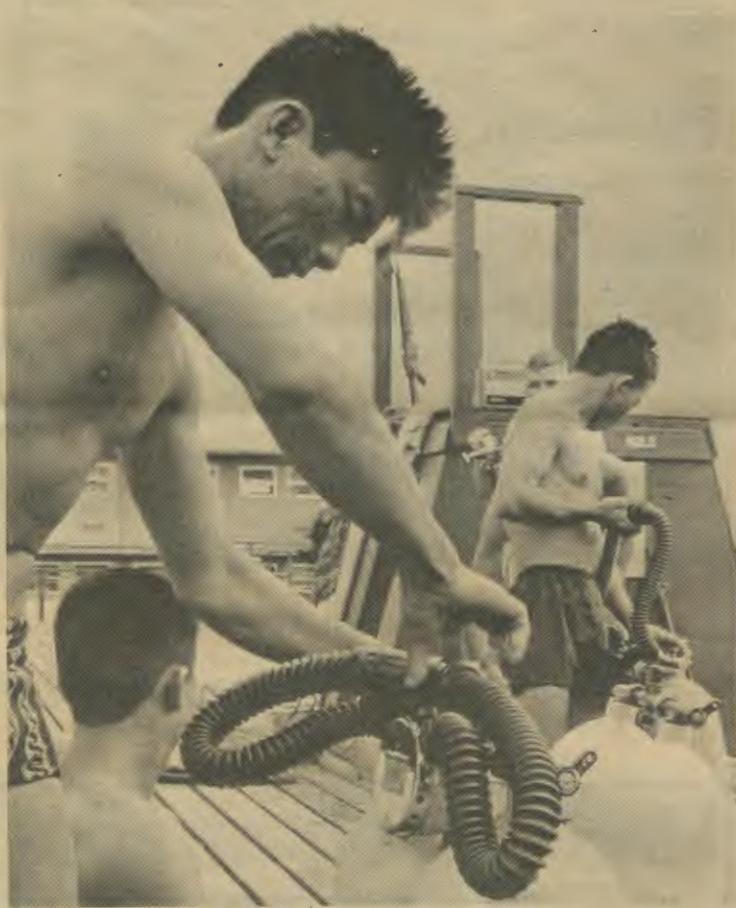
To clinch the deal, persons attempting to mail narcotic or hallucinogenic substances (pot, hash, H, acid, etc., for the "in" crowd) violate military, postal, and Bureau of Narcotics regulations and prohibitions...which also carry severe fines and imprisonment.

So let's be rational about it and take the advice...the other route can only lead you into a world of hurt. (MACV)



"YOU GO ASK HIM WHO'S SIDE HE'S ON!"

'Scuba Soldiers' Secure Bridge



Nguyen Van Phu assembles and tests his oxygen system before a one hour diving period at the Da Nang Air Base pool.

**USMC Photos-Story By:
Cpl B.E. VanChantfort**



Le Thanh offers Huynh Yen a breath of air as the latter practices discarding and donning his oxygen tanks underwater.

FLC -- First Lieutenant Robert C. Haskett of Greeley, Colo., was recently given the difficult assignment of molding a group of RF soldiers into a proficient scuba diving team. Their job would be to take over the underwater security of I Corps Bridge, located at Da Nang, from the Marines.

Haskett is commander of Company D, 1st Military Police Battalion. It is the men of Company D who dive into the murky depths of the Han River to prevent underwater sabotage of the long, vital span linking east and central Da Nang. They supplement the RF guards on the bridge who replaced Marine MPs in early March.

At first Haskett was reluctant to accept the assignment. There was the language barrier to consider and the lack of necessary equipment. But after reconsidering, he realized the importance of the request. Haskett drew up a list of the facilities and assistance he would need and presented them to Lieutenant Colonel Francis M. Casey, Deputy Municipal Advisor for Security of the Da Nang Special Sector.

Casey went to work. The Air Force offered the use of the Da Nang Air Base pool, the Navy provided physical examinations and the scuba gear was volunteered by various sources. The crucial job of translation was performed by Staff Sergeant Nguyen Van Cua, the MACV interpreter assigned to Casey.

Haskett drew up a tentative five-week schedule patterning his experimental course after the Navy scuba school at Subic Bay, Philippines. It began with six E-3 RFs, all good swimmers without diving experience.

The training was conducted by the lieutenant and his two Marine divers, Sergeant Harold Riggs of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Corporal Harold Garrison of Delphi, Ind.

Each training day began with an hour of calisthenics. At first, they concentrated on hour long conditioning swims to learn special scuba swimming techniques and to build endurance.

The morning sessions included classes on diving physics, life saving, use and maintenance of scuba gear and application exercises such as clearing the face mask underwater.

The second week they began diving with oxygen tanks. "Buddy swimming" was emphasized and practice sessions included "harrassment" periods in which instructors would suddenly tear off someone's face mask underwater or shut off his oxygen system.

The afternoons were spent at the bridge where the RFs learned how to operate and care for the skimmer boats which are used for dives and TNT runs.

Like the Marines, the Vietnamese were not "explosive ordnance disposal" trained. If explosives are found and cannot be safely blown in place, professional underwater demolition teams are called.

The experimental course was watched closely by command echelons throughout the RVN. A similar program was soon launched the U.S. Army in another area.

After four weeks the training period was successfully completed. The RFs then began working with the Marine divers on the regular underwater security patrols.



A trainee learns to operate a skimmer boat on the Han River near the I Corps Bridge.



Staff Sergeant Nguyen Van Cua translates the critique of completed diving exercise given by Marine diver Sergeant Harold D. Riggs, in left background.



Corporal Harold Garrison assists as Nguyen Van Phu emerges from the water after a strenuous "harrassment" exercise.



Homeless boys stare at the ruins of Phu Thanh. It was estimated that 90 percent of the village was destroyed in the three-hour reign of terror.



Relief material was quickly rushed to Phu Thanh by the GVN Department of Social Welfare. The supplies included lumber, tin roofing, rice, and cooking oil.

Story

Heavy Toll of Life, Property VIET CONG



Beginning with a mortar attack, the assault continued with a house-to-house ground attack. Seventy-four people were killed, 68 were wounded, and 316 homes were destroyed.

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Story & Photos: Mr. R.H. Beveridge

Losing both his 12-year-old son and his home in the attack, this man was forced to improvise a temporary abode in a makeshift shelter.

property G LEVEL VILLAGE

Phu Thanh village, located 16 miles south of Da Nang on Highway 1, was recently the scene of the most vicious VC terrorist attack since the Tet Offensive of 1968.

Beginning around 2 a.m. on June 11, the assault was initiated with an hour-long barrage of some 400 rounds of mortar fire upon the community's 3,377 inhabitants. The local PF and RF platoons were pinned down by sniper fire and grenades on the outskirts of the village, and the VC made their sweep through the darkened streets using automatic weapons...tossing grenades into the homes and bunkers where the villagers had sought cover.

The terrorists were trying to kill as many civilians as possible in an effort to frighten the populace. Withdrawing after three hours of indiscriminate killing, the enemy left 74 persons dead and 68 wounded; most of them were old men, women, and children. In one bunker alone, 36 people died.

More than 300 homes were leveled in the two hamlets that comprised Phu Thanh village. It was estimated that 90 percent of the village was destroyed.

Despite the shock of the massacre, however, the surviving villagers began the task of rebuilding only a few days after the attack. Lumber, tin roofing, rice, and cooking oil from the GVN Department of Social Welfare began arriving by the truckload the day after the attack.

And amidst the rubble the people of Phu Thanh helped one another to recover from the incident and to mourn for the dead on small makeshift altars.



The VC killed 36 people who had taken shelter in this bunker with hand grenades.



Along with rebuilding, mourning the dead was a major activity in the days following the attack. Most of the victims were women, children, and old men.

PMS Controls Disease and Sanitation

FLC (USMC) - Insects beware! Force Logistic Command's (FLC) Preventive Medicine Section (PMS) is on the move.

Located at FLC's Red Beach headquarters complex near Da Nang, the Navy PMS staff of one officer, four enlisted men and one Marine is responsible for disease vector control, messing and the sanitation of FLC supported units.

During the month of May, the PMS received a request from the First Combined Action Group (1ST CAG) to make a survey of the disease vectors and living conditions in the hamlets and villages being protected by 1st CAG units.

Responding to their request, the PMS sent a field team down to Chu Lai for a nine-day study of 1st CAG units.

PMS staff members, Chief Hospital Corpsman (HMC) James O. Evans and Hospital Corpsman First Class (HM1) George G. Eder, surveyed the Areas of Responsibility (AOR's) for six Combined Action Platoons.

Armed with insecticides, rat traps and assorted medical paraphernalia, the two Navy specialists set about their work.

Water samples were taken from wells that both CAP Marines and villagers use and saved for later analysis. Insects and reptile specimens, including a baby cobra, were captured for study.

"The main problem areas encountered during

the survey were the refugee villages," stated Evans. These villages consist of temporary thatched hut structures.

There are no permanent sanitation facilities and the living areas abound with lice and fleas. Depressions fill with stagnant water - perfect breeding grounds for disease carrying mosquito larvae.

Standing water sites in or around the villages received liberal doses of Batex, a powerful insecticide. Living areas were thoroughly dusted with insecticides designed to kill off fleas and lice.

Corpsmen attached to the CAPs received indoctrination in preventive medicine measures they could maintain in the field. Rat traps and limited amounts of insecticide were distributed among the CAPs for control of the insect and rodent population in their areas.

Upon their return to Red Beach, the PMS ran tests on water samples and specimens gathered during the nine-day outing. Observations and findings were compiled and submitted to 1st CAG along with recommendations for improvement.

The battle against diseases is not to be taken lightly. Diseases are the second largest casualty producing factor in the RVN. PLC's Preventive Medicine Section has been established to control and, when possible, eradicate this casualty producer.



Chief Evans is starting a mighty mite back-pack blower unit utilized for the spreading of insecticides.



Insecticide is being spread on standing water sites - depressions that fill with water.



Dirt and rock make their way into the mouth of the crusher.

**Story And Photos By
1LT David G. Spoolstra**

Rock Quarry Reopened

Extract Rock For Roads

45TH ENGR GP - An abandoned rock quarry at Phu Loc, south of Hue, has been reopened by the 591st Engineer Company and elements of the 27th Engineer Battalion, 18th Engineer Brigade.

The quarry, which had

previously been used by Navy Seabees, was reopened to provide more rock required for the Lines of Communication road building program, which is scheduled for completion in 1971.

After engineers from the

14th's Company A reworked the perimeter defenses and living quarters, 591st quarry section moved to the site.

Directed by First Lieutenant Thomas Steele of Spokane, Wash., and Sergeant First Class Wilbur Watson of LaVerns, S.C., one team began the carefully spaced drilling to extract the rock, while another began erecting the 75 ton-per-hour crusher.

Just 11 days after preparations began, rock started flowing through the plant.

To extract the rock and make it useable for road construction a rockdrill first bores a hole into the earth. The pattern of the holes is calculated to shatter the rock to workable size. The drilled holes are packed with an explosive and primed for action.

Earth heaves upward when the dynamite is detonated. The resulting blast of rock and dirt is fed into the rock crusher, which separates the two materials and reduces the rock to a size suitable for use in making asphalt mix or a road base.



A track mounted rock drill bores a hole into the earth before dynamite charges are set.

Railroads Advancing

Helps Civilians; Government



This Vietnamese child clutches the candy bars which he found in a candy hunt with his sponsor, Airman 1st Class Ronald E. Becker of Dayton, Ohio, during recent "Dad for a Day" activities at the Eastside Red Cross Center in Cam Ranh Bay.

(USAF PHOTO By: A1C Mike Granger)

Labor For Library

1ST SIG BDE -- A truck load of signalmen and a case of beer was all Warrant Officer Walter L. Daniel needed recently to get a foundation partially dug for a Vietnamese library.

Daniel, adjutant of the 369th Signal Battalion, took his volunteer help to the Trang-Nguyen-Han High School, Vung Tau, after learning that the first stages of work on the library were critical because of the coming rains.

He told his labor crew that he would provide the refreshments during their work on the library. The result was that the VC Hill men completed more work in one Saturday morning than construction workers had completed in two weeks.

The school was built last year, in part with 1st Signal Brigade Civic Action Funds, for the dependents of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces RVNAF Signal School.

Ground was broken April 10th for the library, which is also being funded by 1st Signal Brigade Civic Action Funds and by donations collected by the chaplain of the 369th, Chaplain (Major) Anthony Dyba.

The library labor was difficult, and many of the volunteer workers nursed blisters to prove it.

Holes had to be dug through the layers of rock and sand four feet deep and four feet square. Digging the holes was no easy

task since the layers of rock had to be broken up the hard way, with picks, sledge hammers and a lot of sweat.

Daniel remarked that the day was such a success that his men have volunteered for another work day at the library.

NPFF Responsible

Enemy Kept Out

VPS -- The Republic of Vietnam's National Police Field Force (NPFF), 5th Battalion, is now responsible for the interception of enemy units attempting to infiltrate Saigon from the city's more rural areas.

Last fall Saigon's Police Chief called in the NPFF to fill gaps in the city's perimeter defenses as U.S. troops began leaving the RVN. Although Vietnamese Army regulars have now replaced U.S. units around the outside of the city, combat units are not allowed into the city itself under the RVN Constitution.

NPFF personnel, whose usual role is to conduct police operations in insecure areas, receive eight weeks of special military training in the use of light infantry weapons.

Two platoons of Viet Cong were the first to discover the effectiveness of these paramilitary policemen when

USASC -- In a war known for its technological innovations, airmobile concepts and computerized logistics, few have noticed another means by which the war effort has been aided.

It's almost as old as America itself--the long-forgotten, old-fashioned train. Carrying both people and freight, the Vietnamese National Railway Service (VNRS) is fitting into modern warfare.

Still operating on a comparatively small scale, the railroad has made definite advancements and offers possibilities of helping Vietnamese civilians and the government as well.

The VNRS was established in 1953 with French assistance. The 800 miles of rail began in Saigon and followed its present course through Bien Hoa, Honai, Song Mao, Qui Nhon, Phu Cat, and Da Nang.

In 1959 the VNRS encountered problems which resulted in a discontinuance of service. The problems were a combination of enemy activity and natural causes. A high level of enemy interdiction made travel by rail difficult and undependable. Flooding also caused extensive track damage.

The track is currently operational from Saigon to Honai. Approximately 6,000 short tons of freight and thousands of passengers are carried over the route in an average month.

The Honai section of railroad resumed service in June of 1968. It was renovated by the 92nd Engineer Detachment, which re-laid the road bed. The road is managed by the 402nd Transportation Company, part of the 4th Transportation Command.

Hauling strictly freight, the railway carries supplies to the Long Binh Army Depot's 208 supply yard from the depot's old location in Saigon.

The security measures taken to protect the train and its passengers have had much to do with the amount of business it has enjoyed. An armored train leaves Saigon each morning to clear the track for the two passenger trains which follow.

ARVN security guards ride the train.

The first of the two trains which embark from Saigon leaves from the Saigon market and the second from the Phu Nhuan District, near Tan Son Nhut. Each makes five stops before reaching Honai; at Go Vap, Phu Nhuan, Hoa Hung, Di An, and Bien Hoa. All passengers must work at Long Binh in order to ride the train.

Much has been done to make the hour-and-a-half trip from Saigon to Honai more pleasant, including the addition of a dining car. The passenger cars are comfortable, containing cushioned seats with some separate compartments.

The engines are of United States origin, made in Erie, Pa. The cars come from several different countries, including France, Germany, and Australia. An inscription on one car reads, "Given to the people of Vietnam by the people of Australia."

"The conditions for safety surrounding the train are 100 per cent better than they were," said Mr. W.M. Giggs, depot safety officer. "With the help of Saigon Support Command we have given lectures to the bus drivers carrying the Vietnamese out to the train. There is a larger number of Military Police out there now keeping things operating smoothly."

The past two years have seen great strides made in the operation of the railroad. It has relieved other modes of transportation while giving the Republic of Vietnam new resources in the task of building a strong nation.

Wet Marines Give Ice Cream Reward

1ST MAW -- Two Marines got an unwelcome bath in the South China Sea and the Vietnamese Navy gained two friends and 12 gallons of ice cream.

Action began when First Lieutenant Robert J. Cecka of Chicago, Ill., and First Lieutenant Gary K. Bruce of Bourbon, Kan., were forced to eject from their F-4B Phantom recently.

The two aviators, from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, managed to guide their Phantom out over the water before ejecting.

"We were spotted floating by a Vietnamese Navy Gunboat and they reached us after we had spent only about half an hour in the water," commented Cecka, the pilot of the downed aircraft.

"We heard that the

time-honored tradition concerning sea rescues, is for the aviators to give the ship's crew ice cream," Cecka recalled.

When the two Marines returned to their squadron they set out to honor the tradition.

"We had no trouble getting the ice cream, but we felt a little silly climbing aboard a C-117 with 12 gallons of it and a 150 pound block of ice to keep it cold," the pilot said.

When their plane landed in Dong Ha, the Marines made arrangements with the Army to fly the ice cream to the ship by helicopter.

"The crew was thrilled to get the ice cream but actually they couldn't have been much happier to see it than we were to see them on our first meeting," Cecka concluded.



While other Republic of Vietnam airmen watch, VNAF Warrant Officer Nguyen Hien Bau teaches Staff Sergeant Nguyen Van Lien how to use a fire hose. WO Bau is chief of the base fire station, which has been turned over to the VNAF.

(USAF PHOTO By: Sgt William F. Diebold)

Firemen Take Over

7AF -- Republic of Vietnam Air Force VNAF firemen at this base have taken over fire fighting and crash recovery responsibilities through a joint VNAF-U.S. Air Force training program which is under way at five other bases in the Republic of Vietnam as well.

This base's training program was the first to begin and is the most advanced. In charge of training are USAF Staff Sergeants Joseph Anderson and James D. Woodward, both of the 327th Combat Support Squadron.

Anderson explained that the program began Oct 15. "We started with crew chief and driver training," he remarked.

The goal was to bring the Vietnamese airmen up to USAF three and five skill level standards. The first phase of training was completed in December.

In January, 25 VNAF recruits were assigned, "Our job was to make firemen out of them," Anderson said. Almost all three-level instruction has been completed and soon will be followed by five-level training.

Currently, 76 VNAF firemen work out of two stations. Their chief is VNAF Warrant Officer Nguyen Hien Bau, a veteran of 15 years as a fireman who also is writing three-level training guides for use at other bases in the Republic.



BUNKER BUNNY SEZ,

"I may not be a digger, but I'm certainly an Aussie, and I *would* dig having you come to visit my home, Sydney. It's the oldest and largest city in Australia, and one of the leading opportunities for an R&R. You big, strong Yanks will enjoy yourselves here because the hospitality is second to none. A lot of Australians have thrown open their homes to visiting Americans by registering with the R&R Hospitality Service in the Chevron Hotel; through this facility the Australian American Association can make arrangements for you to spend a few days with an Australian family on their ranch...riding horses, working with cattle, hunting, fishing, or maybe even prospecting. If you're one of the night people, Sydney has a string of restaurants specializing in everything from Dutch, Indian, and French cuisine to the spicier Italian and Spanish dishes. And there are stadium concerts by pop groups, cabaret appearances by name entertainers, and a wide choice of night clubs and lounges. Merchandise from all over the world is available, but local products such as opals, boomerangs, kangaroos skins, stuffed koala bears, wood carvings, and Australian wools are among the most popular buys."

(Photo courtesy of Mirror Newspapers Limited, Sydney)

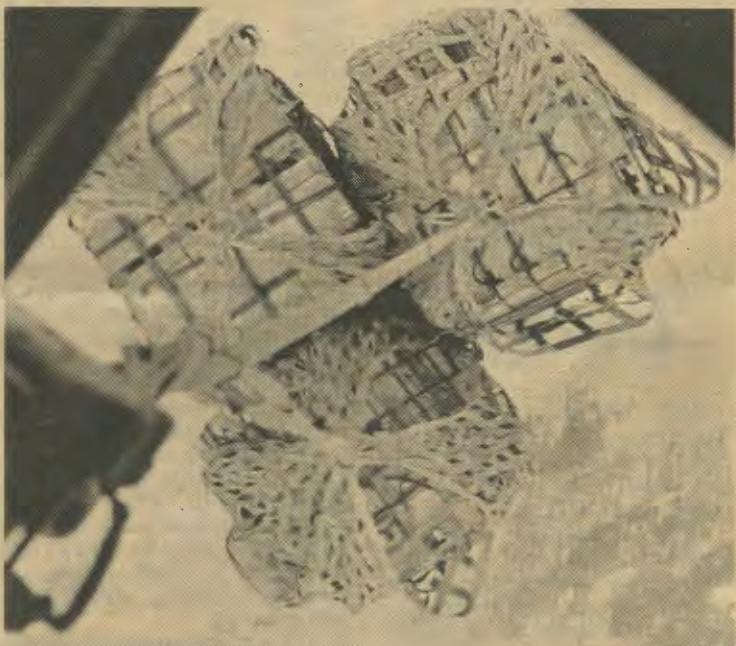
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



'Photo Quiz'

Wearing protective headgear when on a motorbike not only is good sense; it is required by MACV Directive 58-3. Don't let bad roads and congested traffic throw you, but if they do you'll be glad you wore your "hard hat." Now see if you can identify the following photos.



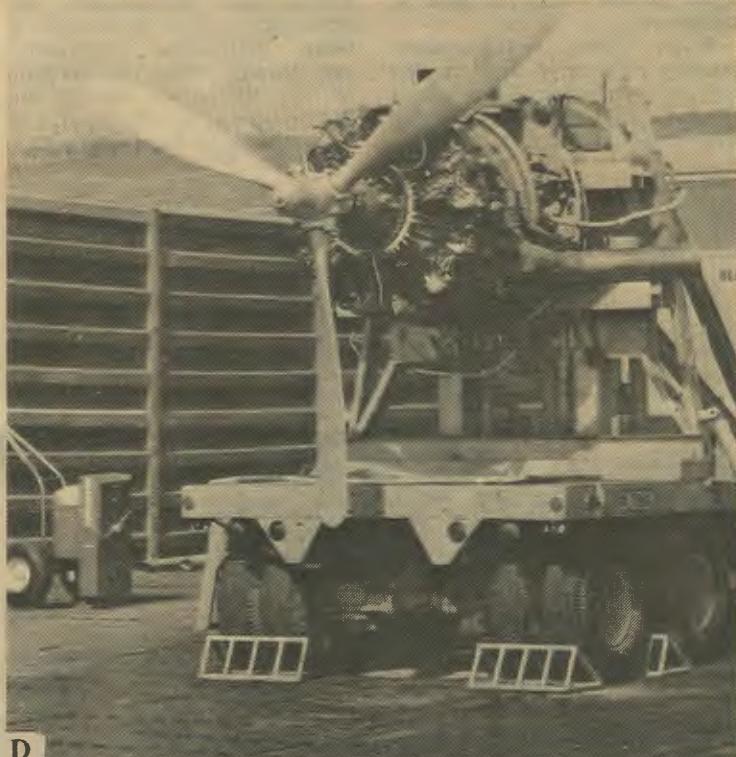
A



B



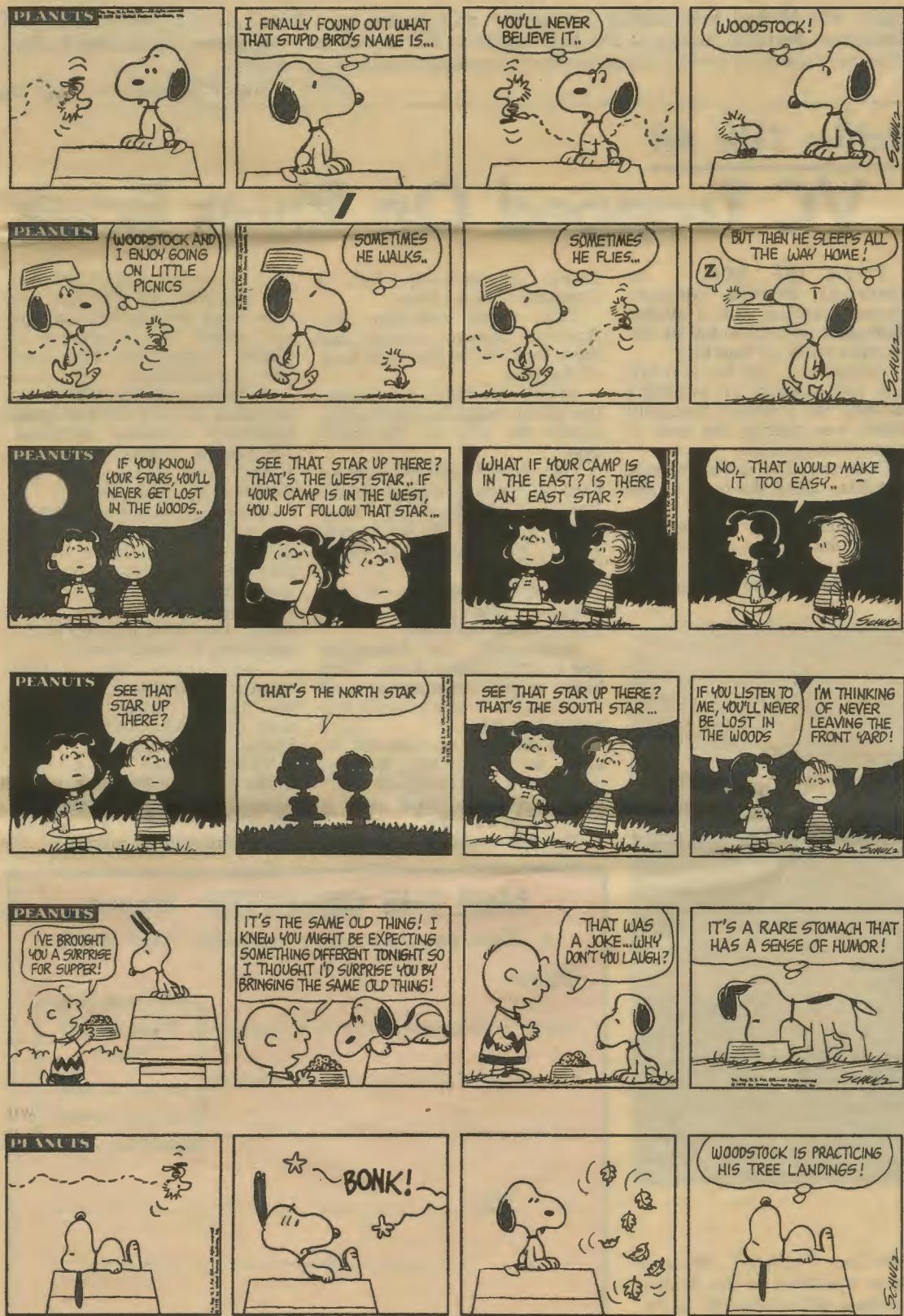
C



D

Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



(A) Swinging high above the ground, a load of ammo is being transported to a firebase for eventual delivery to the enemy. (B) Night time measurement of cloud ceilings has a weatherman taking up and installing quick engine change kits on reciprocating engines for EC-47 Skytrains. (C) A front-end loader is being kept busy by transporting barbed wire. (D) This mobile reciprocating engine trailer is used to test the local build up and installation of quick engine change kits on reciprocating engines for EC-47 Skytrains.

Getting the Message Across

7TH PSYOP BN — The Army three quarter ton truck with a loudspeaker and amplifier system stopped at the National Police building for Phu Loc District, Thua Thien province. A slight Vietnamese dressed in sports clothes walked out and got in the truck. Ngo Nien,

Pilot Won't 'Budge'

1ST MAW — A Marine helicopter pilot didn't budge an inch when enemy soldiers crept to within 30 meters of his hovering aircraft.

First Lieutenant David S. Legas of Great Falls, Mont., was flying an emergency recon extract mission with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM).

A recon team in Elephant Valley, about 15 miles northwest of Da Nang, had suffered a casualty while in contact with the enemy and an extract was requested.

Over the zone, Legas had gunships lay a smoke screen between the recon team and the enemy. He then dropped into a hover over the triple-canopy jungle and lowered a hoist.

As the hoist was being lowered, the enemy flanked the smoke screen and began moving up on the rear of the aircraft.

Not wishing to endanger the wounded Marine, Legas had his gunners hold their fire.

As the injured man was being hoisted up, Legas had to maneuver several times to get him through the jungle growth without further injury.

When the casualty was safely aboard, the enemy opened up with small arms and automatic weapons fire from less than 30 meters away.

With both machineguns pouring suppressive fire on the enemy, the chopper lifted out of the zone and headed toward the nearest medical facility.

Assistant Chief of the Vietnamese Information Service (VIS) for the district, carried a folder of typed pages.

A few miles down Highway No. 1 the truck pulled into Loc Hai village and a black clad VIS village representative, Trong Cao Dong, came out of a small office. The two Americans in the truck immediately set up their loudspeaker system and the VIS village representative started broadcasting from the script the District Assistant Chief had brought along. The messages concerned the up coming elections and the GVN's efforts to remove Vietnamese refugees from Cambodia. The broadcast lasted fifteen minutes then the truck moved 100 meters down the village street and the broadcast was repeated.

For the combat loudspeaker teams of Detachment 4, located at Phu Bai, this is a twice a week mission. Detachment 4 has been working with VIS for two months and it is a definite step toward Vietnamization according to First Lieutenant Thomas Hawks, detachment commander.

VIS is an information service designed to inform the people of what the GVN is doing and tell them the local and national news. Before PSYOPS and VIS started working together the VIS program was almost solely limited to handing out leaflets. Each village has a VIS representative who is a member of the village. These representatives do the actual broadcasting from scripts written by the VIS headquarters. The representatives broadcasting in their own villages increases the credibility of the information. Most of the VIS personnel are ex-ARVN soldiers who have been wounded and released from the Army.

"Sometimes the VIS people bring a group of girls along to sing between messages which is always an attention grabber," said SP4 Michael End, combat loudspeaker team leader.

"All too often when Americans broadcast, the information is not as credible as when Vietnamese broadcast," said Hawks. "The combination of the VIS news service and Psyops equipment makes everyone profit from this work."



Right, SP4 Michael End, combat loudspeaker team leader, from Detachment 4, 7th Psychological Operations Battalion located at Phu Bai, watches as Huynh Van Sat, Vietnamese Information Services Representative from Loc Tu Village broadcasts messages from a prepared script.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Walter Harrison)

Rallier Tells All

VC Trapped On River Bank

196TH INF. BDE — An American Division company recently teamed with a Marine Helicopter gunship to kill six VC 15 miles north of Tam Ky.

Company C, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf, had the mission of providing security for a Marine company which was clearing the area of enemy hiding places.

Company C's 1st Platoon was patrolling along the bank of the Truong Giang River.

"Suddenly this VC jumped out of the bushes and ran up, shouting 'Chieu Hoi, Chieu Hoi,'" said Sergeant William S.

Lloyd, of Greenville, S.C., a Company C squad leader.

The rallier informed the American Division soldiers that there were VC on the other bank of the river.

After extracting the rallier, the patrol began to thoroughly search the area by the river's edge.

"We found several bunkers built all along the edge of the river," said Specialist Four James E. Byrd of Ducktown, Tenn., "so we started to check them out."

Closer investigation of one yielded several pounds of rice hidden under the roof.

Encouraged, the Americans dug a little further down. They began to pull the grass on top of the bunker, it came up in big, neatly cut sods.

"As we took up one sod, we saw a built up bunker underneath containing six VC," continued Byrd, "they were as surprised as we were."

The discovered VC began to

lob Chinese Communist grenades and fire their AK 47 rifles. The Americans quickly returned fire and sealed off all avenues of escape. Temporarily both sides were at a standstill.

A Marine gunship which was providing security for a resupply helicopter appeared overhead. The Charlie "Tigers" made radio contact with the gunship and explained the situation.

After completing his mission, the gunship returned and raked the VC bunker. Three of the occupants tried to shoot their way out, but the Americans held their ground and cut them down. The firing ended and the remaining VC were silent.

Cautiously the patrol approached the bunker to assess the damage. Inside three VC were dead; three more sprawled lifeless on the outside.

Three AK-47 rifles were found in the rubble along with several Chinese Communist grenades and a satchel containing medical supplies.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

(12 cents 1st class)

(20 cents Airmail)

TO:



Marine Gunners

Lance Corporal James F. Maahs, of Farmington, Mich., and Private First Class Thomas C. Myers of Rivera Md., fire on a suspected enemy position while participating in an operation in the Arizona Territory, 17 miles southwest of Da Nang. Maahs and Myers are both members of Company H, 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division.

(USMC PHOTO By: CPL G. N. Zimmerman)