



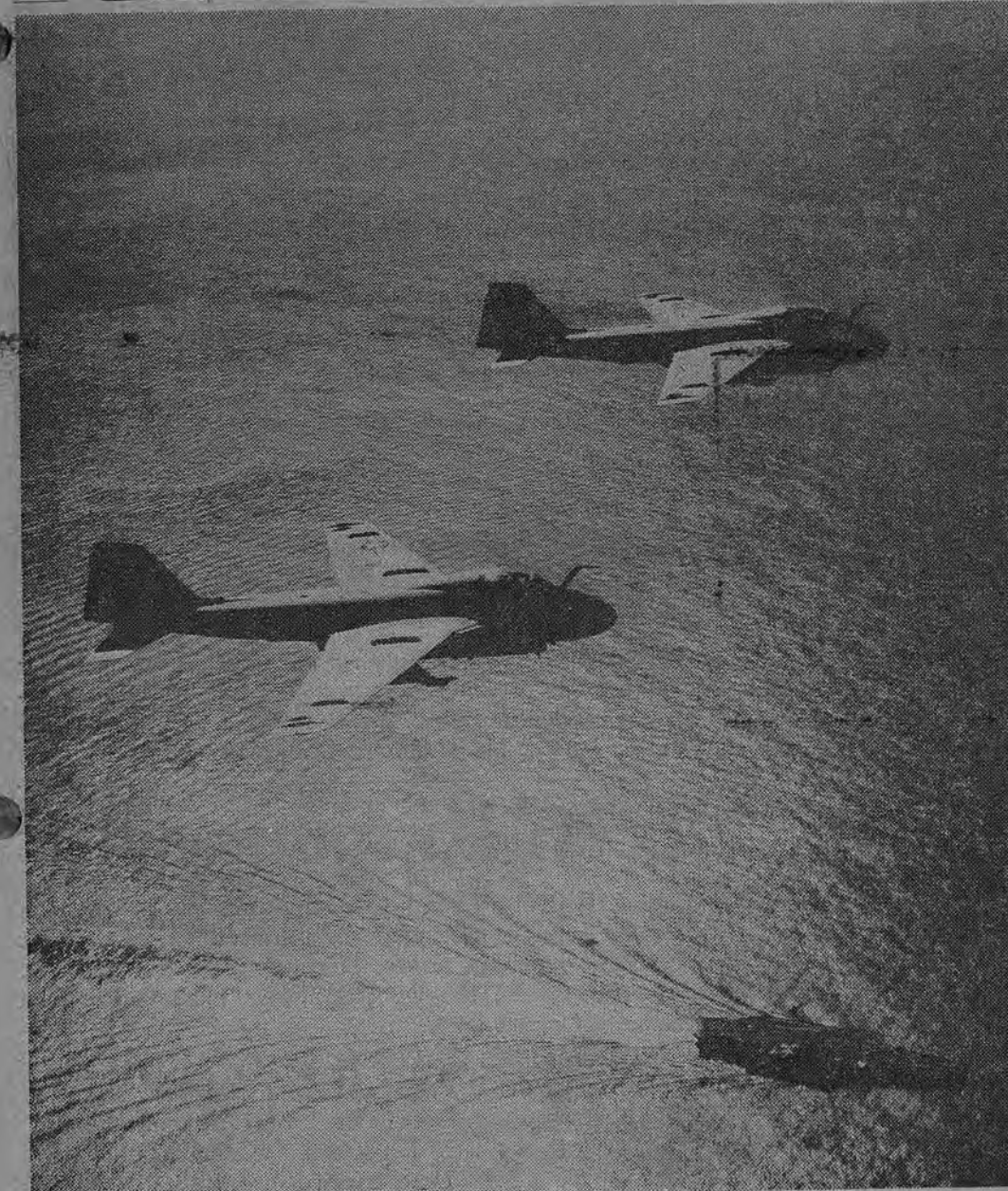
Enemy Weapons Losses Mount



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Saigon, Vietnam

May 1, 1968



NIGHT INTRUDERS—Silhouetted against the Tonkin Gulf, A-6A Intruders return to the attack carrier USS Ranger after another mission over North Vietnam. The intruder is an all-weather jet attack aircraft whose electronic capabilities allow accurate bombing at night and in adverse weather. (USN PHOTO)

SAIGON (MACV) — Allied forces seized enough weapons during the first quarter of this year to fully equip the equivalent of the infantry battalions of more than four North Vietnamese Army divisions.

Due to his lengthy logistical support system, much of the enemy's time and effort is devoted to solving his supply problems. Losses of weapons and munitions represent such a serious issue to the enemy that specific personnel are designated in advance of a battle to do nothing but recover arms and equipment from the battlefield. In spite of this priority task, Allied forces seized over 15,000 individual and 3,300 crew-served weapons during January, February and March of this year.

A frontline North Vietnamese Army infantry battalion is authorized 395 individual weapons (24 pistols, 127 assault rifles and 244 crew-served weapons, 36 light machine guns, 27 anti-tank rocket-propelled grenade launchers, three heavy machine guns, six 60mm mortars, three 82mm mortars and three 57mm or 75mm recoilless rifles).

An NVA division varies in the number of infantry battalions

assigned for combat, but nine is the average. If an ideal distribution of the captured weapons existed (which of course, is not the case), the enemy would have lost 38 battalion-equivalents of individual weapons and 42 battalion-equivalents of crew-served weapons. This amounts to more than five division-equivalents but in view of the varying distribution of types of weapons, four is a more realistic estimate.

Although an exact breakdown by type of weapon is not available, well over 50 percent of the total were specified as AK assault, SKS carbines, RPD light machine guns, and RPG grenade launchers — all frontline, first-class Communist weapons. Many of these were still in packing grease and had never been fired.

Many of the arms were captured in caches and had been painstakingly infiltrated and carefully stored for future use. Hoi Chanh have been particularly helpful to Allied units in this effort, pointing out caves, tunnels and other hiding places which would be difficult to discover if the locations were not specified.

Bn. Trains In Snow For Vietnam Duty

LONG THANH (USA) — One of the newest combat units assigned to Vietnam is the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry.

It arrived at the Bearcat camp April 8, and has been assigned to the 9th Infantry Division. The newly formed unit will be the 10th maneuver battalion in the division.

Reactivated on Nov. 1, 1967 after a 17 year lull, the battalion was organized and trained this past winter at Fort Lewis, Wash. It was flown to Vietnam with much of its basic combat equipment. The entire airlift, including men and equipment took eight days.

"We were training in the snow," stated the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Schmalhorst. "During the day the temperature was around 30 to 40 degrees and at night it fell close to zero. Watching the men search a mock-up Vietnamese village in the snow was a strange sight."

Most of the company commanders, now with the battalion, are Vietnam veterans with combat experience.

Prior to deployment from Fort Lewis, squad leaders underwent a special course taught by Vietnam returnees. The course stressed map reading, demolition and patrolling skills. Another course tested the reaction of each squad leader as he directed his men through a fire exercise which ended with an assault on a designated objective.

The unit is currently undergoing refresher training at the division's academy where it is studying patrol tactics, dust-off procedures, terrain familiarization, booby traps and other phases of combat operations used in the Mekong Delta area.

Originally organized in 1917 with the primary mission of helping with the construction of the Siberian Railroad in Russia, the 31st Infantry Regiment has seen action in every major war the U.S. has been engaged in.

Makes Supreme Sacrifice

Marine Receives Medal Of Honor

WASHINGTON—A twenty-year-old Rossburg, Ohio Marine who was killed when he smothered an exploding enemy hand grenade with his body to save his comrades has been awarded the Medal of Honor.

During ceremonies honoring Private First Class Douglas E. Dickey, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dickey, received the Nation's highest decoration from Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius.

Private Dickey died March 26, 1967 while engaged in Operation Beacon Hill I near the hamlet of Gio An in Quang Tri province.

His unit, the 2d Platoon of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, was battling the enemy at close range in dense jungle when it was pinned down by heavy machine gun and small arms fire.

The platoon's radioman was wounded and the platoon commander called for PFC Dickey to replace him.

Six Marines now were in the immediate area, Private Dickey, the wounded radioman, the Navy corpsman treating him, a second wounded man, a Marine who had come forward to evacuate him, and the platoon commander.

Then someone yelled, "Grenade!"

An enemy hand grenade had landed beside the Navy Corpsman who was administering first aid.

"He must have realized it was too late for us to take cover," recalls the corpsman, HM3 Gregory R. Long.

"He gave me one short glance and lunged forward, deliberately covering the grenade with his body."

His citation reads in part:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Suddenly an enemy grenade landed in the midst of a group of Marines, which included the wounded radio operator who was immobilized. Fully realizing the inevitable result of his actions, Private First Class Dickey, in a final valiant act, quickly and unhesitatingly threw himself upon the deadly grenade, absorbing with his own body the full and complete force of the explosion. His personal heroism, extraordinary valor and selfless courage saved a number of his comrades from certain injury and possible death at the cost of his own life. His actions reflected great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Viet Reports Arms Cache

HOC MON (III CTZ)—A large cache of enemy ammunition and medical supplies was uncovered here recently after a civilian reported its location to the local district chief.

The district chief responded quickly to the information and sent a military patrol to the reported location of the cache.

A search of that area yielded 250 B-40 and B-41 rocket projectiles, 116 mortar rounds, 246 RPG charges, 1 radio and a large quantity of medical supplies.

It was the third big enemy supply point to be captured in the Hoc Mon area in recent weeks. One of the largest finds of the war was taken in the same vicinity in March.

Editorial

A Letter Will Do

You can earn an extra \$50, \$100 or \$1,000 this year for just an hour or so of your time. All it takes is a letter to Freedoms Foundation that might well be one of the cash winners in the 1968 Letter Awards Program.

You don't have to be a budding Hemingway to enter or win one of the awards. The letters aren't judged on literary excellence, but rather on sincerity and understanding of the American way of life. And after all, who has a better understanding of the American way of life than the people who wear their country's uniform and have sworn to defend their Nation against all enemies.

The topic for the 1968 Letter Awards Program is "A Free Ballot—A Free Country" and is open to all active duty personnel and, for the first time, members of the Reserve components, National Guard and R.O.T.C.

The top award in both the active duty and Reserve categories is \$1,000. In the active duty category, there will be 50 awards of \$100 and 50 awards of \$50 as well as Honor Medals and Honor Certificates. For entries from the Reserve components, there will be up to 50 awards of \$100 and 50 awards of \$50 in addition to Honor Medals and Honor Certificates.

The top active duty winner from each military service will be invited to attend the Presidential Inauguration in 1969 and will have their awards presented while they are in Washington. The next five active duty winners and the top winner in each of the Reserve components will be invited to Valley Forge, Pa., to receive their awards on Washington's Birthday.

Letters must be printed or typed and no more than 500 words in length. Each letter must include the writer's full name, rank, serial number, complete military address, service or Reserve component and full home address.

Entries must be submitted to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481, by Nov. 1, 1968.

This can be your opportunity to speak out for freedom and to let your opinions and feelings be known by thousands of other Americans. (AFPS)

Know Your Code



2nd Code of Conduct

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

'New Jersey' Almost Ready For Viet Duty

WASHINGTON — The battleship USS New Jersey will soon join the fleet for the third time in the past 25 years. The 45,000-ton battleship was recommissioned early in April this year at the Philadelphia Naval Base and has been undergoing sea trials and shakedown crew training.

Carrying a crew of nearly 1,500 officers and men, the New Jersey mounts nine 16-inch guns capable of delivering a 2,700-pound projectile on a target 23 miles away. The projectiles can penetrate more than 30 feet of reinforced concrete and can be fired 50 per cent farther than any other gun afloat at this time.

The range and accuracy of the New Jersey's guns will allow her to take under fire targets now available only to bombing from the air. The big guns of the battleship are restricted by neither weather nor darkness and may help reduce sharply the cost of destroying enemy installations.

Originally commissioned in 1943, the USS New Jersey earned nine battle stars during World War II in the Pacific before being mothballed. Recommissioned in 1950 for the Korean War, she added four more battle stars to her record before being decommissioned a second time in August 1957.

The USS New Jersey will be the only ship of its kind in active service in the world today. (AFPS)

Latest Booklet About Benefits

WASHINGTON — The 1968 edition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" is now available from the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C.

Published by the Veterans Administration, the new booklet reflects new legislation changes including the Veterans' Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967.

Among other legislative changes, this Act gives Vietnam veterans the same benefits available to other wartime veterans.

The booklet also gives the addresses and phone numbers of more than 170 VA installations throughout the 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone and the Philippine Islands.

Single copies may be obtained for 20 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



Only a lawful society can build a better society



DELECTABLE D'ARCY—Brown-eyed blonde, Yutta D'Arcy portrays the "Vestal Virgin" in Robert Wise's 20th Century-Fox production of "Star!" She also can be seen in "A Guide For the Married Man." (PHOTO COURTESY 20th Century Fox)

Local Language Tips

SAIGON (MACV)—Many Americans living in a foreign country have found that a little knowledge of that country's language makes their stay there much easier. For this reason, the OBSERVER is printing its third series of local language tips.

VIETNAMESE	PHONETIC	AMERICAN
Chu-Luc Quan	Chew Luke kwun	Regular Forces
Dia-Phuong Quan	Dia foong kwun	Regional Forces
Nghia Quan	Neeuh Kwun	Popular Forces
Luc-Quan	Luke kwun	Army
Hai-Quan	Hi kwun	Navy
Khong-Quan	Come kwun	Air Force
Thuy-Quan Luc-Chien	Tooy kwun luke Cheeng	Marine Corps
Sung luc	Shoom luke	Pistol
Sung trung	Shoom troong	
Trung lien	Troong leeuahn	Rifle
Cac-bin	Cookbin	Automatic Rifle
Sung coi	Shoom coy	Carbine
Dai-bac	Die bak	Mortar
Sung lien-thanh	Shoom leeng tahn	Gun, cannon
		Machine gun



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His Pilot Wounded Sgt. Lands Chopper

LAI KHE (USA)—An Army sergeant who has never been trained as an aviator, recently took the controls of a helicopter from its wounded pilot and made a safe landing here.

He is Sergeant Harold Nolan, 1st Platoon Sergeant of A Troop, 7/1st Air Cavalry Squadron, 1st Aviation Brigade.

The action took place northwest of Lai Khe, while he was serving as an observer in an OH-6A "Cayuse" helicopter on a reconnaissance mission for an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Suddenly, an enemy ambush was spotted and AH-6A "Huey Cobra" gunships were called in to hit the ambush. While directing the gunships, Sergeant Nolan and his pilot came under heavy enemy fire. The pilot was severely wounded, and the craft went into a dive.

Although he was untrained as an aviator, the sergeant managed to right the ship and climb to a safe altitude.

With directions and assistance from the wounded pilot, he was able to land at Lai Khe.

309th Commando Unit Gives Gifts to Hamlet

PHAN RANG (USAF) — Six Air Force officers and enlisted men assigned to the 309th Air Commando Squadron from Phan Rang air base distributed rice, canned food, clothing and toys recently in the Highland hamlet of Cat Gia, 12 miles from Phan Rang.

piness of his people over the gifts.

Besides raising \$800 to provide food and supplies for the villagers, squadron personnel wrote to their folks in the U.S. about the hamlet, and many packages of food and clothing were donated for the project.

The Civic Action mission was led by Major James K. Moyer, a C-123 Provider transport pilot. An Army helicopter took the airmen into the hamlet, where they stayed for several hours.

Since last November, members of the squadron have made five trips to Cat Gia to provide aid for the villagers.

Major Moyer said that several thousand pounds of rice, 400 gift packages and salad oil were presented to the villagers. The gift packages contained candy, clothing and toys.

The squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel Conrad Kreps, joined in the mission. "I sincerely think this program at Cat Gia is making the U.S. a great many friends," he commented.

Through an interpreter, the hamlet chief expressed the happiness of his people over the gifts.

It's A Dud... Marine Lives

PHU BAI (USMC) — A high explosive mortar round is constructed to detonate on impact. But Marine PFC John A. Winkel is glad the enemy occasionally has defective rounds.

An enemy mortar round hit him in the back, ricocheted off his shoulder and landed about 30 feet away without exploding. PFC Winkel, a machine gunner with the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, was manning an observation post near Hue.

He was treated later for severe back and shoulder bruises.

1,200 Given Inoculations

PHUOC VINH (USA) — More than 1,200 persons recently received inoculations here in a three day period as part of the initial phase of a massive U.S. and Vietnamese offensive against the dreaded Bubonic Plague.

"In this important first phase, we began with the easiest people to get to—the civilian workers here on post and children in the elementary and high schools in the village," said Major James S. Brewer, supervisor of the civil affairs section of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade.

However, he emphasized that the program itself was being administered by Vietnamese medical technicians employed by the South Vietnamese government. They are assisted by medical personnel from the Phuoc Vinh MACV staff and C Company paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 326th Medical Battalion.

Major Brewer said the U.S. Army is contributing transportation, communications and equipment to assist the Vietnamese.

"Our troops are also furnishing security for the missions into outlying villages and hamlets," he explained.

Between three and 4,000 persons in a five-mile radius were programmed for inoculations against plague in the three weeks following the initial phase of the offensive. The offensive has been timed to coincide with the arrival of the monsoon season in central Vietnam, a time when the disease has shown increased frequency in the past.

"Bubonic or Black Plague comes from the rat flea," explained Lieutenant Dennis W. Buche, a male nurse with the 326th Medical Battalion. "It is most dangerous when large

numbers of rats die and their fleas seek out other organisms."

As he spoke, the lieutenant was preparing syringes of plague serum for Mr. Ong Huynh and Miss Co Cuc, medical technicians at the Phuoc Vinh dispensary as they inoculated Vietnamese school children near the post.

A leaflet drop advertising the inoculations was made earlier by the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion, and is believed responsible for the program's initial successful response.

The MACV Medical Advisors furnished serum and additional personnel to help the Vietnamese technicians.

U.S. and Vietnamese officials said that helicopters would be used to make inoculations available to everyone six months old and up, in neighboring hamlets.

Penna. Moose Donates Gifts

LONG BINH (USA)—The efforts and generosity of the Levittown, Pa. Chapter of Moose International has helped an orphanage in Saigon extend service to 36 homeless Vietnamese children during the past year.

In coordination with representatives of the 1st Logistical Command, the Levittown Moose have sent hundreds of cartoons containing clothing, toys and food stuffs for the children.

The project was initiated when the two nuns that operate the Hoa Binh Orphanage contacted the command in January 1967. They asked for aid in finding an American sponsor for the home. Word was passed around and, after being contacted, the Levittown Moose decided to adopt the orphanage.

Since the Moose began sending supplies to the home, its number of children has risen from 10 to 36, and its educational and social facilities have been greatly improved.

Besides the 1st Logistical Command, the 22nd Personnel Service Company, the 44th Medical Brigade and the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion have supported the orphanage along with the Levittown Moose.



SERIOUS BUSINESS—A Navy Hospital Corpsman with a Marine unit gives a wounded Marine medical treatment. (USMC PHOTO)

Medic Falls 140ft. In Rescue Mission

PHUOC VINH (USA) — A senior medic from the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade recently made a dramatic 150-foot rope descent to reach wounded paratroopers in thick jungles near Bien Hoa.

After C Company of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, made heavy contact with a crack NVA unit, the call came from the battlefield for more medics. All of that unit's medics had been wounded.

"I knew I had to get out there in a hurry," said senior medic Staff Sergeant Harold Miller.

The battle took place under a thick jungle canopy with towering trees more than 90 feet tall, a factor that made it impossible to land a helicopter in the immediate area.

Quickly sizing up the situation, Sergeant Miller decided there was only one way down to the embattled company. He asked to be lowered 150 feet on a rope from the hovering chopper.

per. It was a request that almost proved fatal for the determined medic.

"As he was being lowered to the jungle floor," a crewman explained later, "I saw the rope slip and Miller plummeted downward, still clinging to the rope."

He and another crewman struggled to grab and slow down the unwinding rope to stop Sergeant Miller's too rapid descent.

"I was finally able to wedge a knot in the rope between my hand and an M-60 machine gun mount," the first crewman continued. We both got rope burns on our hands and arms, but we stopped Miller's fall."

The sergeant was suspended only 10 feet from the ground when his fall was stopped. The helicopter crewmen said he was able to descend the last 10 feet in about the same amount of time it took him to drop 140 feet.

Army Unit Helps Handicapped Kids

DI AN (USA) — In the village of Lai Thieu, there is a strange world of silence. It is the world of 83 Vietnamese children who will never be able to hear or speak for the rest of their lives, for they are deaf-mutes.

These children live in the orphanage of Lai Thieu, and when you see their smiling faces, their want for love and affection, you are more happy than sad.

Recently, a gift of \$200 was presented to the orphanage by Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd J. Faul, commanding officer of the First Infantry Division's 701st

Maintenance Battalion.

The money was sent to Colonel Faul from Major Chris Patte, former member of the 701st, who is now attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Assisted by First Lieutenant Harold D. Graves, battalion S-3, the colonel also presented the orphanage with five boxes of clothing for the children.

Sister Barnard De Jesus, mother superior of the orphanage, accepted the money and clothing on behalf of the children.



MUCH CONCERN—A Vietnamese mother shows as much concern for her baby as Captain Louis E. Daugherty, battalion surgeon for the 2nd Mechanized Battalion, 47th Infantry shows for his work. He examined the sick child during a recent MEDCAP visit to Lo Tra village near Long Thanh. The MEDCAP visits are another way the U.S. soldier is helping the Vietnamese help themselves. (USA PHOTO By Sp4 Claude Walker)

Switchboard Has Int'l Key

BINH THUY (USAF) — Cooperation in communications is the foundation of Binh Thuy air base's "international" switchboard.

Located in the Vietnamese Air Force's 297th Communications Squadron building here, the manual switchboard is manned by three members of the Vietnamese Women's Armed Forces and three Air Force specialists from the U.S.

1880th Communications Squadron.

Because the switchboard must handle between 1,800 to 2,000 calls a day in two languages, the board is divided into six double positions. Each operator's position has two selector switches — one for Vietnamese calls and the other for calls placed in English.

The switchboard is the nerve center for all local telephone communications at the base, in

addition to processing all incoming and outgoing long distance calls.

"The cooperation between the Vietnamese girls and their co-workers is very good," says Air Force Captain Stephen I. Hopfe, senior communications advisor with Air Force Advisory Team 7. "Nearly all of the girls speak English and they pass calls back and forth quite well."

Captain Hopfe says the Vietnamese operators go through three months of basic military training in Saigon and three months of switchboard studies at a Saigon technical school. There are 120 Vietnamese Air Force personnel in the 297th Communications Squadron, many of whom have attended technical schools in the U.S.

M-79 Round Stuns Marine

DA NANG (USMC) — Not many people could get hit in the head with an M-79 grenade round and live to tell about it. But Marine Private First Class Tommy J. Taylor did, and afterwards he described how it felt.

"When I came to, my head felt like it had been hit with a sledge hammer," he said.

PFC Taylor was part of a reaction force from "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment that was moving to the aid of a group of Marines under heavy attack.

As he dashed across a rice paddy, a 40mm M-79 round slammed into the right side of his helmet, but failed to detonate.

Although he was knocked unconscious and received a fractured skull from the blow, the 19-year-old Leatherneck said he still had something to be happy about.

"I'm happy to be still alive and I'm glad that round was a dud," he said.



BATTLE LINE—Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, engage entrenched NVA regulars. (US ARMY PHOTO BY Sp5 Richard McLaughlin)

NVA Nightmare

Joint Force Stops Harassment



With the crew ready to fire, a Navy PBR races along an enemy-infested shoreline near Hue.

Story By
JO3 Steve Wolf
USN Photos By
Phan Chris Statton

DA NANG (USN) — A hundred North Vietnamese regulars had moved into Toan Thuan Hoa village along the Perfume River to harass the Da Nang Naval Support Activity's utility boats that haul supplies to Hue. They could not have picked a worse spot.

Navy PBRs (river patrol boats) heard of their presence during a morning patrol along the river connecting Hue with the South China Sea. Discovery by the PBRs signaled the beginning of hard times for the enemy.

Extra PBRs were sent to the village by Lieutenant Albert Bartels, OIC of River Section 521. He immediately began to coordinate operations against the North Vietnamese.

His boats covered any escape routes by water. Army and Marine Corps helicopters were called in to strafe the village, which had been cleared of civilians, with rocket and machine gun fire. Artillery and jet fighter strikes were prepared and the landing of Army 101st Airborne troops coordinated.

The enemy was boxed in. "I can't believe it's happening," said Lieutenant Bartels. "It's the kind of thing you dream about." For the Communists it was the beginning of a nightmare.

Helicopters began pouring in rockets and machine gun fire.

One rocket set off a large secondary explosion in a hut. Others wiped out an enemy machine gun position.

After the choppers had finished their first attack, the PBRs began to comb the shore with a heavy barrage of machine gun and grenade fire.

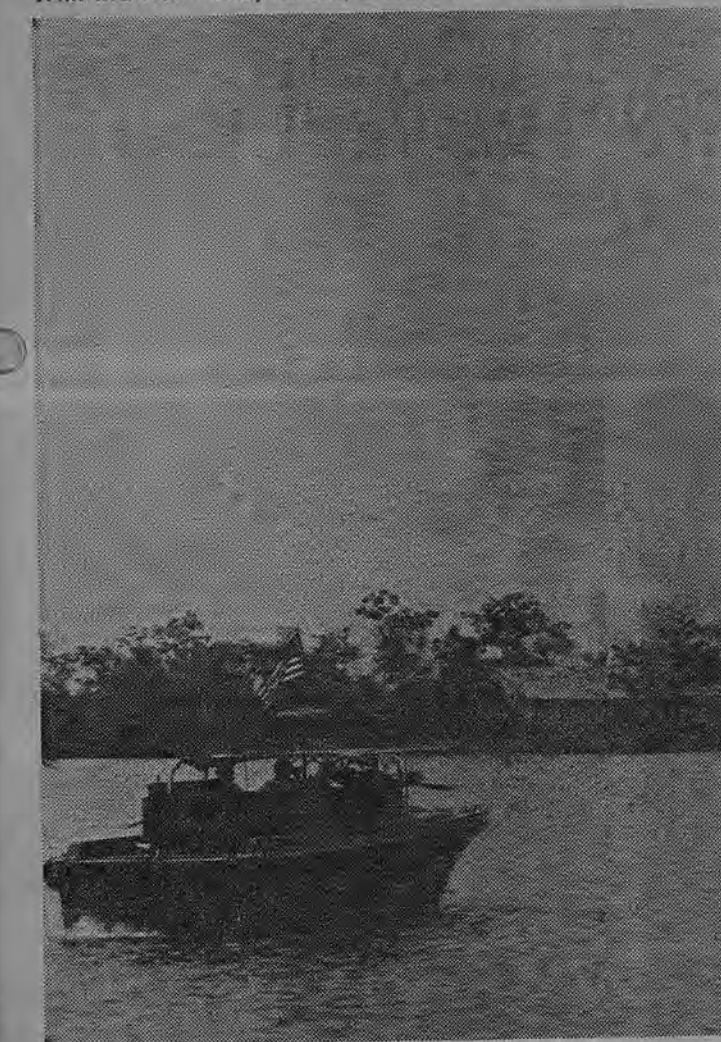
On the third pass by the village one of the PBRs was hit. Almost instantly another PBR came alongside and took the damaged craft in tow. Passing the village, the second boat poured in heavy fire as they made for Mobile Support Base One, their headquarters near the mouth of the river.

After the PBRs and helicopters had finished with their firing, U.S. Army troops were landed near the village. When they drew enemy fire, artillery and jet fighter strikes were called in by the lieutenant.

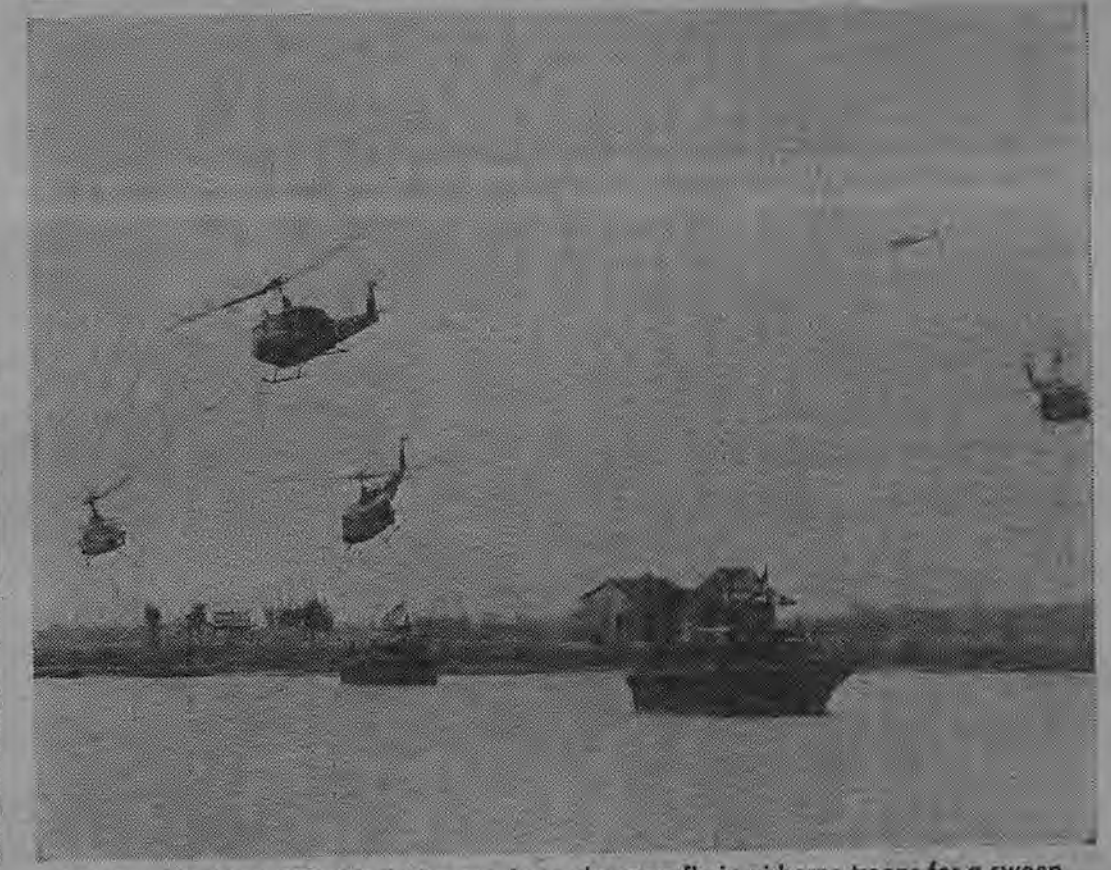
Dark slowed the operation somewhat but in the morning soldiers moved in. A detainee told the Americans that many of his comrades had been killed.

Back at headquarters there were smiles. A threat to shipping had been eliminated.

The river patrol boats of River Section 521 will not ease their surveillance. Daily patrols along 44 miles of inland waterways continue to make "Charlie's" infiltration of troops and supplies by water harder, if not impossible.



A PBR moves in to provide screening fire for "friendlies".



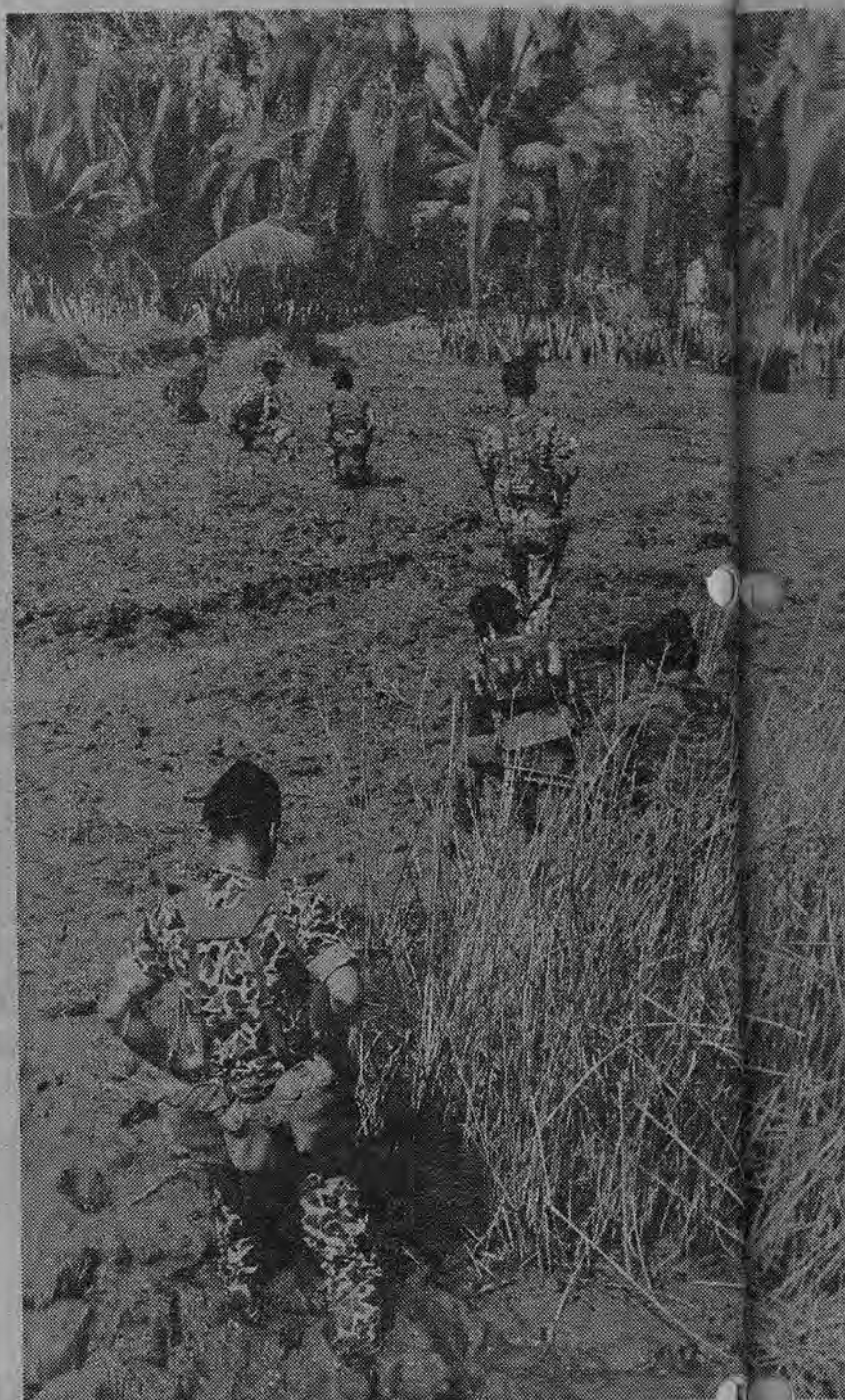
In this joint effort, PBRs block river as Army choppers fly in airborne troops for a sweep.



While a Navy PBR stands a safe distance away, artillery is brought in on Toan Thuan Hoa village near Hue which 100 North Vietnamese had taken over.



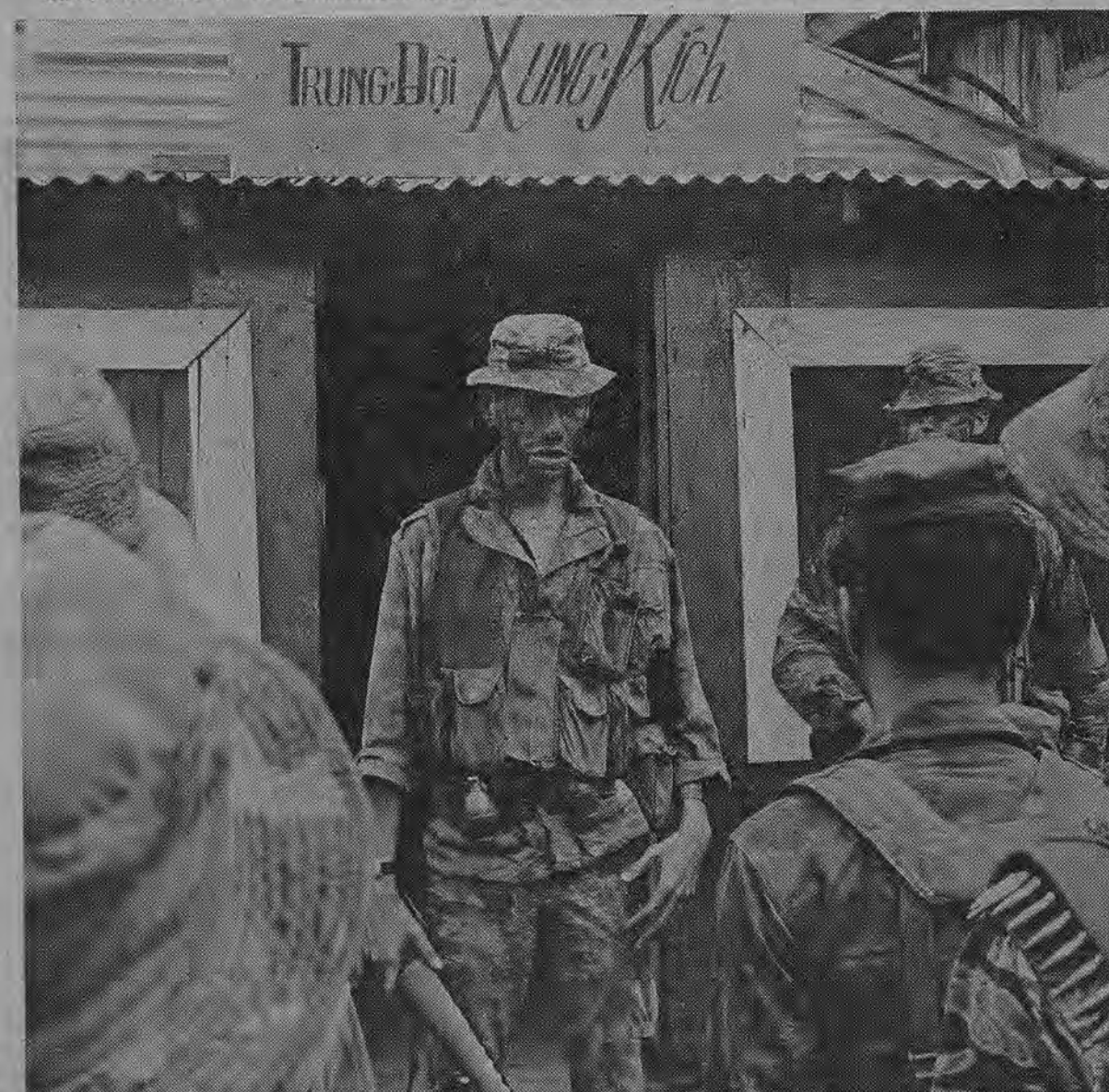
Three members of the commandos return from a search and clear mission in the Delta.



Commandos advance across a muddy clearing on an ambush of the Delta.



Marine Staff Sergeant Samuel M. Garland discusses operational plans with Lieutenant Kham prior to boarding U.S. Navy river patrol boats.



A commando platoon leader briefs his troops in front of their headquarters.



First Lieutenant Vinh Kham explains the use of the lensatic compass to the men of his unit.

Rung Sat Zone Commandos

NHA BE (USN) — Throughout South Vietnam's Rung Sat Zone a new name is being heard with increasing frequency—Xung Kich! To the South Vietnamese it means "commando"; to the Viet Cong it means disaster.

In the short period this elite reaction force has been in existence its members have proved themselves a highly effective, exciting and enthusiastic group — young, determined and energetic.

Senior Advisor

The senior infantry advisor to the Rung Sat commander puts it more simply. Says Marine Captain Clifford Dunning, "We started with the best men, gave them some of the best training and now we have one of the best forces around."

The commandos were designed to meet a specific need — a ready reaction force — in a specific area — the Rung Sat. This is South Vietnam's legendary Forest of Assassins. Over 450 square miles of swampland, overgrown by palm and jungle fern, cobwebbed with streams and surrounding the Long Tau shipping channel, main artery to Saigon's supply docks.

It was in June, 1967, that Vietnamese Navy Lieutenant Commander Nguyen An, commander of the Rung Sat, recognized the need for a ready reaction force to counter ambush attacks on Free World shipping, threading its way from the South China Sea to the Saigon River, and then to the port.

Advisors Advice

With the advice of Captain Dunning, then, as now, Lieutenant Commander An's senior infantry advisor, it was decided to create this unit out of existing military forces in the area, the 13 Regional Force companies which comprise part of the Vietnam home guard.

Two men were selected from each company to make a platoon-sized unit. First Lieutenant Vinh Kham, a Regional Force officer for four years, was selected as the unit's commanding officer.

To assist him in his task of training the new unit Captain Dunning assigned his assistant infantry advisor, Marine Staff Sergeant Samuel M. Garland.

The outstanding young troopers selected for the commandos brought with them a variety of

previous military training in Vietnamese Airborne, Ranger, Marine and Special Forces units.

Encounter Minor Problems

Training was slow and patient to begin with. Minor problems, such as lack of equipment, and undeveloped supply system and limited transportation were encountered and either solved or circumvented.

The commando's first chance to prove themselves came in mid-November when a merchant ship was hit by an estimated company-size Viet Cong unit. Fifteen commandos, eight other Regional Force troops and two American advisors were airlifted by helicopter behind the enemy lines, where they killed 23 of the enemy in a combined effort with air strikes by fixed wing aircraft and armed helicopters.

From then on the reputation of the tiger stripe-clad commandos was set. Within a few short months after their organization their progress was so rapid that they now are ready to assume additional responsibilities. They are adding an offensive capability to their reaction mission.

Venture Spurs Bonus Crop, Jobs



Rice straw is delivered to the Cogido Paper Mill, Bien Hoa, awaiting conversion to pulp.

LONG BINH (H FF) — "The Rice Straw Man" was well on his way to riches through a successful meeting of East and West, until the Communist Tet offensive temporarily stalled his operations.

"The Rice Straw Man" is 34-year old Nguyen Ngoc Cuong. Mr. Cuong collects rice straw for conversion into paper pulp, an enterprise started last fall with the help of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Industry Division. His business, new to Vietnam, provides a "bonus crop" for more than 6,000 farmers in III and IV Corps area. Formerly more than 80 per cent of the straw was burned after the rice harvest with 18 per cent used for cattle feed and another 2 per cent used to cover mushroom plantings.

With Mr. Cuong buying the rice straw, a farmer can earn an additional 10,000 piasters (\$84.50) for each hectare (2.5 acres) of rice paddy he owns. Mr. Cuong's enterprise also provides employment for the more than 100 Vietnamese who work for him, and indirectly for the 700 employees of the Cogido



Mr. Cuong (right) inspects rice straw with a fellow worker.

Paper Mill in Bien Hoa. The mill, established in 1961, is the larger of two such mills in Vietnam.

Another national benefit of "Operation Rice Straw" is its effect on national imports. Now that the Cogido Mill began

mixing rice straw pulp with other pulp products, Vietnam can reduce its imports of other pulps by a value of more than \$1 million annually.

The Cogido Mill can produce 8,500 metric tons of pulp from 25,000 metric tons of rice straw.



One of the "Rice Straw Man's" employees runs a baler.

Story & Photos
By
II Field Force

Mr. Cuong has delivered 13,500 tons of rice straw to the mill and was preparing to furnish another 17,000 tons before the February actions.

An animated businessman whose hands thrash like one of the 36 balers he uses in his business, Mr. Cuong exemplifies the new breed of middle class businessman CORDS is trying to assist.

Going to USAID and CORDS authorities for help, Mr. Cuong received advice on how to establish his business and assistance in contacting military commanders to explain the farmer's problem. Although the

project had never been attempted before, everyone was extremely cooperative, he says.

During the Tet offensive a small Communist unit used the mill and river area as one of their assembly areas for the fighting in and around Bien Hoa. The resulting military action destroyed most of the straw Mr. Cuong had already sold to the mill and did serious damage to Cogido.

The young businessman also faced personal dangers which resulted from the Communist attacks.

He was captured with other civilians by enemy raiders and spent three nights and two days as a prisoner. After being released, he headed back for Cogido to inspect the damage and to begin planning reconstruction and reorganization.



This straw pyramid will be converted into paper pulp, freeing South Vietnam of the necessity of importing a million dollars worth of pulp products annually.

It's No Sea Story Sgt Kills Long Foe

CA LU (USMC) — A Marine platoon commander killed an unusual enemy during Operation Pegasus east of Khe Sanh — a python.

As Leathernecks of the First Marine Regiment moved along Route 9, providing security for Marine engineers who were clearing and repairing the road, they apparently disturbed the 15-foot reptile in his home under an abandoned bridge.

"We had set in for the night," explained Sergeant C.V. Thompson, a platoon sergeant, "when we heard movement and unusual noises on our perimeter."

The Marine squinted through the darkness, but could see nothing. "It was weird," Sergeant Thompson said. "We could hear something, but we couldn't see anything at all."

The Marines fired under the bridge that had been previously destroyed by the enemy and by-

passed by the engineers. "We decided that if we opened up we'd flush them out," he explained.

The Marines threw hand grenades and fired M-79 rounds under the bridge, but the movement continued. Finally, Sergeant Thompson moved cautiously under the bridge, while his platoon waited, ready to fire.

"At first I couldn't believe it," he said. "This big, long thing was slithering around under the bridge. I was fascinated, then scared, and finally mad because I realized I had been worrying about a snake."

He then drew his .45 cal. pistol and fired three times into the snake's head, killing the huge reptile.

"I'm just glad I killed the thing," he concluded. "Otherwise, everyone would have thought I was just telling a sea-story."

Tri-language Tapes Help Solve Problem

LAI KHE (USA) — A new technique has been developed by the 1st Infantry Division psychological operations personnel to solve a language problem.

The technique involves tri-language tapes for communicating with villagers in the Quan Loi area, and contains a seal and assembly message which is broadcast in Vietnamese, Cambodian and the Steing dialect of Montagnard. The tri-language broadcasts increase understanding of directions given to villagers by 1st soldiers who must seal off villages in search of VC.

The tapes were developed by First Lieutenant Dale Drage and Staff Sergeant Russell Davis of 6th Psychological Operations (Psyops) Battalion in coordination with Binh Long Province representatives.

"This tape satisfies a need for better communications with the

diversified population which lives in the colorful rubber country surrounding the 1st Brigade's base camp," said Sergeant Davis, commenting on the tape's effectiveness. "Better communications will help inform the Montagnards and Cambodian speaking Vietnamese of the objectives of the South Vietnamese government."

The tapes are for use by all units in III Corps Tactical Zone. There is one tape which informs the people of rewards for information leading to the Viet Cong and that the allied soldiers intend to help them.

Another tells primitive villagers not to be afraid of airplanes defoliating trees in the area. It explains that defoliation is necessary to expose VC hiding places.

The final tape appeals to the Montagnards to help the allies.

Multi-service Teamwork Makes Psywar Click

BINH THUY (USAF) — Psychological warfare in the IV Corps area of the Mekong Delta is a big business and involves close coordination between all U.S. services and the Vietnamese Air Force, Army and Navy.

In this case, the U.S. Air Force is the coordinating agency. "C" Flight of the 5th Air Commando Squadron stationed at Binh Thuy Air Base, flies daily psywar missions dropping millions of leaflets and playing tape recorded messages programmed by "customer" services.

"C" Flight uses the single-engine U-10 Courier and the C-47 Skytrain, both equipped with leaflet chutes and high powered amplification speaker units.

Units of each service develop their own psywar leaflets and record their own tapes to fit the needs of psywar activities in a particular area.

The Army may program a mission to harass enemy ground forces in contact with friendly forces, and the Navy might have a mission aimed at warning waterway travelers of restricted or hazardous areas.

However, the mission most often flown by "C" Flight and the program most extensively used by all the services is the "Chieu Hoi" or "Open Arms" program. This is a program designed to prod the enemy to defect and rally to the side of the Republic of Vietnam government.

Defectors, or Hoi Chanhs as they are called, numbered nearly 9,000 in the IV Corps area in 1967.

"C" Flight also supports MACV advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts as well as Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support agency.

Fighter Squadron Sets Record

BIEN HOA (USAF) — The Vietnamese Air Force's (VNAF) 522nd Fighter Squadron here recently became the first Allied air force unit to log 700 flying hours in the F-5 Freedom Fighter in one month.

Flying the 700th hour were Captain Nguyen Quoc Hung, 522nd Squadron commander, and Captain Dam Thuong Vu, vice commander.

The VNAF pilots and support personnel for the F-5 completed six months extensive training with the 441st Combat Crew Training Squadron at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.

More than 5,500 combat hours have been logged by the VNAF squadron since it received the F-5 Freedom Fighter.

Unique Appointment For Priest

Chaplain Has Viet Parish

DA NANG (USMC) — A Navy chaplain serving with the Marines has been appointed priest of a Vietnamese parish.

Lieutenant Louis J. Nichols, chaplain of the 3rd Military Police Battalion, Force Logistic Command, has been given parochial jurisdiction of Thach Nham hamlet by Bishop Chi of the Da Nang Diocese. It is believed to be the only such appointment ever made.

When the 34-year-old chaplain took over during November 1967, he became the first priest

to visit the hamlet on a regular basis in almost three years.

Now, while still serving Marine units in the Da Nang area, he says mass in the hamlet's tiny chapel each Sunday. He also visits it during the week to baptize the newborn and to care for the religious needs of the villagers.

"So far I haven't performed a wedding, but that will come in time," Father Nichols said.

Each Sunday afternoon with the help of Private First Class

Rene Roman, chaplain's assistant, Chaplain Nichols loads his jeep with his religious articles for the five mile journey to Thach Nham. He also takes a supply of candy to be given to the village children after the service.

Walking with Father Nichols to the church is like following the Pied Piper. Children meet him at the road and escort him the last few hundred yards to where the villagers have gathered waiting for services to begin.

VNAF Helo-lifts 'Bird Dogs'

DA NANG (USAF) — In the past, maintenance crews of the Vietnamese Air Force's (VNAF) 41st Tactical Wing looked to the U.S. Marines for helicopter support when they had to airlift damaged aircraft back to Da Nang for repair. Now the 41st Wing has mastered

the art of helo-lifting aircraft themselves, thanks to the help from U.S. Air Force Advisory Team Five (AFAT-5).

This significant "first" for the 41st Wing was recently achieved by crews from the 213th Helicopter Squadron at Da Nang Air Base. Using their own H-34 Choctaw helicopters, the VNAF airmen successfully recovered several damaged O-1 Bird Dog aircraft from Hue, airlifting them 45 miles back to their own base.

After carefully examining the damaged aircraft, Major Nguyen Binh Tru, commander of the VNAF 41st Technical Group, and Air Force Major Farrell E. Stalcup, of AFAT-5, decided that the O-1s could be repaired and made to fly again. Major

Stalcup suggested a recovery plan using VNAF H-34s from the 213th Squadron to lift the Bird Dogs back to Da Nang where they could be repaired.

For two days, Air Force Major Edward J. Johnson, AFAT-5 operations advisor to the 213th, worked with VNAF helicopter pilots and ground crews advising them on hookup and flight techniques. At Hue, VNAF maintenance crews prepared the Bird Dogs for the trip back to Da Nang by removing the wings, propellers and locking the flight controls.

As for the four O-1 aircraft, after about 10 days in the VNAF maintenance shops at Da Nang, the O-1s will be back in the air again helping VNAF forward air controllers.



Two Marines examine the 15-foot python killed by "F" Company, 1st Marine Regiment. (USMC PHOTO)

English Session Boosts MEDCAP

PHUOC VINH (USA) — A recent MEDCAP operation to a hamlet west of here proved a success only after 101st Airborne Division paratroopers started giving English lessons.

Arriving in Le Thang hamlet, airborne medics from the 3rd Brigade's 1st Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry, were greeted only by a handful of children.

Captain Dennis W. Brewer, battalion civil affairs officer, told the hamlet chief he brought a doctor with assistants to help the sick.

However, no one came. The troopers became tense as all local security was tightened.

Reenlistee Puts Bonus In Savings

DA NANG — A Force Logistics Command Marine has deposited a \$10,000 reenlistment bonus in the Savings Deposit Program.

Staff Sergeant M.D. Deichert, a radar technician at Electronics Maintenance Company, received and deposited the money in one transaction. It will earn him 10 per cent interest while invested in the program.

A "Variable Reenlistment Bonus" (VRB) is paid to Marines with critical military occupational specialties (MOS). Sergeant Deichert has a very critical MOS, so he got the regular bonus and a VRB bonus of four times the regular bonus. Including the settlement of unused leave, the sergeant received slightly more than \$10,000.

"I decided that all that money might as well be put to work so I put it where it'll do the most," he said.

The Savings Deposit Program works this way. Regular pay, reenlistment bonus, travel allowance for unused accrued leave may be deposited in the program by cash deposit or monthly allotment installments.

Withdrawals from the program may be made in emergency situations or when taking 30-day special leave. When a man returns to the States, his account is closed and paid off within 90 days of his return.

NVA Pennant Foils No One

LANDING ZONE JANE (USA) — A North Vietnamese flag looked suspicious to 5th Cavalry soldiers as they watched it unfurl in the middle of an open field near a village south of Quang Tri.

Because of their suspicions, they resisted the temptation to yank it down for a souvenir.

Instead, they radioed for an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team (EOD). An investigation by Specialist 6 James D. Phipps of the 25th Ordnance Detachment, turned up a 175mm artillery round dug into the ground and connected to the flagpole by a pull-friction fuse.

"It would have exploded instantly in the hands of an eager souvenir hunter," Specialist Phipps observed.

The booby trap posed a lesser threat to the specialist, who has spent four of his 11 years in the Army as an EOD man.

'Ruff-Puffs' Appreciated

Villagers Reward Troops

LONG BINH (II FF) — Almost 200,000 piasters (\$1,690) have been contributed by the grateful inhabitants of Co Dau Hau to their Regional and Popular Force defenders.

More than 300 civilians in the district capital of Hieu Thien in Tay Ninh province contributed money which will help compensate the RF and PF troops who saved the city last month but lost their own homes and personal belongings.

The Viet Cong fired more than 600 mortar and rocket rounds into the RF and PF guarded city about 3 a.m. March 25. Members of the 162d and 766th RF companies and two PF platoons raced to their bunkers as the shells were falling and engaged the enemy until about 6:15 a.m. when the VC broke contact.

"A search of the area revealed more than 60 Viet Cong killed while the RF and PF units only suffered three killed," stated

First Lieutenant Ben D. Ferrari, assistant senior U.S. advisor in the capital.

"Housing and personal belongings of more than 100 of the RF and PF soldiers had been completely destroyed," said the lieutenant.

The villagers, realizing the local forces had saved their city from falling under VC control, wanted to help the "Ruff-Puffs," the nickname for the RF and PF troops.

Huynh Van Dieu, provincial representative, called a mass meeting of the villagers and asked for contributions and suggestions. "The forces (RF and PF) gave us good protection. They have displayed much bravery in keeping the Viet Cong away. We, of this village, want to reward them," said Mr. Dieu.

"The people want security and are willing to reward our forces for it, rather than live under VC

terrorism," stated Mr. Dieu. "Our people would make contributions again today if it would be necessary."

"The meeting was a giant fund raising drive. First one person stood and pledged 10,000 piasters. Then another and another. When it was all over 197,000 piasters had been raised and not one person pledged less than 1,000 piasters," Lieutenant Ferrari said.

After collecting the money, it was divided among the families of the wounded and killed, the RF and PF troops and the 10th ARVN Armored Cavalry Regiment which had been ambushed on its way to support the "Ruff-Puffs."

Lieutenant Ferrari said the RF and PF forces were overwhelmed by the gift from the citizens and "their morale went sky high." Many of the defenders expressed strong wishes that the Viet Cong would try and return again so they could take them on in battle once more.

Viets Help Clear Area

CHU LAI (USA) — "It's one thing to clear a stretch of road of mines and booby traps, but it's another to get local people to chip in and help find them," said a civil affairs officer from Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade.

Captain George Hamm was obviously proud of the progress being made since he teamed up with a psychological operations team to clear the roads.

The plan was simple enough. Through leaflets, loudspeakers and informal discussions, the word was spread that dud rounds, enemy mines or booby traps and weapons are worth money to the villagers.

"At first it all seemed useless since it was once a heavily VC controlled area," said the captain. "Then one day, a little boy led us to two camouflaged mortar rounds."

One local farmer collected 65,000 piasters for leading the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry to 53 new enemy rifles.

"Mostly we get hidden mortar and artillery rounds," concluded Captain Hamm, "but everyone we get is one less that can blow up a truck, armored personnel carrier or some of our troops."

Saigon Depot Claims Record

SAIGON (USA) — The 506th Field Depot in Saigon lays claim to the title of "The World's Largest Depot." And, it has official facts and figures to back up this claim.

During the past quarter (January, February and March) the unit received 373 thousand tons of equipment and issued out more than 356 thousand tons. The amount received was more than one-third of all Stateside depots' total tonnage while its supplies issued was more than one-fourth of the entire Stateside issue.

Not satisfied with being the world's biggest depot (10.3 million square feet), the 506th is striving to be the world's best, according to its commander, Colonel J.P. Alexander Jr.



American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week of May 1-7, 1968)
(Saigon Area)

Wednesday, May 1

1830 News Headlines
1930 Last In Space
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Insight—Law Day
2005 Law Day Special—Melvin Bell
2030 Addams Family
2100 Carol Burnett
2200 Sports
2230 Halftime Headlines
2300 New Headlines

Thursday, May 2

1830 News Headlines
1930 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Seabees In Vietnam
2005 Information Feature
2030 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2230 Update News
2305 Jerry Lewis

Friday, May 3

1830 News Headlines
1930 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Insight
2005 Big Picture
2030 Bewitched
2100 The Lucy Show
2130 Get Smart
2200 Star Trek
2230 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Saturday, May 4

1830 News Headlines
1930 The World of Horses
1930 Pro Bowler's Tour
1930 Sports
1700 Sportsman's Holiday
1730 First Annual Academy of Professional Sports Awards
2000 In Concert: Herman's Hermits

Sunday, May 5

1230 News Headlines
The Christophers
1245 Sacred Heart
1300 Prince Of Peace
1330 Sports
1530 Feature Movie
1645 Pat Boone Special
1730 Johnny Midnight
1800 GE College Bowl
1830 Donny Thomas Hour
1930 News-Sports-Business
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Window of Vietnam
2005 Fobulous Funnies
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2230 Update News
2305 Dean Martin

Monday, May 6

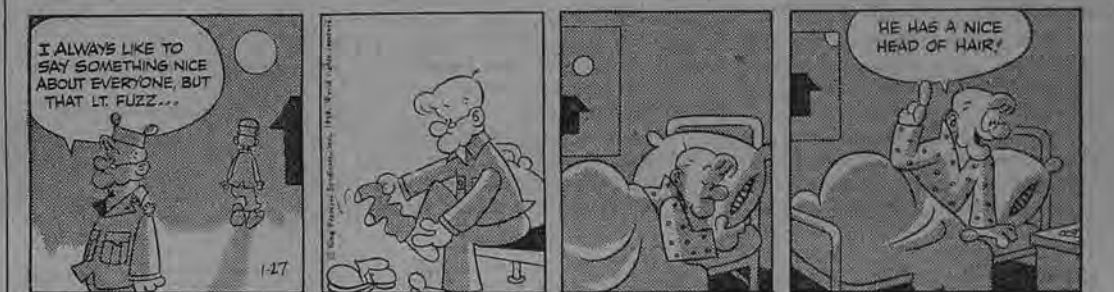
1830 News Headlines
Daniel Boone
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Insight
2005 In Town Tonight
2030 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Tonight Show

Tuesday, May 7

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Insight
2005 Biography
2030 Green Acres
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Combat
2230 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Medic 'Jumps In' Swims To Wounded

BIEN HOA (USA) — During a firefight north of here recently, Specialist 4 Frank Gentile, a medic with 2nd Battalion (airborne), 501st Infantry, became a hero for the third time.

Specialist Gentile, already a two-time Silver Star winner, swam 120 feet across a river to a wounded man who was stranded on the other side while a firefight raged from bank-to-bank.

He held his aid kit and deflated air-mattress above his head as he swam, making himself as small a target as possible.

"When I got to the other side, I had to pull myself out of the water onto the other bank. I didn't think I could do it. I was so tired," the daring medic recalled later.

But he made it onto the side of the river, and in a low-crouching run made his way to the wounded paratrooper.

Specialist Gentile dressed his wounds and inflated the air-mattress. After dragging the man's limp body to the river bank, he lowered the mattress

down onto the water.

"After I put the fellow on top of it, I began swimming downstream pushing him ahead of me," he said.

The medic swam 400 yards down the swiftly-moving river, trying to get out of the firefight to a safe area so a MEDEVAC helicopter could land and extract the wounded trooper.

"While I was in the water, he stopped breathing five times," the 20-year-old medic said. "Each time I pulled myself up onto the mattress, I gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation or massaged his heart until he resumed breathing."

Finally the wiry little medic succeeded in pushing the raft out of danger and found a place where a MEDEVAC chopper could set down. A few seconds later, a chopper landed and was airborne again with the wounded man on board.

Later, checking on the man's condition, Specialist Gentile was pleased to find out his work was not in vain. The man would live.

Smallpox Averted By Alert Medics

DAK TO (USA) — Prompt action by the civil affairs team of the 4th Division, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, recently averted a possible smallpox epidemic in two Montagnard villages near here.

The 1st Brigade's civil affairs officer was a key figure in the humanitarian effort.

Evidence of a possible smallpox epidemic came to light during a visit to the Montagnard village of Dak Tomboe by the 6th Battalion civil affairs team. The team found a small girl who was suffering from the disease.

The girl and her mother, who also showed symptoms of smallpox, were rushed to the 4th Medical Battalion aid station at the 1st Brigade command camp for treatment. Later, they were transferred to a hospital in Kontum for more advanced care.

Brigade civil affairs officer, First Lieutenant Walter Chun, was then notified of the possible epidemic. He quickly came up with a plan for inoculating the village residents and also the people of nearby Dak Robie.

"I knew where I could get

smallpox vaccine," explained the lieutenant, "so I got enough to inoculate the two villages and went out to Dak Tomboe the next day with Captain Rafael Rivera and Staff Sergeant Jim Hurst of the artillery's medical team."

Upon their arrival, they advised the village chief of their plans and he explained to his people. About 150 Montagnards were inoculated that day.

Later, the chief told the Army men that there were about 15 villagers in the fields working who would not return in time to be inoculated.

"We told the chief that we were going to be at Dak Robie the next morning," said Lieutenant Chun, "so while we were inoculating the 200 Montagnards of Dak Robie the next morning, the Dak Tomboe chief marched in his 15 field workers for shots."

The civil affairs officer said it was necessary to inoculate both villages to prevent smallpox from spreading because of people going back and forth to both locations.



TO SAVE A LIFE—Medics and comrades in arms from the 101st Airborne Division work frantically to save the life of a fellow paratrooper. The soldier was wounded during a heavy firefight just south of Phuoc Vinh. They are all members of the 3rd Brigade's 3rd Battalion (Abn.), 187th Infantry. (USA PHOTO By: SSgt. Earl VanAlstine)

Enemy Ambush Site Cleared

FIRE SUPPORT BASE JAEGER (USA) — Ambush Alley is no more. In its place stands a brand new 9th Division fire base — Support Base Lambert.

Ambush Alley was the name given to a section of high ground near the village of Duong Diem on Route 4. The area was one of the worst of many places the Viet Cong launched violent terror campaigns aimed at cutting the route, long considered Saigon's lifeline to the Mekong Delta.

To counter this threat, the 9th Division initiated Operation People's Road to clear the route of Viet Cong harassment. The

task was not easy, according to reports from that operation.

"Everytime I sent my men into that area, they were soon engaged in heavy fighting by waiting Viet Cong," said Lieutenant Colonel Eric F. Antila, commander of the 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry. "And each time I flew over there (Ambush Alley), my chopper would be machinegunned," he added.

After a series of vicious battles, however, the 5/60th Infantry pushed the VC out of the area and returned Duong Diem to government control.

Division engineers immediately began clearing the land and

building the new fire base which now sits on the site of three major battles.

Now that the VC are gone, the infantrymen have taken on another task — rebuilding the village of Duong Diem and bolstering the people's confidence in the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

"Schools are being rebuilt and reopened," Colonel Antila explained, "schools that were closed when the village was under Communist control."

"Ambush Alley was also located in the center of a major VC infiltration route, where men, food and munitions once flowed with much frequency."

Jets Support ARVN Bns.

Tac Air Kills 100 Enemy

TUY HOA (USAF)—Air power supplied by Air Force F-100 Supersabre jets of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing here has been credited with killing 100 enemy troops in support of two ARVN battalions.

The two battalions were from the 47th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Regiment, and the air support helped them towards one of their biggest victories of the year against the enemy in Phu Yen Province.

The action took place near My Hoa Village, located 5 miles west of the provincial capital at Tuy Hoa City.

The ARVN liaison officer and

forward air controllers for the unit, said seven flights of F-100 jets almost wiped out two companies and part of a third, of a well dug in enemy force, believed to be the 1st Battalion of the 306th North Vietnamese Army Regiment.

When repeated assaults by ARVN forces were beaten back, tactical air support was called in to hit the enemy positions. The pilots laid down a barrage of bombs and 20mm cannon fire throughout the day. The attack was broken off by air units just before dark. Fourteen flights had hit the area during the day. This also included F-100 aircraft

from Phan Rang air base and F-4C Phantom jets from Cam Ranh Bay air base.

When it was all over, one American liaison officer with the 47th Regiment said, "We couldn't have taken this place without tactical air support. They were dug in to stay, and the only thing that got them out was the tac air."

Commenting on the performance of the ARVN force he added, "The troops I helped train and direct, the 1st Battalion, fought one of the finest battles I have seen in Vietnam in my 11 months of duty here."

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