

# 'Big Bertha' Clears Path, Saves APC

AMERICAL DIV - You don't have to see her to know she's coming. The tremor begins in a small way, and then the vibrations increase until all 56 tons of "Big Bertha" have come and gone.

"Big Bertha" is a nickname for the M-88, which is the largest steel-treaded vehicle in the AMERICAL Division. Although she's primarily used to extract crippled tanks and armored personnel carriers, the giant lady of steel can and does go where other tracks dare not tread.

"Last year our own M-88 cleared a path for other tracks right through a mine field," says Chief Warrant Officer Norbert Shula (El Campo, Texas), an automotive maintenance technician for 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, AMERICAL Division. "On that occasion the M-88 was

out to recover a medium tank whose tread has been snapped by a hundred pound mine."

As "Big Bertha" moved out with the disabled tank through rice paddies west of Tam Ky another mine exploded. Before the next rice-paddy dike, two more surprise explosions rocked her.

"The same type of explosions had snapped the tread on the tank in tow, but our M-88 hauled on," says Shula. "Other tanks and APC's in the squadron rolled along safely behind in single file."

Specialist Four Alfred Drake (Elk View, W. Va.), drives the M-88 almost daily for the squadron maintenance section, 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. He controls the mass of power lying hidden beneath an inch-thick skin of steel.

2835NP614992  
"Early this year I pulled an APC out of a large underground cystem," says Drake. "It was an area thick with brush northwest of Tam Ky-so thick that the APC's crew never saw the well before falling in. When our crew got there I couldn't even see the track, until I got next to the edge."

"All 14 tons of that APC were below ground level, but we pulled it straight up the sides of the well," Drake continues. It took less than 15 minutes. No sweat."

The 56 ton "Big Bertha" creates highways that even Army engineers don't know about. "She goes almost anywhere, and she can hit 46 miles on hour on a smooth straight-a-way," Drake adds enthusiastically. "The ride is surprisingly smooth...a lot of bothersome bumps go flat under the M-88."

FIRST IN VIETNAM

# THE OBSERVER

Vol. 9, No. 25

Saigon, Vietnam

October 23, 1970

## Viet Plotters 'Pro's'

7AF - "The Vietnamese may have to use a stepladder to reach the top of the plotting board, but they're filling the shoes of taller airmen who used to man the center," explains Lt. Col. Webster English. English was the last USAF adviser with the direct air support center (IV DASC), which officially came under total VNAF control Aug. 31. He is now finishing out his assignment in Vietnam with the Seventh Air Force at Tan Son Nhut Air Base outside Saigon.

## PMO Brings On Graymarket Blues

USAHAC -- It's getting to be almost impossible now-a-days for a guy to make a dishonest buck! And the blackmarket is taking on a tinge of gray, due mainly to the efforts of the Provost Marshal Office, U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command in Saigon. A recently-initiated computerized commodity control program is responsible, cutting deeply into the flow of illegal rationed items to the nefarious market places.

Since its inception eight months ago, the complex computer has made it relatively simple for the PMO to quickly expose personnel who have exceeded their ration limit. Dubbed the "Ration Card Offender Identification System (RCOIS)," it provides the USAHAC Provost Marshal and the MACV Comptroller with accurate and timely information on rationed items purchased at Vietnam Regional Exchanges in the Saigon area. To date, it is the only system of its kind in all of Vietnam.

The computerized file is comprised of records of all individuals who have purchased rationed items, such as radios, tape recorders, cameras, and other types of similar equipment. These records are maintained on magnetic tape in the purchaser's name and are up-dated throughout the year. The tapes reveal the names of individuals whose purchases have exceeded the prescribed limit of rationed items. In addition, the file can be readily checked for information on specific items. This makes it possible for exchange personnel to gauge the popularity of individual products.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Comrade, please pass the Tropic Lightning News," the conversation must have gone. Gone before troopers of the 25th Infantry Division moved in to retrieve their newspapers, that is. Seems like Charlie had cached away 20 copies of a late issue of the unit paper along with an assortment of more deadly war materiel-indicating a switch from the old run-of-the-Communist-mill propaganda. "Besides taking away his supplies," comments Specialist 4 Bill Lane, the paper's editor, "we deprived Charlie of the best reading material he's had in a long time!"

"The Vietnamese are as professional as any team I've ever worked with," the 43-year-old Winston-Salem, N.C., native comments. "They stack up with the best. The only qualm I had when I left the center was that I was leaving my Vietnamese friends. There was, and still is, no doubt in my mind as to their professional competence."

Persons who have been to Can Tho probably pass the IV DASC dozens of times without noticing it, or realizing its importance to the over-all air war effort. But operations conducted therein affect the life of every Allied troop in the Delta. "In Military Region 4 anything that gets more than six feet off the ground comes under its control," a former adviser explains.

Operations involving fighter-bombers and gunships center on pre-planned strikes and troops-in-contact support. Pre-planned missions begin with a request from an Allied army company or battalion or from information gained from reconnaissance photos. These missions are usually planned the day before the strike.

Troops-in-contact support can occur any time. During such an event, pre-planned strikes are often diverted. When no strike aircraft are in flight nearby, the center will "scramble" fighters from the base nearest the action.

The center has no radar, so radio communication becomes all-important. The voice contacts are with troops in the field and forward air controllers (FACs). Once the decisions have been made, actual strikes are handled by Paddy Control - the radar center for the area that directs strike missions.

"They're the eyes and ears of the delta," English says. "They know where aircraft are at all times, and how best to vector the strike aircraft to meet with the Vietnamese FACs who actually control the mission."



Vietnamese Airman First Class Nguyen Van Tho plots inbound aircraft returning from a mission, marking the course of the aircraft on the large plotting board in Paddy Control at Binh Thuy Air Base. (USAF Photo by TSgt Harold Giffin)

## INSIDE . . .

VIETNAMESE NAVY	2
DAY OFF	3
UNITED NATIONS	4
DELTA LINK	5
RVN TV	6&7
MORALE	8
NEW SCHOOL	9
SPORTSCENE	10
COMICS	11
BORMAN SPEECH	12



# Vietnamese Navy Takes Larger Maintenance Role

ATSB SONG ONG DOC -- "RPG-62 is showing what the Vietnamese Navy can do and will do to take care of their own boats and keep them operating on the Rivers," says QM1 (ss) Joseph E. Bourassa, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the River Patrol Group. "The Vietnamese have come a long way since they first took over these boats, in learning to maneuver them, to operate and care for the guns, and to make engine repairs and perform preventive maintenance."

Vietnamese Patrol Group 62

was formed June 30, when the twenty River Patrol Boats (PRBs) of Americal River Divisions 554 and 572 were turned over under the ACTOV program, the Accelerated Turnover of US Navy Assets to the Vietnamese Navy.

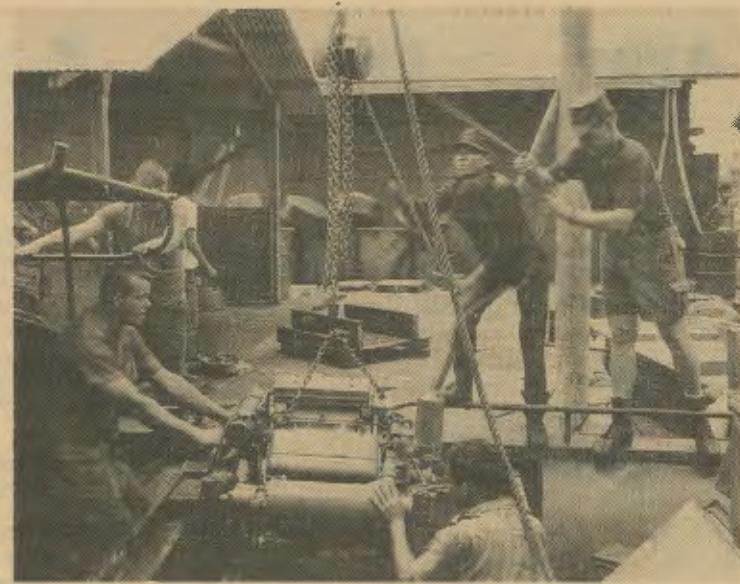
After the turnover, approximately ten men from each RivDiv stayed behind to become advisors to the RPG. Those who stayed continued to do the same jobs they had done for the RivDivs, while training the Vietnamese to take over their jobs. They did the work

and explained to their counterparts just what they were doing; later the advisors and Vietnamese were working side-by-side. Now the Vietnamese do the work and the advisors just advise them as to the easiest and best ways to do it. Of course there is a lot of work to keeping the boats up, so the advisors always lend a hand where it is needed.

RGP-62 runs around-the-clock patrols on the Ong Don River every day. The Vietnamese Navymen have had to learn everything about the PRBs including maintenance, under actual combat conditions.

At first, major repairs had to be done on the LST stationed near the mouth of the river, in the Gulf of Thailand. Recently the Vietnamese built their own repair shops on one of the barges that make up the ATSB (Advanced Tactical Support Base.) They have installed a boom which enables them to remove a complete engine. Said Engineman First Class Bobby H. Keith, maintenance advisor.

"We pulled our first engine and replaced it with a new one sent down from the LST. We were going to send the old one back, since it needed a complete overhaul; but Thieu Uy Minh, the Maintenance Officer, said 'no.' He wanted to overhaul it here so that his men could learn all the parts and how they work together. We had to get a lot of parts from the LST, but all the work was done right here. Right now that engine is in another PRB out on patrol. So far we've pulled five engines, and either replaced them with new ones or repaired them and put them back."



U.S. Navy Advisors assist Vietnamese Navymen to install the 1600-pound engine. (USN PHOTO By: PH2 J. Chesnut)

## Chu Lai Changes Hands

AMERICAL DIV -- The former Chu Lai Air Base today officially became the Chu Lai Army Air Field -- one of the largest U.S. Army airfields in the world. The change occurred when the immense airfield complex was transferred from the U.S. Marines to the Americal Division.

In a short ceremony, Colonel L. J. Stien, marine base commander, turned the "key" over to Lieutenant Colonel Jasper L. Myers, the new deputy airfield commander. The new Commander is Colonel B. S. Silver, 16th combat aviation group commander.

Col Myers thanked Col Stien on behalf of the Americal Division for cooperation and assistance during the change-over period.

The 362nd Aviation

Detachment, attached to the 16th CAG, will operate the complete complex except Air Freight and the Weather Station, both the responsibility of the U.S. Air Force. Fighter support will come from other parts of the 1st Military Region.

The history of the air base goes back to March 1965, when the Marines landed on the Chu Lai beach and secured an area for the Sea Bees to build a runway that after completion, was 4,000 feet long. Since then, two more runways have been added and lengthened so that today, 240,000 feet of airstrip, taxiways and ramps criss-cross the Americal air base. The ample facilities, with the Americal man-power, should be able to handle the heaviest of traffic for the largest division in the Army.



This young Vietnamese girl doesn't seem to mind the fact that her ice cream has become soggy in the hot sun. As part of the recent Mid-Autumn Children's Festival in the Republic of Vietnam, the Airman's Open Mess here distributed 5,000 ice cream cones to Vietnamese children on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. (USAF PHOTO By: Sgt John Gundersdorf)

## 'Point Man' Can Be Harrowing Experience

198TH INF BDE -- "I thought my time was up," related an Americal Division infantryman, after he had tripped a VC booby trap. But his nerve-racking experience was just beginning.

The booby trap made a mere popping sound and failed to go off, but Sergeant Byron McConaughey, Bonner Springs, Kan., point man for the second platoon of Company C, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, saw that the well concealed trap had a time delay fuse on it. He realized that it could still go off.

"I told everyone to get back because I didn't know how big the booby trap was at the time," Sgt McConaughey said. "Since I had found the booby trap the hard way, I thought I had better do something about it before it blew up in my face."

McConaughey unscrewed the timing device, which also contained a blasting cap and a primer from a rifle round, and calmly threw it to the side of the trail.

"I then looked to see what kind of booby trap it was and I found an 82mm mortar round buried near the trail," he said. "The trip wire was no more than a vine which had been attached to a pin on the timing device."

Another scare was thrown into the platoon when the men were preparing demolitions to blow the trap in place. The

blasting cap on the timing device finally went off just about 15 minutes after the vine had been tripped.

"That really frightened me when I realized that the thing actually worked," said McConaughey.

The platoon blew the artillery round in place and continued moving toward their destination with McConaughey, still walking point, a bit unnerved perhaps but still walking steady according to the other platoon members.

### Parcel Post Rate Increase

Effective 14 Nov 70, the parcel post rates charged at all post offices, civil and military, will be increased by 15.4%. All personnel are encouraged to mail early during the Christmas mailing season to take advantage of the savings in parcel post cost prior to 14 Nov 70.

Mortar and artillery pits become rain-soaked, and baseplates and GVW trails smack the earth with each round they fire. They may have to be reset in position many times a day.

Tracked vehicles become mired in fields and stream crossings. Armored cavalry elements resemble trains as they work their way through marshy areas with vehicles in tow.

The monsoons are a time for harder work and more suffering.

But the infantry suffers most of all.

For them, grassy hills become slick-sided behemoths trying to shake them off to slide back to the valleys. Mountainous jungles spawn legions of leeches which attach themselves to footsoldiers' legs at every opportunity.

Rice fields become quagmires, with a foot of clinging, sucking mud lying beneath another foot of brown water.

But the infantry marches on, web gear and rucksacks weighted down with absorbed water, ammunition water-beaded, weapons rusting in a matter of hours.

At dusk, the infantryman can look forward to lying on wet ground or a wet air mattress if he's lucky, covered with a wet poncho liner beneath a wet poncho shelter, standing guard in a foxhole knee-deep in water.

And it happens every day, until the line company goes back to its base to pull bunker security or returns all the way to Chu Lai for stand down -- three days of floor shows, movies, barbecues and beer and sodas -- dry bunks under a dry roof.

For three days, the line soldiers visit the PX and concessions shops, make MARS calls to the States or visit service clubs at the base.

On the last night of stand down the activity reaches a climax, with them often staying up far into the night talking, invisible except for the occasional red glow of a cigarette.

Their comments are punctuated with the PSSHHT of tapped beer or soda cans.

"When I get out," one says, "I'm gonna love the rain."

"How's that?" another asks.

"I'll be able to come in out of it any time I want."

"There it is," says a third.

And there they are -- soldiers in the rain.



### MEDICAL AID

Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Harry Morgan Jr., cleanses a scrape on the leg of a small Vietnamese girl as her father holds her and neighboring children look on.

(USMC PHOTO By: PVT Jonas S. McClain)

## Easy Day-off

1ST MARINE DIV -- Only a short time ago he had been sloshing his way through mid-calf-deep rice paddy water, working his way carefully through a treeline, knowing it was infested with enemy surprise firing devices, any of which could maim or kill. He knew a constant, growing feeling that he could only identify as fear.

Today, he was with a young child, grinning as if the child were his own.

He experienced the strange feeling that Da Nang, home of the 1st Marine Div command post, just didn't fit in with his conception of how people lived in a war zone.

On this day-off from field work, he sampled the easier life: hamburgers and cold beer at the Freedom Hill Recreation Center, an air conditioned movie and walking around without the necessary rifle, flak jacket and helmet he carried as a second skin in the field.

He followed the stream of men from the movie to the Red Cross Center. Something was happening there, he didn't know what.

Feeling paranoid about being in a building with so many other people who had no outward concern about being bunched together, as he did in the "bush," he mingled with the

crowd.

A little Vietnamese child came up to him, looking as if she wanted something. She pointed to the ice cream bucket she was unable to reach.

Quickly fishing two strawberry ice creams from the bucket, he offered one to the girl. He turned to find a seat and found the girl standing before him with questioning eyes. At last he smiled and with a sweep of his arms, he carried the young girl onto his lap.

Both silently ate their treat while watching the many Marines eagerly entertaining the young guests from the orphanage.

The girl knew her "ABCs" and recited them as far as she could go, and then counted to ten for her big effort. He grinned and laughed. They both were over the nervousness of their meeting.

Lost in their own world, the combat Marine, battle-wise yet apprehensive before a young girl, and the girl communicated without words.

"Cahm un Omb" -- Vietnamese meaning, "thank you, sir," was about all he understood clearly when she had to go.

## Medical Trainees

101ST ABN DIV -- In the spirit of Vietnamization, units of the 101st Aviation Group, have combined their resources in an effort to assist the Vietnamese in several stages of their preparation as medics.

Working primarily in Vinh Loc District, southeast of Hue, elements of the 159th Avn Bn, 101st Avn Bn and Headquarters Company, are currently

operating a MEDCAP program that promises to provide the Vietnamese with valuable classroom instruction and on-the-job medical training.

Formal training, given in the dispensary at Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) District Headquarters in Vinh Loc, is the responsibility of Captain Frederic Eck of Shavertown, Pa., 159th Avn Bn Flight Surgeon. Here, under the guidance of medical personnel from the 159th, Vietnamese about to become medics are taught basic medical skills such as preventive medicine, sanitation and personal hygiene.

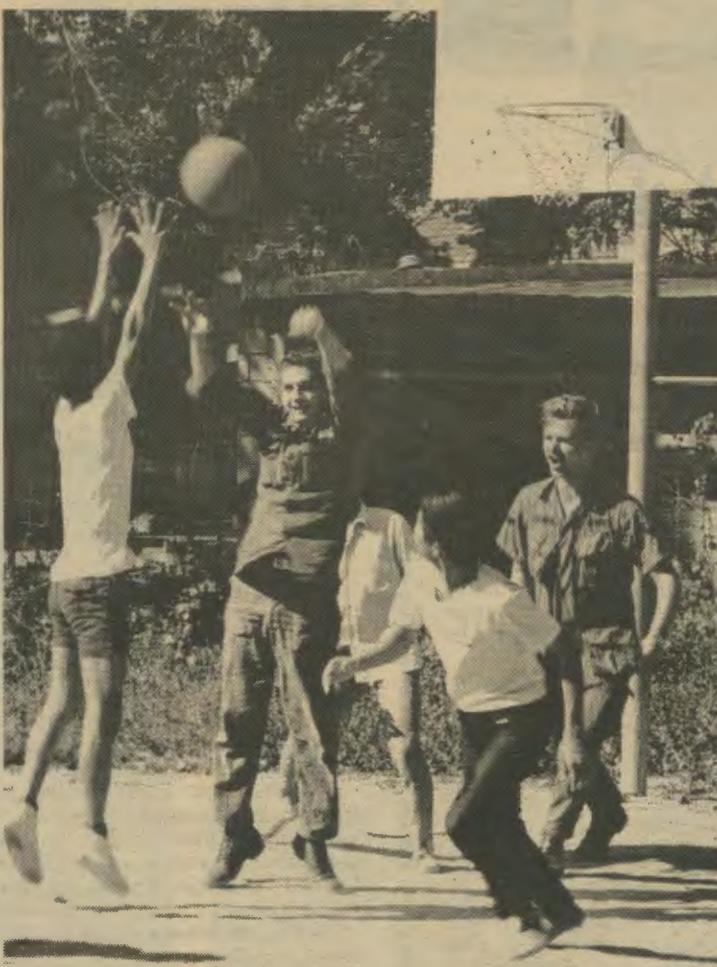
The Vietnamese medical trainees are then taken on MEDCAPs where they receive practical experience in the field, assisted by the doctors and medics.

"Some of them are quite good," Specialist 4 Bruce Mitchell, a medic from Oklahoma City, Okla., said of the Vietnamese he has worked with on MEDCAPs conducted by Headquarters Company.

"It is not our policy, however, to introduce sophisticated medical treatment. Since a good portion of our work involves treatment of minor burns, skin infections and cuts, we try to give them the training they'll use most."

Captain Dwight Walhood of Bakersfield, Calif., 101st Avn Group S-5, is responsible for the MEDCAPs conducted in Vinh Hai, Vinh Loc District. He agrees with Mitchell. "We place most of our emphasis on sanitation and personal hygiene. The program is successful for the simple reason that we train medics in the skills they'll have the most opportunity to use."

"Taking the Vietnamese with us on MEDCAPs," Walhood said, "gives us a chance not only to assist them in the preliminary stages of their preparation, but also to observe, first hand, the results of that training."



### CHALLENGED

A student of Truong Vinh Ky High School in Phan Rang City attempts a jump shot over the head of Airman 1st Class Ronald G. Schwartz of Tracy, California. Members of the high school recently challenged members of the 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron to a basketball game and beat the airmen 50-10.

(USAF PHOTO By: SGT Harry Watts)

## Education Built With Nails

17TH COMBAT AVN GP -- The families of a refugee settlement on the western outskirts of Pleiku opened a new primary school recently with the help of American civic action. The tin and tarpaper shacks which have sprung up there over the past few years have become the homes of 100 Vietnamese families who had abandoned all they owned fleeing Viet Cong terrorism. The poor families made their living in Pleiku by subsistence farming and sporadic jobs as day laborers.

Because of their extreme poverty the refugees could not even think of building a school for their children. The already overtaxed Pleiku school system could not accept the needy newcomers. Then members of the Christian Missionary Alliance notified the Civic Action section of the 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion, of the need. The response from Camp Holloway was immediate. The 52nd's units here donated lumber and nails

while a chapel collection helped pay Vietnamese carpenters to construct a school building.

The 361st Aerial Weapons Company donated enough ammunition boxes to build desks and chairs for the students. The 179th Assault Support Helicopter Company painted the three-room school yellow with grey trim.

Operation of the school still posed a problem. The people could not afford to pay the cost. Under the sponsorship of 52nd Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ronald H. Merritt, Ilion, New York, a post-wide appeal for donations was made. Units of the 52nd "Flying Dragons," the 7/17th Air Cavalry "Ruthless Riders," and the 604th Transportation Company answered with a collection which netted \$1,600.

One trooper, Specialist 4 Gary Sanders of the 189th Assault Helicopter Company personally

contributed \$100. Sanders, of Omaha, Nebraska, said of his gift, "I think that as long as we are over here we should try to help these people out." The money was presented to the school administrator, Pastor Nguyen Van Khanh by Merritt and Sanders at a ceremony held at the new Xom Moi school.

The donation will enable the school to operate for a full year without additional aid, making it possible for some 120 children from first through fifth grades to attend classes in three daily shifts.

## Farmers Prosper

IIFFV -- The poverty-stricken farmers of Binh Long Province have long envied the affluent stockmen of neighboring Binh Duong Province.

Now, thanks to the 10th Platoon of the 2nd Civil Affairs Company in An Loc, Binh Long farmers now seem to be on their way to prosperity of their own by raising feed grain for Binh Duong livestock.

The first step in the revitalization of Binh Long agriculture is the planting of a 10-acre demonstration plot of corn, grain, sorghum and peanuts.

"We want them to see it fully-grown so they can understand the final product," said First Lieutenant Curtis D. Hicks of Covington, Ind., the platoon commander.

Hicks is hopeful the next step, a 7,500-acre cooperative that will be organized under the direction of the District Rural Development Chief, can be taken by the first of the year.

Each of the 200 families would have 25 acres on which to plant peanuts, grain and

sorghum in equal parts. To simplify organization, the cooperative then would be divided into 10-family units of 250 acres apiece.

"Each unit would provide its own labor for planting, tilling and cultivation," said Hicks.

Manual labor would have to be used as much as possible, but that would be scant hardship for men who have relied on their arms and hands to bring in crops all their lives.

Their labor would be rewarded by a ready market for their goods. The stockmen of Binh Duong Province recently had to import 500 tons of shelled corn for their animals.

"No feed grain is being produced in this area now and the cooperative would provide it economically yet still make a profit," Hicks said.

For economically-suffering Vietnam the start of the cooperative, the first such joint agricultural undertaking in Binh Duong Province, could act as one more beam to shore up the nation's oldest industry.

# viewing vietnam



The native Vietnamese folk tale which follows originated long ago at the hand of an anonymous author. It has been translated by Major Dao Bich Quang, who wishes to provide a chance for the US soldier to better understand the Vietnamese people. Throughout Southeast Asia, such folk tales are the vehicle by which parents pass their morals and values on to their children. Each little story has an explicit moral or value - stressing the worth of such things as hard work, wisdom, or family unity.

Once there was a wealthy man who loved to eat and was only satisfied with strange and delicious foods. One day, one of his friends called on him. This man was also a connoisseur. Thus, the kitchen of the host was busy for days and they were served appetizing dishes of many different tastes.

At that time, as geese were rare, their flesh was a luxurious food and few people could have them for meals. One day, while passing through the back yard, the host showed his friend a couple of fat geese which were caged there. Eager to entertain, he mentioned that he intended to kill one for the table on the day of his friend's departure.

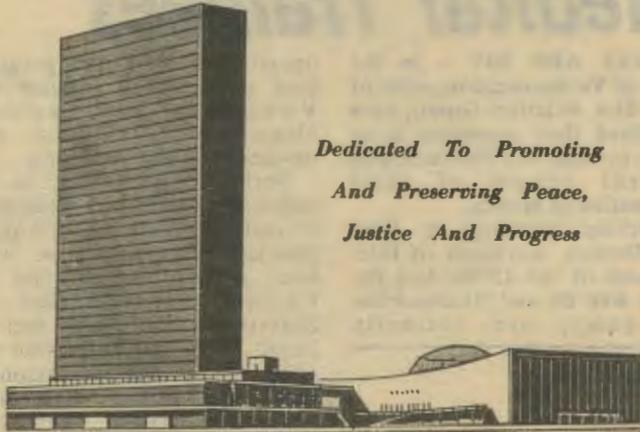
The geese were of course grieved by his promise, as it was a sentence of death for them. That night, they wept and cried bitterly and said good-bye to each other before their moment of separation. As soon as the cock crowed, the gander hurriedly kissed his wife and went directly to the front door of his cage. There, he waited for the cooks to catch and strangle him. Seeing this, his wife begged him to let her take his place. She wanted to sacrifice herself and prevent her husband from being killed. Each of them tried to convince the other until the sun rose over the horizon. This

dispute continued for days in the cage of the geese, but was a deadlock. Finally, they agreed to sleep side by side on an equal footing, swearing that if one of them lived he would eat only vegetables in remembrance of the other.

Their lamentation and discussion were heard by the guest and he came to see them several times. Naturally, he was softened by their display of love for one another.

A few days later, the guest suddenly offered an excuse to go back home. He said also that he did not like the flesh of geese because it had no taste as he had eaten it several times before.

Fortunately, the fabrication of this man saved the lives of the poor geese. To keep their promise, the geese thereafter refused to eat insects and took only cereals and vegetables and slept side by side ever after.



25th Anniversary

## The United Nations . . .

Twenty-five years ago, delegates from 50 nations met in San Francisco to seek a formula that - through international cooperation - would lead to opportunities for a better life in a peaceful world.

From that meeting emerged a charter, ratified Oct. 24, 1945, committing and dedicating the nations to promoting and preserving peace, justice, and progress.

In observance of the 25th anniversary of the United Nations, President Richard Nixon has proclaimed Oct. 24, 1970 "United Nations Day." In so doing, he remarked, "If our UN policies are to be effective, they must engage the attention of a concerned and informed citizenry. We must strive for the greatest possible participation of our population, including the youth of the country, in determining our future participation in the UN."

Accordingly, communities have been urged to contribute to realistic understanding of and support for the United Nations and its associated organizations. Similarly, federal and state governments, and agencies of the communications media have been asked to help encourage observance of UN Day.

Underlying the President's request for citizen concern and participation in observing the founding of the United Nations is his stated desire to "appraise candidly the ability of the UN to achieve fully the aims of its charter; to examine objectively the strengths and weaknesses of the organization; and to search intensely for practical and realistic ways to improve the effectiveness of its agencies." (ANF)

## Watch Eyes, Says Author

Cigarettes and sunglasses are two of the biggest offenders when it comes to disabling vision, according to Army Major Nichols E. Barreca, author of an article "Rose Colored Glasses," which will appear in the November issue of *Army Aviation Digest*.

The major points out that cigarettes irritate the eyes and tinted glasses can distort vision. Optically impure lenses can also have a damaging effect on the eyes.



### Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911)

Joseph Pulitzer was one of America's "giants" of journalism in the late 19th Century. It was he who founded the coveted Pulitzer Prizes as rewards for the best in American fiction, drama, history, biography and various categories of newspaper work.

But, he was more than a philanthropist, although he endowed the School of Journalism at Columbia University and lavished many other great gifts of gratitude upon associates and society. He was a tough newspaper publisher, a hard taskmaster and a pioneer of journalism.

Like many others of his era who rose to fame, Joseph Pulitzer was an immigrant. He was born in Makó, Hungary in April 1847, the son of a wealthy grain merchant of Hungarian and Jewish extraction. His mother was German and a devout Catholic.

Young Pulitzer was induced in 1864, and joined the German language daily newspaper *Westliche Post* as a reporter. A year later, he was elected to the Missouri legislature and gained prominence as a reformer.

# The OBSERVER

FIRST IN VIETNAM

COMUSMACV . . . . . Gen. C.W. Abrams, USA  
Information Officer . . . . . Col. R.W. Leonard, USA  
Chief, Command Information . . . . . LTC. A.J. Nealon, USA

OIC . . . . . Capt. C.F. Burke, USA  
Editor . . . . . SFC R.R. Thomas, USA  
Staff Writer . . . . . PFC E.J. Cielesz, USA  
Staff Writer . . . . . Sp4 R.M. Volkmer, USA  
Composing . . . . . SSgt. C.M.L. Brisebois, USA  
Sports Contributor . . . . . TSgt. C.R. Wills, USAF

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 70,000.

## UP COUNTRY. (WITH THE "RED DEVILS")



O-OH.. GIVE ME A HOME WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM-M...

## Great Americans

Pulitzer bought the St. Louis Dispatch in 1878, and merged it with the Post. Within two years of the merger, he became the paper's sole owner. His St. Louis Post-Dispatch is still a prominent American journal.

In 1883, he purchased the famed New York World for \$364,000 and made it one of the world's most influential newspapers. Three years later, under his critical management, the World's annual earnings surpassed \$500,000. In fact, it was the World he personally molded that made his fame and fortune.

A perfectionist by nature, Joseph Pulitzer was unmerciful with his editors. One of his sayings was, "Accuracy is to a newspaper what virtue is to a woman." He had little regard for those who disregarded accuracy. He hated secrecy in government and politics and it was his intense compulsive drive for honesty and accuracy for all forms of society, including government, that drove his reporters and editors to the brink of despair.

Tremendously influential as a newspaper publisher, Pulitzer vigorously helped to elect officials he favored to government office, and opposed with equal vigor office seekers he did not trust.

As he grew older, his eyesight failed him and he became almost blind, but his personal ambition and interests kept him abreast of events through his newspaper, the World.

Joseph Pulitzer, the Hungarian immigrant whose journalistic career began as a poorly-paid reporter and ended as a multi-millionaire publisher, died in Charleston, South Carolina, on October 29, 1911.

Today, the name of Joseph Pulitzer continues to inspire those in the field of journalism and it lives on, strengthened and honored by the world-renowned Pulitzer Prizes.

(AFPS)

# Engineers Complete Delta Link



A crane lifts a 10-ton roller during construction of the Cho Gau by-pass.



A MAC-LOC compactor prepares the sub-base course of the Cho Gau by-pass.



A section of the Cho Gau by-pass shows the extensive use of paddy clay used in the base courses.

**20TH ENGR BDE** — U.S. Army Engineers of the 93rd Engineer Battalion recently completed a 3.2-kilometer section of Provincial Highway 24 cutting through heavy jungle to by-pass the town of Cho Gau, 47 miles southeast of Saigon in Dinh Tuong Province. Companies B and D were responsible for construction while Company A provided direct support for the operation.

The by-pass is designed to facilitate high speed travel between the provincial towns of My Tho and Go Cong by eliminating the necessity of passing through Cho Gau with its narrow and crowded streets.

The two companies began construction at opposite ends of the by-pass, meeting in the middle at the Cho Gau Canal. When they met, a class 45 ferry was floated into place to transfer heavy equipment and material from Company B on the eastern bank to the more isolated Company D. A 290-tractor on each bank drew the ferry across the canal, while a bridge boat in the center of the ferry stabilized it against the swift current.

More than 12,000 tons of asphalt were used on the by-pass. Dump trucks were loaded with asphalt at the RMK-BRJ civilian construction asphalt plant at Dong Tam base beginning at 3 a.m. so that the trucks were ready to move in convoy at daybreak to the jobsite.

Vietnamese civilians were employed extensively by the 93rd on the by-pass project especially in excavating and pouring the concrete headwalls for the 10 culverts installed for irrigation canals along the by-pass.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY:

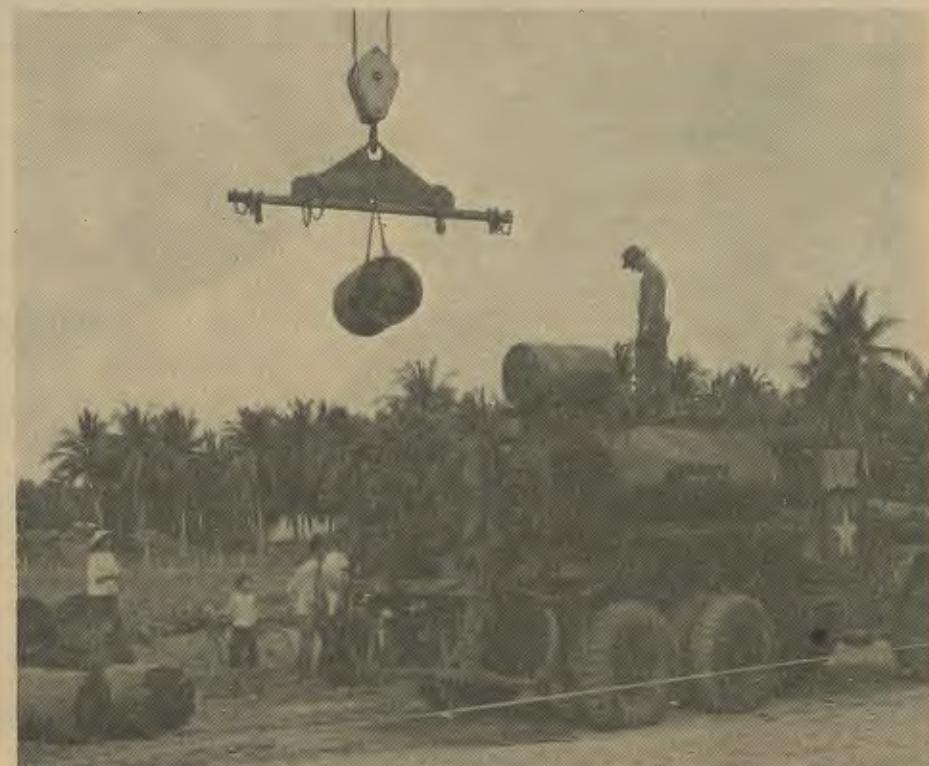
SP4 James L. Tolbert



Vietnamese civilian laborers from the 93rd Engr Bn assist in pouring a concrete headwall for one of the numerous culverts built into the Cho Gau by-pass.



Hot asphalt pours from a truck into a paving machine as the first lift of the Cho Gau by-pass is laid.



A crane lifts a drum of asphalt paste that will be poured into a peneprime distributor.



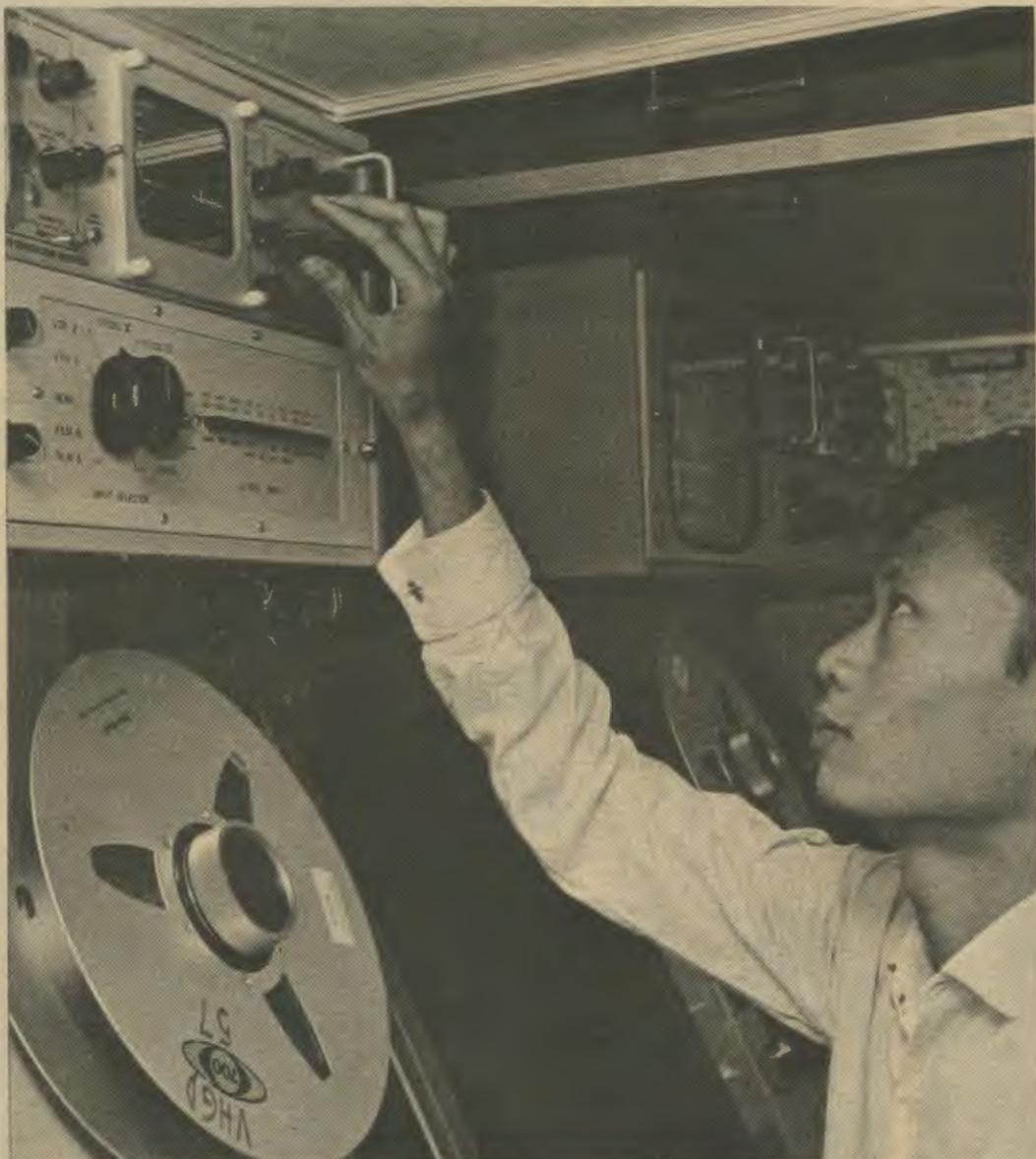
THE WEEKLY "THEY SUNG" army show, taped in Saigon, deals with the giving of information and the indoctrination of military personnel. Questions received from the viewing audience are also answered on the show.



# Vietnamese National Television

Story Courtesy of JUSPAO

Text and Photos by Mr. Richard H. Beveridge



A TECHNICIAN monitors video tape at the Saigon facility. American technical advisors from NBC-International have been training THVN's technicians, a process that takes as long as three to four years.

Since February, 1966, the Vietnamese National Television Network (THVN) has been telecasting programs in South Vietnam. Beginning with 1-hour telecasts each day, transmitted from specially-equipped airplanes, THVN was originally housed in the National Motion Picture Studios in Saigon. Since moving into the present modern studios in March, 1968, THVN has become the model for many developing television stations in other countries.

THVN is organized within the GVN Ministry of Information. All employees are government civil servants. Presently, there are studios in Saigon, Can Tho, Hue and Qui Nhon. Airborne telecasts are made out of Qui Nhon. An estimated 70% of South Vietnam's population is reached by these four transmitting stations. The Saigon studios, being the largest, do most of the programming, which is distributed to the other stations.

The objectives of THVN are to promote national unity, rural pacification and urban stability. Programming time (4.5-6 hours daily) consists of 63% public affairs and information shows, and 37% pure entertainment. Important national events, elections and personalities are well

publicized on the air. All advertising is programmed, the near future. Telecasting is expected to foster increased use of the Vietnamese language.

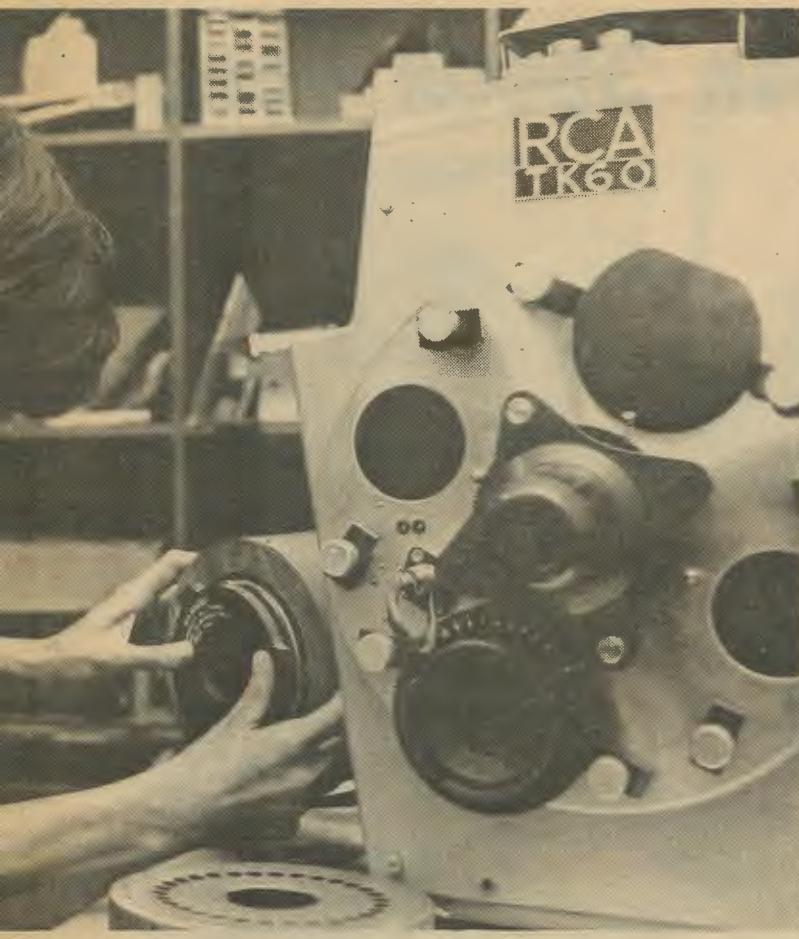
A particular problem faced by THVN is the need for qualified technicians, which take as long as three years to train. American technical advisors from NBC-International have been training THVN's technicians, a process that takes as long as three to four years.

Candidates running in South Vietnam are given equal time on THVN's 30th (1970) Senatorial election campaign. The 16-man slate of candidates are given equal time with the government. Films showing the locations of polling places will be shown on THVN.

The staff at THVN is predominantly Vietnamese. It has provided both entertainment of the highest quality and education of the most important national events. Communication developed by THVN is well received by the public.



REHEARSING with their pianist Phuong Hoai Tam (center) and Diem (right). THVN programming time lasts from four to six hours daily.



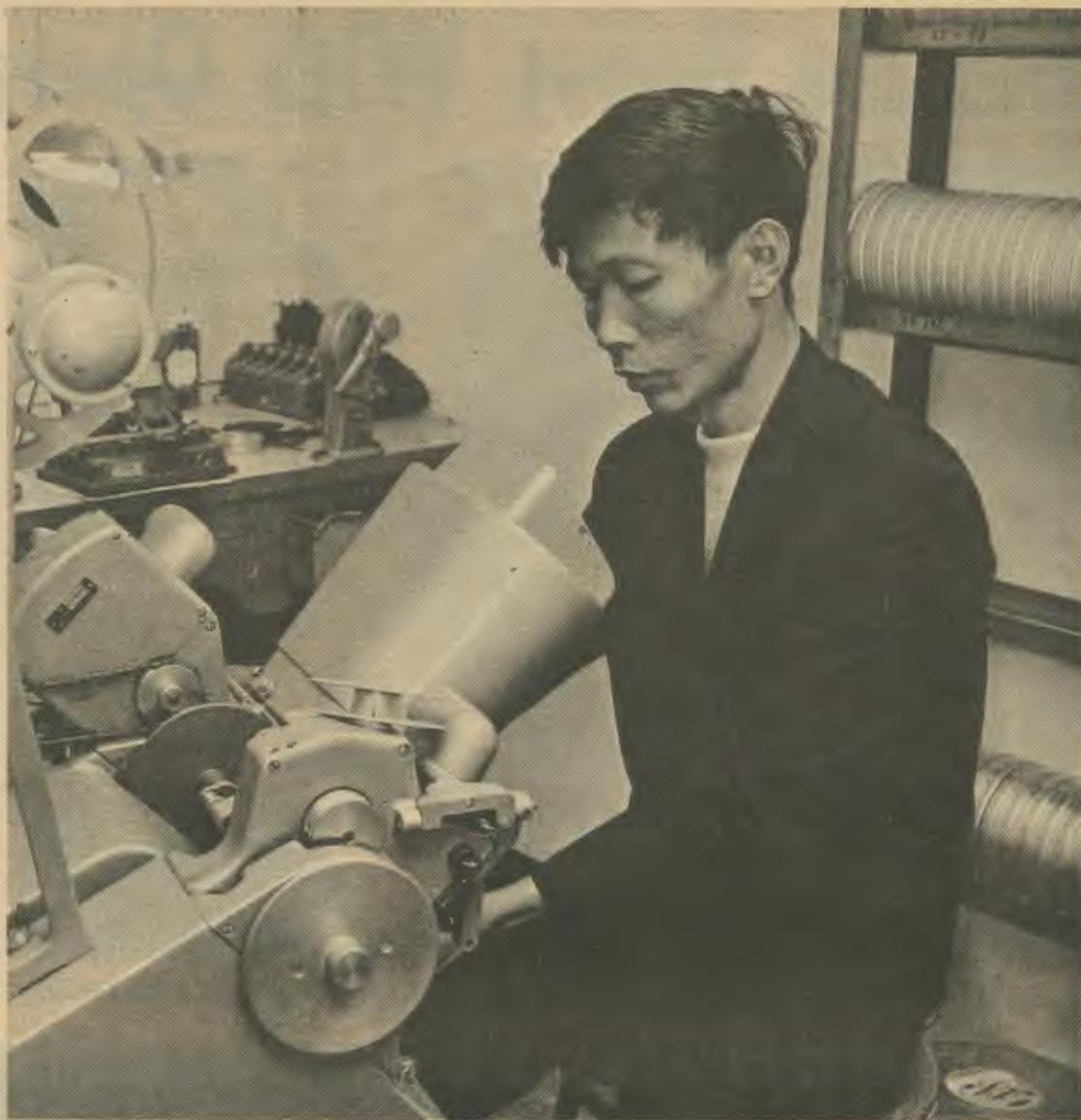
THVN CAMERAMAN readies his camera for a taping session. The THVN studios use some of the most modern television equipment available. They are equipped as well as any small television station in the world.

Although no commercial network has been formed, this may come about in time. The network is casting throughout the RVN and will be fully operational by 1975.

The equipment for THVN has been the best in the world. The television electronics industry has been working on this project for as long as 3 to 4 years to develop the best equipment. Technical advisers from a large number of countries have been assisting THVN in this project. The assistance will terminate in 1975.

in South Vietnam's August 1971 general elections used THVN to broadcast the results. The maximum number of candidates in each constituency were limited to 10. The expenses paid by the government for the election were \$10 million. The election results were televised.

THVN is proud of its achievements. It is the best in both information and entertainment. It is the highest quality through one of the best mass media systems of television in the world.



A FILM EDITOR edits news film in Saigon's production shop. On-the-spot combat footage and fast-breaking news items are televised daily on the government stations. News coverage ranks THVN among the most productive networks in the world.

## ...a model operation



THE CONTROL ROOM is a busy place when recording is in progress at the Saigon THVN studios. Most of the taped programming is done at the capital studios and distributed to the other stations in Can Tho, Hue, and the airborne transmitters in Qui Nhon.



Two of the most popular singers in South Vietnam are singers Kim Ngan (left) and Kim Hong (right). They are both young women in their late 20s and early 30s. They have performed on television and radio for many years.

# Morale Boost With Operation Spoon Feed



A young Vietnamese "Miss" accepts a slice of bread from Marine Chief Warrant Officer Bob Larson.



Two ambulatory patients get ready for a swing ride.

FLC - Marines are learning these days just what author John Ruskin meant when he wrote "Give a little love to a child and you get a great deal back."

The Marines are doing just that through "Operation Spoon Feed" at the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital located inside main gate at Camp Jay K. Books, eight miles northwest of Da Nang.

The Marines, more than 30 of them, are spending their free hours playing with the children patients and helping to feed them the evening meal.

Hospital Director, Dr. Robert G. Long, says the program, which began a few weeks ago, has been a blessing to his overworked staff of Vietnamese nurses. "Operation Spoon Feed," he says, "is really a wonderful thing for everyone concerned and we at the hospital appreciate what the Marines are doing.

"The children look forward each day to the visit by their big Marine friends and it has been a tremendous morale boost for the patients. And with the Marines to lend a hand at feeding time, it helps take a load off the night nursing staff."

It's not all giving and no receiving, though, as the Marines themselves will



The big Marine friends spend time playing with one of the patients at the hospital.

verify. "I didn't realize how rewarding it would be for me, personally, when I started visiting the kids," said one of the Marines, "but being with them has suddenly brought a new-found richness to my stay in Vietnam. I feel that I am really contributing something to the effort here."

The program was started by the commanding general, FLC and the man handling the arrangements for "Operation Spoon Feed" now is Navy Lieutenant Charles Dorr, a former Marine enlisted man who is a Navy Chaplain.

"We put out a call for volunteers to help us get the program started a few weeks ago," he said, "and the response has been gratifying. Of course we could always use more help, especially on Saturdays and Sundays."

Long, who says the visits of the Marines do almost as much for the patients as the medication his staff dispenses, is a staunch supporter of Marine visits. He'd like to see more. "It would be great," he says, "if the men could share some of their arts and crafts or hobbies with the children to get them interested in constructive things. Anyone who desires to come to the

hospital to visit the children is more than welcome to do so. We don't confine them to evening visits but urge them to come in the afternoons too, if they have free time."

The hospital, now a modern 120-bed stone and tile structure, was started late in 1965 when Third Marine Division personnel set up an 11-bed tent in their compound.

Operational and administrative control of the hospital was turned over by the Marines to the World Relief Commission in June 1970. Dr. Long has five American civilian WRC workers under him and a second doctor is scheduled to join the full-time staff shortly.

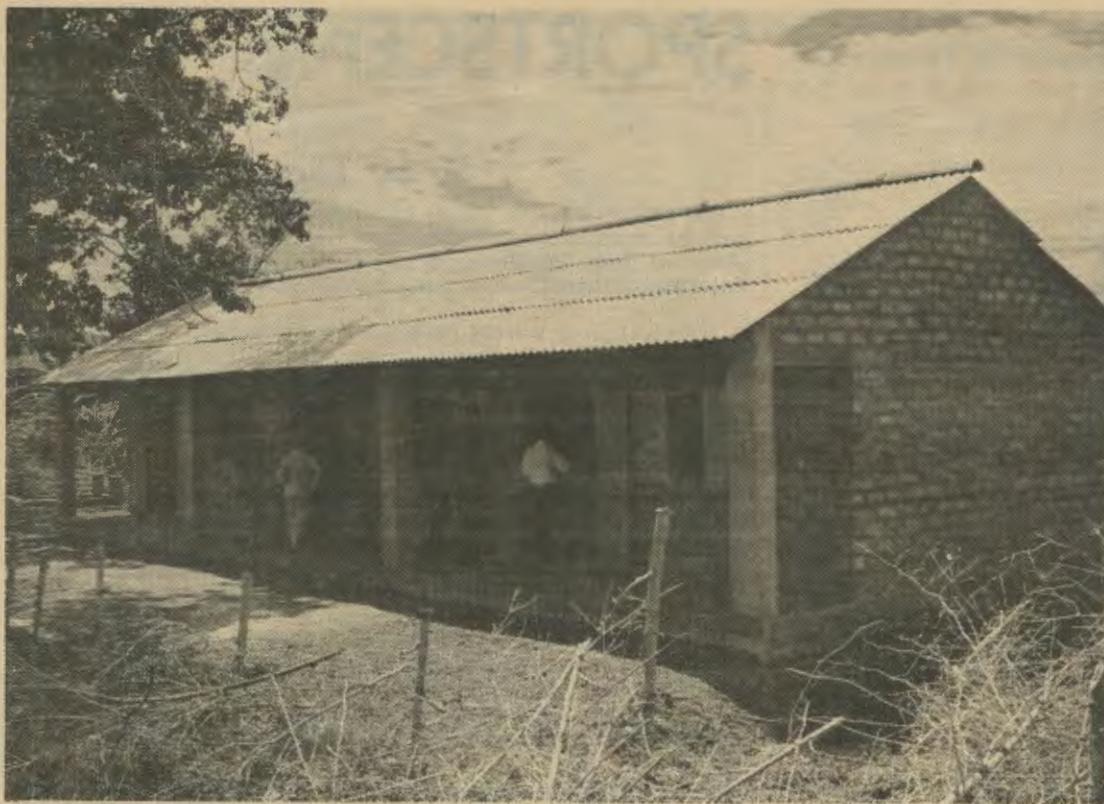
The hospital employs 56 Vietnamese workers, including 29 nurses under the supervision of Head Nurse Nguyen "Gwen" Thi Khang. Nurse Gwen has been praised for her dedicated service to the hospital by many dignitaries including the President of the United States.

Tough Marines with soft hearts and an affection for children are indeed getting a "great deal back" for the love they are giving the children through "Operation Spoon Feed."



After supper the children spend a little more time playing.

# New Education



Vietnamese and American officials inspect a newly completed school at Tan Xuan Hamlet in Binh Dinh Province. The Phu Cat Air Base civic action office donated the materials to help construct the school.

(USAF PHOTO By: SGT Joe Sanchez)

## Eagles Teach Ping Pong: Lose

101ST - It looked like recess at a typical elementary school in Vietnam, but it wasn't. The location was Camp Eagle, home of the Screaming Eagles (Airmobile).

The men of Headquarters Battery, 4th Bn, 77th Aerial Rocket Arty and the children of Tin-Lanh Orphanage in Hue had been looking forward to this day for quite a while. This was the day of the children's party.

"We had been planning this event for some time," commented First Sergeant Jerome Paluch of Green Bay,

Wisconsin. "The kids seemed so crowded at the orphanage. They had very little room. We built them a playground and we try to go there at least once a week to help clean and repair the orphanage. This time we decided to bring the children here and let them run around."

What could the children do at an Army installation? Plenty! "The last time we were at the orphanage we took motion picture of the kids," said Specialist 4 Richard Edwards of Moorestown, New Jersey. "They really loved to watch themselves on the silver screen."

The children were also fascinated by that wonderous invention, television. The kids teamed up with some of the soldiers they had met at the orphanage and watched television together.

The 11 girls and 12 boys ranged in age from six to 12 years. "These kids were great," said Captain Michael Duffy, San Diego, Calif., Battalion S-2, S-5.

"At first I thought we would have a language problem, but we didn't."

After watching television, the children stopped at the battery mess hall for some "Army chow." "Those kids sure cleaned us out of steak, chicken and ice cream," remarked Staff Sergeant Elroy Kinzler of Gackle, N.D., the unit's mess sergeant.

After dinner, the Screaming Eagles decided to teach the children how to play ping pong at the battery day room. "There was a kid there wearing blue pants that didn't lose a game of ping pong all day," said Specialist 5 Thomas Carmichael. "He could barely see over the top of the table. We put our best men against him, but he couldn't lose."

Do the men have any plans to bring the orphans back to Camp Eagle in the near future? Yes, but they plan on practicing their ping pong before their next meeting.

## Together

1ST SIG BDE - The Buddies Together program made an important advance recently with the sanctioning and occupation of a dual ARVN-U.S. signal facility at Cam Ranh Bay.

In the new facility members of a detachment from the 542nd Signal Company and the 662nd ARVN Signal Operations Company will operate together in one building, using many of the same facilities and operating areas. Communications lines terminating at the building will end at a shared wire head and like machines from both units will be in the same room.

The joint facility came as a result of earlier Buddies Together efforts which resulted in the men coming to know one another. This led to the suggestion that they work together in one place.

The unit, part of the 73rd Signal Battalion, will shift its VHF equipment to the new site. The new site became operational in September.

At a briefing delivered by members of both units prior to touring the facility, Major General Hugh F. Foster Jr., commander of the brigade, said, "This is an important first step. We must do more of this."

Representing the ARVN Signal Department at the event was Colonel Bui Trong Huynh. Colonel Joseph Mattern, 21st Signal Group commander and Colonel Jimmy Sutton, assistant chief of staff, plans and training at 1st Signal Brigade, also attended.

7TH AF - When the people of Tan Xuan Hamlet in Binh Dinh Province were driven out by the Viet Cong, they did not expect to return.

After one and a half years as refugees, they are back at the hamlet nine miles northwest of this Central Highlands air base and are working to improve their community.

"The Phu Cat Air Base civic actions has been very helpful to us," said a hamlet official. "They have assisted us in many ways. Without their aid many of our self-help projects could not have been completed."

In May, through the civic actions program, cement, roofing and lumber were

donated for a badly needed school building. The people then finished the school by contributing labor and often money or other construction materials.

"All we are doing here," said Technical Sergeant Wilburn H. Cantrell of Marianna, W.Va., NCOIC of civic action programs, "is helping the people to help themselves."

Construction of the two-room building will accomodate 160 students and the capacity can be doubled by having classes in two sessions.

"With Phu Cat AB civic actions assistance our children now have adequate educational facilities," the official stressed.

## Training Villagers

IIFVV - "On the Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) we rarely do anything spectacular. It's a series of little things." Captain Edward Pope was talking about his team, MAT 55. He has been a team leader for many months in Cong Thanh district in Bien Hoa province.

The primary mission of MAT 55 has been to train the Peoples Self Defense Forces (PSDF) in Cong Thanh. MAT 55 has advised all but three of the 15 villages in the district. Some of the villages had received training before but MAT 55 has been updating that training of 20 hours with a new 96-hour block of instruction.

Pope and the three other members of his team advise a Vietnamese training team who actually lecture and train the villagers.

MAT 55 members don't spend all of their time advising the PSDF. The team medic inspects village sanitary conditions and advises medical authorities in the district. The light weapons advisor on the team teaches English at a nearby high school. Pope is aware of diversity. "You could work with us a month and do something different every day," he said.

Pope knows he can't solve all village problems in one day. All he can officially do is inspect and recommend. That he does, but he does much more. The

PSDF program is only as effective as the village chief makes it through his own enthusiasm.

In the hamlet of Loi Hoa where MAT 55 was recently working, Pope made an effort to have close contact with the village chief. When the village chief was elected to his position several months back, Pope was at the ceremony to shake his hand. That's Pope's guide to effective advising: constant contact.

The team leader of MAT 55 likes working with the PSDF and finds it rewarding. He also believes in the concept of the PSDF. "We don't issue the Vietnamese weapons. We try to get them to go through channels. We talk to the district chief who in turn talks to the village chief and then he provides a list of people for training." It's a long way around and it's time consuming work, but Pope believes it's developing Vietnamese self reliance and local government.

## Maternity Operations

IIFVV - Where just a short time ago an abandoned warehouse used to stand, a remodeled maternity clinic, still under construction, averages twenty to thirty births a month.

Captain John Martin of the 5th, 42nd Arty, started the maternity clinic project in Bui Tieng hamlet, Bien Hoa city, about six months ago. The civil affairs project is nearly finished.

In February of this year, the intelligence and psychological operations sections chipped in, scrounged around, and provided the materials and supervision to build the needed maternity clinic in Bui Tieng. The people of Bui Tieng did most of the construction work on the clinic. They built a delivery room and patient ward in the six-room clinic.

Across the street, they also constructed quarters for the health worker and nurse who maintain the clinic 24 hours a day.

Future plans for the clinic include building of a medicine cabinet and stocking it with medical supplies necessary for maintaining a maternity clinic. The maternity clinic is a public facility open to all mothers of Bui Tieng.



This single cargo pallet, though sizeable and extremely heavy, only wets the taste of this C-141 Starlifter. Detachment 5 of the 8th Aerial Port Squadron at Bien Hoa AB has loaded and shipped more than a million pounds of cargo in one day through the use of these and other Air Force transport aircraft.

(USAF PHOTO By: SSgt Mike Bevz)

# SPORTSCENE

by TSgt Chuck Wills

IF YOU wanted to gather historical golfing yarns, where would you be most likely find the oldest ones? You might consider St. Andrews, home of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. For Golf has been played there for something like 500 years.

A recent story out of Bien Hoa by Specialist 5 A. Tracy Row notes that Captain Richard M. Graves of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion has an interesting sports background. Graves, who is a rated helicopter pilot, won first place in the pole vault in the 1965 NCAA meet with a 16-feet, 1-inch vault, according to Specialist Row.

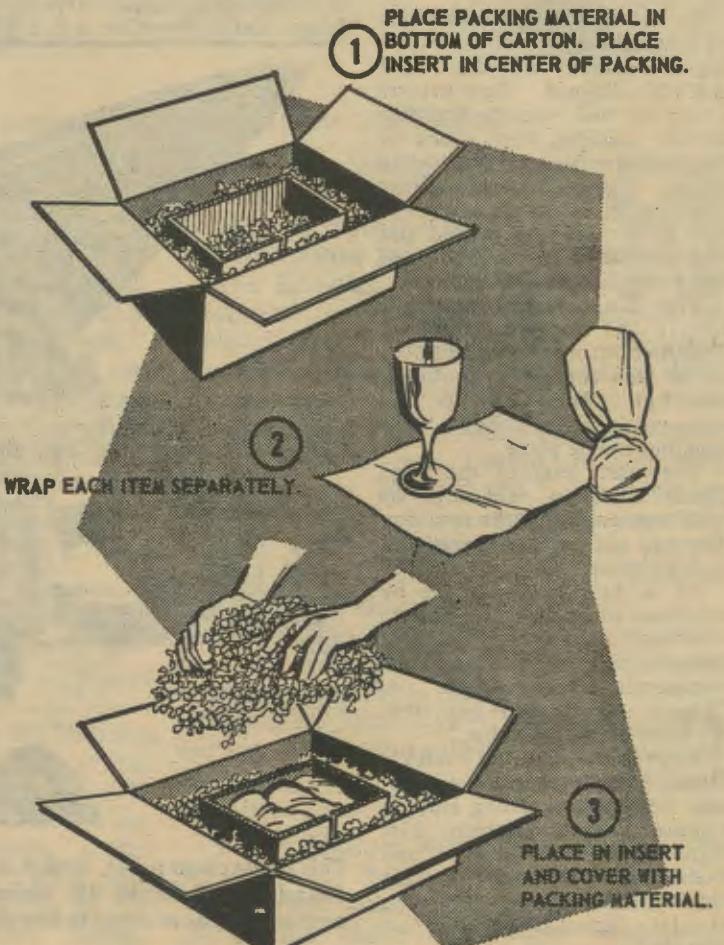
And then there's Staff Sergeant Al Allison who coached the 1876th Communications Squadron's basketball team at Tan Son Nhut. He finished the season with 21 wins and four defeats - and it lowered his career won-lost percentage as a coach. During 13 years in the service he has compiled 124 wins against 17 losses.

The Boston Bruins' Bobby Orr of the National Hockey League is a defenseman and yet he blasted 413 shots at opposing netminders last year. That mark was only one short of the record set by Bobby Hull of the Chicago Black Hawks, a left-winger. Can you imagine Orr's number of shots if he were switched to a front line position?

The Chicago Cubs' Leo Durocher has done two things for baseball that have to be remembered. Obviously, over the years he has provided color to every team that he has played for or managed. Secondly, he has helped 11 men to reach major league managerial status. They all either played or coached for him. Those gents are Eddie Stanky, Gil Hodges, Bobby Bragan, the late Charlie Dressen, Clyde King, Bill Rigney, Herman Franks, Alvin Dark, Wes Westrum, Billy Herman and Fred Fitzsimmons.



Be sure that Christmas gift items are well wrapped and correctly addressed before being mailed. Each year some gifts never reach their destination because they are poorly-wrapped or incorrectly or illegibly-addressed. Containers must be strong enough to retain and protect their contents during the course of normal handling. Cushion items for internal protection, and pay particular attention to fragile articles. When wrapping the container for mailing, use a heavy kraft stock, or grocery-type paper for strength. Be sure to include a complete address and full military return address on your packages. Additionally, it is advisable to include the same information on the inside your package.



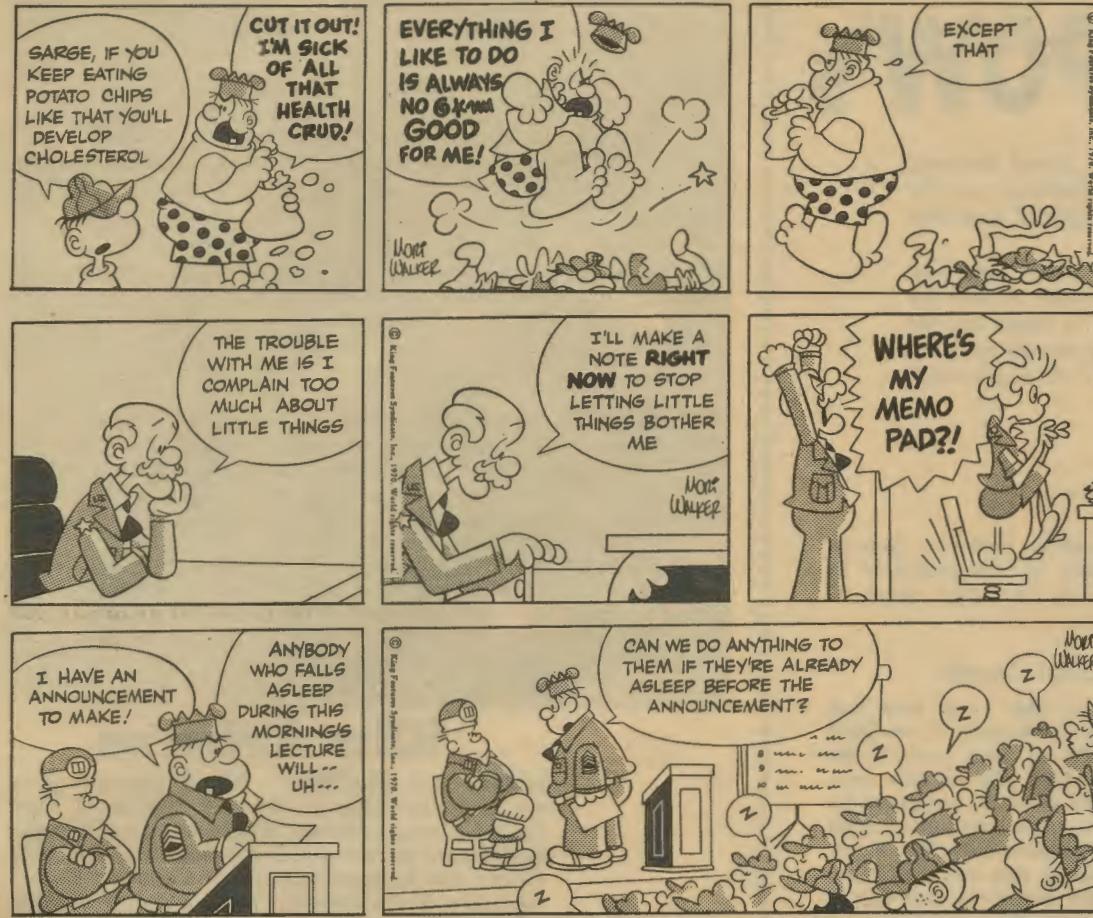
## BUNKER BUNNY SEZ,

Hey! Listen to me fellas. Don't take on more than you can handle. In order to make life more memorable and pleasant, don't over-commit your resources. An inability to meet your obligations can cause you a great deal of embarrassment. It can even ruin your career, home life, and future. So remember, practice moderation and good judgement if you intend to use credit to meet your Christmas obligations.

(Photo Courtesy Mirror)



## Beetle Bailey



By Mort Walker

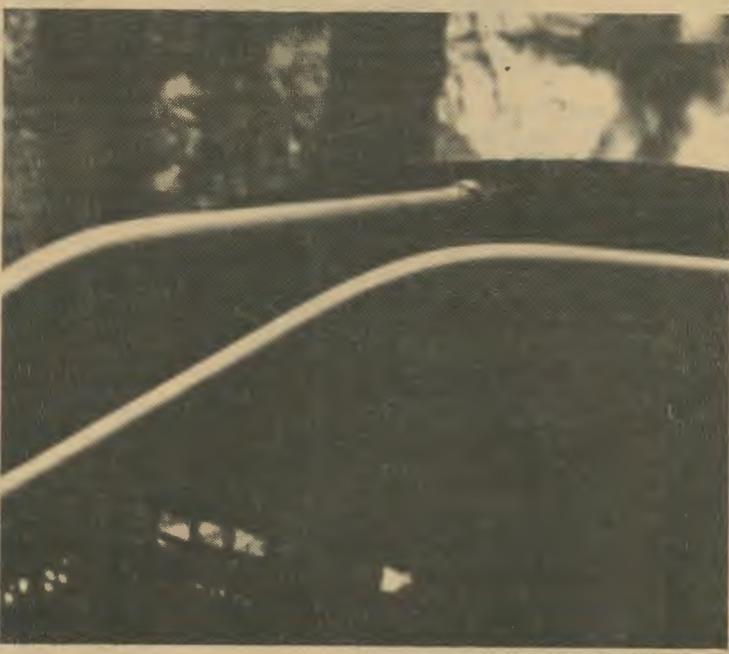
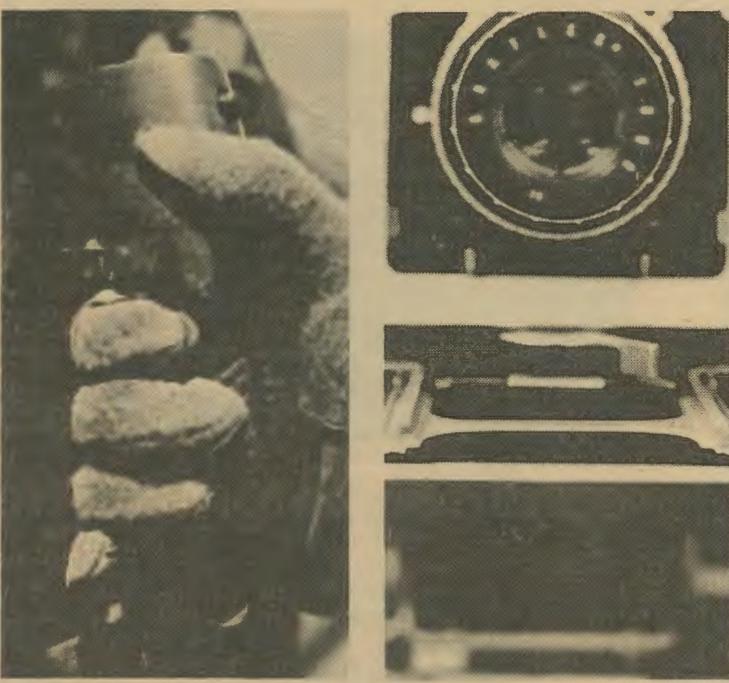
## 'Photo Quiz'

MACV DA has directed that effective 1 October 1970 all Army male personnel will return to CONUS in the Khaki, Army Tan, or Army Green uniform. All Army nurses and WAC personnel will wear either Cord, Sh160, or AG 344 uniform. Army personnel assigned to RVN are required to bring a complete Khaki uniform with them (AR 700-84). It is expected that departing personnel will wear this uniform upon their return to CONUS. Individuals will be required to buy those items of uniform necessary to make a complete set needed for their return unless they can document loss in a manner that would support a gratuitous issue. Sections having individuals departing will check at least 30 days prior to their scheduled CONUS return to insure that individuals have a complete uniform.



## Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



(A) Silent Division took part in the unit's standdown at Di An. (B) Infantry that glove is the control stick for an O-1 Bird Dog. (C) Smile. Inside that glove is the unit's stick for an O-1 Bird Dog. (D) It may look like tubes and wire screen but actually it's the top of a dozer from the 538th Engineers in Binh Dinh Province.

# Col. Borman On POW's

In an address before a joint session of Congress Sep. 22, Frank Borman, former astronaut and a retired Air Force colonel, made a dramatic plea for the people of this nation to devote more concern to the plight of American prisoners of war held in Southeast Asia.

As President Nixon's Special Representative on Prisoners of War, Col. Borman had completed a 25-day mission around the world, visiting 14 countries, seeking relief for American prisoners of war held by Hanoi and the Viet Cong. He suggested to Members of Congress that they should mobilize world opinion in favor of the prisoners. The situation today, he emphasized, is one of "American anguish and human tragedy."

Following is part one of Col. Borman's address:

Text courtesy of Commanders Digest

I have recently returned from a 25-day trip around the globe in furtherance of the cause of our prisoners of war, and I must tell you that I can only report American anguish and human tragedy.

It is very difficult to discuss the plight of the prisoners of any war without discussing the war itself, but I propose not to do that today, for two reasons:

First, it is quite obvious to any serious student of the intercourse of nations that our course in Southeast Asia cannot be influenced in any significant manner by the treatment or the cause of the prisoners. In other words, we cannot permit them to be political hostages.

Second, I think that the length of the incarceration of many of the men and certainly the conditions of imprisonment of all the men make the humanitarian aspect of this question a transcendent one, and it is certainly one that all Americans can unite behind, regardless of their opinion of the Vietnamese war.



Retired Air Force Colonel Frank Borman appears before a joint session of Congress to report on his visit to 14 countries as President Nixon's Special Representative on Prisoners of War. In the background is Speaker of the House John W. McCormack. (Photo courtesy of Commanders Digest)

I would ask you to undergo a little exercise that I found helpful on the trip as I tried to renew my faith every evening after a frustrating day. I tried to place myself mentally in the position of a prisoner in a North Vietnamese prison camp, and if you will indulge me for just a few moments, I would like you to place yourselves in that position just briefly, and as you formulate some of the questions and consider your surroundings, allow me to anticipate, if I may, a few of the things that you may be interested in.

\*\*\*

First of all, I think you would be amazed to find that a great many of your fellow countrymen, in Government and out of Government, in the Congress, in the States, and even in the Armed Forces, are surprised to find that the Geneva Conventions on the Treatment of Prisoners of War apply to you.

I would like to read, if I may, from Article 2 of this convention.

The present Convention shall apply to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties...

There is no question that the Geneva Conventions do apply to our prisoners in North Vietnam and in the other areas of Southeast Asia.

## War Criminal Charges

The next question that I am sure you must be considering, particularly if you have been there any length of time at all, is the question of war criminal charges that have been so blatantly and absurdly broadcast by the North Vietnamese and have indeed been rebroadcast and transmitted by many dissident groups within this country. I am told by many fellow returnees that this is one you are greeted with every morning.

I suppose particularly if you are a pilot—and most of you who are incarcerated in North Vietnam are pilots—you would find this a rather difficult charge to comprehend, because I am sure that many of you remember that as a result of a conscious policy of our Government to limit the destruction in North Vietnam to military targets, you were oftentimes forced to fly specified routes over the heaviest antiaircraft concentrations in history. You were specifically ordered and desperately attempted to hit only military targets, and at times it seemed that even basic tactics, local tactics, were being sent from Washington in an effort to ascertain that you did not hit anything but the specified military targets.

\*\*\*

I submit to you that the war criminal charge is utter rubbish and would not stand up in any reasonable court in any country in the world.

Next, I am sure that one of the questions that you would have is how many of your fellow countrymen share your fate. I have to report to you that I, unfortunately, cannot answer, because the North Vietnamese have never issued a formal and official list of any of their prisoners. Think about that, in the over six years that they held our prisoners, never once have they issued a formal list of the people that they hold, another obvious violation of the Geneva Conventions.

## 1,500 U.S. Citizens Missing

I could tell you that there are about 1,500 U.S. citizens missing in Southeast Asia. We have received letters from 323 prisoners in North Vietnam, and one held by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam. From propaganda broadcasts, pictures, and returnees, we have reason to believe that there are about 376 Americans incarcerated in North Vietnam 78 in South Vietnam, and three in Laos, making a total of 457 that we know were at one time alive out of the 1,500 that are missing.

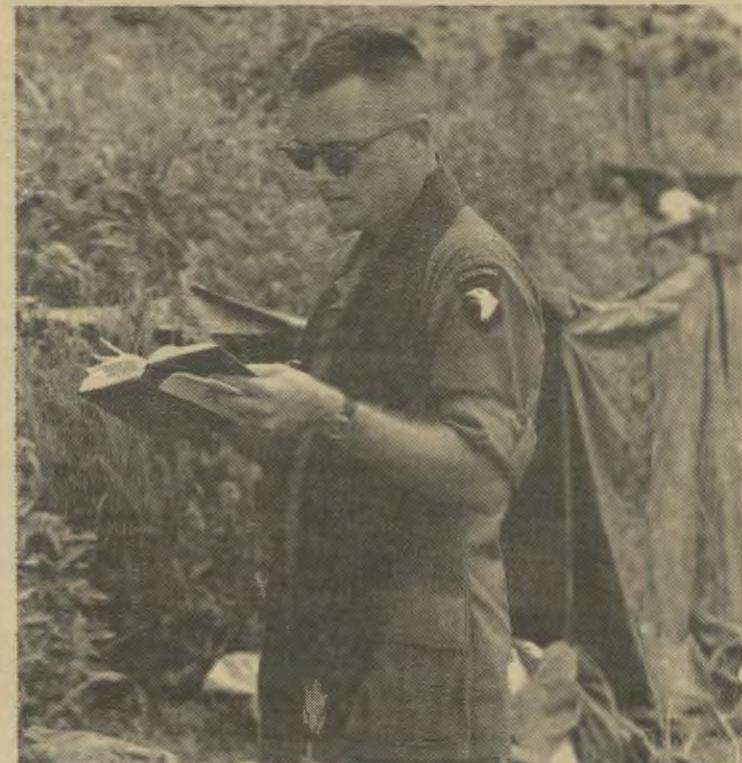
I would also have to report to you that some of your fellow prisoners have been held longer than any other prisoners in the history of this country, some over six years.

What are the conditions of your imprisonment and your capture? By and large it is a similar story. After your capture you were probably beaten, dragged through villages, in some cases tortured.

If you have been a prisoner for any length of time, you have probably lost 45 to 60 pounds. Your food generally consists of two meals, one largely rice and squash soup and an evening meal of pig fat. It is designed barely to keep you alive, it appears, as is the medical care, destined to barely avert death rather than promote health.

\*\*\*

Next week follows the conclusion of Col. Borman's address before Congress



## 101st Airborne

SCRIPTURE READING — Verses from the Bible are read by Chaplain Rodney Spitzer (El Paso, Texas) during a recent service conducted in the lowlands of northern Military Region 1. The field service was held for troopers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

(USA Photo by SP4 Michael Van Strion)

## Two Use Fast-Aid

18th MP BDE — Recently in Saigon, MPs and security guards teamed up to lend aid to a sick Vietnamese, pumping life-giving air into his lungs and speeding the man to a hospital.

## "Nightcap" Flicks Push Democracy

25TH INF DIV — Oh, Nguyen, how about a little nightcap before bedtime?

The 25th Division's 1st Battalion (Mech), 5th Infantry PSYOPs Section, has instituted a new program for local Vietnamese. It consists of a late afternoon MEDCAP and nighttime movies (NIGHTCAP).

"The program is designed to reach the farmer who spends most of the daytime hours working his fields," said First Lieutenant Robert Galloway of S-5. "The movies help familiarize him with democratic ideas."

The Bobcats S-5 team working with the 2nd Brigade have planned a series of Nightcaps in the villages surrounding FSB Lynch. Arriving in a village, the medics set up a MEDCAP while Vietnamese interpreters promote the evening movies over loudspeakers.

Once darkness falls, First Lieutenant Bob Rosensweet of the 6th PSYOPs Battalion takes over with his projector and films.

"The movies are designed to appeal to all ages," said Rosensweet, of New York City, "and they do. The enthusiasm is spontaneous and contagious."

"I remember one old man who broke into applause after a girl in one of the films sang a patriotic song," Galloway, of Gary, Ind., recalled.

"We have been successful with the program, averaging about 200 people at a showing," Galloway added.

The evident success of these Nightcaps has given the PSYOPs Section additional encouragement to expand this program in hopes of achieving continued progress in the area of pacification.

"Since it was after curfew, we stopped to see if any U.S. soldiers were in the crowd," said Garcia.

What they found instead was a Vietnamese man, Danh Rinh, lying in the street. "No one seemed to know what was the matter with him," said the sergeant.

Some Vietnamese asked the soldiers to take the man to the hospital. Garcia and Worman placed him in the back of their jeep while the MPs acted as escorts.

Soon after they got into the jeep, Garcia noticed that the unconscious man had ceased breathing. The sergeant administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The life-saving procedure was maintained until the jeep arrived at Sung Chinh Hospital in Saigon.

At the hospital, the two soldiers waited at the desk until a hospital official told them that the man was breathing normally and would recover.

## School Gets More Books

1ST MAW — Students of the Anh Sang school can thank Marines of Marine Air Control Group (MACG) 18 for the up-coming additional volumes for their school library.

As part of the final close-out of his chapel fund, Navy Chaplain (Lieutenant) William E. Outlaw, Jr. of Pine Bluff, Ark., donated to the school the \$500 remaining in the Protestant fund. The money will be utilized to supplement the school's library.

The school, with 1,250 students, has been the recipient of past aid from MACG-18 in the form of surplus construction materials and food.