

Toan Thang Sweep Underway

SAIGON (MACV) — Following the wrap up of Operation Quyet Thang (Resolve to Win) April 7, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam announced April 8, the kick off of another massive allied operation named Toan Thang.

The new operation involves more than 90 U.S., Vietnamese and Free World Forces' battalions and includes all troops in the ARVN III Corps area and the II U.S. Field Force zone of Vietnam.

Operation Toan Thang is nearly twice as large as Quyet Thang, which had more than 50,000 U.S. and allied soldiers. In that operation allied forces killed 2,658 Communists in Saigon and its five surrounding provinces during 27 days of fighting.

Toan Thang is a coordinated campaign involving the Republic of Vietnam's Armed Forces, U.S., Australian and Thailand troops and is oriented to eliminate the enemy forces throughout the 11 provinces in the III Corps tactical zone.

Money Limitations Effective May 1st

Story by PFC Jack Burke
Art by Sp5 Darrel Hill

LONG BINH (USA) — The \$200 per month limitation on personal currency transactions involving military payment certificates (MPC) goes into effect Wednesday, May 1.

Unfortunately there is still a good deal of confusion on just what this limitation will mean to U.S. military personnel in Vietnam.

First, why the limitation? What good does it do?

It is a measure taken by the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) to control the black market and hinder currency manipulation.

Does the limitation mean that military personnel are limited to spending \$200 each month in the PX, or in Vietnam?

There will be no limit fixed to the amount of money that may be spent in the PX or anywhere else in Vietnam. For example, there is nothing to prevent you from buying a \$300 tape recorder.

What is the restriction on then?

The limitation concerns itself with money orders, treasury checks, and Traveler's checks in excess of \$200 each month. The reason behind this is the fact that the quickest way to change MPC into U.S. dollars is to buy a money order with MPC which is then redeemable.



in U.S. currency.

The underlying reason for the limitation is to prevent money manipulation.

MPC in itself can only be used by authorized personnel and can not legally be used on

Units of the Free World Forces taking part in the new massive sweep are the U.S. 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions, the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 1st Australian Task Force and the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Regiment.

Vietnamese units taking part are the 5th, 18th and 25th ARVN Infantry Divisions, 5th Ranger Group, ARVN Airborne and Marine Task Forces plus RF/PF troops and the National Police force.

Provinces involved in Operation Toan Thang are: Tay Ninh, Binh Long, Phuoc Long, Long Khanh, Binh Tuy, Phuoc Tuy, Bien Hoa, Long An, Gia Dinh, Hau Nghia and Binh Duong.

During the first few days, the operation was characterized by light and scattered actions. As of April 15, after seven days of fighting, Operation Toan Thang units had killed 586 Communists and detained 270 suspects. Allied losses were 85 killed and 430 wounded.

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FIRST IN VIETNAM

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ONE MORE RUN—An Air Force jet dives in for one last bombing run before combined Vietnamese-U.S. troops assault an enemy-infested treeline near Saigon. Elements of the 25th ARVN Infantry Division and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Third Squadron were participating in Operation Quyet Thang (Resolve to Win).

(USA PHOTO By: First Lieutenant David L. Fortney)

Hoi Chanh Given Record Award

LONG BINH (II FF) — The largest award ever received by a Hoi Chanh has been paid to Nguyen Van Lieu in a ceremony at the Phuoc Tuy province Chieu Hoi Center.

Mr. Lieu received 1,088,000 piasters (\$9,222) for leading U.S., Australian and Republic of Vietnam soldiers to what is believed to be the largest Viet Cong weapons cache ever found in Vietnam.

He turned himself into the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Center last September, after serving seven years as a Viet Cong. During his Hoi Chanh rehabilitation training, he advised government authorities of the two cache locations.

Weapons and supplies found in the cache included more than 1,000 rifles, 60mm mortars, light machine guns, grease guns, bangalore torpedoes, large amounts of ammunition, TNT and other explosives, and more than 1,000 kilos of rice.

Mr. Lieu is a native of Phuoc Tuy province and lived there until 1958 when he left for three years of commercial art training in Saigon.

"When I returned to Phuoc Tuy in 1960 the Viet Cong told me they would kill me if I didn't join them," he said. "They promised me many things if I would follow their cause."

He said seven years later that he still had received very little

from the Viet Cong except excuses and more promises.

"Even when I asked to be with my pregnant wife for the birth of our child, they refused me," he complained. "It was then that I decided to leave the VC and return to my wife and family."

When asked what he planned to do with the award money, he said: "Now I can finally buy my wife and I a home in Vung Tau. Then I want to buy a business and establish a good future for my family. This has been my dream for many years."

Mr. Lieu indicated that he also planned to share a portion of the money with his fellow Vietnamese who have experi-

enced suffering and loss in the war.

"I plan to contribute 100,000 piasters to the Tet Aggression Relief Project (TARP) in Phuoc Tuy province and 100,000 to TARP in Saigon," he announced proudly.

Three other Hoi Chans also received awards for leading allied troops to other Viet Cong weapons caches. Nguyen Thanh Binh received 110,000 piasters (\$932); Huynh Phien Kiet accepted 25,200 piasters (\$213); and Nguyen Van Tam received 18,500 piasters (\$156). All the men reside in Phuoc Tuy province.

They too, contributed shares of their awards to TARP.

Editorial!

It's A Good Life

Every month thousands of Americans put on the uniform of their respective services and devote a few hours of their time to attending training and drill periods of their reserve units. These are men of the Ready Reserve, available for call to active duty in any emergency declared by the President or Congress.

The value of a strong Reserve was readily apparent during the crises in Berlin, Cuba and, most recently, Vietnam. The show of force needed to help keep the lid on world trouble spots such as these can be provided only by a strong regular force, backed by a trained, ready reserve force.

Where actually called to active duty or not, the mere existence of a strong, trained, available reserve force is significant factor in our world military position.

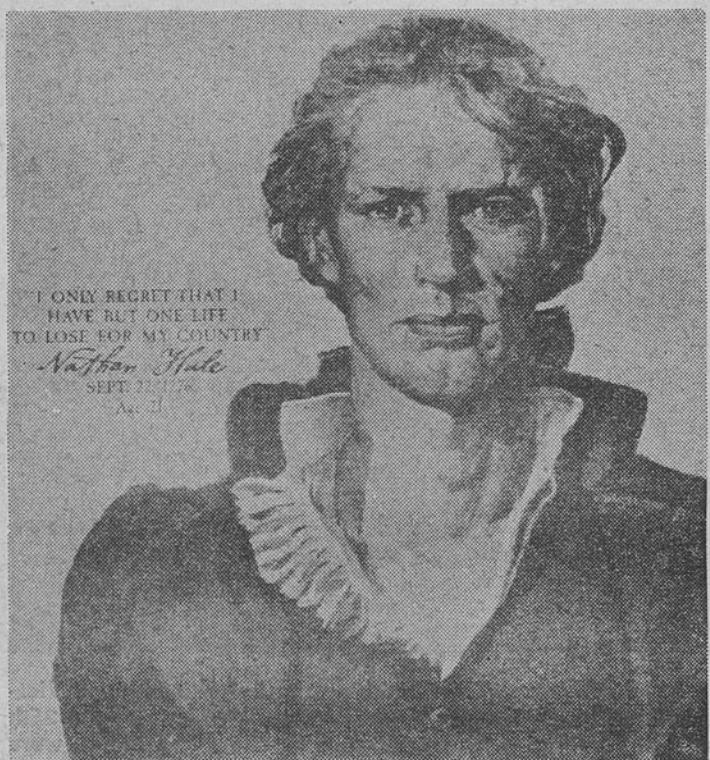
Of course, everyone who entered the military service before his 26th birthday has a statutory obligation to serve a total of six years in the Armed Forces. This obligation may be met by six years of active service or by serving varying periods of active service combined with service in either the Ready Reserve, the Stand-by Reserve, or both.

Members of the Standby Reserve, although they can be called to active duty only in the event of war or national emergency declared by Congress, do not serve on active duty or active duty for training under normal conditions.

Ready Reservists receive pay for training and drill periods and for active duty for training. Promotions are made in the Reserve just as in the regular establishment.

While you're in the Reserve and advance in rank or move to warrant or commissioned status, you have a source of substantial and dependable income. Then when you reach the age of 60, and have met the necessary requirements, you become eligible for retirement benefits, including pay. (AFPS)

Know Your Code



1st Code Of Conduct

I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.



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COMUSMACV

Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA

Information Officer

Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA

Chief, Command Information

Lt. Col. T. A. Costello, USA

NCOIC

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Feature Editor

S8gt C. T. Owen, USMC

Sp5 R.E. Grant, USA

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Commission Offered For Leadership

WASHINGTON (USMC) — Enlisted Marines who demonstrate outstanding combat leadership under fire, and staff non-commissioned officers, including Women Marines, who exhibit exceptional leadership potential are eligible for commissions.

Regulars and Reserves can be appointed. Staff Sergeant selectees qualify for the "exceptional leadership potential" commissions.

Selectees will be commissioned temporary second lieutenants, USMC or USMCR.

The commandant of the Marine Corps is convening a permanent screening board at Headquarters to consider recommendations. Nominations will be command-initiated.

Candidate requirements are: U.S. citizenship.

POC or above (combat leadership) S8gt (SSgt selectee) or above (leadership potential).

Twenty years of age, or not have reached 37th birthday by end of fiscal year in which recommended.

GCT or AA of 110.

Requests for waivers will be considered.

Reserve SNCO selectees would serve on active duty for two years.

Marine Corps Order 1421.7B contains detailed information.

Blood Offered By Red Cross

SAIGON (ARC) — U.S. servicemen in Vietnam or any overseas station can obtain whole blood through the American Red Cross to meet blood requirements for members of their immediate families residing in the United States.

Blood for family members of U.S. servicemen is furnished by Red Cross regardless of whether or not they reside in a community covered by the American Red Cross Blood Program. In areas of the United States not covered by the blood program, the Red Cross will, upon request, replace the total amount of blood used by the serviceman's relative. However, the Red Cross will replace only the amount of blood used, even though some commercial blood banks require two or even three units to replace one unit of blood they provide for the patient.

The American Red Cross does not sell blood. Hospitals, however, may pass on a processing charge to the patient as well as a charge for handling and administering the blood. These charges vary widely, depending on the hospital.

In the Pacific Command and all other overseas areas where the U.S. Forces are located, whole blood is collected only by the U.S. military.

Any member of the U.S. Forces having questions about the American Red Cross Blood Program should contact his local Red Cross field director.



HI THERE—Her name is Karne Huston. She is an actress with 20th Century-Fox, and is currently featured in the studios picture the "Boston Strangler", starring Tony Curtis and Henry Fonda. We all agree it is a picture to see.

(Photo Courtesy of 20th Century-Fox)

Letter Of Support Backs Servicemen

SAIGON (MACV) — This headquarters has received many letters in support of the Free World effort in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

Occasionally the OBSERVER will publish such letters of appreciation for the forces fighting to maintain freedom here. The following is from a scroll signed by 973 students and 66 faculty members of Fayetteville Senior High School, Fayetteville, North Carolina:

"We, the undersigned students of Fayetteville Senior High School, are very grateful for what you are doing to insure our freedom. Not all the young people of the United States burn draft cards, dodge the draft or demonstrate against the war in Vietnam. Only a small minority behave

in this manner, although they obtain a great deal of publicity. We feel that you should know that we deeply appreciate what you are doing for us.

"We consider it a privilege to live in the United States and to enjoy the democracy which it provides, and we also know that it is necessary to protect that democracy whenever any situation threatens it. You, fighting men, are risking your lives so that we can live in a free and democratic society. All of us thoroughly understand what you are fighting for, the importance of your efforts, and also realize that we are greatly indebted to you.

"Please accept our most sincere expression of gratitude." Signed: Students and Faculty, Fayetteville Senior High School

Advice From The Field

Time To Watch Out

While riding along roads that might be mined, be alert for sticks or other objects that look as if they might have been put there deliberately. The VC use these sticks to line up a moving vehicle so they'll know when to activate a time-delayed mine.

Trap Trash

Sometimes when the VC set out punji stakes in a hurry, they kick the trash to the side of the path. Learn to look for bamboo cuttings and scraps of wood by the trail, and then walk with extra care. (AD)

Hit The Ground

Too many men kneel or squat when receiving or returning



BIG GUN—The commander of the 2nd ARVN Division, Colonel Nguyen Van Toan, tries out the new M-60 Machine gun at the division's Quang Ngai training center. The new guns will add the needed fire power the division has been seeking. (MACV PHOTO)

'Cobra' Gunships Sink VC Craft

CAN THO (USA) — Recently a heavy fire team of the 235th Armed Helicopter Company, flying the new attack Huey Cobras, teamed up with the 221st Army Reconnaissance Company and dealt the Viet Cong near Rach Gia a smashing blow.

Flying support for elements of the 21st ARVN Division, the cobras were working the canal system northwest of Rach Gia. Suddenly one of the craft dipped its nose and let loose a volley of marker-rockets.

Then, the cobras headed towards the markers. It was a large convoy of enemy sampans, hidden along the shore line of one of the main VC infiltration routes.

"They seemed to be loaded with crates of all sizes," said one of the cobra pilots, "and we knew if we didn't stop them, they could play havoc with the local outpost."

The three attack choppers went in on a rocket and minigun run and destroyed one heavily laden sampan on the first pass.

They continued their attacks as more of the camouflaged boats were detected. By the end of the day's operation they had sunk 30 of the Viet Cong resupply vessels. One chopper crew was credited with sinking 12 of the sampans.

The following morning elements of the ARVN division were air lifted into the area and found that some of the damaged sampans had had their contents removed and neatly stacked on the canal bank. This enemy cargo was captured by the ARVN troops and air transported to the base camp at Rach Gia for display.

Seized were six 57mm recoilless rifles, five 12.7mm anti-aircraft weapons, five 82mm and six 60mm mortar tubes.

MEDEVAC—Members of a helicopter support team rush a wounded Marine to a medical evacuation helicopter. (USMC PHOTO)

Former Viet Cong Elected Chieu Hoi Hamlet Chief

DA NANG (USMC) — Hgo Dinh Chi used to be a Viet Cong tax collector. Now, he is the newly-elected chief of a hamlet growing on the white sands of Red Beach, north of Da Nang.

Residents of the hamlet find nothing unusual about having a former VC as their chief, because not so long ago, they were also Viet Cong or VC sympathizers.

ers. Now they are building a new life as the followers of the Republic of Vietnam government in Hoa Khanh, a Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) hamlet.

Since opening in December, 1967, the hamlet has become the home of over 100 Chieu Hoi families. Granted amnesty by the government, they are coming to the hamlet from all

corners of Quang Nam provinces.

With money given them by the government and with the aid of the Civil Affairs section of the nearby Force Logistic Command (FLC) they are building homes, finding jobs and becoming responsible citizens.

The people represent a cross-section of the Viet Cong military and guerrilla infrastructure. Some were VC hamlet chiefs while others had lesser jobs. One admires carrying a captured M-14 rifle and taking part in several fire fights against Marine patrols.

One of the biggest problems faced by the returnees is finding work. The impact of large numbers of ralliers on small farming communities makes it difficult. Some Hoi Chanh have been given jobs with Armed Psyops Teams (APT) in an effort to persuade the families of known VC to cooperate with the South Vietnamese government.

While all cannot work with Psyops units, many are given jobs by the U.S. military.

"When there is a job opening at Camp Books, I always give the Hoi Chanh priority," said Captain P.R. Caldwell, FLC industrial relations officer. "Their people have come to us on their own and I feel they deserve every opportunity to prove themselves."

Recently, a nearby Seabee unit built a medical aid station for them. Navy Corpsmen conduct a clinic three times a week for the Hoi Chanh. Two former VC medics assist the corpsmen.

Since the Chieu Hoi program began in 1963 less than one percent of the ralliers have changed their minds.

In the near future, with the help of FLC civil affairs specialists, the hamlet is to get a school in which to teach the 144 school-age children.

87th Engr. Battalion Trains Viet. Nurses

CAM RANH BAY (USA) — The public health program here is much improved since the 87th Engineer Battalion's surgeon began training local Vietnamese to serve as nurses on the unit MEDCAP team.

The surgeon is Captain Ronald Roth. Previously, Doctor Roth and his medics visited the island villagers of Binh Ba and Binh Jung on Cam Ranh Bay. A Vietnamese Navy junkboat would drop them on a beach where they set up their treatment area and medical supplies.

There was much crowding and pushing among the curious people, anxious for medical attention. Large numbers of healthy children and adults would also congregate, hoping to receive gifts and medicines.

In order to offset these diffi-

culties and be able to treat more people, Doctor Roth decided to integrate Vietnamese personnel into the MEDCAP work.

Both male and female trainees were soon taught basic nursing techniques at the Battalion Aid Station.

As a result of the new program, Doctor Roth's MEDCAP team is better staffed to handle what was formerly an overflow patient load. Nearly 400 people can now be treated in a single afternoon.

Presently, nearly 90-percent of the people treated on the islands are handled by locally trained Vietnamese.

American medical personnel treat only those patients which represent diagnostic or treatment problems to the Vietnamese nurses.



MEDICAL TREATMENT — The old and the young alike of Ky Hoa Island receive medical treatment when Navy Lieutenant John A. Emery and his team of Navy corpsmen visit the island. The MEDCAP team from the 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion at Chu Lai, visit the island villages three times every week. The team travels from their home base to the island via landing craft. (USMC PHOTO)

Would You Believe Beaucoup Returnees?

CHU LAI (USA) — It is not unusual to see a lone Vietnamese or even a small band of people waving Chieu Hoi passes in the field. But what do you do with 79 persons waving them, nearly all of whom are women and children?

The old man led the company to his friends. By the time they were all assembled, there were 79 refugees. Helicopters were called in to airlift both the refugees and the company to a refugee center.

Captain John Connolly was leading his unit on a clearing operation when his attention was drawn to an old man and

He Only Skins 'Big Ones'

VUNG DAT AM (USA) — "I only skin the big ones," said Sergeant First Class Don Nelson as he told of his unusual taxidermic exploits, making for some leisure moments in this war.

When not busy supervising roadway construction in the Highlands of Vietnam, the 4th Engineer Battalion platoon sergeant fancies snake hunting.

As of last count, he has collected 111 reptiles ranging from big black pythons to grass snakes a few inches long. He

skins the big ones while dismissing the small ones. Welding an old carbine rifle with a sawed-off butt, the engineer resembles a pirate on the high seas.

His prized kills include a 15-foot long python and a huge king cobra, killed earlier this year and placed in his collection.

On the beach they pick up two boys, Kim and Tom, who act as interpreters and guides. They then move along the narrow roads to An Binh hamlet. Smiles and waves greet them as the truck travels across the

Missilemen's MEDCAP

Medics Treat Islanders

CHU LAI (USMC) — A Navy doctor and his assistants have won the friendship and respect of the people of Ky Hoa Island through their work with the island's sick.

Smiles appear on the island when Navy Lieutenant John A. Emery, of the 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion and his crew of Navy Corpsmen drive their truck down the ramp of a landing craft and onto the beach. The team travels from their headquarters at the Chu Lai Marine Air Base three times weekly to visit the island's six hamlets.

The doctor's time is spent examining patients and advising the corpsmen. Soap is distributed to cut down cases of skin infection.

"The medicine we practice is simple but effective," he said.

After the last patient was treated the truck is loaded and house calls are made to visit bed patients. Anyone in need of surgery or special care is taken along to the 1st Hospital Company at Chu Lai.

island and many of the children call out "hello" their one word of English.

At An Binh the sick gathered as Lieutenant Emery and his men quickly set up their treatment center. Because of past experience, they know what medicines and drugs to bring made on Ky Hoa Island. They will return.

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Refugees From War's Devastation



Red Cross volunteers in a refugee center pass out servings of rice to Saigon homeless.

SAIGON (VFS) — Eight out of every 100 South Vietnamese are refugees from war's terror and devastation. Nearly 1,330,000 men, women and children, mostly the old and the young, are living with friends and relatives or remain in crowded refugee camps and temporary shelters. They come from Quang Tri at the 17th parallel to Ca Mau below the 10th parallel. Never has the burden of caring for the displaced of the nation weighed so heavily on the Saigon government.

At the beginning of 1968 the solution of its long-standing refugee problem seemed in sight for the Republic of Vietnam. Some 794,000 refugees remained uprooted, but resettlement projects were underway in a number of provinces to give many of them permanent homes. And for the first time since the tempo of war speeded up in mid-1965, the rate at which refugees were being returned to their homes or were being resettled in new homes was considerably higher than the rate at which new refugees were being generated by battles.

Then came the communists' wide-ranging Tet offensive. Striking at 102 cities and towns during the Lunar New Year holidays, the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army left misery in their wake. Nearly

20,000 civilians were killed, their homes. As the wounded or kidnapped in the returns to normal first wave of the attack, more will resume employment than 101,000 houses were razed, the shelters. As super and 656,000 persons fled to join the refugee program the ranks of the nation's refugees. the chiselers will be out. But a hard-core

About 120,000 were able to return to their homes within five weeks as the government established military control of their areas. But the numbers remaining unsettled — 102,400 — are as many as 250,000 — refugees will remain as long as no homes to go to. Some have been or will be established by the government. The numbers range from 5,000 to 10,000 piasters (US \$42.40 to \$84.80) per person. The remaining 92,400 are in centers of the Central Welfare ministry, alone, were great enough to pose an almost insoluble problem for the government. The stocks imported by the Central Welfare ministry are estimated at \$100,000,000.

Across the nation, hundreds of thousands had their homes razed in the fighting or at the hands of arsonists. Other thousands fled to refugee shelters, not because their homes were destroyed, but because their neighborhoods were battlefields and their houses too dangerous to live in. Others stayed in refugee centers because their jobs had disappeared with the offensive, and they had nothing to eat. Some undoubtedly were chislers, job holders living in (Agency For International Development). With these materials, they themselves will rebuild their homes, of the old, assisted by neighbors and whatever is available — Boy soldiers, Revolutionary front teams, etc. Reconstruction around the nation is in full rebuilding already. But a number of refugees will not go to their old sites; many life anew somewhere else.

chiseler, job-holders living in refugee centers so they could partake of the relief supplies and food handed out by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Refugee Affairs and by charitable groups.

Story & Photos
By
Vietnam

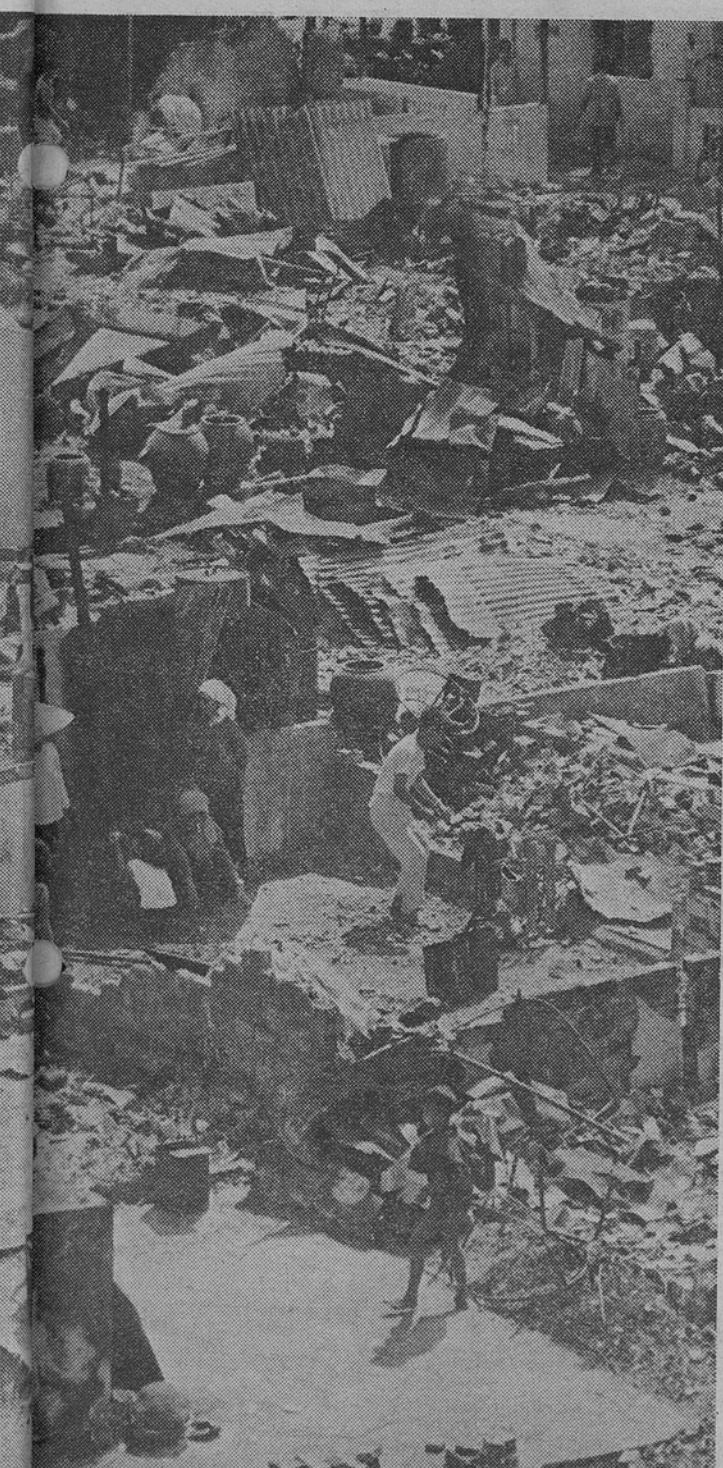
As security conditions improve, many refugees will return to their Service.

A black and white photograph capturing a group of children, predominantly boys, gathered around a table. The children are in various states of motion, with some appearing to be in the middle of a game or activity. In the foreground, a boy is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression, while another boy to his right is holding a large, round, white object, possibly a balloon or a lid, in front of his face. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting a busy indoor environment, possibly a school or a community center. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a candid and intimate atmosphere.

Among those who fled the battle of Hue were these youngsters who are being cared for by the government until new homes are built.



Of Hue's 145,000 residents, 60,000 of them—like the family shown here crossing the Perfume River—became refugees during the 25-day battle.



lents clean up their lots prior to rebuilding their homes.



Schools were turned into temporary hospitals to treat the sick.



WHAT A WIDOW—Beautiful and seductive Raquel Welch uses all her charm, (37-22 1/2-35 1/2) in leading a young man astray while starring in the 20th Century-Fox production of "Bandolero". The 5' 6", 118 pound, brown eyed beauty plays a young Mexican widow who is kidnapped by outlaws after they murder her husband. She co-stars with James Stewart and Dean Martin. (PHOTO COURTESY 20th Century-Fox)

M-16 Makes Wicked Club

LZ ENGLISH (USA) — Specialist 4 Charles Lewis does not claim to be an Arnold Palmer, but there are two Viet Cong who will testify that he swings a mean club.

The specialist, a 4th Infantry Division soldier, was searching a tunnel when his platoon began taking heavy sniper fire. He emptied his M-16 at the snipers, then leaped into a ditch.

Unfortunately, the ditch was already occupied. Specialist Lewis landed right on top of two unsuspecting Viet Cong.

He clubbed both of them unconscious with his M-16 rifle before the two VC could react.

His heroics did not pass unnoticed by the men of his unit, Bravo Company. He is now called "Slammin' Sammy" pretty fair swinger, golfer Sam Lewis in deference to another Snead.

Farmer Leads Infantry

Soldiers Collect Weapons

CHU LAI (USA) — A Vietnamese farmer led an element of the American Division's 196th Light Infantry Brigade to what he thought was five hidden enemy weapons, but instead it was a cache of 54 weapons.

"We had just set up our night defense when one of my men spotted a farmer with his water buffalo," said First Lieutenant Douglas J. Greenlaw, a company commander.

The lieutenant said he stopped to talk to the farmer. He told the officer he wanted to move his wife and three children out of the area, but could not afford such a move.

"He said he knew where the Viet Cong had hidden five weapons and he would lead us to them," Lieutenant Greenlaw recalled.

explained, "but the farmer wanted assurances for the safety of his family (against Viet Cong retaliation)."

Early the next morning, the farmer took the soldiers to a clump of rocks on the side of a nearby hill close to Hon Tau Mountain northwest of Tam Ky.

A thorough search revealed 53 Russian K-44 rifles and a light machine gun, all of which were in camo-line and had never been fired.

Under the rocks, they found a natural five-foot high cave which was heavily camouflaged.

From the sky was plucked from an enemy stronghold near here recently by a gunship from the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion.

The jet pilot was shot down by ground fire while on a bombing mission against Viet Cong mortar and recoilless rifle positions near Can Tho airfield. He ejected from the burning fighter only to land near enemy positions.

His parachute was spotted from the sky by Warrant Officer Steven E. Nixon and his gunship crew.

"When we found him, he seemed mighty glad to see us," Warrant Officer Nixon recalled.

Air Force Pilot Gets Army 'Lift'

CAN THO (USA) — A downed F-100 pilot was plucked from an enemy stronghold near here recently by a gunship from the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion.

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Aviators Compile 1,350 Missions

PHAN RANG (USA) — Three Air Force pilots in the 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron who put together a total of 1,350 combat missions, recently completed 18-month tours in Vietnam.

Captains Michael E. Sexton, David A. Dreifuss and Gary L. Dana, spent six months each as forward air controllers and the rest of their time in Vietnam as F-100 Supersabre pilots at Phan Rang air base. Each left Vietnam with 450 combat missions to his credit.

The three men came to Vietnam as lieutenants in August 1966, after completing F-100 gunnery training together at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. They volunteered to become forward air controllers (FACs), adding six months to their combat tours.

Although the three pilots finished up their tours in the F-100, they all agreed that their experience as FACs helped them lead combat missions more effectively. They passed their knowledge to other fighter pilots.

Captains Sexton, Dreifuss and Dana took part in major operations such as Attleboro, Junction City and Paul Revere IV, and carried out air strikes in battles at Loc Ninh, Dak To, Bu Dop and Khe Sanh.

They were frequently cited for their outstanding work as both forward air controllers and Supersabre pilots.

The three combat veterans have been reassigned to Luke Air Force Base, where they will be instructor pilots in the F-5 Freedom Fighter program. It is the sixth consecutive shared assignment for the three officers.

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Air Crews Play Big Role In Psywar

NHA TRANG (USAF) — During January and February nearly 2,000 of the enemy have come over to the side of the South Vietnamese Government. There is much evidence that psychological warfare played an important role in their decision. For example, recently a Viet Cong defector was asked why he turned himself in. His reply was, "The little airplane in the sky told me to."

The psywar messages, both printed and recorded, encourage Viet Cong to return to support the government.

Headquartered at Nha Trang air base, air crews from the 5th

and 9th Air Command Squadrons (ACS) fly from every major air base in the Republic and drop millions of leaflets and broadcast tape recorded messages daily.

The two squadrons have divided South Vietnam in half in order to cover the country more effectively. The 5th ACS operates from the Mekong Delta to south of Phan Thiet, while the 9th ACS flies from Phan Thiet to the demilitarized zone (DMZ).

Captain Michael S. Cox, a courier pilot with the 5th ACS, spent several months in the Mekong Delta before coming to

Nha Trang. He explained, "We usually fly two or three times a day over a target area and saturate it with leaflets and then broadcast a psywar message over the same area."

"It's when we broadcast that we attract ground fire," he continued. "Most of it is from small arms."

Captain Cox feels that when he broadcasts, it really hurts the enemy.

"When we play messages we can sometimes see them making noises such as banging pots and singing to drown out the broadcast. This is especially true in some of the villages."

"It's a different story with leaflets, though. Sometimes as soon as they hit the ground they are gathered and burned. This is especially true where groups of people are gathered. The individual is afraid to read the leaflet because he might be turned in to the local Viet Cong unit," said the captain.

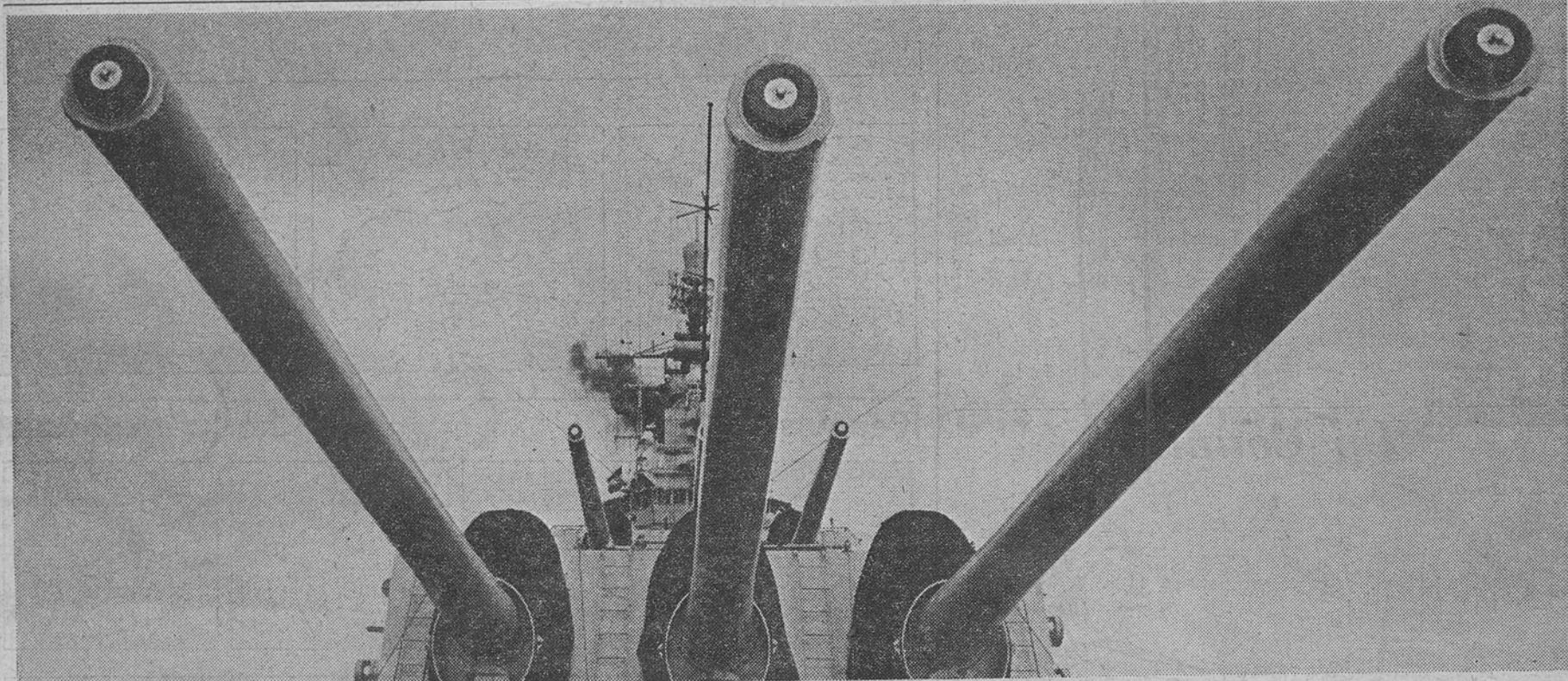
The pilot said one method of preventing destruction of the leaflets is to drop them along canal and road lines where an individual walking alone can pick one up and read it in private.

Both the 5th and 9th Air Com-

mando Squadrons fly the World War II vintage C-47 Skytrain in conducting psywar operations. Other aircraft in use are the O-2B Super Skymaster and the U-10 Courier.

The C-47, however, is used mostly for dropping leaflets because of its capacity to carry more cargo than its smaller counterparts.

As many as 20 boxes of leaflets are carried in the C-47, each weighing more than 50 pounds.



THE BUSINESS END—The biggest, and fastest, guns operating in the Gulf of Tonkin belong to the heavy U.S. cruiser Newport News (CA-148). Her rapid fire eight-inch guns are indeed awesome, they have a range of more than eight miles. Her guns pound North Vietnamese targets daily in support of Sea Dragon Gun Fire missions. The Newport News arrived on station in mid-October of last year, and this is the first time in 19-years of service that she has fired her guns in anger. She will soon be joined in her role of fire support by the newly recommissioned battleship the USS New Jersey.

(USN PHOTO By: JO1 Willard B. Bass, Jr.)

Money Limitations Explained...

(Continued From Page 1) value purchases that you make at the PX. This will include items such as cameras, television sets, refrigerators, fans, automobiles and airline tickets.

The underlying reason for the

black market. There will be no added restrictions on buying such items, but a careful record will be kept of the number of such purchases on a computer card.

Are there any exceptions to the \$200 limitation?

Certainly. When your tour of duty in Vietnam is ended, or when you go on leave or R&R you are allowed to convert as much cash as you have, regardless of amount, provided you can satisfy your commander that it represents military payment certificates legitimately acquired by you.

If your pay is going into a checking account, the checks that you write will not come under the limitation. You will receive a savings account rate of five per cent interest but you also can write checks on your account, which are payable in U.S. dollars outside of Vietnam, or MPC in Vietnam.

limitation is to prevent money manipulation.

These are generally the sort of items that find their way to

The best way to avoid being placed in a position where you will have too much MPC to convert into U.S. dollars is to reduce the amount of across the board pay you receive to an amount within the \$200 limit. This may be done in several ways.

You can arrange to have a portion of your pay transferred into U.S. Savings Deposits, which will reduce the amount of pay you actually receive on



pay day and earn 10 per cent interest. Another way is to convert some of your pay into U.S. Savings Bonds.

Remember, the \$200 limitation does not restrict your ability to buy. It is designed solely to hinder the operation of the black market and money manipulators.

Marines Use Air, Artillery; Rout Dug In NVA Troops

DA NANG (USMC) — Leathernecks of the Seventh Marine Regiment have killed 167 enemy troops and captured an assortment of weapons in two weeks of stop-and-go fighting.

The action centered in the mountains 20-miles southwest of Da Nang and involved the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Seventh Marines.

Fixed-wing close air support and artillery missions were frequently called upon to rout North Vietnamese soldiers from their heavily fortified, mountain-

top bunkers. A search of the hilltop positions revealed bunkers as large as 8 x 12 feet and shallow caves containing enemy rockets, utility uniforms, medical equipment, and in one case, an NVA pay roster with 90 names.

Newly dug graves were discovered which contained the bodies of most of the 165 confirmed NVA dead. Two Viet Cong guerrillas were killed later, which brought the total count to 167. The Marines also detained two NVA.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here
(12 cents 1st class)
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

Sec. Brown Lauds Airpower

WASHINGTON (CD) — Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown has credited airpower with a large role in the continued defeat of aggression in South Vietnam.

Mr. Brown told a meeting of the Michigan Aeronautics and Space Association in Detroit, that "largely as a result of

the mobility and firepower of our aircraft, the enemy has never been able to claim a major victory" since U.S. troops were committed to Vietnam.

"We are defeating a guerrilla war aggression with a ratio of forces less than half that usually required," he added.

Gen. Abrams To Be COMUSMACV

LTG Goodpaster Named Deputy

SAIGON (MACV)—President Johnson announced last week that General Creighton W. Abrams will replace General William C. Westmoreland as commander of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). General Westmoreland was nominated to become Army Chief of Staff.

General Abrams, present- ly deputy commander to General Westmoreland, will be replaced by Lieutenant General Andrew J. Goodpaster who is serving as Commandant of the Army War College at Fort McNair, Washington D.C. General Goodpaster was a former aide to Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy.

Both appointments were recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as well as Defense Secretary Clark M. Clifford according to the President's announcement.

General Goodpaster will also be nominated by the President for promotion to four-star general.

Fifty-three-year-old General Abrams was a tank commander in World War II under General George S. Patton and during Korea served as Chief of Staff for I Corps, X Corps and IX Corps. In 1955 he became Chief of Staff at the Armored Center at Fort Knox, Ky.

During his nearly 32 years of military service since graduation from the Military Academy at West Point in 1936, General Abrams has served with the 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Armored Division, 4th Armored Division, 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Regiment and 3rd Armored Division which he commanded from October 1960 until May 1962. He has served in many other assignments in the United States and overseas.

On August 3, 1964, he was appointed acting Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army. He came to Vietnam as deputy

(Continued on Back Page)

Marines Foil NVA; Trap And Kill 145

PHU BAI (USMC) — North Vietnamese Army regulars failed in an attempt to elude U.S. Marines and lost 145 killed during an operation northeast of here.

The operation began as Marines of the 2nd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment were heli-lifted into an area to begin their assault. Marines of the 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment were positioned to the south as a blocking force.

The assault troops encountered no enemy resistance until the afternoon of the first day, when two Marine companies were hit by a large force of NVA.

The Leathernecks swept over the enemy positions after an hour of bitter fighting within 30 meters of the NVA fighting holes and bunkers.

Air strikes and small arms were used to overpower the enemy, as the Marines continued their pursuit. A mass grave containing 18 enemy bodies was

found at nightfall.

The following few days saw scattered light contact as Marines chased the enemy toward the blocking force.

During the afternoon of the fourth day an estimated 200 enemy made contact with the 1st Battalion Leathernecks who had begun to move northward in an entrapment effort.

Contact was heavy as the Marines called in air and artillery support to drive the enemy from their firmly entrenched positions.

Leathernecks of the 2nd Battalion attacked from the east and assaulted across 500 meters of open ground.

The Marines were temporarily pinned down by heavy enemy fire, but managed to drive the NVA back after fierce small arms combat which continued into the night.

Fifty-nine North Vietnamese soldiers were killed in the battle.

Five detainees were apprehended during the operation. One surrendered to the Leathernecks.

Div. Record For 11 Mo.

CHU LAI (USA) — Americal Division soldiers have worked doggedly and without much fanfare to compile an enviable battlefield record since their arrival in southern I Corps some 11 months ago.

Since the first fighting elements of Task Force Oregon were deployed to the Chu Lai area last April, soldiers of the organization have rolled up an enemy body count of 13,227.

Americal losses have been 1,072 killed, for an enemy-friendly ratio of nearly 13-1 for the period ending March 14. Another 6,252 U.S. soldiers have been wounded in the steady day-to-day fighting.



Vol. 6, No. 50

Saigon, Vietnam

April 17, 1968



General Creighton W. Abrams

President Johnson Praises Khe Sanh Defenders

WASHINGTON—The relief of the forces which have held the base at Khe Sanh is an occasion for me to express the pride and confidence I feel in those who are carrying forward the nation's struggle against aggression in Southeast Asia.

Side by side with your South Vietnamese comrades—and our other fighting allies—you have taken the full initial weight of the enemy's winter-spring offensive; and you have now seized the initiative.

The enemy intended to destroy the constitutional government of South Vietnam and its armed forces. In this he failed. The enemy intended to overrun the base at Khe Sanh. For this purpose he emplaced around that base at least two divisions of North Vietnamese Regulars. Less than 6,000 U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese Rangers—backed by our tremendous air capacity—pinned

them down, kept them away from the populated areas at the peak of the winter-spring offensive; and imposed heavy casualties.

Now the siege of Khe Sanh is lifted.

But clearly the fighting in South Vietnam is not yet at an end.

The enemy may throw new forces into the battle.

You, I know, intend to continue to move forward.

But by your gallant and skillful support for the brave people and Armed Forces of South Vietnam, you have brought nearer the time of peace in that suffering land and in all of Southeast Asia.

As we seek now to find through negotiations an honorable peace in Vietnam, I wish you to know that we are grateful for what you have already accomplished and will be counting on you more than ever, until the blessed day when the guns fall silent.

Editorial

Stop Gold Drain

GOLD, that elusive, precious metal, has been a news maker for years. It was in the 1800s and still is today. It may seem unusual that you, as an American serviceman, could be associated with these headlines, but you are, especially if you are serving or about to serve overseas.

In today's news the gold markets of the world are affected—and that means Uncle Sam, too. That's where you come in, and here's how it happens:

Traditionally gold has been the ultimate means of settling accounts among trading nations. Since 1934 it has been policy of our government to buy gold from, and sell gold to, foreign governments, central banks, and other official institutions at \$35 an ounce.

Because we have honored this policy, the American dollar over the years has earned the reputation of being "as good as gold."

The confidence placed in the dollar by foreign businessmen and governments is demonstrated by the fact that dollars are often used to pay for goods and services sold between two foreign countries as well as between our own country and a trading partner.

As more U.S. dollars have been paid to foreigners by Uncle Sam, some of the foreign holders of dollars have accumulated what they consider to be more dollars than they need.

In turn, they have been selling them to their central banks in exchange for their own currencies. Some of these central banks have been exchanging these dollars for U.S. gold. As a result Uncle Sam's gold reserves have been dropping since 1957.

And here is where you, the American serviceman, enter the picture. When serving abroad your purchasing power is the American dollar. The more dollars you spend in a foreign economy, the more it hurts Uncle Sam—your people back home.

There is a solution. You can help stem our Government's gold drain by purchasing American-made products and enrolling in a saving plan. Remember, the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program pays 10 percent interest overseas.

As President Johnson said: "The time has now come for decisive action designed to bring our balance of payments to—or close to—equilibrium in the year ahead. The need is a national and international responsibility of the highest priority."

Do your part—buy American and save American dollars. (AFPS)

Need Airborne Soldiers

LAI KHE (USA) — There are openings available to people desiring to volunteer for duty in airborne or special forces units. The openings include a great number of MOSs from the grade of E-3 to E-5.

These openings include both operational and non-operational MOSs. An operational MOS is one which requires additional specialized training to qualify individuals as members of Special Forces operating teams. A non-operational MOS is one not requiring additional training in Special Forces organizations.

Those wishing airborne assignment must meet qualifications specified in AR 611-7. Individuals who deliberately quit airborne duty previously are not eligible. The application

should include date of airborne qualification or a statement of willingness to undergo airborne training, present grade, and the MOS vacancy for which the individual is applying. The applicant must be qualified to perform duty in the MOS he is requesting.

Personnel interested in special forces assignments must meet the qualifications set forth in AR 614-62. Applications for this duty will include the same information as needed for the airborne assignment. However those applying for an operational MOS must include, the MOS in which qualified, a statement of linguistic ability and his SPF Selection Battery Test Score. This program will expire June 30, 1968.

FIRST IN VIETNAM
The OBSERVER

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COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Sible, USA
Chief, Command Information Lt. Col. T. A. Costello, USA

NOIC JOC W.W. Polk, USA
Editor TSgt G.C. Sterling, USAF
Assistant Editor SSgt C. T. Owen, USMAC

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**Per Diem Bill Passes House**

WASHINGTON — Per diem would be raised \$4 to \$5 under a bill approved recently by a House Armed Services subcommittee.

The measure, which is likely to get swift full committee approval, would raise the current limit on per diem from \$16 to \$20 a day. And it would increase the maximum allowance for reimbursement on an actual expense basis from \$30 to \$35.

This would equalize military per diem with civil service per diem under a bill recently approved by the House Government Operations Committee.

The bill was headed by Rep. Melvin Price (D-Ill.), and would apply to travel performed within the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. It would not change existing rates in Alaska (\$19 to \$25), Hawaii (\$18) or overseas areas (ranging from \$9 to \$43 a day).

Passage of the bill would be the first change in Stateside per diem rates since 1962. (CD)

175,000 Men Request VN

WASHINGTON — More than 175,000 members of the Army and Navy have volunteered for service in Vietnam since 1965, according to statistics released recently by the Department of Defense.

The Air Force and Marine Corps do not keep statistics on the number of volunteers for Vietnam duty nor does the Navy keep statistics on the number of officer volunteers.

Additionally, during the period Nov. 2, 1966, through Dec. 31, 1967, more than 50,000 service personnel extended their tours for an additional six months in the combat zone.

In the Army more than 135,000 personnel have volunteered for duty in Vietnam in the past three and a half years.

In the Navy 41,450 enlisted personnel have volunteered since April 1965, the beginning of the Navy's increased commitment ashore in Vietnam.

(CD)

Retiring Soon? Pick A Locale

WASHINGTON — If you are an old timer coming home from overseas to retire, you could not care less about a base of choice program. Or could you? Looks like you could, since the personnel people tell us many of you want to retire at the base that is nearest your home of selection, instead of at a port of entry facility. So now you can.

The comptroller general decided it was okay, as long as the cost to Uncle Sam for travel and shipment of household goods will not amount to more than it would if you retired at the port facility.

When you exercise this option, however, it's considered your authorized election of a home of selection and you cannot change it. (AD)



HAY, HAY!—Alexandra Hay is here. This new, young actress recently signed by Columbia Pictures can be seen in Stanley Kramer's "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" and Irvin Allen's "The Ambushers," both Columbia releases. (PHOTO COURTESY Columbia Pictures)

New Travel Regulations Restrict Space Available

SAIGON (MACV) — Certain restrictions have been imposed on space available travel to or within foreign countries by the Department of Defense according to a recent DOD change to Joint Travel Regulations.

The restrictions apply to personnel traveling on government owned or leased aircraft and the travel is performed in connection with ordinary leave, TDY/TAD and permanent change of station.

Space available travel by military aircraft is not authorized for personnel on ordinary leave when traveling to or within foreign countries. An exception to this rule is when seats are available on R & R aircraft.

To insure compliance of the rule, future orders or documents authorizing ordinary leave will be published containing the statement "Space available travel not authorized except on R & R aircraft."

Travel involving delays enroute or circuitous routing to or within foreign countries will be considered only in exceptional cases. Those exceptions are cases where illness or other medical problems or other unusual circumstances require the presence of the service member.

When you exercise this option, however, it's considered your authorized election of a home of selection and you cannot change it. (AD)

Component or uniservice commanders are authorized to ap-



A DUSTY SPOT—Nobody envies this 4th Infantry Division worker caught in a cyclone of dust beneath this CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter while hooking up an empty water trailer at the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry firebase near Ban Me Thout. (USA PHOTO By PFC Lew Grass)

Hasty Bombs Work Well

DAK TO (USA) — Perhaps one day Staff Sergeant Howard Townsend will be acclaimed by historians as the perfector of the bamboo bangalore torpedo. But history was not his first consideration when the Company A, 4th Engineer Battalion squad leader rigged up the field expedient device recently at the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry firebase near Dak To.

Commanders may authorize such travel only when the command, the service component or the government will derive an identifiable benefit from the travel.

In no event will permissive TDY/TAD be authorized for recreational purposes or as a leave or pass device.

Commanders will review each request for exception to the restrictions outlined herein with a view to curtailing travel to the maximum extent possible. In Vietnam, requests for exceptions to these travel restrictions for personnel assigned to MACV will be forwarded to COMUSMACV for final disposition.

The restrictions outlined in



FOR "CHARLIE"—Members of the 1st Air Cav Division unleash an 81mm mortar barrage on enemy positions. (USA PHOTO By Sp5 R. Conrad)

Chieu Hoi On The Air

DAK TO (USA) — The never-ending struggle to reach the enemy and hopefully bring him over in the Chieu Hoi program has taken a giant step forward with modified transistor radios.

Developed for use in psychological operations, the pocket-sized receivers are geared to pick up PSYOPS stations only, which broadcast music and information concerning the Chieu Hoi program. They are then packed with two sets of penlight batteries and planted along trails or dropped from aircraft in thick styrofoam cases over enemy-active areas.

"We dropped six radios in the Dak To area last week," continued Lieutenant Chun, "and gave an additional hundred to the 1st Brigade LRRPs (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols) to be planted along jungle trails."

Enemy soldiers in the Highlands will soon be digging the latest Chieu Hoi sounds over PSYOPS Radio Pleiku which broadcasts in the Vietnamese, Montagnard, Laotian and Cambodian languages. Hopefully, they will trade in their transistor tickets for freedom and a new life as a Hoi Chanh.

VC Confused; Loses Weapon

CHU LAI (USA) — Members of a Viet Cong would-be night patrol met with a rude surprise instead of the comrades they expected in a recent incident involving American Division infantrymen.

"Someone whispered that one of them was carrying a rifle, so I walked over and took it out of his hands, and he started talking to me. It was all sort of unreal," said the specialist.

The two groups of soldiers looked at each other for a moment.

The U.S. soldiers recovered first from their initial shock at the unusual confrontation and began firing cutting down the enemy who had been carrying the weapon.

"Later, we followed blood trails into the woods, but couldn't find anything else," said Specialist Gonzales, whose friends now call him "The Silencer."

"At first we thought they

Buddies Like His Ballads

CHU LAI (USA) — It took a little help from the White House to do it, but a Scottish soldier in the U.S. Army finally has succeeded in bringing the customs of his native country to Vietnam.

His name is Sergeant Ian Taylor, and his folklore tales and ballads about his native Scotland are becoming familiar trademarks in Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Whenever the company stops for the night, there is always a small knot of men around Scottie (the nickname the men gave him) to share the experiences of his days spent in the hills of his country.

Sergeant Taylor told how the sessions began. "When we first came over and everything was new, everyone stayed pretty much to themselves. But after awhile we found ourselves making up songs to pass the time. So I started singing a few numbers I knew and the guys kept after me to sing some more."

Scottie's influence is apparent by the words that have crept into the jargon of the company. It is not unusual to hear one of the men call another "mate," and you no longer get crackers in C-rations . . . you get "biscuits." The sergeant's reaction to all this is a modest smile and a casual, "it's just natural, mon."

Sergeant Taylor came to the United States in 1963 and joined the Army shortly thereafter. "It was me fightin' Scottish blood," he said when asked about his enlistment.

Because he was an alien it took a great deal of effort to get clearance for him to come to Vietnam, he explained.

"I had volunteered, but there was a lot of talk about me being a foreigner. I wanted to come so I wrote a letter to the President. After that the action was pretty swift. I was transferred to the 198th Infantry Brigade at Fort Hood, Tex., and two weeks later I was on my way (to Vietnam)."

Scottie said he plans to stay in the United States after his Army tour and might try singing as a career. His fellow soldiers jokingly have advised against that pursuit.

ARVN 2nd Div. Gets Greater Firepower

QUANG NGAI (USA) — M-60 machine guns have been issued to the 2nd ARVN Infantry Division. It is the second time in recent weeks that the division has received a new weapon for its arsenal.

Division troopers previously were issued M-16 rifles which gave the unit's rifle companies a new capability for delivering large volumes of fire on the enemy.

The new machine guns are replacing .30 caliber machine guns of the type formerly used by U.S. forces.

Captain Vinh Thanh of the division training center, says the ARVN soldiers are "very enthusiastic" about getting the new guns. "The M-60s will increase our combat effectiveness," he said.

The guns are expected to in-



BIG FIND—17th Air Cavalry soldier displays enemy B-40 rockets near Kontum. (USA PHOTO)

Find Rocket Aiming Device Used Against Allied Bases

TAN UYEN (USA) — What

began as a normal reconnaiss-

ance patrol through jungles of Tan Uyen district, north of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's main base camp, has resulted in the capture of a Communist surveying device used to aim enemy rockets at Allied military installations.

It was believed to be the first such capture of one of the rocket-aiming devices, described as a Soviet-made PDB-2 Aiming Circle.

It was captured by Company F, 51st Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, after killing an NVA officer carrying the device

in a recent firefight.

Staff Sergeant Richard McCoy, leader of the recon patrol, searched the enemy body and discovered the equipment used to plot the course of enemy rockets.

"It was a real find for us," explained Sergeant McCoy. "Shortly after 4 p.m., we began to prepare a night ambush position. While the remainder of the men rested and set up the position, a Hoi Chanh who was with us walked with me down to within 20 meters of a trail, just to see what the area was like in case anything happened that night."

Within a minute, two NVA soldiers walked down the trail toward Sergeant McCoy and the Hoi Chanh. Both stopped momentarily, turned around, walked to the north for a few meters, and then turned and headed back down the trail toward the sergeant.

"The soldier in front was carrying equipment which then looked like a well-camouflaged rocket, and the one in the rear was carrying an AK-47," Sergeant McCoy explained. The sergeant blasted away at the two soldiers. The man carrying the equipment went down, but the other soldier whirled and directed a long burst of AK-47 fire at the patrol leader.

"The Hoi Chanh and I both fired at him but he got away. By this time the rest of our group was on the way down to our location and we walked down to the dead soldier," the patrol leader stated.

After the infantrymen found the surveying equipment, a chopper arrived, and the men and the captured equipment

Infantry Kills 119 Enemy

DAK TO (USA) — Winding up a vicious three-day battle, elements of the 4th Division's 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, moved off a hotly contested knoll near here leaving 119 enemy dead.

The recent action began when the battalion's Companies A and B launched a combat assault against the known enemy hill position. There was almost immediate contact as troopers stormed the heavily wooded hillside.

By dusk they had overrun the enemy force, capturing equipment, automatic weapons and several highly informative documents. After taking the hilltop position, the infantrymen conducted a sweep of the area, then dug in for the night.

"We couldn't see him, but we could hear 'Charlie' moving around out there all night long," commented Private First Class Walter Parnell, a Company A rifleman. "We hit him (Charlie) with grenade most of the night," he added.

The following day, remnants of an estimated NVA battalion threw human-wave assaults at the U.S. position. Air strikes and artillery were called in and all but annihilated the attackers.

On the third day, 12th Infantry soldiers began mop-up operations on the battered NVA battalion.

Smiles

DA NANG (USMC) — It was still more than a week before the 1968 baseball season opened back home, but Marines here were thinking ahead when they doled out baseball caps to 500 smiling youngsters near Da Nang.

The caps were made in Hong Kong and purchased with money contributed by 7th Engineer Battalion Marines. Each cap bore the inscription, "A Free South," above a small Vietnamese flag.

The complex equipment, used to plot the course for enemy rockets, was in top mechanical condition, having been manufactured in Russia in 1964.

According to a diary located in the enemy soldier's pack, the NVA soldier was an artillery officer. Also found in the gear was a firing device for a 122mm rocket.

"We designed the cap ourselves," explained Gunnery Sergeant R.E. Maddox, NCOIC of the battalion's civil affairs office. "The caps made such a big hit with the kids that we plan to start collecting money to buy more."

Leatherneck Didn't Wait To Explain 'Khong Biet'

DA NANG (USMC) — Marine

Corporal Joseph Rosa has heard "khong biet" — the Vietnamese phrase meaning "I don't understand" — a number of times. But one night when he heard it, he did not wait around to explain it.

It all happened this way. Corporal Rosa and his 10-man ambush team from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, had been in position a short time when a column of North Vietnamese Army regulars were spotted.

On initial sighting, the corporal realized it was a large enemy force and started making preparations for artillery support. At the same time, the leathernecks moved to a more secure position.

"There were so many of them," he said, "that they were still coming out of the trees 150

meters back."

"G" Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, began pounding away with 105mm howitzers. The first round scored a direct hit.

"I thought they were Marines, so I told them to spread it out," he said. "When one of them answered, 'khong biet,' I decided it was time to leave."

But before doing so, he

jumped up and sprayed the hole with M-16 rifle fire.

After an hour long battle with the attackers, the corporal and his squad were credited with nine confirmed NVA dead and three detainees, plus an assortment of enemy grenades and rockets.

Navy's Seabees Still A Tradition

I CORPS (USN) — President Lyndon B. Johnson said, "... a new kind of fighting man, forged and tempered in a new kind of war . . . men fighting with one hand and building with the other . . . a Seabee."

Vietnam Seabees are reaffirming and expanding traditions established by their World War II predecessors. Eight hundred U.S. Navy Seabees accompanied Marines as they stormed ashore on the sandy beaches of Chu Lai on May 7, 1965.

On May 30, just 23 days after the amphibious landing, a stubby Marine A4 "Skyhawk" jet snagged the MOREST (Mobile Arresting Gear) cable and the airfield was operational.

Today the Chu Lai airfield plays an important role in the fight against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops operating to the south. From here U.S. airpower can provide close air support for ground operations and successfully bomb enemy troop concentrations and fortifications.

Putting the Seabee construction effort into understandable terms would mean: the military housing for troops that they have built in Vietnam would

house the entire population of cities such as Riverside, Calif., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., or Springfield, Ill. And this housing includes electrical, water and sanitation facilities.

The average motorist could make more than 205 round trips to the moon with the fuel stored in Seabee built tank farms. And more than 55 football fields would fit into the warehouses constructed for covered storage.

At present the Seabees are placing more than \$2 million worth of materials per month in their efforts to provide every fighting man in Vietnam protection from enemy rockets and mortars, a dry place to sleep and hot food.

SEABEE TEAM

Each Seabee Team consists of one Civil Engineer Corps officer and 12 highly trained enlisted men. They supply the tools and know-how for vital projects in a country generally without equipment or skills to do the job.

While working side by side with the Vietnamese, the construction teams pass on their skills.

Heavy equipment operators teach Vietnamese to drive trucks and bulldozers; electricians teach wiring; builders teach carpentry and masonry; and the hospital corpsman imparts medical and first aid fundamentals to avoid pupils.

MANY PROJECTS

A team accomplishes many projects during its six-month deployment. Small hospitals, dispensaries, maternity wards, schools, market places, roads and bridges are among the major achievements registered by the average team.

But the primary accomplishment of any Seabee Team is implanting an aggressive, optimistic outlook to the future in the people.

Story By

JO2 R. E. Busby

Photos By USN



Five "Seabee-power" propels a wheelbarrow of concrete through knee-deep mud during monsoon construction project.



Seabees work to complete the longest timber bridge ever built by their unit in Vietnam.



Villagers go about their daily routines as Seabee carves road.

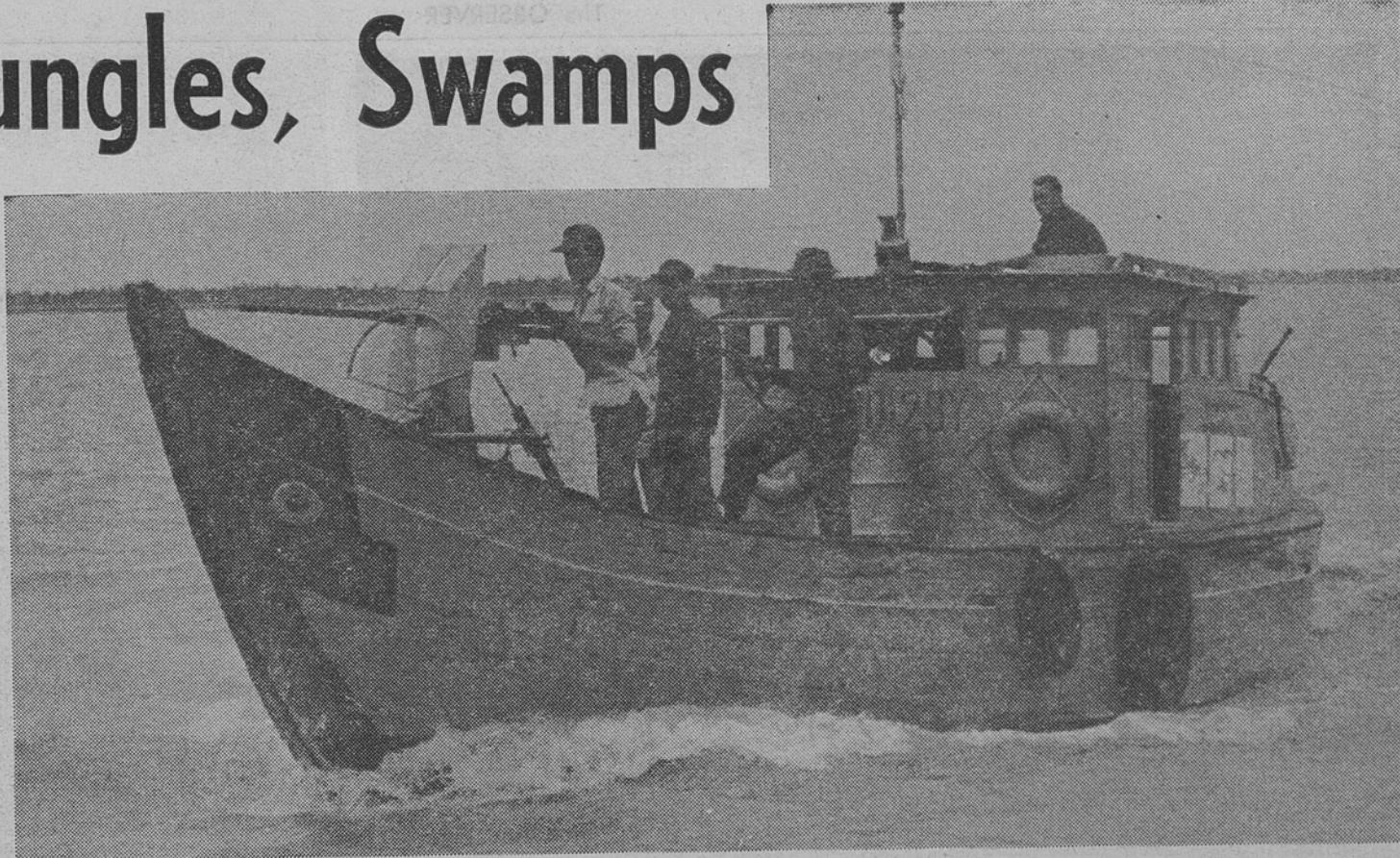
Junks' Bearivers, Jungles, Swamps



Advisors and Vietnamese Navymen work together in planning an operation against enemy units.



Under sniper fire Vietnamese sailors chargelds toward Viet Cong positions.



Vietnamese crewmen and their U.S. Navy advisors are alert as their junk moves through enemy-infested territory in the Delta.

Rifle shots rang from the Mekong Delta jungle and two Yabuta junks swung toward the sound.

In answer to the signal the big, gray, oriental craft slid through mud and came to rest on the riverbank. The long prows pushed through the thick, green growth and the eyes, painted on the red bows, seemed to search the surrounding jungle for lurking Viet Cong.

Vietnamese sailors, carrying an assortment of weapons, jumped into the knee-deep water and mud and began moving into the jungle. With them was U.S. Navy advisor, Lieutenant (junior grade) Harry B. Traumbauer.

The men were joining an ambush team sent out earlier

in the day from their Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group 35 base. The team had made contact with the enemy and its commander was bringing in reinforcements.

Joining up with the ambush team, Lieutenant Traumbauer and the Vietnamese commanding officer, Lieutenant (junior grade) Nguyen Si, were led to the ambush site.

They searched through the dead Viet Cong's personal effects and discovered that the ambush team had killed a VC tax collector. Among the effects were a book of tax receipts and a hand grenade.

This action was typical of a day's work for Lieutenant Traumbauer and other U.S. Navymen who serve as advisors

to the Vietnamese Navy's junk forces.

The lieutenant is assistant advisor to Coastal Group 35 located near the mouth of the Co Chien River some 69 miles south of Saigon.

Senior advisor to the group is Lieutenant Jack T. Hanks. The engineering advisor, Engineman First Class Robert L. Wiggins and Seamanship advisor, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Robert A. Brown all share in this unusual life of conducting land operations and riding junks in the waterways along the Delta coast.

Patrol takes up a great deal of their time as they normally operate two-day (48-hour runs). They roam up and down the rivers and along the coast and

search for enemy troops or supplies moving on the waterways or along the banks and shorelines.

There are two areas heavily infested with Viet Cong in the group's patrol zone. "In these places during the rainy season," said Lieutenant Traumbauer, "it's not rare to get into three firefights in 12 hours."

The two enlisted advisors recently took out a patrol which was typical of that activity.

The men rose before dawn and boarded a Yabuta junk. The craft was armed with a .30 and .50 caliber machine guns, a mortar and individual weapons.

On the way to one of the enemy-infested zones, the Navy junks (there were two on this patrol) searched a few river

craft but found nothing unusual

As they sailed along near an enemy island, the junk sailors could see bunkers half hidden by the jungle growth. They saw no sign of activity and decided to take the initiative. Lining the junks' sides the sailors opened up with all weapons sending bullets and grenades flying toward the enemy positions. They received no return fire.

In addition to riding the junks perhaps the strangest part of the job experienced by the U.S. Navymen is accompanying their Vietnamese counterparts on Army-style land combat operations. They received no return fire.

Another duty performed by the group is its active participation in psychological warfare in the area.

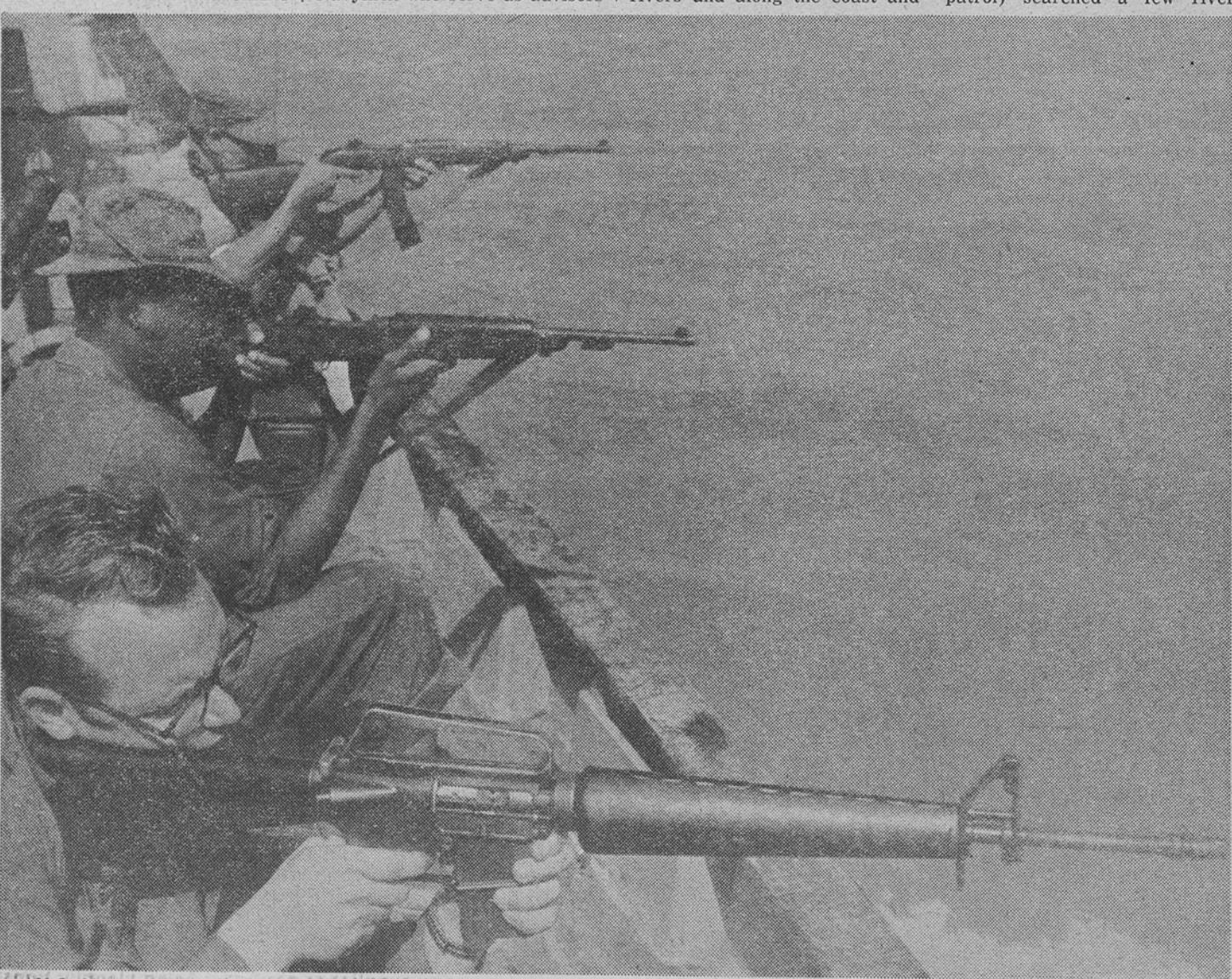
One junk has been converted to serve mainly as a floating "psywar" station. Aboard the junk are a loudspeaker system, posters on the pilot house, boxes of information pamphlets and banners strung along its entire length.

"We run as close as possible to the beach, especially when the enemy is concentrated," said one U.S. advisor, "and broadcast appeals calling for the VC to join the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program."

In a recent 10-day period four Viet Cong turned themselves in to the junk sailors. Two of these brought their weapons. This was a record for the province during a three month period.

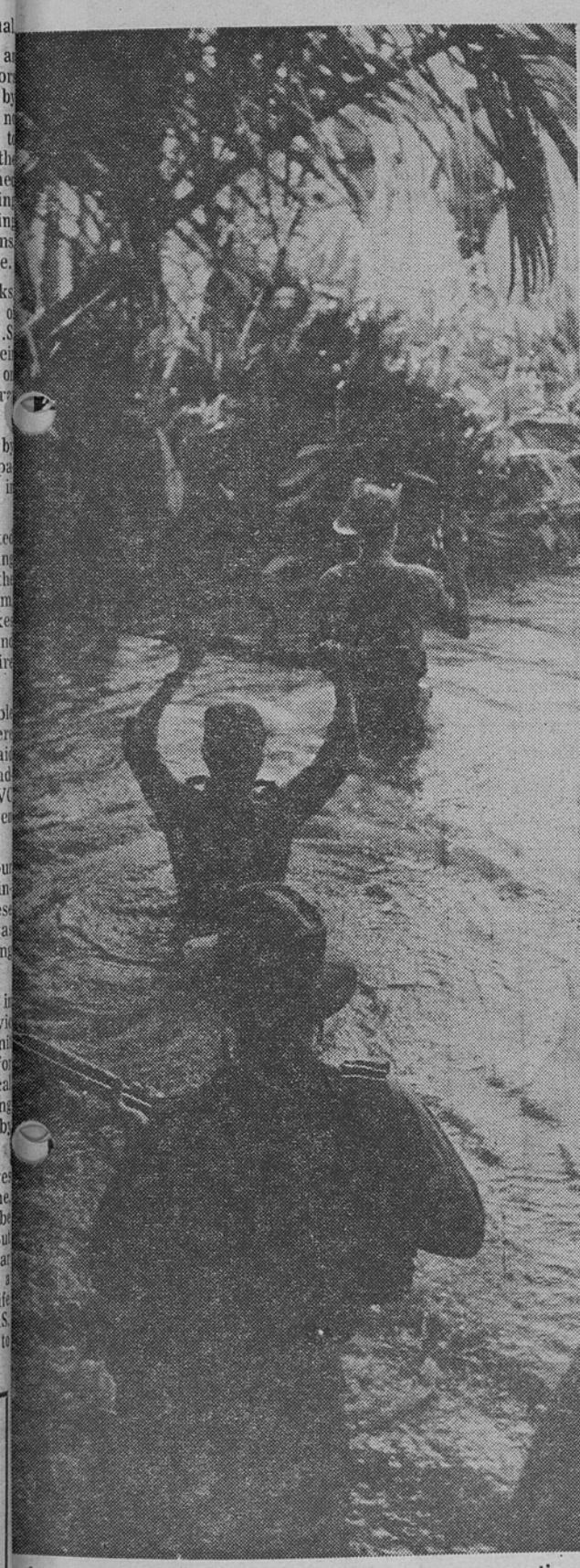
The junks also engage in MEDCAPs (The Medical Civil Action Program). The unit escorts and provides security for doctors, dentists and medical personnel while they are visiting outlying villages accessible by the waterways.

As full modernization moves down the Vietnamese Navy line the junk forces may someday be phased out of existence. But until that time or until the war is ended they will provide a strange and unforgettable life for the lucky hundred or so U.S. Navymen selected every year to advise them.



U.S. Navy advisors and a Vietnamese enlisted patrol commander fire into VC bunkers lining the Co Chien riverbank.

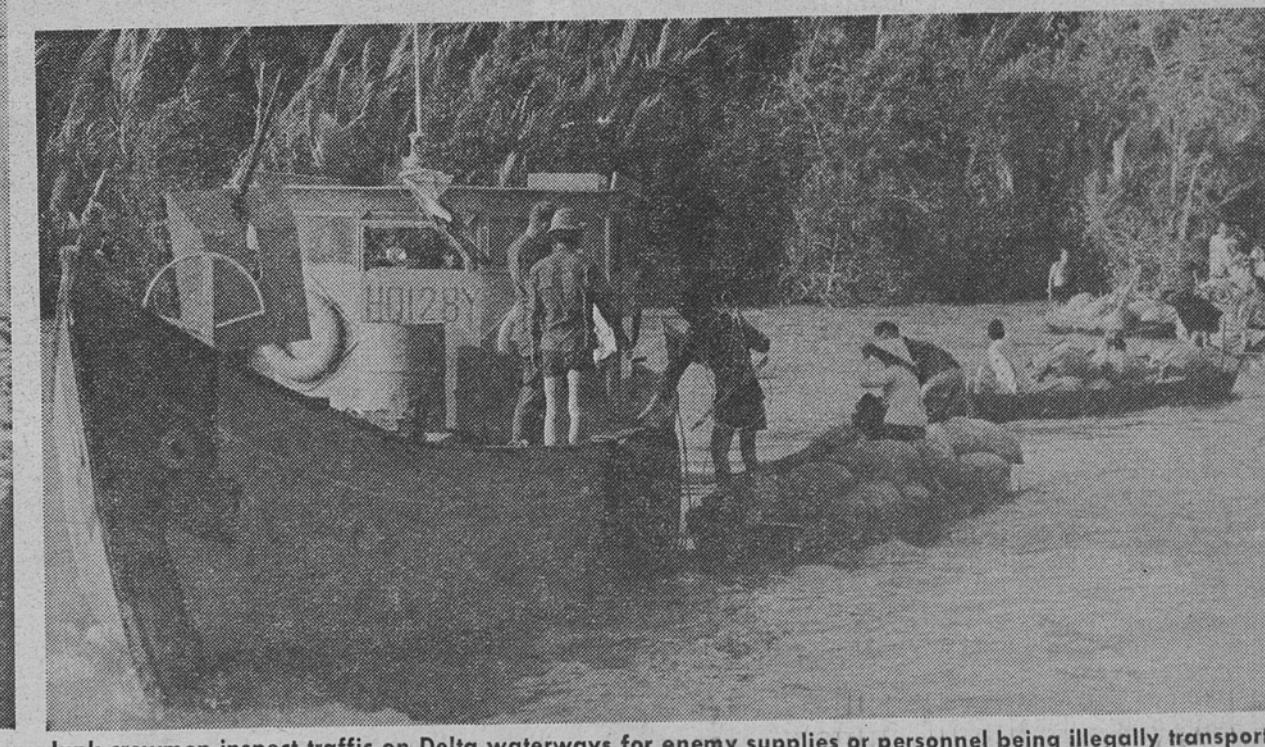
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JO1 Bill Rozier
Photos By
PH1 L.R. Robinson

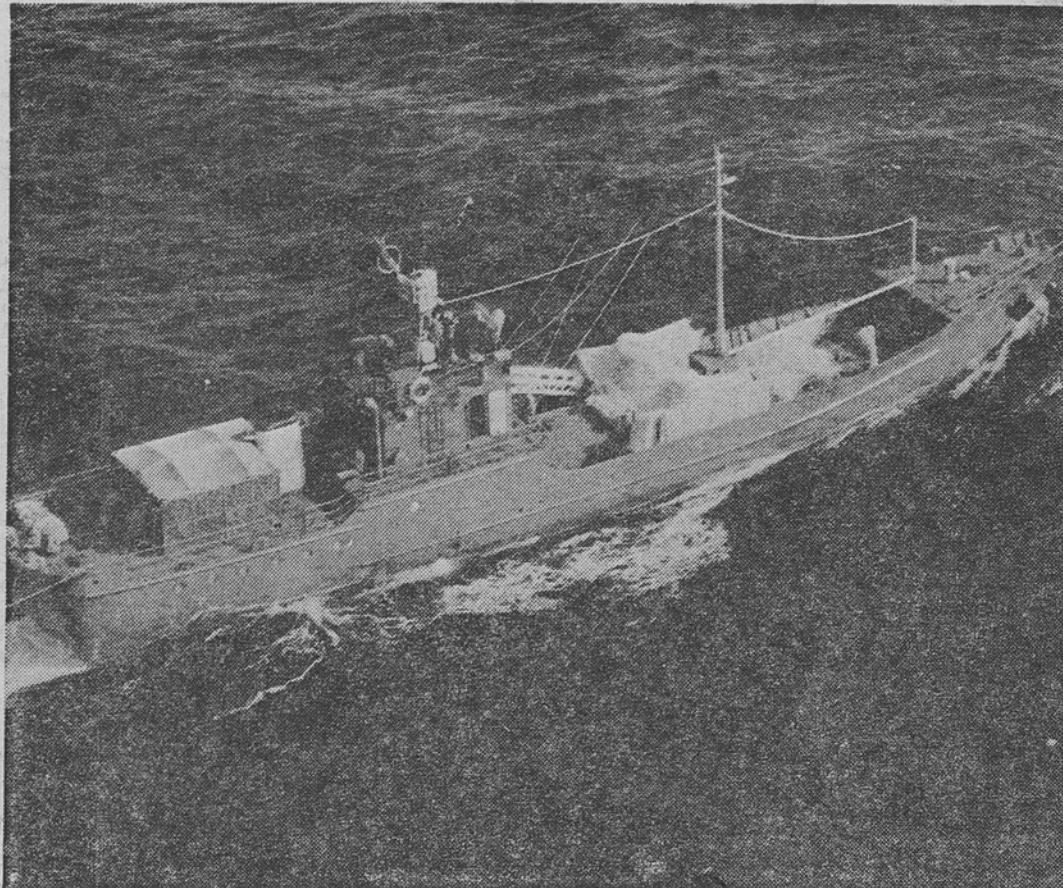


Vietnamese sailors and advisors tackle infantry-type operations. Junk crewmen inspect traffic on Delta waterways for enemy supplies or personnel being illegally transported.



A Vietnamese doctor listens to a mother describe her child's illness during a Navy MEDCAP visit.





This arms and ammunition carrying trawler was intercepted and destroyed before docking.

Enemy Trawlers Sunk

Early in March, four enemy trawlers attempted to infiltrate arms and ammunition into South Vietnam. It was the communists' boldest sea infiltration attempt yet, and it turned out to be their costliest.

In what has been called "the most significant naval victory of the Vietnam conflict," three of the trawlers were destroyed while the fourth turned tail and headed for the safety of the high seas.

The apparent plan of the infiltrators was to resupply Viet Cong units along the full length of the country, following the beating they had taken during their Tet offensive.

Operation Market Time units of Captain Carl H. Herrick's Coastal Surveillance Force (Task Force 115) detected, tracked and stopped the infiltrators.

The first trawler was detected by Market Time air surveillance units on the evening of Feb. 28. SP2H Neptune aircraft of two Navy patrol squadrons kept that vessel under surveillance.

lance and had detected the three others by the following evening.

Running dark and flying no flag, the four 100-foot steel-hulled trawlers were kept under surveillance.

As each crossed the 12-mile limit of South Vietnam's contiguous waters, it was challenged by Market Time surface units. The one trawler which did not attempt to land reversed his course before entering contiguous waters, but was watched closely by the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Androscoggin and was running toward the beach 40 miles south of Chu Lai, on the north central coast.

During a raging battle the trawler took five direct hits from a Swift boat 81mm mortar, causing an explosion that almost totally destroyed it. The next morning, 14 enemy bodies were found.

Meanwhile, a second trawler had been challenged by the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Androscoggin and was running toward the beach 40 miles south of Chu Lai, on the north central coast.

The three that were challenged by the Market Time units refused to acknowledge and chose to make a run for the beach.

The first of the trawlers to be challenged headed for the shore 10 miles north of Nha Trang, on the central coast.

A Vietnamese navy patrol craft reached the area and capture seemed imminent, the enemy crew detonated charges, destroying the weapons-laden craft.

The second trawler was forced aground. As Americal Division troops reached the area and capture seemed imminent, the enemy crew detonated charges, destroying the weapons-laden craft.

The third heavily loaded trawler was on a course toward

enemy and forced the trawler aground in a cove. Once grounded, the trawler's crew and enemy troops on the beach opened fire on the Market Time units.

During a raging battle the trawler took five direct hits from a Swift boat 81mm mortar, causing an explosion that almost totally destroyed it. The next morning, 14 enemy bodies were found.

Meanwhile, a second trawler had been challenged by the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Androscoggin and was running toward the beach 40 miles south of Chu Lai, on the north central coast.

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Swift Boat crewmember eyes an approaching Viet fishing craft.

the mouth of the Bo De River on the Ca Mau peninsula, 155 miles southwest of Saigon, on the southern coast. As it crossed into contiguous waters it refused repeated challenges by the Coast Guard Cutter Winona, and headed for the river mouth.

A gun duel erupted and the cutter was joined by two other smaller cutters, a minesweeper, two Navy Swift boats and two army helicopter gunships.

The trawler was forced aground. As Americal Division troops reached the area and capture seemed imminent, the enemy crew detonated charges, destroying the weapons-laden craft.

The first trawler was detected by Market Time air surveillance units on the evening of Feb. 28. SP2H Neptune aircraft of two Navy patrol squadrons kept that vessel under surveillance.

The trawler was on a course toward

successive explosions and sank in about 25 feet of water as a heavy barrage of fire hit home from the Winona's 5-inch gun.

After daylight, salvage operations were begun at all three sites. Many hundreds of individual weapons including rifles and machine guns were recovered, along with thousands of rounds of ammunition and other explosives.

During the gun battles with the three trawlers two U.S. Navymen were wounded when their Swift boat was hit by enemy fire. The extent of enemy personnel casualties is unknown.

Story & Photos
by
U.S. Navy

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VC Places Mine With Telltale Sign

CHU LAI (USA)—An alert sergeant saw a foot print in a road which led to the discovery of a VC booby trap near Duc Pho recently. The mine was an intricate device rigged by an enemy soldier who obviously has a sense of humor.

Company C, 26th Engineers, attached to the American Division's 11th Brigade, was sweeping the road between Landing Zones Bronco and Carantan as the unit does each morning.

The mine detector had not picked up anything unusual, when Staff Sergeant Frank R. Marshall spotted the lone foot print.

The sweeper went over the area again. This time it detected a faint ringing sound. Sergeant Robert C. Denny began probing in the hard dirt. After two hours of careful digging, he uncovered two charges. One of them was

booby-trapped.

"The charges were nytro-starch," said Second Lieutenant Bill Hassan. "The Army hasn't used that type of explosive in many years. It's too volatile. I don't know where 'Charlie' got it."

Most of the materials for the mine were scrounged from sanitary fills near Bronco. The VC used a C-ration and sundry pack boxes and Army shoe laces. The device was wrapped in a red mail sack to water proof it.

"There was almost no metal used to construct the mine," said Lieutenant Hassan.

As a final touch, the enemy soldier buried a U.S. Army leaflet on top of the mine. The leaflet offered rewards to Viet Cong for turning in mines and booby-traps.

Surgery In America For Da Nang Sister

DA NANG (USN)—A young Vietnamese Roman Catholic nun will be able to complete her work as a nurse and teacher because of the efforts of many men from the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang.

A Navy corpsman, Thomas Eagles, told the doctors at the Activity's hospital about Sister Paul Dominique, a 23-year-old refugee from North Vietnam. She lived in a village where Corpsman Eagles and other sailors from NSA's Civic Action section work and live with the Vietnamese.

The hospital's doctors diagnosed her illness as a bone ailment but were unable to per-

Viets Open 'Rice Bank'

DA NANG (USMC)—Working together, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and Vietnamese citizens near Da Nang have established a "rice bank" in which excess rice will be stored safely out of reach of the Viet Cong.

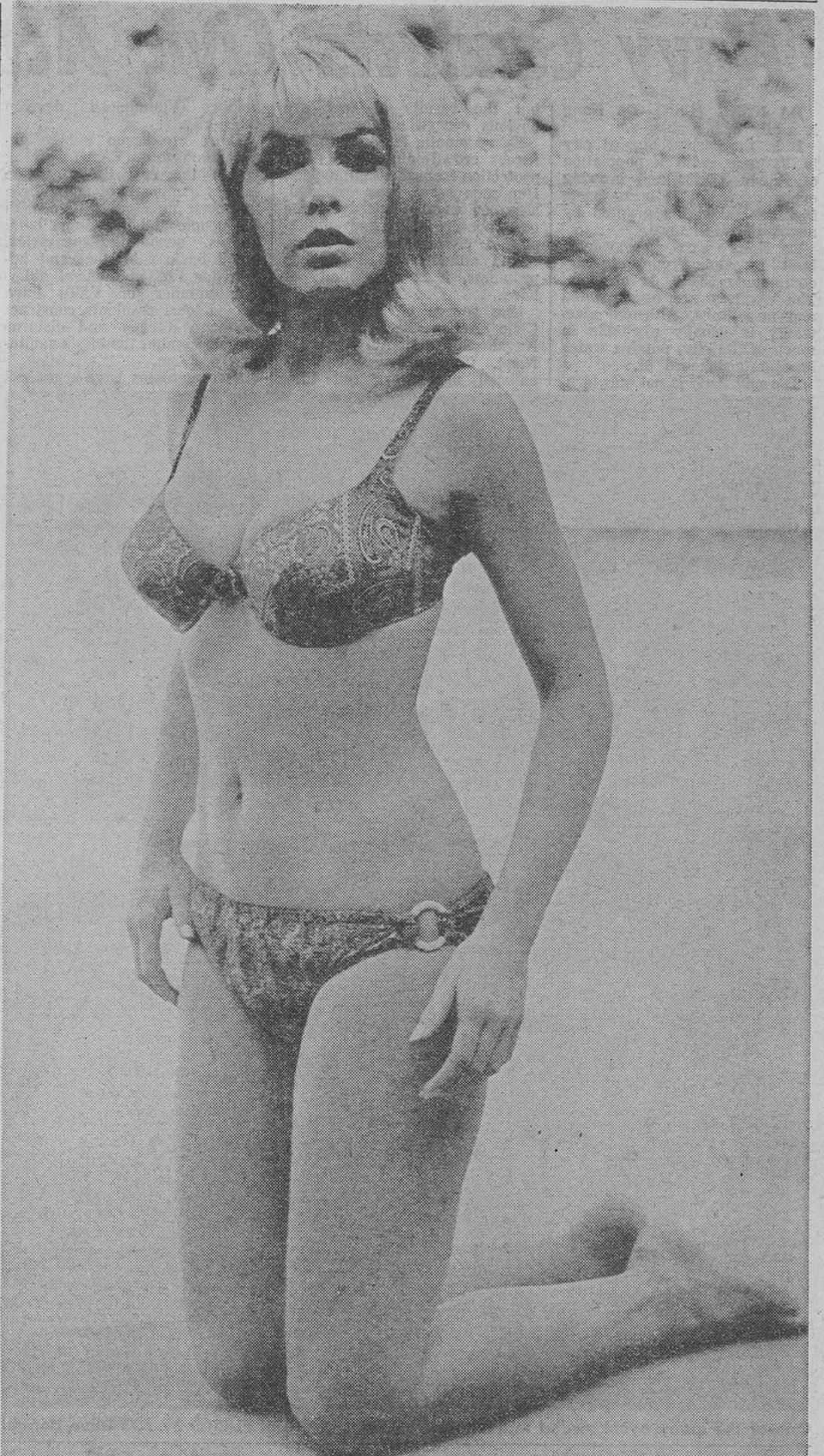
The need for the "bank" became apparent after Marines and South Vietnamese soldiers found many VC in Quang Nam province carrying rice stolen from the local farmers.

"We agreed that a 'rice bank' arrangement would be beneficial to everyone involved," said Captain John F. Abele, civil affairs officer for the battalion. "It safeguards the farmers against being robbed and helps to keep the enemy on an involuntary hunger strike."

After studying the problem, it was decided that the best plan was to establish guard posts in secure areas where the extra rice could be stockpiled and then guarded by Marines.

"The program was developed primarily for those farmers who live in areas not yet secured by the Marines," stated the captain. "We wanted it to be as convenient as possible for these people to draw rice when they need it and yet impossible for the enemy to obtain any amount."

The "bank" will begin accepting "accounts" this month when the rice harvesting season begins.



BUSY ACTRESS—Stella Stevens is one of filmdom's busiest actresses who is currently starring with Dean Martin in "How To Save A Marriage—And Ruin Your Life." She also will soon be seen starring with Rosalind Russell in "Where Angels Go . . . Troubles Follow."

(PHOTO COURTESY Columbia Pictures)

'Down By The Riverside'

II FF MEDCAP Team Travels By Boat

LONG BINH (II FF)—"Down by the riverside" describes a Medical Civic Action Program held frequently by the II Field Force Surgeon's Office in the hamlet of An Xuan. The hamlet is 15 miles northeast of Saigon and is accessible only by river travel.

The MEDCAP team loads onto small patrol craft for the 15-minute ride down the Dong Nai River to An Xuan.

Team members include a Vietnamese medic and nurse; a medic from II FF Headquarters

Dispensary; a medical advisor from MACV Team 98; personnel from the 2nd Civil Affairs Company and representatives from the Surgeon's Office who coordinate the program.

The most recent MEDCAP at An Xuan was to inoculate the villagers against plague. Several cases had been reported in neighboring areas.

The MEDCAP team set up a portable air-pressure generator to supply the air needed for the injection guns. He told the villagers the injections would protect them (from plague).

Near the river's edge, the team set up a portable air-pressure generator to supply the air needed for the injection guns. An interpreter was sent

to locate the village chief so he could spread word of the team's arrival.

News of the MEDCAP spread rapidly through the hamlet and soon villagers were pouring into the little clearing along the river bank.

The interpreter explained the purpose of the visit and told them not to fear the injection guns. He told the villagers the injections would protect them (from plague).

Meanwhile, the nurse prepared shot cards for each individual.

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of April 17-23, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday Apr. 17

1830 News Headlines
Lost In Space
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2305 Feature Movie

2005 Information Feature
2030 Addams Family
2100 Carol Burnett
2200 Bob Hope Desert Classic
2300 New Headlines

2005 Seventh Fleet
2030 My Favorite Martian
2100 Jackie Gleason
2200 Gunsmoke
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

2005 Information Feature
2030 Pot Booms Special
2100 Johnny Midnight
2130 Hey Susie
2300 Feature Movie

2005 In Town Tonight
2030 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Jerry Lewis

2005 Friday Apr. 19

1830 News Headlines
Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2305 Insight

2005 Information Feature
2030 Bewitched
2100 The Lucy Show
2130 Gomer Pyle
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

2005 Saturday Apr. 20

1830 News Headlines
Sportsman's Holiday
1930 Sports

1500 Mike Douglas
1530 Gomer For Certainty
1720 Almanac: A Mony Memoir
1830 Boy's Choir of Vienna
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2305 Feature Movie

2005 Sunday Apr. 21

1830 News Headlines
Daniel Boone
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie

2005 In Town Tonight
2030 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Tonight Show

2005 Monday Apr. 22

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie

2005 Tuesday Apr. 23

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley

1930 Sports

1500 Mike Douglas
1530 Gomer For Certainty
1720 Almanac: A Mony Memoir
1830 Boy's Choir of Vienna
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2305 Feature Movie

"Up Country"



DON'T FORGET WHEN THE SHOOTIN' STARTS.. STAY ON MY LEFT.. CAUSE THAT'S MY BEST SIDE!!



(AFPS Feature)

1. Ken Hebert of the University of Houston was the major college football scoring leader in the 1966 season with 113 points. Who is the former player who holds the all-time one season modern scoring record?

2. Who is the national Football League great who owns the unique distinction of being the only man to play in a Rose Bowl Game and with the New York Yankees in the same year?

3. What pitcher holds the record for hitting the most home runs during his lifetime?

4. When was the first baseball diamond used?

5. When was the last time golfer Sam Snead won the PGA Championship?

Answers

3. In 1956.

4. Called a打者, it was

first used in a game at Hobe

homers.

5. Wes Ferrell, who pitched

for several teams during

his career, hit 37

home runs.

6. In 1966.

7. The Yankees

which won the Rose

Bowl Game

in 1970.

8. The Yankees

which won the

Rose

Bowl Game

in 1971.

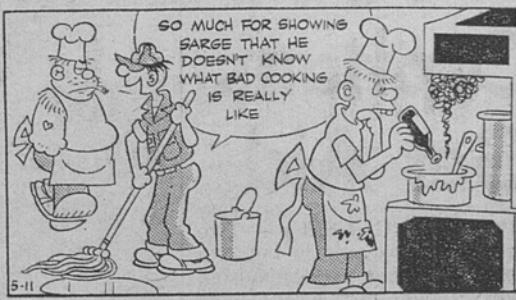
9. Sam Snead

won the

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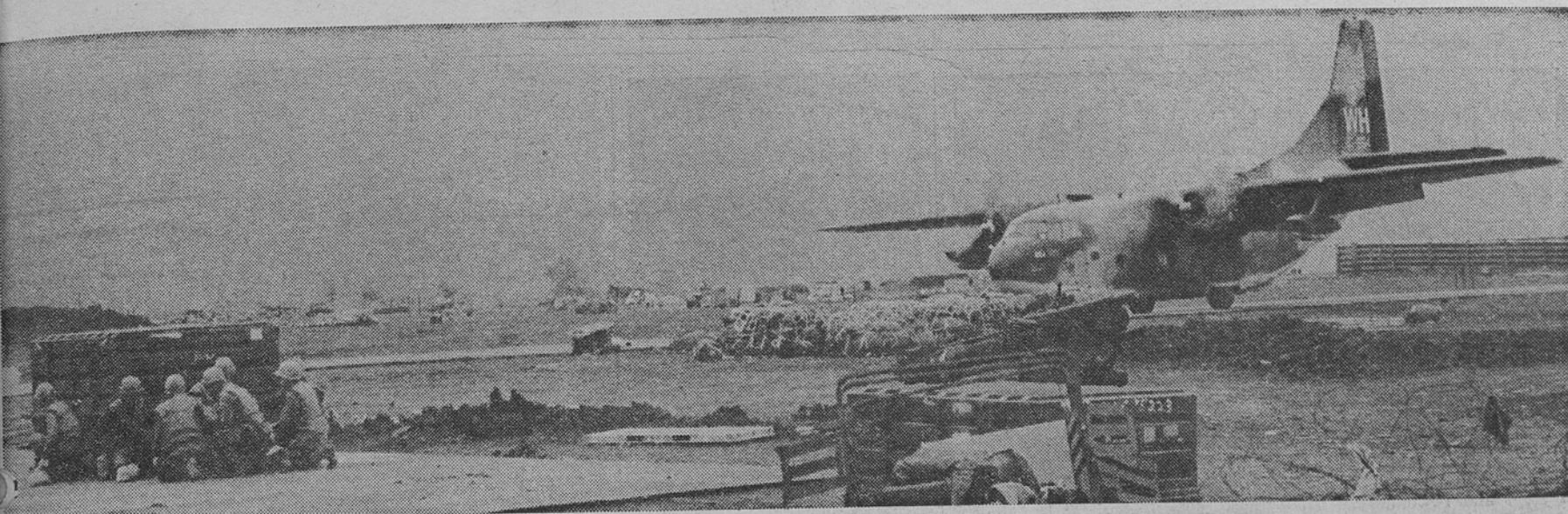
Beetle Bailey



By Charles M. Schulz

Peanuts





Marines waiting to board an Air Force C-123 Provider transport at Khe Sanh take cover behind an off-loading ramp and metal box.

(USAF Photo)



Leathernecks race to board a C-123 transport plane at Khe Sanh.

(USAF PHOTO)



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 49

Saigon, Vietnam

April 10, 1968

Joint U.S. Effort Nets 1,533 Kills

SAIGON (MACV)—Air Force tactical air power and combined ground forces have been credited with 1,533 enemy killed in a recent 19-day battle at Phan Thiet.

The 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing from Bien Hoa air base and three other Air Force tactical fighter-bomber wings, flew 114 combat sorties in support of the Army's 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry. The sorties accounted for the destruction of 293 military fortifications and substantial damage to 152 others.

High praise was heaped upon the strike pilots by the 3rd Battalion's air liaison officer and forward air controller, Air Force Major James A. Pratz. In a letter to Colonel George W. McLaughlin, 3rd TFW commander, he said: "I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for a close air support job well done by a group of professional fighter pilots, under trying conditions of

heavy automatic weapons fire, from an enemy in extremely close contact with friendly troops."

While 3rd TFW pilots were being praised for their role in the 19-day battle of Phan Thiet, another major operation in Quang Tri province was being terminated.

The name of the operation was Scotland, a reinforced regiment size surveillance and spoiling action which began last Oct. 31.

Controlled by the 3rd Marine Division, Scotland was conducted by the U.S. 26th Regiment, 5th Marine Division. This unit was reinforced by elements of the 9th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

An ARVN Ranger Battalion also operated in close coordination with the Marines, and participated in the defense of the Khe Sanh combat base.

Cumulative results of Opera-

(Continued on Back Page)

Providers Provide

C-123 Crews Brave Mortars

PHAN RANG (USAF)—Air Force C-123 Provider transport crews of the 315th Air Commando Wing, here are defying enemy mortar barrages directed at their aircraft every day as they deliver troops and vital cargo, including food and mail, to the Marine installation at Khe Sanh.

A Marine at Khe Sanh said that C-123s landing on the small air strip attract an average of six enemy mortar rounds each.

The air strip and off-loading ramp has been zeroed in by

He noted that as many as 26 Providers have landed on the strip in one day.

To avoid being hit, the C-123 pilots keep their aircraft on the ground for only one to two minutes, during which the engines are kept running. The aircraft remain in motion except for the few seconds it takes to shove pallets of cargo off the aircraft and take on passengers.

enemy gunners. People getting on and off the aircraft do so on the double. Marines boarding the planes remain in nearby bunkers until almost the last moment, and then dash for the C-123s a split second after the cargo is off-loaded.

Battle casualties and refugees are among those airlifted out of Khe Sanh by the airmen.

During a widespread enemy offensive, C-123 crews of the 311th ACS airlifted 650 Vietnamese refugees from Khe Sanh to Da Nang, and then delivered them to Quang Tri City.

Like the Marines stationed at Khe Sanh, the air commando crews wear flak vests and helmets whenever their aircraft approach the air strip.

"I think the men of the 315th have done a tremendous job at Khe Sanh," said Colonel Robert D. Brown, wing commander. "Khe Sanh has been a major target of enemy action, and the isolation and type of airfield represents one of the toughest resupply jobs that we have faced."

II FF Donates \$18,000

LONG BINH (II FF)—More than \$18,000 has been contributed to the Tet Aggression Relief Project (TARP) by units assigned, attached, and under operational control of II Field Force Vietnam. The figure includes contributions through March 21.

TARP is a program initiated by General W. C. Westmoreland to allow American servicemen to donate money to aid Vietnamese civilians who suffered losses of their

homes and belongings during the Tet aggression.

Contributing to the \$18,000 are personnel from Headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam, 53rd Signal Battalion, CORDS III CTZ, U.S. Army Advisory Group III CTZ, 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 12th Aviation Group, and the 23rd and 54th Artillery Groups.

four miles south of Saigon. After the ambush, the U.S. patrol found 23 Communist AK-47 assault rifles, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 82mm mortar equipment and grenades.

The patrol had been in position along the Kinh Song canal for about two hours. "We heard motorized sampans, and got ready for the Viet Cong," said Sergeant Charles Sandberg. "As they entered our killing zone, the VC shut off their

engines and we opened fire on them." Three Viet Cong were killed instantly.

The fire quickly emptied the sampans, which were carried by the current to the opposite bank, 30 feet away.

Lieutenant Lowke and Sergeant Francis Murphy swam unarmed across the canal's strong current to recover and search the boats. Their platoon covered them with machinegun

Excess R&R Money Helps Aussie Cause

SAIGON (MACV)—Vietnam bound American servicemen returning from R & R in Australia, now have a worthy cause to which they can donate their leftover small change in local coin.

They are dropping it into strategically placed collection

boxes at the R & R Center for a volunteer organization called "Legacy", which cares for widows and children of deceased Australian servicemen.

The currency rate of exchange is \$1 Australian to \$1.12 U.S., and amounts which would convert to less than one American dollar, are not reconvertible to military payment certificates or U.S. green.

"Legacy" chairmen, R.C.H. Mason, expressed the organization's gratitude to American servicemen for their contributions in a letter received at U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam headquarters.

"Our sincere thanks to all those men who supported our cause after a brief leave in Australia," the letter read.

It said the donations were a "magnificent gesture" on the part of U.S. servicemen.

Lt. Clobbers 'Charlie' With Right Hook

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES (USA)—An unarmed 199th Light Infantry Brigade lieutenant recently charged from where he swam in a canal to flatten a Viet Cong, using the unique weapon....a right-hook to the jaw.

First Lieutenant Joe Lowke was leading a reconnaissance platoon of Company E, 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry, when it ambushed a group of several motorized Viet Cong sampans

fire as close as three feet from where they were swimming.

"I had just looked into one of the boats, when I saw a VC jump up from the canal bank," said Sergeant Murphy. "I yelled to the Lieutenant, and he charged after the Viet Cong and belted him."

Supporting light fire teams and artillery blasted the area where the other enemy had fled.

Downed Helo Crew Saved By Air Cav.

NHA TRANG (USA) — Elements of the 7/17th Air Cavalry Squadron, 1st Aviation Brigade, rescued a downed helicopter pilot and his wounded observer from the midst of North Vietnamese occupied bunkers near Kontum recently.

The rescue was effected despite dense jungle, a high concentration of enemy troops, and heavy automatic weapons fire.

The cavalrymen, called to the rescue from a search and destroy mission 10 miles south of Kontum, hacked through the jungle, guided by one of their squadron's Cayuse (OH-6) reconnaissance helicopters.

Heavy automatic weapons fire halted the rescue operation until its source could be located, and destroyed.

The pilot and observer, finding themselves in the middle of enemy occupied bunkers, jumped into an empty bunker, and waited.

The rescue team, after silencing the enemy fire, evacuated



Reconnaissance chopper.



Ground troops are dropped in to secure the area for medevac.



After cutting a landing zone out of the jungle the soldiers medevac the patient.

Support Group Alpha

Marines Assist Viets

PHU BAI (USMC) — Despite the fury of expanding war in northern I Corps, the Force Logistic Command's Support Group "Alpha" Civil Affairs team in the Hue-Phu Bai area is making steady progress.

Air strikes were then called in on the enemy positions. Soon the positions were saturated with rockets, mini-guns and troops from the 4th Infantry Division.

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Sergeant Paul Smith, acting platoon sergeant and licensed veterinarian, is the brains be-

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With a background in farming and ranching and a degree from Texas A&M, he is persuading the Vietnamese to try new methods: rotate crops, use marginal land, berry bushes for hedgerows and cultivate orange and citrus trees.

Each member of the team has his own specialty. Nguyen Vong, better known to his Marine buddies as "Henry", is a former hard-core VC. Since rallying to the Republic, he has been decorated by the Government of Vietnam on several occasions while serving as a scout. He senses the needs of the people and is an invaluable member of the team.

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aim is to help the Vietnamese to

help themselves and to solve

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Each member of the team has his own specialty. Nguyen Vong, better known to his Marine buddies as "Henry", is a former hard-core VC. Since rallying to the Republic, he has been decorated by the Government of Vietnam on several occasions while serving as a scout. He senses the needs of the people and is an invaluable member of the team.

"We are doing everything we

can to help these people. Our

aim is to help the Vietnamese to

help themselves and to solve

their own problems," explained a team member.

The team is living up to its

motto in many ways.

VN Marine rps In Battle, Honor and Tradition



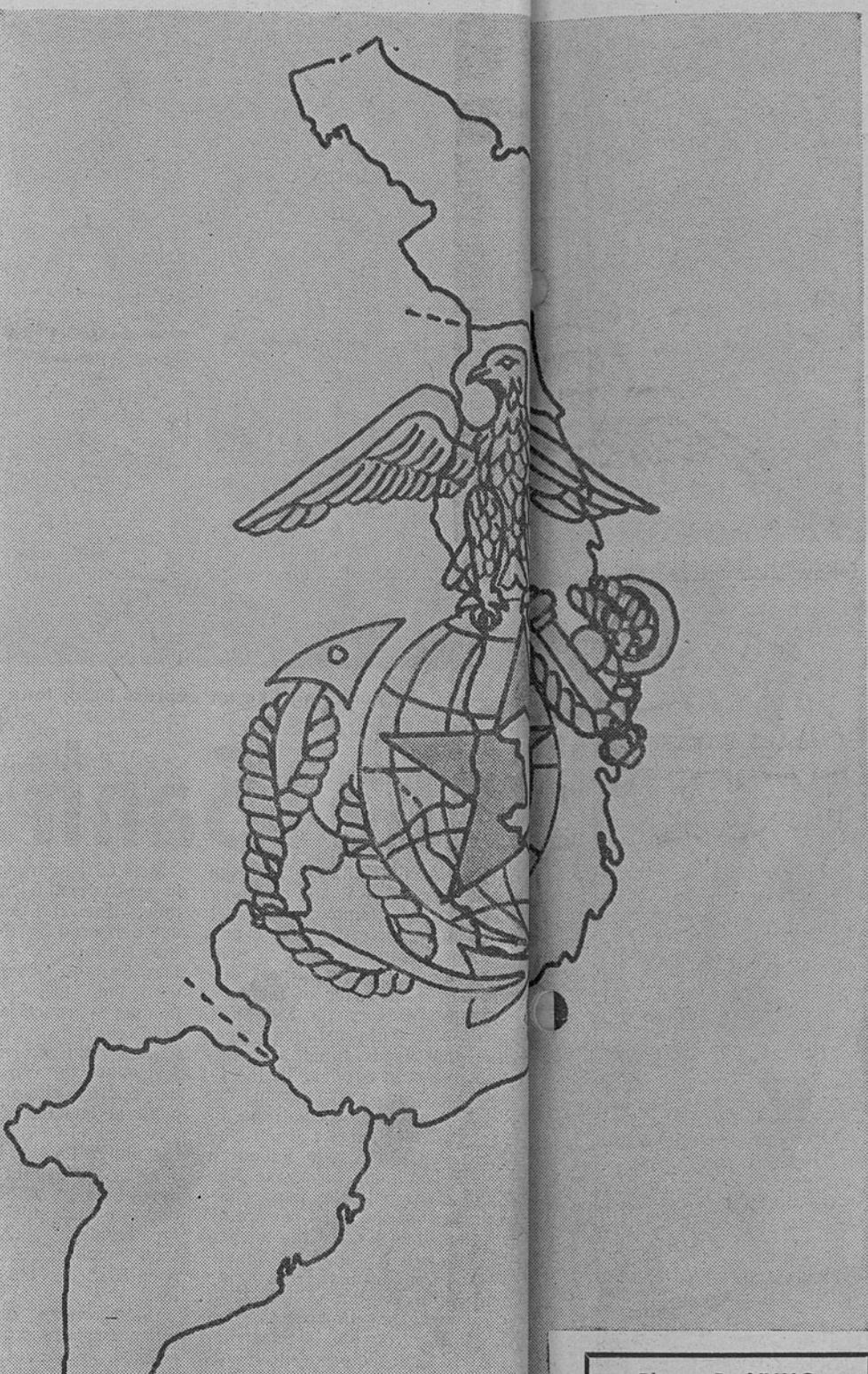
Lt.Gen. Le Nguyen Khang, Commandant of the VNMC, presents the Cross of Gallantry for heroism.



During a lull in the fighting a Marine sits and watches for elusive enemy soldiers.

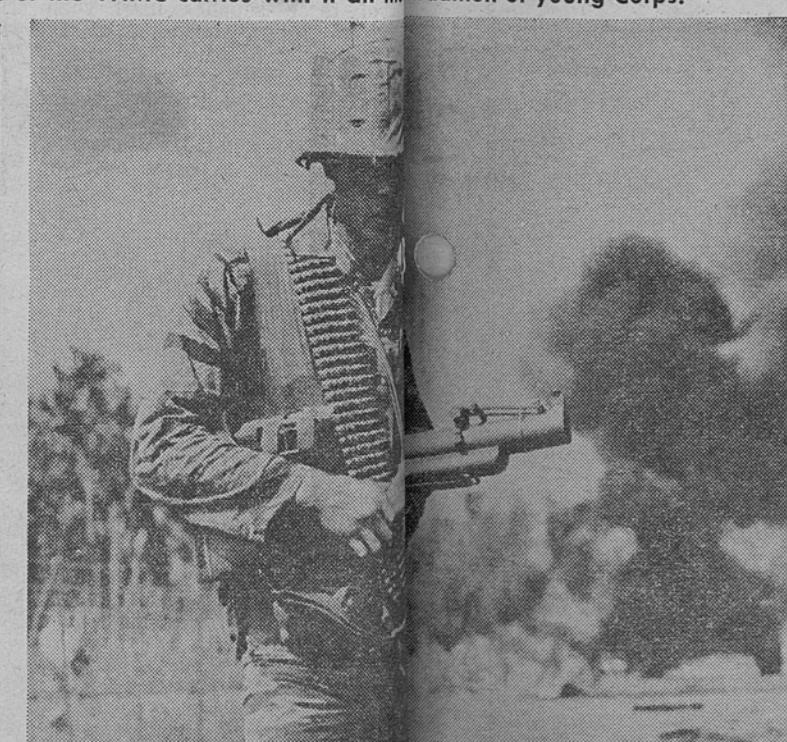


Four Marines cross a roadway in fireteam formation during heavy contact with the enemy in the streets of Saigon.



Emblem of the VNMC carries with it all the tradition of young Corps.

Photos By VNMC
&
SSgt Ted Owen USMC



A Marine moves to a new position with a grenade launcher at the ready.



With their machine gun in position, two Marines keep watch for any sign of enemy movement during fighting in Saigon.



Captain N.V. Kim points out a possible enemy position on his map to his U.S. advisor, Captain J.A. Williams.



Emphasis is placed on the concept of "cross-training" as a U.S. Navyman gives instructions.

'Swifts' For Viets

AN THOI (USN)—Seventy-one Vietnamese Navymen recently completed six months of intensive training here and began coastline patrolling in four 50-foot Swift boats.

These patrol craft are the same type the U.S. Navy is using to patrol the coast of South Vietnam in Operation Market Time—a series of anti-infiltration patrols which prevent the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese from moving supplies and men into South Vietnam by sea.

According to Lieutenant David C. Brown, commander, Coastal Division Eleven, the unit organizing and conducting the training, the Vietnamese use the Swift boats to patrol two area near here originally patrolled by U.S. Navy units. Later, as more Vietnamese crews are trained, more boats will be assigned until all of the Market Time inshore stations—from the DMZ in the north to the Cambodian border in the southwest—are taken over by the Vietnamese Navy.

Of the 71 Vietnamese sent here for training by the Vietnamese Navy headquarters in Saigon, 48 are being trained especially as boat crews. The remainder will serve as reserve crew members and maintenance personnel.

The training started in mid-October when the first increment of trainees, about half of whom had graduated from the Naval Training Center in Nha Trang, arrived at An Thoi.

After the usual check-in period and a survival swimming test, all were organized into crews, said Lieutenant (junior grade) Dan Ustick, coordinator of training and a Swift skipper himself. Then a few days later all were taking a familiarization ride aboard one of the high speed, staunchly-armed craft.

Then the schooling really got underway with month of classroom instruction—"the heart of the entire program," said Lieutenant Ustick.

During this classroom phase of instruction, the Vietnamese—taught by other Vietnamese—learned to operate the radar, the various radio circuits, how to fire the weapons and all the other things they need to know to step aboard and effectively operate a Swift boat.

This completed satisfactorily and a comprehensive review and examination given, each crew

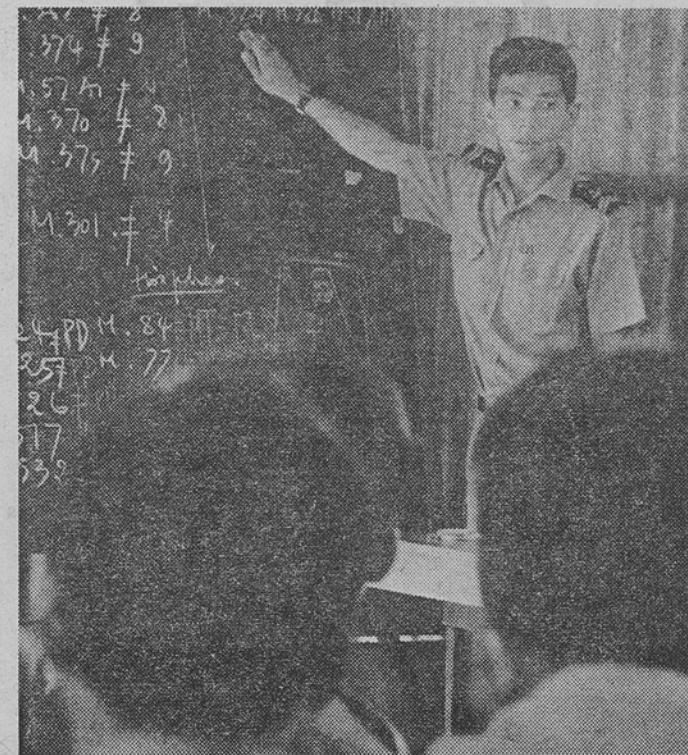
Story & Photos
Lt (jg) T.S. Storck



Training aboard the Swift includes operating the 81mm mortar.



Four of these 50-foot Swifts are being operated by the Vietnamese Navy which is now participating in Operation Market Time.



A Vietnamese Navyman instructs fellow Vietnamese sailors.

9th Inf Division Assisting Monks

LONG THANH (USA) — Buddhist monks, laboring for more than 10 months, have constructed and recently opened an orphan's village for children whose parents fell to the Viet Cong.

Situated two miles from the 9th Infantry Division's Bearcat base camp, the village now houses more than 275 youngsters in an eight building complex.

The monks are continuing

PFs 'Stop' Viet Cong Tax Men

PHONG DINH PROVINCE (USN) — Tax collectors are not popular people in the United States nor in South Vietnam, especially if they are Viet Cong.

When two of the enemy tribute collectors were killed recently in this Delta province, local residents were quick to identify them as VC tax men.

The pair was cornered by Popular Force troops in a ditch near a small canal 75-miles southwest of Saigon. The VC were pinned down from the sky by Navy Seawolf helicopter gunships when they tried to escape. They tried to fight their way out with grenades, but were killed by the Popular Force troops in the attempt.

The land is being entirely cleared and developed by 70 monks. Presently, the eight-building orphanage contains classrooms, sleeping areas, shower points, a large dining area, a kitchen and religious shrines.

It is now staffed with six teachers, three nurses and attendants for the children.

As the complex grows, its needs will increase. As a result, the 9th Medical Battalion will help build a dispensary and train the Vietnamese to run it. Already the medical units has restocked and reorganized and existing aid station.

The engineers are currently putting up a playground. Another Bearcat unit is providing a teacher to conduct English language courses regularly.

Although the orphan's village needs many supplies from Saigon each week, its only transportation is a small bus. The 9th Supply and Transportation Battalion will solve that problem by providing two and one-half ton trucks once a week for transportation.

their work until 42 buildings and a pagoda are completed. Units of the 9th Division are pitching in with material and medical help.

Recently, Division Support Command (DISCOM), the 9th Medical Battalion, Division Artillery and the 86th Engineers, a Division support unit, began civil action projects at the site.

A large kick-off program was held recently to express the division's intentions to help. Children were entertained by the band, received soft drinks, candy and fruit while the monks were given quantities of wood, shovels, cots, roofing tin and other materials.

Weekly MEDCAPS also are being conducted. More than 120 children and orphanage personnel received care at the first one.

As one of its initial projects, DISCOM passed out more than 250 tubes of toothpaste and brushes, then taught the children to use the items.

Nguyen Van Su, director of the orphan's village, said that the village will expand to more than 6,000 acres of land owned by the Buddhist Institute of Gia Dinh Province.

The land is being entirely cleared and developed by 70 monks. Presently, the eight-building orphanage contains classrooms, sleeping areas, shower points, a large dining area, a kitchen and religious shrines.

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DOG-GONE REPLACEMENT—Lieutenant Colonel T.R. Hill, commanding officer of the 1st Military Police Battalion, presents a puppy to ARVN First Lieutenant Nguyen Van Quang and his daughter. The puppy was to replace the family's pet which was killed a few months ago when it attacked a U.S. patrol. The following day the colonel visited the family and promised to replace the dog as soon as one could be obtained.

(USMC PHOTO By Sgt A.M. Chambers)

Sp4 Makes Tots Happy

DUC HOA (III CTZ) — Eight hundred Duc Hoa Elementary School children were happier and Specialist 4 Edson M. Wiggington, MACV Advisory team 99 with the 25th ARVN Infantry Division, saw the fulfillment of a dream.

It all started several months ago when the 21-year-old specialist experienced a jeep breakdown near a hamlet about 10 miles west of Saigon. While waiting for help to arrive, he noticed a Vietnamese mother crying by the roadside. Viet Cong had shot her husband and her children during a night raid.

The real losers in any war, reflected the specialist, were the children and he decided to bring a little happiness to some Vietnamese children before he left Vietnam.

He selected the 800-children school of Duc Hoa near his U.S. compound and started buying candy and gum for them. Soon, however, he realized he needed help. His buddies were happy to add their resources to the cause but the goal still seemed too distant.

Reading the labels on confectionery wrappers one day, he got the idea to write to the manufacturers for bulk price list. Letters also were sent to his folks and to the mayor of his home town of Saint Joseph, Mo., to ask for additional contributions.

In traditional American style his pleas for assistance received prompt and generous support. Letters from manufacturers and church groups pledging candy, toys, gum and school supplies flooded in from the U.S. The mayor of St. Joseph endorsed the soldier's letter by placing it in a local newspaper, and more pledges were received.

Two months later there were enough gifts for all of the children.

After presenting the gifts to the children, Specialist Wiggington exclaimed, "I knew it was a worthwhile project — I can see that by expressions of their faces now I can go home."



LETS GO!—A VC suspect is rushed to an awaiting helicopter during a 196th Light Infantry Brigade operation. (USA PHOTO)

6th ARVN Regiment

'Doc' Is Unique

TAM KY (USA)—A unique doctor, a resourceful G.I. and a desire to help are reasons that are making the 6th ARVN Regiment's MEDCAP team click.

First Lieutenant Duong is a rarity in Vietnam—he is a Montagnard from the Nung tribe—the first to become a doctor.

Canine Courage

BIEN HOA (USA)—“A dog is a man's best friend,” and in the case of Sergeant Louis J. DiFiore Jr., this statement has a personal meaning.

Sergeant DiFiore, a sentry dog handler with the 3rd Security Police Squadron, Bien Hoa air base, was on duty with his German shepherd dog, Hunde, recently when the base came under an enemy rocket attack.

“We were out by the flight-line when the first rounds started to come in,” he explained. “There was no bunker around, so my dog and I sought protection in a gully. Hunde laid down next to me and placed his head over my neck.

“A rocket exploded 20 feet from us, spraying shrapnel all over the area,” the sergeant continued. “My dog was hit in the neck and side by the shrapnel and was dead within a few minutes.”

“I probably wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for Hunde; he saved my life that night,” concluded the sergeant.

This is another example of why dog is man's best friend.

He pointed out that in addition to his regular duties as the Regimental Surgeon, and his MEDCAP visits, Doctor Duong also has set up a dependents medical program for the men assigned to the regiment.

When Doctor Duong arrived, the unit did not have a dispensary, but with Sergeant Oliverson and his men, they built one.

Another thing that makes this team different is the services of Navy Dental Technician First Class Ronald F. Laqua. He is a member of MILPHAB N3 based at the Tam Ky civilian hospital.

The navyman has started a program of dental hygiene for the villagers.

Tooth brushes and paste are handed out to the children and proper brushing technique is explained.

This is another example of why dog is man's best friend.

Leathernecks Build Children's Hospital

DA NANG (USMC)—U.S. Marines and Vietnamese officials teamed up in March to turn over the first shovel of dirt in symbolic ceremonies to start construction on a new home for the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital at Camp Books, near Da Nang.

The new building, which will replace the present, inadequate structure, is slated for completion in the fall of 1968.

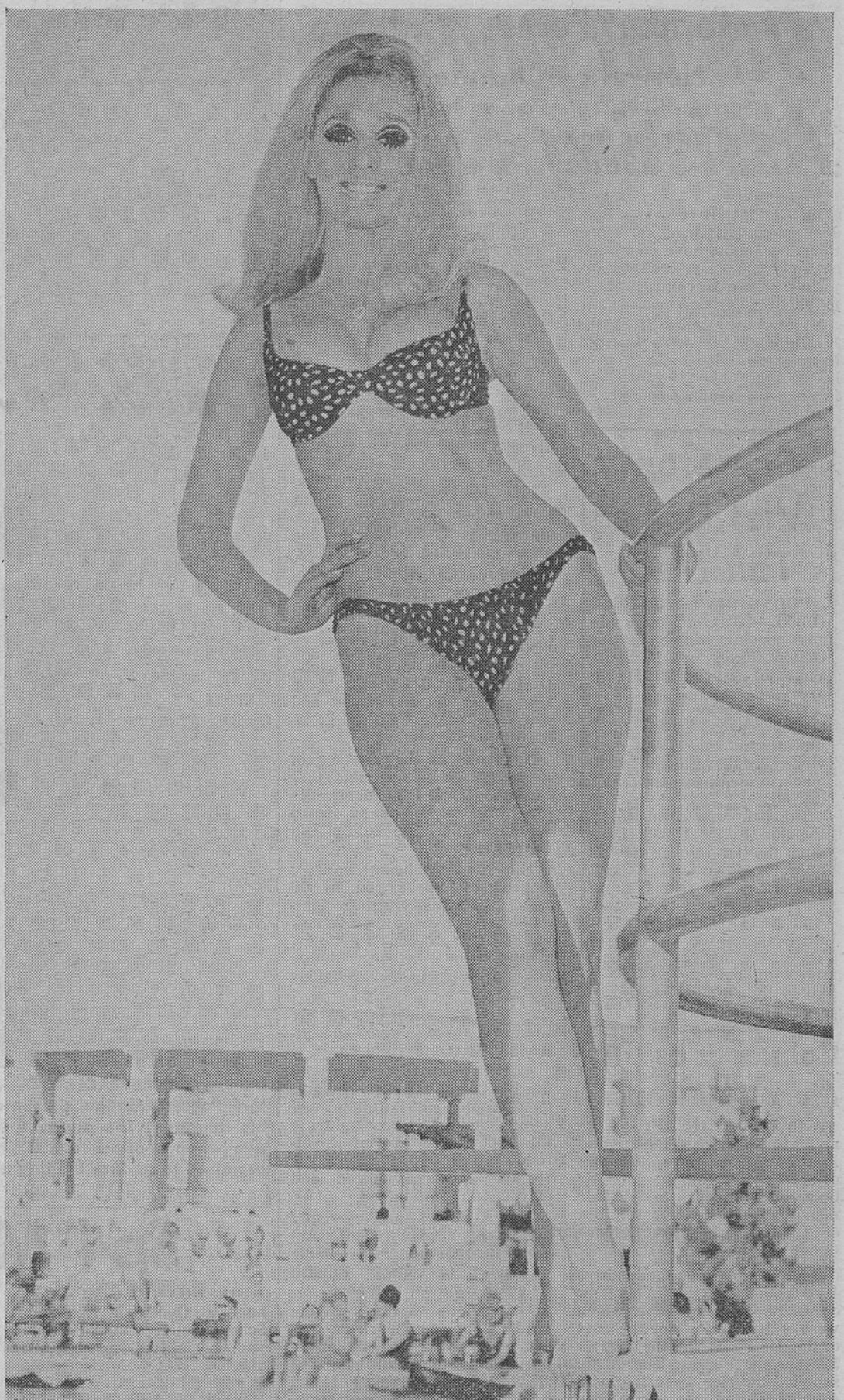
The hospital, the only one of its kind in the I Corps area, has already expanded from its original 11-bed clinic to a 70-bed unit.

Plans for the new facility include a general ward with 120-beds, an isolation ward, modern operating and emergency rooms, X-ray equipment and an intensive care section.

Lieutenant Colonel Le Tri Tin, Quang Nam province chief, expressed his gratitude to all involved in the tremendous growth of the hospital and spoke of the material and spiritual involvement of his people.

Construction of the hospital was made possible through the efforts and contributions of local Marines and Seabees and numerous civic and social organizations throughout the U.S.

A women's club in Gary, Ind., recently bought an air conditioner for the hospital's new operating room. A \$500 check



POLKA DOTS—Jan Sutton is her name, she can be seen at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. (PHOTO By Las Vegas NB)

Launches War On Waste

LONG KHANH (USA)—Seven American soldiers are fighting a war on waste in the heat of III Corps Tactical Zone's Long Khanh Province. These hand-picked specialists from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment make up the two-month-old Logistical and Administrative Advisory Team (LAAT).

The trouble-shooters, working side by side with their Vietnamese counterparts, are assuring the province's Regional and Popular Forces a steady flow of personnel, supplies and salaries to maintain top readiness and performance. When a problem crops up, the team attempts to guide the units in submitting requests and reports through the proper channels for the speediest handling of their work.

The LAAT headquarters is the Administrative and Direct Support Logistics Company, or A&L.

Company, just south of Xuan Loc, the Long Khanh provincial capital. At this home base they check and chart incoming personnel and logistics reports for discrepancies and outgoing supplies for deficits.

Some of the field units have difficulty picking up new or repaired equipment or part from the company. When this happens, the LAAT advisors try to get helicopters to fly the supplies out to the field.

Besides keeping track of the province's administration and logistics, the team also shares the defense for the Xuan Loc MACV compound and helps the A&L unit to upgrade their own defenses.

The team is under the operational control of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), and receives instructions from the Long Khanh province senior advisor.

that are not up to date, repair as many deadlines as possible and arrange paperwork and shipment for equipment that must go back to the A&L Company for repair.

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In a brief office ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Airus E. Bergstrom, squadron commander, presented checks to the victims.

“One of the main functions of LAAT is to carry the influence of the A&L Company to the field,” says Major Roger T. MacLeod, team leader and deputy province advisor for Administration and Logistics. So contact teams of Vietnamese and LAAT advisors from the A&L Company visit the RF companies and PF platoons throughout the province.

On these trips they check for missing and needed equipment, adjust A&L rosters and reports

Engs. Give Viets Help

BIEN HOA (USA)—Personnel of the 3rd Civil Engineering Squadron, Bien Hoa air base, recently took up a collection within the unit to aid Vietnamese employees who lost homes and relatives during the Communist Lunar New Year offensive.

Some of the field units have difficulty picking up new or repaired equipment or part from the company. When this happens, the LAAT advisors try to get helicopters to fly the supplies out to the field.

Besides keeping track of the province's administration and logistics, the team also shares the defense for the Xuan Loc MACV compound and helps the A&L unit to upgrade their own defenses.

The decision to take up a collection for the Vietnamese was spontaneous on the part of the men in our squadron,” the colonel commented. “Vietnamese employees make up roughly two-thirds of our organization and we feel that they are very much a part of our unit.

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week of April 10-16, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday

1830 News Headlines
1845 Sports-Weather
1930 Hey Susie
2000 Insight

2005 Seventh Fleet
2030 Addams Family
2100 Carol Burnett
2200 Sports-Basketball
2230 Halftime Headlines

Sunday

1230 News Headlines
1245 The Christopher's
1255 Sacred Heart
1300 Prince Of Peace
1330 Feature Movie
1350 Mot. Bone Special
1370 Johnny Midnight
1380 G.E. College Bowl
1382 Danny Thomas Hour
1930 News-Sports-Business
2000 Hey Susie
2030 Wagon On Vietnam
2050 Young People's Concert
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Update News
2305 Dean Martin

Friday

1230 News Headlines
1245 Wild Wild West
1250 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2030 Insight

2050 Prince Of Peace
2055 Bewitched
2100 The Lucy Show
2130 Big Picture
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Saturday

1230 News Headlines
1245 Big Valley
1250 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2030 Insight

2050 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Tonight Show

Tuesday

1230 News Headlines
1245 USGA 1967 Highlights
1400 Bob Hope Desert Classic
1500 Sports

1700 Ray Acuff
1730 American Profile
1830 Green Acres
1930 Sports
2000 News-Sports-Weather

2050 Hey Susie
2055 Feature Movie

Wednesday

1230 News Headlines
1245 Daniel Boone
1250 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2030 Insight

2050 In Town Tonight
2055 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Tonight Show

Thursday

1230 News Headlines
1245 Big Valley
1250 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2030 Insight

2050 USGA 1967 Highlights
2100 Bob Hope Desert Classic
2130 Big Picture
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Friday

1230 News Headlines
1245 Big Valley
1250 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2030 Insight

2050 USGA 1967 Highlights
2100 Bob Hope Desert Classic
2130 Big Picture
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

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1245 Big Valley
1250 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Hey Susie
2030 Insight

2050 USGA 1967 Highlights
2100 Bob Hope Desert Classic
2130 Big Picture
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

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1245 Big Valley
1250 News-Sports-Weather
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2305

Parachutes Fail; 2 Pilots Survive

PHAN RANG (USAF) — Two Air Force pilots who bailed out of a crippled F-100 Supersabre at 500 feet had a close brush with death recently, when the parachute of one failed to open and the other's chute opened just one second before he hit the ground.

The normal minimum ejection altitude for an F-100 is 2000 feet.

Lieutenant Colonel Burton M. Field and Captain William D. Canup escaped with minor injuries, after their two seater model F-100 was shot down 10 miles from Binh Thuy air base.

Colonel Field was saved by a tree and a ditch. His unopened parachute snagged on a mango tree 30 feet high, and he found himself dangling from the harness in an eight-foot ditch below the tree. His ankles rested in mud, and the water in the ditch came up to his knees.

Captain Canup landed in a rice paddy covered by 15 inches of water. He was unhurt, except for soreness. The captain said he thought the soft earth and water in the rice paddy kept him from sustaining major injuries, even though there was not time for his parachute to attain a normal rate of descent.

Within 15 minutes, the two

pilots were rescued by helicopter and returned to their unit, the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Binh Thuy.

Colonel Field recalled those agonizing seconds after he ejected, and said he was not really worried until he fell head first through the tree branches.

"There were branches between me and that streaming chute. I figured that was the end . . . and I wondered how long it would hurt."

It was the second bail-out from an F-100 for Colonel Field. The first occurred five years ago at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

After his latest narrow escape, the colonel telephoned his wife in the United States via the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS).

"Well, I did it again," he told her. "She took it a lot better than last time," he reported. Colonel Field is a veteran of 126 combat missions in Vietnam.

Captain Canup noted that his ejection into the rice paddy came on his second combat mission.

"I had every confidence in the system (ejection system)," he said, recalling his feelings during descent. "I suppose it was not my time to go."

'Quick Kill' Method Too Much For VC

PHAN THIET (USA) — The "quick kill" method is a new firing technique being taught U.S. soldiers prior to their coming to Vietnam. It involves pointing their rifles at an enemy insurgent without taking time to use the sights for aiming.

Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade made extensive use of the Army's new kill method while flushing Viet Cong from a village near here recently.

A platoon from Company A, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry, was sweeping through a village

when a VC leaped from behind a house and drew his .45 caliber pistol.

The airborne infantrymen pointed their rifles and killed him instantly.

A second enemy soldier stepped out from behind another house with a rocket launcher ready to fire. Again using the "quick kill" method, Specialist 4 Marshall D. Nelson shot him immediately.

Meanwhile another platoon was sweeping the area outside the village. A Viet Cong jumped out of the brush with his hands in the air. He was detained by the paratroopers.

As the platoon resumed forward movement, still another soldier emerged from the brush. This one chose to "shoot it out" however.

Private First Class Chris Adams swung his M-16 around at hip level and scored a third quick kill.

Altogether the paratroopers killed 12 Viet Cong in the sweep.

Not His Way, He Quits VC

PHU BAI (USMC) — A man who spent a short stint as a Viet Cong, had good reasons to surrender under the Chieu Hoi program to Marines during a recent operation near Phu Bai.

The former enemy had lived in a quiet village near Highway 1. During the Communist Tet offensive, the VC came into his village, stole food, shot a number of villagers and kidnapped two men. He was one of the kidnap victims.

An unwilling guerrilla from the outset, he was sent to an indoctrination school in the mountains. After several days of instructions in the virtues of enemy goals in southeast Asia, the man was assigned to a working party and accompanied bands of VC operating in the area.

"But all the time," he said, "I was awaiting an opportunity to escape and return to my village."

One night, while the real guerrillas were sleeping, he escaped, returned to his village and turned himself in to Leathernecks of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.



SP4 Robert Collarle, treats a wounded CIDG soldier he carried to safety. (USA PHOTO)

Civil War Relic Useful

Old Plow Cuts Work Time

PHUOC VINH (USA) — A paratrooper's promise, the generosity of a Kentucky tobacco farmer and a Civil War plow teamed up to turn a half-day's labor into a 20 minute chore for signalmen of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade here.

The value of a plow became apparent to Staff Sergeant Ted E. Johnson during a previous

Vietnam tour with the Screaming Eagles. During that tour he was involved in building communication lines near Dak To.

"Our lines had to be 18-feet above ground or six inches below the surface," the sergeant recalled. "I had Highlanders (Montagnards) cutting poles for me, but as the VC increased their sniping fire, the length of the poles decreased."

He decided the best solution was to bury the lines, but this took six men half-a-day to dig a quarter mile of trench. It was then he hit upon the idea of a plow.

"I bought a plow from a Highlander for 400 piasters," he continued. "The plow was designed for marshy rice paddies and broke under the stress of turning hard ground. I vowed then and there I would bring an American plow with me if I ever came back to Vietnam."

Sergeant Johnson returned to the U.S. and was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, then at Ft. Campbell, Ky. when his unit was alerted for movement to Vietnam.

The sergeant remembered his previous problems and called upon R.E. Pace, a nearby tobacco farmer.

"I explained why I wanted a plow," said the sergeant. "Mr. Pace understood my needs and gave me an old plow that turned the tobacco fields a hundred years ago."

The brigade signal platoon scoured the share, added a touch of paint and deployed to Vietnam with their ancient plow and modern communications equipment.

With Sergeant Johnson at the plow handles and a vehicle in the harness, the signalmen can lay a quarter mile of wire in minutes.

"It sure has saved us a lot of 'elbow-grease,'" he said, as a half dozen nearby privates nodded in agreement.

Joint . . .

(Continued From Page 1) In Scotland were 1,561 enemy dead and 50 suspects detained. In addition, 112 individual and 66 crew-served weapons were captured.

U.S. casualties were 204 Marines killed, 845 wounded and medevaced, and 777 lightly wounded who were treated and returned to duty.

The operation was supported by 5,561 tactical air strikes.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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From:

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(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

Allies Rack Foe In Massive Sweep

SAIGON (MACV) — As of March 26, after 11 days of fighting, Operation Quyet Thang — the biggest Allied offensive of the Vietnam war — American and Vietnamese units have killed 1,842 Communists, detained 293 suspects and captured 518 individual and 129 crew-served weapons.

Allied losses have been: 69 U.S. killed and 604 wounded.

ARVN has had 92 killed and 232 wounded.

Quyet Thang, which translates to Resolved to Win, began March 11. It is a multi-division operation involving more than 50,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers who are conducting massive sweeps around Saigon and five adjacent provinces.

The cumulative results of the

first seven days of fighting were 821 enemy killed, 165 suspects detained and 315 individual and 69 crew-served weapons captured.

There had been 32 U.S. soldiers killed and 291 wounded with ARVN casualties being reported as light.

The overall mission of the operation is to search out and destroy enemy elements within

the operational boundaries of Gia Dinh Long An, Hau Nghia, Binh Duong and Bien Hoa provinces as well as Saigon.

Forces involved in the operation include elements of the 1st, 9th and 25th U.S. Infantry Divisions. Vietnamese units are elements of the 5th and 25th ARVN Infantry Divisions and two task forces, plus personnel of the National Police forces.

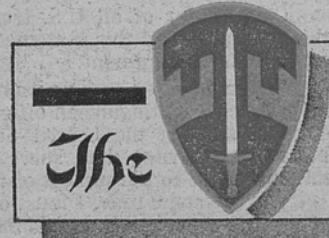
Numerous weapons and ammunition caches have been discovered. One such cache, found by the 25th U.S. Division March 18 was situated 12 miles north of Saigon. It contained 24 motors for the 7-mile range 122mm rocket and 12 rocket-warheads.

Elements of the 35th ARVN Ranger Battalion killed 21 enemy March 19 five miles south of Saigon in a five-hour fight. The Rangers were supported by tactical aircraft and artillery. Ranger casualties were light.

The 9th ARVN Airborne Bat-
(Continued on Back Page)

TARP

Tet Aggression
Relief Project

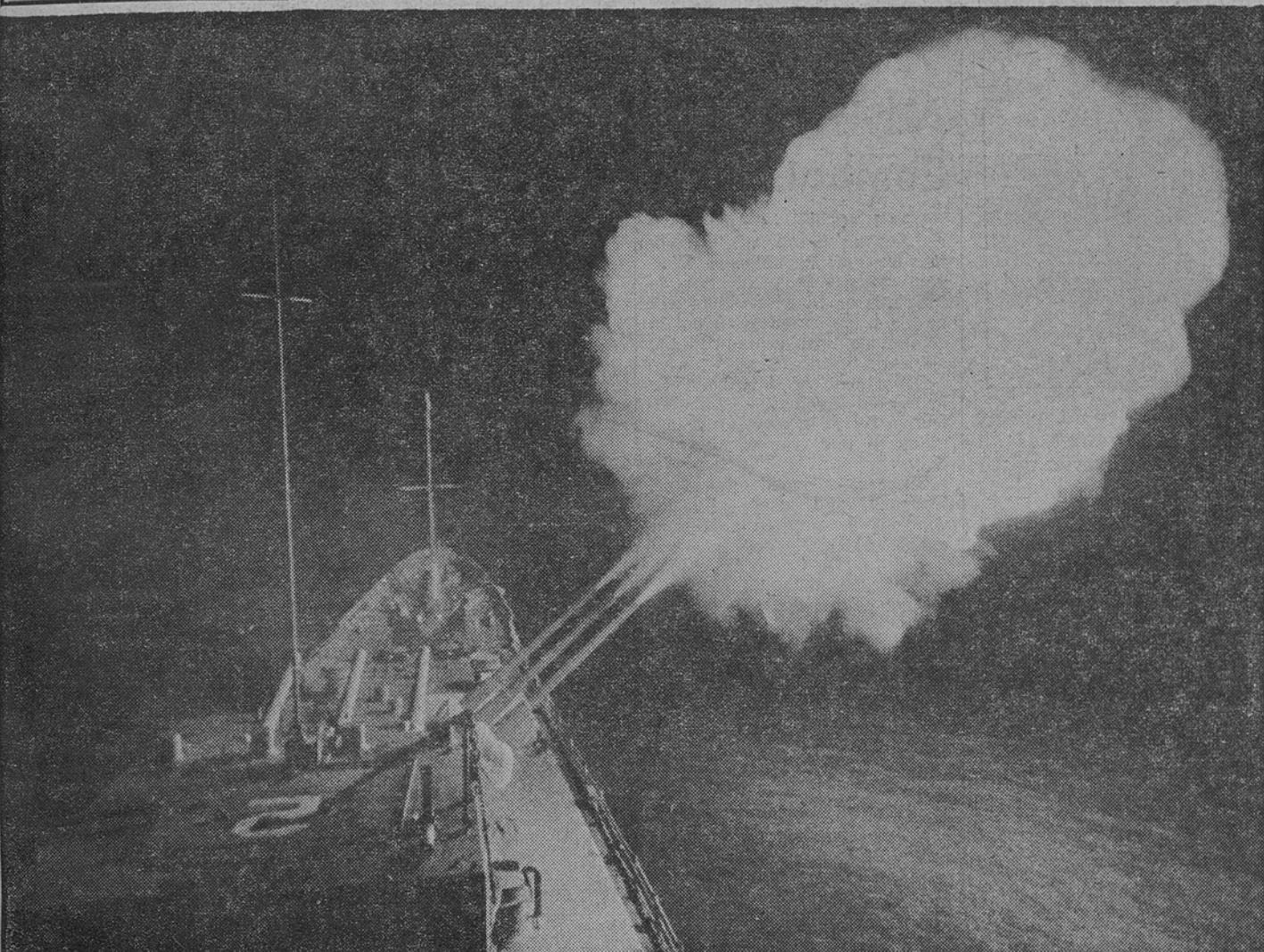


FIRST IN VIETNAM
THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 48

Saigon, Vietnam

April 3, 1968



SALVO—Giant eight-inch guns of the cruiser Canberra send 600 pounds of steel toward enemy targets.
(USN PHOTO By JOC R. D. Moeser)

Remembers Destruction, But . . .

Town Won't Turn Back Clock

LONG BINH (II FFV) — The village of Ben Suc "died" a year ago during Operation Cedar Falls. Scores of articles, columns and even a book, have been written about the "military inhumanity" which destroyed the settlement.

Yet, today, happy villagers who made the exodus would not turn back the clock.

Cedar Falls was intended to raze the area known as the Iron Triangle, some 25 miles north of Saigon. The area had been a Viet Cong sanctuary since 1965 and was the political-military headquarters which governed VC terrorist activities in and around Saigon.

Since the area was of critical military importance it was decided to drain the "sea" in which the VC "fish" swam.

Although there were no hamlets in the dense jungle area of the Iron Triangle, Ben Suc, along with three small hamlets, was located on the sides of the triangle. A total of 6,000 Vietnamese were in the "fire zone."

Two days prior to the operation, the military sacrificed surprise to warn the villagers of the impending actions. Thousands of leaflets were dropped telling the people where to gather for evacuation.

On moving day, members of Vietnamese and U.S. units worked side-by-side helping families load their furniture, bedding, livestock and pets aboard Navy landing craft and Army helicopters for the move to a hastily-built camp which had been constructed at Phu Cuong.

As the refugees arrived in the camp they were given food, clothing and medical treatment by Vietnamese and American organizations.

After living in the camp for almost four months, the refugees were moved again, but this time to a carefully planned village situation on land cleared by U.S. Army engineers.

The Ben Hoa hamlet, near the village of Lai Thieu in Binh Duong province, presently has 800 homes housing approximately 4,000 persons. Around 80 percent of the inhabitants are from Ben Suc.

The extreme high ratio of women and children to men is indicative that most of the men were either Viet Cong or captured by the VC. More than half of the refugees are children

and there are twice as many women as men. Yet this is slowly changing as more of the Ben Suc men return to their families as official and unoffi-

(Continued on Back Page)

BAN ME THOUT (USA) — The 23rd ARVN Infantry Division here has received an issue of the much anticipated M-16 rifles.

"We have been waiting for these a long time," said First Lieutenant Larry Stewart, advisor to one of the battalions which received the new rapid firing weapons.

"The M-16 is so much more effective than the assortment of weapons the men formerly car-

ried, and they are very accurate with them," he continued.

Lieutenant Stewart explained that the division had a training program set up to familiarize the soldiers with their new weapons. The course requires about a day and a half for the individual soldier to complete.

"I think the spirit of the men in this division went up several notches when they received M-16s," Lieutenant Stewart concluded.

Viet Unit Issued M-16s

Editorial

Death Souvenirs

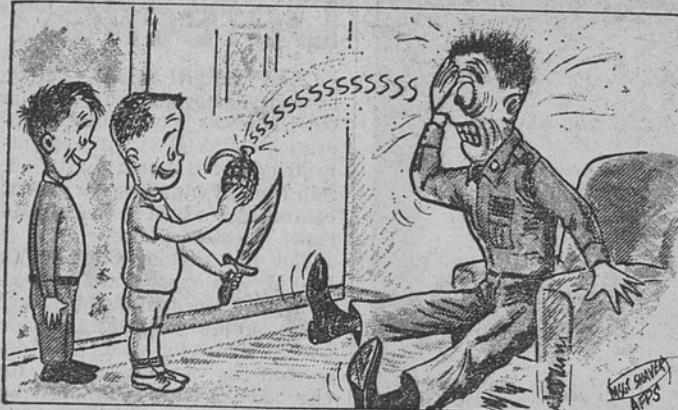
American servicemen have traditionally carried home souvenirs and mementos from faraway places. Little brothers stare in awe while family, friends and sweethearts behold the unfamiliar merchandise with appreciation.

But many servicemen introduce their family and loved ones to souvenirs that are dangerous, life-taking munitions not proven free of explosive qualities.

Statistics prove that in hundreds of cases death, crippling injuries and lifelong anguish have resulted from these "innocent" souvenirs. How many more lives hang precariously in the balance is a matter of conjecture.

It may be a harmless-looking grenade or an unspent round from a bazooka—it doesn't matter. The fact remains, death stalks those unsuspecting individuals who handle this hardware.

It's true many of these souvenirs become forgotten and find their way to rec room mantles, dens or even



attics and storerooms. But they are always there, posing the same threat. The right set of circumstances is all that's needed to unleash maiming crippling or even death to the unwary.

So how does a serviceman avoid harm to his loved ones? Very simple. Any military police activity can examine a potential death-dealing weapon and give advice on its safety. Or they may recommend that proper ordnance disposal authorities take a look at it. These are men specially trained in all types of explosives used in weapons systems. They can certify the safe or hazardous condition of any munitions souvenir. They can also make it safe.

The question every serviceman who intends to take home a potentially dangerous weapon should ask: "Is it worth it?"

"Have I made certain the weapon is free from explosives?" Have the proper authorities examined the weapon and certified as to its safety?" Be certain. Be safe. (AFPS)

Patriotic Mother's

SAIGON (MACV) — This headquarters receives many letters daily from Americans and friends around the world expressing their support for our men and mission in Vietnam.

Recently Mrs. M. L. Cunningham of Spokane, Wash., a homemaker with three youngsters, wrote the following letter expressing her deep gratitude.

You didn't ask for this war,

to all the servicemen who are fighting for her family and for freedom:

To Our Beloved Men Overseas,

I am writing this to you as a gesture of appreciation, for all you are going thru over there for us, in order to maintain all we hold dear.

You didn't ask for this war,

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Second Asian Tours For AF

WASHINGTON — Some Air Force EM undoubtedly will be ordered to second tours in SEA (Southeast Asia) sometime in the spring of '68. Air Force states only a limited number of people in the Munitions Maintenance (461X0), Construction Equipment Operator (551X1), and Air Freight/Passenger (605XX) are to be affected.

So if you are tabbed to return, says Air Force, you know that it is only because all other qualified eligibles in your career field have already served a tour in SEA. (The Airman)

Advisory Duty Combat Credit

WASHINGTON — Army officer serving as advisors to commanders of Republic of Vietnam units or as advisors to Province or District Chiefs will be given credit for command in combat commensurate with the advisor's grade.

Department of the Army has instructed Promotion and Selection Board to give full recognition to this type of advisory duty.

Officers assigned as staff, technical, and school advisors will not be granted command credit. (AD)

Assignment Policy Fixed

WASHINGTON — Soldiers with six months remaining in-service are eligible for overseas assignments or inter-theater transfer, according to Department of the Army message 848395.

Men with units deploying to Vietnam can go if they have 90 days left to serve. (AD)

Letter Backs U.S.

but you are willing to fight and even die, in order to preserve the ideals of peace and freedom:

To the Beloved Men Overseas,

I am writing this to you as a gesture of appreciation, for all you are going thru over there for us, in order to maintain all we hold dear.

You didn't ask for this war,

Top Army Post For MACV CG

SAIGON (MACV) — General William C. Westmoreland is leaving his post as Commander of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, to become Army Chief of Staff effective in July. President Johnson made the announcement at a recent news conference Washington, D.C.

General Westmoreland will succeed General Harold K. Johnson who is expected to retire when his term expires July 1.

Commander of all U.S. troops in Vietnam since Aug. 1, 1965, the general issued this statement on his nomination for the Army top military assignment:

"I am honored to be nominated by the Commander-in-Chief to follow such a distinguished officer as General Harold K. Johnson, a chief of staff of the United States Army, an institution which have been privileged to serve for almost 32 years and will continue to serve to the utmost of my capability."

"At the same time, I must of course admit to a feeling of regret at leaving my present command—a natural feeling on the part of any commander."

"This feeling is particularly true in my case since I am leaving before the battle is over and peace is restored to the people of the beautiful land which has been so torn by Communist aggression."

"The Vietnamese people will remain in my heart and I shall continue to support our objectives here to the best of my ability."

"Up Country"



WHY NOT? THE CAP'N SAID THIS MORNING THAT "B" COMPANY NEEDS AN INTERPRETER!



FIRST IN VIETNAM

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COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA
Chief, Command Information Lt. Col. T. A. Costello, USA

NOIC JOC W.W. Polk, USN
Editor TSgt G.C. Sterling, USAF
Assistant Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC

Altho our ideas may vary as to the war itself, we are behind you 100 per cent and are very proud of all of you.

Even if you are alone and have no one back home, you are a mother's son, and a native son, that makes you our son too. You are not alone. Each time we hear of the lives lost over there, we die a little inside for them and send up a little prayer, then send another for those remaining.

Please believe what I say; I am writing this in all sincerity, hoping in some small way it will help you to know that your efforts are very much appreciated by us back home and we could never turn our backs and forget you.

Everywhere I go, everyone I talk to has you uppermost in their minds and hearts. You are our sons, brothers, fathers, and husbands in a foreign country fighting and dying.

We live under the shadow of your enormous sacrifices. We are a huge family that can never be complete again, until you are all home again in peace, with us.

With our sincerest love, appreciation, and best wishes.

Mrs. M.L. Cunningham (AD)

Space Problem

Marines On 'Iwo'

DA NANG (USMC) — The most valuable thing that Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-363 has is space. This veteran UH-34D Sea Horse helicopter squadron is one of two air components of the Marine Corps SLF (Special Landing Force).

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Airborne Unit Captures Arms

III CORPS (BIEN HOA) — Elements of the 9th ARVN Airborne Battalion participating in Operation Quyet Thang, recently captured one of the largest enemy ammunition caches of the war. It was found about 3½ miles northeast of Hoc Mon in Gia Dinh Province.

The huge cache 13-80 to 100 pound cases of TNT and plastic explosives, 30-75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 138-B-40 rockets, 1,200-82mm and 60mm mortar projectiles, and 31-122mm rocket rounds.

The squadron has made a record number of bad weather radar controlled landings and night landings since their tour commenced aboard the Iwo Jima.



Marines board helicopters on the USS Iwo Jima.

(USMC PHOTO By Cpl Joe Brand)

One Man Secret Weapon Frustrates GIs

CAN THO (USA) — So you have just arrived in Vietnam? Good luck on your tour. And while we are on the subject of luck, perhaps you will be one of those fortunate people who receive assignments in "secure" areas like Saigon, Vung Tau or Can Tho.

In these cities and several others, one can feel relatively safe from Viet Cong sniper sights and other natural perils of the battlefield (most of the time, anyway).

However, don't count your lucky stars yet. You too, may become a cyclo casualty.

What in the world is a cyclo?

Perhaps this short story will enlighten you. One young replacement had been in country only a few days when he was led away to the dispensary

suffering from a rare battle fatigue. He had gone downtown for 25-minutes on one of many missions. But that short trip was enough to shake his sanity to the breaking point. He had become another cyclo victim.

A cyclo is a one man secret

weapon designed to annoy, frustrate, baffle and drive thousands of nervous servicemen to a premature tenure at the Old Soldier's Home.

It is a three-wheeled carriage propelled by either two strong, wiry legs or by a two-horse-power washing machine motor mounted on a bike.

Compounding its effectiveness against American servicemen, is the fact that the cyclo is often disguised as a personnel carrier for the general public. Veteran cyclo watchers have seen cyclo carry six to eight people at one time. They also have been observed lugging pigs and vegetables to market, and hauling empty beverage bottles and sand bags.

Still, the cyclo is considered a deadly weapon though it is not a vehicle normally associated with the VC or the regulars from the north. Its operator can send a bolt of fear into the heart of the stouthearted U.S. military driver, whether he be armed with such light equipment as a jeep or a heavier vehicle—like a 5-ton truck.

Their maneuvers are incredible, feinting in and out, sudden thrusts here, a jab there and the motor pool is minus another set of wheels. As an infantryman, you wouldn't stand a chance against these terrifying, traffic tormentors.

Cyclo operators are trained

in wheel-to-wheel combat, with rigid tests in the field. To pass the course, the operator must be proficient in dodging pot holes, and at the same time, cause others to bog down in ditches beside the road.

The Cyclo School's honor graduate is the driver who can stage a frontal attack on two deuce-and-a-halfs; make only one pass causing major damage to both, and get away with not as much as a scratched spoke.

Although the school graduates thousands each year, applicants are still hand picked. The primary requirement is that they must have a total disregard for everyone.

How does today's serviceman protect himself from these demon Ben Hurs? Simple, you might say, just stay beyond their maximum range. Nice try, but the cyclo force took this defensive strategy into consideration, and its Intelligence Section has come up with a counteroffensive move.

It has enlisted into its ranks uncountable scores of bicycles, motor bikes, and scooters, and we know how to cope with ... like a Yellow Cab.

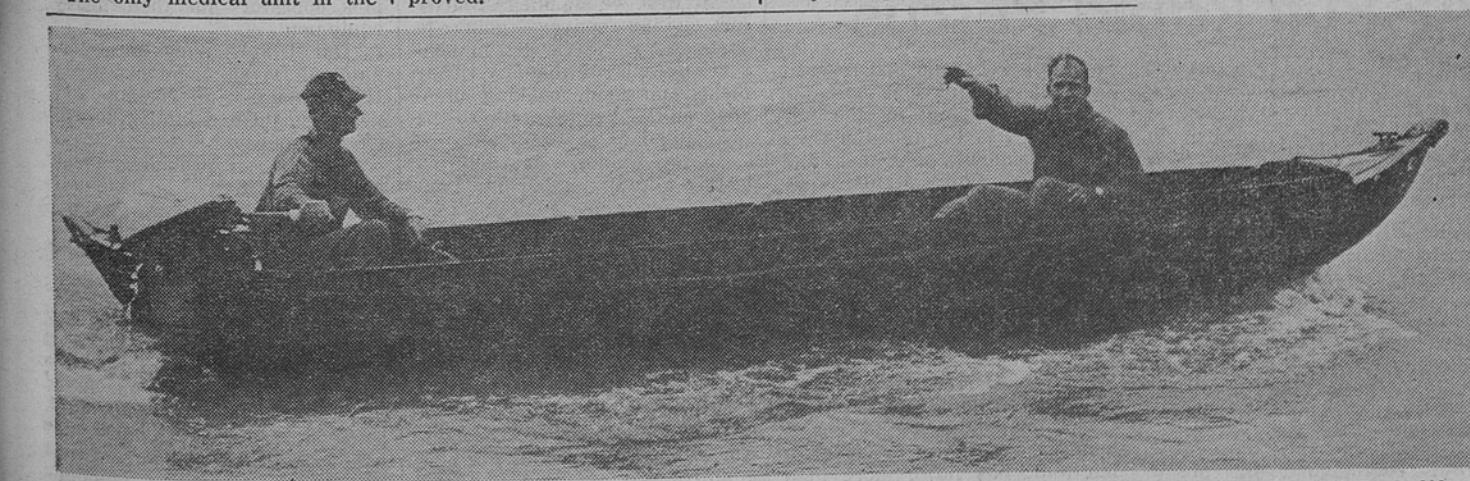
VC 'Craft'

in the Mekong Delta. Officially, it is known as the USS Xin Lai to the men of River Section 534. But chances are you will not find it registered with the Navy Department.

USS Xin Lai (which loosely translates "sorry about that") is a captured Viet Cong sampan. The PBR men use for transporting passengers, mail and light cargo.

The Xin Lai was picked up on a recent night patrol in a small canal off the Ham Luong River after being abandoned by its fleeing occupants.

Lieutenant R.M. Wolin, officer-in-charge of River Section 534, selected one of the almost new, 22-foot motorized sampans for the section's "administration" boat. It became the USS Xin Lai after a few minor repairs and a stern alteration to accommodate a variety of outboard engines and a traditional christening.



Two members of River Section 534 proudly display their captured Viet Cong sampan.

(NAVY PHOTO By PH3 F. C. West)

Viet Scout Wise To Cong Habits

CHU LAI (USMC) — Kit Carson was a successful scout for one reason — he knew where and how to find Indians. Tieu Viet Ba doesn't wear buckskin, but he knows where and how to find the Viet Cong.

Marines of a combined action platoon, located near Chu Lai, boast of their Kit Carson scout and their pride in Ba is supported by productive statistics.

Sergeant Donald E. Williams, NCOIC of the CAP unit, has grown to know and admire his ex-Viet Cong comrade as a friend. According to the Leatherneck, Ba became a Viet Cong as a teenager, fighting for the Communists for four years.

His success as a VC can only be measured by his ability to stay alive. Ba is now 22 years old. He has experienced the extremes of both sides of the Vietnam conflict. Sergeant Williams says that Ba does not like to talk about his life as a VC. He regards himself as having been a traitor in the eyes of his country and wants to do everything possible to redeem himself. The CAP Marines say Ba has evened the score since joining them.

As an enemy, he circulated in the CAP's area near Chu Lai, learning the enemy techniques of warfare and their choices of hideouts. Since the beginning of the year, he has uncovered and helped destroy more than 50 Viet Cong.

Cam Ranh Group Helping Orphans

CAM RANH BAY (USA) — The Protestant Men of the Chapel (PMOC) at Cam Ranh Bay air base are starting an orphanage for the 400 orphans living in Cam Ranh City.

Some time ago the group was looking for a project which would benefit the people of the city. Colonel Nguyen Binh Bang, mayor of Cam Ranh City, indicated that one of the greatest needs was a home for the many orphans.

The mayor gave the PMOC an excellent tract of land for the construction of the home. Because of the scope of the project, it was decided to organize a formal board of directors for the orphanage.

Lieutenant Colonel Sam E. Brian, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing chaplain, contacted the Reverend Sam James, a Southern Baptist missionary in Saigon, who agreed to accept the position of chairman of the board of directors. The second member of the board is Le Tat Hao, a lawyer in Saigon, who has been instrumental in working out the legal details of the proposed orphanage.

The third member of the

board is Tran Huu Ham, director of social welfare for Cam Ranh City. He also acts as the mayor's representative on the board.

Now that all the legal aspects of the project are finalized, the big need is for money. To date, more than \$8,000 has been received and construction of the first unit will begin when the PMOC has raised \$10,000.

Even though the project is being sponsored by the Air Force men at Cam Ranh Bay, Captain Brian recently accepted a check for \$908 from Army personnel stationed at Cam Ranh Bay.

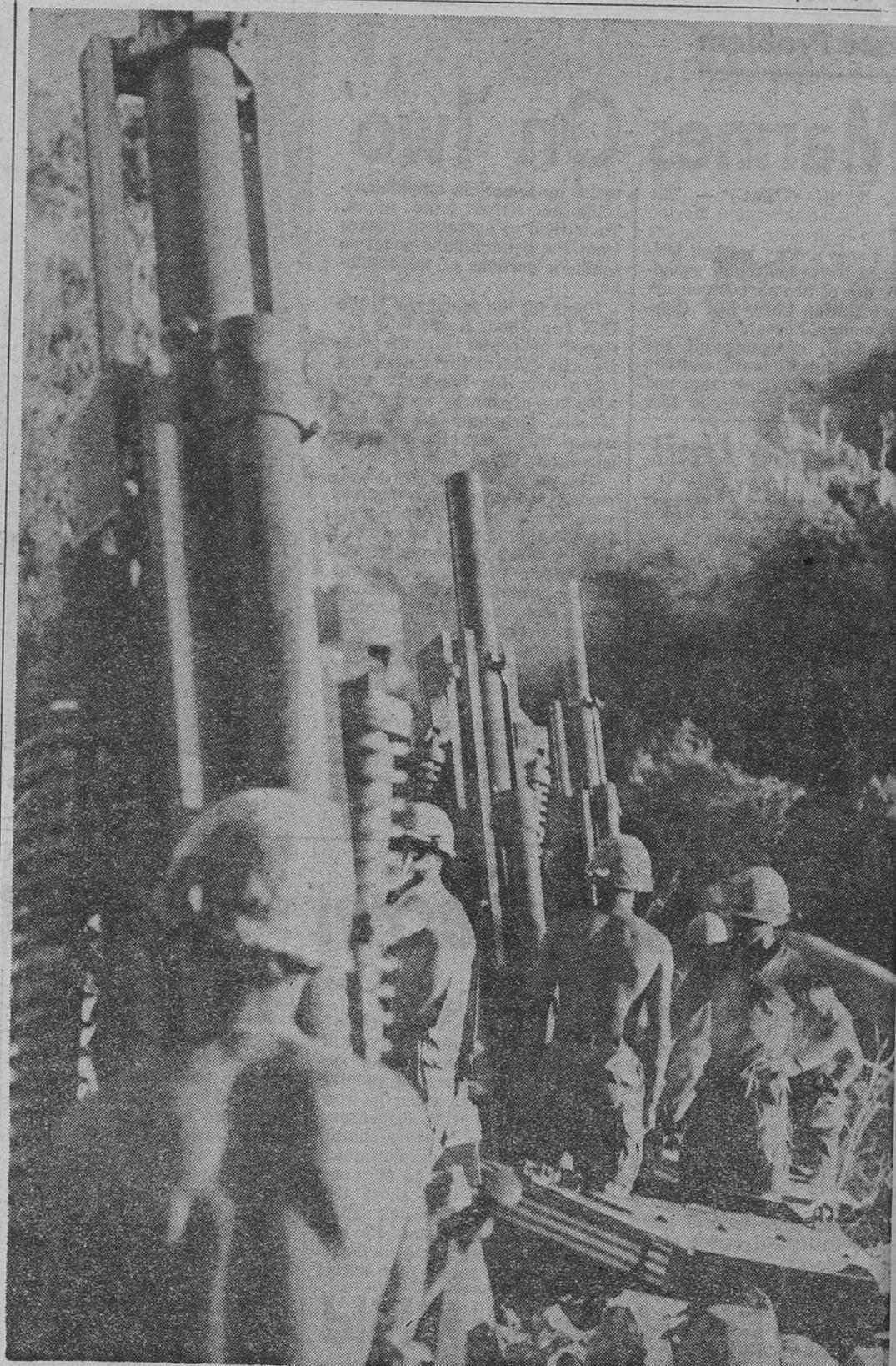
Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the orphanage should send it to the Cam Ranh Bay Christian Orphanage, Box 77, APO San Francisco 96325.

AF Pull Rapid Rescue

BIEN HOA (USA) — An Air Force rescue helicopter crew from Bien Hoa air base needed only six minutes recently to scramble from their alert pad, pick up a downed pilot and return to the base.

The HH-43 Huskie crew, assigned to Detachment 6, 33rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, was airborne immediately following notification that First Lieutenant William V. Tomlinson Jr. had ejected from his F-105 Supersabre just west of the base.

Arriving on the scene, the crew, commanded by Major Keaver Holley III, set the chop-



The tubes of 105mm lightweight howitzers are seen firing at maximum elevation. (USA PHOTO)

New Units Rise In Cholon

SAIGON (USA) — An estimated 10,000 people here will soon be able to sleep with a roof over their heads and four walls around them for the first time since Tet.

An international task force is working toward this goal at Petrus Ky Triangle in this capital city's Cholon section. Vietnamese, Americans and Koreans are rushing completion of

1,500 housing units.

The units will form a semi-permanent camp to shelter refugees until new multi-storyed housing is completed in burned out sections of Cholon.

U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command's (USAHAC) Civic Action Office, headed by Lieutenant Colonel James F. Bodine, has overall responsibility for the project. The colonel explained how the project began:

"At first we supplied security for civilian convoys going to Vietnamese warehouses in non-secure areas of the city. They picked up food, cooking utensils, and sleeping mats to be distributed to the refugees."

"Later, we were asked to assist in getting lumber for temporary refugee shelters. We managed to procure over half a million board feet for them."

The colonel divided Saigon refugees into two groups. One, those who will stay in temporary camps until money and supplies are furnished to construct their own homes. Group two, he said, are those refugees who will be living in the semi-permanent camps until the new multi-storyed housing is completed.

The lieutenant, serving on a voluntary extension of his combat tour, has flown more than 400 missions.

BUY U.S.
SAVINGS
BONDS

WHERE YOU BANK OR WORK



Hieno—Meanest AF Sentry Dog?

CAM RANH BAY (USA) — The fury of an Air Force sentry dog would make even the bravest man cringe. Especially if that dog was Hieno, "The meanest dog in the Air Force," according to his handler Airman First Class Morgan C. Hess.

Hieno, a 99-pound German Shepherd, and handler now patrol the perimeter of Cam Ranh Bay air base. They are assigned to the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing's security police sentry dog section.

The team first met when Airman Hess volunteered for sentry dog training. Hieno had established a reputation as being overly aggressive. The airman, a novice but determined trainee, took command and won the dog's confidence, then his respect.

"Like all sentry dogs," he comments, "Hieno has a mind of his own. He is very individualistic but he works for me with no problem because I have treated him kindly and I never show him fear."

The team trained together and three-year-old sentry dog completed the obedience, scouting, post utilization and obstacle course training without a single misfortune.

Then Airman Hess received orders for Vietnam. Policy states that sentry dog handlers, when transferred to Vietnam, will retrain a new dog either in Japan or the Philippines. Since he had been the only man able to work Hieno, the dog was to be put away.

He wrote Tactical Air Command headquarters requesting permission to have Hieno shipped with him to Vietnam. Headquarters concurred and the two were on their way to the war zone together.

"There weren't too many problems with shipping," the

airman said. "I fed Hieno prior to taking off from McChord Air Force Base and the airlines placed him in the baggage compartment of the same plane I was aboard."

"Hieno didn't have a bit of trouble during the flight. I thought he might get airsick, but he came through real well," he stated.

The two arrived at Cam Ranh Bay and immediately went to work on the outer perimeter of the base.

What about Hieno's aggressiveness? "Well, I am sure I won't have to urge him on."



Ferocious
Story and Photos by:
U.S. Air Force

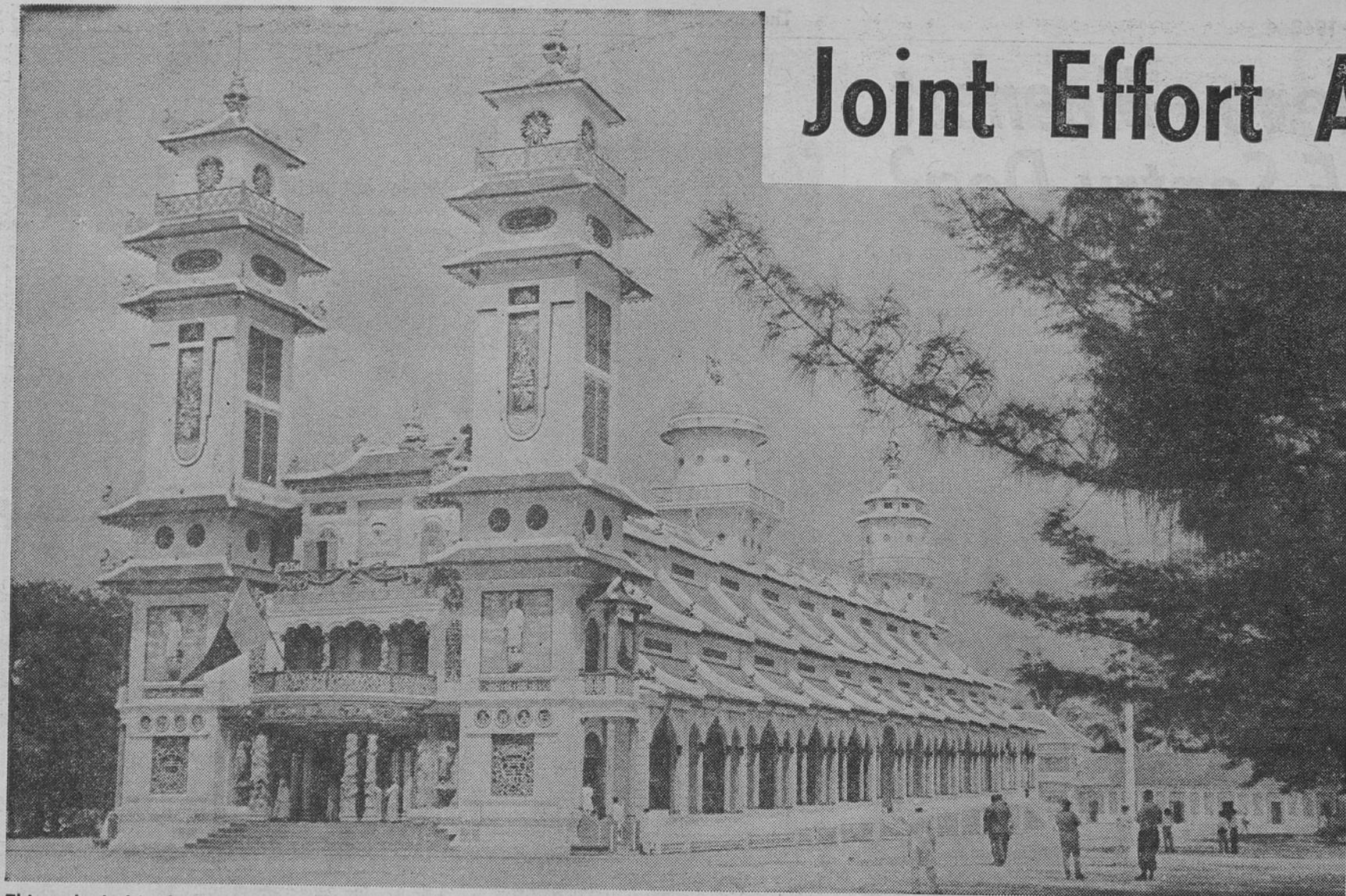


Airman First Class Morgan C. Hess and Hieno stand guard on the perimeter.

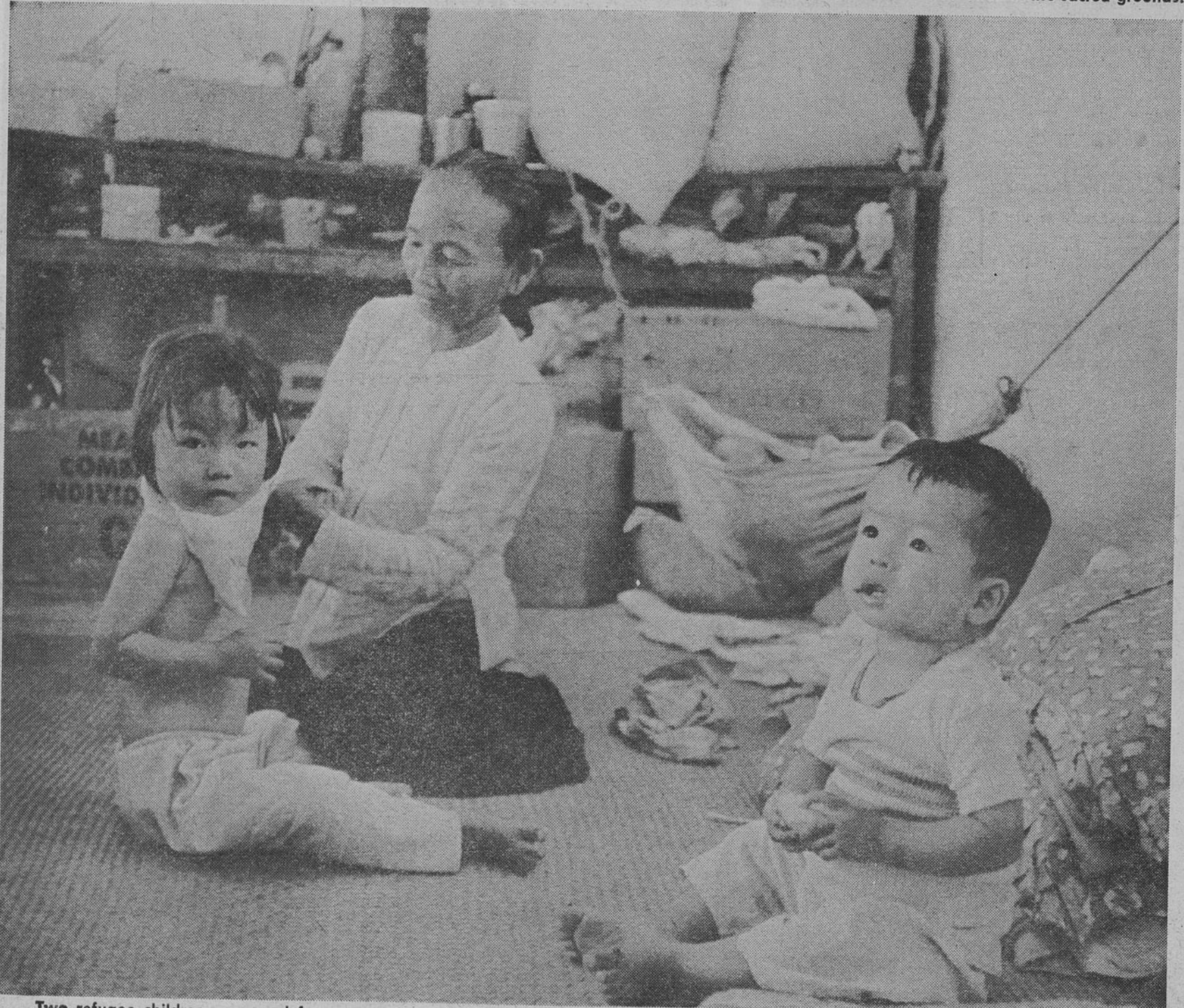


"Charlie's" view of Hieno is seen by us as he snaps at an aggressor during an agitation phase of training workout.

Joint Effort AiBorder Hamlets



This cathedral in the Holy See of the Cao Dai church was not damaged in the attack on Long My as enemy soldiers did not enter the sacred grounds.



Two refugee children are cared for at a temporary center set up in the Cao Dai School of the church's Holy See in the village of Long My.



PHILCAG provide bathing facilities for victims of Communist attacks.



A PHILCAG physician examines a refugee at the center set up in the Cao Dai school.

Some buildings in the wretched Tet offensive were rebuilt in the heartland in and Hue, but it's far borders.

On the western Cam province of Tay Ninh the community damaged by the

Tay Ninh, a town of the same through the relatively minor Viet Cong mortar, 7; five houses and some fuel destroyed. But the set of Long My, a Holy See of the church, and the caravan of Phuoc Can, meters from Cambunvad, by command suffered heavy

In Phuoc Can is a large Cao Dai hamlet of nearly 280 of the houses in the fighting. At the 492 flimsy once constitutes of Phuoc Can, marketing and rest of merchants, were the enemy within.

Heads of battle is a cohort of Vietnamese and Americans, military men.

Relief U.S. AID supplied to Phuoc Can all of the razed houses. In the relief party members of Tay Ninh's fire service, Vietnamese service, American service, Revolutionary Development, doctors and nurses PHILCAG (the 2,000-mile Civic Action Group has its base camp in town), field representatives from CORDS (the U.S. Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development), and other volunteers.

These families made homes in Phuoc Can and were established in safer centers farther away. They were authorized \$5,000 piasters each (the Ministry of Social Affairs of cement and aluminum roofing from stocks).

In Long My, more than half

of them children — were made homeless by the fighting. They were taken into the Holy See church grounds and housed in the six buildings of a Cao Dai elementary school. There troops from PHILCAG shared administration of the temporary refugee settlement with a committee of Cao Dai elders.

The Filipinos constructed water distribution points, latrines and kitchens. They trucked in bathing and drinking water, as well as stocks of rice, bulgur and cooking oil. Also food was sent by the 199th U.S. Light Infantry Brigade and the First Brigade of the 25th U.S. Infantry Division. PHILCAG assigned a

doctor, a nurse and a dentist who cared for as many as 300 patients daily in a makeshift dispensary.

The medical team gave immunization injections for cholera and plague to all refugees.

Students enrolled in health education classes conducted by PHILCAG doctors at the public high school joined with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in helping to look after the refugees.

CORDS and all provincial services provided logistic support and specialized assistance. The Vietnamese Information Service published a daily newspaper for the refugees, produced informative leaflets and set up

loudspeakers to relay news broadcasts. A Revolutionary Development team, one of 15 working in the province, helped erect supplemental shelters and went among the refugees determining their needs.

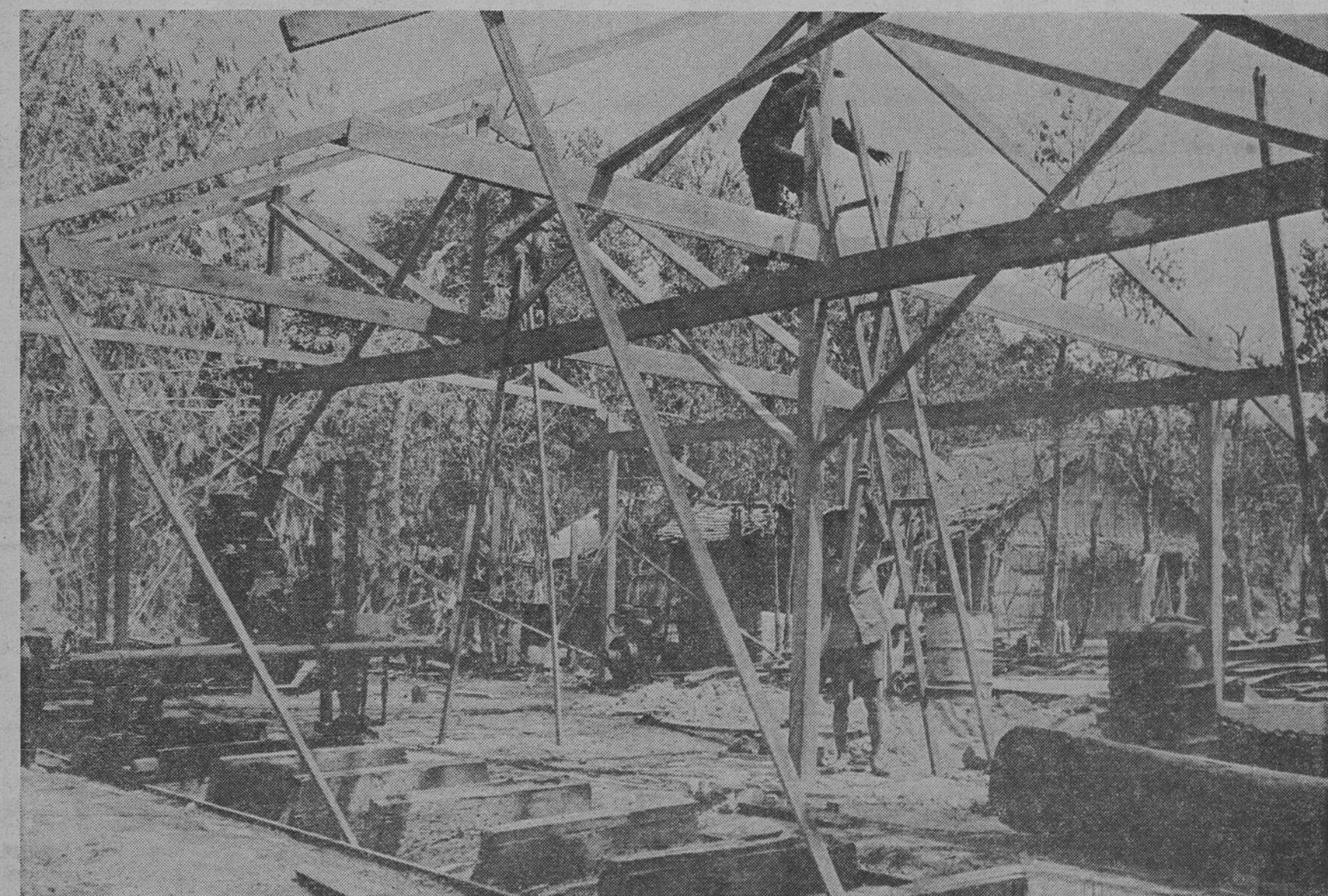
But the able-bodied among the refugees spent little time at the refugee center. Daily they went back to Long My to work long hours raking through the ruins of their houses. Assisted by their more fortunate neighbors, they leveled their sites and set to work rebuilding.

On Feb. 29, the CORDS office in Tay Ninh received the shipment of U.S. AID-imported cement and roofing to enable the

refugees to speed up work on their new homes.

The province chief handed out the first payment of the 1,495,000-piaster rebuilding fund provided by the Government of Vietnam. On nearly all 280 sites of razed homes the sound of hammers and saws and the shouts of neighbors working together signified that Long My's part of the nationwide Operation Recovery was in full swing.

So fast is the construction proceeding that the province chief and his co-workers from PHILCAG and CORDS are certain the refugee camp at the Cao Dai school can be dismantled within 30 days.



Scars of enemy destruction begin to fade from this rubble-strewn village as neighbors work together in the massive task of reconstruction.

Story & Photos
By
Vietnam
Feature Service

Vietnamese Airborne In Training

SAIGON (USA) — The molding of a young Vietnamese civilian into a trained airborne soldier like everything else in wartime has accelerated into a tremendous pace.

At the Vietnamese Airborne Division Jump School (near Saigon), the intensified training is condensed into a three-week course of rigorous and extremely demanding training.

The school is modeled after Fort Benning's Airborne School, and conducts similar training, in that the classes are divided into three phases: ground week, tower week and jump week.

The students are awarded their jump wings upon successful completion of the course, having made six qualifying jumps from the C-47 (four jumps) and C-123 (two jumps) aircraft.

The school currently has the capability of handling 300 students per class.

The school was organized in 1955. Since that time it has graduated more than 130 airborne classes qualifying nearly 18,000 parachutists. It has continually met requirements for replacements throughout the division although the original facilities were designed to support only one airborne brigade of four battalions. The advisory detachment, in conjunction with the MACV Training Directorate

has obtained official recognition of the school.

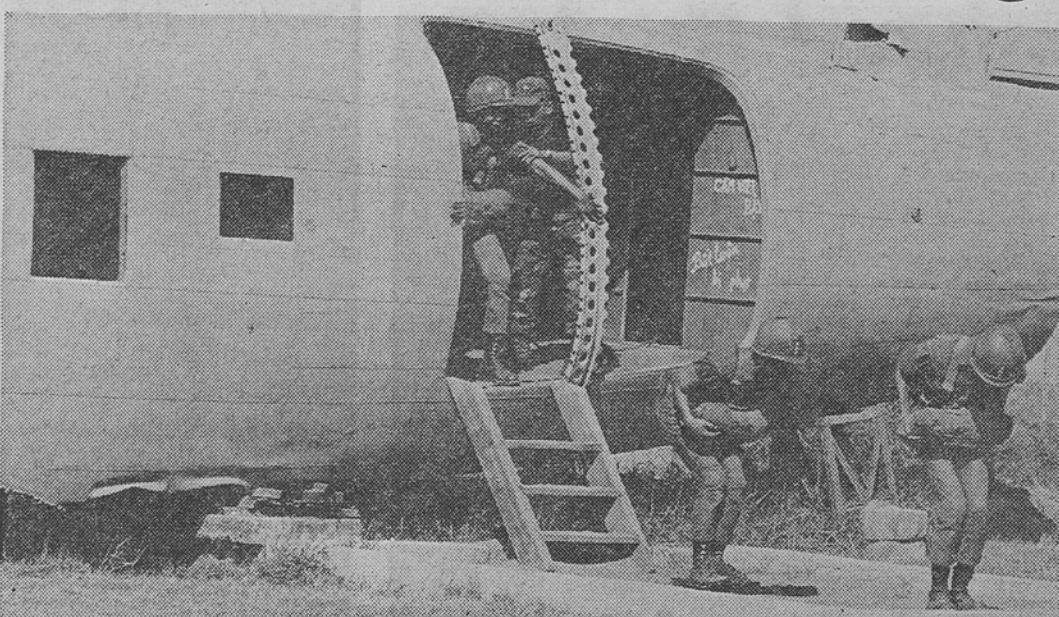
Another phase of the school is the Airborne Division Jumpmaster School. It is a 17-week course of instruction. The school is capable of handling 40 students at one time and is far more complex than the U.S. version. The Vietnamese concept of a jumpmaster is a cross between a parachute rigger, free-fall expert, and the U.S. concept of jumpmaster.

The airborne division, commanded by Major General Du Quoc Dong, constitutes the general reserve of the Vietnamese General Staff. Also, it maintains a continuous capability of conducting parachute assault, air landed, or airmobile operations throughout the Republic of Vietnam in support of combat operations in each Corps Tactical Zone. The division uses the task force concept of three task forces of three battalions each. Also, it has its own artillery battalion of 105mm howitzers. The division's base camp is located at Tan Son Nhut.

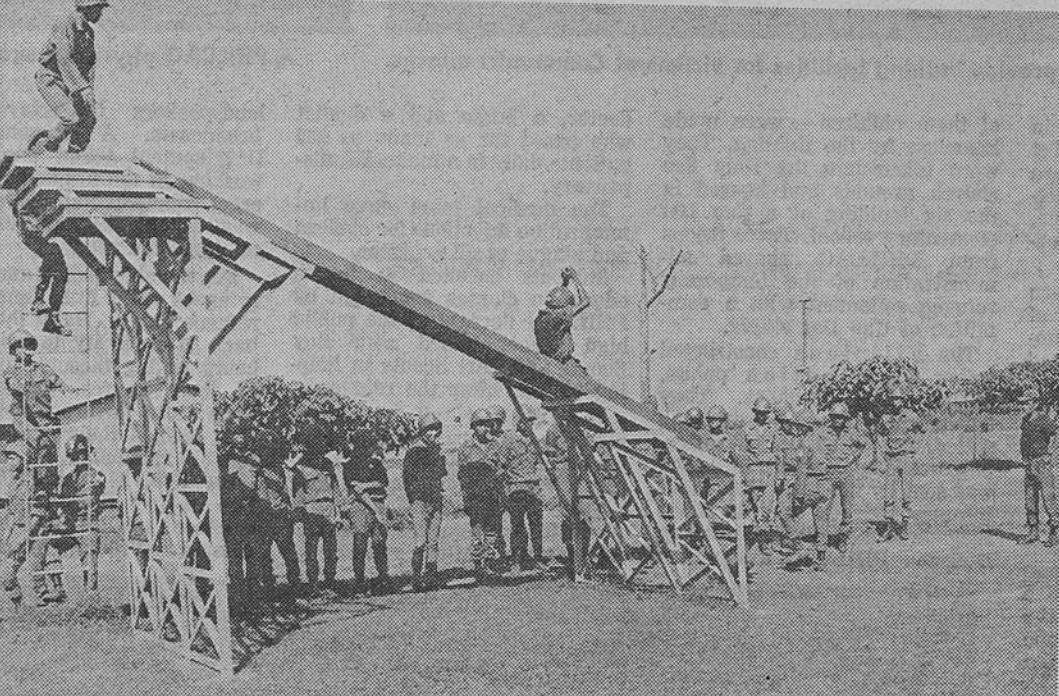
Entirely made up of volunteers, the unit is completely armed with the new automatic M-16 rifle. The division has its own organic 50-bed hospital which has been expanded to handle as many as 200 patients in an emergency.

Story By Capt William A. Knapp, USA

MACV Photos By SFC A.E. Wakefield



Mock door training teaches proper aircraft jump procedures.



The sliding board is used for practice landings.



Paratrooper trainee exiting from the 34-foot tower.

Inclined ramp training is used to simulate parachute landings.

Sgt Treats Viets Injured By Mine

TUY HOA (USA) — An Air Force medical specialist with the 31st U.S. Air Force Dispensary here, recently went to the aid of 11 Vietnamese civilians who were injured when the bus in which they were riding struck an enemy mine.

"Damage to schools in the area is reportedly less than earlier estimates made after the Tet offensive," he continued. Despite his efforts, one of the wounded, a small child, died in the medic's arms.

After the helicopters arrived, the wounded were flown to the 91st Evacuation Hospital at Phu Hiep near Tuy Hoa for treatment. One died prior to arrival but the other 10 are alive and recovering thanks to Sergeant Beasley.

"CORDS personnel have en-

couraged schools to remain open and continue implementing their 1968 programs," Doctor Parker continued. "We're expecting more than 450,000 students back in school in III CTZ."

Some of the schools in the corps area are now housing refugees. Temporary shelters will be erected for classrooms until new homes are completed.

The Government of Vietnam has allocated building materials for those left homeless by the attacks, but distribution problems have reportedly delayed construction.

"We feel that we can recover with ease," Doctor Parker said. "CORDS is making an all out effort to assist provincial educational officials, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Ministry of Edu-

cation. We plan an immediate across-the-board return to pre-Tet standards."

The doctor later explained how CORDS successfully dealt with the teacher shortage caused by the offensive.

"A number of teachers were caught out of their districts by the attacks and had no available transportation. CORDS sponsored a series of radio broadcasts to teachers in Saigon, asking them to report to the Ministry of Education for transportation. Most of the zone's teachers are back on the job," he observed.

Doctor Parker feels the Tet offensive will not seriously interrupt III CTZ construction programs scheduled for 1968. The Vietnamese government has allocated funds for emergency relief, and repair of existing schools is not expected to detract from new construction.

"The children themselves are very anxious to get back to school," Doctor Parker concluded. "Many of them have been organized into selfhelp groups by their teachers and have assisted in recovery activities.

'Gorilla' Warfare

PHUOC VINH (USA) — A pointman for the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade almost had a firework with a gorilla in the jungles east of here recently.

Specialist 4 Terry Anderson led his reconnaissance patrol into the steamy jungle looking for enemy rocket launching sites.

"There was a loud series of noises from the brush to my right front, so I switched my M-16 to automatic and prepared to fire," he said.

The paratrooper thought it was the sound of several people picking up gear and preparing to run.

"As I raised my weapon to fire, a buddy in the patrol came up and yelled for me to relax as it was only a gorilla! This is the first time I have seen one in Vietnam," the specialist said.

Other members of the patrol came up and watched as the confused three-foot high baby gorilla ran around in circles and finally disappeared into the jungle.



HELICOPTER LANDING—Members of the 9th Infantry Division are inserted into an enemy-held area on the BeBe Canal. (USA PHOTO By Sp5 Dave Tyler)

Div Holds U.S.-ARVN Training Program

CHU LAI (USA) — A joint U.S.-Vietnamese training program being conducted in Quang Ngai during the Communist Tet offensive, they were surprised to find the Vietnamese defenders with M-16 rifles. They had just finished training on them with an American team," the major said.

Two-man mobile training teams (MTT's) from the American Division have been training ARVN cadre in infantry tactics such as cordon and search, search and destroy, ambush techniques and camouflage.

The Vietnamese cadre men in turn take the instruction back to units within the 2nd ARVN Division.

"It all started when some members of the 2nd ARVN Division trained the newly-arrived soldiers of the 198th and 11th Infantry Brigades in Viet Cong booby traps and mines," explained Major Benjamin Chambers, the 2nd Division training advisor.

"That training worked out so well that the American Division decided to start a reciprocal training program in areas where the ARVN requested instruction."

"What is good for Americans isn't necessarily good for the ARVN troops, partly because we base our tactics on different types of equipment than they have."

"The cadre take stock of the information they get and pick what they feel is applicable to their operations. This gives them a more solid background on which to base instruction," he explained.

"Both ARVN and U.S. units have had different types of experiences and they can always supplement each other," he concluded.



HEAD FIRST—This soldier demonstrates the proper technique of entering a VC spiderhole. (USA PHOTO)

Mother Warns of Enemy

Died For Effort

SONG BE (USA) — A Vietnamese mother recently ran out of her house near here to warn a 101st Airborne Division paratrooper of nearby enemy soldiers and died beside him in the five-hour fire fight that quickly ensued.

"She saved my life," said Private First Class William E. Perry, a point man for the fourth platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry.

Private Perry said he was coming out of a valley alongside a row of houses in the village, followed by the rest of the platoon, when the woman suddenly ran out of one of the houses and grabbed his arm.

"She pointed to several houses and across the valley to our left and said, 'Beaucoup VC — maybe 90 or 100 — go back, you die' the paratrooper recalled.

"I guess she just saw the three of us who were in front, because the platoon was so spread out, and she must have thought we would be killed before we saw anything."

He pushed her back toward a tunnel, telling her to get into it, and kicked open the door of the house. There were no enemy inside, but a hail of automatic rifle fire suddenly burst from the house next door.

He then noticed that another woman and a little girl were also in the tunnel. "I kept telling them to go back. They kept wanting to come out of the hole and get up there with me," he said.

After he had fired more than

a half-dozen magazines, he was removing an empty one from his M-16 rifle when an enemy round struck the magazine and knocked it against his face.

"I put a new one in and was firing it when I felt her holding onto my shirt sleeve, and I knew she'd gotten out of the hole again," he said.

"I didn't even have time to look around right then. Lead was flying everywhere, and I was mad because she had come out. I was firing and then suddenly I didn't feel her holding my sleeve anymore, and I heard the little girl start screaming and crying," related the PFC.

The paratrooper said he heard, rather than saw, the little girl run back the eight yards from the house to the tunnel.

"When I was changing magazines again, I looked around and saw the woman was dying," explained the trooper. "She had been wounded by five rounds from an AK-47."

The soldier said the shots that killed the woman had come from a house across the street. Within minutes, the U.S. troops had set that house afire with grenades.

Private Perry said he fired all the ammunition in his magazines and then began going back out into the valley to help others collect and treat the wounded men. By this time, a counter-attack by 101st paratroopers had overrun the enemy positions and driven the enemy force from the village.

After he had fired more than

Medical Team Nips Outbreak Of Plague

DA NANG (USMC) — It's a different war, fought with a gun by a U.S. medical team. It's the war against plague in Lang Cau village.

A Preventive Medicine Team (PMT) from the 1st Marine Division recently flew to the village in an effort to stop an outbreak of bubonic plague reported there.

The reported death of five villagers accompanied by the illness of several others alerted Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Ron Shadivay of Combined Action Platoon-9 located near Lang Cau.

Corpsman Shadivay relayed the information to the 1st Marine Division civil affairs section. Their office arranged to heli-lift a PMT and consulting doctor, Navy Lieutenant Bruce Batchelor, from 1st Medical Battalion, to the stricken area.

The local dispensary was designated as the inoculation center. The village chief made announcements to the people as corpsmen and doctors rushed to prepare the center.

Soon hundreds of local Vietnamese began to crowd the dispensary, and corpsmen worked feverishly to inoculate them.

With the inoculation process under way, Lieutenant Batchelor and the Vietnamese-speaking Navy corpsmen started making house calls to reach those villagers who were too seriously ill to visit the aid station. Some 30 plague cases were treated by house calls alone.

The PMT entomologist, Lieutenant (junior grade) Lance Scholdt accompanied the doctor and corpsman. His job was to

spray insecticide in the infected homes. Later, he set traps for the large, flea-bearing rats in an effort to determine the cause of the outbreak.

A specific request came from a group of village nuns who had medicine at their school but no way of knowing what it was for. Petty Officer Shadivay translated the instructions.

As the day drew to a close, a count of inoculations was taken. The anti-plague serum had been given to 2,827 villagers. The next day, 2,373 more were inoculated for a total of 5,200 out of the estimated 6,000 villagers.

"This is the grass roots of preventive medicine," said Commander L. Richard Kaufman, officer-in-charge of the PMT, in summing up the operation. "Working with people who are desperately in need is gratifying."

Enemy bullets splashed the mud around the 140-pound paratrooper as he dragged each of them back some 50-yards to the hedgerow. After the sixth man was dragged to safety, Private Small and another trooper opened fire on an enemy machine gun.

"I didn't think I could make it out there without getting hit, but I had to go," the paratrooper said. "Those guys out there were my friends."

"I knew the enemy could see me moving, but they never hit me, he continued. "I stopped worrying about their guns and tried to think about the guys."

Private Small's only comment was: "Anyone of those guys would have done the same for me."

The thin paratrooper said he



BEAUTY ON THE BEACH — Jacqueline Bisset, is without a doubt a beauty anyone would like to see on the beach. The 23-year-old English born lass is the daughter of a physician and a French barrister. Her dimensions are 36-23-36 1/2 and she can be seen in 20th Century-Fox's "The Sweet Ride". The copper-haired actress came to British and American films via the modeling route.

(PHOTO COURTESY 20th Century Fox)

101st Trooper Braves Fire Six Times

from now when paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's Company B, 502nd Infantry talk about brave men, many will remember a PFC who braved enemy fire six times to rescue wounded buddies from a rice paddy, 11 miles southeast of here.

"It was the bravest thing I ever saw," said Staff Sergeant Lee F. Jones.

PFC Albania T. Small was moving with the point of his

platoon when they made contact.

"The enemy opened up with mortars, rockets and machine guns," Private Small said. "I waited to see where the firing came from and hit the dirt."

The dirt was rice paddy mud. Several men in front of the PFC were wounded and he could hear their cries for help. He began crawling on his stomach toward the first wounded man.

"There was nothing for cover," he remembered, "nothing but rice."

The thin paratrooper said he

April 3, 1968

The OBSERVER

April 3, 1968

The OBSERVER

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

Programs Subject To Change Without Notice

Guide For Week Of Apr. 3-9, 1968

Wednesday Apr. 3

1830 News Headlines
Lost In Space
2100 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Insight
Hey Susie

2005 Information Feature
2230 Addams Family
2130 Carol Burnett
Sports-Basketball
Halttime Headlines

2235 Feature Movie

7 Sunday Apr. 7

1830 News Headlines
The Godfathers
Sacred Heart
1245 Prince Of Peace

1330 Feature Movie
Sports

1645 Pat Boone Special

1830 Donny & Thomas Hour

1930 News-Sports-Business

2000 Hey Susie

2005 Window On Vietnam

2100 Bell Telephone Hour

2105 Ed Sullivan

2230 Bonanza

2300 Update News

2335 Dean Martin

8 Thursday Apr. 4

1830 News Headlines
Voyage To The
Bottom Of The Sea

1930 News-Sports-Weather

2000 Insight

Hey Susie

2005 Information Feature

2230 Dick Van Dyke

2130 Kraft Music Hall

2230 Perry Mason

2300 Update News

2335 Jerry Lewis

9 Friday Apr. 5

1830 News Headlines
Wild, Wild West

1930 News-Sports-Weather

2000 Insight

Hey Susie

2005 Prince Of Peace

2100 Bewitched

2130 The Lucy Show

2230 Big Picture

2300 Star Trek

2330 Update News

2335 Joy Bishop

10 Saturday Apr. 6

1830 News Headlines
Third Man

1930 Crosby Pro-Am Golf

2000 Sports-Basketball

2100 Roy Acuff

2130 Mr. Dickens Of London

2130 Lawrence Welk

2230 News-Sports-Weather

2335 Hey Susie

11 Monday Apr. 8

1830 News Headlines
Daniel Boone

1930 News-Sports-Weather

2000 Insight

Hey Susie

2005 In Town Tonight

2100 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2230 Mission Impossible

2300 Update News

2335 Tonight Show

12 Tuesday Apr. 9

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley

1930 News-Sports-Weather

2000 Insight

Hey Susie

2005 Crosby Pro-Am Golf

2100 Sports-Basketball

2130 Roy Acuff

2130 Red Skelton

2230 Combat

2300 Update News

2335 Feature Movie

13 Wednesday Apr. 10

1830 News Headlines
The Godfathers

1930 Sacred Heart

2000 Prince Of Peace

2100 Feature Movie

2230 Sports

2300 Star Trek

2330 Update News

2335 The Lucy Show

14 Thursday Apr. 11

1830 News Headlines
The Godfathers

1930 Sacred Heart

2000 Prince Of Peace

2100 Feature Movie

2230 Sports

2300 Star Trek

2330 Update News

2335 The Lucy Show

15 Friday Apr. 12

1830 News Headlines
The Godfathers

1930 Sacred Heart

2000 Prince Of Peace

2100 Feature Movie

2230 Sports

2300 Star Trek

2330 Update News

2335 The Lucy Show

16 Saturday Apr. 13

1830 News Head

Allies Rack Foe In Big Push...

(Continued From Page 1)
talion also discovered a significant munitions cache March 18 seven miles north of Saigon. It contained: 31 rounds of 122mm rockets, 30 rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle ammunition, 13 cases of plastic and TNT, 138 B-40 rocket-grenade rounds and 1,200 rounds of 82mm and 60mm mortar ammunition.

Units of the 25th ARVN division and elements of the U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment killed 142 enemy March 20 six miles from Duc Hoa. This was the same area where 273 enemy were killed between March 15-17 by ARVN and U.S. units.

One U.S. cavalryman and seven ARVN soldiers were killed in the March 20 action to give a kill ratio of over 17 to 1. Five U.S. and 16 ARVN soldiers were wounded.

Also on the same day, the 30th ARVN Ranger Battalion made contact with an estimated enemy platoon three miles southwest of Saigon. The Rangers killed 13 while suffering only one wounded. Another element of the battalion engaged an enemy squad nearby and killed 12 while taking three wounded.

The cumulative result of the offensive from March 11 to midnight March 20 was 36 U.S. soldiers killed, against 549 of the enemy. There had been 343 U.S. soldiers wounded and the U.S. units had detained 165 suspects plus 245 weapons captured.

While killing 510 enemy, 53 ARVN soldiers were killed during this same time period. ARVN forces had taken 155 wounded, captured 38 prisoners-of-war and 168 individual and 30 crew-served weapons.

The cumulative totals for the offensive: 89 Allied soldiers killed and 498 wounded. Enemy

losses: 1,089 killed, 203 suspects and POW taken, 389 individual and 74 crew-served weapons captured.

More than 34 tons of enemy food were discovered March 21 by elements of 25th ARVN Division while sweeping an area northeast of Truong Lap. The cache included rice, salt, peanuts, peas, dried fish and canned goods. Along with the food find also was a large cache of munitions, consisting of 60mm and 82mm mortar rounds, small arms ammo, RPG rounds, three CHICOM radios and two 122mm rocket warheads.

Two companies of the U.S. 199th Light Infantry Brigade engaged an enemy force 11 miles southwest of Saigon March 24. The enemy broke contact as artillery, helicopter gunships and U.S. Air Force tactical aircraft hit their positions. They left behind nine of their dead. U.S. casualties were 34 wounded and no fatalities.

Also on March 24, elements of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division killed 35 enemy near Trang Bang some 27 miles northwest of Saigon. Eleven U.S. soldiers were killed and 33 wounded and evaced.

A sweep of the area the following day resulted in the discovery of an additional 29 bodies, 10 individual weapons and three portable flame throwers.

Another sweep of the area on March 26 netted the U.S. infantrymen an additional 22 enemy bodies.

U.S. and ARVN elements killed a total of 284 enemy in a fire fight which began early March 25 in the vicinity of Trang Bang and lasted until 5:30 a.m. the following day. Ten ARVN casualties were light.



WOUNDED VIET—Two Navy corpsmen carry a wounded Vietnamese to an incoming helicopter. The Vietnamese elder was wounded during a North Vietnamese Army rocket, artillery and mortar attack on the Cam Lo District Headquarters near Cam Lo village. (USMC PHOTO)

Town Will Not Turn Back Clock...

(Continued From Page 1)
cial Hoi Chanhs (returnees).

A recent study was made of the Ben Suc refugee situation. The results were surprising. More than 90 per cent of the refugees said emphatically that even if the war was over they would not return to Ben Suc. The Ben Hoa hamlet is now home they said.

The research team found that the refugees felt secure from Viet Cong terror at Ben Hoa. In fact, there have not been any VC incidents since the opening of the hamlet.

They also enjoy the quality of their new homes, which were partially built of brick and have aluminum roofs. Each home has a sanitary toilet located behind.

The bricks came from the refugees' own cooperative brick factory which has 12 hand-operated machines. The machines compress damp dirt and dry cement into bricks. Also, the refugees used the bricks for other community projects.

Another reason for the refugees' satisfaction with their new life is the quality of the medical facilities. A functioning dispensary was in operation on the day they moved in and a newer one has just been completed. It needs only supplies and a medical staff to begin improved service.

This dispensary was a civic

action project of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Most of the lumber was provided by the 2nd Brigade. Cement and fixtures came from CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support) resources. The refugees voluntarily built the dispensary, even though they could have made more money working for hire.

"The most outstanding feature of the project was the co-operative effort to meet a need," said Major Peter D. Booras, officer-in-charge of the project. Some of the men in the hamlet are training to be medics in the new dispensary.

The economic opportunities available to the refugees also comes into focus as a reason for the success of the new life hamlet. Walter Bagley, agricultural advisor for Binh Duong province, recently introduced a plan to raise chickens for a profit. The experiment is now under way with one refugee, Nguyen Van Xan, raising 400 under ideal conditions.

Mr. Xan has built wire mesh cages for the chickens (which normally run free in Vietnam) and will soon give 200 chickens to another refugee to start a second farm. Mr. Bagley estimates that the farms will produce a 20,000 piaster (\$175) profit every 10 to 12 weeks. Other refugees interested in starting similar farms will be

offered low interest loans from the Binh Duong Agricultural Loan Bank—another innovation.

Some other ventures for the refugees include livestock raising and an experimental garden. The farmers will soon receive training in animal husbandry and livestock care. Their experimental garden is progressing well, with such crops as corn, sweet potatoes and sargo being grown.

One of the problems facing the fledgling farmers is the lack of water. The farmland was a

jungle a year ago. But this shortage may soon be solved. A survey team from the Vietnamese Army Engineering School at Phy Cuong has reported that an irrigation system would be feasible and plans are being drafted to build one.

Each of the refugee families will be given land from the more than 800 hectares (2,000 acres) of cleared land.

Educational opportunities at the hamlet also exceed those which had existed at Ben Suc. New classrooms are being con-

structed, and will be furnished by the hamlet carpenter shop. The Saigon YMCA also will help the refugees build and equip a recreation center.

Construction of a community center is now underway. The center will have reading rooms, a television room, meeting and game rooms. Outdoor facilities will include a soccer field and badminton court.

Life in the community is not a paradise, by any means. Problems still exist which need solutions and some, perhaps, are insolvable as long as the war continues. But, in the words of Charles W. Browne Jr., assistant district director for Lai Thieu; "The new start given the former inhabitants of Ben Suc and the Iron Triangle is remarkable in its complexity and originality."

"We've come a long way from other wars where the refugee displaced person was shunted helplessly from tent city to tent city, never able to put down new roots," stated Mr. Browne. "It would be easy for a hostile critic to come here and find fault for the same reason that the guerrilla has the edge in warfare as it's easier to destroy than to build and it's easier to criticize than to accomplish."

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