

Largest Allied Operation Underway



FIRST IN VIETNAM

The OBSERVER

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U.S. and ARVN troopers are sweeping the five provinces surrounding Saigon. (USA PHOTO)

For Action Near DMZ

Two Marines Earn MOH

WASHINGTON (USMC)—Two Marine leaders who inspired their units throughout battles with enemy forces of great numerical superiority were awarded the Medal of Honor recently by President Lyndon B. Johnson in a dual ceremony at the White House.

It was the first such dual award for Marines since the Korean conflict.

The Marines, Major Robert Modrzejewski and Second Lieutenant John McGinty, III, were cited for their heroic actions during Operation Hastings in the Republic of Vietnam in July 1966. Major Modrzejewski (then a captain) was serving as commanding officer of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and Lieutenant McGinty

(then a staff sergeant) was acting platoon leader of K Company's first platoon.

Their company was landed near the Demilitarized Zone to provide a blocking force at a major enemy trail network. A short distance from the landing zone, the company encountered an enemy force in reinforced positions. Major Modrzejewski directed the seizure of the position and for the following three days successfully directed the defense of the area against numerous assaults by larger forces of North Vietnamese.

Despite being painfully wounded, Major Modrzejewski continued to move among his men during the fierce fighting. His citation reads in part:

"... he crawled 200 meters

to provide critically needed ammunition to an exposed element of his command and was constantly present wherever the fighting was heaviest. Despite numerous casualties, a dwindling supply of ammunition and the knowledge that they were surrounded, he skillfully directed artillery fire to within a few meters of his position and courageously inspired the efforts of his company in repelling the aggressive enemy attack.

"On July 18, Company K was attacked by a regimental size enemy force. Although his unit was vastly outnumbered and weakened by the previous fighting, Major Modrzejewski reorganized his men and calmly moved among them to encourage and direct their efforts to

(Continued On Back Page)

SAIGON (MACV)—Headquarters MACV announced March 15 that a multi-division operation named Quyet Thang (Resolved to Win) was initiated on March 11. It is the largest combined allied operation of the Vietnamese war and is conducting massive sweeps around Saigon and five adjacent provinces.

The combined force includes elements of the 1st, 9th and 25th U.S. Infantry Divisions, Vietnamese units participating are elements from the 5th and 25th ARVN Infantry Divisions, an ARVN airborne division task force, a Vietnamese Marine Corps task force, elements of the 5th Ranger Group and National Police forces.

After the first three days of sweeps, 215 enemy were reported killed and 22 suspects detained plus numerous weapons and ammunition discovered in two caches. U.S. losses were 11 killed and 94 wounded. ARVN casualties were listed as light.

This coordinated operation is being conducted by II Field Force Headquarters, and III Corps Headquarters as a combined regional operation in the five provinces.

The overall mission of the operation is to search out and destroy enemy elements within the operational boundaries which take in Gia Dinh, Long An, Hau Nghia, Binh Duong and Bien Hoa provinces that surround Saigon.

In one significant action, 28 enemy were killed March 14 in an area near Ben Cat 25 miles north of Saigon. Three U.S. soldiers were wounded in that action.

Also, two major caches of weapons and ammunition were discovered in Hau Nghia province 12 and 24 miles northwest of Saigon during the operation.

The cache closer to Saigon contained: 4,500 AK47 rounds, 51 rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle ammunition, 53 fuses for 82mm mortars, 528 rounds of 82mm mortars, 20 rocket motors for 122mm rockets and 182 charges for 82mm mortars.

This same cache also contained 96 rounds of 60mm mortars, 14 RPG-2 (rocket propelled grenades) 277 hand

(Continued On Back Page)

General Commands Huge Force

SAIGON (USMC)—With more than 163,000 men under his operational control, Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., now commands more troops in combat than any other Marine general in history, according to sources at III Marine Amphibious Force headquarters.

All U.S. services are represented in the huge command, the sources said. The I Corps command headquarters said the figure included 82,000 Marines, 53,000 Army troops, mainly with the Americal and 1st Air Cavalry divisions, more than 22,000 Navymen, mostly Seabees, 63 Air Force personnel and 163 Coast Guardsmen.

The 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade also contributes 6,300 men to 163,000 figure.

Largest previous number to operate under Marine field command is believed to be the 136,000 troops of two Army and three Marine divisions, and a brigade under Lieutenant General H.M. Smith in the Marianas in 1944.

USAF Helps ROKS Guard Coastal Cities

NHA TRANG (USAF)—The Republic of Korea's 9th Infantry Division is using tactical air support to great advantage, according to U.S. Air Force men here.

The Air Force men are forward air controllers (FACs), radio operators and aircraft mechanics from the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron at Nha Trang air base. There are 28 airmen in the group and their job is providing air support for Korean ground operations from Tuy Hoa in the north to Phan Rang in the south.

Classified as a tactical air control party (TACP), the airmen live with the Koreans and help plan their operations. They also accompany them into the field.

Twelve of the TACP members—the FACs—are pilots who fly small, unarmed planes. They divide their time between going on reconnaissance missions and directing air strikes in support of Korean ground troops.

Just prior to an air strike, FACs mark targets with smoke for faster, heavily armed attack aircraft. After the strike, they swoop low over the target to check results.

Air Force radio operators are on the ground with the Koreans to provide the communication link between ground commanders and the pilots in the air.

All of the TACP members say they enjoy working with the Koreans. There are indications that the feeling is mutual.

"The Koreans treat us as honored guests," commented Major Leslie G. Jackson, "and they do everything they can to help us. For example, we use to do all our own cooking until they invited us to eat with them in their dining hall. The Koreans prepared a special menu for us because they know from experience, their own food is a little too highly spiced for most American servicemen."

Major Jackson, who flies about 10 FAC missions a week, observed that while the Koreans are using air support effectively, they tend to rely on it somewhat less than comparable U.S. units.

"After all," he said, "close air support is a relatively new tactic to the Koreans. We have had to show them that we could be of significant help. Now they are starting to use us (FACs) more and more."

Editorial

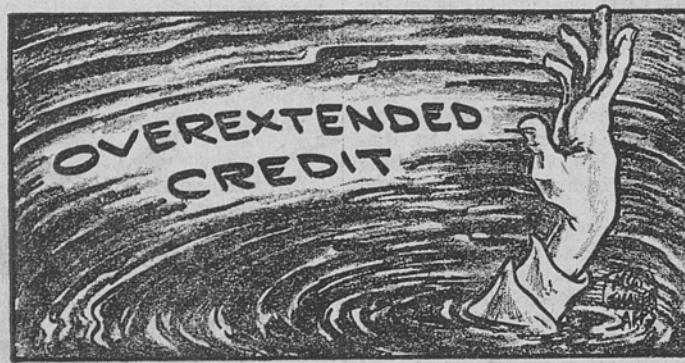
Credit Monster?

"Why is there so much month left at the end of the money?" seems to be a pretty common question in the average family or with the average unmarried serviceman. It appears as if the more we make, the more we spend.

Ours has become an affluent society in which, quite naturally, people want to live better. They want more of life's modern conveniences to make things easier and, because of these labor-saving conveniences, they are able to spend more time and more money on recreation.

However our affluent society has created a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde monster. It's called easy credit. Buy now, pay later; no money down; unlimited credit on just your signature—these are common terms and common practices in today's world.

Credit is easy to get, but it's deceptive. It's a lot like a beautiful stream, pond or lake. It looks completely safe and seems totally harmless when you first wade in. But one slip and under you go. Maybe you'll come out all right and maybe not.



Credit is the same type monster. It looks safe enough, but one careless step and you slip under the surface into the blackness and turbulence below.

Credit is so easy to obtain that buyers often lose sight of the fact that monthly credit payments can quickly equal or exceed the money they have available after taking care of necessities. When this happens, the careless credit buyer must either default on credit payments, cut back on necessities or go deeper in debt by borrowing more money to meet the bills.

Before plunging into credit buying's deep waters, make sure the item is really needed and is worth the credit charges. Decide if the monthly payments can be met or if there are already too many monthly payment obligations.

Above all, decide if the item in question is really worth risking your credit rating and possibly your career in case you can't meet the payments. A good credit rating is essential to you personally and professionally. You owe it to yourself and your family to maintain it. (AFPS)

Submit 'Freedom' Letters

WASHINGTON—"A Free Balance—A Free Country" is the topic selected by Freedoms Foundation presentation ceremony on Washington's birthday next year.

The letter writing competition is open to both active duty and Reserve personnel.

Awards for active duty personnel are: Top award, \$1,000 fifty awards of \$100 and fifty awards of \$50.

Letters are selected for sincerity and understanding of the American way of life rather than literary excellence.

The top active duty winner in each of the five military services will be invited to attend the Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20, 1969. Their awards will be presented while they are in Washington.

The next five active duty winners will be invited to Valley

Forge, Pa., to receive their awards at the annual Freedoms Foundation presentation ceremony on Washington's birthday next year.

The top winner in each of the three Reserve components, including the Reserve \$1,000 winner, also will be invited to the Valley Forge ceremony to receive his award.

Awards for the other active duty and Reserve components will be forwarded through channels for presentation at local ceremonies.

Letters must not exceed 500 words. Print or type full name, rank, serial number, full military address, service or Reserve component and full home address on the letter.

Mail entries to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., 19481. Deadline is Nov. 1, 1968.

USAF, Army Get Tall Men

WASHINGTON—Army News Features reports that the maximum height standard for men entering the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force has been increased from 6 feet, 6 inches to 6 feet, 8 inches. About 900 additional men a year will be eligible for induction under the revised standards. (AFNS)

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**Crown Colony Jails Marine For Marijuana**

SAIGON (MACV)—A 19-year-old Marine was tried and convicted on charges of illegal possession of marijuana, while on leave in Hong Kong. The young leatherneck was discovered with 130 marijuana cigarettes in his possession in violation of Hong Kong's dangerous drug act.

The Vietnam-based service man was tried and sentenced to three months in prison by the Crown Colony court. His appeal was denied and he will serve his full sentence in a Hong Kong prison.

The illegal cache was discovered upon his arrival at the local airport by police.

Army Seeks To Improve The Sandbag

FT. CLAYTON, Canal Zone—Despite all its highly sophisticated computers, weapons, and material, today's modern Army still works to improve a basic, if unglamorous, commodity: the sandbag.

Here at the U.S. Tropic Test Center hundreds of sandbags are being tested to determine which type can best withstand the rigors of the tropical environment yet still be economical.

The Army hopes to find among 12 different kinds of test sandbags one to replace the standard cotton bag, which is not very satisfactory for field use in the humid tropics.

The sandbags, made from plastic, fiberglass, and other treated and untreated materials, are being exposed under varying conditions to determine their resistance to the elements: fungus growth, and attack by insects and rodents.

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Pin-on Grade OK For VN

WASHINGTON—Army troops in Vietnam may now wear subdued metal pin-on grade insignia instead of the sew-on type, according to Department of the Army message 845626. They will be worn on the collars of fatigues, tropical combat uniform, field jacket, white work uniform, and on field cap. Availability of metal insignia throughout RVN depends on funding and phase out of sew-on type.

(AR)



WHAT A DOLL!!—Barbara Parkins is quite a doll and has the film to prove it. She is currently starring in 20th Century-Fox's "The Valley Of The Dolls," and in the "Peyton Place" TV series. (PHOTO COURTESY 20th Century Fox)

Local Language Tips

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

VIETNAMESE	PHONETIC	AMERICAN
Mot	Moat	1
Hai	High	2
Ba	Bah	3
Bon	Bone	4
Nam	Nom	5
Sau	Shao	6
Bay	By	7
Tam	Tom	8
Chin	Chin	9
Muoi	Moo	10



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Sergeant Major Robinson has more than 300 flights.

Khe Sanh Leathernecks Name Chopper 'Angel'

DA NANG (USMC)—The Marines' giant load-lifting CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter has been tagged "beautiful, ugly, fast, slow, loud, dust blower," and many other names. But to outposted Leathernecks at Khe Sanh and Ca Lu, it has earned another title—"Angel in the Sky."

The multi-million dollar choppers assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 16, make two or three supply flights daily from their Marble Mountain air facility.

They might begin their trek north by swooping down at Dong Ha to pick up external and internal loads—everything from mail to water buffaloes—jeeps and lumber or even a load of basketballs.

More recently, one of the big birds performed an emergency medevac mission at beleaguered Khe Sanh.

It was a little after 2 p.m.

100 Enemy Die In Army Trap

QUANG TRI (USA)—Members of the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade stalked a North Vietnamese Army force for two days near here recently and lured the enemy into a day-long battle which claimed the lives of more than 100 enemy.

The contact began at first light when an estimated NVA battalion attacked the combined perimeters of A and B Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

Developing maximum firepower with small arms, artillery and gunships, the paratroopers of Company B, moved in and killed 25 NVA in extremely close fighting, while losing only one paratrooper.

The enemy broke contact at sundown. An observation helicopter reported more than 100 bodies littered the battlefield.

CHOW FROM HOME—Specialist 4 James L. Grainger, a paratrooper with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, cooks a meal sent from the United States. Specialist Grainger received a package from his folks containing a macaroni and cheese dinner, canned ham and fruit. He shared the rare treat with some of his fellow troopers.

(USA PHOTO By SP4 Ben Croxton)

'Flying Gunny' Goes Home After 300 Combat Flights

DA NANG (USMC)—It was just one year ago last month that a ruddy, wing-bearded sergeant walked into the Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 1 administrative office here and created quite a stir. He recently rotated home,

but they are still talking about him at this Marine Aircraft Group 11 base.

Eyes bulged as he plucked down his orders, snapped to attention, then announced in a gruff voice, "Gunner Sergeant Henry R. Robinson reporting for duty, SIR!"

The newcomer was wearing three sets of wings, which he explained to astonished onlookers, represented his qualifications as an airborne radar-photo-electronic countermeasures operator, a para-infantryman and master parachutist.

His latter two sets of wings were earned during World War II while he was serving as an Army para-infantryman and with the Office of Strategic Services.

The 42-year-old gunny entered the Corps in 1954 and served briefly as a Drill Instructor at San Diego, Calif. He began his flying career with Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 3 (VMCJ-3) at El Toro, Calif., in the Douglas AD-5N Skyraider.

Sergeant Robinson's Vietnam assignment to VMCIJ-1 was unique. He was assigned as a flying radar/electronics countermeasure operator, a billet normally filled by either commissioners or warrant officers.

The sergeant's log book showed that he was current and qualified to fly in any of VMCIJ-1's aircraft, including the RF.

4B Phantom, EA-6A Intruder and the EF-10B Skynight.

It didn't take long for him to prove himself and win the confidence of the pilots with whom he flew. From then on, his services were in demand for missions around the demilitarized zone and deep into North Vietnam.

After more than a year in Vietnam, Sergeant Robinson acquired the title, "The Flying Gunny." He flew more than 300 combat missions with VMCIJ-1.

"Everything was going just fine," he said before departure, "until the first of this year. My planes had been shot at on several occasions, but we never received a hit until the first of the year. About this time, we were hit on five different occasions."

The gunny considers himself extremely lucky by getting through his tour without the Purple Heart Medal, especially since he already has eight of the medals for wounds in previous encounters.

For his services in Vietnam, Sergeant Robinson was awarded 18 Air Medals and a Navy Commendation Medal.

They will be added to a growing collection that includes decorations from Holland and France.

The "Flying Gunny" returned to the United States for an assignment with VMCIJ-1 at El Toro.

Phan Rang Airmen Aid Montagnards

PHAN RANG (USA)—The scope of Air Force medical civic action program (MEDCAP) missions from Phan Rang air base aiding Montagnard and Vietnamese people in Ninh Thuan Province has doubled in the last seven months.

According to Major Charles

Volunteer teams of doctors and medics from the 35th U.S. Air Force Dispensary are averaging four trips per week to the hamlets. Major O'Briant said that in a representative week 167 medical patients were treated, 152 prescriptions of medication were administered, and 218 persons received examinations and treatment by dentists.

The major noted the Air Force MEDCAP missions are part of a widespread program of medical assistance offered to local civilians by a number of military and civilian agencies in and around the base.

Among these agencies are: a 15-man Air Force team, including three doctors, assigned to a civilian hospital in Phan Rang City; the office of the Civilian Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) in Phan Rang; the dispensary of the 1st Brigade of the Army's 101st Airborne Division, the Military Assistance Command; the Number 2 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force; and a U.S. Navy advisory group.

The major concluded that the Air Force MEDCAP teams are stressing basic sanitation principles and improved living conditions as the main way to improve the health of the local people. The medical teams advise and assist hamlet chiefs in developing medical and health programs throughout the province.



(USA PHOTO By SP4 Ben Croxton)

Navy 'Crew' Aids Civilian Hospital

DA NANG (USN)—A five man Navy Civic Action Team is helping the Vietnamese turn a civilian hospital here into a modern care center.

The team is attached to the Civic Action Section of the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang.

The Navymen are doing everything from installing a new internal plumbing system to building artificial limbs.

"We've still got a long way to go," said Yeoman First Class Jim Morris, commenting on the progress of the work. Yeoman Morris is the team leader on the project.

When the team began the project, the hospital was without potable water or hot water heaters. Water was heated outside in large buckets.

"Now a plumbing system is being constructed that will pipe potable water to the hospital's more than 400 patients," Yeoman Morris continued. "The project also includes the installation of two hot water heaters that will service the hospital's eight buildings."

The Navymen are receiving assistance on the plumbing phase of the project from the Army's

29th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"Besides installing plumbing," said Seaman Robert Maglione, "we're constructing a number of buildings, including a dormitory for 25 Vietnamese student nurses."

Yeoman Second Class Thomas D. Dunn is building an examining room for the doctors. "The hospital never had one before," he said.

When he completes the examining room, he has been asked by one of the doctors to make a wooden leg for a boy who was shot by the Viet Cong.



Teamwork is used to install a new plumbing system. (USN PHOTO By JO3 Dave Hough)

AF Helps Viets Rebuild

TUY HOA (USA)—The 820th Civil Engineering Squadron at Tuy Hoa air base is helping rebuild homes for Vietnamese civilians, that were destroyed during the Tet attacks.

The project is being conducted in cooperation with the Phu Yen province chief and the Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). The site is in the northwest corner of Tuy Hoa City which was

the scene of heavy fighting during the Communist attacks.

Firing in the area had barely ceased when Air Force men from the 820th moved in with dozers to clear the rubble, fill craters and provide a smooth foundation upon which the new homes could be built.

The Vietnamese also are being provided with material and technical assistance in this effort and most of the labor is being done by the residents.

If you answered this question "false", you are dead wrong, according to Corporal John W. Smisl. And he ought to know

Want 'Quiet' Job? Join 175mm Team

CHU LAI (USA)—Loading and firing one of the largest artillery pieces in Vietnam is a comparatively quiet job—true or false?

because he's a cannoneer behind one of the 18th Artillery's 175mm guns.

"The best place to be so you don't hear the report is behind the gun," the corporal suggested.

However, he later admitted, "At first I used to stick my fingers in my ears. But you're really too busy to keep them there, and after awhile you get used to the noise."

Six men are needed to load and fire the big 37-foot gun: a gunner chief to supervise, two gunners to adjust and aim the piece, a ground man to carry the 60-pound powder charges, a number-one man to load the 147-pound shells, and a number-two man to lock the breech and pull the lanyard to fire the gun.

"With good teamwork, we can get five rounds off in a minute," the corporal said. "Noise seems to be only a minor distraction for us."

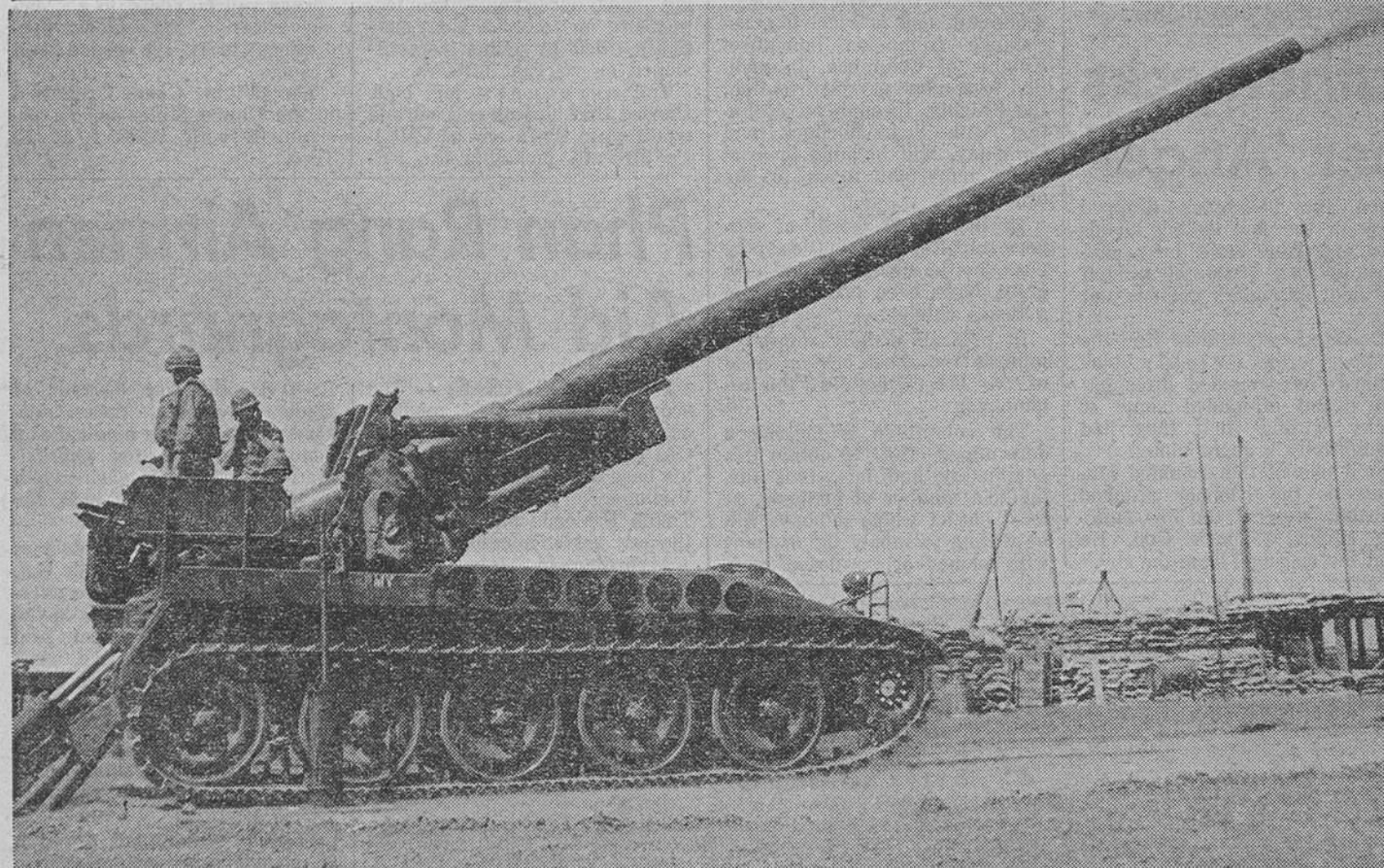
Other than the noise factor, he said his crew showed more of a reaction toward the 175's powerful six-foot recoil.

Specialist 4 James C. Rowland, one of Smisl's teammates, bashfully confessed, "The first time I fired the thing, I fell off."

He also confessed that he used to have trouble sleeping while the artillery was going off. But he no longer has that problem.

"The maximum effective range of the 175mm piece is about 25 miles," he explained. "As long as that gun is firing, I sleep peacefully with the knowledge that 'Charlie' is still miles away."

The 18th Artillery provides fire support for elements of the American Division operating in Southern I Corps.



A 175mm gun crew fires a round at 'Charlie' from one of the largest artillery pieces in Vietnam. (USA PHOTO BY SSgt Al Wilson)

Chu Lai Orphanage

Mirrors Cooperative Effort

CHU LAI (USA)—The Chu Lai Orphanage has been called a model of cooperative effort. Vietnamese civilians and U.S. sources have contributed heartily to this effort—designed to make life a little easier for kids without parents.

Food contributions come from the Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), and several American Division mess halls.

That done, five Vietnamese sisters of the Order, Love of the Cross, staffed the orphanage. The number of their charges has grown from 35 to 135.

A hospital corpsman serving with the Marines, HM3, J.P. Moran, makes daily visits to patch up the children's minor ills and to watch over their general health.

The food contributions come from the Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), and several American Division mess halls.

American's small Air Force contingent recently took a collection and provided the orphanage with \$168.

Local Vietnamese Catholics also provide funds through

monthly collections.

An American Division chaplain, Captain Fidelis Forrester, helps obtain additional food and household goods. He also keeps an eye on the general development of the orphanage, ever alert for areas needing improvement. Volunteers from the 23rd Administration Company, American Division, furnish the manpower for the chaplain's work projects.

The orphans themselves have demonstrated that they know about self help. They now raise their own pigs and ducks, and have started a small vegetable garden.

"We're going all out to provide these boys with everything they need to get a good education," said the sergeant. "All we ask of them is that they apply themselves conscientious-

28 Nha Trang Airmen Are Part-time Fathers

NHA TRANG (USA)—Twenty-eight men of the life support section, 14th Field Maintenance Squadron Nha Trang air base, have become part-time fathers to five needy young ladies of the Ba Ninh Catholic boys school here.

The idea was originated and spearheaded by Master Sergeant Joe J. Congi, NCOIC of the survival section.

"We're going all out to provide these boys with everything they need to get a good education," said the sergeant. "All we ask of them is that they apply themselves conscientious-

Operation Stable Door Underway

SAIGON (USN)—To safeguard the ports where many of the men and practically all of the equipment and supplies enter South Vietnam, the U.S. Navy has developed well-equipped and efficiently operating harbor defense units.

Engaged in Operation Stable Door, the Navy's Inshore Undersea Warfare Group One (IUGW-1), Western Pacific Detachment, has established harbor defense units at major seaports of the country.

Within the past year and half,

the mobile units, setting up semi-

permanent installations in the

harbors. Each of these four units

is comprised of a harbor en-

trance command post, harbor

patrol element, and an explosive

ordnance disposal (EOD) team.

In the command posts, which

are located atop the highest

points overlooking the harbors, a 24-hour vigil is maintained over all movements within their areas.

Using radar and visual surveillance, the control post of each unit knows, at any given time, where each and every ship is located within the anchorage area, as well as what other craft are near them.

Contact with the patrolling har-

bor boats is maintained by the

command post with two-way

radios and flashing light signals.

These command centers have

make daily inspections of ship

bottoms and anchor chains.

Their job is to disarm any

explosive devices which

the enemy might attach to an

anchored ship in an attempt at

sabotage.

the area. To do the job, they are equipped with 36-foot personnel landing craft (LCPLs), 16-foot Boston Whaler skimmers and 45-foot picket boats—each carrying machine guns, grenade launchers and small arms.

The third and completing ele-

ment of each harbor defense

unit is the EOD team. In con-

junction with the command post

and patrolling craft, these teams

make daily inspections of ship

bottoms and anchor chains.

Their job is to prevent infiltration

of potential saboteurs into

the harbors.

The biggest menace to ship-

ping at anchor, is the swimmers.

Enemy frogmen, carrying mines

and other explosive devices, take

every available opportunity

to damage or try and sink

the supply ships. Because of

the threat of these saboteurs,

the patrol boats and EOD teams

must exercise extreme care and

duplication of efforts to deny

success to the enemy.

Another hazard to the ships

at anchor comes from enemy

small craft bent on destruction

of the vital supplies within the

holds of the ships. Using sam-

Story By JO1 E.T. Tompkins
Photos By: U.S. Navy



This Navy "Boston Whaler" skimmer speeds across the water of an inner harbor.



Constant vigilance is maintained on the perimeter overlooking the harbor.

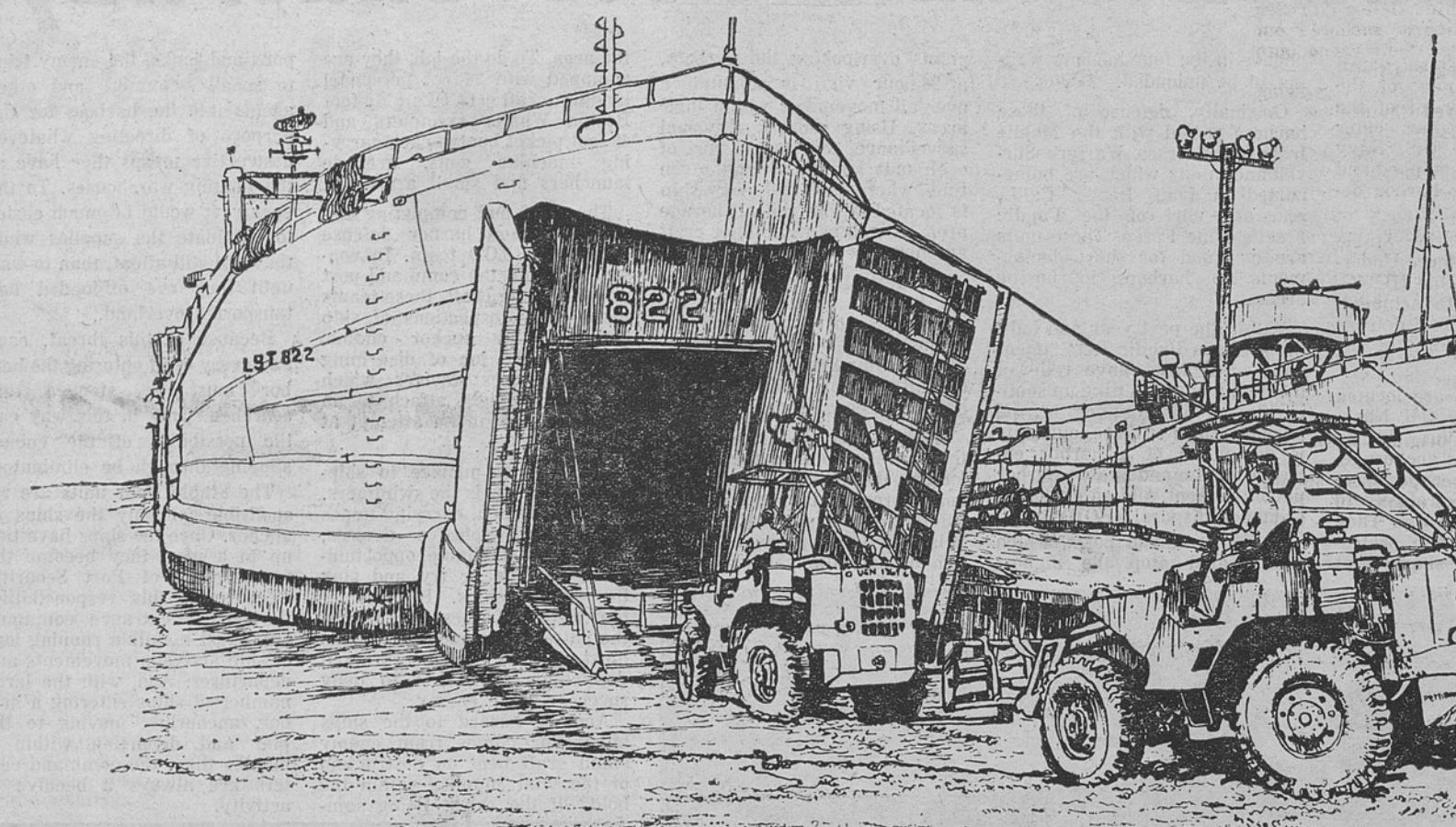


From the Harbor Entrance Navymen keep watch.

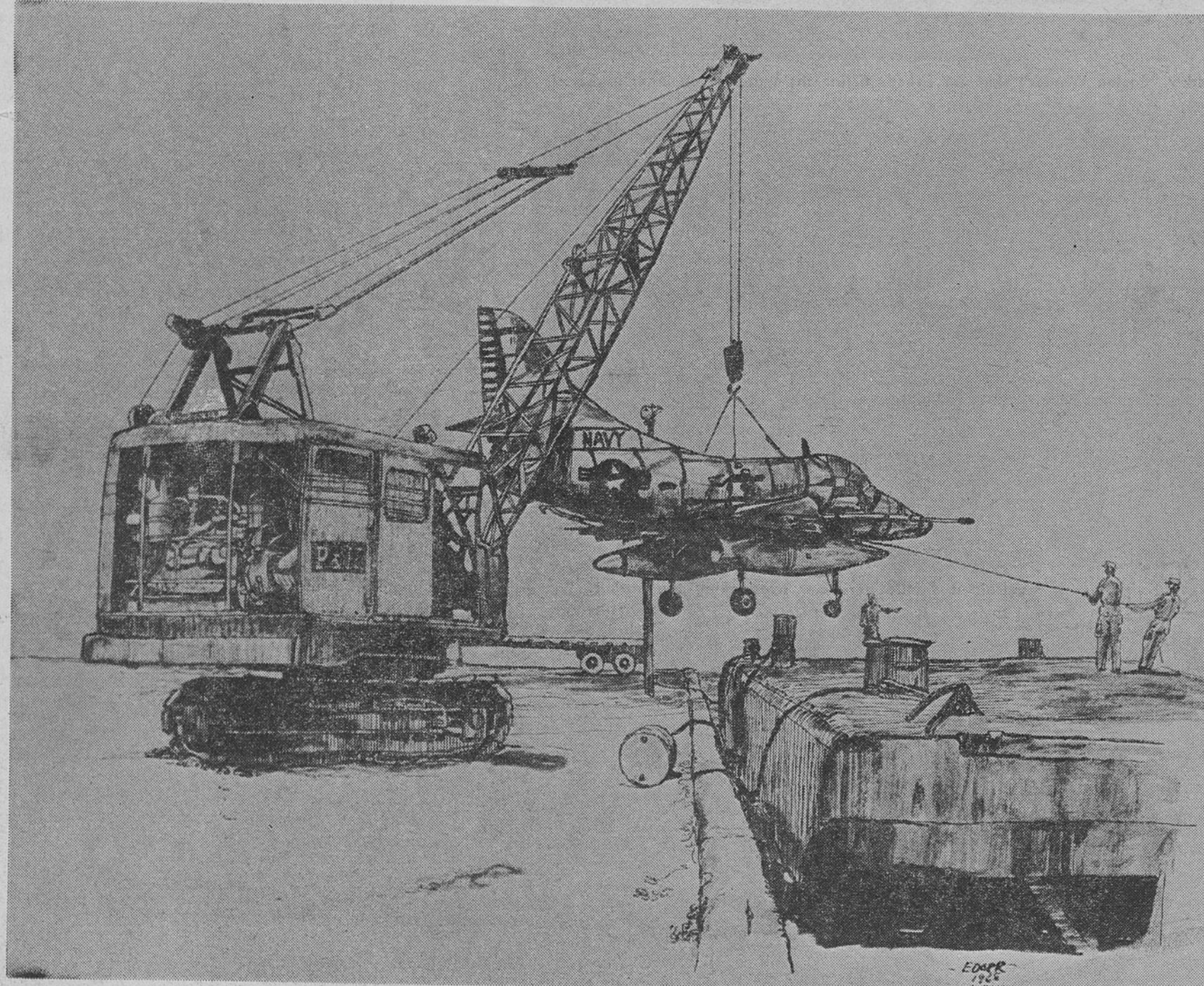


A U.S. Navy Picket Boat cruises the harbor on Operation Stable Door armed with twin .50 caliber machine guns.

Naval Activity Supports / Cos FWF



LSTs disgorged their cargoes at the mouth of the Cua Viet River, where they are loaded into smaller boats for the trip to Dong Ha.



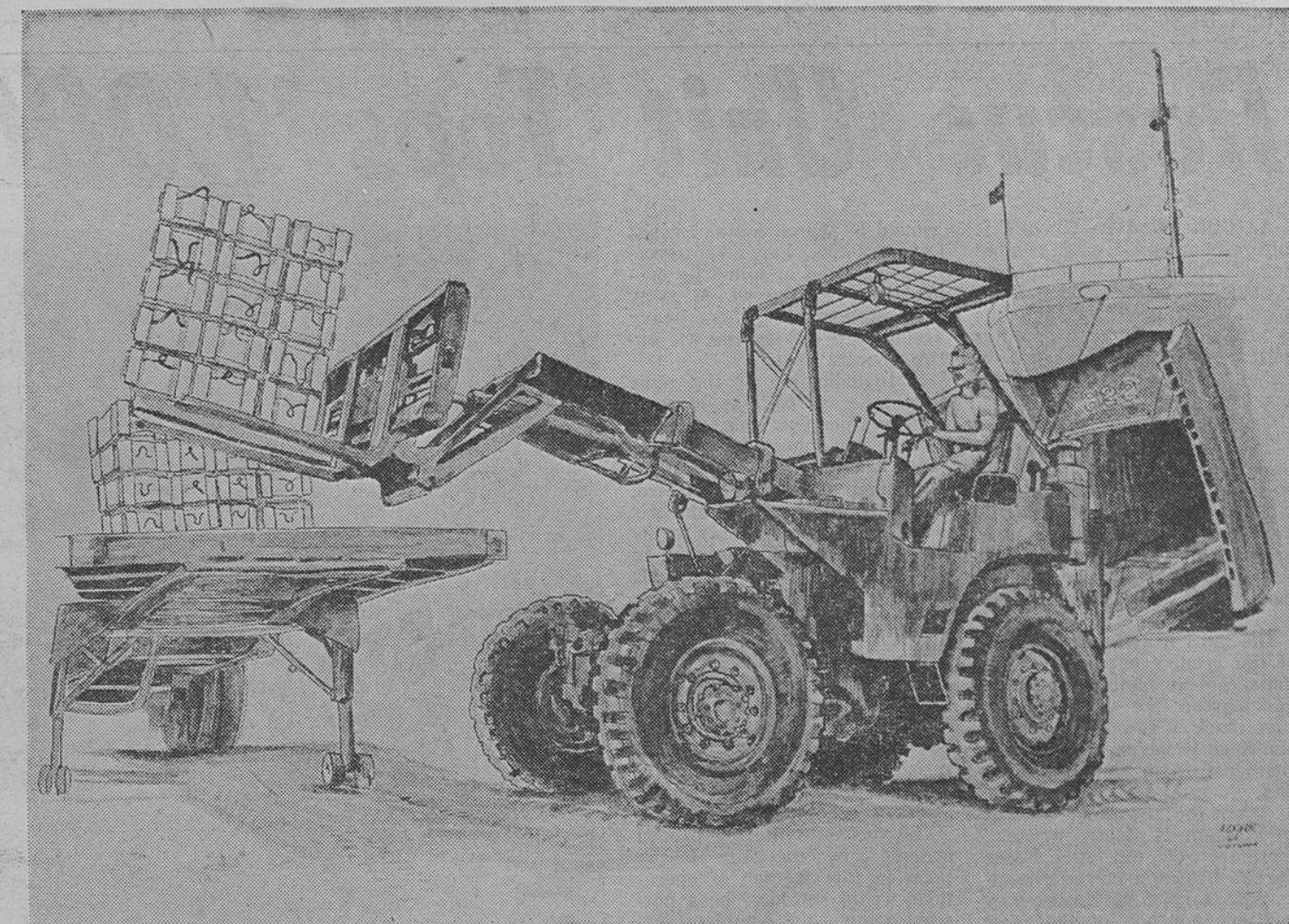
A war-weary Navy A4 attack-bomber is loaded onto a barge at NSA in the first step of its voyage to an overhaul facility.

DA - Few realize the Navy's shore in Vietnam. The Support Ac- harbor. With negligible city pi- space, transports anchored on and off-loaded their cargo on Navy landing craft.

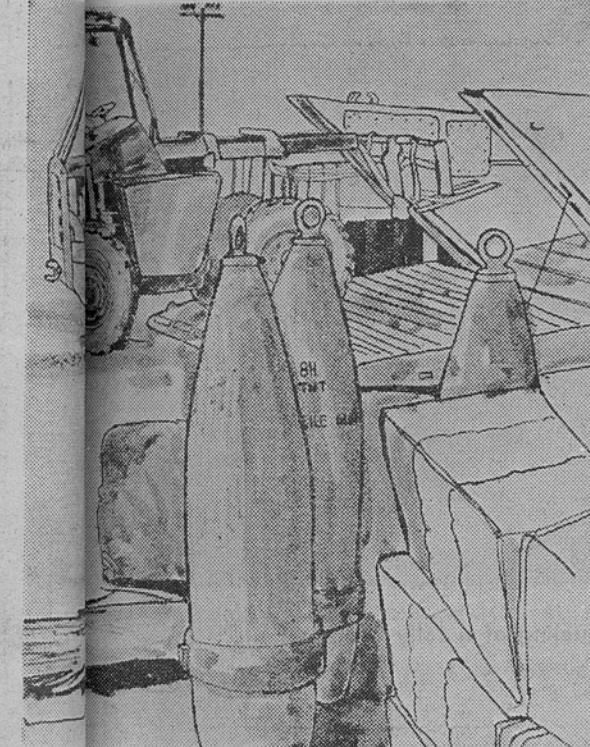
Eventually, NSA's growing pains resolved themselves. An ex-Vietnamese Army, ex-French Foreign Legion camp was renovated and became Camp Ting Sha, the main Navy billeting area. An ex-French warehouse became the "White Elephant," the Navy headquarters building.

From an original 35,000 tons a month, NSA now moves 33,000 tons of cargo every month, transhipping much of it to detachments up and down the coast in landing craft.

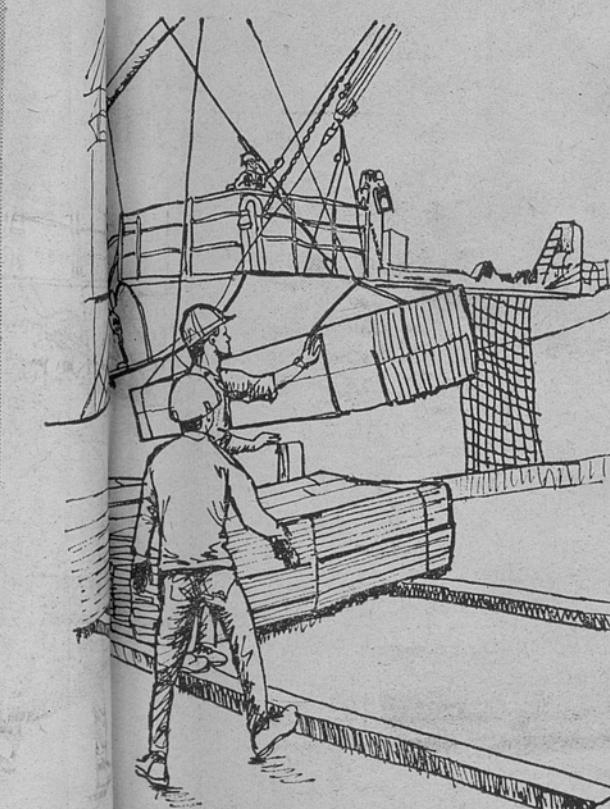
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Drawings By
SN Ed Orr



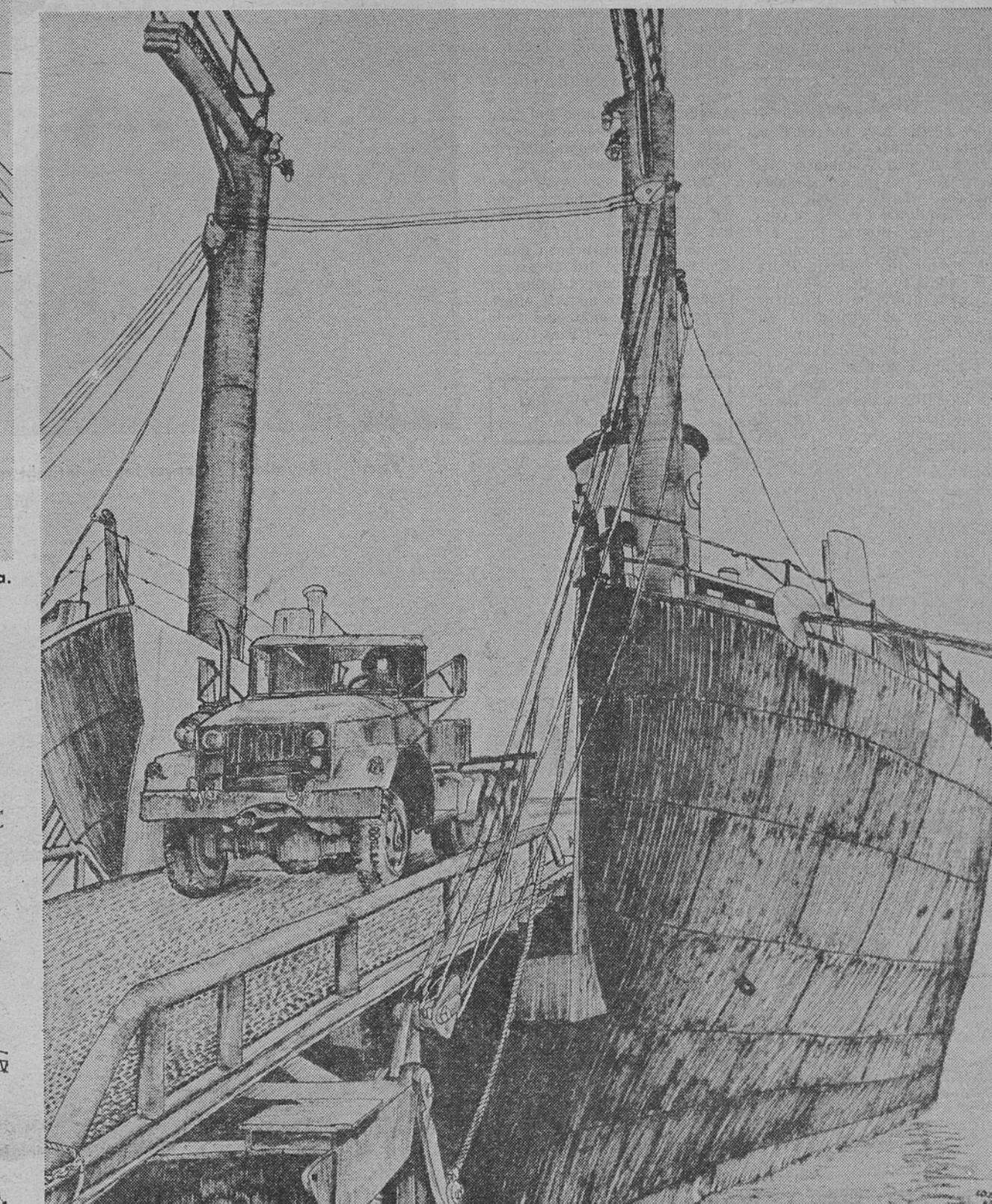
Crates of ammunition being off-loaded from an LST and put on a truck for delivery to troops in the field.



Navymding "Mike" boats (landing craft) at Dong H



Cargo ship the states are unloaded at NSA's piers.



Modern cargo handling is shown by this roll-on, roll-off cargo ship with its specially constructed stern ramp.

Rescue Unit Tops 1,000 Saves

SAIGON (USAF)—When U.S. aircrews take off on a combat mission anywhere in Southeast Asia, they know that, if their plane should become disabled as a result of enemy fire or other mishap, a force of highly dedicated, skilled and resourceful airmen stand ready to bring them back to safety.

The organization the men belong to is the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group which, from headquarters at Tan Son Nhut air base near Saigon, provides search and rescue support for an area of more than a million square miles.

The most heartening evidence of the group's capabilities was the recent announcement that it has passed the 1,000 combat save mark in rescues of personnel since it began operating in Southeast Asia in December 1964.

"When the history of the war in Vietnam is finally written" Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown declared recently, "the story of Air Rescue may well become one of the most outstanding human dramas in the entire history of the Air Force."

There is no lack of drama, courage, teamwork and perseverance in the stories that have been told about rescuing personnel from deep within enemy territory, almost invariably under hostile fire, and often in adverse weather.

Teamed with Vietnamese Air Force A-1E Skyraider fighter-bombers, whose mission is to locate the downed pilot and suppress enemy ground fire, Air Rescue helicopters have ranged from within the Mekong Delta in the south to within SAM missile range in the north to carry out rescues of airmen of all services, as well as Vietnamese military and civilian personnel.

On many occasions they have pressed a search for days before effecting a rescue. There are instances too, in which pararescuemen, lowered to the

ground to search for and assist injured pilots, have themselves been wounded or killed by enemy fire, or have waved away their helicopters when heavy ground fire endangered the entire crew.

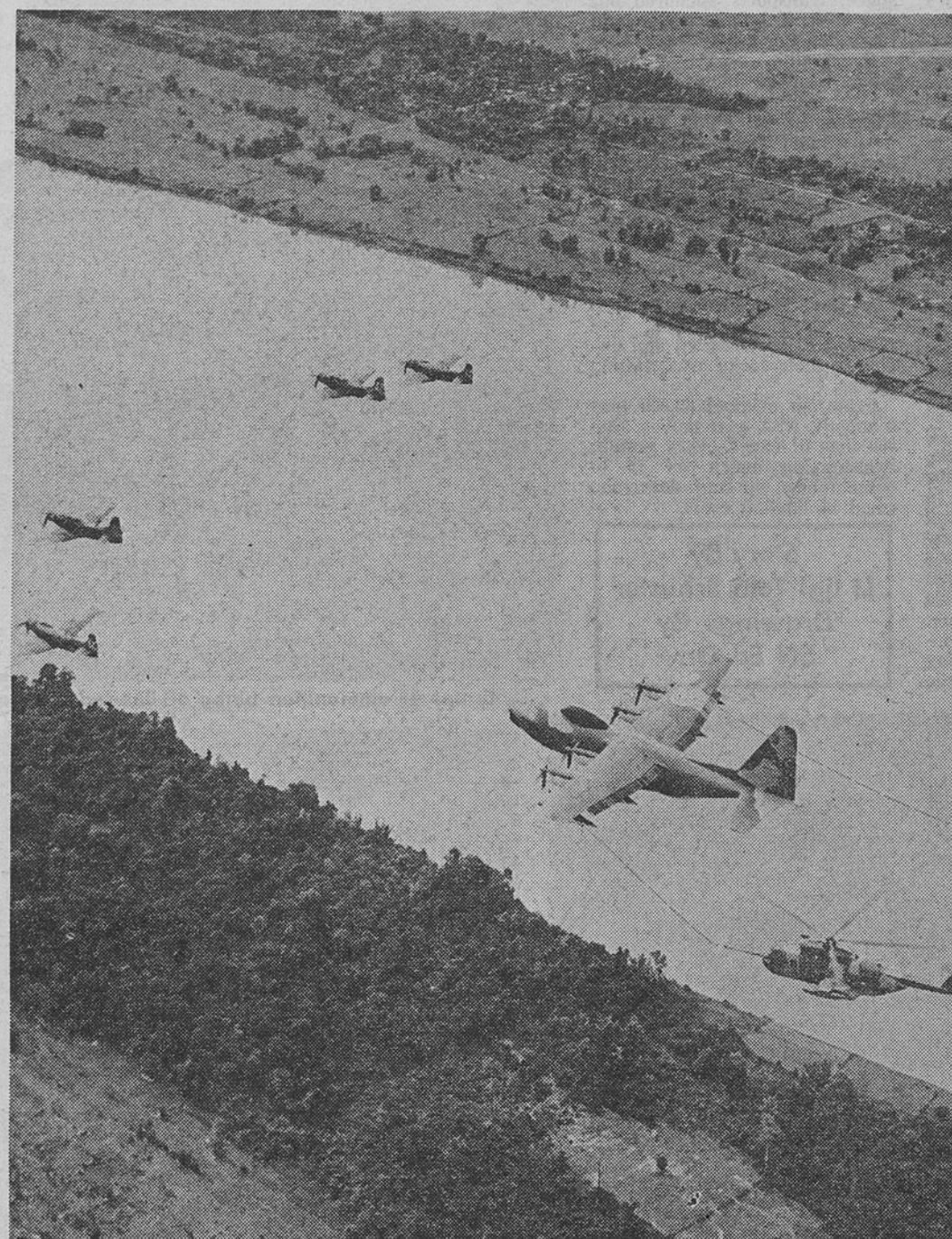
It is indicative of the risks they take, as well as of their skill and perseverance, that Air Rescue personnel have received more decorations for valor than any other group of their size, including 11 awards of the Air Force Cross, second only to the Medal of Honor for heroism in combat, 104 Silver Stars, 532 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 88 Bronze Stars and 2,426 Air Medals.

The group's Joint Search and Rescue Center controls and coordinates all rescue missions in Southeast Asia. Search and Rescue controllers obtain tactical mission plans and, after careful analysis, pre-position rescue forces accordingly.

The successes that have been achieved by the Air Rescue team in this theater of operations would not have been possible without the complete support of all other combat elements, for the rescue of downed or stranded personnel takes precedence over all other missions. For example, when a fighter pilot is forced to abandon his plane, others on the mission with him remain in the area, keeping him in sight and fighting off enemy ground troops until rescue helicopters arrive to hoist him to safety.

Thus rescue is, in every sense, a team effort among all who fly. In addition to the 1,000 combat saves more than 430 non-combat saves have been made. The men of the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group are proud to spearhead this effort, carrying out the motto and traditions of ARRS — "That Others May Live."

Story and Photos by:
U.S. Air Force

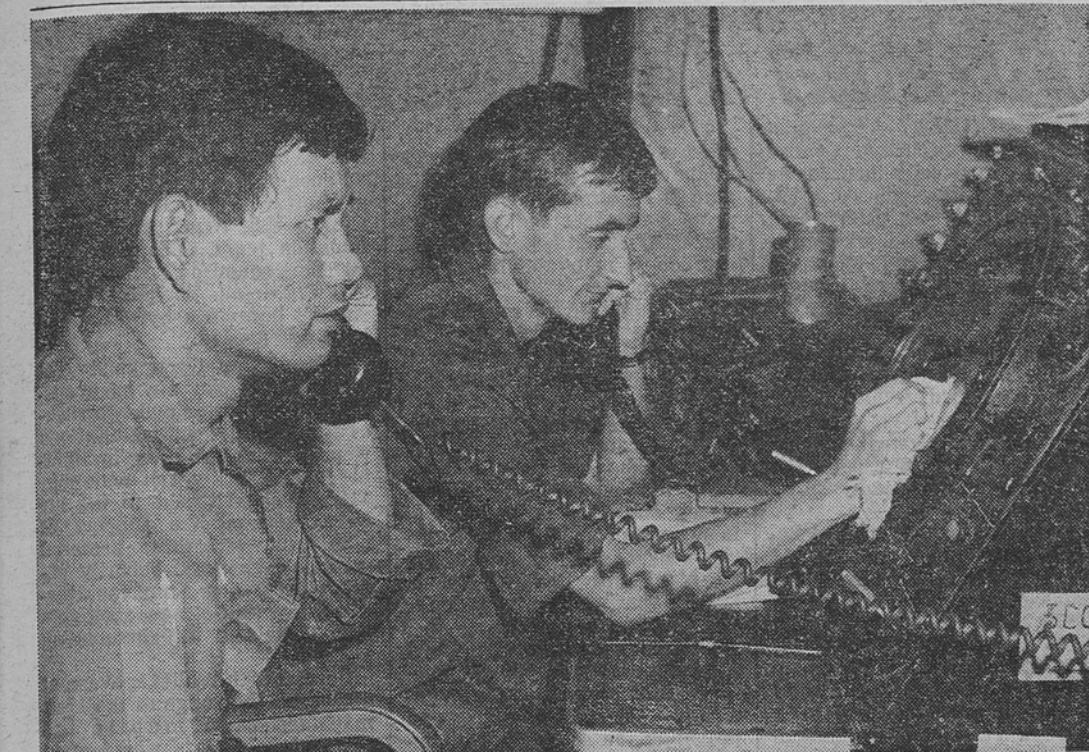


Four A-1 Skyraiders fly cover for an inflight refueling of a Jolly Green Giant.



An Air Force HH-43B Huskie hovers over a downed pilot.

This HH-3E Jolly Green Giant pulls up to the refueling drogue.



VNAF and USAF communications personnel work side-by-side at Binh Thuy air base.
(USAF PHOTO)

AF Men, Viets Call Delta Shots

BINH THUY (USAF)—In a dimly lit room 80 miles south of Saigon, 12 U.S. Air Force men and three Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) personnel direct air strikes, follow flight paths and provide advisory service on artillery and enemy locations to more than 1,000 aircraft flying over the Mekong Delta daily.

Erected in 1964, Detachment 3, 619th Tactical Air Control Squadron's (Paddy Control) radar has been sweeping the skies over 12 Mekong Delta provinces, directing aircraft to assigned targets and giving flight guidance to other aircraft.

At the present time Paddy Control is located at Can Tho Army airfield, 4 miles southeast of Binh Thuy. In the near future the site will move to its new location on Binh Thuy air base.

Radar used is a mobile type, supplemented by VHF and UHF radio. The radio is as essential as the radar in controlling low flying aircraft. The site is also equipped with a beacon assist device to aid aircraft navigation over the Delta.

The workload is shared among the U.S. and Vietnamese airmen. An on-the-job training program has been in existence since the

site was built. In addition, some of the VNAF personnel have had formal training at Tyndall, Air Force Base, Fla.

Through the training program, VNAF personnel have learned to run their own A-1H Skyraider air strikes, follow flight paths and provide advisory service on artillery and enemy locations to more than 1,000 aircraft flying over the Mekong Delta daily.

Their training includes air defense coordination, radar scope reading, flight control procedures, maintenance, supply and administration duties.

Engineers Halt Dust Menace

THANH AN (USA)—A new asphalt surface for an unpaved highway section has brought relief from the thick, brick-red dust clouds that once plagued 3,000 residents here.

The men in the 584th Engineer Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 937th Engineer Group, laid the surface in six days. It covered a three kilometer section of Highway 19, the main supply route between Pleiku and the Cambodian border.

Before the surface work, steady streams of traffic supporting infantry units in the area created a heavy canopy of lung-choking dust which hung over unhappy villagers night and day.

Frequent respiratory problems were rampant, and working and eating in the midst of the red powder increased grievances from the villagers.

Recognizing the urgency of the problem, engineers worked on the highway until 11 p.m. each evening until the project was completed.

The village chief later presented a plaque to the engineers to express the town's appreciation.

Inf. Relocates Highlanders

QUAN LOI (USA)—The tiny Highland (Montagnard) village lay in quiet solitude in the surrounding jungle. So small was the hamlet that it had no name. Its people were very poor, living solely from the jungle.

An interpreter was sent out to discuss the problem with the villagers and with surprising results found that the people understood the problem and were ready to move. In fact, they began to move the following day. Three days and some 20 truckloads later they were situated in a village west of Quan Loi called Thu Bon.

One day something happened to change all this. It was decided by the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Brigade commander, Colonel George Newman, that these people were not safe where they were.

Their nearby position restricted friendly firepower in that direction. Also the Viet Cong could

gain access to the brigade's perimeter through the restricted zone of fire.

Company C, 1st Medical Battalion. "The MEDCAP is the most impressive part of Civic Action to the people," the captain commented. "We are establishing a sound friendship through the medical and dental care we give them."

They seemed content with their quiet life, having no cares except perhaps where the next meal could be obtained — a crossbow and a short trip into the jungle usually provided the answer.

Captain Douglas Kauffman, who is the civil affairs officer, said, "The people seemed right at home in their new neighborhood and were immediately accepted by the other Highlanders who even lent a hand with their home-building."

Once the people were settled, a MEDCAP was conducted by

vehicle and started in the direction of the Bien Hoa Provincial Hospital.

Mother and child, however, did not have the ride timed properly, and the baby was partially delivered upon arrival at the hospital, where the delivery was completed.

The two MPs were rewarded with the satisfaction of knowing they had helped to bring a 5½ pound baby boy into the world.



MEDCAPs Get Mixed Reactions

CHU LAI (USMC)—U.S. military medics treat young and old alike in the countless Medical Civic Action Programs throughout South Vietnam.

Often they must travel perilous roads and jungle routes to reach patients in the more remote villages scattered throughout the countryside.

Long Phu, located west of the Marine air base at Chu Lai, is one of these villages. The MEDCAP team that serves the village is from Marine Aircraft Group 13.

Whether it's cleaning dirty little ears or examining and treating the tired eyes of the aged, medical teams draw mixed reactions from their patients.

Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Keith A. Smith, Jr., is the ear cleaning medic at the left. Lieutenant Bruce A. Mallin is the doctor giving the eye examination.

(USMC PHOTOS By Sgt. R.R. Keene)



101st Spreads Good Will

Rebuilds Dwelling

PHUOC VINH (USA) — A home destroyed in the recent Tet attacks by the Communists was rebuilt in An Lanh four miles south of here as a gesture of good will by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade.

Joint efforts of the brigade's civil affairs staff and their counterparts of Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), and II Field Force were responsible for making the homeless family happy again.

Major James S. Brewer, brigade S-5 officer, arranged for four helicopter sorties to transport the necessary materials to rebuild the house.

The popular forces outpost commander, Duong Van Buc, welcomed the work crew and the rebuilding began.

Out of nowhere swarms of little children flocked to the site to watch. Like American youngsters trying to view the afternoon baseball game they sat everywhere imaginable — in trees and atop haystacks.

The men completed the foundation before night fall and started back to the outposts for the night, but Buc and his assistant, Vuong Chi Con, had a surprise for them — a dinner in their honor.

Air Force Brings Aid To Villages

PHAN RANG (USA) — Three members of the 35th U.S. Air Force Dispensary, at Phan Rang air base, have carried out 91 Medical Civic Action (MEDCAP) missions to aid Montagnard and Vietnamese villagers in 15 hamlets near here.

The trio of volunteers consists of: First Lieutenant Tim C. Matthews, chief of nursing services; Staff Sergeant John L. Terry, co-psman; and Sergeant Charles E. Shearer, administrative specialist.

The dispensary sends teams of doctors, dentists, corpsmen, and other volunteers into the hamlets four times a week to treat villagers and to work with hamlet officials to improve health and sanitation programs.

Lieutenant Matthews, a veteran of 60 MEDCAP missions, has gone on more of these missions than anyone else at the dispensary. "Aiding the villagers has meant very much to me," he said. "I'm sure the people do appreciate it."

Twenty-five MEDCAP missions have been carried out by Sergeant Terry. He aids doctors by cleaning and bandaging the sick and injured, administering medication and giving immunization shots. Noting that the ailments of villagers range from colds to malaria, the medic commented, "I think we are making progress and are thus gaining their respect."

Sergeant Shearer, who has completed six MEDCAPs, recently capped his efforts by delivering 40 pounds of clothing to children at the site of one of these missions, a vocational school in the hamlet of Go Den. The clothing was collected by Girl Scouts in Houston, Tex., and then mailed to Vietnam by the sergeant's mother.

In another civic action program members of the 35th Armaments Electronics Squadron at Phan Rang, have recently built a new school for Vietnamese youngsters.

EDY ALL THE WAY!! — This delectable home-spun beauty is none other than Edy Williams, one of 20th Century-Fox's newest actresses. A beauty contest winner, Edy admits she won her television and screen roles because of her outstanding dimensions (5 feet, 7 inches, 37-24-37, and weighs only 130 pounds). She was discovered by director Curt Conway when she came to the studio's commissary wearing a low-cut Mod dress.

(PHOTO COURTESY 20th Century Fox)

Airmen Are Minutemen

PLEIKU (USA) — The quiet in Central Security Control (CSC), occasionally broken by the plotter's movement of miniature aircraft and vehicles on the scaled plot-board, was punctuated by the field telephone bell. A clipped voice brought the men to life. "Foxtrot to Defense — flashes at two seven zero, four to five out," then almost as an afterthought, the voice continued, "here they come again."

The Air Force security mission was to deny the enemy entry. Tasked with combat roles bordering on ground reaction forces and the employment of heavy weapons, the 633rd Security Police Squadron, commanded by Major Richard Bokenkamp, was well prepared for any attack.

In minutes a base at rest became a retaliatory machine. At CSC, the combat operations center became a beehive of activity. Members of the 633rd Security Police Squadron at Pleiku air base moved from bunkers to reinforce the perimeter line of defense by forming into Quick Reaction Teams for instantaneous deployment. Base augmentation, nicknamed "Minute Men" stood in ready reserve. Sentry dogs, already alert, scoured the fence line for movement in the rice paddies.

Senior Master Sergeant Robert G. Humphreys, was given two days to develop a system for prompt and accurate illumination of a heavily foliated section of the perimeter. He learned enough basic artillery to call in mortar illumination from a nearby U.S. Army mortar illumination team, and implemented the squadron's first field artillery detail. Their call "Sunshine," became a byword when light was needed.

During the Communist Tet offensive, Pleiku air base sustained one mortar and two rocket attacks. Adjacent installations were penetrated. Close-in fighting in Pleiku City was mounting. The offensive threat to the air base required the support of nine tanks and three armored personnel carriers. Security policemen rode on Army tank turrets, directing xenon spotlights onto targets in the surrounding area.

Forced to interdict movement outside of the range of the M-60 machineguns, a mobile fire team of volunteers was formed and a .50 caliber machinegun was mounted on the back of a truck and secured with sandbags. The first 633rd SPS "Special Missions" section was born. Its first test came when 50 Viet Cong men and women approached the main gate waving a flag of truce. The mobile machinegun rolled into firing position and the VC dropped the flag and started to flee. Detainees from the group were found armed with weapons hidden under their clothes, the women with hidden ammunition.

The unit's engineering capabilities were challenged when the same volunteers who manned the mobile fire team, under the leadership of Staff Sergeant Verbal A. Keith, with the help of 10 Montagnard villagers, built more than four miles of exterior roadway and perimeter fencing.

The Vietnam war has produced more than its share of anomalies. Soldiers in gunboats, sailors in aircraft, and airmen in foxholes. The 633rd SPS learned it the hard way, by infantry sweeps through rice paddies, directing tank artillery fire, launching mortar flares and building roads.

Meeting the enemy as he attempts to set foot in their perimeter takes a maximum effort, and the men of the 633rd SPS have been equal to the challenge.

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Engineer Bn. Rebuilds Mart

LONG BINH (USA) — The people of Tan Uyen, exhibiting both tenacity and initiative in the face of adversity, are presently rebuilding and improving their marketplace with the help of the 92nd Engineer Battalion (Construction), 159th Engineer Group.

Located about 20 miles north of Saigon, Tan Uyen was recently attacked, overrun and held for a short while by a Viet Cong terrorist force of some 600 men.

Although the aggressors were swiftly driven back into the thick jungles by ARVN infantry and U.S. gunships, the damage to the town was heavy. The marketplace — hub of virtually all economic and social activity — had been left a smoldering pile of rubble.

Responding immediately to the call for aid, the 92nd Engineers arrived at Tan Uyen to survey the situation and assist in the reconstruction efforts.

Within two days of the attack, the Vietnamese townspeople, ably assisted and advised by the construction engineers, had cleared the entire area of debris, and restored business to its usual brisk pace.

American Forces Vietnam Network — Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week of March 27-April 2, 1968)

Wednesday Mar. 27

1830 News Headlines
1830 Lost and Sports
1900 Insight
2005 Information Feature
2030 Adams Family
2100 Captain Bunt
2200 Sports (Re-Run)
2300 Late News
2315 Sports (Continued)

Sunday Mar. 31

1230 News Headlines
1230 Christopher's Sacred Heart
1330 The Answer
1500 Sports of the Week
1730 Flying Fisherman
1800 Gun Control Bowl
1830 Dennis Thomas Hour
1930 News and Sports
2035 Window on Vietnam
2035 Bob Hope Show
2035 Fractured Flickers
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Late News
2315 Jerry Lewis

Monday Apr. 1

1830 News Headlines
1830 Disney Bognie
1900 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2230 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission: Impossible
2300 Late News
2315 Tonight Show

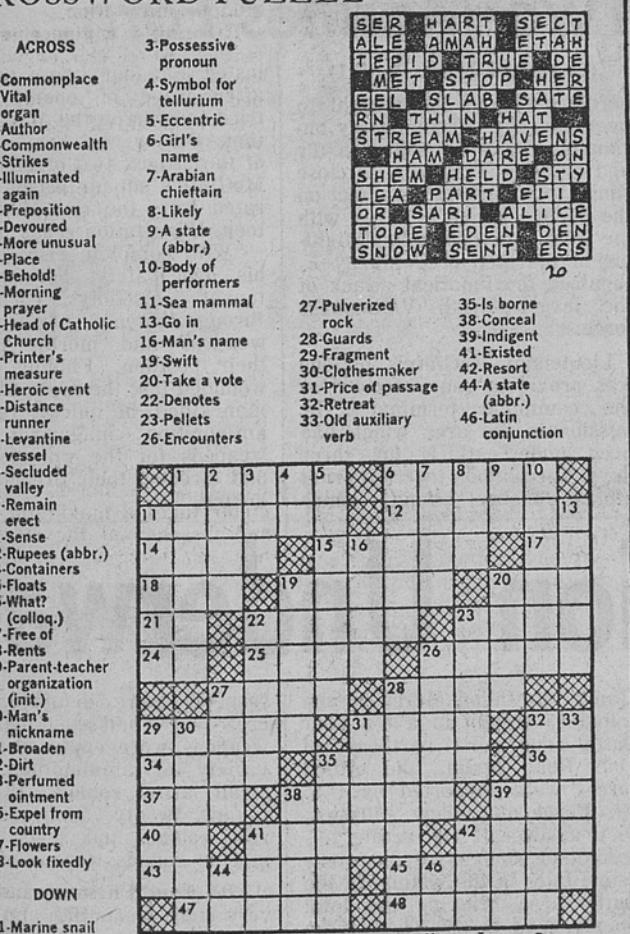
Tuesday Apr. 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective
1830 Mike Douglas Show
1830 The Dianos
1400 CBS Golf Classic
1500 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1820 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Saturday Mar. 30

1830 News Headlines
1830 Mike Douglas Show
1830 The Dianos
1400 CBS Golf Classic
1500 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1820 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ARVN, US Kill 305

SAIGON (USA) — Some 305 enemy have been reported killed in a single day's action by elements of the 1st ARVN Infantry Division. ARVN units were supported by U.S. Army and Marine Corps tactical aircraft, helicopter gunships and artillery.

The action took place three miles south-southeast of Gio Linh where the ARVN elements engaged an NVA battalion size unit. Reports from the scene said the enemy force employed automatic weapons, mortars and RPG rocket-grenade fire with supporting artillery barrages from north of the DMZ.

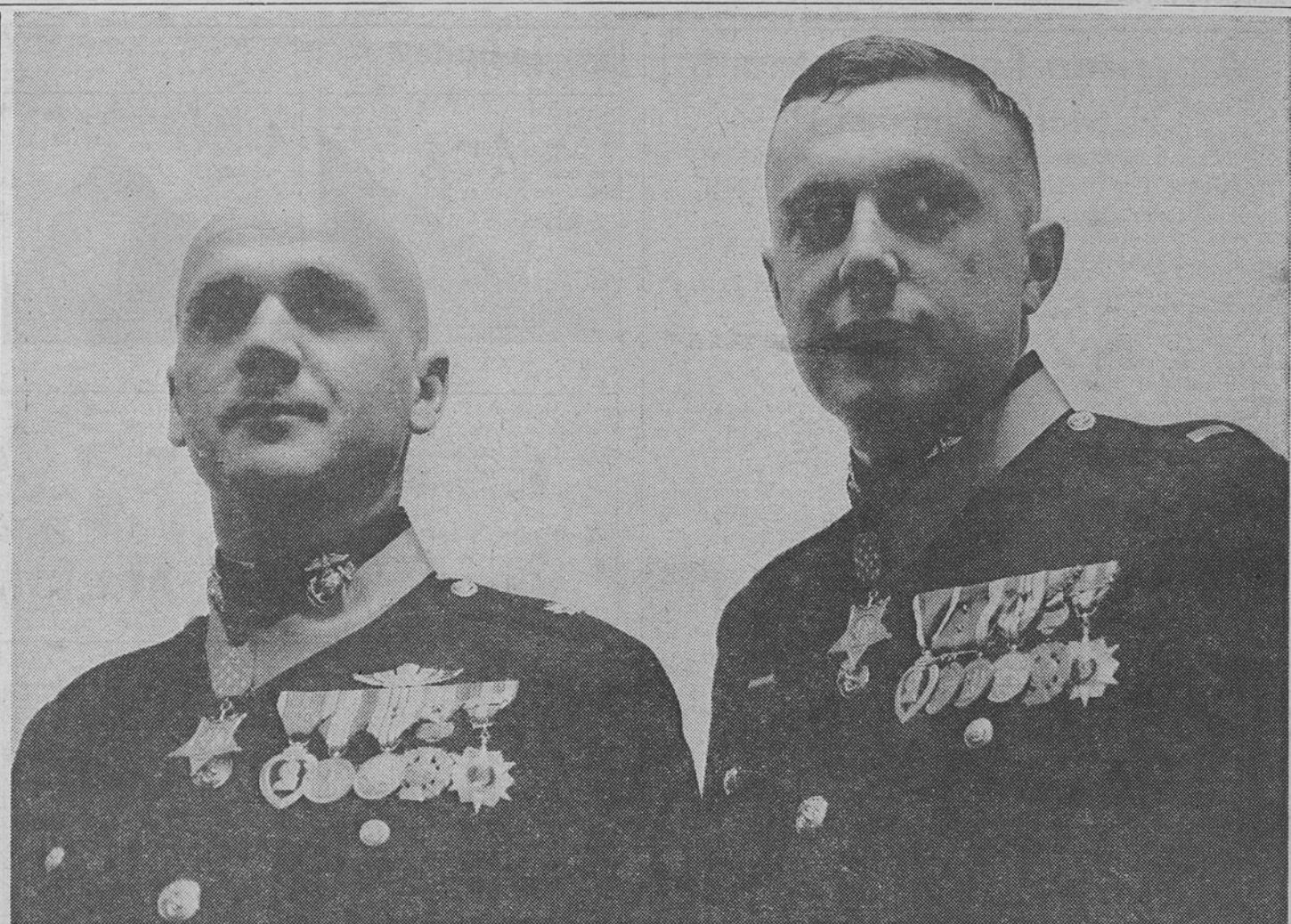
It was an array of fire that caused the ARVN commander to request help from U.S. forces. The Marines were first to respond with tactical aircraft, helicopter gunships and artillery which fired into enemy positions.

In addition, the Army's 1st Air Cavalry quickly joined the action, throwing helicopter rockets and artillery into the battle.

A two day sweep of the battlefield by ARVN troops revealed 194 enemy dead the first day and another 111 bodies the second day.

ARVN casualties were 42 killed and 148 wounded.

There were no U.S. casualties in the action.



Maj. Modrzejewski and Lt. McGinty after White House ceremonies.

(USMC PHOTO By SSGt Zane Wilson)

Sergeant Makes MARS Call; Gets A Surprise Connection

CAMP ENARI (USA) — Sergeant Major Seta was looking forward to a last minute phone call with his wife to check on final arrangements before meeting her in Hawaii.

He sat puffing a cigarette at the local MARS station. It was shortly after midnight when a clerk rushed into the station's waiting room and grabbed him by the arm.

"The next voice you hear will be your wife's," blurted the clerk.

Sergeant Major Seta picked up the phone. "Hello over," he chirped.

"Hello over!" came the reply. "Sweetheart, did you receive your orders for R & R? Over," he continued.

"What orders for R & R? Over," whispered the reply.

"Why your orders for Hawaii, over," he answered.

"Honey, I didn't know I was going to Hawaii, over," she whispered again. "Who is this anyway? Over."

"What do you mean who is this? It's Sergeant Major Billy Seta, 4th Aviation Battalion in Vietnam. Aren't you..."

"Well this is Mrs. Bob Baker in Chicago," bubbled the reply.

Then a telephone operator chimed in. "Oh brother! Somebody really goofed on this one."

But in spite of the mix-up, Sergeant Major Seta finally got through to his wife later in the morning. She had received the orders and everything was okay.

Two Marines Earn...

(Continued From Page 1)

heroic limits as they fought to overcome the vicious enemy onslaught. Again he called in air and artillery strikes at close range with devastating effect on the enemy, which together with the bold and determined fighting of the men of Company K, repulsed the fanatical attack of the larger North Vietnamese force.

Lieutenant McGinty's platoon was providing rear security as the command terminated its mission in the area which had been under attack for three days. The platoon took the brunt of an enemy assault which

lasted for four hours as wave after wave of enemy troops tried to overrun the Marine position. During the heaviest part of the attack, two of Lieutenant McGinty's squads became separated from the rest of the platoon. His citation reads in part:

"With complete disregard for his own safety, Second Lieutenant McGinty charged through intense automatic weapons and mortar fire to their position. Finding twenty wounded and the medical corpsman killed, he quickly reloaded ammunition magazines and weapons for the wounded men and directed their fire upon the enemy."

Largest Allied Operation Underway

(Continued From Page 1) grenades, 27 war heads for 122mm rockets, 181 RPG-7 rounds and 200 pounds of C-4 plastic explosives.

In the second cache there were 37 AK-47 rifles, five individual weapons, 31 Russian-made carbines, two .30 caliber machineguns, one 60mm mortar tube and one 82mm mortar plus

100 rounds of RPGs and 25 hand grenades.

In addition, 18 complete 122mm rockets were discovered buried in a rice paddy dike near Hoc Mon, 10 miles north-northwest of Saigon.

Eighty-one Communists were killed March 15 by troopers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 25th ARVN In-

fantry Division 6 miles southwest of Cu Chi. The allied force, a part of Operation Quyet Thang, was supported by U.S. Army artillery and helicopter gunships and Air Force tactical aircraft.

While killing the 81 enemy, the Allied force took only light casualties and there were no U.S. fatalities. There were 21 U.S. troopers wounded in the engagement. Three crew-served weapons and 21 individual enemy weapons were captured.

Elements of the 25th ARVN Infantry Division found 18 enemy bodies five miles northeast of Duc Hoa March 15. They were believed to have been killed by friendly aircraft ordnance.

Elements of the U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment teamed up with the 51st ARVN

Ranger Battalion March 16 and killed 95 enemy in a 6½ hour battle four miles northeast of Duc Hoa. Again, the Allied forces were supported by U.S. Air Force and Army gunships, tactical aircraft and artillery.

Another 40 enemy bodies were found later in the vicinity of the battle area bringing the total enemy dead to 135. There were no U.S. casualties and ARVN casualties were light.

Fifty-five enemy were killed by ARVN and Popular Forces (PF) units March 17, nine miles west of Hoc Mon (17 miles northwest of Saigon).

Helicopter gunships and tactical aircraft supported the ground elements until contact broke with the enemy. In addition to the enemy killed, three

suspects were detained. Nine crew-served and seven individual weapons were captured plus a variety of ammunition: 1,600 small arms rounds, 60 RPG rounds, twenty 75mm recoilless rifle rounds and seven 82mm mortar rounds were captured.

ARVN and PF forces sustained very light casualties and there were no reports of U.S. Casualties.

The cumulative results of seven days of fighting in Operation Quyet Thang are 821 enemy killed, 165 suspects detained and 315 individual and 69 crew-served weapons captured.

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

TARP Tet Aggression Relief Project

Mail THE OBSERVER Home	
★ (Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.)	
From:	
TO:	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Place Stamp Here (12 cents 1st class) (20 cents Airmail) </div>	



Specialist Plumley—"Mr. Half-Million"

Army Specialist Honored; Given VIP Bangkok Tour

BANGKOK (MACV) — No one would ordinarily mistake Specialist 4 David E. Plumley for "Cinderella" . . . but it happened!

As the young Campbell, N.Y. soldier got off his R&R bus at Tan Son Nhut Airport Lieutenant Colonel David D. Nesler, MACV R&R Chief announced that Specialist Plumley was "Mr. Half-Million" — 500,000th serviceman to take advantage of the program.

Specialist Plumley, a member of Company D, 2nd Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division's 27th Infantry was awarded many gifts and gift certificates from Vietnamese merchants before boarding the Bangkok-bound flight.

Arriving at Thailand's Don Muang Airport there was more of the VIP treatment that was to continue throughout his visit — two delicate Thai beauties met him with colorful floral leis and he was introduced to his date, Miss Mary Ann Newell, an attractive Pan American Airlines hostess.

So Dave became royalty in

the land storied to Americans as the country of "The King and I" and received the regal attention reserved for visiting dignitaries. His host for the following days was Tommies's Tourist Agency which whirled him through a schedule of fun and diversion for four days.

The young American couple, escorted by a pair of gracious and knowledgeable guides, made their rounds in an air-

See photos of Dave's Bangkok R & R on pages 6 and 7.

conditioned Mercedes stopping at perennial attractions including Timland, the Floating Market and Pattaya Beach.

They ate an exotic Thai meal in the candle-lit Bann Thai Restaurant and, after dining amid the splendor of the traditional Siamese setting, sat back to enjoy the internationally famous grace of legendary Thai dancers performing ritual ballet.

The next stop was Bangkok's posh Cafe de Paris and a return to 20th Century Thailand with tinkling cocktail glasses

and dancing with a modern beat.

During their stay the pair also found time to browse in the many shops of the capital where they not only had a chance to look over the merchandise but were initiated into the delightful local custom of talking business over a cold beer or iced soda pop. At each stop they were presented with gifts by the shop keepers to which the startled couple could only utter their thanks and "This is just TOO fantastic!"

At each stop there was also the fragrant jasmine wreath to be placed across their shoulders.

It was time for Mary Ann to return to work but Dave was off to Pattaya Beach.

The beach offered Dave a change of pace as he enjoyed the golden sand and cool, blue water. Here he watched the "sun worshippers" taking advantage of facilities for sailing, water skiing and pony riding. An added attraction is the new PX-cafeteria complex for serv-

(Continued On Back Page)

Pagoda Shelters Refugees

SAIGON (MACV) — A not-yet completed Buddhist pagoda in Saigon is serving as a sanctuary to 5,000 refugees from the greater Saigon area left homeless by the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese Army Tet offensive.

Since Feb. 1, about 6,000 refugees have been sheltered in the pagoda; 1,000 of which have returned to their former homes. Those remaining are fed, sheltered and furnished medical care by the Vietnamese Ministry of Social Welfare and Refugees. And there's even an organized recreation program for the hundreds of children.

Accommodations are not first-rate. But to families which might otherwise be absolutely homeless and hungry, a stairwell "apartment," cooked food, and medical care are more important than luxuries.

The entire operation of the refugee center is under the supervision of Nguyen Duc Lan, representing Buddhist leader Thich Tam Giac. Working with him are 30 assistants who register and interview the homeless families, allocate living space and distribute food. Also working in the project are Saigonese students whose schools have been closed, and Boy Scouts.

Since the opening of the pagoda as a refugee center, the Government of Vietnam has furnished food, mats for beds, milk and medical aid. American troops have donated lumber, some tents and sheets of roofing, all of which has been used to erect additional shelters.

A large central hall contains sacks of rice, bulgar, cornmeal and boxes of oatmeal, all of which are distributed to the families. Numerous hydrants furnish drinking and washing water, as well as impromptu bathing areas for the children.

Every inch of the huge pagoda is crowded with families. In one large second floor hall, wires have been strung and each families name on a piece of

(Continued On Back Page)

FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 46 Saigon, Vietnam March 20, 1968

ARVN, U.S. Units Kill 218 Enemy

SAIGON (MACV) — Elements of the 22nd ARVN Infantry Division, reinforced by a U.S. armored unit from the 173rd Airborne Brigade and supported by U.S. Army helicopter gunships and Air Force tactical aircraft, successfully repulsed an assault recently by 6 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong companies killing 218 of the enemy.

At 2 a.m., the enemy attacked

the positions of a battalion of the 47th ARVN Infantry Regiment located just north of Tuy Hoa and were pushed back. At 4 a.m., another battalion of the 47th contacted an enemy company about four miles west of the town.

During the same time, the regimental command post in the northeast section of Tuy Hoa was attacked by an enemy force

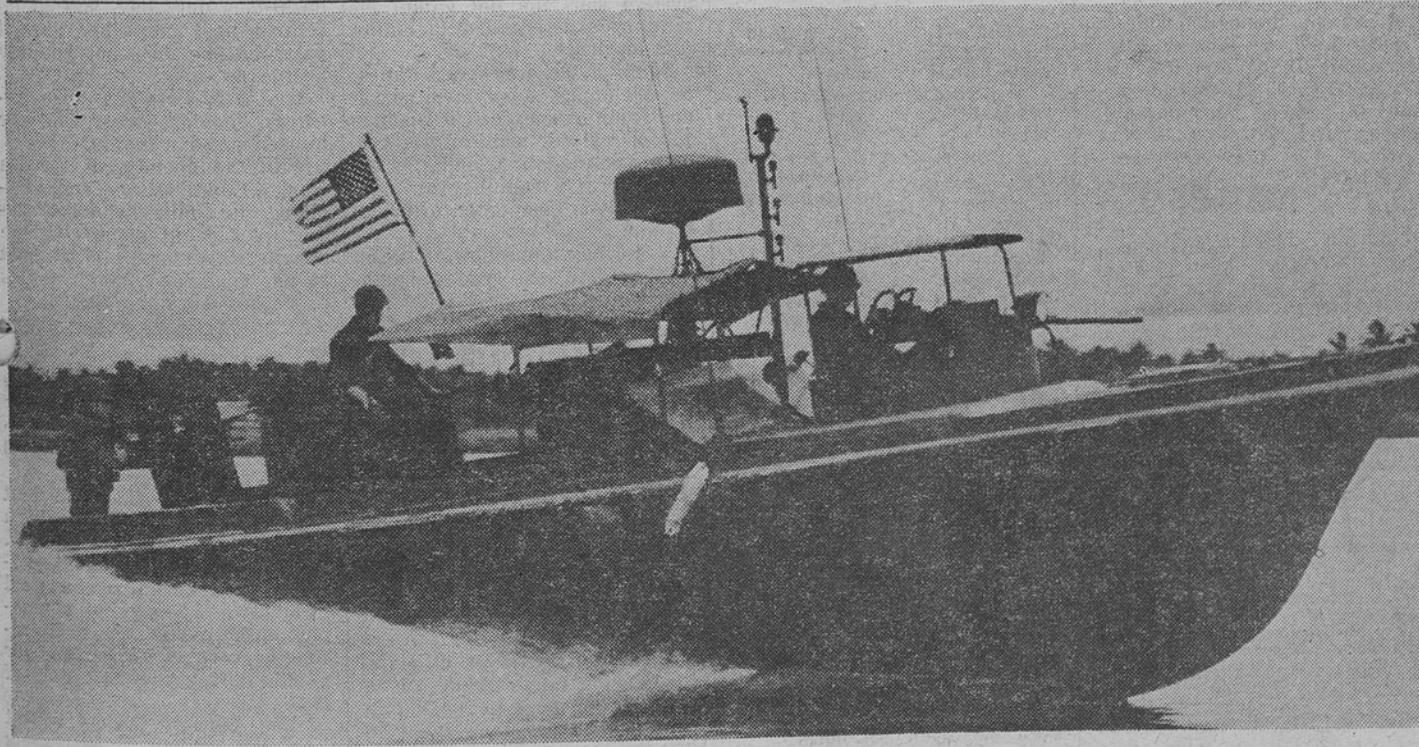
of unknown size. This attack also was repulsed.

At 10 a.m., a troop from the U.S. 16th Armor and an ARVN force attacked to the northeast to clear an enemy force from the vicinity of the Tuy Hoa North Airfield.

During the entire engagement, the ground forces were supported by Army gunships and Air Force tactical aircraft.

In addition to 218 enemy killed, 111 individual weapons and 27 crew-served weapons were captured; 1.6 weapons for every enemy killed. Twelve detainees also were taken.

U.S. casualties were eight killed and 18 wounded. Vietnamese Army casualties were reported as light. The kill-ratio for the action was more than 8-to-1.



MOVING OUT — A U.S. Navy River Patrol Boat (PBR) churns up the muddy waters of a Mekong Delta river while on Operation Game Warden patrol. Designed from a pleasure craft hull and powered by two 220-horsepower engines which drive the PBR with a water jet pump, the 31-foot craft patrols the rivers of the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone, preventing movement of Viet Cong and enemy supplies on or across the major waterways of the two areas.

(USN PHOTO)

Editorial

Mail Inspection

Plan on mailing home a carbine, bayonet, pistol, ammunition magazine, ammunition, or bandoliers? Don't; detection equipment is now in use at Army postal units throughout the Republic of Vietnam as well as at the Military Airmail Facility in San Francisco and customs officials are cracking down on violators.

Recently, for example, customs inspectors at San Francisco in one day discovered 38 packages mailed from Vietnam which contained contraband ranging from a live fragmentation grenade to the arsenal listed above, which was mailed from one APO.

To further aid inspectors on the West Coast, detection equipment will be used throughout the country here and suspicious packages will be opened to determine if contraband is enclosed.

Customs inspectors have become skilled in picking out packages which may contain contraband simply due to the shape, size or weight. One bulky parcel they picked up weighed hardly anything. A check disclosed the Army sender had mailed home seven camouflage poncho liners.

Military police criminal investigators who work on such cases express amazement at the chances these relatively few servicemen take in trying to get contraband past postal and customs inspections.

Those that are caught face not only court martial action, but also can be prosecuted for violation of federal postal and customs laws and for illegal possession of government property.

Another point made by criminal investigators and postal authorities alike was the utter danger of explosion of grenades and other explosives mailed in parcels—particularly those carried to the States aboard aircraft.

"Can you imagine," mused one MP, "what would happen if that fragmentation grenade discovered recently had cooked off—or had the pin jarred loose—aboard a jet flying at 30,000 feet with 160 GIs going home after finishing their tour here?"

In addition to installing detection equipment, Army post offices will display posters and signs warning customers of the prohibition against mailing contraband, the penalties for violations, and the means used by the APO to discover violators.

The signs and customs declarations completed by the sender will make it difficult for those apprehended to plead ignorance. (USARV)

Parachutists Needed

WASHINGTON (USA) — The Department of the Army and CONARC are vitally concerned with maintaining the outstanding reputation of the Golden Knights, the U.S. Army parachute team.

The Golden Knights are the Army counterpart of the Navy's Blue Angels and the Air Force's Thunderbirds.

The team has a continuing requirement for assignment of officers and enlisted men, qual-

fied under Army Regulation 28-90. The Class "D" International Parachuting License or qualification for license requirement can be waived by the commanding officer of the team.

Vietnam returnees are particularly desirable to the team for retention potential.

Direct communication with the commanding officer, Army Parachute Team, Box 126, Fort Bragg, N.C. 28307, for vacancy and assignment information is authorized.

USAID Trains Vietnamese

Through programs of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in Fiscal Year (FY) 1967, 1,049 Vietnamese students were graduated from technical schools throughout the country as compared to 922 for FY '66. In addition, 11 students are scheduled to go to the U.S. for long-term training in engineering and vocational education and 40 will go to Taiwan for a two week, short term observation tour. (MACV)

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed of Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from Armed Forces Press File, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, Hq MACV, APO 96222.

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FIRST IN VIETNAM
The OBSERVER

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Just In Case You Have Not Heard**Do You Have Your Ballot?**

SAIGON (MACV) — General elections in all states, the District of Columbia, and territories will be held Nov. 5, 1968. The Observer is running this list of state primaries and encouraging military personnel serving in Vietnam to contact their voting officer in regards to obtaining their absentee ballots.

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Respect Their Beliefs

Vietnamese have strong family ties. They have an obligation to care for their relatives and to prevent any of them from being in want. The traditional family unit includes those living as well as those deceased and even those not yet born.

Vietnamese elders are considered the wisest members of society. Older Vietnamese will usually not shake hands when introduced but will join their hands and bow slightly.

Officials said a majority of the 19,000 personnel inducted



"Heaven knows, I don't like to criticize, but . . ."

Information About Your Counterpart

DA NANG (USAF) — What do you know about your Vietnamese counterpart?

For example, how much money does he make a month? What is his term of service? Does he have fringe benefits?

To start with, the ARVN soldier's term of service is—as of the first of the year—for the duration of the war. You know the length of yours.

His basic training is six weeks, and covers just about the same subjects as yours. Those assigned to infantry units receive an additional three weeks of Individual Advanced Infantry Training.

Not all soldiers are infantrymen. The ARVN classification system runs the full gamut of military skills needed to maintain an army.

Some of those assigned duties as mechanics, supplymen, cooks and administrative clerks are school trained, while others receive on-the-job training with the unit to which they are assigned upon completion of basic training.

As for pay, the following cross section of various grades should give you a pretty good idea of

1st Aviation Bd. Sq. Shows Enthusiasm

CAMP ENARI (USA) — Civic action programs in Vietnam take on many variations in size and scope, but those which are the most successful require enthusiastic effort by individual soldiers.

While the villagers brought their cups and cans of all sorts to hold the milk, Captain Pettison checked over his latest project.

In an effort to contribute to the sanitation of the villagers, he has had them clean all rubbish from foot paths and is helping them with the building of a medical aid station.

"At least it gives the squadrons doctor a clean place to meet with his patients when he comes out here," he said.

"There's a lot of work to be done out in these villages," said Captain Pettison, "and the men of the squadron show that interested soldiers can contribute to a sound and successful unit civic action program.

The captain goes out nearly every day to visit with three nearby villages under squadron sponsorship. He is assisted on most of these visits by Specialist 5 Billy Ethington, a medic.

In his visits to the villages, the medic works through an interpreter to determine if anyone in the village is sick or needs special medical care.

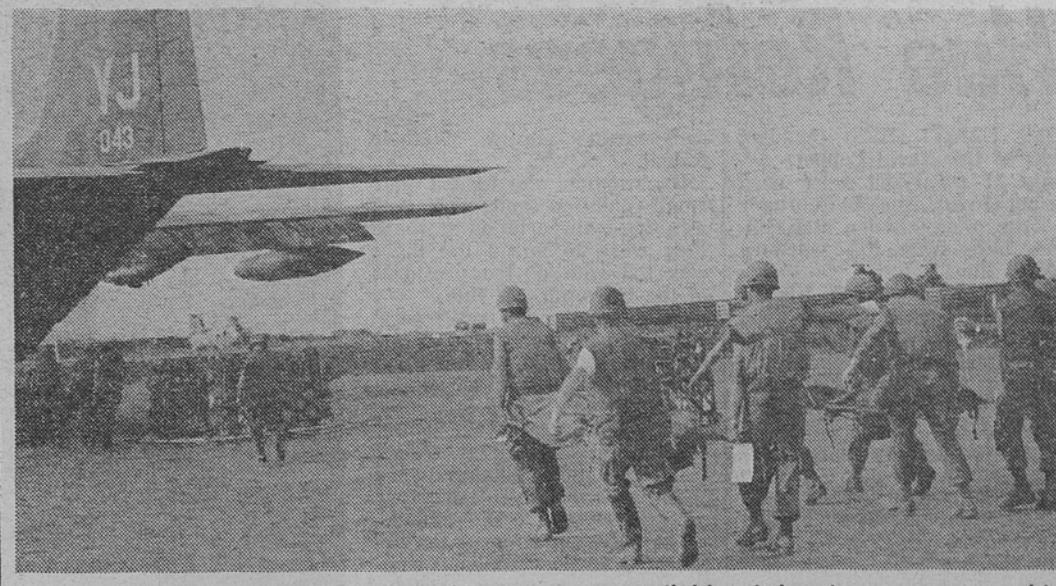
If he can, the specialist treats the sick highlander or drives the patient to the 4th Infantry Division medical dispensary at Camp Enari. Coordination between the squadron's civic action program and the program run by the division is very good, according to Captain Pettison.

In addition to the medical assistant, the captain usually takes along several other volunteers with him on the visit-work teams.

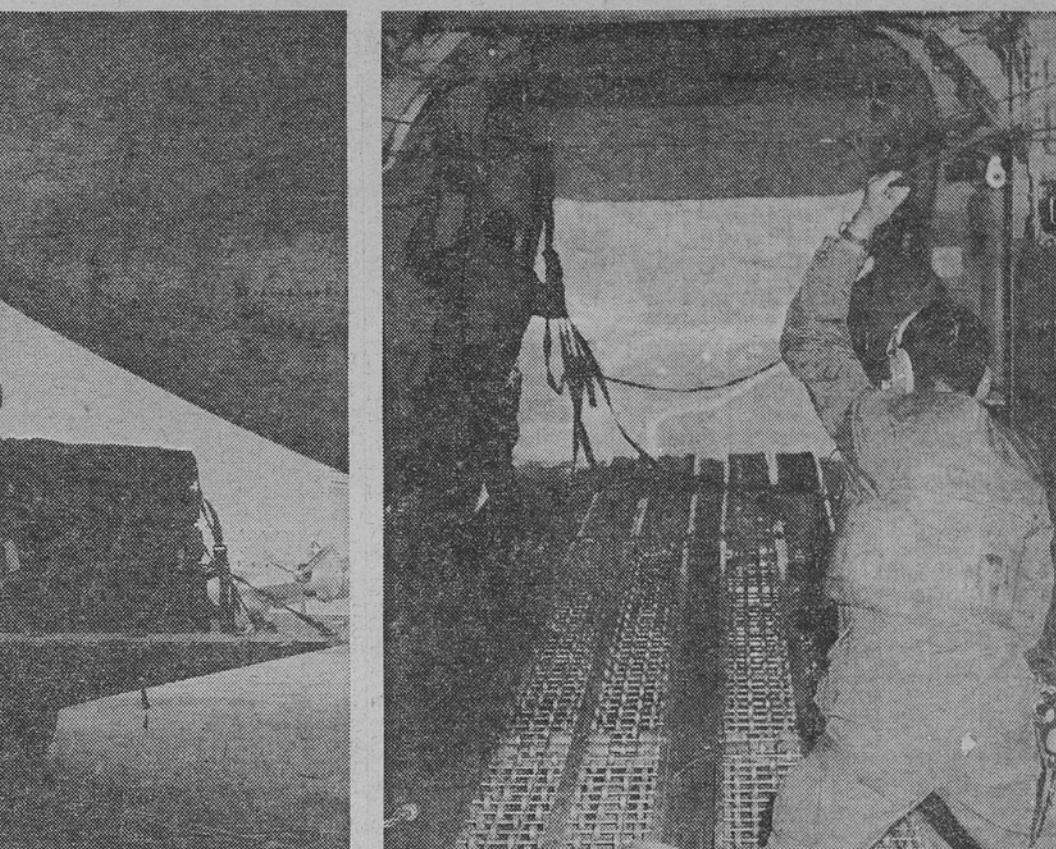
On a recent visit, the captain, with his team of five men, visited two villages, Plei Bong and Plei Wau. In each village they distributed lumber and some food in exchange for hand woven cloth, handmade cross bows and other tribal articles.

Bartered goods are sold at the base camp for a profit, which is used to buy more building materials, especially sheets of metal roofing.

On this day a special treat



HUSTLE!—Moving as rapidly as possible, everyone available pitches in to carry casualties across the Khe Sanh flightline to an awaiting C-130 Hercules aircraft for evacuation to Da Nang. Often the litter bearers and patients come under enemy sniper, mortar and rocket fire. (USAF PHOTO)



SUPPLIES—An airman (upper left) at Da Nang air base loads artillery shells into a C-130 Hercules for the Marine guns at Khe Sanh. Much of the cargo, such as in the upper right photo, is air-dropped to the Marine defenders by the 311th Air Commandos from their C-123 Provider aircraft. Waiting to be airlifted (lower photo) at Da Nang are more supplies destined for the embattled Marine location. (USAF PHOTOS)

**First Time In 2 Years****Draftees For Corps**

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense April draft call for 48,000 inductees includes 4,000 men for the Marine Corps, the first time since March 1966 the Marines have requested draftees.

According to DOD officials, the Marine Corps request is a result of the need to replace an estimated 19,000 men inducted into the Marines in late 1965 and early 1966 during an accelerated buildup of Marine personnel at that time.

"The Marine Corps request for 4,000 inductees represents the residual number of new entrants needed, which cannot be met through enlistments at currently anticipated recruitment levels," said one Defense official.

Navy Transports Hue Refugees

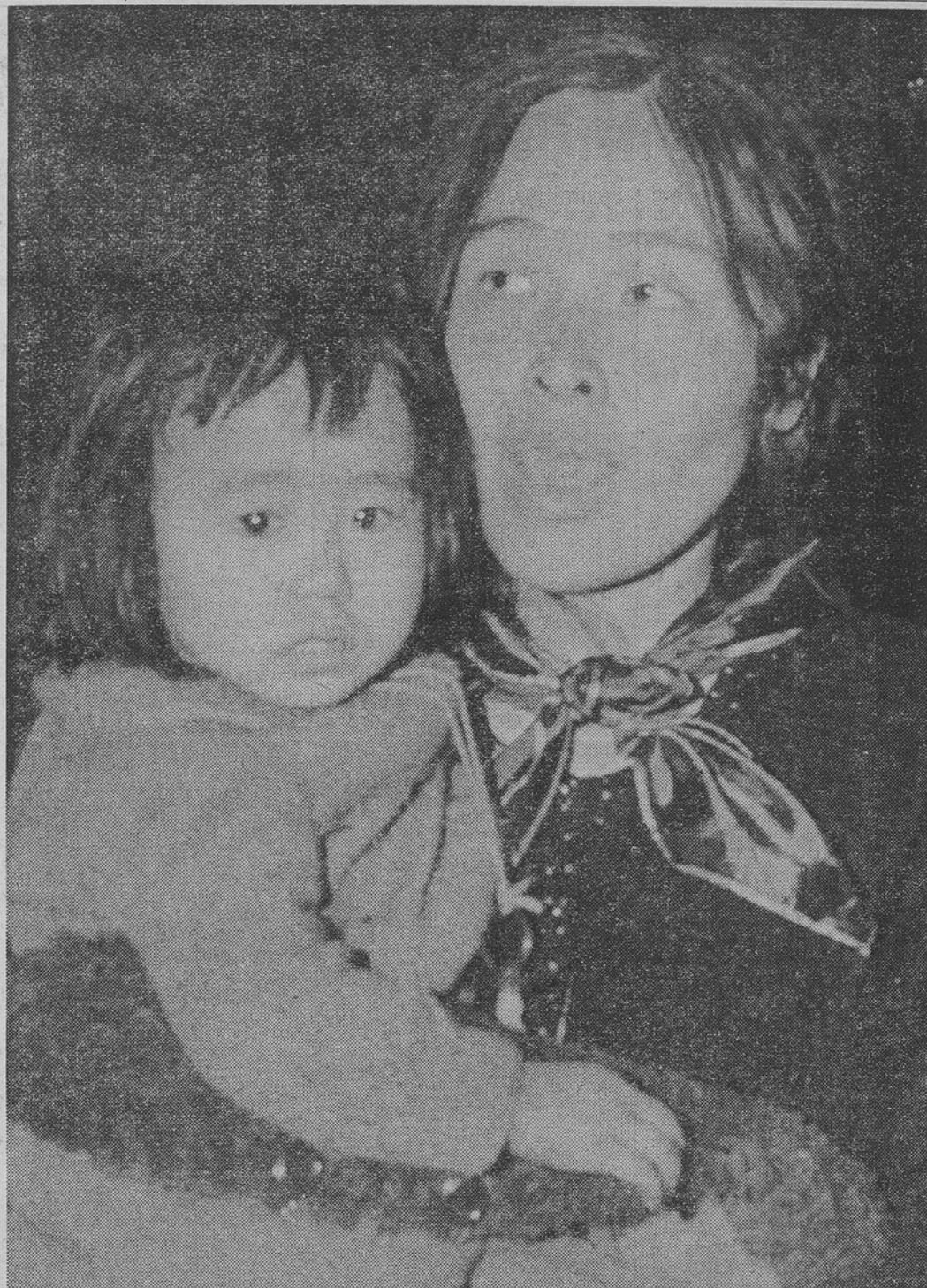
DA NANG (USN)—Landing craft of the Naval Support Activity at Da Nang were used during the last week in February to bring men, women and children here from the war-torn city of Hue.

Small girls carried baby brothers on their hips, tired mothers kept their broods together, and fathers gathered up suitcases and cardboard boxes that held their most valuable possessions.

Two nuns and four representatives from the French consulate waited three days for the boats to arrive with about 20 French refugees.

As the boats tied up, sailors began to help the families ashore. Children were handed over to fathers and mothers on the dock, and suitcases and boxes were passed along and stacked on the landing.

Most of the refugees were too tired to say much, but from



This mother and child were among several hundred brought to Da Nang.

Interview Too Close Says Military Writer

CAN THO (USA) — "You've got to be where 'Charlie' is to get a good story," said Specialist 4 William E. Cunningham, "but face to face is too close."

An information specialist with the 9th Infantry Division's Information Office, the soldier related his weird experience on the night of Feb. 21.

"I had been out for two days with 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry

2 Villages Aided By U.S. Forces

TAN TRU (USA) — Using materials provided by U.S. forces, villagers near this 9th Infantry Division base camp are rapidly making progress on a massive building project.

Through a self-help program of the division supported by a MACV advisory team, ARVN forces, and village and hamlet leaders, the people of Tan Tru and An Nhut Tan already boast of several improvements.

Tan Tru, in the Delta 26 miles southwest of Saigon, has completed a new market place, docks and a dispensary. The villagers currently are constructing a Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) center and converting an old pagoda into a town hall.

A new bridge has been built on the road connecting Tan Tru with An Nhut Tan, about two and a half miles north. An Nhut Tan has also completed a new market place.

The Truong Tieu Hoc Quan Dot School was recently dedicated at the division's base camp. It will serve more than 500 local children.

The school was constructed by the ARVN engineer battalion with technical assistance and construction materials being provided by the U.S. engineers.

Books, desks and playground equipment for the youngsters was supplied by the local Civil Affairs section.

Schools in the district receive a continuous supply of milk through the division's program. Future plans include construction of a water storage facility at Binh Lang.

some came stories of their ordeal.

One woman who tended four small children and who was awaiting transportation to where they were to spend the night was the wife of the president of the University of Hue.

"We were in the professors' compound at the University for seven days before the American Marines were able to get us out," she said.

"The VC came to our house, looking for Americans. They didn't find any, and they didn't bother us, but they took four professors away," she added.

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Unit Foils Enemy Tactics; Gets Close Artillery Support

CHU CHI (USA) — "They were sure using typical NVA tactics," said Captain Jose R. Feliciano, a company commander with the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry of American Division's 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Obviously surprised, the Viet Cong only mutter "uh . . . oh." Those were his last words as the reporter killed him with a burst from his M-16 rifle.

as part of Task Force Miracle during a four-day operation near Da Nang.

The task force, led by Colonel Louis Gelling, commanding officer of the brigade, was a multi-battalion force from American Division under the operational control of the 1st Ma-

rine Division. It recorded over 317 killed during the heavy fighting.

Company A of the 2d Battalion was sweeping an area approximately four miles from the Da Nang air base when it came under fire from an island surrounded by rice paddies.

"The NVA let us come in so close that they were sure to get a kill and at the same time, we would be unable to call in artillery for fear of hitting friendly troops," said Captain Feliciano.

"But we fooled them," he added with a grin. "We called in artillery within 50 meters of some of our troops."

The pinpoint barrage provided by Battery A of the 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery, spoiled the NVA tactics. He broke contact at about 8 p.m. after four hours of fighting.

In the morning, a check of the wooded hamlet found 32 enemy dead and five AK-47s. The well-fortified enemy position was filled with trenches, camouflaged bunkers and spider holes.

Also captured was one enemy soldier hiding under a stack of hay in a hut. He later revealed that the Communist force was part of a planned attack on the huge military complex at Da Nang.

GI Kills VC After 'Shower'

DONG TAN (USA) — A Viet Cong was killed when he gave a 9th Infantry Division sergeant an unwanted shower.

Sergeant George Pittman, of Company A, 2d Battalion, 39th Infantry was on a sweep outside Tan Tu village near the Mekong Delta base camp of Dong Tam, when his platoon encountered

enemy small arms and mortar fire.

The Sergeant scrambled for cover behind a huge water crock and began returning fire. Suddenly, an enemy round shattered his hiding place.

Astonished and dripping wet, Sergeant Pittman killed the culprit and hastened to new cover.

Artillery Unit In 42 Places At Once

LANDING ZONE JUPITER (USA) — From the southernmost part of the II Corps Tactical Zone (II CTZ) to its northern highland boundary, the men and weapons of the 4th Battalion, (automatic weapons, self propelled) 60th Artillery (4/60th), are providing vital artillery support when and wherever needed.

At a glance the battalion appears to be everywhere. Landing Zone Jupiter is a small, dusty and lonely but vital landing zone in the Highlands. While one battery of U.S. artillery supports the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces, two twin 40mm "Dusters" of the 4/60th and one quad .50 caliber machinegun of their attached "E" Battery, 41st Artillery, protect the landing zone's perimeter.

Consisting of four "Duster" batteries and an attached machinegun battery ("E", 41st Artillery) the battalion has been responsible for many confirmed enemy kills since their initial contact with enemy forces on March 28, 1967 at An Lao Valley.

The men of the battalion have since been honored with numerous decorations, while the battalion itself and its attached machinegun battery have yet to suffer a combat loss.

The battalion's guns played dominant roles in both the Nov. 1967 action at Dak To, and in a general support role during operation Pershing earlier in the year.

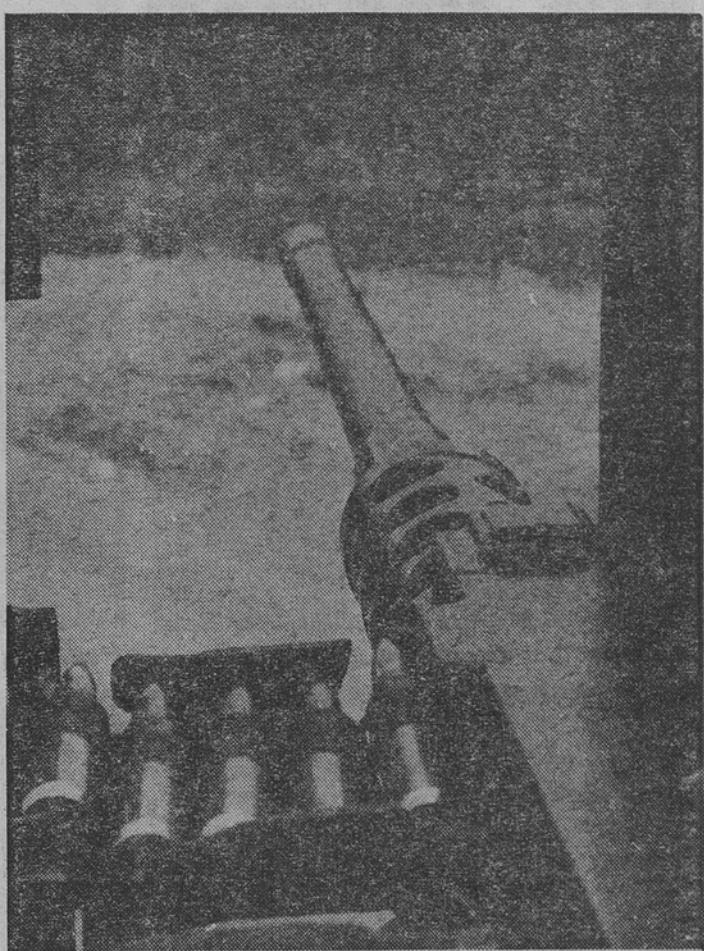
Due to the battalion's numerous locations, its commander, Lieutenant Colonel W. J. Monahan, and members of his staff, spend much of their time in the field.

Battalion surgeon, Captain James E. Anhalt, and Chaplain Samuel Hopkins, travel by both road and air every week throughout II CTZ, conducting checks and chapel services.

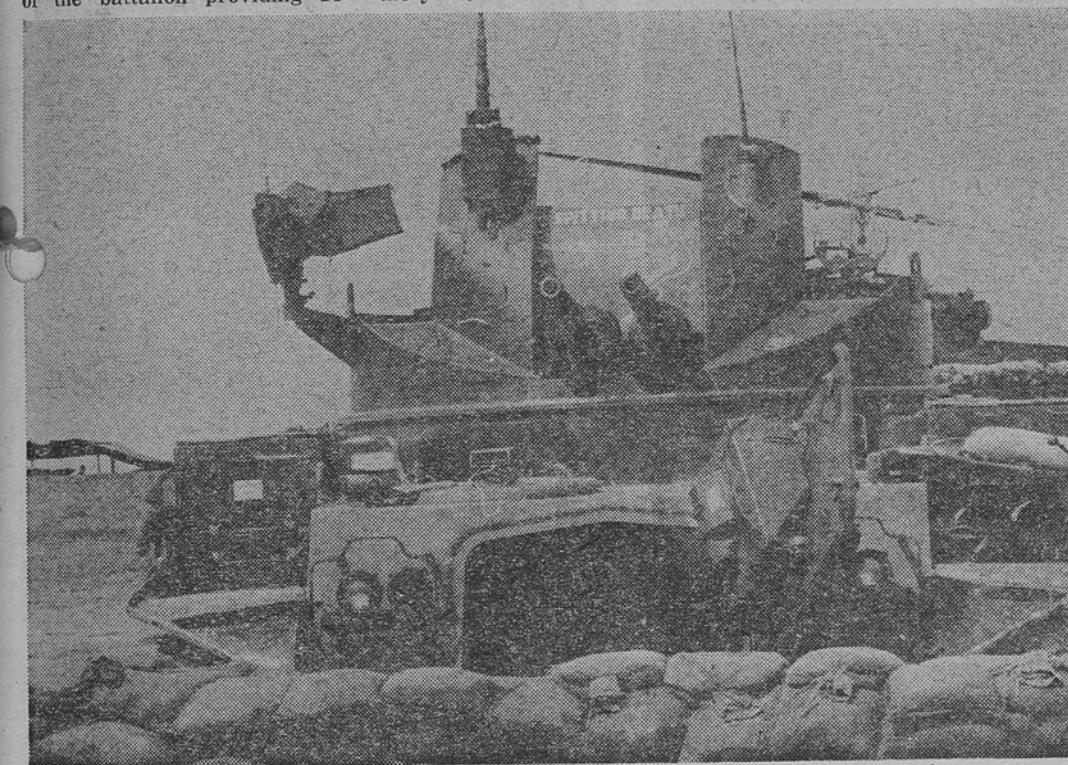
Colonel Monahan personally makes frequent trips to insure that each man and weapon is operating with maximum efficiency and safety. Often, the battalion commander, chaplain and doctor are the only contacts that the men in the field have with the battalion camp, which is located near Qui Nhon at Camp Townes.

As part of the largest artillery group in the II CTZ, the 41st Artillery Group commanded by Colonel A. V. Arnold, the 4/60th has successfully met each of the complex problems which has arisen from their unique, diversified tasks, while contributing a maximum effort to the free world military forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

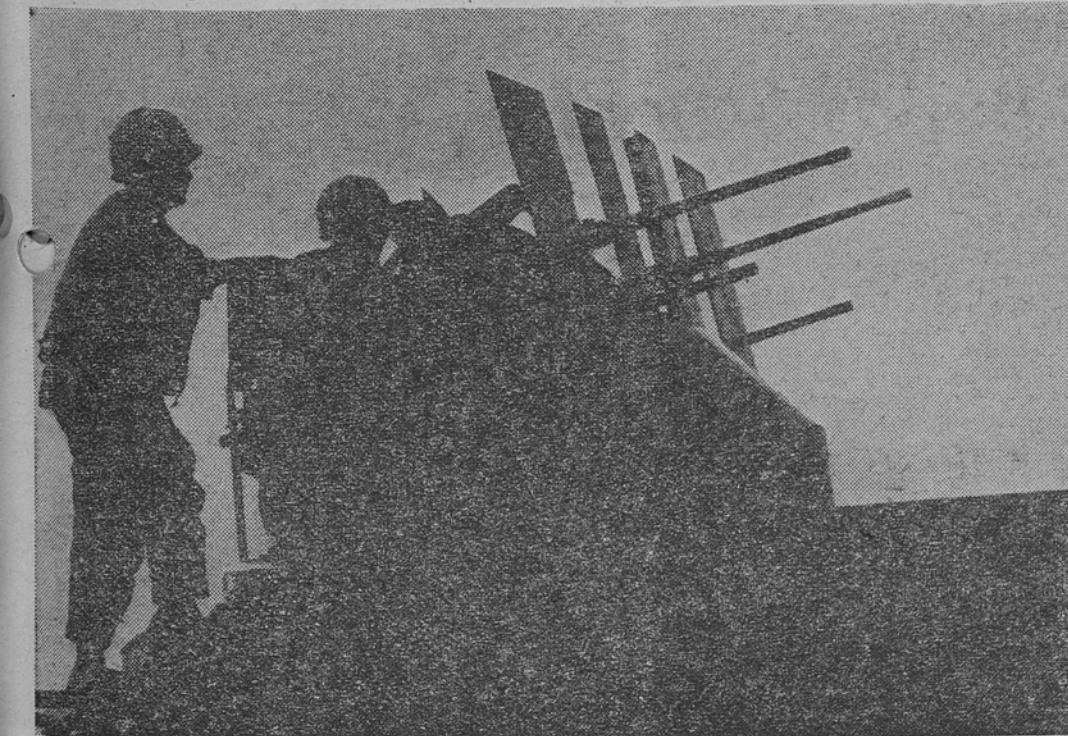
Story and Photos by:
Sp 5 I. Zvirbulis



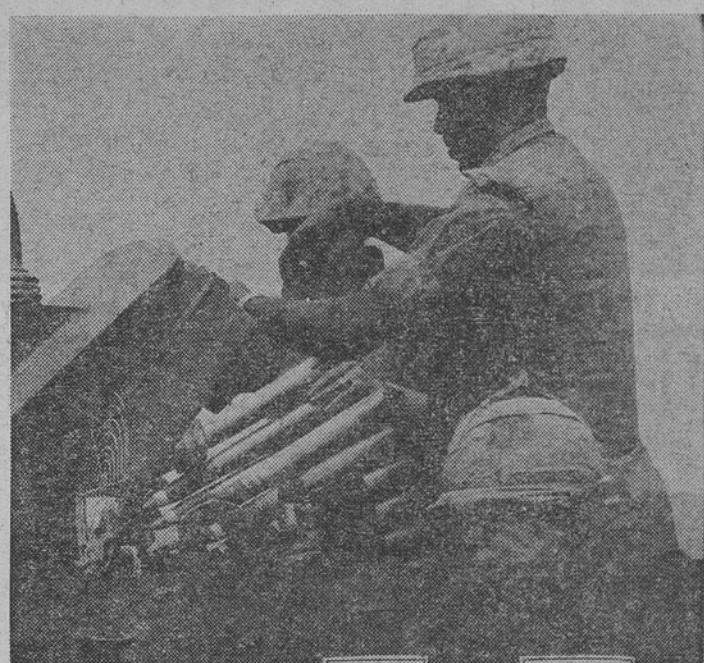
The barrel of a machinegun overlooks the valley.



"Spitting Death" protects the perimeter at Landing Zone Two Bits in the II CTZ.



Men of "E" Battery stand guard over their quad .50 caliber machinegun.



A "Duster" is loaded by Specialist 4 David Clarke.



Another "Duster" lets go with defensive fire.

'Mr. Half-Million' On Tour Of Bangkok

MACV OBSERVER STORYOTOS By Sp5 Russ Grant



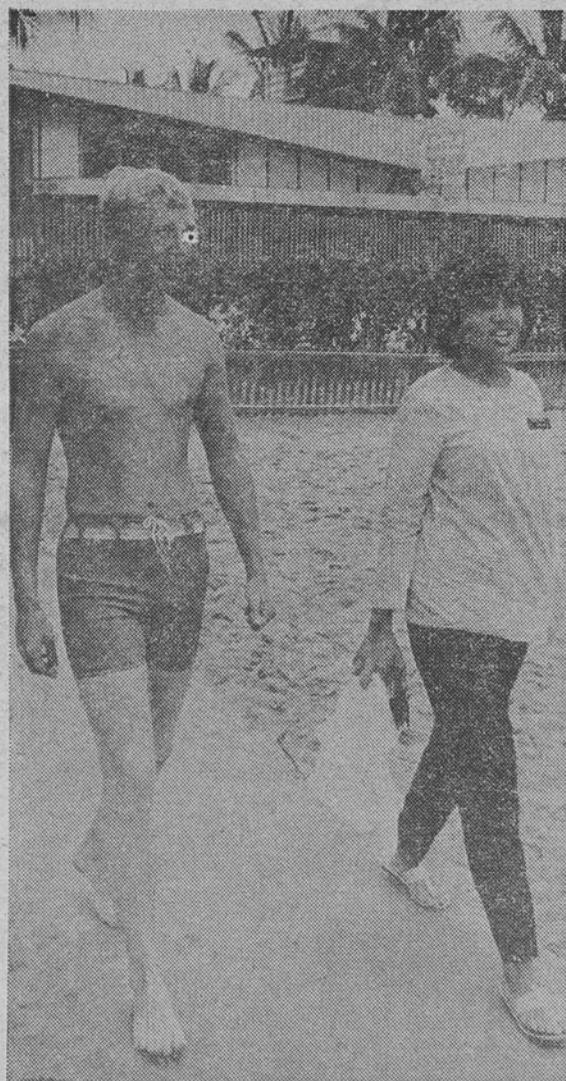
A special Thai attraction at the R&R briefing.



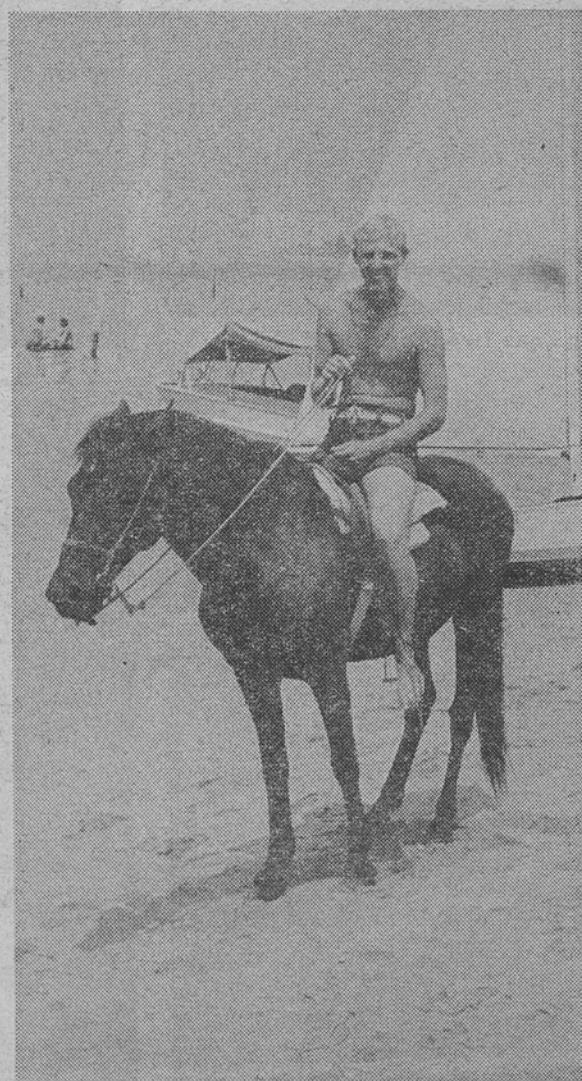
Bann Thai Restaurant offers excellent cuisine.



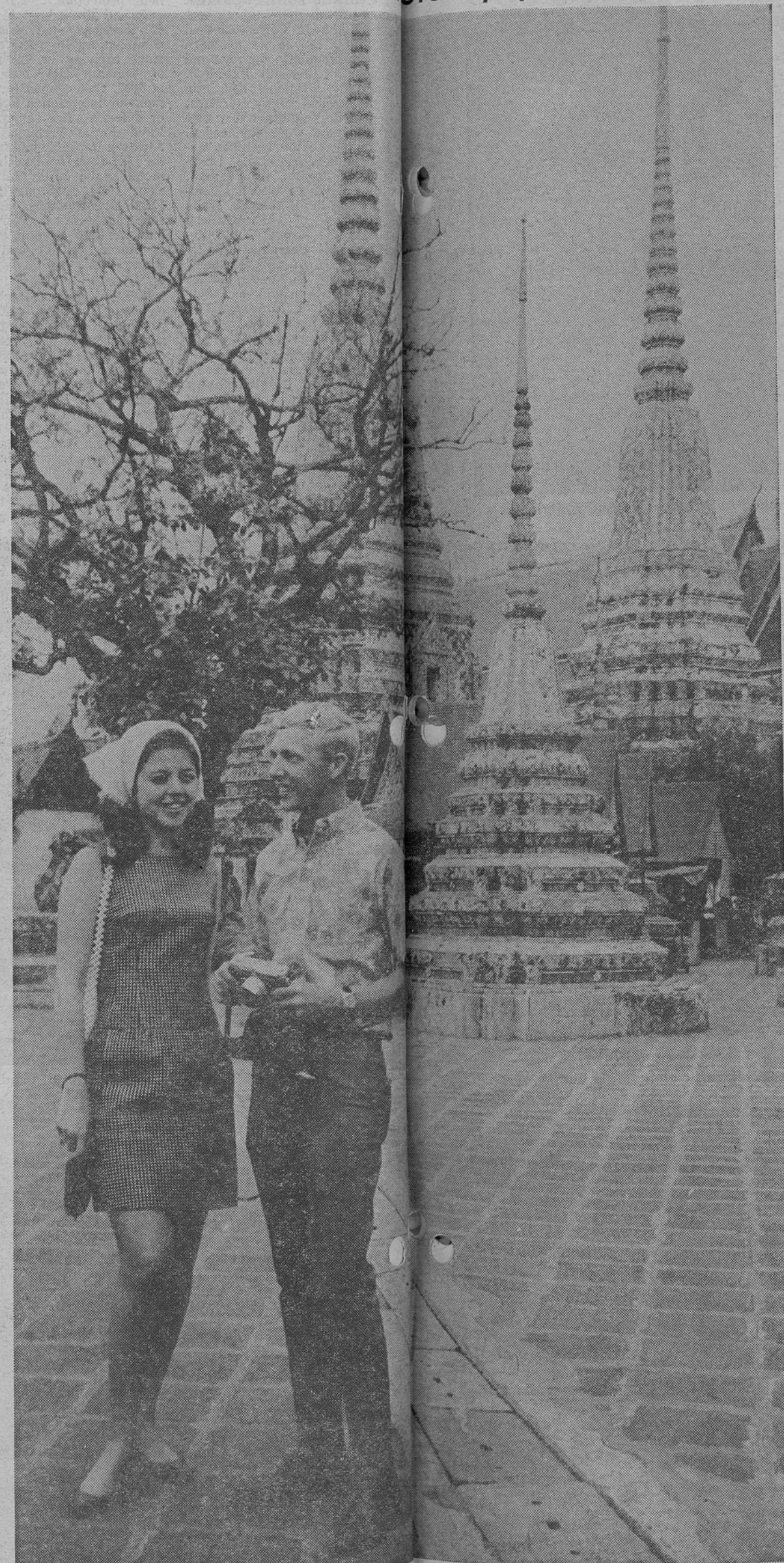
Delicately carved ivory is examined by Dave and Mary Ann during their shopping tour.



Dave and his friend, Amara, are off to the shore.



Pattaya Beach for sailing, riding and skiing.



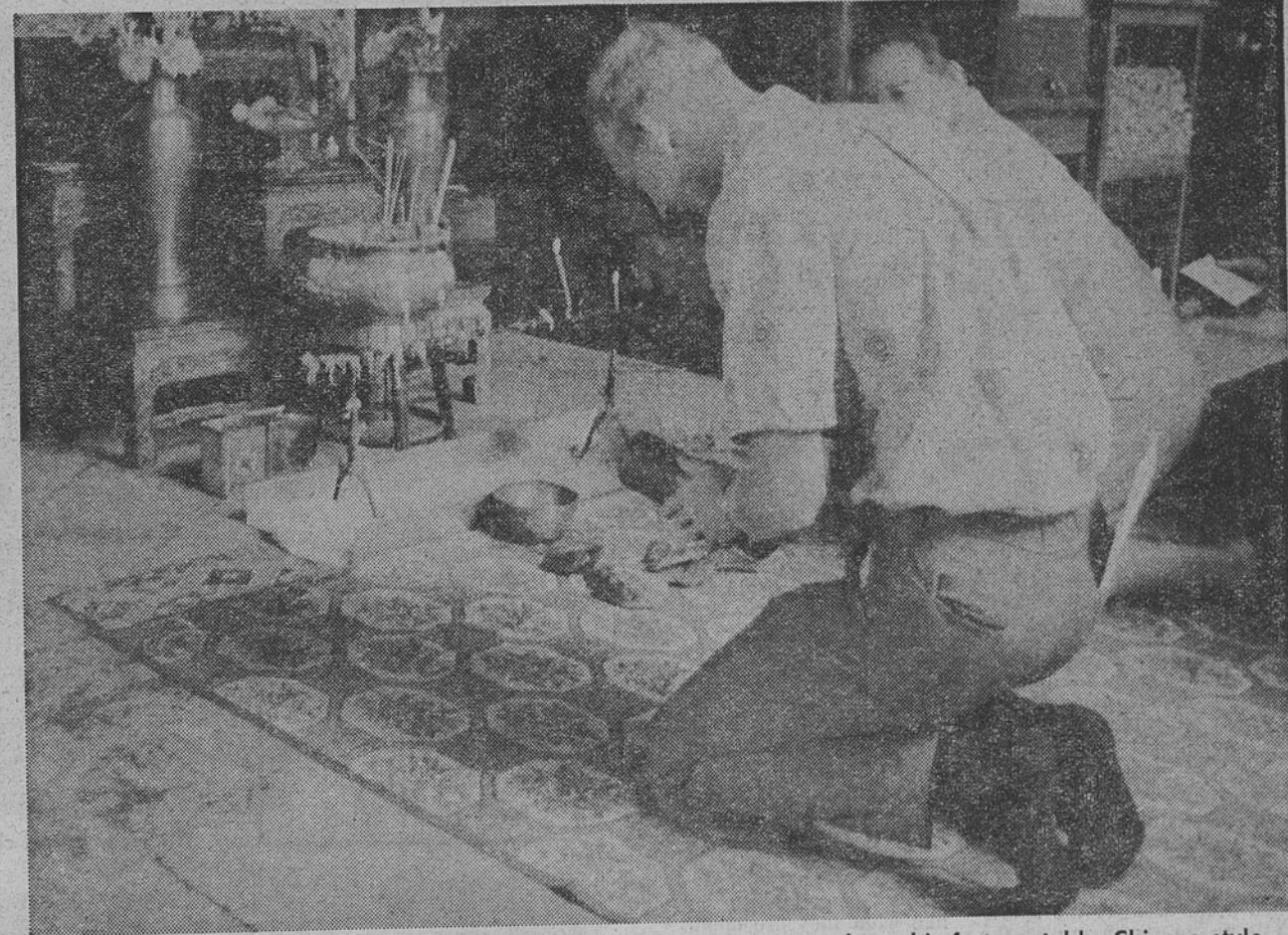
After visiting the Temple of The Reclining Buddha and Mary Ann pause for a snapshot or two.



A traditional Thai welcome—flowers that is....



And after this Thai greeting an iced drink awaited them.



While visiting the Temple of the Reclining Buddha David prepares to have his fortune told—Chinese style.



This speedy water taxi is at your service whenever you wish to visit Bangkok's Floating Market.



An armored jeep on "road patrol" moves down a jungle path seeking the enemy.

MPs Wear Many Hats

LONG BINH (USA)—Almost the last person an infantryman expects to see when fighting in the jungles of Vietnam is a Military Policeman, but today the MPs are playing a big role in combat operations.

In the III Corps Tactical Zone members of the 720th MP Battalion, part of the 18th MP Brigade, perform duties much the same as other such units. Interior guards are concerned with the security of military compounds. They check Vietnamese nationals coming and going; highway patrols are on the move constantly; and escorts are provided for convoys and dignitaries.

Currently the most unique operation of the 720th MP Battalion is called Operation Stabilize, combining police and infantry tactics with civic action projects.

The operation began in Oct. 1967 and encompasses a 20 square-mile area, one mile south of Long Binh post. The mission is to assume responsibility for the Tactical Area of Operations; locate and destroy Viet Cong-North Vietnamese Army forces in the area; enhance the security of Long Binh post, Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, and Bien Hoa air base. Further it is to provide assistance to government of Vietnam forces to upgrade Regional and Popular Forces outposts within the assigned area. Goal of the operation is to let the Army of the Republic of Vietnam take over the reins of control of the area. All of these efforts are jointly conducted with organic Vietnamese elements.

Continuous land and water patrols probe the sensitive areas day and night. The land patrols concern themselves with reconnaissance, ambush and combat.

The water patrols screen the Song Dang Nai River and its tributaries, providing security and transportation, and checking sampans on the river.

Additionally, the MPs engage in civic action programs. Their purpose is to help the Vietnamese people gain confidence in themselves and in their government. Roads and schools are being built and Medical Civic Action Programs (MEDCAP) are conducted continuously.

LAND PATROLS

At any time, day or night, the MPs may get an assignment to probe an area in search of the

enemy. Patrols may range from six to 24 hours, or last for days. Waiting silently in the night, hoping to catch an unwary Viet Cong party, is admittedly an anxious and tiring duty. "Sometimes we wait all night for the enemy to come by and he doesn't show," said one patrol leader. "Then there are times when he comes by and we are waiting for him. That's when the waiting pays off."

After the patrols have finished their mission they start for a prearranged pick-up point where their boats await them.

RIVER PATROLS

The Song Dang Nai River, with its tributaries, has a steady flow of traffic. With five 16-foot, flat-bottom aluminum boats, each powered by two 25-horsepower engines, these "Water Ducks" of the MP unit control the area checking for contraband aboard sampans and for suspected VC. Firepower for the patrols include an M-60 machinegun, M-14 rifle, M-79 grenade launcher and the MPs old reliable—the .45 caliber pistol.

Even this patrol can become monotonous at times. As one MP put it: "After a while, the sampans begin to all look alike. You may think you have just finished checking one when it pops up again."

The water-borne MPs volunteered for their jobs, as did the combat patrols. They say they like what they are doing.

HIGHWAY PATROLS

With the major highways of Vietnam being traveled by Vietnamese and Americans alike, there is always the question: How can a better system of traffic investigation be formed? Through combined efforts, the Vietnamese National Police, Vietnamese MPs and the U.S. MPs work in groups while patrolling the miles of dirt and paved roads. This combined effort has led to better relations among all concerned.

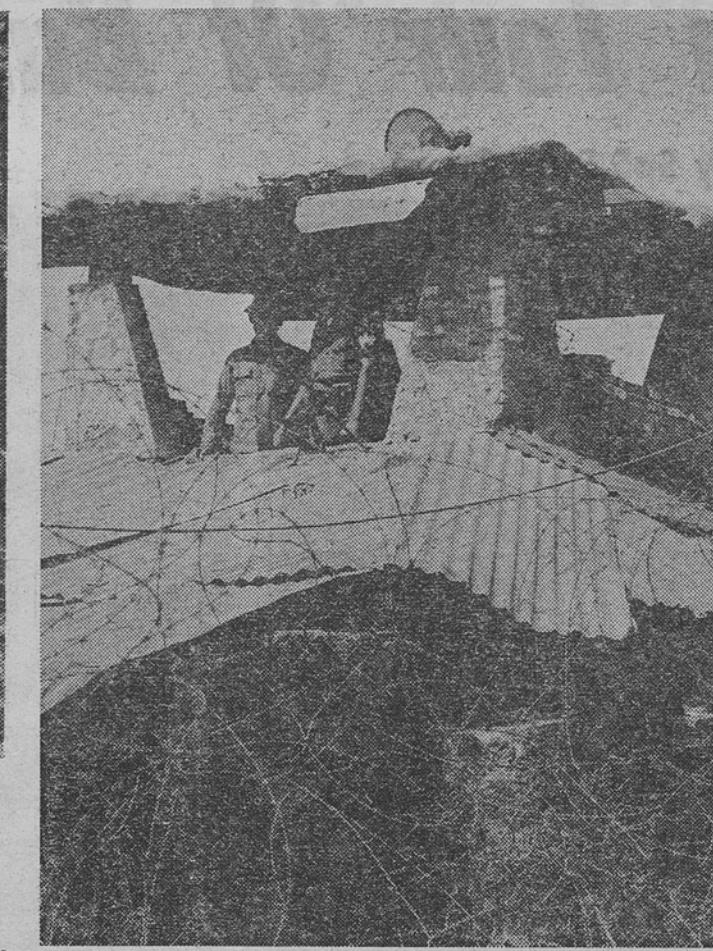
Through this practical application, the men of the 720th Battalion are teaching their Vietnamese law enforcement counterparts new methods of investigation and traffic control.

CONVOY ESCORTS

The 720th provides company units as convoy escorts to Xuan Loc and Tay Ninh daily. The roads they must travel are treacherous at times.

Six jeeps and one armored vehicle give security to a convoy

Story by:
Sp 5 Larry Thomason
Photos by:
Sp 4 Henry Lowrie



Outposts are manned by Vietnamese and Americans.



The river patrol checks all traffic along main waterways.



Traffic investigation has smoothed out due to joint Vietnamese-U.S. efforts.

Tet Attack On Hue Not Original

WASHINGTON (USMC) — When a well-armed Viet Cong and North Vietnamese unit infiltrated the city of Hue recently they not only violated their own Tet Lunar New Year Truce, they repeated a maneuver enacted 179 years ago.

In 1789 Vietnamese patriot General Nguyen Hue and his army celebrated Tet five days early. Then they marched 300 miles up the Vietnamese coast and attacked a Chinese invasion force that presumed General Hue would be celebrating like the rest of the country.

In 1968 the Viet Cong and NVA attack on the City of Hue recalled that of the past . . . they had prepared for it beforehand, storing arms and ammunition.

When the VC and NVA visited pagodas and churches, they prepared sniper traps and strongholds to use against allied forces. By Jan. 31, the North Vietnamese forces and Viet Cong were

openly in battle for the city, with a force of perhaps 3,000.

The 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, (2/5) and 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment (1/1) were reinforced and ordered into Hue on Feb. 2, to combat this invasion of the city.

The Marines fought hard to regain control of the military radio station, freeing a number of American citizens who had been held captive by the enemy.

In the days that followed, Marine advances were measured in yards and feet. It had been 18 years since Marine units had engaged a strong enemy in street fighting. The house-to-house battles were reminiscent of the bitter actions in and around Seoul during the Korean war.

Besides battling the enemy, Marines evacuated over 1,500 civilians from the area, treating their wounds, feeding and protecting them as they fled from combat areas.

After a costly advance, Marine battalions retook a hospital that

had been under enemy control, and found 76 North Vietnamese dead and 42 weapons.

One of the Marine battalions recaptured the province jail, but found it empty. It's 2,500 prisoners, including 500 hard-core Viet Cong, had been freed by the enemy force.

One building retaken from the Communists contained 56 dead enemy, 117 rifles and pistols, and four machineguns.

Gunner Sergeant Frank Thomas, assisted by Private First Class Alan McDonald and Private First Class Walter Kacmarek were cheered by the other Marines as they hoisted a small American flag tied to a bamboo pole. The flag with its stand (a chair) was placed atop the brick wall of the Citadel.

"O. K., 'Charlie.' See if you can knock it down," one Marine yelled.

To slow the Leathernecks advance the enemy used rockets, mortar, machinegun and rifle fire. The enemy had dug into

trenches and foxholes. They had also damaged the bridge across the River of Perfumes, hampering the Marine resupply route.

Brigadier General Foster C. Lahue, commander of the attacking Marines, pointed to the high, 12-foot thick wall surrounding the Citadel.

"That wall was built to defend the city, of course, and the damned thing is doing its job. As soon as we crack that wall, we're going right in!"

Marine jets and artillery combined with naval destroyer guns to blast enemy emplacements. Marine helicopters hovered over enemy positions and fired machineguns at the Viet Cong and NVA troops.

Allied intelligence reported that the North Vietnamese planned to rescue the besieged Citadel survivors, using a 2,500 man guerrilla force. Radar picked up two Communist truck convoys headed for Hue. Allied fire turned back the convoy and Marine aircraft strafed and bombed

the enemy vehicles.

On Feb. 21, Marines made a daring advance at 4 a.m., charging while the enemy slept. It appeared that the 22-day battle for Hue was nearing an end.

It turned out to be a good day. The Leathernecks, joined by South Vietnamese Rangers, had breached the wall of the Citadel. Also, the cloud covering cleared, and Marine aircraft flew in reinforcements and supplies.

But it was not easy. Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., Marine commander in Vietnam, said, "the enemy is sticking to the last man."

One Marine company found 140 freshly dug mounds within the Citadel walls. Investigating they found 140 uniformed dead North Vietnamese soldiers.

In all, nearly 3,000 Communists were killed in Hue. U.S. Marine casualties were 124 killed and approximately 1,000 wounded.



Men of the Fifth Marines move through a tower guarding an entrance to the ancient walled city of Hue. (USMC PHOTO By SSgt. J.L. Harlan)

Communist Assault On Ancient Hue Brings War To 'Mecca Of Vietnam'

WASHINGTON (USMC)—The city of Hue, where U.S. Marines recently have been involved in bitter fighting against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces, has been called the mecca of Vietnam. It has long been known as the center of culture, tradition and learning, and unlike its sister cities of Da Nang and Saigon, had remained relatively free of Western influence.

Religion in Hue is a mixture of ancient customs, beliefs and ancestor worship, with a tendency toward the teachings of Confucius, a reminder of the prolonged association with imperial China. The people also tend to follow the various religions of their ancestors. There are also about 30,000 Roman Catholics in the city.

Until invaded by Communist forces recently, the city had become almost a haven in a war-torn country, its shrines, palaces, tombs and royal reliques almost unscathed by the war that raged around it. The city lived a serene, quiet life. Its people farmed, sold their goods in the market place, and fished in almost peaceful contentment.

Hue is situated in Tua Thien Province, about midway between

Da Nang and the Demilitarized Zone.

Buddhism is the primary religion of the people, although it is not a clearly defined Buddhism.

Like the Mekong Delta to the south, the area is warm and moist enough to support three rice crops a year. There is an annual rainfall of 116 inches, with the maximum fall from September to January. The area is also subjected to late summer typhoons.

Residents of Hue, with their 600 automobiles and 70,000 bicycles lived both within and outside the walled enclosure called the Citadel, which encloses approximately half the city's six square miles.

The Citadel and its walls were begun in 1802 by the Emperor Gia Long, who made Hue his capital after he consolidated the country following two centuries

of civil war.

Using a plan designed by French advisors, he built the walls as a protection from pirates who lurked nearby in the South China Sea.

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of civil war.

Today a plowed field is all that remains of the area where the emperor's apartments once stood.

Civic Project 'Lays An Egg'

QUI NHON (USA)—A Qui Nhon Support Command Civil Affairs project laid an egg. But, contrary to what one would expect, all concerned were proud of the accomplishment.

This product was an added attraction in the opening day ceremonies of a combination animal husbandry-park project for the Qui Nhon citizens. The project is an example of the cooperation between the local municipal authorities and U.S. military civil affairs efforts.

Pig pens, duck and chicken coops and pond became part of the landscape. Four pigs, 10 chickens and 27 ducks were the main attraction of the festivities. Some 250 visitors strolled through the park, observing and participating in the mid-day feeding of the animals.

And, for the final performance of the afternoon, one of the chickens laid a Grade A egg.



LIEUTENANT THREE-EYES—What seems to be a "glassy-eyed lieutenant" is none other than Navy Petty Officer First Class Arthur E. Cutter Jr.'s motion picture camera. PHI Cutter, a member of the Department of Defense Navy Combat Motion Picture Team, is preparing his camera for filming the 17th Aviation Group's second anniversary at Nha Trang. Oh yes, the officer's hat perched on the camera belongs to another photographer assigned to the 52nd Aviation Battalion at Pleiku.

(USA PHOTO)

Army Sp4 Honored With Trip...

(Continued From Page 1) icemen, their dependents and their guests.

Another enjoyable stop was Timland, a unique community designed to provide glimpses of Thai traditions and culture. Here exhibitions of traditional

Ship's Crew Sends Letter

SAIGON (MACV) — A recent communiqué received at this headquarters from the officers and crew of the SS US Tourist is another example of gratitude and praise to the Armed Forces in Vietnam.

The citation reads in part, . . . The officers and crew aboard the SS US Tourist in the United States Merchant Marine while discharging ammunition and high explosives do hereby reverently, with deep and sincere appreciation, express our gratitude to the men in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam for courageously and valiantly defending us against the enemies attack at close range upon us on Feb. 14th and 18th.

The letter of appreciation was sent to General William C. Westmoreland, Commander Military Assistance Command in Vietnam conveying the thanks to the men in the Cat Lai and Nha Be area, where the ship was unloading supplies at the time of the attack.

sports — Thai Boxing, sword fighting, pole fighting and cock fighting — are held.

The story of Thai silk is vividly presented in a live panorama from silk worm spinning out the raw thread to the craftsman weaving the precious finished material.

Elephants, trained for five years, show how they move the heavy, highly prized teakwood logs from the ancient rain forests to the rivers down which they are floated to the sawmills.

Pits and glass tanks contain a less attractive facet of Thai life — the citizens of the reptile world: Boa Constrictors, King Cobras, Pythons and other of the slithery species.

This less pleasant stop is soon forgotten at the throbbing pageant of sinuous dancers performing the colorful, double-jointed movements of Thai folk rhythms and classic national ballet.

Returning to the city, Dave resumed his explorations of this unique oriental wonderland. He

visited the famous floating market on the canals (called Klangs) of this Eastern Venice. Here on the watery byways, in the shadow of ancient temples and palaces, a wide variety of goods from foodstuffs grown in the countryside, to cloth and other items is bought and sold to the rising and falling inflections of merchant and customer haggling over prices.

Fronting the canal is the Thai silk company where still another surprise awaited Dave. Along with the silks, bronze-ware, jewelry and wood products being displayed for sale the company features a garden and resident therein are a couple of drunks.

The difference being that the two "luses" are a (pair) of black bears who enjoy chugging a few Thai brews . . . but, like all of their thirsty ilk, the bruins pay the penalty with bear-sized hangovers.

The Marquis of Queensbury would have been aghast at the boxing match Dave attended in Rajadamnern Stadium one

night. In Thai boxing anything goes — gloved fists, taped feet, knees and elbows above or below the belt, all to the rhythm of a local oriental (combo) — and the audience reaction to an unpopular decision is almost as violent: vegetables, plastic containers of beer and anything that isn't nailed down is hurled into the ring.

At last the "Cinderella-soldier" arrived at the hour of departure. A little tired and still dazed by the unexpected turn of events he boarded his flight back to duty . . . but his date had beat him to it. Dave met Mary Ann aboard the plane, back in her uniform, this time serving him a steak dinner.

Although the R&R is over Dave bears with him many memories and many tangible reminders of the magic moment when he was "Mr. Half-Million" in the fabled "Land of the White Elephant."

Pagoda Shelters Refugees . . .

(Continued From Page 1) paper is fastened to the wire to indicate who lives there.

Other families have built crude homes of poles and metal roofing; still others have draped blankets and shelter halves over bamboo to create private shelters.

A small building adjacent to the pagoda has been turned into the camp dispensary. Four Vietnamese doctors come in to conduct sick call daily, and a staff of one medical assistant and five nurses are on full-time duty.

The dispensary has a pharmacy, examination room and can even take care of minor surgery.

The magnificent central hall of the pagoda, with large altars and elaborate works of art, has become a recreational area for the children, many of whom have papers with their names printed on them pinned to their clothing. Here coeds from Saigon's schools and the Saigon and Ghia Dinh Boy Scouts conduct supervised play programs for the youngsters — with the help of a bull horn.

Possible Epidemic Averted

XUAN LOC (III CTZ) — Combined efforts of Vietnamese, United States and Philippine medical personnel were successful in stopping what could have been a serious epidemic of bubonic plague in Long Khanh Province, 40 miles northeast of Saigon.

In late February it was discovered that six people had died in the Tan Phong Village, near Xuan Loc, with symptoms of what appeared to be bubonic plague.

The sick were taken to the Long Khanh Province hospital and placed in an isolation ward to minimize the spread of the disease.

Captain Roy Schneider, medical advisor to the 18th ARVN Division Surgeon, was notified of the pending threat and he immediately sent lab samples to the Pasteur Institute in Saigon for confirmation. The results of the findings were positive indication of bubonic plague.

Knowing that time was critical, Captain Schneider, along with Mun Ming, a Vietnamese health official, Dr. Oro Zuniga, director of the Philippine medical unit in the province, and Harvey Clark, local USAID representative, began preparations to stop the spread of the disease.

They burned the clothing and homes of those who had died from the disease. In addition, DDT compound was used in areas where cases of the plague had been confirmed and rat poison was placed in locations where the disease carrying rodents were suspected of living and breeding. The teams also vaccinated all the people in the surrounding communities.

In the period of three days — working around the clock — the small teams were able to stop the spread of the plague and eliminate further outbreaks.

Pilots Airlift Live Catfish

BIEN HOA (USA) — Warrant Officers Harold R. Nelson and Eugene G. Spivey with the 118th Assault Helicopter Company flew a very unusual assignment recently.

In support of Company A, 5th Special Forces, they airlifted 300 live catfish in 55 gallon drums. The fish will be used to stock a pond near the Special Forces camp located about 60 miles northeast of Saigon. Later, it is hoped, the fish will provide food for the local people, said one of the helicopter pilots.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
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(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

GVN, U.S. Help Province Rebuild

TAY NINH (MACV) — A full-scale reconstruction program today is rapidly removing the scars left in Tay Ninh province in the wake of the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese Tet offensive.

Provincial officials said that building materials, supplies and cash have been distributed to 772 families in the hamlets of Long My and Phouc Can which were hit Feb. 17 and 23, respectively, by the Communists.

In Long My, 280 of 1,000 homes were totally destroyed, while 492 houses were leveled in Phouc Can.

Reconstruction is well under

way in Long My, located on the outskirts of the provincial capital of Tay Ninh, and work has begun at Phouc Can, three kilometers from the Cambodian border.

Lieutenant Colonel Ho Duc Trung, Tay Ninh Province chief, is credited with spearheading the counter offensive that routed the Communist from both hamlets and also with rapid action to get "Operation Recovery" into high gear.

Lieutenant Colonel Ray C. Podesta Jr., deputy senior U.S. advisor, said that Colonel Trung recorded tape instructions and encouragement for residents of

the two hamlets immediately after learning that the enemy had infiltrated them.

Colonel Trung, accompanied by Vietnam Information Service officers, went into Long My with sound jeeps playing the tapes, urging the residents to evacuate their homes.

Then elements of the 199th Brigade of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division joined with Regional and Popular forces to kill 105 of the enemy in routing an estimated battalion of VC who had occupied Long My.

The residents left homeless were immediately relocated in the compound of the Cao Dai

Holy See where they are being provided with shelter, food and medical care by the First Philippine Civic Action Group. Many have already returned to the hamlet to rebuild their homes.

In addition, 15 Revolutionary Development teams are assisting reconstruction in both hamlets.

The Government of Vietnam (GVN) and the Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) agency have distributed 10 corrugated roofing sheets, 10 bags of cement and 5,000 piasters to each of the families.

"Colonel Trung has stated that he expects to have all the de-

stroyed homes in the two hamlets rebuilt in 30 days," said Colonel Podesta. "And I think he is going to accomplish his objective.

"He and the Vietnam Information Service did an outstanding job, and their prompt action in the hamlets undoubtedly saved the lives of a large number of civilians. The VIS prepared leaflets that were rapidly distributed to keep the residents fully informed and assured them that the GVN would provide not only temporary relief but also long-term assistance in rebuilding their homes," concluded the colonel.

Inf Kills 262 NVA In 48 hrs.

CHU LAI (USA) — Less than 48 hours after it had been landed by helicopters from Chu Lai, the 198th Infantry Brigade's First Battalion, Sixth Infantry, was in its first head-to-head encounter with the NVA since arrival in Vietnam.

Action was so heavy that after the first 24 hours of battle, the enemy body count had reached almost 160 and after 48 hours the total enemy dead was 262.

The battalion was called in as a part of the 1st Marine Division's Task Force Miracle to stop a determined NVA attack on the huge Da Nang military complex 35 miles north of Chu Lai.

As each company arrived at the Marines' base camp, it was moved out in the darkness and placed into blocking positions.

Although unknown at the time, two of the newly arrived companies were moving straight into the middle of an enemy force estimated to be about 1,000 men strong.

While crossing a swamp, one of the companies suddenly came under intense fire from an enemy force of an unknown size. With his forward elements pinned down in the open, the company commander called for helicopter gunships, which swept through enemy .50 caliber machine gun fire and allowed the pinned down platoon to escape.

A short time later, the other company was hit by heavy automatic weapons fire, mortars, small arms fire and rockets near the village of Lo Giang.

After pinning down the U.S. company, the estimated NVA regiment came charging out of

(Continued on Back Page)

TARP
Tet Aggression
Relief Project

FIRST IN VIETNAM
THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 45

Saigon, Vietnam

March 13, 1968



MEDIC—A wounded soldier is treated by a combat medic and three other troopers during the Tet fighting. (USA PHOTO)

159 Enemy Zapped

Marines Assist ARVNs

DA NANG (USMC) — U.S. Marines killed 159 North Vietnamese Army regulars and captured 24 weapons during a search and destroy operation south of Da Nang.

The two days of heavy fighting was triggered by an enemy assault on a compound of the 51st ARVN Regiment near Highway 1.

Elements of the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment were

dispatched to the battle site to assist the Vietnamese.

Two companies from the 2nd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment joined the operation and began a joint sweep with the 3rd Battalion Leathernecks.

Contact was heavy the first day of fighting and continued late into the night.

Marine air support and artillery played a major role in the battle. Enemy positions were

continually hit by Huey gunship fire, fixed-wing airstrikes and artillery rounds.

In one of the final actions of the operation, an estimated 30 enemy kills were recorded as a force of NVA was spotted moving into a treeline in the early hours of the morning. Artillery was called in on the position and heavy Marine small arms fire blasted the area.

Enemy field equipment, uniforms and 2,300 rounds of ammunition were captured in the action.

Doctors Sew Up Heart Punctured By Shrapnel

DA NANG (USN) — The tall U.S. Navy doctor stripped the surgical gloves from his hands, wiped the perspiration from his brow, and smiled.

"We sewed up a heart," he said to those who had gathered outside the operating room.

Little more than two hours earlier, a small boy had been brought into the Da Nang, Vietnam's Surgical Hospital. The child's heart had been punctured by shrapnel, which had then passed through his liver and lodged in his abdomen.

Navy Lieutenant Commander Bilvert T. Herod and Doctor

Robert N. Neilson decided to attempt the operation. If successful, it would be the first cardiac operation performed in Da Nang during Lt. Commander Herod's 18 months tour and possibly a first for the hospital.

The boy was immediately given intravenous fluids and blood. His breathing was irregular. A tube was put down his throat and the doctors "breathed for him" through the tube.

Once the chest cavity was opened, the doctors found that the shrapnel had left an inch- (Continued on Back Page)

Editorial

Your Vote

Congress has tried to perfect it, soldiers have died to protect it, yet this year about half of you probably will neglect it. It's absentee voting—your chance to fight with ballots as well as bullets.

Soldiers haven't always had that right. Congress gave them the vote in the Civil War. Then during World War II Federal Post Card Applications (FPCA) were provided so they could vote back home while serving overseas. Ballots are delivered personally to soldiers wanting them, even in frontline foxholes.

With the presidential election coming up Nov. 5, and some state primaries being held as early as April, the time to prepare yourself for voting is now.

Where is your home state? How do you register to vote there? What's the deadline? Which are the big issues back home, and how do the candidates stand on them?

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BOSTON, MASS. 02108

Such questions are a starting point for intelligent voting. A careless choice may do more harm than good, so be informed. Let your ballot represent your best interest.

Scan the newspapers serving your home state. Ask your family to forward political columns, clippings of speeches. If you want more information, there are nonpartisan organizations which provide it.

The League of Women Voters, for instance, can give you information based on the candidates' records and opinions expressed on pertinent issues. Just write to League headquarters at 1026 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Along with your return military address, be sure to include your voting address. Then the organization can provide factual data which involves your particular area.

Once you've made your choice, don't let carelessness void your ballot. Read all forms carefully and follow directions. Most states have both registration and voting deadlines, so begin registration procedure right away.

The first step is to determine your residence. All states have citizenship requirements, but the voting age varies from 18 to 21.

Generally, the state in which you are qualified to vote is the state from which you entered service, but you can change this if you want. Military members can register in any state if they can fulfill the legal requirements and intend to reside there permanently after leaving the service.

Don't forget, though, that registering in one state voids your right to vote in another state's election. One enthusiastic GI recently tried to participate in two state elections at once. The result? Neither vote counted.

To cast your absentee ballot, get a FPCA (Standard Form 76) for yourself and any qualified dependents. Some states use this card as an application for registration and a ballot, while other states consider it as a request for their own application forms.

Print or type all required information clearly, include your complete home and military address, and sign it. The FPCA should be certified by a commissioned officer or, if the state allows, a warrant or noncommissioned officer. Mail it as soon as the state allows; it will be sent free.

When you get the actual ballot, read the instructions before opening the envelope. Some states require the ballot to be opened in the presence of a commissioned officer or some other authorized person. (AD)

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

DOD Explains Deployment Modifications

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense was asked to explain the policy modifications which apply to the deployment to South Vietnam of approximately 10,500 additional ground forces.

DOD's response was that these forces are composed of both Army and Marine Corps personnel—a brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division and a Regimental Landing Team of the Fifth Marine Division.

The Army objective is to provide 25 months between tours in Vietnam or other short tour areas. For the deployment of this brigade task force, this policy has been modified.

Personnel were eligible for deployment with their unit, provided that on the readiness date (Feb. 14, 1968) they had more than 60 days remaining until expiration of their term of service and had been back from a tour in Vietnam longer than 60 days.

The Marine Corps objective is to provide 24 months between assignments to Vietnam. Temporarily, and for this deployment, this policy has been changed, reducing the state-side tour to 12 months before reassignment overseas. (DOD)

Write Cindy For Letters

Cindy Hawk, the weathergirl of KAZ-TV in Tucson, Ariz., has initiated "Operation Mailbag" for the men in Vietnam who are not receiving mail and who desire to have pen pals.

Miss Hawk writes:

"We ask that any serviceman who wishes mail to write me a short note, along with a few particulars about himself, in care of:

Cindy Hawk
KAZ Vietnam Mail Bag
(Channel 11)
2445 North Tuscon Blvd.
Tucson, Ariz. 85716

"I will see to it that they get letters, either from me or my wonderful viewers...." (MACV)

Need Release Before Selling

WASHINGTON — Active duty servicemen and veterans who sell a home bought with a GI loan are still legally liable for the loan, according to the Veterans Administration.

The only way the seller can be released from personal liability for the loan, according to a VA spokesman, is to have it paid off in connection with the sale, or get a written release from the VA for all future liability.

People selling a home purchased with a GI loan are urged by VA to contact the office guaranteeing the loan and get the current data on how to be released from liability to the VA.

The release must be obtained before the sale contract is signed, according to the information released by the veterans' organization. (AD)



Red Cross Serves You

SAIGON (MACV) — March 1968 is Red Cross Month. It is a time for Americans to pause and pay tribute to an organization dedicated to the welfare of fellow Americans all over the world. Here in Vietnam, every month is Red Cross Month. Serving our men on the battlefields here in Vietnam, the American Red Cross is a hotline to the folks back home, an oasis in the heat of battle, and a comfort during hospitalization.

Dedicated directors work twenty-four hours a day alongside our fighting men from the demilitarized zone in the north to the delta in the south. The Red Cross specialists serve at all major military hospitals, as well as on our hospital ships USS Repose and USS Sanctuary.

Over 110 volunteer Red Cross girls from all over America operate our growing fleet of clubmobiles and popular recreation centers.

The Red Cross also keeps open the serviceman's vital communication artery to loved ones at home. The daily flow of emergency telegrams and airmail messages is efficient and reliable to our men all over Vietnam.

All commanders here are vitally concerned with the morale and welfare of their men. Speaking for these commanders, I command the American Red Cross for its unselfish and indispensable service to our servicemen in Vietnam.

Red Cross specialists serve at all major military hospitals, as well as on our hospital ships USS Repose and USS Sanctuary.

Over 110 volunteer Red Cross girls from all over America operate our growing fleet of clubmobiles and popular recreation centers.

Local Language Tips

SAIGON (MACV) — "You don't have to speak the language..." a popular ballad proclaims, but servicemen in Vietnam know from experience that some knowledge of Vietnamese helps. Here are some common greetings in Vietnamese that may help smooth the path of communications:

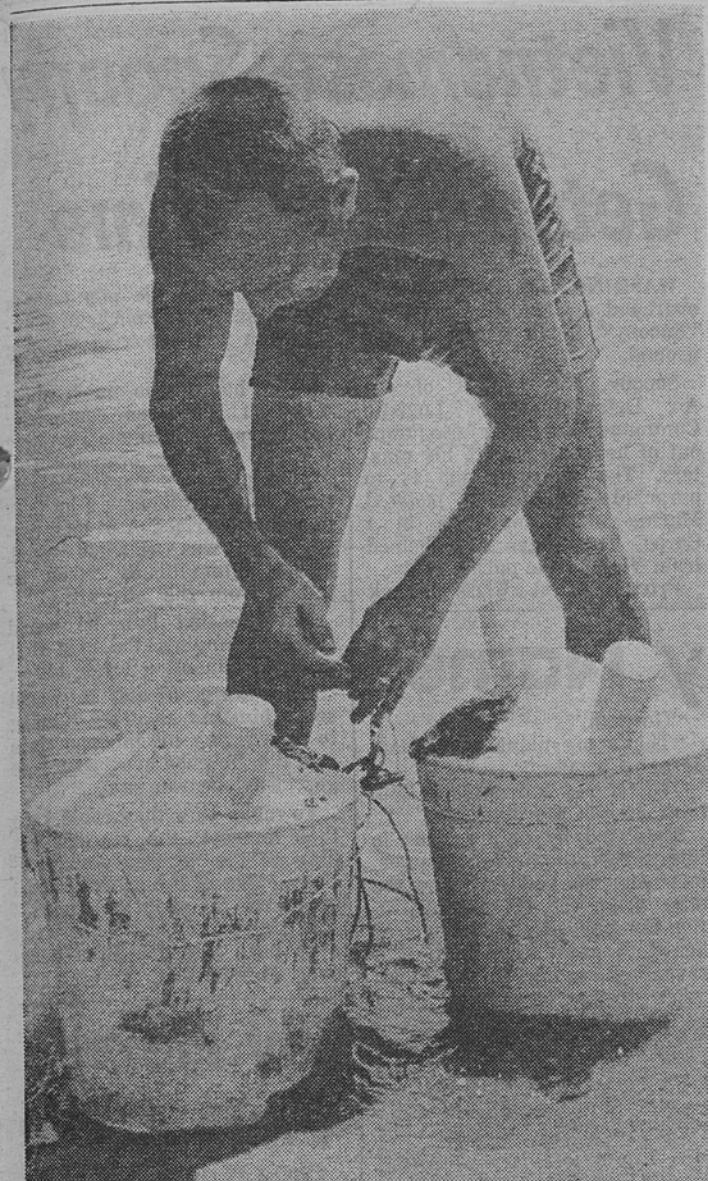
Vietnamese	Phonetic	American
Chao Anh	Chow Anh	Hello (to a young man or a soldier)
Chao Ong	Chow Ong	Hello sir (to older man)
Chao Co	Chow Ko	Hello miss
Chao Ba	Chow Bah	Hello ma'am
Chao Trung Uy	Chow Trung We	Hello Lieutenant
Chao Dai Uy	Chow Die We	Hello Captain
Chao Dai Ta	Chow Die Ta	Hello Colonel

FIRST IN VIETNAM
The OBSERVER

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1,250 Homeless Families Get GVN, CORDS Aid

BINH HOA (MACV) — Some 1,250 families in Bien Hoa province northeast of Saigon got a new lease on life recently, through the efforts of the Government of Vietnam and the American Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS).

The families, totaling about 6,800 people of Bien Hoa's 650,000 population, were left homeless as a result of the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese Army Tet offensive. They began receiving funds and materials to build new homes in their hamlets, and coupons for rice and cooking oil to help sustain them for the next six months.

Lieutenant Colonel Tran Van Hai, Bien Hoa province chief, presented 19 families in Phuoc Loc village of Long Thanh district sheets of metal roofing and bags of cement to begin reconstruction of their homes.

Each family also received 5,000 piasters (about \$42 in American money) for other necessities. Representing the U.S. at the ceremony were Army Lieutenant Colonel Erik G. Johnson, Deputy Senior advisor and Major Myron E. Lyman, District advisor.

Soon the same assistance is scheduled to be given 24 families in Bao Lang and 37 families in Bac Nai hamlets in Duc Tu district. Colonel Hai is slated to make similar presentations to 30 families in Binh Than village in Cong Thanh district.

The project will continue until

family 10 sheets of roofing and 10 bags of cement.

Nearby U.S. military units are furnishing lumber, and the government also will distribute blankets, mosquito nets and cloth to each family.

Processing of claims has been conducted by the province's refugee service, with cadre of the Social Welfare and Refugee Service making damage assessments to determine the amount of assistance ultimately to be given to each recipient.

Unit Renovates School, Uses Dunnage Lumber

SAIGON (USA) — The 125th Transportation Command Headquarters and Headquarters Company is furnishing supplies and technical assistance in the refurbishing of classrooms at Saigon's Vinh Hoi Primary School.

One of the long range projects planned for Vinh Hoi is to provide fill and pavement for the school yard. During the rainy season, 14,000 feet have no trouble turning the school yard into a quagmire.

Vinh Hoi School recently held a party for 2,000 pupils. The children presented skits, songs and dances. Each of them received a gift from the men of the company. The gifts ranged from candy, toys and soap to school supplies which were solicited from various areas in the United States.

Chaplain (Major) Howard Marsh and First Lieutenant Thurmon Jones were primarily responsible for the gifts being sent from the States.

USAF, Army Medics Treat Accident Victims



Accident victims were cared for by Air Force hospital technicians while awaiting X-rays of their injuries. (USAF PHOTO)

They Didn't Cut It Off

Medics Fix Child's Arm

LONG BINH (USA)—Nguyen Van Sang is six years old and lives in the refugee village of Cao Thai. As young boys will occasionally do, he fell recently while roughhousing and broke both bones in his right forearm.

Although the 92nd Engineer Battalion provides MEDCAPs for the village, the young lad's family felt sure that, because of the very bad break, the Americans would only cut off the youngster's arm.

So, the family wrapped the arm with wet herbs, sticks and cloth, and then waited to see what would happen.

Fortunately, word got back to the battalion the same night that the youngster had been hurt. Appreciating the family's reluctance to turn the boy over to the medics, even to those they had learned to trust, both the battalion commander and the sergeant major went to Cao Thai.

After much persuasion, the family consented to treatment, but only if the mother could accompany the child.

For an apprehensive little six-year-old, it was rather hard to follow. There was a jeep ride

to the battalion's aid station where the surgeon, Captain John M. Lowenbergh, examined the arm and made some phone calls while the medical staff gave the boy some shots.

Finally, Nguyen went to the hospital once again. An orthopedic team cut the cast off so that the X-ray specialist could take more pictures.

Nguyen really doesn't know what to think of all this, nor do the people of Cao Thai; but they will in three more weeks, when the splint comes off for good and a badly broken arm has become well, strong and straight once again.

The little boy then went back to his mother.

Next, of course, came a long

period of waiting, during which time Captain Lowenbergh would come to Cao Thai and check the boy and his arm weekly.

His arm hurt less now. They had him lie down and put a sling on the arm. Then there was an ambulance ride to the 24th Evacuation Hospital where Captain Rufino H. Gonzalas straightened his arm and wrapped it in a white thing that became hard.

The little boy then went back to his mother.

Next, of course, came a long

period of waiting, during which time Captain Lowenbergh would come to Cao Thai and check the boy and his arm weekly.

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Vietnamese Snoopy Gets in Jump-time

WASHINGTON (USN) — High overhead a parachute pops and "Snoopy" floats gently to the ground.

Snoopy, the mascot of the Air Delivery Force Logistic Command, has made four jumps out of helicopters with his masters. The platoon's job is to parachute supplies to isolated Marine units anywhere in I Corps. They have also helped train Vietnamese parachutists. Private First Class Frank

Catron bought the pup from a Vietnamese for 10 packs of chewing gum and a box of washing powder.

After hearing so much about a pooch that was continually bailing out of airplanes, naming the pup was no problem. One of the platoon's parachute riggers fashioned Snoopy a harness of web materials. A 64-inch cargo chute was attached which opens automatically when he jumps from the aircraft.

Not knowing how he would take to jumping, the men first dropped him off a lower tower.

"We were afraid it would scare him but he came running to us wagging his tail and since that day he goes everywhere we go," PFC Catron said.

To make sure they could keep their mascot, the Marines got him all the necessary vaccinations. "One of the shots knocked Snoopy out for about five hours," PFC Catron added. "If there has ever been a dog with a hangover, it was he."

"Gorman."

"That's my name — William Joseph Gorman."

"What? My full name is William Joseph Gorman too."

Separated by only a year in high school, the first lieutenants, one from the G-5 staff and the other from the 4th Administration Company, had never met or heard of each other until that revealing evening in the mess.

"Rice High School," the black-haired Bill answered. "That's north of . . ."

"That's where I went," the other added amazed. "Maybe I know someone in your family. What's your name?"

'Say, You've Got My Name!'

CAMP ENARI (USA) — Re-

miniscent of a "Ripley's Believe It or Not" column, a bizarre dialogue quietly began in the 4th Division Staff Officers Mess recently when two lieutenants casually introduced themselves.

"Glad to meet you. I'm Bill," the tall, thin lieutenant began.

"My name's Bill too," said the other, shaking his hand.

"Where are you from?"

"The Bronx in New York," he replied.

"You're kidding. I'm from the Bronx too. What school did you go to?"

"Rice High School," the black-haired Bill answered. "That's north of . . ."

"That's where I went," the other added amazed. "Maybe I know someone in your family. What's your name?"

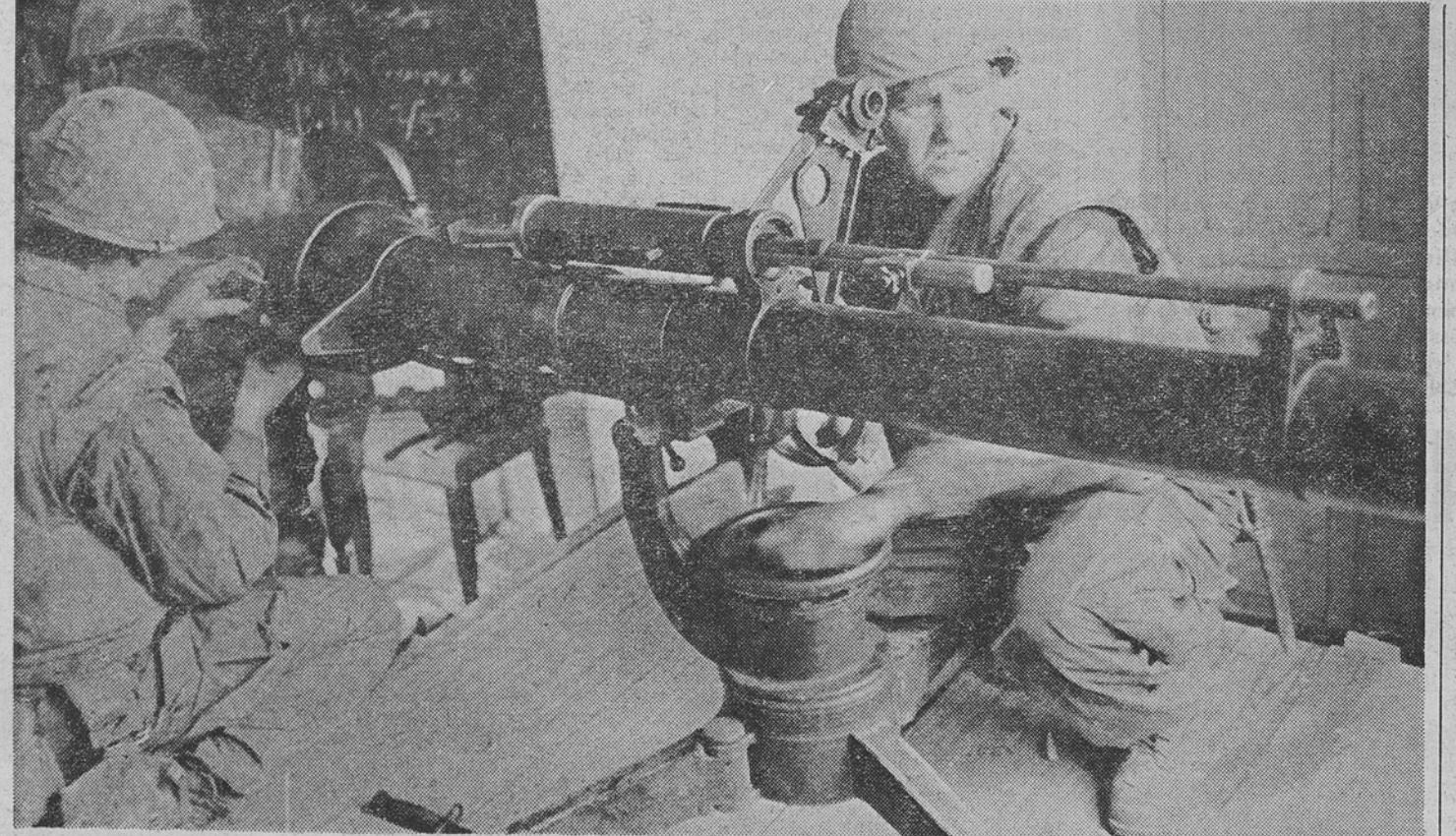
Div Helps Viets Move

CHU LAI (USA) — The Americal Division's 6th Civil Affairs Platoon went into the home-moving business recently when Ly Tin District officials in Quang Tin Province asked for help.

The people of Ky Chanh — about three miles north of Ly Tin District Headquarters — asked the government for security from Viet Cong harassment and intimidation. Their selection of the Chu Lai New Life hamlet left government officials with a moving problem.

The Americal Division offered assistance and the Civil Affairs Platoon moved pots, pans, food, pets, children, clothing and tons of personal belongings. Thatched roofs, walls, front steps and family heirlooms joined the convoy as the soldiers and families alike teamed up to bring peace and security to the Vietnamese families.

Sergeant First Class Arlen C. Williams, Platoon Sergeant said, "Thanks to the Division Transportation Section and the 23rd Supply and Transport Battalion everything went smoothly."



Fifth Marine Regiment Leathernecks set up their recoilless rifle in a classroom during the battle for Hue. (USMC PHOTO)

Marine Train PFs In Combat Tactics

CHU LAI (USMC) — Marine combined action platoons are in operation throughout the I Corps tactical area of South Vietnam. Working in conjunction with the Vietnamese government's revolutionary teams, CAP Marines are training Vietnamese Popular Forces troops in defensive and offensive tactics, so that the native inhabitants can answer the intrusions of Viet Cong with their own organized militia.

A direct result of this military effort is pacification. When a village of Vietnamese people provide their full support in the battle against insurgency, pacification has taken a step upward in that village.

Combined Action Platoon L-5, of the 1st Combined Action Group, has reached this pinnacle in its relations with the

6,000 people of Phuoc Thien village, located southeast of the Marine air base at Chu Lai.

At night, the Marines and PFs conduct various ambushes, patrols and raids on the Viet Cong operating on the perimeter of Phuoc Thien. Their success against the enemy has been exceeded only by their profitable relationship with the 4,000 natives and 2,000 refugees of Phuoc Thien.

According to Sergeant Donald E. Williams, NCOIC of CAP L-5, the mass of people located just outside the small Marine compound have demonstrated every possible sign of support.

One small example occurred Jan. 27, two days after the Marine and PF unit killed 10 Viet Cong who had harassed the villagers in the past. A feast was prepared for the 12 Marines.

Chicken, duck, fish, rice, corn and all the trimmings were arranged in festival fashion by the best cooks of the village.

And while they enjoyed their pause from the normal routine, the Marines did not fear for the security of the area. There is no better security source in Vietnam than the villagers themselves, said the NCO.

Sergeant Williams' best assurance that he has the support of the villagers is their willingness to participate in combat maneuvers. He recalls several instances when his squad had completed a combat mission miles down the coast from Phuoc Thien. Fishing boats with motors were waiting for them off the coast, ready to bring the Marines home by way of a safer route than marching back through Viet Cong infested

countryside.

According to Sergeant Williams, "They know that we don't expect this of them. Gasoline costs them 40 cents a liter and is, therefore, a luxury. They have to refill their outboard motors several times during one of these trips."

The sergeant emphasized the problem with refugees at Phuoc Thien. Earlier in January, raids in the area of Binh Duc village, south of Phuoc Thien, revealed a high density of Viet Cong. The people were constantly harassed by roving bands of VC until their removal from the area became necessary. Two thousand people had to be moved.

"I discussed this problem with the chief of the village," the Marine said. "As soon as the equipment could be readied, our

neighbors organized a fleet of 35 boats, all with motors. We moved down the coast, attached tow ropes to the boats of the refugees, and brought them to Phuoc Thien."

The Marines provided nothing except manpower for protection. The villagers organized their own resettlement program, and helped the refugees in whatever way they could. The sergeant stated this program is still in its building phases, and 2,000 more refugees have been scheduled to undergo the same operation.

The sergeant offered one final example confirming the sincerity of the people. "We try to vary our attack procedure as much as possible to keep the VC from predicting our moves. This is the way they fight, and it's the way I like to beat them—at their

own game."

March 13, 1968

The OBSERVER

Vietnamese Snoopy Gets in Jump-time

CU CHI (USA) — Members of the 25th Infantry Division's 2d Brigade are conducting a rigorous training program for Vietnamese infantrymen of the 25th ARVN Division's 49th Regiment based in Hau Nghia Province.

So far, three of the regiment's four battalions have completed the five-week course conducted in the rice paddies and forests around the village of Duc Lap.

Two officers and 11 enlisted men from the 27th Infantry and 5th Infantry teach the course, which is a combination of U.S. basic and advanced individual training courses. The two principal areas of instruction are weaponry and general subjects.

Subjects covered include instructions on the 81 mm and 60 mm mortar, the .30 caliber and .50 caliber machine guns, the BAR, M-16 and carbine, the .45 caliber pistol and the .45 caliber sub-machine gun, the 57 mm recoilless rifle and the M-79 grenade launcher.

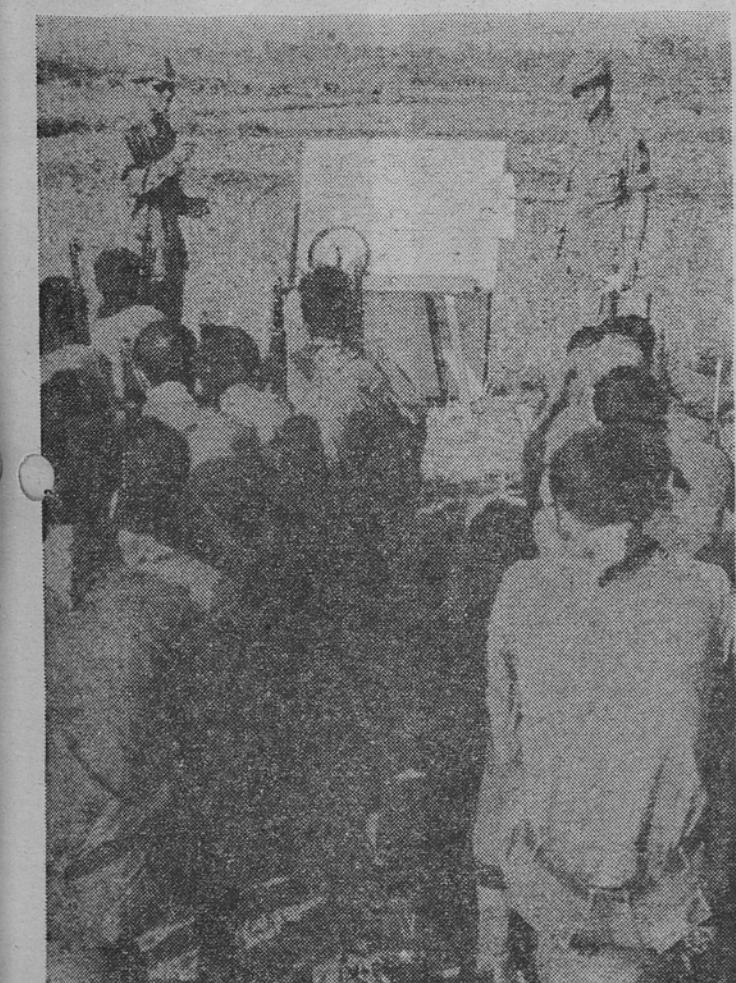
General subjects consist of map reading and land navigation, mines and booby traps, first aid, airmobile familiarization, field fortifications, patrolling, and offensive and defensive tactics from squad to company level.

For a graduation exercise, the entire battalion conducts a three-day operation—including sweeps, search and destroy missions—and at least one day of airmobile combat assaults.



SSgt K. J. Pettit answers a question on .30 caliber machine gun.

Story and Photos by:
Sp5 George Pullen



Firing techniques are pointed out to Vietnamese by SSgt Randolph Henderson.



SFC Fred Haskell waits as an interpreter translates.

Page 5

Americal Div Helicopters Airlift Refugees

CHU LAI (USA) — The bellies of Chinook helicopters from the Americal Division's 178th Aviation Company bulged with Vietnamese refugees recently.

About 1,500 Vietnamese were airlifted from their temporary home at Sa Ky on the An Ky peninsula to the more secure surroundings of the Phuoc Thien Resettlement District near Binh Son.

Throughout August and September, refugees arrive at Sa Ky from several Viet Cong-dominated areas. Here, 35 miles south of Chu Lai, they were reassembled into hamlet groups.

Village chiefs were assigned

to coordinate plans with U.S. Army civil affairs personnel and Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) representatives.

By early January more than 1,500 refugees and tons of personal belongings were amassed on the peninsula. Ten miles to the north, plans were well under way to receive the villagers.

Then it arrived. Moving day. Giant Chinooks swallowed 26 tons of firewood, tents, rice, baskets of personal effects and hundreds of Vietnamese. Both old and young alike made the airborne move. Several days of

continuous shuttle flights were required to move the unique cargo.

Bob W. Ressegueire, a CORDS district representative, lived and worked with the refugees and arranged plans for the relocation.

"We'll resettle the refugees at Phuoc Thien and maintain the hamlet configuration and leadership. Hoes, plows, rakes and other goods will be furnished as well as complete repair of the 32 village fishing boats moved up the coast by the Navy," commented Mr. Ressegueire.

"Our primary reason for moving these people is to get them in an area where we can pro-

vide

constant

security.

Now

they'll

be

able

to

fish

and

farm

in

peace."

A

village

school

and

other

projects

are

planned

for

the

immediate

future.

Fifty-seven

tons

of

additional

materials,

food

and

other

essential

goods

have

been

flew

into

the

complex

to

support

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new

resi-

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Now

settled

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their

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hope

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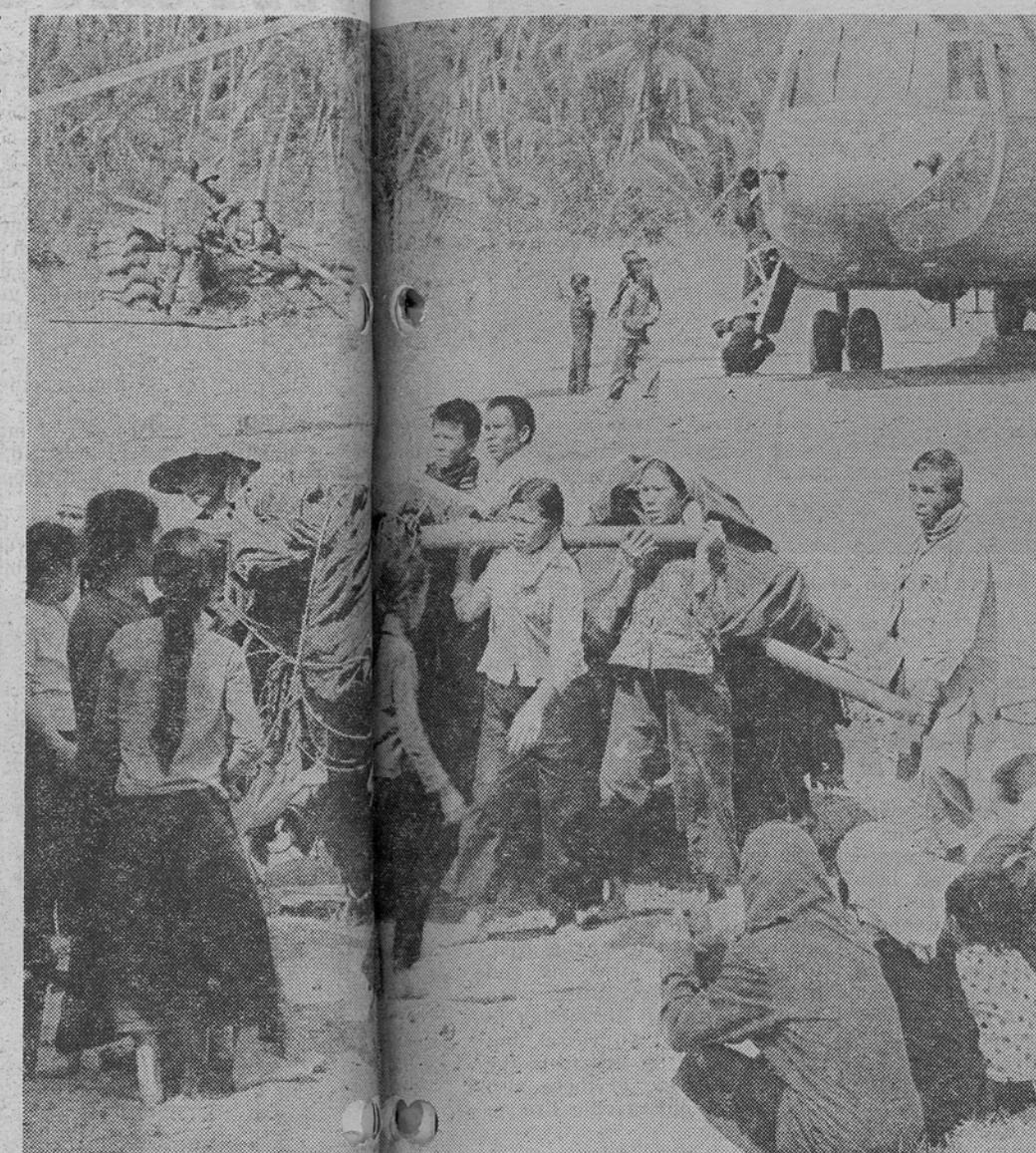
the

villagers.

Story & Photos By
PFC Bill Guerrant



Both the young and old alike wait for their turn to be airlifted to the resettlement district near Binh Son.



Refugees load their belongings on a helicopter for the airlift to their new home.



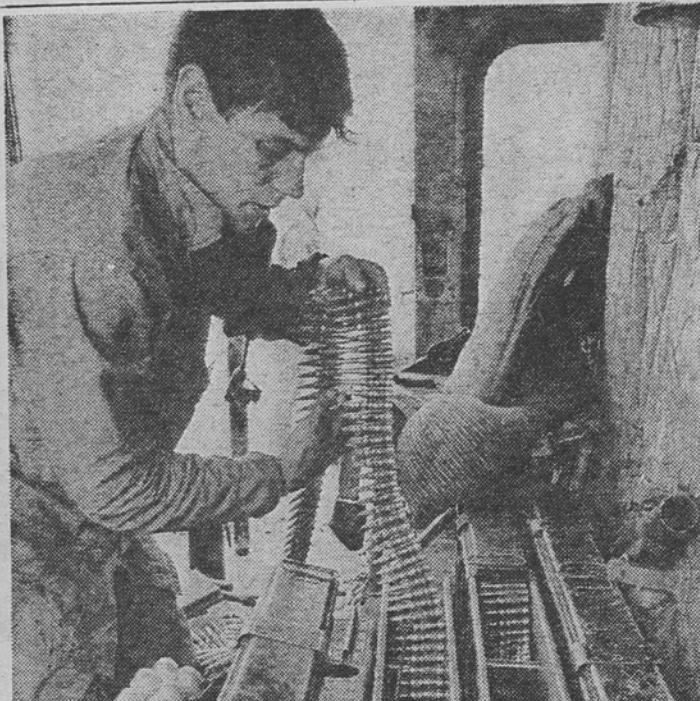
Carrying her bed with her, this woman refugee plans to be comfortable in her new home at Phuoc Thien.



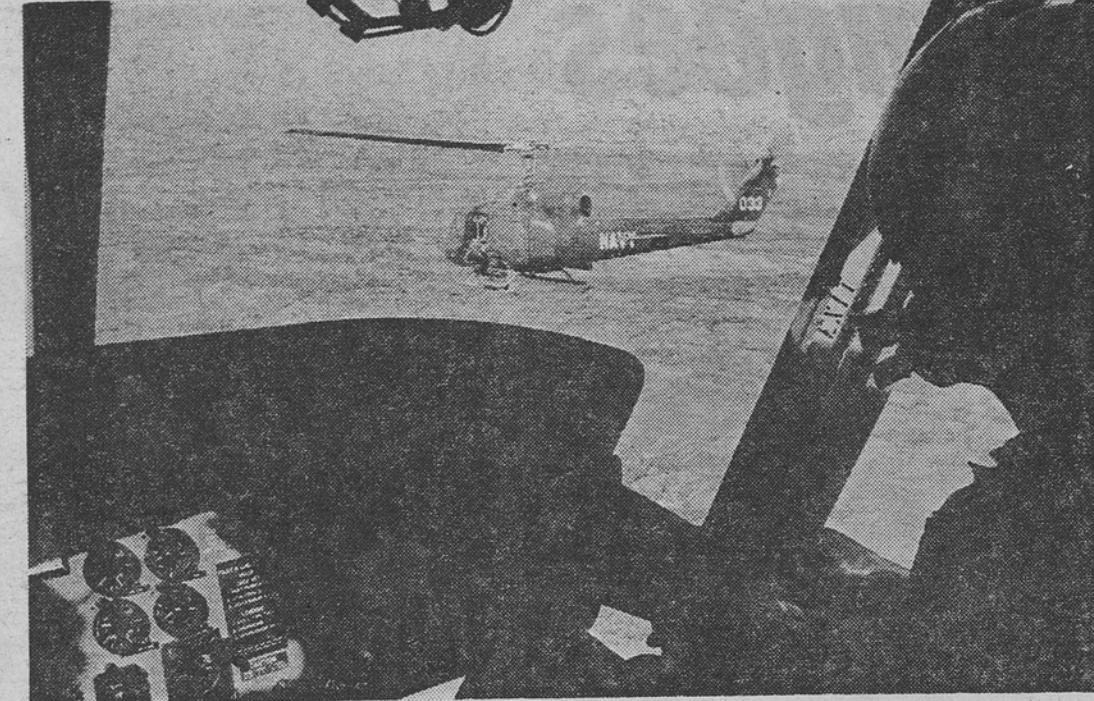
Children, aboard the helicopter, find many things to hold their interest.



An elderly Vietnamese woman is assisted during the resettlement operation conducted by the Americal Division.



Airmen Robert Nunes loads the ammo box for M-60 flex-guns.



A Navy helicopter fire team looks over a section of the Mekong Delta.

Pilots Expect 'Unexpected'

VINH LONG (USN) — "All of our scheduled flights are routine," insists Lieutenant Commander Sam Aydelotte. But he insists with a smile, because "routine," in this case, only means that his Seawolf pilots can expect the unexpected on each flight.

They not only expect it, they get it.

Lt. Commander Aydelotte is the former officer-in-charge of U.S. Navy Helicopter Attack (light) Squadron Three (HAL-3), Detachment Three, at Vinh Long in the Mekong Delta, 55 miles southwest of Saigon.

He likes to point out one recent flight by a two gun-ship light helicopter flight team to illustrate what can happen on a "routine" mission.

"It began as an hour-and-a-half reconnaissance mission over Viet Cong-occupied territory on the northeast bank of the Co Chien River, about 20 miles southeast of Vinh Long," he explained.

"By the time we returned, over four hours later, we had been involved in three separate firefights, survived a mortar attack and an attempt to blow up the depot where we were

refueling," he said.

The basic job of the Seawolves is to serve as a unit of the Navy's Task Force 116 (Operation Game Warden), which has as its mission the preventing of Viet Cong movements on the rivers of the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone swamp area surrounding the shipping channel to Saigon. The flight referred to was part of this job.

Lt. Commander Aydelotte, whose call sign is "Seawolf 35," was the pilot of the lead ship. He was followed by "Seawolf 33," with Lieutenant (junior grade) Mike Peters at the stick.

At 9:30 a.m., about 30 minutes after the two choppers took off, a report was received from the Ben Tre sector advisor concerning a Vietnamese Army unit which was under fire by an estimated platoon of VC in an area about 45 miles southeast of Vinh Long.

At 11:30 a.m., the helicopter team was joined en route to Ben Tre by another Seawolf helicopter piloted by Lieutenant Bill Barnes.

Four minutes later the lieutenant commander made a short automatic weapons run on a tree line from which small arms fire had been received across the river from Ben Tre.

The two gunships scouted the area for 35 minutes, maintaining contact with a ground forces advisor but finding no activity. Just as Lt. Commander Aydelotte requested permission to depart the area because of an impending fuel shortage, Lieu-

tenant (j.g.) Peters received sniper fire from the tree line.

A smoke marker was dropped in the area of fire and both helos attacked the tree line area with automatic weapons and rocket fire.

Later, a scramble message was received reporting that a river patrol boat had been hit by recoilless weapons fire in the Ham Loung River, directly across from the town of Ben Tre. A U.S. Army L-19 aerial observer reported an estimated 300 VC in the area. There also was a request for medical evacuation of one of the nine U.S. Navymen wounded in the grade.

At noon, 36 minutes after the three Seawolves first entered the battle, permission to secure for refueling, re-arming and to clear the area for an impending air strike, was requested and granted. The ships broke off the engagement after calling on two Air Force F-100s to continue the air strikes and flew to Ben Tre airfield, where they were assisted in their refueling by Vietnamese Army personnel.

Story by
SJC Dick Rose
Photos by
PH1 Dan Dodd



Navy Airman Wondell Maxwell Jr. holds his M-60 machine gun.



The door gunner of an armed gunship sits poised over the Mekong Delta.



Crewmembers refuel and re-arm their craft.

Platoon Claims 5 Lucky Men

KONTUM (USA) — Five lucky men in one 4th Division platoon recently looked death in the eye and then walked away.

As Private A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry moved up Hill 684 the soldiers were attacked by a sizeable force of North Vietnamese regulars.

Private First Class Larry Thompson was soon to be the first man admitted to the exclusive group.

As the young private moved along as pointman, an enemy sniper opened up, knocking him to the ground. Grabbing his helmet and scrambling for cover, PFC Thompson saw that a bullet had gone through the steel pot and had partially lodged in his helmet liner.

An assistant ammo bearer, Private First Class William Sorrell owes his life to the very belts of machine gun ammunition he carried.

Moving up the hill, PFC Sorrell was hit exactly where the

two belts of cartridges crossed his chest.

Working with the platoon, a dog handler who was too busy to give his name had a bullet rip through his helmet and slam halfway around the inside between the steel shell and the liner.

Specialist 4 Russell Littell had just lifted his rifle to fire when an enemy bullet cracked into the flash suppressor, peeling it back like a banana skin.

The last soldier to be admitted to the select bunch was the platoon leader, First Lieutenant Jim Hascal.

As he directed the platoon's advances, the lieutenant felt something strike his side but reaching for the wound he found nothing.

Later, thirsty and tired, the lieutenant reached for a drink of water only to find a hole in his canteen. Inside the little plastic jug was an AK-47 round.

He was still thirsty, but very happy to be alive.



RECEIVES CLOTHES — In the same hand that she is holding her child, this Vietnamese mother is holding a child's playsuit and other articles of clothing donated by the residents of Clarksville, Tenn., and Hopkinsville, Ky. The contributions were distributed to refugees at Tan Phu by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division following the Communist-Tet attacks. (USA PHOTO)

New Team Created; Upgrades Outposts

LONG THANH (USA) — The 2d Battalion, 39th Infantry has created an IMPACT TEAM to upgrade the defenses of military outposts in Dinh Tuong Province.

Second Lieutenant John A. Meads, a platoon leader for Company C, has been assigned to head the project.

The team will take villagers drafted by the Vietnamese government and train them in military tactics. The villagers then will be responsible for examining existing fortifications and classifying them into categories ranging from "A" the highest, to "D," the lowest.

The "A" outpost should afford good overhead coverage, ideal fighting bunkers, automatic weapons for defense, barrier wire, perimeter mines and early warning devices, 500 meters of clear fields of fire and artillery and communication support

from adjacent posts.

Eventually these villagers will be assigned to defend roads, villages and bridges.

Since most of the men have had little or no military training, they receive lessons in marksmanship, ambush and patrol tactics, employment of trip flares, claymore mines and grenades. Also they are instructed in proper communication procedures, use of artillery and first aid.

The team will supply necessary materials to the outposts such as sandbags, concertina wire, flares and grenades. Also they will supervise the construction and improvement program.

Currently, four outposts near Trang Bom are under renovation. The ultimate goal of the whole plan is that every outpost in the Dinh Tuong Province be a fully combat ready bastion for any type of attack.

Unit Revisits Battle Site Helps Villagers This Time

Helps Villagers This Time

DONG TAN (USA) — A 9th Infantry Division unit returned to the scene of fierce fighting—this time not to do battle, but

to bring friendship and help. The last time the 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry entered Quang Sung District in western Dinh Tuong Province, they engaged the Viet Cong in one of the largest battles the battalion has fought in the Mekong Delta.

Recently, however, the Mobile Riverine Force unit loaded assault patrol boats with medical teams instead of rifle companies and traveled to the area along the Rach Ruong Canal.

The team, led by Captain William H. Jones, civil affairs director, disembarked at a small hamlet and was met by an apprehensive chief.

"We asked him if there was a suitable place to set up," the captain said. "He told us we could use his house, though I must admit he seemed very wary of the whole project."

As the medics prepared the supplies, a naval interpreter used a loudspeaker to announce to the villagers that a medical team was there.

According to Captain Thomas A. Hickey, battalion surgeon, patients came hesitantly.

"But as soon as the first patients were treated and released, word spread," he explained. "Soon, we became the center of attraction. Even those who needed no care came to watch."

Apprehension quickly disappeared. The scene became one of merriment as waiting crew members climbed from the boats to pass out candy and play games with the children.

Meanwhile the medics were treating complaints ranging from routine illnesses to wounds from Viet Cong booby traps. By the end of the day more than 150 villagers had been treated.

Finally, as the team prepared to leave, Captain Hickey noticed an old woman standing beside the house.

"I recognized her as one of our first reluctant patients," the captain said. "We treated her, but still she looked hesitant about something."

Then, as they prepared to walk out, the old woman approached them and pulled on the captain's sleeve. In her hand was a small package. The interpreter told the officer what she had in mind.

"Please, sir, accept this small gift," the interpreter relayed. "She has no money to pay you."

Inside the package was a half dozen eggs. "She must have felt something for us," the captain said. "The hen that produced these eggs is probably one of the few things she owns. This was an open gesture of the impact we made on these people."



PERSUASIVE VISIT — Capt Calvin Moore, commander of Company D, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry of the 196th Infantry Brigade, persuades this Vietnamese mother that she and her family will be protected from the enemy by his men during Operation Wheeler/Wallowa west of Tam Ky. (USA PHOTO By 2d Lt Philip Niklaus)



G-R-R-R—King, one of the sentry dogs which guard Marine Aircraft Group-36 at Phu Bai, alerts his handler, Lance Corporal Vincent Murante.

(USMC PHOTO By SSGT W. F. Schridler)

Lt Enlightens Friends

Expose 'Quiet War'

CAMP ENARI (USA) — Most people back home are in the dark about the "quiet war" being fought by the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam's Central Highlands, according to First Lieutenant John Landefeld. That is, they were until one day late in January when he decided to enlighten some of them.

Lieutenant Landefeld heads the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry's civil affairs team. In this capacity he wrote a letter to his hometown newspaper explaining about the "quiet war."

In answering the hundreds of letters, Lieutenant Landefeld told the people back home: "One of the most troublesome areas over here is colds, pneumonia and skin diseases, all simply stemming from a lack of adequate clothing.

"Personal hygiene and sanitation are other serious problems. The small supply of soap available to us can not begin to meet the needs of these people. Toothbrushes will greatly reduce the overwhelming dental problems here . . ."

The "battlefield" he related is not the dense jungle but rather the picturesque Montagnard villages surrounding Camp Enari. The "enemy" is poverty, disease and misunderstanding. And, the "weapons" used to fight the well-entrenched enemy are an odd assortment of milk cans, vitamin pills, band-aids, Mercurochrome and — smiles.

His letter caused a sort of "explosive" effect on the people in the middle of Canton, Ohio —

'Friendship' Platoon Distributes Food

LONG BINH (IHF) — More than 500 pounds of food were distributed recently by the 21st (Friendship) platoon of the 2d Civil Affairs Company to help six families left destitute by the Communist Tet offensive.

The families were chosen by the Reverend Father Tien, priest of Ke Sat parish in Dong Hai I hamlet of Ho Nai village. Distribution was made at the parish

church with a ceremony marked by speeches in English, French and Vietnamese.

Colonel William H. Pietsch Jr., II Field Force assistant chief of staff for civil affairs, accompanied the platoon members. Colonel Pietsch made a speech in French, followed by speeches in English and Vietnamese by Reverend Tien.

The food distributed consisted of 200 pounds of rice, 150 pounds

of Bulgur wheat, 150 pounds of blended food and five gallons of cooking oil.

Present at the ceremony were Nguyen San Khien, chief of Dong Hai I hamlet, and Chu Khac Hoa, vice chief.

In a meeting after the ceremony, plans were made for the platoon to provide sheet metal for construction in the hamlet and barbed wire for hamlet self defense.

(PHOTO COURTESY 20th Century Fox)

Highlanders Accept Medic

OASIS (USA) — An engineer medic has helped to show a Highland (Montagnard) village that Americans desire to become real friends of the people.

When Specialist 5 Robert E. Coker of Company D, 20th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 937th Engineer Group first ventured into the village, which was known to have sympathized with the VC in the past, less than a mile outside the company's

perimeter, his reception was cool.

Two months later, the villagers had learned what the medic offered was very valuable — good health. Young and old alike began to seek his aid.

Specialist Coker gradually won over the village, which was known to have sympathized with the VC in the past, less than a mile outside the company's

politeness and his sincere af-

fection for the people.

Besides treating them medi-

cally, he frequently hiked ex-

cess routes down the path from his company area to the village and distributed food to the people.

He was careful to give them the foods they really

needed.

His most satisfying experi-

ence was his treatment of a woman whose heel had been eaten away by some infection or long-ago accident. He built a special "slipper" for her, and now for the first time in years the woman can walk around in the yard and attend to her chores.

"I put her back on her feet,"

said the young medic.

The villagers' confidence in the friendly soldier goes a long way. Adults who at first avoided him when he came into their village now walk up the trail to the company and ask for the "bac-si".

minutes the moment arrived,

the American was spotted.

"I've got him, I've got him!"

yelled the captain over the radio as the helicopter swooped down and plucked its prize find from the rice paddy.

He immediately went into a rocket run, and started firing at the sampan. While on this first pass he spotted a Viet Cong who jumped out of the sinking craft and headed for the weeds on the river bank.

The captain made a wide turn

to come back again for another

firing pass. But, this time he

saw a tall man waving his

hands frantically at him. Captain Miller again flew over the

area and began circling the

sampan at a very slow speed and only a few feet from the

ground.

Captain Miller was certain of

what he had seen, but the in-

dividual had now taken cover to avoid the helicopter over-

head.

The aviator continued his in-

tense search. The man had to

be there. Then, after 30 anxious

minutes the moment arrived,

the American was spotted.

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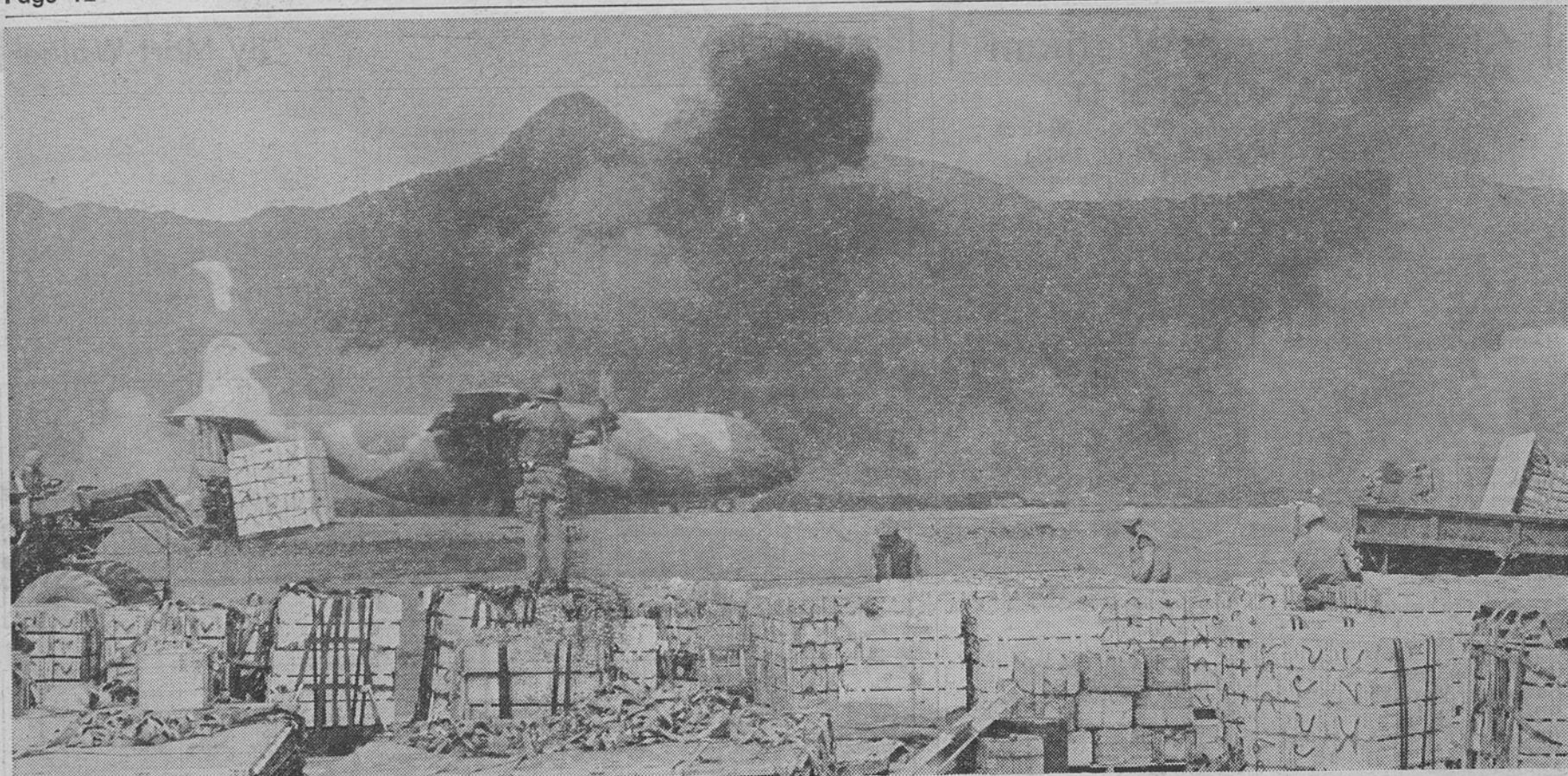
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PROTECTIVE COVER—Smoke rises from defensive fire used to shield a C-130 transport on its departure from the Marine base at Khe Sanh.

(USAF PHOTO By Sgt M. L. Ray)

101st Airborne Division Mauls VC At Phan Thiet

PHAN THIET (USA) — Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade killed 415 Viet Cong in 35 days of fighting here recently and denied the enemy control of this coastal city.

Before the Communist Tet offensive, the airborne troopers killed 13 Viet Cong in scattered actions while supporting I Field Force Revolutionary Development projects near here.

During the first 27 days of February, the airborne battalion stalked enemy forces in the northwestern sector of the city, and killed 402, including 193 in eight days.

On the heels of the Tet attacks here, the troopers conducted a joint operation with the 3rd Battalion, 44th ARVN Regiment against enemy fortifications.

The combined force attacked from the northeast and forced the enemy to leave their fortified areas and seek other defensive positions in a treeline outside the northwest sector of the city.

Supported by 106mm recoilless rifles, vehicular mounted .50caliber machineguns and tactical air, they chased a company size enemy unit across an open field near the banks of the Ca Ty River.

Doctors . . .

(Continued From Page 1)
long hole in the boy's heart. The child's mother stood by as the two-hour operation progressed. Once the doctors had finished sewing the heart, they continued the incision to the abdomen to stop the flow of blood from the liver. Then it was over. The shrapnel was removed and the heart and liver sewn. The patient was now on the road to recovery.

"It's a gratifying thing to accomplish an operation like this and know the patient will be alright," said the Naval officer.

Air strikes claimed 15 Viet Cong and the soldiers killed another 15. They also captured two AK-47 rifles, one B4 rocket launcher, four rucksacks with surgical equipment, malaria tablets and medicine, and seven tons of rice.

Officials said sweeps of the area indicated the enemy sustained heavy losses, but actual bodies and equipment were carried off during darkness.

Six paratroopers died in this action and 99 were wounded, 63 of which were treated for minor wounds and returned to duty.

The airborne's enemy body count rose to 301 by Feb. 15, as the paratroopers conducted search and destroy missions for suspected VC base camps and blocked all routes of withdrawal.

On Feb. 20, the battalion mounted another attack on enemy positions inside the city and encountered stiff resistance.

Companies B and C were helilifted from the south into the northwestern sector of the city while Company A took up blocking positions a quarter of a mile west of the attack along the Ca Ty River.

Company A troopers killed 11

enemy when a platoon size unit tried to cross the river by boat. Paratroopers from B and C Companies accounted for 28 more enemy kills inside the city.

The next day the airborne infantrymen from Company C air assaulted to a new position along Highway 1, south of Phan Thiet. They joined Company A in a sweep to the northwest to eliminate pockets of resistance.

The attacking elements encountered sporadic contact. Both unit commanders reported the enemy had withdrawn, leaving delaying forces despite two days of extensive artillery and ground attacks.

Results of the day-long sweep were 15 enemy killed, 33 bunkers destroyed, three crew-served and individual weapons captured, plus three detainees.

An additional 60 enemy were killed the following week in cleanup operations around the city.

Early on the morning of Feb. 25, paratroopers of Company B secured the airfield following a mortar attack. By mid-morning the runway was fully operational. The airborne infantrymen killed two Viet Cong in sweeps of the area.

Engineers Come Through

Build 'P.G.' Bridge

PLEI KHOIH JET (USA) — The civic action team from the 20th Engineer Battalion (Combat) recently solved a truly unique engineering problem.

The Montagnards living in Plei Khoih Jet, a hamlet just outside the engineer's perimeter, had seen their cattle path obstructed months earlier by a rifle-grenade range put in by the 4th Infantry Division. When the tribesmen asked the engineers to construct a cattle bridge over a ravine on an alternate route to the water point, the Civic Action Team was glad to help out.

But the draftsman had put no more than a few marks on the paper when a very important question posed itself. How much weight would the structure have to support?

The heaviest "vehicle" it was decided, would be a pregnant water buffalo. But how much does an expectant water buffalo weigh? Well, if you have ever tried to weigh a pregnant buffalo, you know it is not the easiest thing in the world to do.

The question was finally settled by Lieutenant Colonel James H. Phillips, past commander of the battalion. When asked for his opinion of the class of the bridge, Colonel Phillips assumed a thoughtful pose for a moment, then grinned and said, "Well, I'd say a pregnant water buffalo would be about a Class 3 1/4."

From then on the "Class 3 1/4

Pregnant Water Buffalo" type bridge went up smoothly. With technical assistance from the engineers, the villagers constructed the triple-span 48-foot bridge in two and a half weeks.

If you are ever near Plei Khoih Jet, it would be worth your while to drop by and see the only "Class 3 1/4 Pregnant Water Buffalo" bridge in Vietnam.

'Charlie' Uses Bobby Socks

CU CHI (USA) — "I really couldn't believe my eyes . . . all the Viet Cong were wearing white bobby socks," remarked Sergeant Dave Robbins. "They looked like a basketball team taking the court."

The 12 white-footed enemy were spotted by Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, in War Zone C, 60 miles northwest of Saigon.

The 25th Infantry Division troopers had set up an ambush along a foot path often used by the Viet Cong.

When the VC moved into the U.S. position, the company opened up with small arms and claymore mines killing all 12.

"We don't know why they were wearing the white socks, but it sure made them easier targets," recalled Sergeant Paul Johanovich.

Inf Kills 262 NVA . . .

(Continued From Page 1)
the hamlet. In human waves, the brown-uniformed NVA troops swept forward as U.S. machine gunners, riflemen and grenadiers met them with a hail of fire.

So determined was the enemy attack that its momentum carried it into the company positions. Hundreds of fierce isolated hand-to-hand battles swirled through the rice field as U.S. soldiers fought for their lives in individual combat.

After two hours of fighting, the company commander was hit. Gunships and dust-off (med-

ical evacuation helicopters) were called in for the wounded. The seriously wounded commander radioed that his unit could count 78 NVA bodies—but he also said two more enemy companies were now moving to his south.

Again gunships arrived and blasted the enemy ranks with rockets and mini-guns while Air Force fighter bombers swept in firing 20mm cannons as they dive-bombed.

By morning the battle was over. U.S. losses were 21 killed and 62 wounded and the decimated NVA force had withdrawn from the area.

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Marines Win 'Impossible' Battle



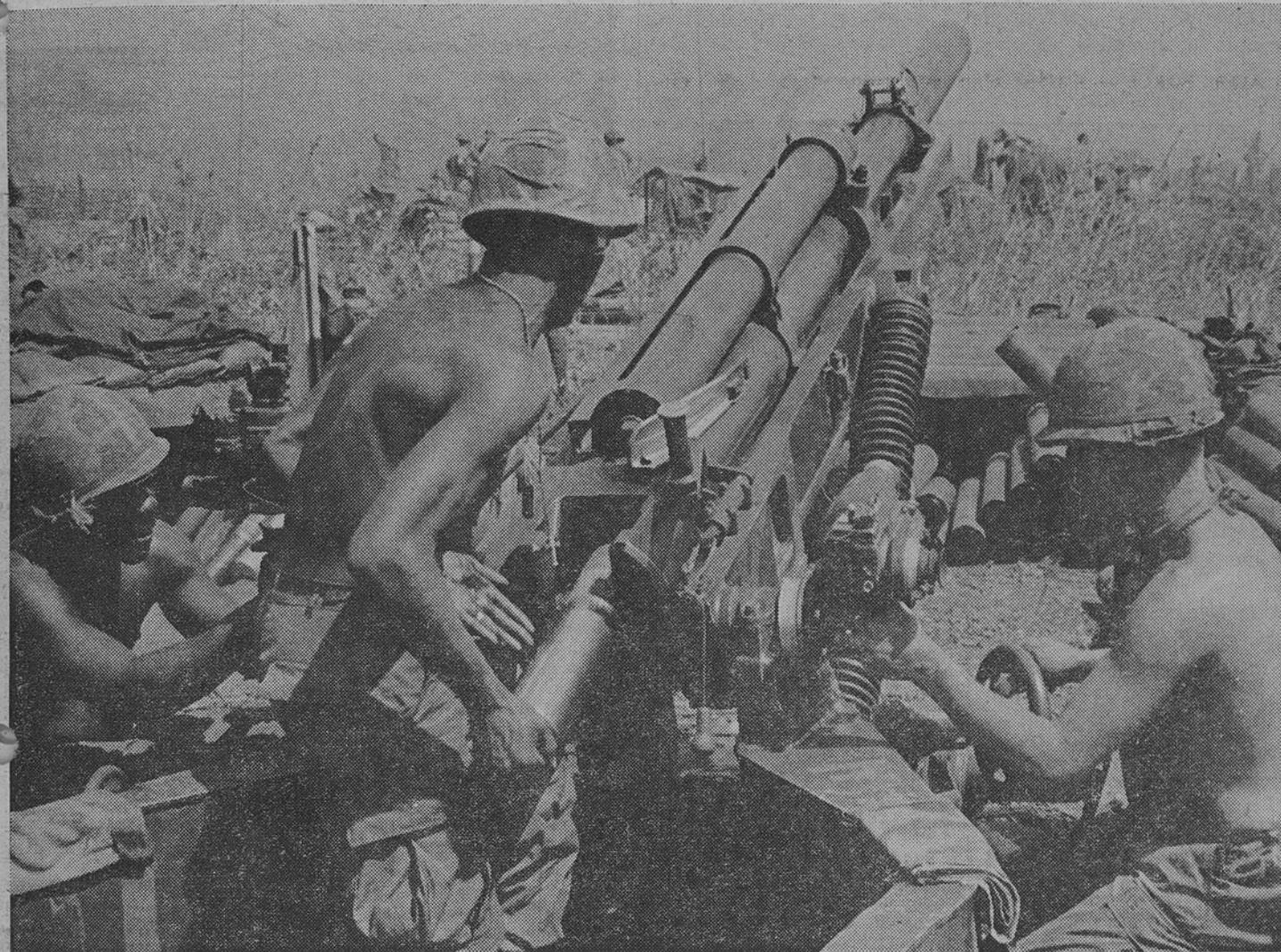
FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 44

Saigon, Vietnam

March 6, 1968



TEAMWORK — Troopers of the 101st Airborne Division firing in support of Operation San Angelo.
(USA PHOTO By Sp 4 James Parker)

Pilots Kill 150 Enemy At Kontum

PLEIKU (USA) — The combined firepower of Air Force A-37 and A-1 Skyraider pilots based at Pleiku air base has been credited with killing 150 enemy soldiers during a recent attack on the MACV compound at Kontum.

Ground forces sweeping the area confirmed the number of enemy killed by the Air Force pilots.

Two A-37s of the 604th Air Commando Squadron and two A-1s of the 14th Air Commando Wing were called in to help break up the attack on the MACV compound, which had come under heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

After knocking out the enemy mortar positions, the Skyraider pilots went to work on the machinegun positions which were within 25 yards of the compound's perimeter fence.

In addition to revealing the enemy dead, the ground sweep of the area also revealed that the pilots had destroyed two mortar positions, two automatic weapons, and caused two secondary explosions.

The Chieu Hoi Program

Offers Enemy A New Life

DAK TO (USA) — Vu Hong was a North Vietnamese Army squad leader. Like many of his fellow soldiers he fought in the hills around Dak To. And, like many of his fellow comrades, he became discontented with Communist indoctrination, maltreatment, and the way the war was going.

Today Hong is a free and productive citizen of South Vietnam. He responded to the Chieu Hoi broadcasts of Specialist 6 Arthur F. Pagel Jr., who is assigned to the Company B, 8th PSYOPS Battalion, 4th Psychological Warfare Group.

Working under the operational control of the 4th Division's 1st Brigade, Specialist Pagel has been spreading the good word to "Charlie" since early November.

With his command of the North Vietnamese language and speaker system ranging up to 1,000 watts, he reminds the enemy of their hopeless position and encourages them to take advantage of the Open Arms program.

"We usually go to a village and collect psywar information," he explained. "We find out

where the enemy is and then travel to that location, set up the loudspeaker system and start talking."

The broadcasts also are made at battalion firebases, company positions and by air from 02-B aircraft which also drop Chieu Hoi leaflets.

In a 32-week course at the Defense Language Institute at Fort Bliss, Tex., Specialist Pagel was taught the entire Vietnamese language, including conversational Vietnamese, military terminology, names, ranks and units.

When broadcasting to the enemy he tells them how they are losing the war; that they have no chance against our bombs, artillery and overwhelming infantry; that there is no hope of defeating the Allies. Also, he tells them we know where they are, that they are surrounded and can not get back to a sanctuary without being killed.

"The ones that defect will usually give up later to an ARVN unit or at a Montagnard village," revealed the specialist. "Occasionally they will give up to a U.S. unit — sometimes dur-

ing or directly after a broadcast."

The enemy soldier that "comes over" in the Chieu Hoi program is then referred to as a Hoi Chanh. Specialist Pagel talks to the Hoi Chanh as a buddy, addressing him by his name and rank, and asks him about his family.

"My main concern," added the specialist, "is whether or not they've seen our leaflets or

heard our broadcasts; what the pamphlets mean to them, and whether or not they came over because of them."

In one instance, an enemy soldier needed medical treatment desperately. He threw down his weapon, came into a clearing repeating the words "chieu hoi" and gave up to a U.S. unit, said the specialist.

After receiving excellent me-
(Continued on Back Page)

Civilian Wounded Treated

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES (USA) — Immediately after

infantrymen of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry killed more than 150 enemy soldiers in house-to-house fighting in Saigon last month, battalion Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) and civil affairs teams moved into the heavily populated areas to treat wounded victims of the Viet Cong attack.

Between February 12 and 16, more than 1,300 Vietnamese civilians were treated by MEDCAP personnel of the battalion.

Headed by Captain Paul L. Jones, the team set up operations just inside the Phu Tho race track in southwestern Saigon. Medics from the brigade's 7th Combat Support Battalion Aid Station also assisted.

Many of the civilians were wounded during fighting in the section of the city near the race track.

During the combat operations, the brigade's Psywar teams recorded nine hours of ground loudspeaker time and distributed more than 2,700 leaflets in the capital city.

Editorial Art Of Gripping

All of us know how to gripe. In fact, there is evidence to support the belief that some of us enjoy it and have gone so far as to make it a hobby. However, the degree of proficiency that we have attained in the art of griping is open to question. The following article gives some interesting tips on griping effectively.

HOW TO COMPLAIN EFFECTIVELY

Are your gripes effective? All of us have our pet gripes. Some of us air them frequently and vigorously, but often nothing seems to be done about them. Why? Is it because there is a sacred and not-to-be-challenged military way of doing things, or is it just possible because we have not learned to gripe effectively? Here are four suggestions for a serviceman with a problem.

1. Before blowing off steam, get the facts. They may convince you that you haven't a leg to stand on.

2. If you still think you are right, present your argument clearly and honestly. State exactly what it is that you want changed and, what is more important, carry it through the chain of command up to the person who can do something about it.

3. Next, come up with some sound logical reasons for the change you want made. The fact that your blood pressure is reaching the bursting point may be important to you, but it isn't vital to the man with the power to change things around. He will ask—why?

Be certain that you can answer and that you can back your answer with facts. Incidentally, if you can show him how he or his work will benefit directly by the change, you will greatly increase the chances for ready acceptance.

4. Finally, suggest a solution to the problem. Don't expect him to do all the thinking and work out all the answers. You are the one who wants things changed.

Follow these suggestions and you may be surprised. It may be that you haven't a gripe after all. It could be that you have a "Beneficial Suggestion." (SO)

Wanted

US Military Units Up For 'Adoption'

Headquarters MACV receives many requests from various groups in the U.S. to "adopt" a military unit serving in Vietnam. The patriotic groups may be an elementary school class, ladies club, Cub Scout Pack or college sorority. Many are small groups of teen-agers, unmarried working girls and private citizens.

Frequently an individual wants to assist a small unit of two or three men. A larger group may be seeking to assist a company of men. Each group wants to show the servicemen that they are appreciated and supported. Their appreciation is demonstrated through letters, gift packages, newspaper subscriptions, pen-pal relationships and other acts of friendship.

If you would like to have your unit "Adopted" encourage your commander to submit the following information to Hq, MACV, MACOIC-APO 96222:

Complete mailing address of unit:

Branch of service:

Only company size units and below should be submitted. Small units with ten men or less have the best chance for adoption. Every effort will be made to insure units operating in the "boondocks" are adopted first. (MACV)

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

More Money For Interment

WASHINGTON — The allowances for burial expenses for deceased active duty military personnel has been increased in certain categories effective Feb. 1.

Changes in the burial allowances are as follows:

1. A maximum of \$250 (it was \$150) when remains are consigned to a funeral home for services prior to interment in a national or post cemetery.

The allowance remains at \$75 when remains are consigned directly to a national cemetery for interment.

In addition, for servicemen who die in the United States or any other area where the next-of-kin desire to assume the initial responsibility for care and disposition of remains, next-of-kin will be reimbursed in the amount of the same services and supplies would have cost the government in the particular area, up to a maximum of \$500 (was \$400).

This care and disposition allowance would not be applicable to those military personnel who died outside the United States where there is no opportunity for the next-of-kin to assume initial responsibility, nor would it apply in any case where the next-of-kin desire that initial care and disposition of remains be handled by a service contract mortician.

Scientists of the Midwest Research Institute who carried out the research based their assessment on information from universities, chemical firms, scientific articles and some findings from controlled tests in Thailand and Puerto Rico.

The researcher reported: "Partially killed or defoliated trees exhibit a rapid recovery and there is no evidence of irrevocable modification to soil."

—Direct toxicity hazard to humans and animals is "nearly non-existent."

—No firm conclusions on the effects of herbicides on water, but direct toxic effects would be "highly unlikely."

Concern over the large amounts

of herbicides being used in Vietnam led DOD's Advance Research Agency to request the evaluation. Spraying operations, at the request of the Vietnamese government, have been carried out since early 1962.

Three defoliation agents, designated simply as Orange, White and Blue, have been used primarily around jungle-covered Viet Cong strongholds and along rivers, canals and roads to eliminate possible ambush site.

Other targets have been infiltration routes and supply trails in upland forests, the Demilitarized Zone and croplands in remote areas long occupied by the VC.

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Typical of the new facilities is the Qui Nhon Main Exchange. It is an 8,000-square-foot, prefabricated building which replaces two quonset huts.

On the Army side of Cam Ranh Bay, a new full-fledged cafeteria with a 50-table snack bar and pizza parlor is open and serving ice-cold drinks and hot food to thousands of troops in the area.

Other exchange outlets recently established are located at the following: S. A. I. G. O. N. Advisory Team 90; Bien Hoa Long Binh Hqs. Advisory Team 94; HHQ 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; 610th Maintenance Bn.; 520th Transportation Bn. and 8th Bn.; 6th Art; Delta-V. Coy; New Zealand Army; Det. 1, 610th TCS; Chuong Thien Advisory Team 58; Xuyen Sector Advisory Team 59; and First Korean (ROK) Surgical Hospital; Cam Ranh Advisory Team 32; and Da Nang-Mobile PBR Support Base One.

A recent all-command message from Pacific Air Forces' (PACAF) directorate of career management contained good news for airmen eligible for promotion.

Quoting a message from General John P. McConnell, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, the following has been passed to personnel offices within PACAF:

"The Office of Secretary of Defense has announced approval of our FY 1969 top six grade request for 26,744 additional NCO



DOD Study Evaluates Effects Of Defoliation

WASHINGTON — A Department of Defense-sponsored study of the effects of defoliation agent used in Vietnam indicates there is no lasting harm to animals, water supplies or the soil.

Scientists of the Midwest Research Institute who carried out the research based their assessment on information from universities, chemical firms, scientific articles and some findings from controlled tests in Thailand and Puerto Rico.

The researcher reported:

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Airmen Get Good News

grades. This program will raise the number of airmen in the top six enlisted grades from 481,200 in FY 1968 to 507,944 by June 1969.

"We are currently planning to make approximately 215,000 NCO promotions in FY 1969."

It is emphasized the promotion figures are based on currently programmed gains and losses through FY 1969. If actions are taken which cause these gains and losses to change, the promotions will be changed accordingly. (PACAF NS)

NSGLI Covers Vets For 6 Mos

WASHINGTON — Servicemen now being discharged from active duty have the protection of their National Servicemen's Group Life Insurance policies extended for 180 days at no cost to them.

During that period, they are entitled to apply for and receive their private life insurance at regular rates, regardless of any disabilities they may have incurred in the service.

Information Officer Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Chief, Command Information Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA
Officer in Charge Lt. Col. T. A. Costello, USA
Editor 1st Lt. W. L. Nack, USA
Editor TSgt G.C. Sterling, USAF

FIRST IN VIETNAM The OBSERVER

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Marines' Factory Produces Bricks

DA NANG (USMC) — A Marine civic action project has produced over one-half million bricks for the construction of schools, orphanages, hospitals, and homes for the Vietnamese people.

The 7th Engineer Battalion, Marine Division, is justifiably proud of its "brick factory." The structures, made with bricks produced there, are already enough to form a small city.

The 36 workers in the factory are Vietnamese from the refugee village of Ho Khanh. They work six days a week and receive no money. Instead, the village receives an allotment of rice, grain, and other food commodities provided by the Third Marine Amphibious Force near Da Nang.

Utilizing an efficient, inexpensive process, which was developed originally by the Peace Corps for use in Bogota, Columbia, the factory produces 1,600 bricks per day — almost enough to build a house needing only the addition of inexpensive framing and roofing materials.

"These are high quality bricks," Sergeant Maddox commented. "The Vietnamese may obtain them for any worthwhile project by merely submitting a request to their District Chief.

"The best part of the whole program," he concluded, "is that every worker understands the brick-making process we have developed and is capable of starting a brick factory of his own some day."

"We think that the brick factory is a highly successful civic action program," said Gunnery Sergeant R. E. Maddox, NCOIC of the battalion's civic affairs office, "because we are not giving



PLEASE GIVE ME SOME—Eager, small hands reach for the fresh milk Staff Sergeant Richard M. Burt, 101st Airborne Division, is distributing to the children of Bo Mua village near Phuoc Vinh. He is a civil affairs sergeant for the 3rd Brigade's 2nd Battalion. (USA PHOTO By Sp 4 Michael Sugarl)

Barriers Being Broken

Vietnamese Learn English

DUC PHO (USA) — New ideas are among the most valuable products created through the meeting of two peoples. When the United States soldier comes in contact with a Vietnamese citizen, each represents an interesting but completely different world. Until they learn to communicate effectively, there is little value in their meeting.

Communications barriers are being broken at Duc Pho by a cooperative program between the U.S. Army and South Vietnamese educators.

Two hundred and seventy selected Vietnamese students of various ages are receiving English instruction from members of the Civil Affairs Offices of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division and the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, American Division.

Last August, the Duc Pho organization requested that English classes be given to their students. A few weeks later, Duc Pho Public High School asked that the classes be extended to their school. So the Civil Affairs Office began an English class program that now covers the orangefield and selected students from each of the four high schools in the Duc Pho area.

A local schoolmaster, Duong Ngoc Dong, states that the students are eager to learn English:

"They want the classes and look forward to them." The more advanced students are now able to understand English well enough to take English-language classes in history, world banking systems and other subjects he said.

The instruction is given by two members of the Army Electronics Command and a technical representative of the General Electric Company.

ARVN, US Army Engineers Solve Village Road Problem

LAI KHE (USA) — The traffic problem that has troubled the village of Phu Cuong for years, and resulted in frequent accidents, no longer exists. It was corrected by the engineering talents of the 1st Infantry Division and the 5th ARVN Division.

In emergency situations—such as when a home, school or church is destroyed by fire or VC terrorists — the command steps in and helps to rebuild the structure.

AIDING A VILLAGER — Corporal Larry Robinson, a Fifth Marine Regiment Leatherneck, helps a Vietnamese woman move to safety while his unit, M Company, 3rd Battalion, made a sweep of the area south of Da Nang.

The problem was caused by heavy traffic on Highway 13 — the most vital resupply route of the "Big Red One" — and the main street of Phu Cuong. U.S. military convoys created a nearly continual traffic tie-up along the twisting stretch of roadway running through the village.

Some 250 yards of roadway around the northeast side of Phu Cuong was built by the 1st Engineer Battalion, providing a bypass for convoy traffic. U.S. Army engineers worked with the 5th ARVN Engineer Battalion, which provided a bucket loader and dump trucks with operators. The joint effort resulted in 1,000 loads of laterite fill for the road foundation.

RF/PFs Train In III CTZ

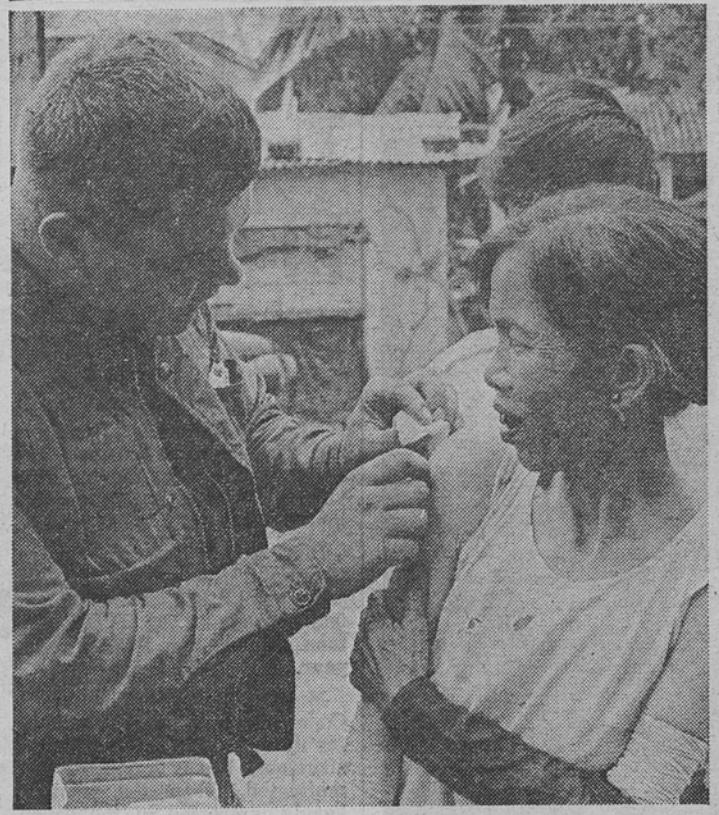
LONG BINH (II FF) — Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) within the III Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ), whose units serve as defenders for a series of outposts throughout the area, receive intensive training at one of the ten Provincial Basic Training centers in the zone.

Buu Long Training Center, seven miles west of Bien Hoa, was established in 1959 and trains around 2,500 RF/PF platoon and squad leaders each year.

Master Sergeant Thomas B. Connery serves as chief advisor for the training center. "The instructors, highly qualified and motivated, keep the students keenly interested in the seven-week course and the three-week refresher course," said the sergeant. "I consider Buu Long—which is run by the RF/PF—a success story."

The squad and platoon leaders' course trains the RF/PF in the proper techniques of handling prisoners, radio and telephone procedures, offensive and defensive warfare, and basic sanitation. The lastest cycle of trainees graduated in January, with 2,002 students completing the course.

In an attempt to centralize and streamline RF/PF



Nam-O villagers receive medical treatment from Marines.

Nam-O Is Rebuilding**Young Vietnamese Girl Learning Dental Skill**

PHUOC VINH (USA)—An 18-year-old Vietnamese girl took the lowest paying job in the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade here because she wants to serve her community with a very important skill.

"When she came into our civil affairs office and looked over the list of available jobs and the pay scales," said Private First Class Gene A. Wilhelm, "she selected a position in our dental clinic. I noted it was the lowest starting pay of all the vacancies we were trying to fill."

Why did she want a job in a dentist's office?

"Because I like," she explained.

Why did she like it?

"I want to learn a job I can do the rest of my life," she continued.

Her identification card says that her name is Bui Thi Thao, but the dental clinic staff call her Sally.

Sgt Makes Unusual Delivery

DAK TO (USA)—The odds against multiple births are so great that it is practically unheard of in most of the small isolated Montagnard villages. When such a phenomena occurred recently in the village of Dak Kie Jol near Dak To, the skilled hands and calm manners of Staff Sergeant James McCoy were invaluable assets.

The sergeant was on one of his frequent visits to the village where he has been chosen as honorary chief. While making the rounds, one of the villagers ran up to him crying, "mama-san bad sick."

"I grabbed my forceps and followed the boy," said Sergeant McCoy. "When we got to the woman I noticed she was in labor. I prepped her, and 12 hours later she delivered twin girls."

A 1st Brigade, 4th Division "Hawkeye" whose second love (after fighting Charlie) lies with treating the Montagnard people, he is quite capable of delivering babies. In the 10 months he has served in Vietnam, he has delivered 18 babies. The only thing novel about this occasion is that there were two.

Marines Help Villagers

DA NANG (USMC)—With the help of Force Logistic Command Marines, the townspeople of Nam-O are getting on their feet.

VC terrorists crept into Nam-O northwest of Da Nang and tried to make an example of those in the village who worked for Americans. A reign of terror followed.

By mid-morning, Vietnamese Rangers—with U.S. Marines acting as a blocking force—were in position outside the village. Air strikes used to force the enemy out damaged some of the homes in the little hamlet.

Promptly, the command's Headquarters and Service Battalion civil affairs team came

to the relief of the stricken villagers.

Setting up two aid stations, Navy corpsmen—together with Vietnamese doctors and medics—treated the wounded and evacuated the seriously injured.

Children needing further care were taken to nearby Hoa Khanh Children's hospital, which is also supported by the command.

Marines provided 13 truck-loads of lumber, masonry and carpenter kits, and several water trailers to aid the villagers in rebuilding their homes.

Sixty boxes of clothing and four sewing machines were provided through the CARE organization.

Within 48 hours, 720 villagers were treated under the medical civil affairs program, and preventive medicine personnel sprayed the soil to prevent an outbreak of disease.

Meanwhile, Hoa Vang district officials had evaluated the loss and filed claims for damages. The Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) office is furthering plans for the general rebuilding program.

Major Thomas J. Smythe, civil affairs coordinator, said that the villagers pooled the resources to buy 192 bags of rice in Da Nang, but that they had no means of transporting it. The Marines solved the problem for them.

Rome Plows Clear Jungle For Montagnard Farmlands

EDAP ENANG (USA)—One of the biggest sustained civic action offensives that Army engineers have undertaken in Vietnam was recently brought to a close by Rome plows and bulldozers of the 20th Engineer Battalion (Combat).

Directed by First Lieutenant's James Bell and John W. Sneed, a land clearing team from Companies A and D cleared two square miles of jungle to provide farmland for Montagnards living in Edap Enang, the

largest resettlement village between Pleiku and the Cambodian border.

The engineers carried out the project in two phases, during the first of which Lieutenant Bell supervised the team in clearing 615 acres on the hillsides near the village.

Two months later, after the team had returned from an essential combat support mission near Kontum, work was resumed. For almost the entire month of January, the dozers and plows worked to push the jungle back.

The second and last phase was completed late in January. Eight-hundred and sixty-five more acres lay bare.

The project required intelligent, careful supervision. Drivers were careful to keep the large tractors out of the small fields which had been planted last summer by the Montagnards.

The concept of a large resettlement village for Montagnards, normally a semi-nomadic people, was not guaranteed to be a valid one according to George Shepard, U.S. Agency for International Development Refugee Advisor for Pleiku Province.

"If the project succeeds," he explained, "it will be because of the way the land is handled." He went on to explain that even if the majority of the 8,000 Montagnards who have populated Edap Enang decided to leave, "a good portion of the land will be used by those who stay, and by others near the village."

The people shut their doors in our faces," said the captives. The second capture occurred when a man, carrying a Long An ID card, answered questions put to him by the team. The suspect slipped in the use of a pronoun which marked him as a northern (Quang Ngai Province) native.

In the early afternoon, the team spotted two young men hiding in a building and investigated. Two VC, a 22-year-old squad leader, the other 16, carried separate ID cards. Both cards, including photographs, were identical. The two VC were not.

In the meantime, civic action teams and advisors from Pleiku Province and Sector Headquarters, and the 4th Infantry Division, are planning to teach farming techniques and animal husbandry to the new settlers.

I was surprised as they were," quipped the sergeant. "They villagers had never seen twins before and I had never delivered twins before."

This, of course, called for an all-out Montagnard celebration. Traditionally when a boy is born the villagers dance and sing and the villagers dance and sing throughout the night.

pray to God that he lives a long, happy life with good health and good hunting.

Female births, however, do not rate this much, except in the twins' case, which prompted the villagers to break out the rice wine and sing and dance throughout the night.

The sergeant was on one of his frequent visits to the village where he has been chosen as honorary chief. While making the rounds, one of the villagers ran up to him crying, "mama-san bad sick."

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FIRE POWER—A Marine tank of the 3rd Tank Battalion, supporting the Fourth Marines, blasts enemy positions with its 90mm cannon on a search and destroy mission south of the demilitarized zone. (USMC PHOTO By Cpl. L. Preston Brown)

"I was surprised as they were," quipped the sergeant. "They villagers had never seen twins before and I had never delivered twins before."

This, of course, called for an all-out Montagnard celebration. Traditionally when a boy is born the villagers dance and sing and the villagers dance and sing throughout the night.

pray to God that he lives a long, happy life with good health and good hunting.

Female births, however, do not rate this much, except in the twins' case, which prompted the villagers to break out the rice wine and sing and dance throughout the night.

The sergeant was on one of his frequent visits to the village where he has been chosen as honorary chief. While making the rounds, one of the villagers ran up to him crying, "mama-san bad sick."

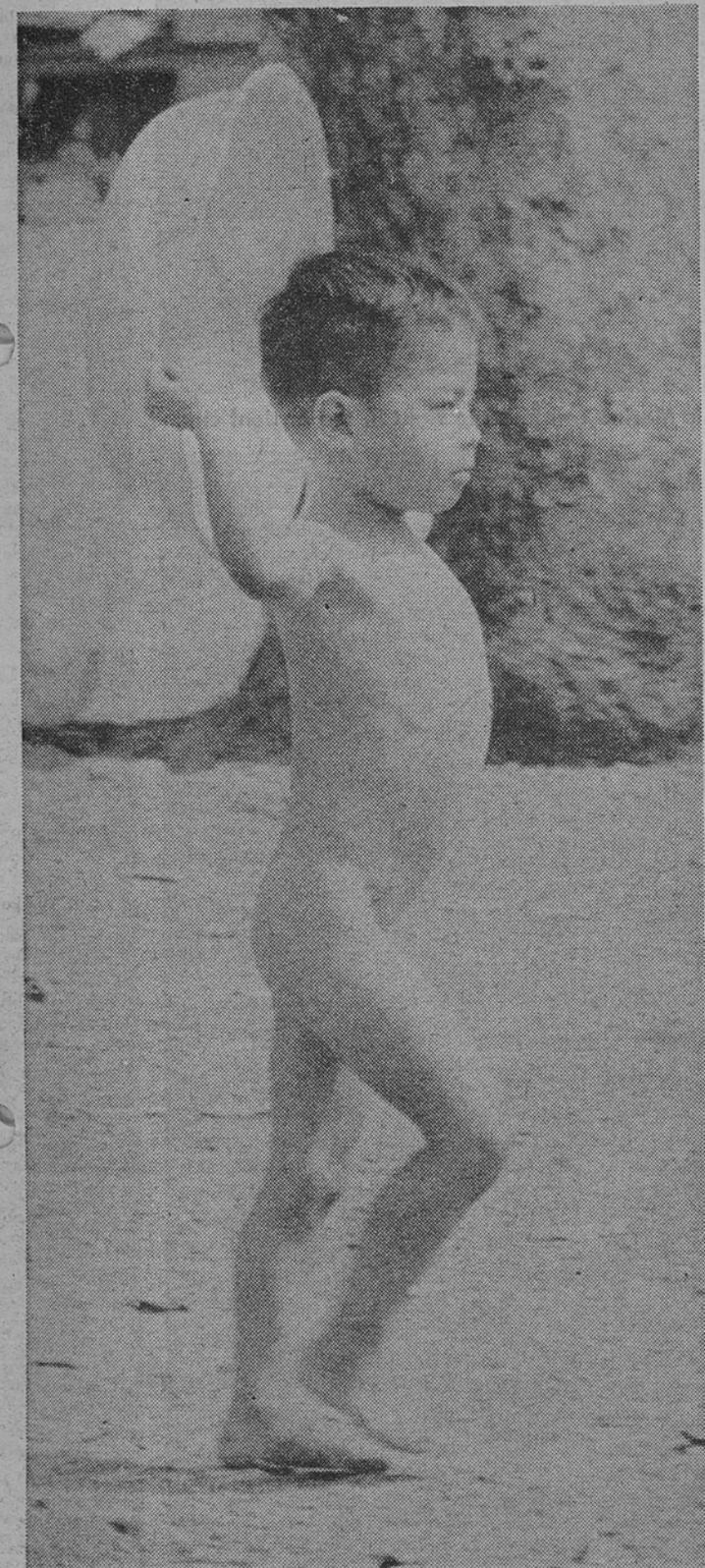
"I grabbed my forceps and followed the boy," said Sergeant McCoy. "When we got to the woman I noticed she was in labor. I prepped her, and 12 hours later she delivered twin girls."

A 1st Brigade, 4th Division "Hawkeye" whose second love (after fighting Charlie) lies with treating the Montagnard people, he is quite capable of delivering babies. In the 10 months he has served in Vietnam, he has delivered 18 babies. The only thing novel about this occasion is that there were two.

FIRE POWER—A Marine tank of the 3rd Tank Battalion, supporting the Fourth Marines, blasts enemy positions with its 90mm cannon on a search and destroy mission south of the demilitarized zone. (USMC PHOTO By Cpl. L. Preston Brown)



Children wash with soap donated by American friends.



After getting a bar of soap, this boy heads for the wash.

Three Saigon Soldiers Start Small Aid Program

SAIGON (MACV)—Enemy action during the NVA and VC Tet offensive created thousands of refugees in the Saigon-Cholon area, however, many agencies are working to help relieve their suffering.

One such organization is the Traffic Management Agency Headquarters in Saigon. Three soldiers assigned to that unit have staged their own small counteroffensive which is helping some of the war victims.

Sergeant John Giertz, Specialist 5 Charles Ronayne and Specialist 4 David Frazier have received items of clothing and soap from their respective churches back home for distribution to the needy Vietnamese in Saigon.

Prior to the Communist attack, the men had been giving the donated items to the children in the neighborhood of their living quarters, but they now have diverted some of the goods to a refugee center located in a nearby school where almost 1,000 refugees are being housed.

When the soldiers visit the center, the children run to greet them with salutes and wide smiles.

"Some of the children seem confused and scared," said one of the specialists, "but most of them looked as if they were

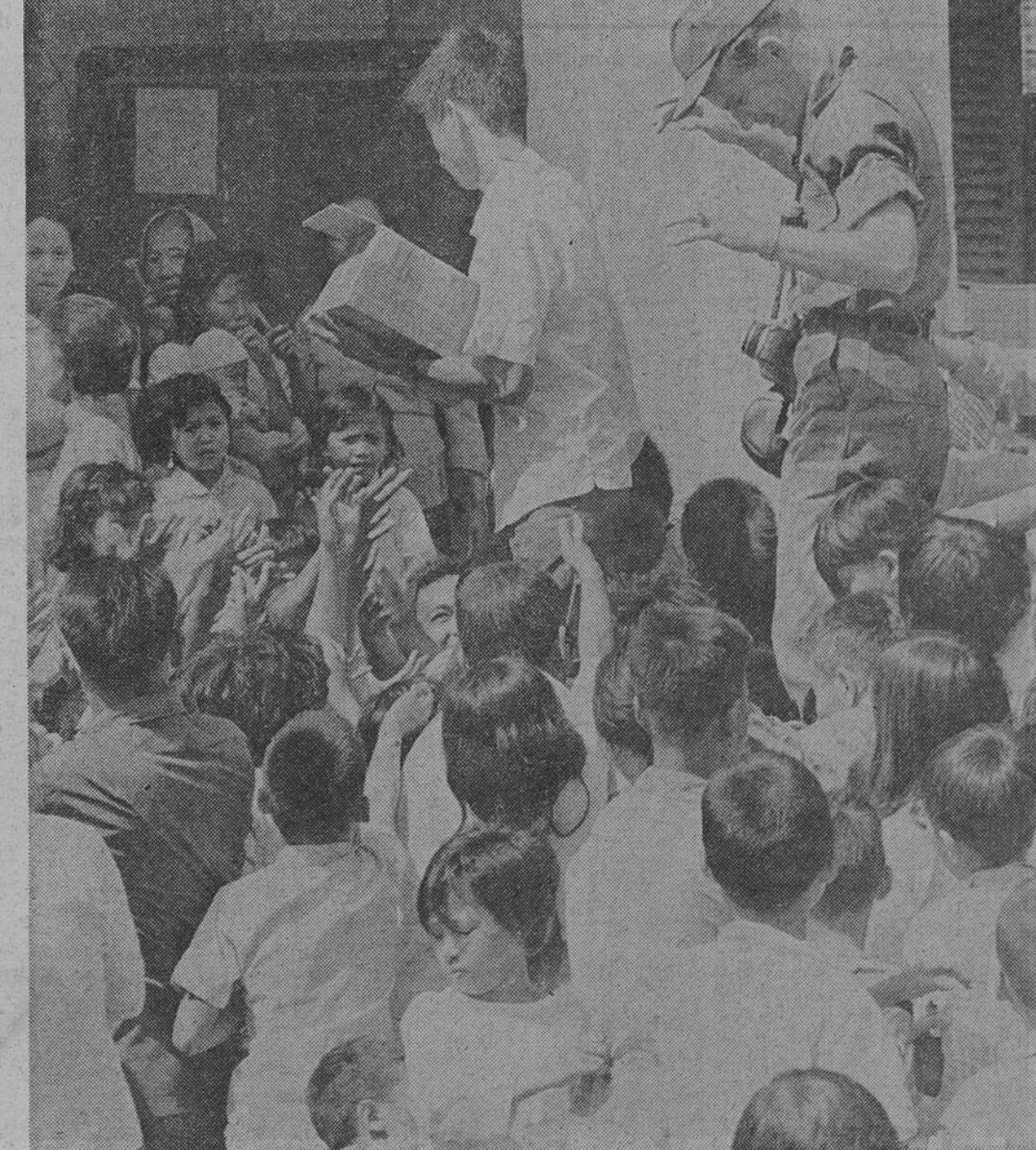
enjoying the change in the daily routine of living in the same area. I doubt if many of them realize it was a deadly war which brought them together in a crowded school courtyard to live."

The three men said they were sure the children meant what little English they could speak.



Just three of over 1,000 refugees at Phan Van Tri Center

Photos
By
Sp 4 David R. Frazier



Children surround Sp 5 Ronayne as clothing and soap are passed out.

U.S. Marines Battling House-to-House In Hue



Patients are evacuated during heavy fighting near Hue Hospital.



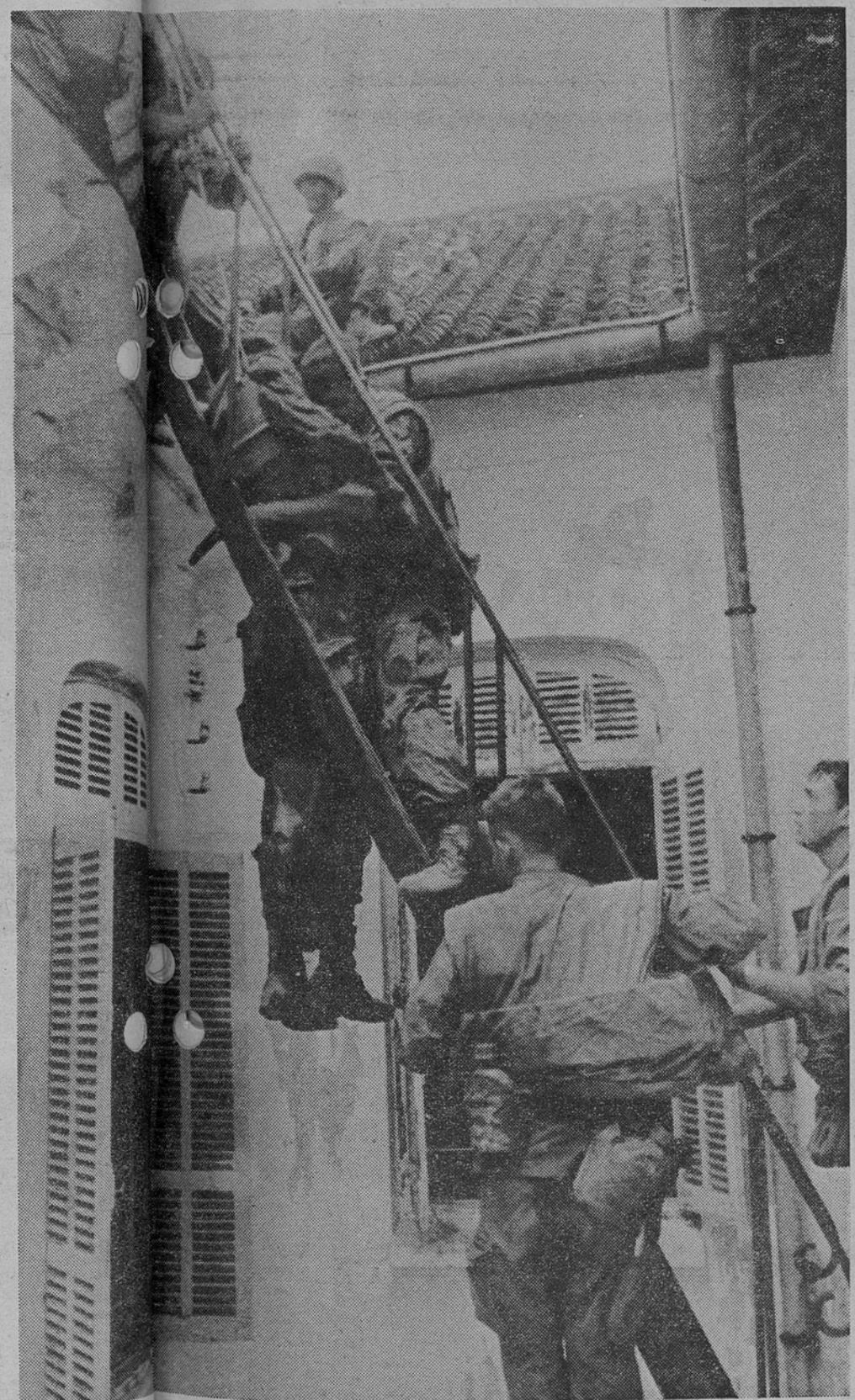
Already wounded, this Marine continues to fight in the ancient city.



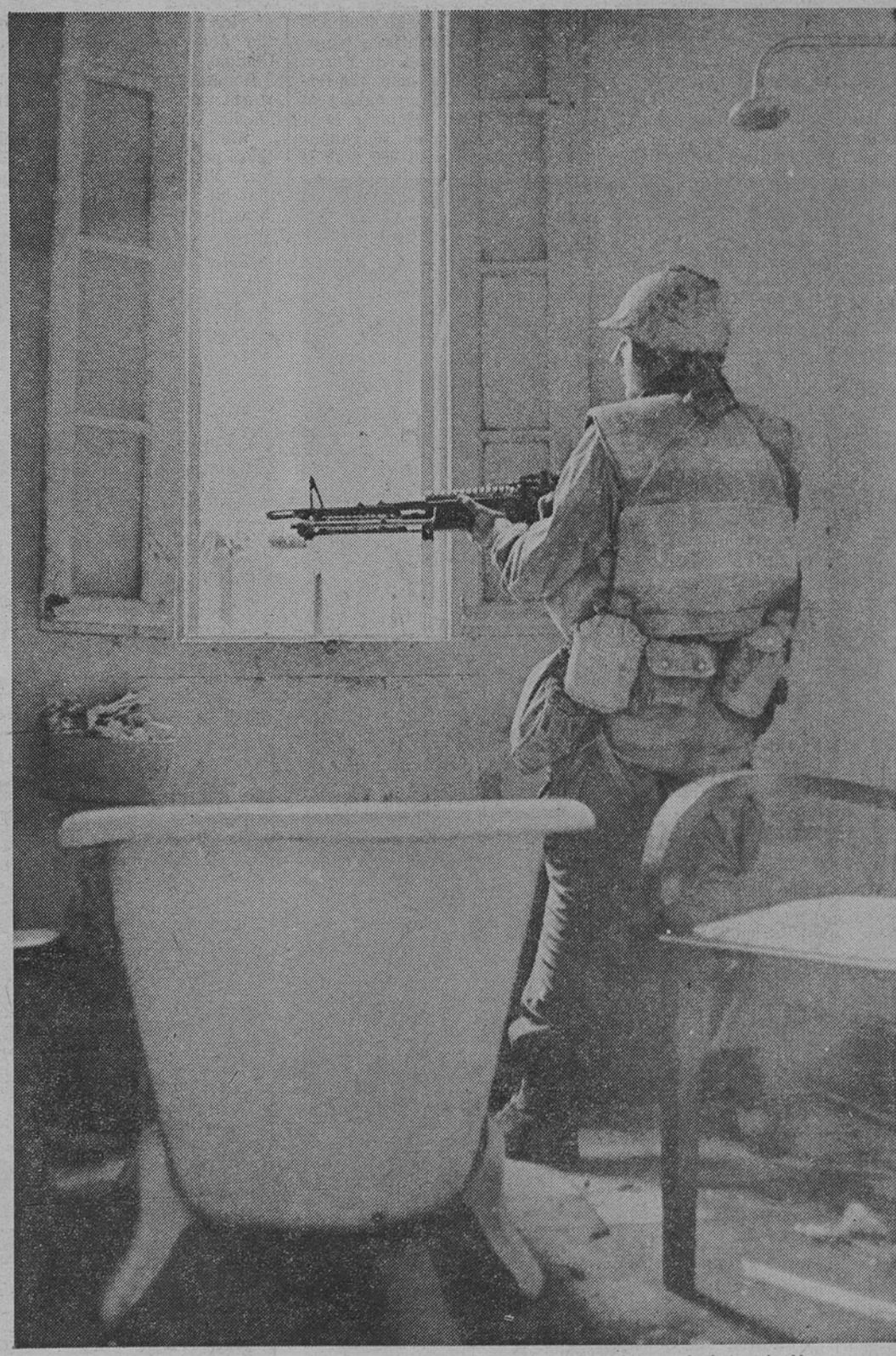
Firing from window in the University of Hue, this Marine silences an enemy sniper.



Two Leathernecks keep a sharp watch for snipers near the University of Hue.



A wounded Marine is carefully lowered from a rooftop during Operation Hue City.



This Marine finds cover in a bathroom during house-to-house fighting in Hue.



Corpsman with the Fifth Marines works quickly to bandage the shrapnel wounds of a Marine injured during the fighting in Hue.

USMC PHOTOS By Sgt W.F. Dickman

Khe Sanh Refugees Get U.S. Help



Food service specialists at Da Nang worked through the night to feed the refugees.

DA NANG (USA) — Four hundred tired, hungry refugees from the embattled Khe Sanh City area landed at Da Nang air base recently after being driven from their homes by an enemy force.

On hand to meet the refugees

and provide them with food and clothes were civil affairs teams from the Army and Air Force. Also desiring to help the refugees, the Air Force bakery at Da Nang baked 100 large loafs of bread and made 50 gallons of soup to go with 200 pounds

of rice which was provided by the Army's 29th Civil Affairs Company.

Blankets to keep the people warm were furnished by the III Marine Amphibious Force.

"Getting the chance to help these people," observed one airman, "is one of the best things that has happened to me since I arrived in Vietnam."

Khe Sanh refugees were housed and fed at Da Nang.



This small refugee seems pleased with his Air Force meal.



A Marine comforts a small boy whose parents were killed by the enemy.



Ba points out area of the latest movement of Viet Cong.

Ex-VC Leads Marines Against His Old Unit

CHU LAI (USMC) — Tieu Viet Ba, a Kit Carson scout with the Combined Action Platoon (CAP) L-5, once again led the men of his unit into VC territory where they killed 10 enemy.

The ex-Viet Cong lead the 26-man CAP force from Phouc Thien to his old Viet Cong rest and retraining center at An Cuong village, where 12 Marines and 14 Popular Force troops set

up an ambush for the unsuspecting enemy.

Marine Sergeant Donald E. Williams tells the story this way:

"During our journey to An Cuong, we passed within 20 meters of two different enemy hootches. We know from past experience that guerrillas were in them, but our primary mission would be tipped off if we engaged them.

"Ba, our Kit Carson scout, led us, undetected, right past these hootches and on to his old vacation village.

"When we arrived at An Cuong, we set up in two and four-man teams on the village's perimeter and waited until dawn.

"Then we opened fire on the village. Five VC tried to escape and we captured them. Two others were not so lucky and were killed.

"After we overran the village and all firing had stopped, my platoon searched the caves and tunnels found within the village. We located several places of concealment and set off explosive charges to remove possible booby traps.

"One of my men went down into one of the caves and found eight dead VC. There also was three secondary explosions in other tunnels which indicated more ammo explosives.

Montagnards Receive Shots

PLEIKU (USA) — Some 50 Montagnards of Polei Khoi Jet village, near Pleiku, were immunized against the plague recently by a U.S. Army Civic Action team.

Headed up by Captain Roberto Gonzales, members of the 20th Engineer Battalion (Combat) administered the vaccine which prevents the spread of this deadly disease.

Draft Dodger Found Serving In Vietnam

CAMP ENARI (USA) — Draft dodgers and eligible draftees are not only found stateside but also here in the Army—that is, if a draft board in Yonkers, N.Y. is correct.

Assuming that the board's records are in order, Specialist 5 Conrad Clark of Yonkers, and currently serving with the 4th Infantry Division, is a draft dodger.

On active duty for the past 16 years, the specialist recently received a local board inquiry as to why he has not registered with them.

The inquiry addressed to his Yonkers residence stated:

"According to your date of birth shown in the records of the local board, you should be registered with the Selective Service System. This local board has jurisdiction over the address in the records referred to but you are not recorded as a registrant.

"If you have not been registered on or after Aug. 30, 1948, you are required to register by reporting in person at the nearest Selective Service Local Board unless you can establish that you are a person not required to register." Also it requested you to notify the board when he intends to register.

A veteran of World War II with more than 18 months service in the Southwest Pacific, Specialist Clark came to Vietnam with the Ivy Division in September 1966 and is now serving on a six-month extension here.

"What a way to run a draft board," chuckled the spry veteran. "I guess maybe I'll have to visit them on my next six-month extension leave."



TOE TREATMENT—A 10th Cavalry medic treats this young Montagnard boy's foot during a recent MEDCAP visit to a village near Vung Dat Am. (USA PHOTO By 1st Lt L.E. Mignault)

Small Project Grows; Airmen Donate Supplies

SAIGON (USA) — Two orphanages near Tan Son Nhut air base recently became the recipients of a civic action project started by Captain Charles E. Rousenberg of Woodfield, Ohio.

The orphans — the Dom Bosco orphanage for boys and the Go Vap for girls — received bars of soap, wash cloths, towels, tooth brushes and 11,000 tubes of tooth paste donated by the men of the 377th Civil Engineering Squadron's real estate branch. Also donated were 15 cases of soft drinks, eight cases

of canned milk and 75 pounds of candy and cookies.

Captain Rousenberg started the project by writing home and asking for toys and other items for the children of Vietnam.

After receiving many contributions, the captain visited the orphans and distributed the gifts.

"After going out once and seeing that there were so many children, I didn't feel it was fair to give some of the children these toys, so I asked for help from the men of the branch," said the captain.

Engineers Aid Orphanages; Build Needed Equipment

DAK TO (USA) — Army engineers working near here have recently started two civic action programs to aid two orphanages.

Platoon Sergeant Clinton Z. Edge and Specialist 4 Philip Alley, both of Company A, 299th Engineer Battalion, built eight tables, 24 chairs, four wheelbarrows and a wagon for the orphanage at Kontum.

Captain Robert Faxon, Company A commander, presented the furniture to Reverend Stan Smith, director of the orphanage and school for Montagnard children.

In another effort, engineers from the battalion's 15th Engineer Company built double-decker bunks for the children at St. Paul of Chartres Orphanage at Dien Binh.

Tablets Send Him Home

Lt Gets His Sham

LZ BALDY (USA) — During World War II and the Korean War, it was known as the "million dollar wound." It was a wound or an illness sufficiently serious to remove a man from a hazardous position, but not really painful or disabling.

Probably, the soldiers of every country in every war had a term for this stroke of good fortune. The U.S. troop in Vietnam is no different. To him, the million dollar wound is known as the "Sham," and many anecdotes relate Private or Sergeant X's sham injury.

One of the more amusing stories of this nature concerns Second Lieutenant William E. Draffun.

Their questions were answered when the letter was read.

Lieutenant Draffun, it seems, was allergic to the anti-malaria pill and could not stay in Vietnam.

Army Acts Gets Food To Village

CAM RANH BAY (USA) — Army authorities at Cam Ranh Bay reacted swiftly to avert a serious food shortage recently among local Vietnamese villagers.

Due to the continuing wave of Viet Cong terrorist activities throughout the country the last few weeks, the Vietnamese of Cam Ranh Bay city and the Republic of Vietnam's Naval Recruit Training Center were left very low on food supplies.

Soldiers of the Army Support Command, working under the guidance of civil affairs personnel, rushed food supplies to those in need. Food for 9,000 meals was distributed to the village.

In addition 3,300 meals were provided for 600 cadre and dependents of the training center and 500 recruits.

The village and center are located on the Cam Ranh Bay peninsula.



WE'RE SPEECHLESS—Though it has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, this particular one leaves us somewhat speechless. It would take more than a thousand words to describe Angela Darien, a lovely and leggy lass who sends her "Warmest Regards" to the U.S. troops in Vietnam. (PHOTO BY PLAYBOY)



TARP—Launching the Tet Aggression Relief Project (TARP), General Westmoreland, Commander of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, presents a personal check to Sergeant First Class Julio Gutierrez. TARP is designed to receive voluntary donations from military personnel in Vietnam and to distribute them to Vietnamese who suffered in the brutal Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attacks over the Lunar New Year. Sergeant Gutierrez is assigned to Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), the coordinating agency for these funds. TARP donations will be utilized in the areas of the contributing U.S. military organizations. (USA PHOTO)

4th Infantry Division Medics Making A Home For 'G.G.'

DUC PHO (USA) — One of the strongest and most lasting ties that American servicemen make in the many countries where they are stationed is their friendship with the native children.

The men of Company D, 4th Medical Battalion are no different. In addition to their regular duties as medics for the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, the medics have assumed

the role of parents for an orphaned Montagnard girl.

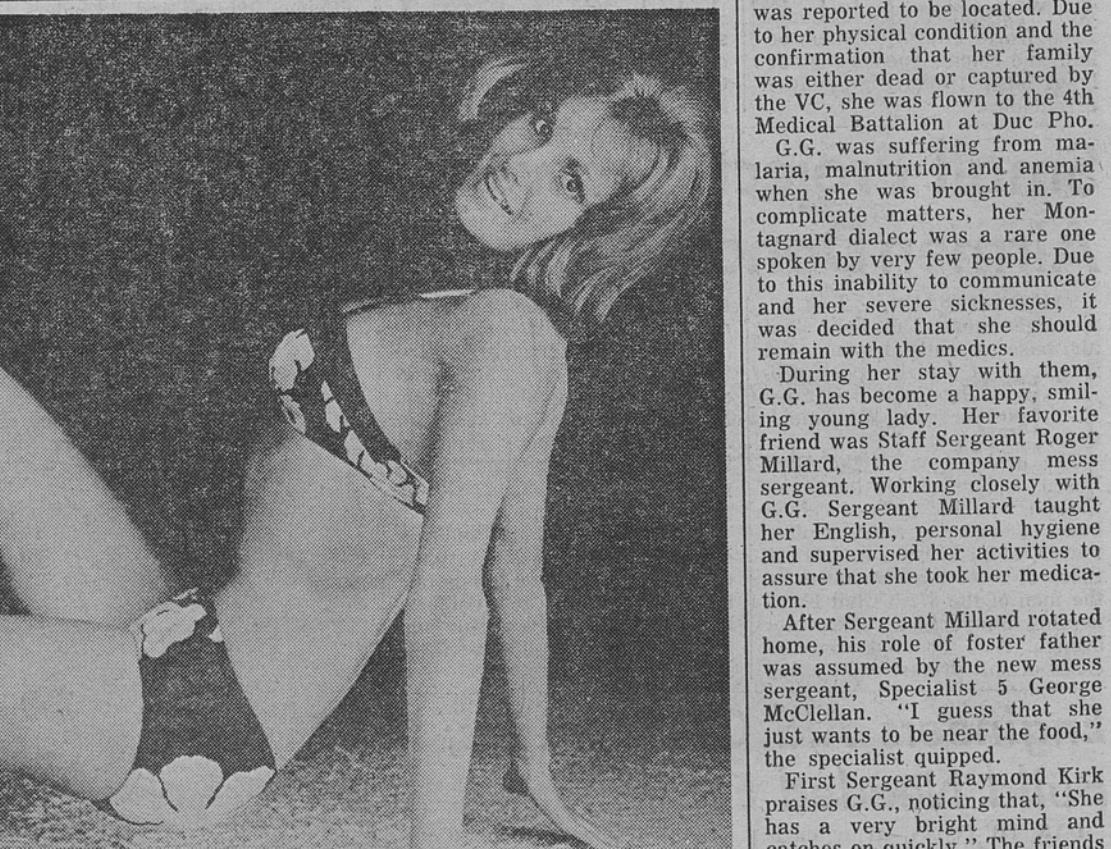
G.G., the name given her by the men of D Company, was found by the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry during a sweep of an area in which a Viet Cong force was reported to be located. Due to her physical condition and the confirmation that her family was either dead or captured by the VC, she was flown to the 4th Medical Battalion at Duc Pho.

G.G. was suffering from malaria, malnutrition and anemia when she was brought in. To complicate matters, her Montagnard dialect was a rare one spoken by very few people. Due to this inability to communicate and her severe sicknesses, it was decided that she should remain with the medics.

During her stay with them, G.G. has become a happy, smiling young lady. Her favorite friend was Staff Sergeant Roger Millard, the company mess sergeant. Working closely with G.G. Sergeant Millard taught her English, personal hygiene and supervised her activities to assure that she took her medication.

After Sergeant Millard rotated home, his role of foster father was assumed by the new mess sergeant, Specialist 5 George McClellan. "I guess that she just wants to be near the food," the specialist quipped.

First Sergeant Raymond Kirk praises G.G., noticing that, "She has a very bright mind and catches on quickly." The friends and relatives of the medics, after learning of G.G., have sent toys and clothing. "With her good manners and all her new clothes, she is really getting to be quite a lady. Having a little lady in the area keeps us on our toes watching our manners, language and dress," said Captain Stewart Davis, battalion medical officer.



American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of March 6-12, 1968)

Wednesday Mar. 6

1830 News Headlines
1930 Lost in Space
2000 Insight
2025 Information Feature
2045 Family
2100 Carol Burnett
2120 Sports (Re-Run)
2130 Late News
2135 Sports (Continued)

Thursday Mar. 7

1830 News Headlines
1930 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1950 Fisherman
1960 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2025 Information Feature
2030 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Late News
2315 Jerry Lewis

Friday Mar. 8

1830 News Headlines
1930 Wild Wild West
1950 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2025 Information Feature
2030 Bewitched
2100 Big Valley
2200 Star Trek
2300 Late News
2315 Joey Bishop Show

Saturday Mar. 9

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Sunday Mar. 10

1230 News Headlines
1300 Christopher's Sacred Heart
1330 The Answer
1500 Sports of the Week
1730 Friday Night Football
1830 Danny Thomas Hour
1930 News and Sports
2000 Window on Vietnam
2005 Bob Hope Show
2030 Fred and Gail Flickers
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Late News
2315 Dean Martin Summer Show

Monday Mar. 11

1830 News Headlines
1930 Daniel Boone
1950 News & Sports
2000 Insight
2025 Magic Room
2030 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Impossible
2230 Late News
2315 Tonight Show

Tuesday Mar. 12

1830 News Headlines
1900 Official Detective
1930 Roy Acuff
1930 News and Sports
2000 Biography
2030 Green Acres
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Carol Burnett
2230 Late News
2315 Feature Movie

Wednesday Mar. 13

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Thursday Mar. 14

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Friday Mar. 15

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Saturday Mar. 16

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Sunday Mar. 17

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Monday Mar. 18

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Tuesday Mar. 19

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Wednesday Mar. 20

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Thursday Mar. 21

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Friday Mar. 22

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Saturday Mar. 23

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Sunday Mar. 24

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Monday Mar. 25

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Tuesday Mar. 26

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Wednesday Mar. 27

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Thursday Mar. 28

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Friday Mar. 29

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Saturday Mar. 30

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Sunday Mar. 31

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Monday Mar. 31

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Tuesday Mar. 31

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Wednesday Mar. 31

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Thursday Mar. 31

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Friday Mar. 31

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1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
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1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Wednesday Mar. 31

1830 News Headlines
1900 Mike Douglas Show
1945 Greatest Dramas
1940 CBS Golf Classic
1950 Sports of the Week
1730 American Profile
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
200

Combined Force Kills 77 NVA

PHU MY (USA) — Vietnamese and American soldiers combined forces recently to maul an estimated two companies of NVA regulars near the Central Lowland district capital of Phu My, 300 miles northeast of Saigon.

In an example of close Vietnamese-U.S. cooperation, elements of the 22nd ARVN Infantry Division and the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division killed 77 enemy while suffering only light casualties during the day-long battle.

The fierce fight began early in the morning as an element of the 22nd's 41st Regiment was conducting a search and clear mission some four miles southeast of Phu My in Binh Dinh Province.

The ARVN soldiers and their U.S. advisors uncovered the enemy force which, after a brief firefight, attempted to retreat to the north. The ARVN unit's advisor, Lieutenant Thomas R. Morris, called for and directed an artillery barrage that slammed the door on the enemy's escape.

An armored personnel carrier

(APC) company from the 1st Cavalry also responded to the ARVN call for assistance and arrived on the scene shortly before noon. Cavalry troopers halted an enemy attempt to escape to the west and forced the NVA back into the Vietnamese unit's fire.

By mid-afternoon, the ARVN and U.S. units linked up and assaulted the enemy force which had fallen back to prepared positions.

"It was a classic example of ARVN-U.S. cooperation and coordination of firepower," said Staff Sergeant Max G. Boone, an advisor to the Vietnamese.

While artillery pinned the NVA in their holes, the ARVN infantrymen and the APCs supported each other in the final assault. As contact broke at dusk, 37 enemy bodies were counted.



ALERT FORCE — A USAF alert team responds to a VC attack on Tan Son Nhut air base. (USAF PHOTO)

NVA, VC Promised 'Victory'

LONG BINH (II FF) — A victory more important than Dien Bien Phu—that is what the NVA and VC troops were promised they would achieve in their Tet offensive when they were told to attack the Bien Hoa-Long

Binh military complex.

This fact was revealed in a Viet Cong document captured by elements of the 199th Infantry Brigade. It stated that the victory would be more important to the final triumph of their

cause "than the entire preceding 20 years of fighting."

The enemy troops also were promised a hero's welcome by the people of the Bien Hoa area.

Infiltrating elements of the 274th and 275th NVA Regiments fully expected a popular uprising to aid them in overwhelming the US positions at Bien Hoa-Long Binh the document revealed.

Instead, they found themselves forced to shoot several of their own countrymen who attempted to warn ARVN and US troops of the impending attack, and in Bui Tieng hamlet they were attacked by knife-wielding civilians who banded together to try to protect their homes.

Bleak morning light on the first day of battle found the Viet Cong and NVA huddled in "Widows Village" across from II Field Force Headquarters — their attacks beaten back from the perimeter, their rocket positions wiped out before they could fire a second salvo, their positions pounded by helicopter gunships with rockets and miniguns.

Their offensive was over; the rest of the day and week belonged to elements of the 199th, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and the 552d Military Police Company, all of whom swept through the enemy positions and wiped out nests of resistance.



SIGHTING IN — Two Marines prepare to fire their 3.5-inch rocket launcher. (USMC PHOTO)

Offers . . .

(Continued From Page 1) medical treatment at the division base camp, the young Hoi Chanh later returned to the brigade to broadcast live appeals to his friends.

"Ho Chans are not treated as prisoners," stated the specialist. "They give up of their own free will and continue to be free." At a Hoi Chanh center they are given new clothes, food, and spending money.

The Vietnamese government also attempts to reunite them with their families while they go through a period of reindoctrination.

"Most of them say they don't know why they're down here," added Specialist Pagel. "They label Communism as 'all talk and no action' and are quite thankful for the opportunity the Chieu Hoi program lets them come over."

Marine Platoon Wins 'Impossible' Battle...

(Continued From Page 1) across the compound and took over a machine gun bunker. They got a .30 caliber machine gun into action and killed 15 NVA soldiers on the lines in

front of them.

An RPG round struck their bunker, wounding all five, but they held their positions.

A Marine in the observation tower along the northwestern

perimeter was firing an M-79 grenade launcher into the massed NVA when an enemy bullet tore through the barrel of his weapon. Another bullet pierced his flak jacket, but failed to harm him.

Lance Corporal Lawrence M. Eades is ordinarily a company clerk with Combined Action Company Papa at Cam Lo, but that morning he demonstrated that he was an excellent machine gunner as well.

When the district headquarters was attacked, Corporal Eades left 24 NVA dead in front of his gun position.

"When we were hit, I grabbed my M-16 and an M-60 machine gun and ran to my position on the northwest side of the perimeter," he said.

"You could see NVA all over the place, running back and forth along our defensive perimeter. Many were carrying crude Bangalore torpedoes or satchel charges. I set down the machine gun and began firing. . . ."

Then the enemy managed to

breach a 20-foot path through the barbed wire. They were within 15 meters of the Marine positions, and threatening to overrun the perimeter.

According to Captain Peter D. Haines, the CAP company commander, Corporal Eades leaped up on the parapet and began firing into the enemy who had crept up to the Marine lines.

"I thought sure he'd be hit," said the captain, "he was silhouetted against a burning building. He stood right out there in the open and mowed them down."

Wounded by enemy grenades, the Marine stayed on the machine gun until a relief force arrived the next morning. Before dawn he had fired nearly 3,500 rounds of ammunition. During lulls in the fighting, he carried bandages and ammunition to other Marines along the perimeter.

According to the young Leathernack, the enemy had crept so close he could not depress his sights enough to hit them. The only way he could shoot them

was to climb up above them and shoot down into them.

Lance Corporal Richard C. Wall was another stalwart in the Cam Lo defense. He ran among his men, exposing himself to enemy fire and shouting orders to the fire team while firing into a hedgerow to his front and pitching grenades at the enemy.

When the firing slackened near daylight, the Marines redistributed their ammunition and patched up their wounds. Then a reaction force arrived, supported with tanks, to begin the mopping up operations.

Outside of a few U.S. Army advisors, some Marine engineers and the headquarters personnel of CACO-Papa, the platoon had been the only defense for the district headquarters.

The Cam Lo defenders had practically annihilated a company of North Vietnamese regulars.

According to Captain Haines, the North Vietnamese had plans for a big celebration following their ill-fated assault.

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