

Task Force Defends Saigon

SAIGON (MACV) — When the emergency curfew ends in Saigon it will mean that Task Force Ware was successful. And it will mean that Ho Chi Minh's plan to take over the South Vietnamese capital by overt military action has failed. His plans for a popular uprising of the Saigon populace will have been futile.

In Saigon, the Tet truce was brought to a bitter end at 3 a.m. on Jan. 31 when a Viet Cong suicide squad attempted to occupy and destroy the American Embassy. This action was followed closely by similar attacks on other U.S. and Vietnamese

military and governmental installations in the greater Saigon area.

Within hours Task Force Ware became operational. At 10:30 a.m. two U.S. Army officers and an enlisted man kicked off the task force in two rooms of the Saigon headquarters of the Capital Military District.

By 4 p.m. on Feb. 13, the task force troops, working in coordination with Allied and South Vietnamese forces, had killed more than 3,800 enemy in and around Saigon. They had taken 1,123 prisoners, held about 4,500 detainees and captured 1,426 as-

sorted weapons.

Headed by Army Major General Keith L. Ware, the task force used troops allocated by the U.S. II Field Force, Vietnam. Working closely with Ware troops were elements of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army aviation, Vietnamese Army and Air Force, Australians, Vietnamese National Police, U.S. Army military police. Even the local militia, called the Vietnamese Regional Force battalion, was on the line.

The enemy attacked Saigon with nine battalions and elements of a regiment. They had infiltrated into the area during

the festivities of Tet. They came in two's and three's, drew cashed weapons and rations inside the city, and were joined by local Viet Cong.

Among their initial principle targets were the sprawling Tan Son Nhut air base and the U.S. Embassy. Even before the task force was formally in operation, U.S. cavalrymen and airborne troops, military police, Air Force security guards and Vietnamese troops were in action.

As fast as someone could say "mount up," two troops of the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, at Cu Chi reacted to establish contingency plans and were on their way to Saigon. They arrived quickly at the air base to link up with U.S. Air Force security forces and ARVN troops to stave off the enemy attack.

The fight at the Embassy was

another matter. The Marine guards and military police needed help. Troops of the 101st Airborne were moved by helicopter to the Embassy's roof. When the fight was over, 19 enemy were dead and one was detained.

Action began to take place between the friendly forces and the enemy throughout the morning, and by 10:30 a.m. Task Force Ware was in full swing. As fast as Army Lieutenant General Frederick C. Weyand, the II Field Force commander, could allocate forces and firepower, they joined the task force. The Government of Vietnam, meanwhile, called in 15 crack battalions of Marines, Airborne and Rangers.

According to Task Force Commander Ware, "The majority of the fighting in Saigon was being done by the Vietnamese military and paramilitary forces.

(Continued on Back Page)



FIRST IN VIETNAM

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Villagers Form Vigilantes; Fight Viet Cong Terrorists

CAMP FRENZELL JONES (USA) — When Viet Cong troops infiltrated the little village of Ho Nai that hugs the perimeter of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's main base, they expected widespread support from the villagers. They also expected food to replenish them before they launched their attack against the Long Binh military complex.

Instead of widespread support from the villagers, they found themselves against an organized

vigilante force of villagers. Instead of food, they found bare food storage in the homes that they forced themselves into. The villagers simply deserted the Viet Cong, going to places of refuge—and place from which they terrorized the terrorists.

Residents of Ho Nai formed their own forces to fight the Viet Cong in their area immediately after the VC attack on the Long Binh-Bien Hoa military complex at 3 a.m. on January 31.

The Ho Nai vigilantes have detained an undetermined number of Viet Cong raiders who infiltrated their village during the battle, turning their captives over to Vietnamese district authorities, ARVN units and to U.S. units.

They also captured VC equipment, turning it over to the allies. Recently a villager hailed a passing U.S. Army jeep, handing over to the driver a Viet Cong telephone switchboard that he had captured and hidden until he could turn it over to friendly forces.

The villagers' plan also involved setting up road check points, listening posts in the area, and burning foliage around the village that would otherwise provide cover for the Viet Cong.

The concept of formulating vigilante groups was perhaps a normal reaction for the villagers, many of whom are refugees from the north who came south to escape Communist terrorism. The 199th Brigade carries out an intensive civil affairs program in the village and other hamlets in the area.

Medal Of Honor Awarded To Sgt.

LONG BINH (USA) — The Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded to Sergeant Donald R. Long for conspicuous gallantry in exposing himself to heavy enemy fire and giving up his life for his comrades.

On June 30, 1966 as a member of Troop C, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, a Viet Cong regiment attacked his unit and another supporting troop.

The 26-year-old sergeant was cited for repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire at point-blank range to provide needed resupply. Abandoning the relative safety of his armored personnel carrier, he "braved a withering hail of enemy fire" to carry wounded men to evacuation helicopters.

As his comrades attempted to mount his carrier, the Blackfort, Ohio sergeant fearlessly stood unprotected to repel the enemy with rifle fire and grenades.

Again as the enemy threatened to overrun a disabled carrier nearby, Sergeant Long disregarded his own safety to help the severely wounded crew to safety.

As he reorganized the less seriously wounded for a counter-attack, an enemy grenade was hurled onto the carrier deck. Sergeant Long shouted a warn-

ing and pushed one man to safety. He then threw himself onto the grenade, saving the lives of eight men at the loss of his own.

Mrs. Marve Y. Gordon, the sergeant's sister, received the Medal from Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor at a Pentagon ceremony for her brother.

An element of Task Force Ware patrols a Saigon street.

Italian-born PFC Earns U.S. MOH

LONG BINH (USA) — The Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded to Private First Class Lewis Albanese who lost his life while enabling his platoon to successfully advance against a numerically superior force.

Italian-born PFC Albanese

was a member of Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division on Dec. 1, 1966 when his platoon received intense automatic weapons fire from close range.

He was ordered to provide security for the left flank as other members moved to assault the enemy position. Suddenly, the flank received fire from the enemy in a well-concealed ditch. PFC Albanese fixed his bayonet, moved into the ditch and silenced the sniper.

As the platoon advanced, a pitched battle ensued in the ditch; a well-organized complex of enemy defenses had been designed to bring devastating flanking fire on the friendly forces.

The 22-year-old soldier advanced 100 meters along the trench and killed six snipers who were armed with automatic weapons. Having exhausted his ammunition supply, he was mortally wounded when he engaged and killed two more enemy soldiers in fierce hand-to-hand combat.

The Medal was presented to PFC Albanese's mother, Mrs. Giannina Albanese, by Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor at a Pentagon ceremony. PFC Albanese attended Franklin High School in his hometown of Seattle, Wash.



SHAMBLES — Burned out buildings are mute evidence to the fierce fighting that took place in many Vietnamese cities during the Tet offensive.

(USA PHOTO By Sp4 Peter Bie)

Editorial

The Real Pro's

The "pro" is the guy who knows what he's doing. The one who is in "the big leagues." In America, to call someone a "real pro" is to pay him the highest compliment.

In his recent congratulatory message to the men and women of his command, General Westmoreland used the term professional in regard to their conduct during the recent enemy offensive. It is a compliment to all members of the U.S. armed forces team in country, one each member should take great pride in.

It is also a quality each man and woman serving in Vietnam should strive to achieve through his tour in the Republic and their service career.

It does not strain logic to point out that every assignment here is directly related to the primary task of securing the peace and independence of South Vietnam. Thus, how well each of us performs in his assigned job reflects on how successful the varied missions and operations will be.

The "pro" is the guy or gal who gives his best all the way. Sure, he may gripe, have "bad days" when he's tired or not feeling well—the "pro" is a human being—not a supertrooper, but the "pro" has that little extra push that gets out that much more effort.

The accolade paid by our commander recently was well earned. May it always continue to be in the best traditions of all our services—by all the "Real Pro's—the big leaguers in uniform." (MACV)

Gen Vien Sends Letter Of Thanks

SAIGON (MACV)—General Cao Van Vien, chief of the Joint General Staff, RVNAF, extended his thanks and admiration to U.S. servicemen in Vietnam for their actions during the recent Tet offensive.

In a letter to General Westmoreland, General Vien wrote, "I wish to extend to you and to all members of your command my sincerest thanks and admiration for the outstanding moral and material support given to the RVNAF during the recent Communist offensive . . .

"The total cooperation and unity of effort of our Armed Forces were the essential factors in blunting the enemy assault . . .

" . . . Prompt effective participation of U.S. Forces to help relieve the enemy pressure on critical areas is especially appreciated . . .

"On behalf of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, I wish to again thank you for your assistance and through you, all members of your command who still are fighting for the complete restoration of order and the eventual victory."

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Just In Case You Have Not Heard**Leaving VN? Must Have Current Shots**

SAIGON (MACV)—Fewer servicemen will be turned away at planeside as they leave Vietnam thanks to a tighter policy on immunization checks. An increase in the number of people denied permission to leave the country has been traced to deficiencies in their shot records: incomplete personal information, all required immunizations not taken, or too great a time lapse between the original shot and re-immunization.

Commanders and sponsors have been given the task of checking the shot records of personnel in their area of responsibility. This includes a final check one week before the departing individual boards a plane to leave the country.

The designated supervisors will check the completeness of personal entries including the subject's signature, as well as insuring that all shots are taken at the proper time, duly entered and authenticated. In the case of smallpox vaccine the authentication must include the type of vaccine, origin, and batch number plus the date and the doctor's signature. The cholera immunization must be authenticated by a doctor's signature. There is a six day waiting period on cholera shot if the re-immunization was more than six months after the previous shot.

'PAL' Mail Established

WASHINGTON—A new public law which went into effect Jan. 7, is designed to enhance mail service to, from and between military post offices and will result in considerable savings to the sender.

This law created a new category "Parcel Air Lift" which is known by its initials—(PAL). It is for parcels weighing not more than 30 pounds and measuring not more than 60 inches in length and girth combined.

The sender must pay the regular surface parcel post zone rate of postage plus a special fee of \$1 to cover the domestic air transportation. This new PAL category does not deprive the mailer of the SAM option for parcels weighing five pounds or less.

Both PAL and SAM mail will have equal priority as space available mail between San Francisco/Seattle post offices and the armed forces post offices overseas.

Respect Their Beliefs

Vietnamese believe saints are to be found everywhere. Some can be found in deep caves, on high mountains and in big banana trees. The most common saint-god is Tho-Dia or god of the earth. They worship their saints in small temples called Mieu.

**Tet Relief Project Now In Progress**

SAIGON (MACV)—General Westmoreland has announced the launching of the Tet Aggression Relief Project (TARP), a voluntary program to assist Vietnamese civilians who fell innocent victim to the brutal Viet Cong and North Vietnamese offensive over the Lunar New Year holidays. The organization is operating.

The civilian population suffered heavily in the battles that raged throughout Vietnam.

Many innocent civilians were killed, some of whom had dependents who are now in immediate need of help. And many Vietnamese were left homeless and in need of food and clothing.

The project began Feb. 22 and will be carried out through April 2.

Under TARP guidelines, U.S. personnel working for the Department of Defense in Vietnam—who are in physical contact with victims of the communist-initiated aggression—are encouraged to provide assistance to those in need of it. Voluntary contributions may however, be accepted from other individuals and organizations.

Further TARP guidelines state that the voluntary contributions solicited from U.S. personnel should be made a part of an organization's Civic Action Program. Efforts to provide relief to the Vietnamese people through this project should be coordinated with the Senior Advisor of the province in which

the

Vietnamese In I Corps Kill Over 3,000 VC In 7 Days

DA NANG (I CORPS)—ARVN troops operating in the I Corps Tactical Zone killed more than 3,000 VC and NVA soldiers during the week ending Feb. 4.

The first day of the Lunar New Year attack brought enemy ground forces into Da Nang and several Quang Nam Province towns. The attack on Da Nang was concentrated against the walled headquarters of I Corps compound. The enemy was driven off and was unable to inflict significant damage or casualties on the defenders. Enemy casualties by mid-week stood at 326 killed. ARVN losses were light.

In Quang Ngai and Tam Ky,

ARVN-US Improve Aerial Resupply

CAM RANH BAY (USA)—American and Vietnamese soldiers here are helping to maintain the high degree of effectiveness demanded in the aerial re-supply of troops in the field throughout Vietnam.

US Engineers, VN Civilians Building Road

BINH PHUOC (USA)—U.S. Army engineers and Vietnamese civilians have joined forces in Binh Phuoc for a road building project that will eventually link the 9th Infantry Division base camp with My Tho.

Elements of the 88th Engineer Battalion are rebuilding the main road which has been closed to civilian traffic since 1961.

At the same time, local Vietnamese soldiers also are assisting in this project.

"This road will give the Vietnamese people the opportunity to plan and construct their own road," said Major James E. Rose, senior MACV advisor for the area.

Corporal Buys Supplies For Orphans

DA NANG (USMC)—Corporal Mike L. Jameson is just an ordinary Marine. But this 21-year-old Marine Aircraft Group 16 warehouseman spends a good portion of his pay checks on unfortunate Vietnamese orphans.

Corporal Jameson claims, "The more people we help, the more they help themselves."

He had heard that the China Beach Protestant Orphanage was short of certain critical supplies. Thirty minutes after learning of the orphanage's need, Jameson's wallet was more than \$20 lighter and he was loading 144 bars of soap, 25 tooth brushes and 50 tubes of tooth paste on a Marine truck.

Also on the truck were 50 pounds of soap for the orphan's laundry and enough condensed soup to make 150 gallons (2,500 servings).

"You can't measure the smiles on those kids faces by the amount of money you spend," he said. "It's great to be able to give so much to those kids."



Corporal Jameson gives orphans a few tips on dental hygiene.



Lieutenant Seaton treats a young Vietnamese patient in Cu Chi.

Army Nurse Plans Civilian Hospital

CU CHI (USA)—When Army First Lieutenant Phyllis Seaton completes her year's tour in Vietnam, she plans to return to Vietnam as a private citizen and start a hospital and school.

Lieutenant Seaton is a nurse with the 12th Evacuation Hospital at the 25th Division's base camp here.

American Div Rebuilds School Twice Destroyed

CHU LAI (USA)—"If they destroy it again, we'll just come back with new materials and help the people rebuild it," exclaimed Sergeant First Class Arlen C. Williams, platoon sergeant of the American Division G-5's 6th Civil Affairs Platoon.

"This is the second time we've helped rebuild the school at Khoung Nhon," Sergeant Williams continued. "It was destroyed once before we started the project."

The school—located in the hamlet of Khoung Nhon near Chu Lai—was first destroyed last year. The platoon then stepped in and helped start the reconstruction.

"When the school was about 90 per cent complete, the Viet Cong leveled it, probably with satchel charges," Sergeant Williams added.

While the 220 student elementary school is being rebuilt, classes are being held in a small, adjacent, wooden structure.

Khoung Nhon is also the site of other civil action programs. Many wells have been built and a large garden project is also under way.

Large Enemy Arms Cache Uncovered

BINH PHUOC (USA)—One of the largest enemy weapons caches found in this Mekong Delta area was uncovered recently by Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldiers and 9th Infantry Division soldiers from Company A, 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry.

The discovery included five Browning Automatic Rifles, a large number of .30 cal. French rifles, three anti-tank mines, 12 Viet Cong mortar rounds, 40 grenades and a large quantity of M-16 and M-60 ammunition.

"We found most of it in large barrels buried in a rice paddy dike," said Lieutenant Dewey E. Vaught Jr.

By Raising Cabbages

4T Clubs Improving Viets Economy

SAIGON (VFS)—The war on Vietnam's economy is being fought with cabbages instead of bullets.

Cabbages in South Vietnam are part of the war—and of the future when the war is over. Cabbages can be grown in the two-month period between rice crops. Vietnamese farm youngsters are growing small plots of cabbage. Learning by doing, they are also demonstrating to their elders that new ideas are profitable.

Pointing to a current crop, Tran Yen Pho, 17, says: "This large cabbage is an improved

type developed in Taiwan. It

is worth 50 piasters per kilo. The

small local type brings only 30

piasters. And the yield per acre,

of course, is better with the new

type."

Tran is president of a 4T Club

in Go Vap, north of Saigon. His

is one of 809 such clubs in

37 of the 43 provinces of South

Vietnam. Each of the 17,699

member has an individual

project, and some of the clubs have

group projects as well. These

projects, in addition to cabbage-growing, include poultry and

pig raising, growing rice, and

for young girls, sewing, food

preparation and other instruction

in home care. The clubs are similar to the 4H Clubs in the U.S. and other farm youth organizations in Japan, Taiwan and elsewhere. They are based on the concept that better living conditions for farm people can come from better farming method, and that young people can help introduce these methods into their communities. The 4T's are: TRI, TAN, TAY and THAN—Head, for clear thinking; Heart, for loyalty; Hands, for service; and Health, for better living.

The community projects are decided upon by the individual leader, such as an older farmer, a teacher or schoolmaster, acts as technical adviser. Local a sponsoring committee provide financial and moral support, offer prizes for worthwhile projects and cooperate in planning group ventures.

The community projects are decided upon by the individual club in democratic fashion. They may be the construction of small bridges, the repairing of roads, the digging of wells or canals. Inherent in these projects is the idea of self-help, with a sense of responsibility in, and service to, the community.

Leadership training is a significant objective in the program, and club leaders are beginning to become community leaders as they mature.

Just as in the better farming practices, potential leaders learn by doing. Although government

officials give guidance and supervision at national and provincial levels, the clubs run their own show at the village level through elected officers and committees.

The success of the 4T Clubs must be put in the context of the conditions of the country. In the midst of the long war, harassed by the Viet Cong who recognize that the progressive and democratic nature of the club movement represents a threat to their repressive system, the youngsters are building a future for themselves and their country. The VC at times steal their animals, seeds and fertilizers. They threaten harm to the leaders and members. But the young 4T's persist.

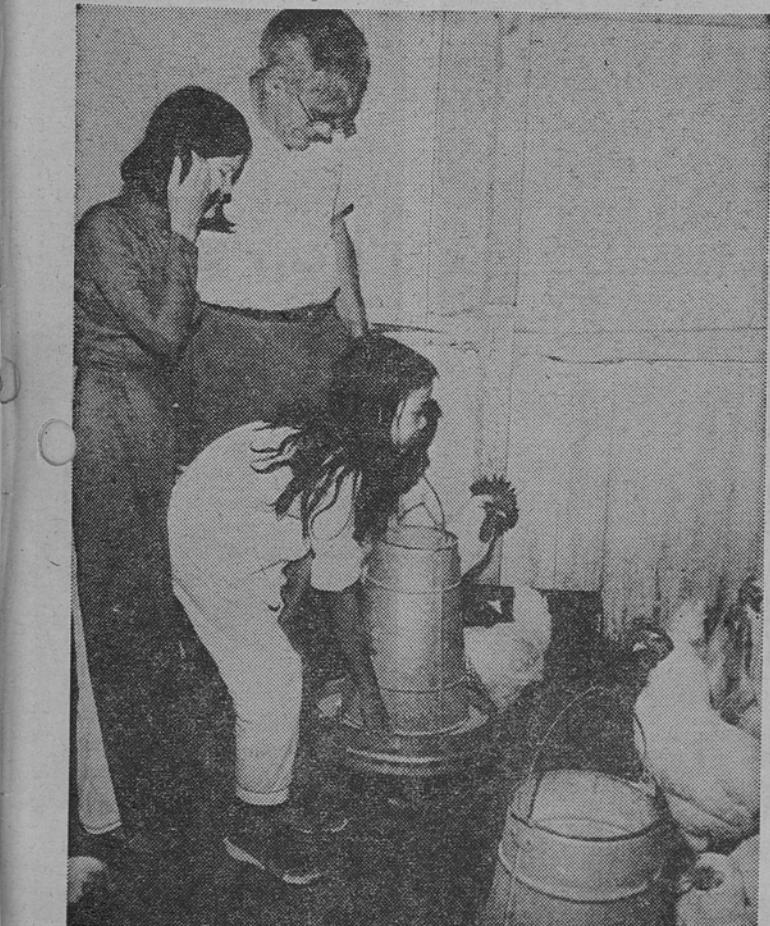
Hefting a cabbage absent-mindedly as he talks, young Tran says, "We have learned much from this project and from other projects. Our families are very proud of our work. They have learned some new things too. I think I will have a good future as a farmer."

Cabbages in South Vietnam are part of the war, and of the post-war development.

Story and Photos
By
Vietnam Feature Service



Two 4T youths show cabbages they grew to their parents.



A small club member shows her chicken project to advisers.



Community projects are discussed and decisions are made during a 4T Club meeting.

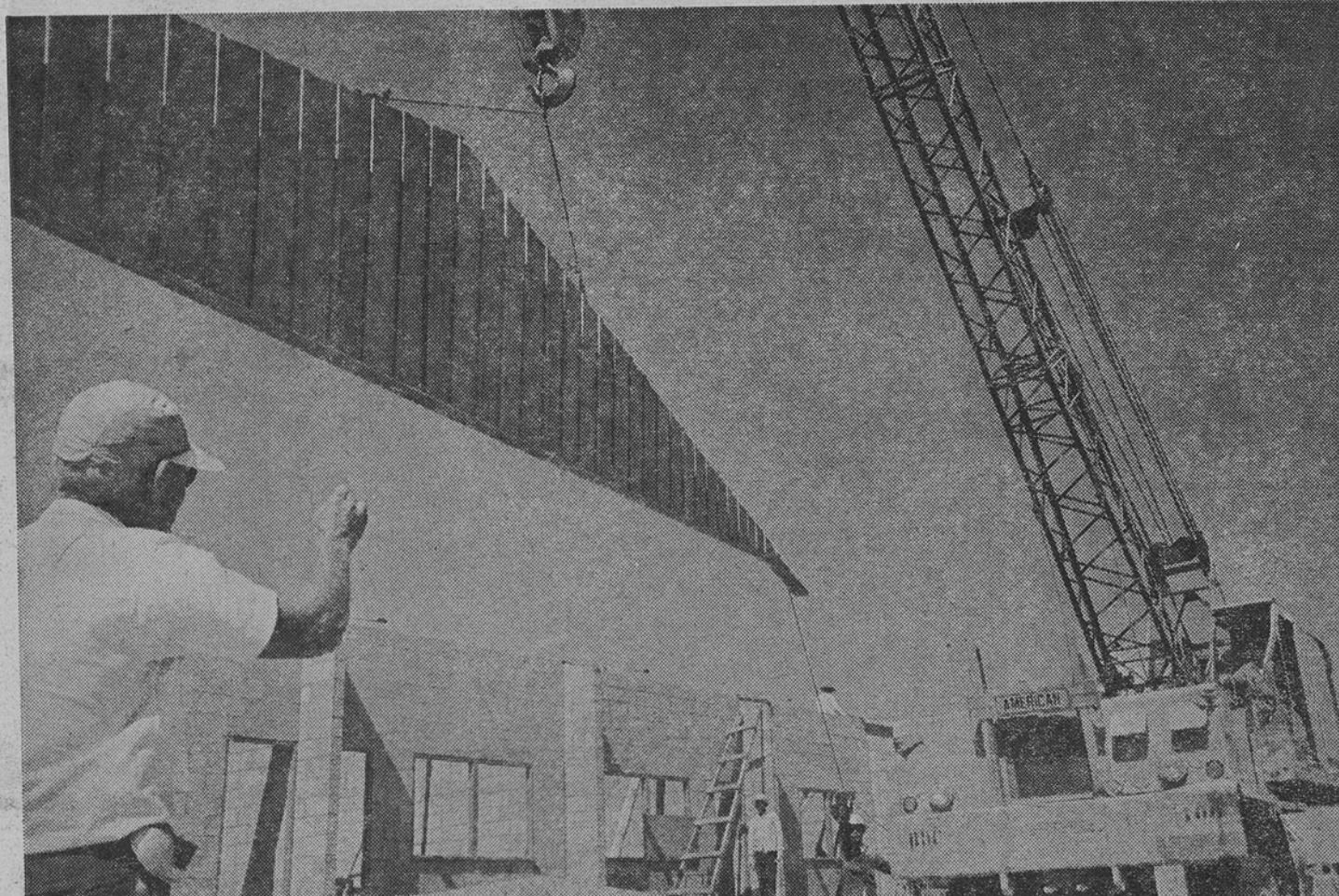
New Industrial Community Being Built Near Cam Ranh



This Korean construction worker pours concrete for the foundation of a new housing unit.



Korean construction workers are now completing the quarters at a rate of eight units a day.



An inspector carefully directs the placement of a gable on one of the Cam Ranh community houses.



Project officer for the OICC observes two workers as they finish the concrete floor of one of the units.

CAM RANH BAY (USN) — About two miles outside the Vietnamese village of Ba Nghi, concrete housing units are beginning to take shape daily. In a matter of months these buildings will be the heart of a new Cam Ranh industrial community and a symbol of better things yet to come.

Personnel from the U.S. Navy's Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC) for Vietnam and the Korean civilian contracting firm of Hyun Dai are handling the construction of the housing project and the rehabilitation and restoration of the Ba Nghi port causeway. In addition, crack Korean troops of the 30th ROK Regiment are providing area se-

curity. Vietnamese sub-contractors OICC and Korean firm have created a program that in the future will help relieve the critical housing shortage in rapidly growing area.

The population of Ba Nghi alone has grown from 32,000 in 1966 to more than 60,000 present and is expected to more than 150,000 in the next years.

Designed for both middle and low-income families, the home will be sold to Vietnamese working for military and civilian agencies at nearby

military bases. The money received from sale of the housing units, which are being completed at the rate of eight units per day, will be placed in a revolving fund and used for further expansion and maintenance for the new city.

Each of the 1,500 units has a living-dining-sleeping area, an open patio with a covered kitchen and enclosed shower and toilet facilities. The entire community has its own water, electrical and sewage distribution systems.

Also under construction is a 20 classroom school for 800 elementary students, a large

covered market with surrounding shopping area including 20 Vietnamese store units; a police station, a civilian administration building, a combination maternity, infirmary, and dispensary clinic complete with delivery and emergency treatment rooms and a pharmacy, kitchen and nurses' quarters.

U.S. Navy Lieutenant Mike Ciocca is the OICC Project officer for the sprawling 170 acre construction site.

In addition to the concrete block housing units, there are 92 subdivided lots which have been allocated for self-help construction. Cam Ranh Mayor, Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Dinh Bang, already has received 65 applications for permission to build on this property, which will be made available to local city employees.

Future plans for Cam Ranh call for locating water sources which will provide more than 10 million gallons of water per day to support a populace of 150,000 people and supporting industry. Also, studies are underway to determine what industry would best be suited for the mineral rich area and encouraging their relocation there.

Work has already begun on rehabilitating an earth causeway and pier to handle increased shipping plus city planners are considering the possibilities of building of a new commercial port near Ba Nghi.

STORY AND PHOTOS

By

Lt Richard Bennett, USNR



Skilled workers are rapidly creating the new industrial city at Cam Ranh Bay.



Vietnamese woman sands wooden window shutters for the new buildings.



Smoke rises from a Viet Cong stronghold in the Mekong Delta after a Navy SEALs' search and destroy operation.

Seals Destroy VC Stronghold Along Mekong Delta Canal

VIN LONG (USN) — There were still several hours before daylight when the U.S. Navy men boarded their boats and pulled away from the River Patrol Force base here in the Mekong Delta, 55 miles southwest of Saigon.

The boats were cruising a channel of the Co Chien River to carry out an operation against the Viet Cong.

The boats and the men aboard are peculiar to the war in the Mekong Delta. Making up the flotilla were river patrol boats (PBRs), assault support patrol boats (ASPBs) and the heavily-armed and armored "Monitors".

The 31-foot fiberglass PBRs normally operate in pairs with their crews trained to prevent VC movement on the rivers and canals in the Delta. The ASPBs and the "Monitors" are part of the Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) and their crews are trained to support ground troops during riverine operations.

The ASPBs provide gunfire support and minesweeping for

the MRF, but for this operation they were serving as landing craft, carrying SEALs, the Navy's highly-trained counter-insurgency experts.

The "Monitors" were along to provide heavy gunfire support with their 40 mm cannons.

Although all the sailors are specially trained for this kind of warfare, the SEALs are by far the most unconventional. Most of their anti-guerrilla activities are of the covert type, but this operation was strictly overt. They would destroy a Viet Cong stronghold.

Approximately 50 bunkers were destroyed including a number of structures which contained a Viet Cong propaganda center and two tax collection stations. The only U.S. casualty was a SEAL who received minor burns when a hidden gasoline cache burst into flame.

With the first light of dawn the flotilla of small boats moved into the Rach Thom/Mo Cay canal toward their target. Just ahead of the boats armed Navy helicopters began bunker positions along the canal.

The enemy complex was along the canal bank. The two lead ASPBs landed their SEALs at the upper end while the second two did the same at the lower end.

As they moved in, the choppers hit bunkers in the surrounding area and the boats patrolled the canal and hit positions there.

Story and Photos
By
JO1 Tom Walton,
USN



A Seal searches a bunker along Rach Thom/Mo Cay canal.



U.S. Navy river assault craft and river patrol boats move out on an operation.



Navy Seal jumps from assault boat during an attack.

Teamwork Builds Two-mile Roadway

LAI KHE (USA) — Elements of the 1st Infantry Division and the 5th ARVN Division recently completed a roadway connecting Highway 13 with Route 1A. The new stretch of road allows easier access to both of the major transportation routes and provides the first direct link between the villages of Ap Nhut and An My.

Construction of the two-mile roadway was a joint effort of the 1st Engineer Battalion and the 5th ARVN Engineer Battalion. The ARVN unit, under the command of Major Mich, built 1,000 yards of roadway and constructed a 34-foot timber trestle bridge.

The U.S. engineers, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Thorwald R. Peterson, built the remaining 2,500 yards and installed two culverts—one 22 feet long, the other 30 feet.

Vietnamese engineers provided their own equipment, with operators, for their section of the project. Their bridge was finished one and a half days ahead of schedule.

While building the 12-foot wide timber span, which is capable of supporting division convoy weight loads, the ARVN engineers received technical assistance from First Lieutenant Manfred Schmitt and Sergeant First Class Charles W. Hensley. U.S. and ARVN units used 1,500 truckloads of laterite fill for foundation material on the road. Security for the four-day project was provided by Company A, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry.

The whole project started about three months ago and most of the supplies and materials were provided by the American Division. The needs for the facility were great; previous MEDCAPs in the village had to be held in the schoolhouse, where some 140 villagers were treated during each visit.

"The villagers were very pleased to learn of the plans for the new facility and wanted to work with us in any way they could," said CWO Fontanez. "They really took pride in their work and, now that the project is finished, the village chief and his assistants are operating the new facility."

Captain Richard D. Gaspen and Major Ronnie Trauner, senior U.S. advisor to the ARVN battalion, planned a program which covered every phase of basic engineering, including heavy equipment operation, use of demolitions, and the maintenance of records.

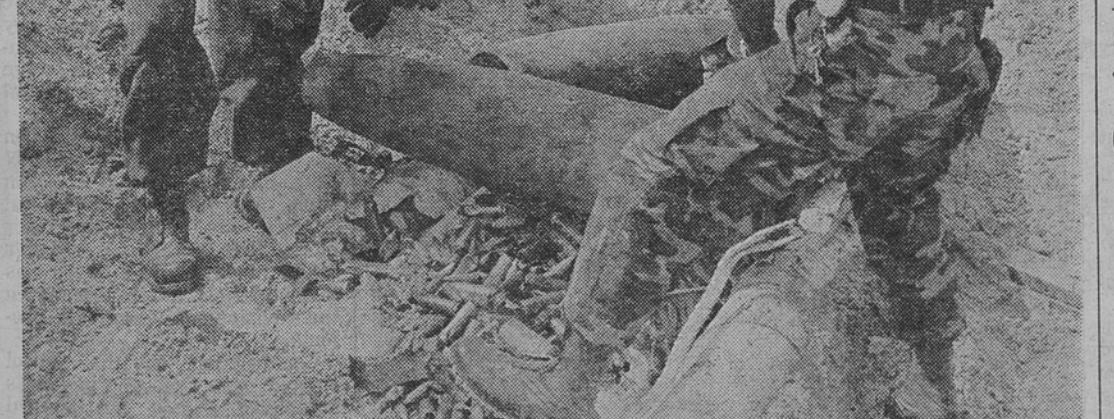
DA NANG (USMC) — More than \$2,000 worth of surgical equipment arrived on the Commandant of the Marine Corps' plane during his recent visit to Da Nang.

Donated by the Aiea Lions Club of Aiea, Hawaii, the equipment was accompanied by a short note—"These supplies are to assist the Vietnamese people."

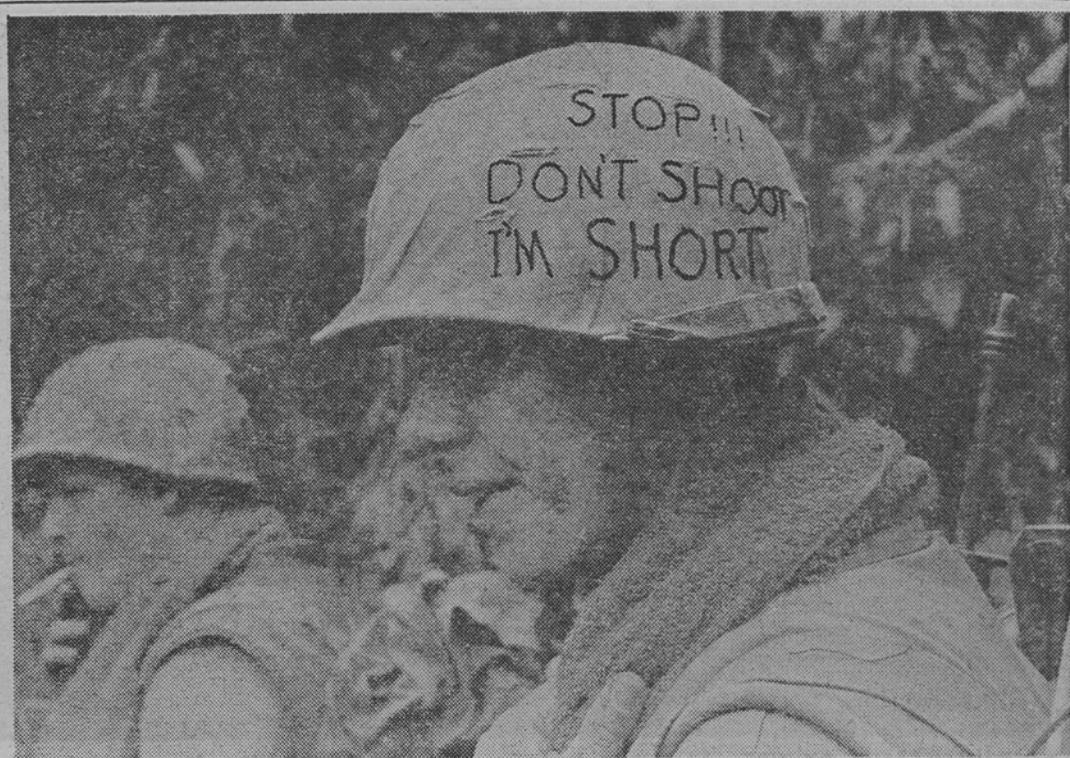
Navy Lieutenant Commander James A. French, medical civic actions officer, III Marine Amphibious Force, distributed the equipment to Gilbert Howard who heads the Da Nang surgical hospital.

A certificate of appreciation was sent to the Hawaiian Lions Club, along with a letter signed by Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman Jr., commanding general of III MAF. It was addressed to Mr. Howard, who initiated the project.

General Cushman's letter read in part . . . "It is always gratifying to learn of private citizens such as yourself expressing an interest to the American role in Vietnam. . . ."



EASY DOES IT! — In the "blow hole" are Staff Sergeant Arnold L. Laton and Sergeant Loren E. Erikson, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) experts assigned to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing. They are preparing for detonation of two unserviceable 250-pound, high-explosive bombs, and several hundred 20-millimeter cannon rounds. (USAF PHOTO)



HOPEFUL WARNING — A radio operator with the Fifth Marine Regiment "broadcasts" his tour status during a sweep south of Da Nang. (USMC PHOTO By Sgt. F.A. Barrett Jr.)

Many Refugees Inoculated

Possible Epidemic Averted

LONG BINH (II FF) — Teams from the 61st Medical Detachment and the 2d Civil Affairs Company of II Field Force Vietnam acted quickly recently to avert a possible outbreak of cholera and typhoid in Bien Hoa City.

Headed up by Captain Peter F. McGuire, medical advisor to the civil affairs unit, a team of medics from the detachment entered the city and began a massive inoculation program. They administered shots to more

than 400 refugees fleeing the recent battles in the greater Bien Hoa area.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard M. Adams, the II Field Force surgeon, said, "We acted quickly in an attempt to prevent an epidemic from the overcrowding and improper sanitation conditions in the area."

At the same time, the 61st Medical Team was also swung into action. Along with the inoculation program, team members devised measures to dis-

pose of human refuse and bring fresh water to the war-stricken refugees.

"The situation is well in hand and will soon solve itself as the refugees return to rebuild their homes destroyed by the intense fighting," commented Staff Sergeant James Johnson, non-commissioned medical officer-in-charge.

Medic's Quick Action Saves 'Dead' Child

LONG THANH (USA) — There are many ways to win friends in Vietnam. Take the experience of Sergeant James A. Rogers, a 9th Infantry Division medic working with the Mobile Advisory Team, who recently was helping a Popular Forces platoon build an outpost near here.

Well into the project, he noticed a crowd gathered around a woman who was crying. In her arms lay a small child colored with the blue hue of asphyxiation.

The baby had just been pulled from a nearby river, and the mother assumed her child was dead.

Sergeant Rogers asked to see the child and immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Gradually the child regained its natural color and soon burst forth with a healthy wail.

Some 10,000 Refugees Cared For At Bien Hoa

LONG BINH (II FF) — More than 10,000 refugees in the Bien Hoa area are being cared for by the 2d Civil Affairs Company since the Viet Cong Tet offensive.

Most are being housed in temporary shelters and many are returning to their homes and farms during daylight hours.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel David E. Wade, the company is providing tents and inflatable 3,000 gallon water tanks for potable water in five locations.

More than 25 tons of rice have been distributed to the refugees and medical attention is being provided by the 61st Medical Detachment. Several hundred refugees have been inoculated and some of the inhabitants have been evacuated to the Bien Hoa Provincial hospital for treatment.

The Australian surgical team at the hospital reports that their daily treatment schedule is now returning to its normal input, but during the emergency they were performing as many as 40 operations a day.



RECONNAISSANCE BY FIRE—An armored personnel carrier fires its .50 caliber machine gun into the wooded area along the road from Tay Ninh to Katum in Tay Ninh Province. The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry clears and secures the road each morning. (USA PHOTO By Sgt. Roger Smith)

Brick Business Booming

Factory Meets District's Needs

DUC PHO (USA) — A small brick factory in this Southern I Corps village is providing the framework for not only a host of community improvements but also a more stable village economy.

The factory, sponsored by the American Division's 4th Civic Action Platoon, grew out of the Duc Pho District's need for more bricks for schools, dispensaries, marketplaces and the like.

"I think one of the best facets of the factory is that it allows these refugees to have a good, honest job," said the sergeant. "The way they are not beggars or drags on society, but actually performing a service to the community. They work out here seven days a week."

The factory employs a crew of 15 full-time workers and more when rush orders step up production demands.

After the bricks are made, they are donated to the various projects. All work on the projects is done by the local villagers who request the bricks.

"We just finished supplying 15,000 bricks for a marketplace in Sa Huynh, near here. In that case, the businessmen of the town got together and donated 120,000 piasters to hire a construction firm to do the work and we supplied the bricks free," the adviser commented.

"Before we came in and set up the factory, the people made their brick entirely by hand and were able to make about 300 at day," Sergeant Allen commented.

"Now they can put out about 1,200 in a day."

"Another big advantage is that they can now get 65 blocks per bag of cement where they used to be able to get only 20—and cement is sometimes hard to get over here."

The cement and machines were provided by the Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS); and the local refugees have done the rest.

A foreman, hired by Sergeant Allen, is in charge of the factory hiring his own crews. He also

pays the workers. Bricks from the factory, which started operations in late October, have been used to build or renovate seven schools, a marketplace in a neighboring village, a dispensary and several water wells.

"I think the most revealing thing concerning attitudes on this is the fact that we have never had a single attempt to sabotage it or upset operations in any way," the veteran NCO commented.

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Church Gp Sends Gifts

CHU LAI (USMC)—A Mobile Ala., teenage Sunday School class has bridged the ocean, cultural and language gaps to make 34 Vietnamese orphans happy.

Lieutenant Colonel Glen H. Barlow, services officer for Chu Lai Marine air base, and Navy Lieutenant Charles F. Jordan, Marine Aircraft Group-12 chaplain, recently delivered several large boxes of toys and clothing

to the children at An Tan Protestant orphanage.

Colonel Barlow's wife, a Sunday school teacher, organized the gathering of gifts and money as a class project after reading about the orphans in a letter from her husband. According to Colonel Barlow, the American teenagers really put their hearts into the project, working for three months to come up with enough items for the whole orphanage.

A WARM REMINDER—It may be cold and freezing in most places back in the states, but you couldn't tell it from this picture. This lovely lass, of Playboy fame, thought she would send you one of her pix just as a reminder of life back home. (PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)

Bong Son Fighting Kills 448 Enemy

BONG SON (USA)—A radio antenna emerging from a hut on the Bong Son Plain was spotted by an alert aerial observer which kicked off a renewal of fighting in Operation Pershing north of here for the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 40th Regiment.

For the cavalrymen, many just returned from the heavy fighting near Dak To in Operation MacArthur, it was an old adversary and familiar terrain as they engaged an enemy force believed to be at least two battalions of the 22d North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment plus the regimental headquarters and a supporting signal company.

After one week of fighting centered chiefly around the village complex of Dai Dong, eight miles north of here, Free World Military Forces counted 448 enemy dead while U.S. losses for the same period were 33 dead and 153 wounded. ARVN forces were credited with killing 149 of the enemy.

Specialist Howard, an information specialist with the command's Information Office, arrived in Vietnam on Jan. 23. After landing at Bien Hoa air base, she and six other WACs who had been told that she was the first member of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) to be assigned to the 1st Logistical Command in Vietnam.

At the detachment, a pleasant surprise was waiting for her. Several friends she had known at her previous assignment were stationed at Long Binh.

"I was surprised at how well the girls have adapted to the situation over here," she noted. "When I knew them in the states, they didn't seem like the type to bear the pressures of war—but they seem to have come through tremendously."

She said that she has yet to hear an expression of fear from any of the girls. "I'm sure that most of them are scared," she commented, "but they certainly don't show it."

Her distinction of being the only WAC at 1st Log will only last a short while longer, as another one is due in the unit in the near future.

ARVN Unit Builds School In Qui Nhon

BA GI (II CORPS)—An elementary school which will serve 600 Vietnamese youngsters was recently dedicated during ceremonies held near Qui Nhon.

The school was part of a civic action program conducted by elements of the 22d ARVN Infantry Division and will serve both ARVN dependents and local civilian children.

On hand for the dedication ceremonies in Ba Gi were ARVN Chief of Staff, General Cao Van Vien, and Brigadier General Nguyen Van Hieu, commander of the 22d. It is General Hieu's interest in education which has given schools a top priority in the division's civic action projects.

Construction on the school started last Oct. 25 and was completed Jan. 5 by the 22d ARVN Engineer Battalion. Supplies for the project were obtained through division channels and donated by allied support units in the area.

It will be staffed with seven military and three civilian teachers.

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)

Guide For Week Of Feb. 28-Mar. 5, 1968

Wednesday Feb. 28

1830 News Headlines
1930 Lost in Space
2000 Insight
2025 Information Feature
2030 Abrams' War
2100 Moving With Nancy
2100 Sports (Re-Run)
2200 Late News
2315 Sports (Continued)

1230 News Headlines
1300 Christopher's Sacred Heart
1300 The Answer
1500 Sports of the Week
1500 GE College Bowl
1530 Army/Navy Football Hour
1700 News and Sports
2005 Window on Vietnam
2005 One Night Stands
2030 Fractured Flickers
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Late News
2315 Dean Martin Summer Show

Thursday Feb. 29

1830 News Headlines
1830 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1900 Flying Fisherwoman
1930 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. 1

1830 News Headlines
1830 Will the Wild West
1930 News and Sports
2005 Insight
2025 Biography
2030 Bewitched
2100 Big Valley
2200 Star Trek
2300 Late News
2315 Joe Biden Show

Saturday Mar. 2

1230 News Headlines
1230 Mike Douglas Show
1345 Greatest Dramas
1400 CBS Golf Classic
1500 Sports of the Week
1830 Coach Bryant
1930 News and Sports
2000 21st Century

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	3-Reverence	APAR	SOAP	JAW
1-Carton	4-Spreads for	LAME	MIDDLE	ANI
6-South American	drying	BLAMED	PAT	ITS
9-Indian	5-Dropsy	COLLA	TULIP	
11-Cultivated	6-Indian	BOARDERS	SE	
12-Catchword	Science (abbr.)	7-Man's nickname	ARISE	DAL
14-Not of scale	8-Decay	9-Decay	RE	ERRATIC
15-Paradise	10-Fruit	10-Man's name	ELL	LD
17-Pitch	11-Shrub	11-Shrub	ISON	BOLAS
18-Danish land	13-More recent	13-More recent	EM	TUMBLERS
division	16-Instrument	16-Solar disk	TAMED	MILL
20-Besmirk	19-Instruments	22-Forgive	AGO	UT
23-Uncooked	27-Vexes	25-Loop	LEAGUE	PEN
24-Midday	30-Iron	37-Land sur-	PEN	MODER
26-Snowy flower	32-Birds' homes	rounded by	ADS	RUSK
28-Compass point	34-Heraldry:	water	BEES	SNEE
29-Body of	grated	38-Care for	52-Bishipric	15
soldiers	40-Singing voices	41-Heavenly bodies	54-Female ruff	
31-Group of	36-Follows food	42-Perch	57-Sun god	
students	program	47-Roman road	58-Symbol for	
in research			samarium	
33-Learning			60-Part of	
35-River in Africa			"to be"	
36-Disagreement				
39-Trials				
42-Exists				
43-Chemical				
45-Let it stand				
46-Man's name				
48-Spanish title				
50-Naehor sheep				
51-Make lace				
53-Entrance				
55-Conjunction				
56-Scoffs				
59-Lances				
61-Vision				
62-Abounds				
1-Great outcry				
2-Artificial language				

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Q SPORTS Z

1. Who holds the major league baseball record for RBI's?

2. What National Hockey League club holds the record for consecutive victories?

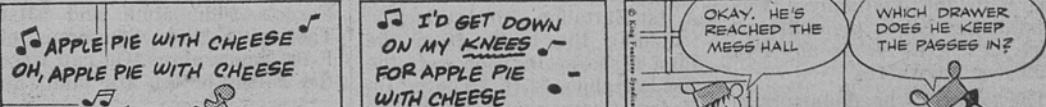
3. Who is the youngest owner of a major franchise in the United States?

4. What is the world indoor pole vault record and who holds it?

5. Who has won the most games in the NBA's East-West All-Star series?

Answers

Beetle Bailey



Task Force Defends Saigon

(Continued From Page 1)

Despite the fact that U.S. units were pulled from all the tactical forces in the III Corps area, ARVN forces were brought in, and fast, from all over South Vietnam and fed into the battle as they became available."

The general was quick to point out, "Cooperation and coordination with the Vietnamese was outstanding. And their troops were as aggressive as any I've ever seen anywhere."

The general's headquarters in Saigon began to mushroom as more U.S. Army units began pouring into the Saigon area. Soon the staff had a strength of about 25 officers and enlisted men, plus a 25-man communications platoon. In order to contain the staff reinforcements, and for better coordination with the Vietnamese Joint General Staff, the headquarters moved in the Vietnamese High Command compound.

As fast as American troops could move they came into the Saigon area. From the 25th Infantry Division there were the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 27th Infantry, "Wolfhounds"; three troops of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, mounted in tanks and armored personnel carriers; Batteries A, B and C of the 8th Artillery with 105mm howitzers; and 155mm howitzers of Battery

B, 3rd Battalion, 13th Artillery.

From the "Big Red One," the 1st Infantry Division, General Ware got the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry; Troop A of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry; Task Force Meyer, fast-moving rifle company D, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, with tanks and armored personnel carriers; and the 105mm howitzers of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery.

Joining the battle from the 101st Airborne Division were the 2nd Battalion, 327th Airborne Infantry; Companies A and B, 2nd Battalion, 501st Airborne Infantry; and Company D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry.

Not too far from Saigon was the 9th Infantry Division, which came through with the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry; 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry; and two 155mm howitzers of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery.

The 199th Light Infantry Brigade moved in with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry; 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry; and Batteries A and B, 2nd Battalion, 40th Artillery, with 105mm howitzers.

More tank and armored personnel carrier support came from Troops A and B of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The 23rd Artillery Group contributed 155mm howitzers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery, and Batteries B, C of the 2nd

Battalion, 13th Artillery, with 105s. The 77th Artillery, attached to the 25th Infantry Division, came in with Battery B, 6th Battalion, 79th Artillery. And then there were the big ones of Vietnam: the 8-inch howitzers and 175mm guns of Batteries B and C, 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery, 54th Artillery Group.

Also at the ready were the Air Force's 90th, 510th and 531st Tactical Fighter Squadrons of F-100 Supersabres. On call were the F-100s of the 3rd and 35th

Tactical Fighter Wings. The 604th Tactical Fighter Squadron was in the air with A-37, while F-4s of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing also were in action. Ordnance from the giant B-52s of the 3rd Air Division were felt by the enemy.

Directing air strikes and artillery missions against the enemy troops were the forward air controllers of the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron and the 25th Infantry Division with their O-1 Birddogs.

Also in the air were the battalions of the Army's 12th Aviation Group and Hueys, Cobras, Chinooks and Birddogs of the 308th, 210th, 11th, 145th, 214th, 296th and 22nd Battalions. Always on standby were the Dust-off choppers of the Medevac units.

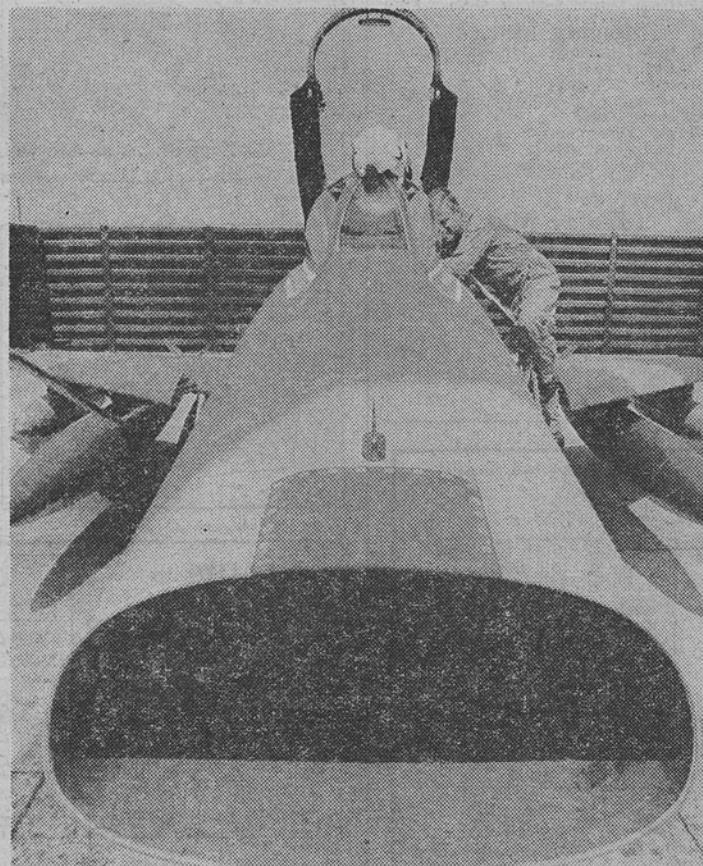
Troops of the task force fought the enemy in the streets of Saigon and Cholon, in the fields outside the metropolitan area, in the Phu Tho race track, and even in the Vietnamese High Command compound.

When an ARVN artillery battalion—a training unit—was hit near Tan Son Nhut, the battalion commander pulled the layard 600 times to fire directly at the enemy. His loader was a U.S. adviser who rammed home the 33-pound 105mm shells.

Task Force Ware gathered momentum as more and more U.S. and ARVN troops poured into the Capital Military District. The U.S. troops moved to the outskirts of the city as blockers while the ARVN forces took over the dirty job of house-to-house and street fighting.

Supporting the ARVN troops in Saigon were units of the Vietnamese National Police and the U.S. 18th Military Police Brigade.

Within 10 days the combination of Task Force Ware and ARVN military and paramilitary forces were engaged in a mopping up operation.



CHARLIE EATER—A down-the nose view of a 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing F-100 Supersabre at Bien Hoa Air Base gives it the appearance of a beast ready to dine. Capable of carrying a variety of bombs and rockets, in addition to its four 20mm cannons, the Supersabre really can "chew" Charlie. (USAF PHOTO)

Former Enemies Contribute Blood

LONG BINH (II FF) — More than 20 Hoi Chanh (Ralliers) at the Bien Hoa Province Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Center gave blood recently to be used for civil relief.

Three of the Hoi Chanh were ready to shed their blood on the morning of Jan. 31 to "liberate" the South Vietnamese people they had been told were crushed under the heels of American "oppression." Today these former North Vietnamese soldiers gave their blood to help remedy some of the effects of the Tet truce offensive.

According to Rudy Kaiser, CORDS III Corps Tactical Zone Chieu Hoi advisor, the idea for the blood-giving came from some of the older Hoi Chanh who heard the appeals for blood on the radio. That appeal was for the Saigon area.

The Hoi Chanh discussed the idea among themselves and then approached Mr. Kaiser for as-

sistance. He arranged for a medical team from the 30th Medical Company, III Corps, commanded by Dr. Nguyen Tan Nghiem to take and type the blood, which will be turned over to the Bien Hoa Provincial Hospital.

CHU LAI (USA) — An American Division soldier who is also an ex-Marine, an ex-Special Forces trooper and an ex-policeman received his tenth Purple Heart after suffering a recent brush with death.

Sergeant Raymond E. Tirva started his "heart" campaign in 1952 by enlisting in the Marine Corps. He earned his first three Purple Hearts during the Korean War.

In 1956, the sergeant decided

to try the newly formed Green Berets. While serving in a remote part of South Vietnam as an advisor to the ARVN, he earned two more.

After six years with the Chicago Police Department he elected to return to Vietnam to fight the Communists once again. During this period, his second tour in Vietnam, the sergeant added three more Purple Hearts.

Now on his third tour in Vietnam with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, he only recently received his ninth and tenth Purple Heart. The last

medal was awarded for wounds received while engaged in Operation Muscatine southwest of Binh Son.

"We were checking the outer perimeter of a suspected Viet Cong village," said the sergeant, "when a tunnel complex was discovered. That's when it happened! A VC ran out of the hole and threw a grenade at me."

His tenth Purple Heart was presented by Major General S.W. Koster, commanding general of the Americal Division during ceremonies at the 1st Hospital Company.

Small Marine Force Takes On NVA Unit

CAM LO (USMC) — A platoon-sized Marine force inflicted heavy casualties on a reinforced North Vietnamese battalion recently during an enemy assault upon the Cam Lo district headquarters.

During the five hour, early morning fight, the U.S. Marines killed more than 100 North Vietnamese soldiers and detained 33 of the enemy. Friendly casualties were seven killed in action and 20 wounded.

Utilizing homemade bangalore

torpedo charges to blow holes in the defensive wires, the NVA struck at 2:15 a.m. Human wave-assaults carried the enemy within five meters of the Marine lines.

Dawn found the NVA scattering in all directions as a mixed Marine and Army reactionary force mopped up the area. The fields were littered with enemy dead and equipment, including two 82mm recoilless rifles, nine rocket launchers (RPG), 10 machine guns and 100 individual weapons.

SAIGON (USAF) — The first six of a squadron of C-119 Flying Boxcar aircraft to be supplied to the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) were recently delivered to the VNAF Transport Squadron at Tan Son Nhut air base.

The aircraft will be used to supplement VNAF C-47 Skytrain cargo and passenger transport operations.

The C-119s can carry twice the number of passengers and more than three times the cargo of the C-47. Its maximum cargo payload is 27,000 pounds, while the payload of the C-47 is 7,500 pounds. The boxcar has a top speed of more than 250 miles per hour, and can carry a partial load of 10,000 pounds more than 2,000 miles without having to refuel. In addition, external fuel tanks can be installed to increase the range of the aircraft.

It also is equipped with a mono-rail system which enables the aircraft to be unloaded in eight to 10 seconds.

The six aircraft were flown to Tan Son Nhut by members of the 335th Tactical Airlift Squadron, an Air Force Reserve unit based at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

At McGuire, the training program for the VNAF pilots, co-pilots and flight engineers is being conducted in two phases. Phase I of the program consists of two weeks of ground school and four weeks of flight school. Phase II is a joint operation by the first graduates of Phase I, who completed their training last December, and the personnel of the Air Training Command's 615S Field Training Detachment based at Tan Son Nhut.

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Enemy Uses 'Human Shields'

DA NANG (USMC) — North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces resorted to using Vietnamese civilians as "human shields" in a last ditch attempt to overrun Hoi An defenders in the two-day battle Jan. 30-31.

With the arrival of Korean Marines to bolster the Vietnamese Army units came the end to the two days of terrorism in the Quang Nam provincial capital. Elements of the 51st ARVN Regiment drove an estimated 400 NVA and VC from the city as the Hoi An defenders manned

well-fortified positions in preparation for a large-scale counter attack.

The attack opened Jan. 30 with a NVA pre-dawn mortar attack on the 102nd ARVN Engineer compound. Both the ARVN and their MACV advisors repulsed the attack and halted the enemy's initial advance. In the afternoon, VC forces captured and occupied the Engineer compound, a Vietnamese hospital and other parts of the city.

Elements of the 4th ARVN Ar-

mored Personnel Carrier troop bore the brunt of the initial attack. But, with the help of their Australian Army advisor, the Vietnamese were able to withdraw to a defensive perimeter and fight off enemy efforts to overrun them.

Following a night of sporadic street-fighting and heavy mortar attacks launched by both sides, MACV advisors, in coordination with ARVN commanders, called in extensive air strikes on the VC and NVA positions.

Early Jan. 31, the enemy

troops countered with a massive push through the city — using Vietnamese civilians as shields from small arms fire. The villagers, realizing their predicament, quickly scattered, leaving the enemy exposed to withering ARVN machine gun and rifle fire.

The defending forces then received unexpected reinforcements from the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade. The Koreans, supported by three tanks of the 1st Marine Division's 1st Tank Battalion, were out on a routine search and destroy pat-

rol when they received a call to Hoi An to bolster the already-rolling ARVN offensive.

Upon entering the city, one of the Marine tanks was struck and set afire by a NVA B-40 rocket, but the remaining two tanks moved into the city and directed their fire on enemy bunkers and reinforced positions.

By evening of Jan. 31, ARVN troops had completed the sweep of the city and eliminated all enemy resistance. More than 100 NVA and VC died in the two-day battle for Hoi An.

Major's 'Dream' Fulfilled

DA NANG (USA) — ARVN Major Le Van Can used to do a lot of complaining — he was tied to a desk and he wasn't getting any action.

Right now he's not complaining. He's had plenty of action.

Major Can, the officer-in-charge of the I Corps Tactical Operations Center (ITOC), took command of all troops in the I Corps headquarters at 0330 on 30 January.

A 40-round concentration of 82mm mortars was crashing down and the VC were storming the compound.

The major showed the style that won him eight personal decorations in 12 years as a combat leader.

Before the explosions stopped, he had the ITOC people outside, positioned and pouring rifle, pistol and carbine fire into the VC. He was mounted on an armored personnel carrier directing the fire on its crest of machineguns.

The VC penetration lasted only a couple of minutes.

But Major Can had a VC battalion on his hands and he didn't have enough force to drive it away. The VC made no more attempts to penetrate, but they secreted themselves within 100 meters of the compound and made things hot with small arms, B-40 rockets and M-79s.

At dawn a reaction force — half the ARVN 21st Ranger Battalion, a half troop of the 4th ARVN Armored Cavalry, some Marine Amtracs and some Marine MPs — was on hand to deal with the VC.

Major Can was back at his desk with high powered reinforcement: Lieutenant General Hoang Xuan Lam, I Corps' commanding general. He had raced through fire-swept streets to give a big hand.

General Lam is the ultimate authority for clearing airstrikes and artillery strikes in the I Corps Tactical Zone. He waited until civilians had streamed away from the VC positions.

Then he turned to Major Can's advisor, U.S. Army Major P.S. Milantoni:

"Milantoni," he said, "bomb here. Use big bombs."

He tapped the map with an ebony swagger stick.

"General," said Major Milantoni, "that's pretty close."

"Bomb," said General Lam.

Major Milantoni called the direct air support people. They're in the same building and they objected, too. "That's too close," a watch officer said, "you'll never get a clearance for it."

"General Lam just gave it,"

(Continued on Back Page)



Vol. 6, No. 42

Saigon, Vietnam

February 21, 1968



WHO CAN I TURN TO? — A small boy orphaned by the war only musters tears as he sits alone with all that is left.

(USA PHOTO BY Pfc Harry Guy)

In Chu Lai

New US Hospital To Treat Viet Civilian War Casualties

CHU LAI (USA) — As part of a \$7.3 million program for South Vietnam, civilian war casualties in the southern I Corps will soon be treated in a modern 300-bed hospital located in Chu Lai in the Americal Division area.

built by a civilian joint venture construction firm — RMK-BRJ. Based in Saigon, the company consists of four construction firms specializing in military development throughout South Vietnam.

Mr. Pete Bergen, project engineer for the Chu Lai office, said that, "construction began at the 15-acre site on perimeter road January 15th and the projected date of completion is during May."

"The hospital will be of the round-wall type quonset construction and the facility will have its own sewage, power and water treatment plants. The six operating rooms and the intensive care units will be air conditioned and the hospital will have its own PX and laundry,"

he continued.

With its own helipad and in close proximity to Highway 1, the new hospital will serve injured civilians from several provinces. Six wards and several post operative rooms will provide modern and efficient processing of patients during their stay at the facility.

Major Joseph S. Wood Jr., Chu Lai base development officer, said, "The plan is to treat serious cases requiring specialized care here in Chu Lai and then return them to the provincial hospital for rehabilitation.

In the near future, Chu Lai will be the middle link in a unique chain of hospitals giving intensive care and treatment exclusively to civilian war casualties.

Support Troops Fight VC

DA NANG (USMC) — Supply clerks, forklift drivers, bakers and mechanics doubled as infantrymen during the Tet terrorist period while U.S. Marine Force Logistic Command (FLC) reactionary forces killed 30 enemy northwest of Da Nang.

Reactionary units from 1st and 3rd Military Police (MP) Maintenance and Headquarters and Service Battalions conducted patrols, search and destroy missions and sweeps against concentrated enemy action which began, Jan. 30.

After the Da Nang air base was hit by enemy rockets, Lieutenant Colonel T. R. Hill, commanding officer of the 1st MP Bn. in charge of Camp Books defense, alerted the reactionary units.

The 3rd reaction platoon of Maintenance Battalion was trucked to the north end of the airstrip as a blocking force to seal off escape routes if the attack came from the north.

The second platoon shortly after dawn moved east of the field towards Combined Action Platoon (CAP) Echo 3. After setting up outside the CAP unit, they came under scattered small arms fire.

The 1st MP reactionary unit had been dispatched at 5:30 a.m. At 6:30, heavy contact was made 800 meters south of the Da Nang river bridge. The Viet Cong were in a small village and tree line less than 200 meters away. In the following three hours two MP's were killed and six wounded. Enemy losses were 30 dead and an undetermined number wounded.

Both corpsmen and the battalion sergeant major were injured while carrying wounded Marines to safety. Contact was broken when the MPs began laying down a heavy base of fire and a HUEY gunship opened fire.

The MPs were relocated during the morning on the road from Gate 4 to the Cam Lo bridge. There, they joined units from Maint. Bn.'s reserve unit and "D" Company, 3rd MP Bn.

On Jan. 31 the Viet Cong moved into Nam-O village north of FLC. Army of the Republic of Vietnam Rangers were assigned to clear the village with FLC's unit as blocking force. They held their position from midmorning until late afternoon, killing one enemy and wounding two.

On Feb. 2 and 3, the VC after reportedly suffering heavy casualties, withdrew from Nam-O.

Maintenance Battalion units have also ran nightly patrols since the initial attack through an area bordering the air base.

The Chu Lai hospital is being

Editorial!

A Life Saver

(MACV)—"Defensive driving, defensive driving, defensive driving! Darn defensive driving! I've driven in the Army and for long distance movers for 8 years and never had an accident yet."

How do you prevent hitting a child who runs out in the road from between two cars? How do you avoid smacking a cycle or pedicab that swerves diagonally across the front of your vehicle? How do you stop before you run into that Renault that braked to a halt in front of you without warning?

"You gonna tell me it's defensive driving?"

Sure, what else can you call it? It's giving way in time to avoid a tragedy. It's watching all around and concentrating on your driving so you're in control at all times.

"Aw, most of it is just instinct, reflexes and experience."

Is that right? How do you rate driving conditions here?

"Never seem anything like them. With the war and all, people seem to forget about what's happening around them when they get behind the wheel."

That's what I mean. When people don't notice what they are doing, instinct doesn't help. Staying alert and being cautious is much better.

**Defensive Driving****Just In Case You Have Not Heard****Wise Buys For You GI**

I was new in country and eager to please, So I bought from street vendors, squandering my 'P's'. As I grew "shorter", I also grew wise And I found the PX had excellent buys. The brand names I saw were familiar to me And just about all had a good guarantee. In comparing the prices with a Stateside store, I found back-home costs were generally more. So I bought projector, Hi-Fi and TV. Jewelry for my wife—a wrist watch for me. And, lest I forget, let me make a confession, I bought the kids' gifts at the PX concession. Then, like lightning, a new idea dawns: I invested my savings in government bonds. (MACV)

LSU Supports Vietnam GIs

"Yeah, well I'll buy that, but many times it isn't the driver's fault. The vehicles here get a lot of pounding and aren't as good as in the states."

True, but regular, thorough checks at motor stables and before you take off from the motor pool everyday can prevent a lot of grief. You should let them know whenever something doesn't seem right with your vehicle.

"But they'll take years to repair it and then what do I do?"

What do you do? Whatever you do, you'll be alive. Bad brakes, a blow-out, any number of mechanical "misfires" can wipe you out or somebody else.

If you really need a vehicle for something, 90 per cent of the time your motor sergeant will fix you up.

Then, too, since you mentioned not being in the States, remember there's no AAA or handy wrecker service just around the corner over here. A lone, broken-down vehicle on the open road is awfully tempting to "Charlie".

"That's why I've got a 'shot gun' along."

Well, sometimes the shot gun might be out-gunned. But that brings up another point. Passengers and "shot gunners" can help you drivers a great deal. They can keep their eyes on the road and let you know if something unexpected comes up, like a car trying to pass on your 'blind' side.

"Okay, so I buy your spiel, what do I get out of it?"

A good chance of avoiding an accident and getting home alive.

**'No Freeze' Says Dept. Of Defense**

WASHINGTON — "There is no freeze on discharges and retirements in any of the services," the Department of Defense said the last week in January, replying to rumors following the call-up of certain reservists. At present, there is no authority to extend enlistment contracts for enlisted men.

If Army Reserve and or National Guard units are called to active duty, exemption policies are covered in AR 601-25.

If any Marine Corps units are called, the Marine Corps will decide at that time who, if anyone, will be exempt. At this time, no one would be exempt.

For the services — Navy and Air Force — involved in the recent call-up, "all high school students are exempt."

In addition, the Air Force is looking into all other possible exemption areas.

Reserve officers' requests for release from active duty are being approved unless the officer has not completed a term of active duty to which he is obligated or for which he consented.

The call-up of certain Ready Reserve units of the Air Force and Navy and the Air National Guard was taken as a precautionary measure to strengthen

Police Recruiting At Military Bases Pays Off

WASHINGTON — Veterans Administration has taken four steps to assure nondiscrimination in the sale of 14,200 repurchased houses the VA currently has on the market throughout the country.

A mid-January VA announcement said metal "VA For Sale" signs are being altered to include such statements as "no discrimination" and "anyone can buy."

Moreover, VA will put in newspaper advertisements and other public listings a statement that "VA properties are available to qualified buyers or renters without regard to their race, color or national origin."

Another safeguard set by VA is a three-day waiting period after public listing before it accepts the offer most advantageous to the government.

VA also is tightening up its dealings with sales brokers who handle VA listings by requiring them to certify in writing every six months that they will not discriminate in sales or rentals of VA properties. (CD)

In the case of the District of Columbia police, the Army leads with 82 volunteers, followed by the Marines with 67,

NVA Trapped By Korean Infantrymen

SAIGON (MACV) — Elements of the Capital ROK Infantry Division made contact with an enemy force Jan. 23 in the vicinity of Phu Cat, 14 miles north

west of Qui Nhon.

Reacting swiftly, the Koreans quickly deployed six companies in an encircling maneuver and trapped the enemy force in a cordon. The Republic of Korea troops were from the 1st Regiment, Capital ROK Division.

Before nightfall on the 23rd, two platoons of tanks from the 1st of the 69th Armor — normally attached to the U.S. 4th Infantry Division — had deployed into the cordon from positions along Route 19 to the west. In addition, two platoons of mechanized infantry in armored personnel carriers from the 1st Air Cavalry Division deployed into the northwest portion of the cordon from northern Binh Dinh Province.

Gradually tightening the circle through the next five days, the Korean troops fought the enemy during the day and maintained their tight cordon at night to prevent an enemy escape.

The citation noted six major operations in which the division has participated since moving to Ba Gi in 1966. It is credited with killing nearly 2,000 Viet Cong and capturing another 1,300 enemy along with numerous rounds of ammunition and weapons.

General Coa Van Vien, Vietnamese chief of staff, fixed the symbolic braided cord around the shoulder of Brigadier General Nguyen Van Hieu, commander of the 22d, during the ceremony which took place at the division's headquarters.

Three U.S. advisors to the 22d also received awards during the ceremony. Colonel Ernest S. Ferguson and Captain Joseph D. Hindsley both received the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Silver Star while Captain Samuel E. Simmons received the Staff Service Honor Medal, 1st Class.

First formed in 1959, the division moved from Kontum to Qui Nhon in 1965 and moved to its present headquarters a year later. Its mission is to provide security for Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Phu Bon Provinces in Vietnam's II Corps Tactical Zone.

of MACV's Advisory Group Detachment 5 at Dong Da in I Corps.

The 21-man detachment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Wray E. Bradley, provides advisory support in six programs of instruction for the Republic of Vietnam Army's National Training Center here. The center is the only one in I Corps and the third largest in the nation.

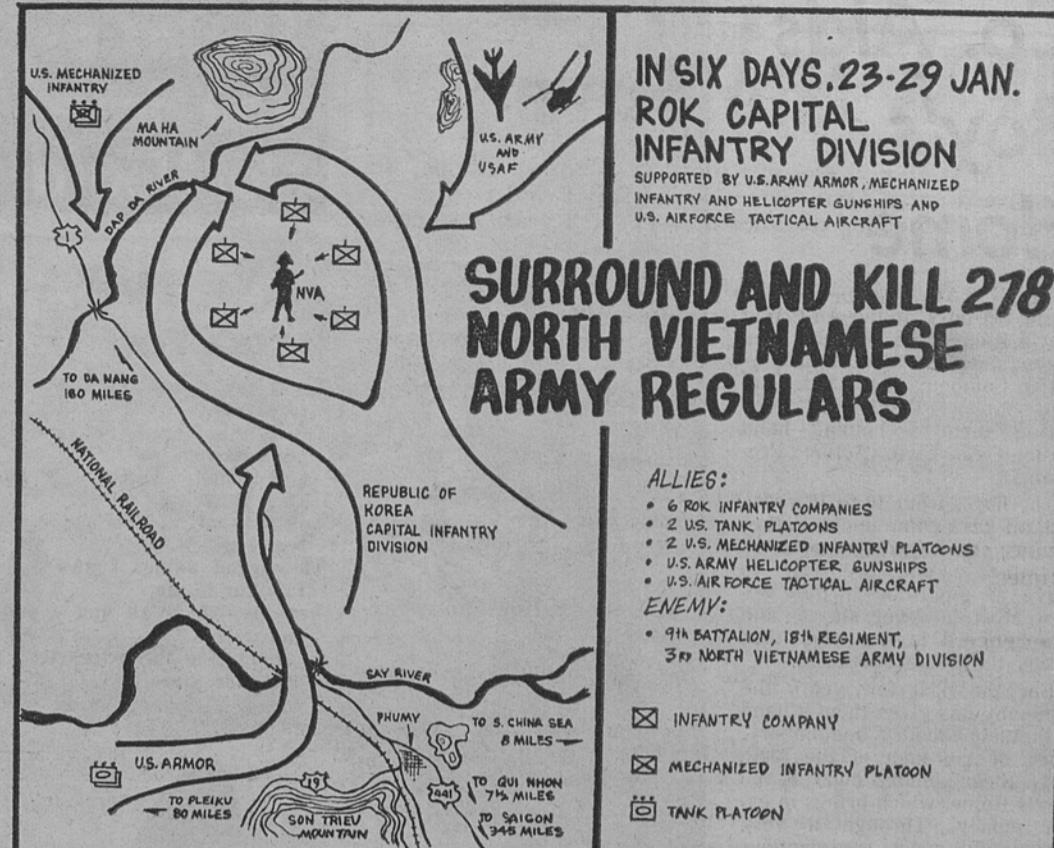
Chief assistants to Colonel Bradley are Major Gordon K. Feltchour, deputy senior adviser, and Master Sergeant C. J. Russell, the detachment's first sergeant.

The center is the site for basic combat training and advanced individual training for both volunteers and draftees of the ARVN as well as members of Popular Forces units. In addition, it conducts refresher training for Regional Forces.

"Also," added the colonel, "the 1st ARVN Division continually rotates one battalion back to the center from its forward position near the demilitarized zone for five weeks of retraining which is concluded with an ATT (Army Training Test)."

Recruits, mostly from the northern provinces but with some coming from as far away as Saigon, are given six weeks of basic combat training and six weeks of advanced individual training.

Both Colonel Bradley and Major Feltchour express admiration for their ARVN counterparts, Major Le Van Phuoc, camp commander, and Major Tran Van Hoa, deputy commander. The two U.S. advisers rate the two ARVN officers as competent professionals.



IN SIX DAYS, 23-29 JAN.
ROK CAPITAL INFANTRY DIVISION
SUPPORTED BY U.S. ARMY ARMOR, MECHANIZED INFANTRY AND HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS AND U.S. AIR FORCE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT

SURROUND AND KILL 278 NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY REGULARS

- 6 ROK INFANTRY COMPANIES
- 2 U.S. TANK PLATOONS
- 2 U.S. MECHANIZED INFANTRY PLATOONS
- U.S. ARMY HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS
- U.S. AIR FORCE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT

ENEMY:

- 91 BATTALION, 18TH REGIMENT, 3RD NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY DIVISION

IN INFANTRY COMPANY

MECHANIZED INFANTRY PLATOON

TANK PLATOON

In Bien Hoa**Buddhists Use Civic Action**

LONG BINH (II FF) — Three schools, a day nursery and a public first aid station — all under Buddhist supervision — are either completed or nearing completion in and around the city of Bien Hoa.

While killing the 278 enemy, the Korean forces suffered 11 killed and 25 wounded. The kill ratio for the engagement was 25.3 enemy to 1 Korean.

funds donated by members of the sect and built through professional and volunteer labor.

The III Corps Office of Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) is also assisting and has provided enough cement so that the day nursery in Bien Hoa can be completed. The nursery will be available to mothers who are working so that their children will have proper care during the day.

One of the schools, at the Vien Giac Pagoda in Tam Hiep, will soon be adding a two-story dormitory to allow 500 orphans to attend school. When the building is completed, the school will expand from its primary grades to reach a "middle level" — comparable to a secondary education in the United States.

At the Phat Lich Pagoda, also in Tam Hiep, a public first aid station is nearing completion. In helping to staff this center, the Australian Medical Team at Bien Hoa Province Hospital is

training 30 people in the techniques of first aid. More volunteers will be instructed so that immediate first aid can be given when it's necessary.

These projects will be serving all faiths and will be staffed with monks and other members of the religious order. Although those who are not monks will be working for low wages, the monks accept only token payment — because they feel they are giving to this project," said James E. Gwynne, assistant senior province advisor.

"The significance of this active role by the Buddhists," says Mr. Gwynne, "is that in the past they stayed within their own areas. They carried on teachings, read scriptures and performed their religious ceremonies in the pagodas.

"Now, the monks and members of their order are turning their energies to the world and involving themselves with the social welfare of their fellow man as well as continuing their religious practices."

Village Builds School

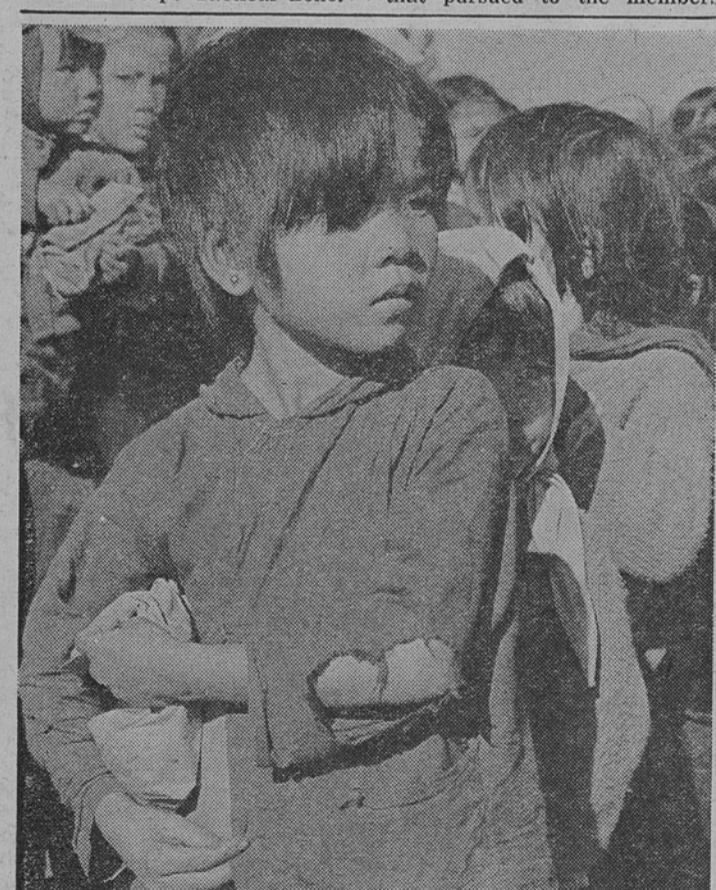
DA NANG (USMC) — A new school was recently dedicated in the nearby village of Hoa My. It's a two story, buff-colored building that will accommodate nearly 300 students.

1st Division Protestant Chapel Fund accounted for \$1,000. Navy Seabees of Mobile Construction Battalion 1 poured cement for the foundation and the second floor. Air Force units contributed scrap metal and lumber valued at \$3,000.

Two civilian organizations were also instrumental in building the school. They were the World Relief Commission, which contributed "Food for Work," and the United States Agency for International Development, which pledged construction materials.

Because of space limitations, attendance at the school will be restricted to students from poor families and refugee children.

The villagers, however, have a long range plan that would lift that restriction. They plan to eventually enlarge the school to a structure three times its current size.



IT'S MINE — A young Vietnamese girl clutches a paper-wrapped gift which she received at a party given by the 4th Infantry Division at the village of La Som. (USA PHOTO By Sp4 Ron Uzak)



A young girl leads the band.

Co. Aids Boy's Home

VUNG TAU (USA)—For the some 100 boys at the An-Phong Boy's Home here, life has been better since the 330th Transportation Company of the 34th General Support Group has been giving them a helping hand through its Civic Action Program.

The boys, from 10 to 16 years old, all have come under Father Nguyen Van Qui's supervision voluntarily, and are free to leave at any time if they desire. Most, however, stay on and are involved in the work that keeps the home operating.

For the past few years the company has given them a hand with their laundry and bakery. Most of the men of the 330th have their laundry done at the Boy's Home, which brings in extra money. Through a very meaningful and conscientious civic action program, the 330th contributes money to the Home with which supplies are purchased. A combination of these donations plus profits have helped to make the Boy's Home almost self-sustaining.

Father Qui of the Redemptorist Congregation feels that his Home is doing quite well, although there are many necessities that they still need.

ROKs Join US Marines

DA NANG (USMC)—A "new" Marine unit recently arrived for service with Marine Aircraft Group-16 at Marble Mountain air facility near here.

An aviation detachment of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade arrived with their O1-E "Bird Dog" (O1s) observation planes.

The following morning the O1s were calling in artillery fire and air strikes on enemy forces near Hoi An.

The unit started its tour in Vietnam at Cam Ranh Bay in 1965. They have been stationed at Tuy Hoa and Chu Lai before coming to Marble Mountain. During 1967 the detachment flew more than 1,000 missions, supporting more than 18 major operations.

"The women work hard. Per-



Father Qui looks over the Boy's Home's present location.

Through Self-Help

Viets Learn Needed Skills

LONG AN PROVINCE (USA)—In just a few weeks' time a U.S. Army engineer battalion has helped villagers construct a village office, a bridge and a school in the hamlet of Rach Kien.

Members of the 46th Engineer Battalion (Construction), 159th Engineer Group, 20th Engineer Brigade, moved into the village in late December.

The overall project was scheduled for two months' work, but the engineers' efforts have proven so successful that they have been extended in their jobs until the end of 1968.

"We don't mind the extension at all," stated Specialist 4 David A. Hegner. "We actually feel that we are doing a job with a purpose, a lot of it . . . one which will help these people immensely."

The projects are divided between squads. Eleven men work with their Vietnamese counterparts at each site.

"I was very surprised," said Sergeant Jerry W. Minches, "at how easily these people could pick up the ideas of our ways of construction. One of the few men we have working with us picked up the art of bricklaying in two weeks. He is very accomplished at it now."

With Rach Kien being in the Delta region, accessibility to the area is a problem. Most of the building sites are not connected with roads. Sampans are employed to carry cement blocks, lumber, cement and sand into the area. Once the material arrives, the workers must mix cement by hand. Dirt for the foundations must be brought in from 15 miles away. And there is too much water in the region for a good soil base for foundations.

The site's locations also present a problem in security. To cope with this, American and Vietnamese units stationed in the area are assigned to protect the work force.

But lack of knowledge of the Vietnamese language has not been a hindrance. "As in any country," stated Specialist 4 Menimrad Fillop, "you learn a little of the language by being around the people."

The building construction is accomplished with prefabricated materials prepared by the 46th Engineer Battalion at Long Binh and trucked to Rach Kien by

convoy during the week. The battalion uses Vietnamese workers almost entirely at Long Binh for the construction of the materials.

Originally the project entailed three schools, a village office, dispensaries and a maternity ward.

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Women work with the engineers mixing cement.



One man, employed by the engineers, became a bricklayer.

Farmers' Dreams Fulfilled

DA NANG (USMC)—A U.S. Marine is helping two Vietnamese rice farmers fulfill their ambition to become mechanics by teaching them about engines and vehicles.

Sergeant Jerry Wayne Crady, assistant shop chief of the 1st Marine Division Service Companies' motor pool, explains the progress of his two pupils.

"Only one year ago," stated the sergeant, "Nguyen Thien and Nguyen Ninh were rice farmers at nearby Red Beach. Now they are well on the way to becoming second-echelon mechanics.

"When we requested two men from the Industrial Relations office last year," stated Sergeant Crady, "We weren't sure what we would get. But now that they have been with us for almost a year, we're glad that we asked for them."

The two Vietnamese did not have any mechanical experience when they began working in the motor pool, but have been taught by the sergeant through the on-the-job training method. They first began learning by washing vehicle parts and watching the Marines reassemble the parts.

"They are a real asset to our shop," said Sergeant Crady, "and have earned the title of being the 'fastest wheel pullers' in the motor pool."

"The only thing they refuse to do," the Marine concluded, "is take a break. They're the two hardest-working guys I've ever seen, and they are learning every day."

Ninh and Thien each earn about \$54 monthly — high by Vietnamese standards—and receive annual and sick leave in addition to other benefits.

USN, Californians Team-up To Aid Village

NHA BE (USN)—The band of Vietnamese children, wearing tattered, dirty clothes, accepted the gifts with a squeal, a simple smile or just a look of awe.

The children are from Tan Thanh village, a poor settlement in the Viet Cong-infested Rung Sat Special Zone, a 400-square-mile mangrove swamp that lies between Saigon and the South China Sea.

The poor but hard working villagers were accepting the clothes, shoes and toys from their friends, the American Navymen who patrol the many waterways of the Rung Sat to check the Viet Cong's movement of troops and supplies.

They were unaware, however, that the gifts had come to Vietnam from other friends whom they had never met—the citizens of Sacramento, Calif.

Sacramento became involved with the Tan Thanh village through Lieutenant Ronald J. Calhoun, assistant officer-in-charge of River Patrol Boat Section 542. The river section adopted the riverside village last September and have made monthly MEDCAP visits ever since.

When Lieutenant Calhoun saw the raggedness and, in some cases, nakedness of the village children, he wrote to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Calhoun in Sacramento, and asked them if they could gather up some children's clothes he could give to the villagers.

The elder Calhoun, president of the Southeast Sacramento Kiwanis Club, proposed that his organization start "Project



PBRs are used for MEDCAPs as well as river patrol and river assaults against the enemy.

Vietnam" to get the needed goods for the villagers. His club, along with a number of other Kiwanis Clubs in the area, immediately went to work.

They gathered clothes, clothing and toys, boxed it up and delivered it to the Sacramento Army Depot Special Services, which took care of the mailing.

After the shipment of some 55 boxes arrived in Vietnam, a MEDCAP visit was scheduled.

When the three river patrol boats (PBRs) left their base at Nha Be, on the northern edge of the Rung Sat, they carried the boxed goods, two Navy doctors,

three medical corpsmen and two nuns, both nurses, from the



The reaction of the village was best displayed by the children.



Several boxes of clothes given to the RF military personnel.

Catholic Relief Society.

The boats announced their arrival through a taped message in Vietnamese, broadcast over loud speakers. The children lined the banks of the river as they always do when the PBRs stop at the village, but their eyes fairly popped out when the combat crews began carrying the boxes towards the school house.

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One room was quickly arranged as a clinic and patients began filing through. Meanwhile, the gifts were placed in one of the other rooms. Soon the schoolmaster began handing out the toys. Once the toys were gone and the medical needs taken care of, the village chief called in representatives of each family to receive the clothing and shoes.

Other boxes were carried by boat across the river to the local militia outpost there and to the other end of the village where a second outpost is located. The local soldiers' families live within the compounds and they, too, received their share of the gifts.

As the visit ended and the PBR crews once again manned

Story And Photos

By

JO1 Tom Walton



A Navy doctor examines a boy during the MEDCAP.



A Popular Forces soldier helps hand out clothes brought by the Navy team.

ARVN Airborne Battalions Strike Hard At Enemy



A wounded Vietnamese paratrooper is hastily moved to safety for medical aid.



Paratrooper of the 8th Battalion fires M-79 grenade launcher at enemy position.

SAIGON (VAD)—The South Vietnamese Airborne Division has been credited with an official enemy body count of 878 killed during the recent Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attacks on principal cities throughout the Republic during Tet.

In addition, the Airborne troopers captured 29 enemy troops, 91 crew-served weapons and 398 individual weapons.

Elements of the division were instrumental in repulsing the enemy attack on the west and southwest perimeters of Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

The initial action began on Wednesday, Jan. 31, when a special VC commando platoon forcibly entered Saigon's radio station about 3:30 a.m. Immediately Major General Du Quoc Dong, division commanding general, sent two companies of the 1st Battalion into action.

They drove out the enemy, killing the entire platoon, which numbered 14, while suffering eight killed. Fifteen individual weapons and one crew-served weapon were also taken.

At 5 a.m., two companies of the 8th Battalion attacked an unknown size enemy force, later identified as elements of the 812th Regiment from Kien Hoa, that was moving through villages on the perimeter of Tan Son Nhut.

In the action, the paratroopers completely aborted the Viet Cong's attempt to overrun the Vietnamese Joint General Staff Headquarters at the air base.

One prisoner captured in the action said that the force was part of more than 1,000 VC who had traveled for five days from the Delta area of Kien Hoa, 50 miles south of Saigon.

About the time the two companies of the 8th Battalion were blocking the enemy's attack on the Vietnamese headquarters, more enemy troops hit the southwest corner of Tan Son Nhut. They were met by heavy automatic and rocket grenade fire as elements of the 6th Battalion were called in from Vung Tau.

Although the 6th Battalion had just returned from fierce fighting at Dak To, they were in position by 1:45 p.m. Heavy building-to-building contact continued throughout the day and night supported by Airborne Headquarters mortar platoon and US Army gunships.

By morning, the enemy were beaten on both fronts, losing a total of 259 killed. Nine enemy were captured and 46 crew-served and 216 individual weapons taken. The two Vietnamese battalions suffered 44 killed.

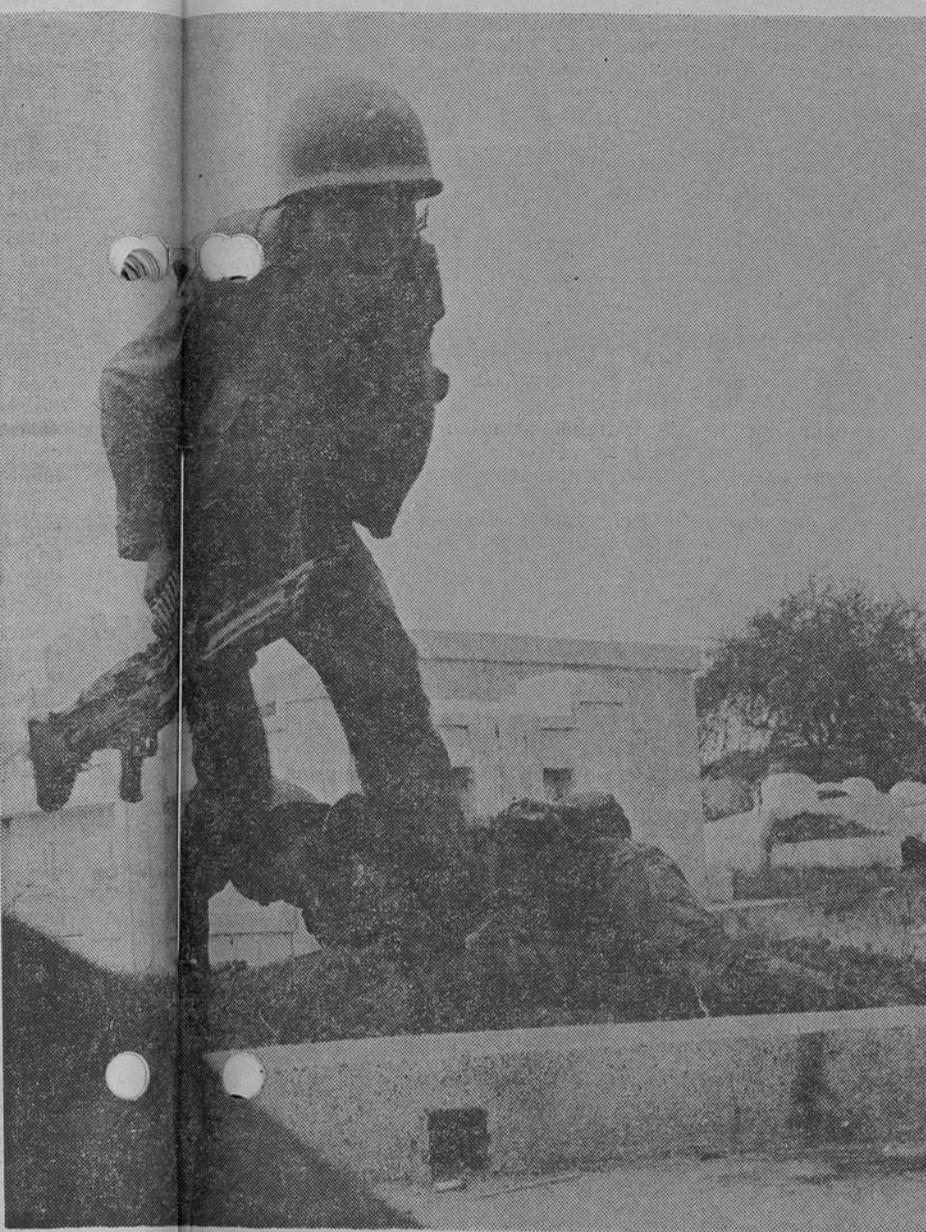
The newly formed 11th Battalion was attacked at its training center at Van Kiep, 20 kilometers northwest of Vung Tau. The enemy broke contact at 10 a.m., leaving behind 80 dead. A total of 34 individual and four crew-served weapons were captured here. The new battalion suffered four killed and 30 wounded.

In Hue, at 11 a.m., the 7th Airborne Battalion engaged an unknown-size attacking enemy. The 2nd Battalion moved in to aid the 7th and fought off the attackers, who left 275 dead and 22 crew-served and 71 individual weapons on the battlefield. Five enemy were captured; the battalions lost 28 men.

At 3:30 p.m., the 5th Battalion was engaged in a fierce battle with a battalion-size enemy force at Da Nang. This battle resulted in 50 enemy killed and two captured. Three crew-served and 10 individual weapons were taken. The battalion lost 15 men killed.

When the North Vietnamese attacked the city of Quang Tri in I Corps, the 9th Battalion helped to meet them. In fierce fighting, an estimated 200 NVA lost their lives and 12 were captured. Forty-two individual and 10 crew-served weapons were also captured; the battalion suffered 15 killed.

The kill ratio for the South Vietnamese Airborne Division stands at 10 to 1. Two of its battalions, the 7th and the 8th, are holders of the United States Presidential Unit Citation for valor under fire.



During heavy fighting, a machinegun team maneuvers among grave vaults.



Vietnamese paratroopers cross a city street under enemy fire.

St. & Photos
By
Vietnamese
Airborne
Division



With civilian aid, two paratroopers leave a fallen comrade.



ARVN paratrooper scrambles to reach a rooftop position during heavy fighting near Tan Son Nhut air base.

Viet Cong Supply Route Cut By 9th Division Engineers

TAN AN (USA)—Engineers of the 9th Division are cutting up a major Viet Cong supply route and shaking the enemy's grasp on a large portion of Tan Tru district. Companies C and E, 15th Engineer Battalion, are reconstructing a road through a flat, oblong area known as the "bowling alley". When finished, the road will provide a much needed land route to Tan Tru's second largest marketplace at An Nhut Tan.

The project also involves replacing two demolished bridges.

After a week of bulldozing and clearing booby traps, the engineers were ready to throw their first span across the Can Sao river. A pontoon float bridge was chosen for quick construction.

Floats were preassembled here and lifted to the bridge site by a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the 200th Assault Support Helicopter Company.

The first of several obstacles to the bridge building appeared with a bulldozer uncovered the home of five king cobras. The reptiles began striking angrily at the bulldozer's blade and were finally dispatched by small arms fire.

Additional problems were caused by the river's eight-foot tides. Its 260-foot width at high tide shrinks daily to 170 feet at low tide.

To combat this obstacle, flexible dry-span approaches, which rise and fall with the bridge level, were emplaced. In addition, powerful bridge erection boats were used to jockey the bridge's section against the river's strong tidal current.

The bridge was ready for traffic after eight hours.

"The road is important to the province chief," said Captain Tom Best. "It will open pacified areas for a large number of people who are moving back into the district."

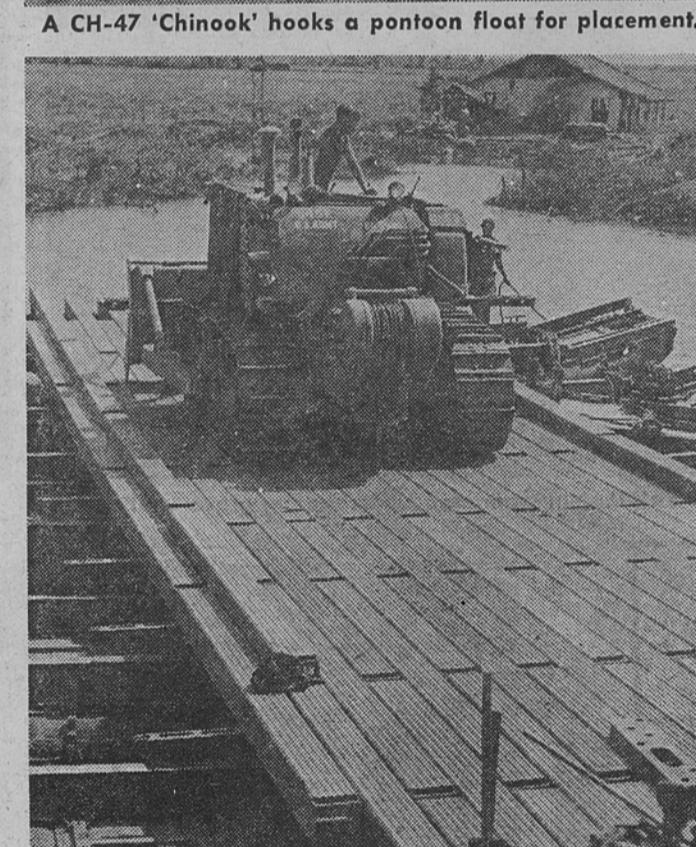
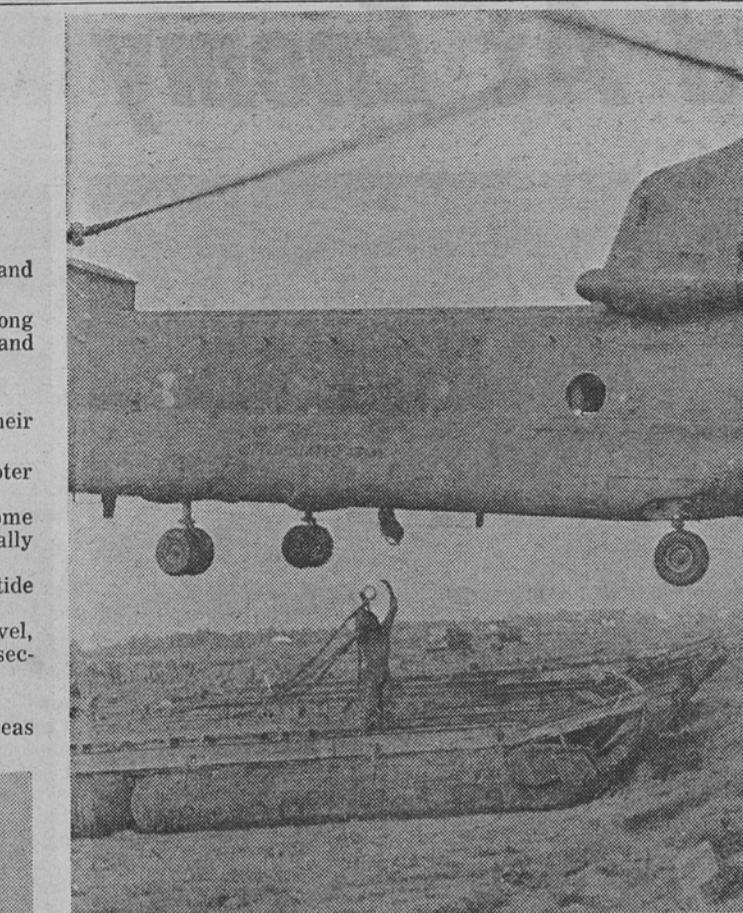


Two members of the battalion add another float to a bridge.

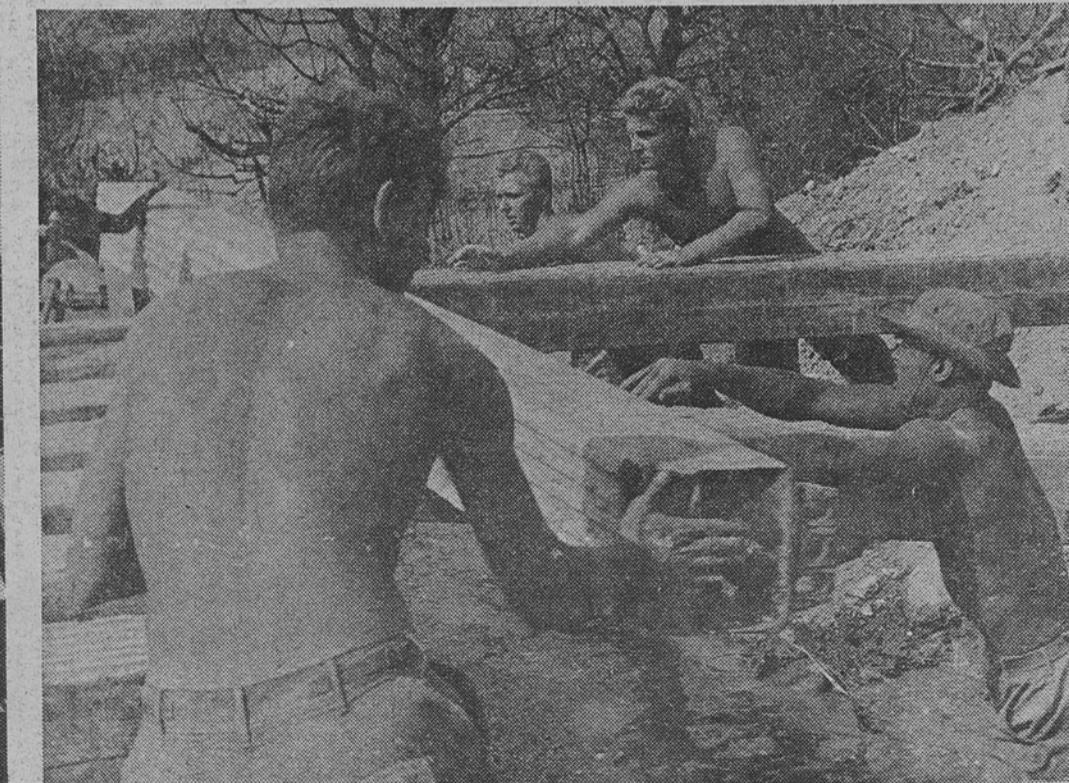
PHOTOS By
Sp5 Bruce McIlhaney



Men of the engineer battalion emplace sections of a bridge.



A bulldozer is ferried across a river on pontoons.



Three engineers push a piece of road surface material onto a pontoon bridge.

Village Builds Heliport

THUAN DUC CHAU (USA)—Cooperation from the villagers in this Delta hamlet has made it easier for the 52nd Signal Battalion to pursue their civic action plans for the people here.

To allow the members of the battalion to airlift building materials to the hamlet, the people have cleared an area and are building a heliport. "Although it isn't completed yet, we were able to land there recently with Christmas gifts," said Captain David A. Jones, civic actions officer for Company A, 52nd Signal Group, 1st Signal Brigade.

The first helicopter that flew into the remote village on the Tinh Vinh Long River was piloted by the commander of the Can Tho airfield, Lieutenant Colonel Bertran B. Leach, where the Signal company is based.

When Company A and the battalion's Headquarters Company were asked to perform civic action in the village, the only access route was by civilian-operated water taxi. "A year ago this land was inhabited by the Viet Cong, and the local people are just now beginning to build villages away from the main town," said Captain Jones.

Twenty boxes of clothing were lifted in on the first helicopter; these came from the Dempsey Compound Donor Deposit Fund, which administers all civic action donations at the Can Tho airfield.

To show their gratitude for the efforts of the 2nd Signal Group Signalmen, the village chief presented them with a Viet Cong flag captured in the area.

William S. Moyers—speaking

Infantrymen Help Boy Get Education

CU CHI (USA)—Little Nuynh, an 11-year-old Vietnamese boy, had never gone to school. Money was scarce at home, so he became a shoeshine boy to earn money to help his family.

Everyday he made his way down to the business district of Cu Chi to compete against other boys for the shoeshine trade.

Because he did such a good job, Nuynh made many friends at the huge U.S. Army base near his village. One of his favorites is First Lieutenant Alfred Serrato, executive officer of the 25th Division's 1st Battalion (Mech) 5th Infantry.

One day, as Lieutenant Serrato was having his boots shined, he noted that the boy was quiet and not his "usual self". When the lieutenant asked him what was wrong, Nuynh burst into tears.

"There was a group of kids standing around us teasing the boy, so I asked them what was going on," commented Lieutenant Serrato. "They told me Nuynh couldn't afford to go to school like the rest of them." The tears disappeared when the infantryman told him he would be back in two days with enough money for his schooling.

"I felt this would be a good project for the company," explained Lieutenant Serrato, "so I asked for help. The response was great."

Within hours enough money had been collected to send the boy to school for a year. With

the extra money, they bought him clothes and school supplies.

"As time goes on and he needs more money for school supplies, we'll have it ready for him," the 5th Infantryman added.

Little Nuynh is still shining boots, but only after school and then just to visit his friends.

He referred to a "common misconception" that the military pays higher wages than the



Capt. Oanh watches a cook prepare rice over the new stove.

Through Civilian Job Program

Soldiers Freed For Combat

SAIGON (USA)—About 100,000 Vietnamese employees are helping the U.S. Army and its contractors in their continuing effort to release soldiers for duty in combat and combat support units, according to the Army's civilian personnel director in Vietnam.

William S. Moyers—speaking

private sector and the Vietnamese Government. Surveys and data-gathering projects have been conducted, he said, to insure the workers are compensated on a par with others having similar occupations and responsibilities.

Roughly 50 per cent of the work force consists of female employees. Mr. Moyers said women now are working in such vocations, among others, as carpentry and plumbing—vocations that are normally considered for men only. He compared the present work force to the situation in World War II in the U.S., when women filled jobs vacated by men going to war.

The personnel chief said the many thousands of "loyal and hardworking" Vietnamese employees are vital to the Army's mission here.

He referred to a "common misconception" that the military pays higher wages than the

ARVN Troops Get New Field Stove

LONG BINH (USA)—The Vietnamese combat soldier likes his food every bit as much as his American ally does. Although their diets differ considerably, they are equally as interested in having their meals hot whenever possible.

During combat operations, however, hot food is not always available because of tactical requirements. So a captain in the 25th Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), has come up with an innovation that promises improvement in the ARVN soldier's field rations.

His innovation—a new, but simple stove—has been okayed for army-wide distribution by the ARVN Quartermaster Corps. Its simplicity and efficiency also drew the admiration of the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Harold K. Johnson, who visited the 25th ARVN Division last December.

Former standard procedure in ARVN company-size mess operations has been to dig large holes in which cooking fires

consists of four nesting pots, each fitting into the one below, like a series of double-boilers. A framework of strap metal with a loop at the top enables two men to carry the entire set slung between them on a pole. Captain Oanh decided that four pots weren't really necessary as food containers. So he took the bottom one—about one foot deep—and cut out most of the metal of the sides, leaving a semi-open framework with a bottom. With a little experimentation he used small pieces of wood to build fires in this makeshift stove, and found that it readily kept food hot in the pots stacked above. Furthermore, by leaving a rim around the bottom to contain the fuel, the entire unit could be carried along with the fire going.

He had the new unit tried under field conditions and found that it worked in practical use as he had planned. Better yet, he learned that, if necessary, a squad could cook its own food from scratch without need of the company mess section.

A squad can now send in men from its outpost to pick up the meal. If it is already cooked, a fire in the stove will keep it piping hot while they carry it to the outpost. If the food is unprepared, they can either build a fire and let it cook as they move along, or they can wait until they reach their squad before lighting the fire.



SEAL RAID—Navy SEALs leap from a river assault boat on the Rach Thom/Rach Mo Cay Canal system late last month to raid a Viet Cong base in Kien Hoa Province. The raid resulted in an estimated 40 to 50 bunkers and numerous camp structures destroyed, including a VC propaganda center and two tax collection stations. Fifty-one suspects were detained. (USN PHOTO BY JO1 Tom Walton)

Advisor Says His Job 'Best'

PHU TAN (MACV)—Army Major Charles K. Hanson says he has the best job a major can have in Vietnam.

As senior U.S. military advisor in Tuy An District of Phu Yen Province, he is the principal U.S. advisor to the commander of four Vietnamese Regional Force companies and 12 Popular Force platoons. All units are commanded by First Lieutenant Nguyen Van Be. The total force is equivalent in manpower, if not in firepower and equipment, to a U.S. infantry battalion. The troops are responsible for the internal security of the district, which has a population of about 35,000.

Major Hanson's "force" consists of his civilian deputy as second in command, one lieutenant, a medic, an infantry advisor and a radio operator. With these men, he advises the ARVN lieutenant on the best means of employment of his forces, checks positions of the ARVN troops daily, helps the RF and PF get supplies and equipment, and insures that the equipment receives proper maintenance. His team also accompanies the RF and PF, known as "Rough-Puffs", on operations, coordinates medical evacuation by helicopter for the ARVN wounded, and trains the Vietnamese forces, with Lieutenant Be's coordination and cooperation, in infantry tactics.

In addition to his primary military mission, Major Hanson has

another responsibility, now considered equally important. That is his support of CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support) in Tuy An District.

This program is designed to assist the Vietnamese self-help program by furnishing advice, know-how and commodity support. The major's deputy is responsible for all CORDS activities in the district.

As part of his civil operations duties, the major checks every RD project in the district at least once each week. He visits all schools, dispensaries, wells, rice-grinding courts, bridges and markets to insure that there are no problems or to recommend solutions to any that might exist.

One reason the major likes his job is the variety, which he could not have in any other assignment in Vietnam. He explains that he is involved, as a commander, in nearly every type of military operation that can be found in Vietnam—from a battalion assault to a squad ambush. He said he can call, on his own authority, for artillery and air strikes—to include B-52 bombers and can get an air strike within 20 minutes after he requests it.

This is Major Hanson's second tour in Vietnam, having served here from July 1961 until June 1962 as a Ranger advisor to the Vietnamese Ranger force.

SAIGON (USA)—Specialist 5 William Le May is the first American to graduate from the Republic of Korea Capital Division language school.

US Engineers Train ARVN

BIEN HOA (USA)—The latest U.S. engineer training program for ARVN units has been completed at Bien Hoa by the 34th Engineer Battalion and 79th Engineer Group.

Instruction covered a wide range of operations and included the techniques of constructing timber trestle bridges, assembling and disassembling float bridges and establishing anchor-age systems.

Part of the program consisted of a one-week course on vehicle maintenance where personnel of the 302nd ARVN Engineer Battalion learned to repair engines and transmissions as well as meet the need of implementing an effective maintenance program of their own.

Certificates of Achievement were given to the ARVN engineers at the completion of the course in recognition of their improved maintenance knowledge.

SAIGON (USA)—Specialist 5 William Le May is the first American to graduate from the Republic of Korea Capital Division language school.

Specialist Le May recently completed 14 weeks of intensive Vietnamese language study at

the ROK "Tigers" base camp near Dieu Tri.

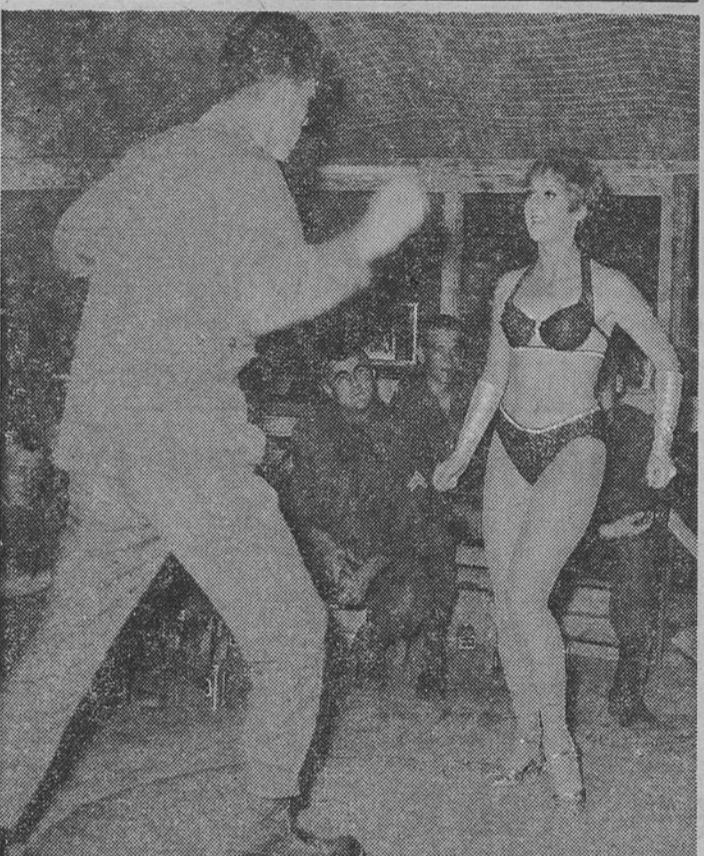
"I feel honored to have attended the fine Korean school. I was chosen by the ROK's school staff because I have mastered both spoken and written Korean," said the 41st Civil Affairs Company interpreter.

Specialist Le May's wife, Tong Ho, is of Korean descent and lives in Seoul, Korea. The interpreter spent two tours of service in Korea.

For his exceptional performance, Specialist Le May received a framed certificate of graduation from Colonel Lee Soon Kil, Chief of staff, ROK Division. During the graduation ceremony Colonel Kil commended the efforts of Specialist Le May and his 46 Korean classmates.

Letters of appreciation were presented by Major General Chung Soon Min, commanding general, ROK Capital Division and Major Le-Xuan Mai, Vietnamese senior liaison officer with the division, on behalf of Lieutenant General Vinh-Loc, Vietnamese II Corps commanding general.

"When I found the Koreans were teaching Vietnamese, I immediately applied for the course. I now have five languages at my command: English, Italian, German, Korean and Vietnamese," concluded Specialist Le May.



NOT BAD G.I.—That's what this 21-year-old miss from London seems to be saying to the fellow teaching her the latest Vietnam dances. All we know about her is that her name is Sandra and she is presently touring the country with the USO show called "The Fontaine". Keep your eyes open and you might see her. As if we needed to mention it!

AF Unit Donates Furniture

BINH THUY (USA)—A civic action visit to a hamlet in the village of Gia Xuan, near Binh Thuy Air Base, by a representative of "E" Flight, 4th Air Commando Squadron (ACS), has resulted in the delivery of the first shipment of homemade furniture to school teachers in the five permanent hamlet schools of the village.

When Lieutenant Colonel Charles L. Rose visited the Thoi An hamlet chief, Nguyen Van Viet, he asked what assistance the men of "E" flight could render. Mr. Viet said that the school teachers, in the recently constructed hamlet elementary school, had been forced to live with families in the hamlet due to the lack of furniture for the teacher's rooms in the school.

Further conversation revealed this problem was common not only to the school in Thoi An but in four other schools, each in a separate hamlet of Gia Xuan. Furniture needed in the schools included five teacher's desks, 13 wardrobes, 26 chairs and 26 beds.

Colonel Rose began working on the project, enlisting the aid of squadron personnel and help from the base civil engineer from shipping crates and

scrap lumber.

The deputy district chief of Chau Than district arranged for blue-prints and specifications for the furniture. Civil engineer's native employees interpreted the specifications and squadron. The wood was provided, translated them from metric measurements into feet and inches.

Many hours later, the fruits of their labors began to materialize. Arrangements were made for a Vietnamese Air Force helicopter to take the

fire, four Viet Cong on the south side of the canal fired on the SEAL team on the north bank. The SEALs did not return the fire, but a group of seven Viet Cong on the north side of the canal did.

Several cries were heard indicating that there were Viet Cong being hit in the fire fight.

When the fire between the two groups subsided, the SEALs attacked the Viet Cong with small arms and automatic weapons, killing eight. There were no U.S. losses.



Just get-well cards from people who say you're sick.

Dunnage Used For Viet Aid

SAIGON (USA)—Enough dunnage to build a two-foot wide path the full length of South Vietnam has passed through the Dunnage Yard in the Saigon Port since its inception in July 1967. Dunnage is lumber used for packing and securing cargo in the hold of a ship.

The U.S. Army Terminal Saigon Dunnage Yard is the storage and transfer point for more than one million feet of dunnage coming off ships arriving in the port each month. The majority of this lumber is used in Civic Action projects and by Army units in the III and IV Corps areas. An average of 250,000 board feet of dunnage is used each month for the back-loading of ships.

Orphanages, refugee camps, under-privileged schools and Army units all put requests for lumber in to the supply section of the 125th Transportation Command, which has overall control of the yard. The requests are checked against normal monthly requirements for the port and then given to Dunnage Yard personnel for distribution.

Sergeant William C. Howse, NCOIC of the night shift, commented: "About 70 per cent of the lumber we receive is top quality. It is this wood we try to save for the civic action projects and Army units. The remainder is used for backloading ships."

Every piece of lumber coming off a ship is accounted for when it is brought to the yard. When it is issued, a record is kept of the amount issued and where it is going. As far as port authorities are concerned, dunnage is handled with the same care as any other commodity leaving the port.

Civic Action projects rate high on the list of agencies receiving the wood. Sergeant Howse concluded: "The men in this section feel that orphanages, refugee camps, and schools deserve the best support we can give."

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American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of February 21-27, 1968)

Wednesday Feb. 21

1830 News Headlines
1830 Lost in Space
1830 News and Sports
1830 Insight
2035 Information Feature
2035 Metronews Newsreel
2035 Addams Family
2100 Carol Burnett
2200 Sports (Re-Run)
2300 Late News
2315 Sports (Continued)

Thursday Feb. 22

1830 News Headlines
1830 Third Man
1900 Flying Fisherman
1930 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2025 Information Feature
2025 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Craft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Late News
2315 Jerry Lewis

Friday Feb. 23

1830 News Headlines
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2025 Information Feature
2025 Bewitched
2100 Big Valley
2200 Alfred Hitchcock
2300 Late News
2315 Joey Bishop Show

Saturday Feb. 24

1230 News Headlines
1230 Official Detective
1345 Mike Douglas Show
1400 Greatest Dramas
1400 CBS Gold Classic
1500 Sports of the Week
1730 Information Special
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 Information Feature

Sunday Feb. 25

1830 News Headlines
1830 Window on Vietnam
2005 Ice Follies

Monday Feb. 26

1830 News Headlines
1830 Daniel Boone

Tuesday Feb. 27

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective

1900 Bobby Lord Show

1930 News and Sports

2005 Magic Room

2035 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2200 Mission Impossible

2200 Late News

2315 Dean Martin Summer Show

Wednesday Feb. 28

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective

1900 Bobby Lord Show

1930 News and Sports

2005 Magic Room

2035 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2200 Mission Impossible

2200 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

Thursday Feb. 29

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective

1900 Bobby Lord Show

1930 News and Sports

2005 Magic Room

2035 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2200 Mission Impossible

2200 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

Friday March 1

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective

1900 Bobby Lord Show

1930 News and Sports

2005 Magic Room

2035 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2200 Mission Impossible

2200 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

Saturday March 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective

1900 Bobby Lord Show

1930 News and Sports

2005 Magic Room

2035 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2200 Mission Impossible

2200 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

Sunday March 3

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective

1900 Bobby Lord Show

1930 News and Sports

2005 Magic Room

2035 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2200 Mission Impossible

2200 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

Beetle Bailey

1-18

1-19

Enemy's Tet Offensive Fails



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 41

Saigon, Vietnam

February 14, 1968

Inf. Hits Enemy Raiders

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES (USA) — More than 1,000 Vietnamese flooded back into Ho Nai Village early this month following troops from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade who swept Viet Cong raiders from their village during Tet.

The village, adjacent to the brigade's base camp, was infiltrated the first night of Tet. VC forces forced their way into homes, stole rice and other provisions, and killed anyone who tried to stand in their way.

One report stated that at least one man's throat was cut because he tried to get food into an area where his fellow villagers had taken refuge from the raiders.

The VC used the village as one base of fire against the brigade's perimeter, but later found themselves trapped between the base camp and counter-attacking elements who blocked their withdrawal.

Realizing the situation of the village, infantrymen from the brigade swept the village, pursuing the enemy, capturing weapons and ammunition, aiding wounded and detaining suspects.

Scores of enemy bodies were left behind — part of the 527 VC killed by the infantrymen in the action. Enemy casualties and body count rose steadily as sweep operations continued.

Even while the Viet Cong still controlled the village, medics, (Continued on Back Page)



A VC is hustled to police custody by Cpl George Moyer and Sp4 James Singer.

(USA PHOTO BY Sp5 Don Hirst)

Thai Cobras Prowl In Search Of VC

LONG THANH (USA) — Since arriving in Vietnam last September 21, the 2,200-man Royal Thai Army's Queen's Cobra Volunteer Regiment has conducted combat operations and civic action projects in the Nhon Trach jungles, 20 miles southeast of Saigon.

Located on the northern boundary of the Rung Sat Special Zone—the Everglades of Vietnam—Nhon Trach District contains the main Viet Cong supply route from the Rung Sat into Phuoc Tuy and Bien Hoa Provinces.

In this area of jungle, rubber plantations and rice paddies, the Thais encountered their first major battle December 20-21 and proved to be a formidable opponent for the Viet Cong.

At about 10 p.m. on the 20th, the VC mounted a small arms attacks on a company-size Thai outpost south of 9th Division headquarters at Bearcat. By 1

a.m., the enemy was storming the encampment with mortars and rockets.

Deadly hand-to-hand combat flared for over an hour as the attackers sliced through the Thai perimeter at two locations.

Sporadic fighting continued throughout the night until air and artillery strikes put the VC to rout. At dawn, the Thais began a day-long counterattack with armored personnel carriers.

When the action slowed, 56 VC bodies were counted around the inside of the Thai perimeter. The Thais also captured 13 rocket launchers, 70 rockets, 19 AK-47 assault rifles, 100 hand grenades, six machineguns and 11 mortar rounds.

The Cobras have also made their presence felt on other fronts. Thai pacification efforts in Nhon Trach have helped lower VC tax receipts from their 1966 level of half the rice crop to nothing.

Health Activity To Monitor

Diseases

LONG BINH (II FF) — A new Public Health activity has been established to monitor communicable disease outbreaks in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

It will be known as the Corps Epidemiological Recording Office (CERO). As its name implies, the new office will record disease outbreaks and recommend corrective measures to prevent them from reaching epidemic proportions.

CERO will combine Vietnamese, American civilian and military doctors and Public Health authorities into an integrated nerve center for combating disease.

Major diseases in South Vietnam reportedly are plague, cholera, polio, typhoid, encephalitis, chicken pox and meningitis.

CERO is a Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support project.

Pacification Rates High In VN War

CHU LAI (USMC) — Human relations have become a major factor in South Vietnam's struggle for peace—a factor which Americans have labeled pacification.

Pacification is accomplished by winning the cooperation of the Vietnamese people so that free world military forces can bring a speedier end to the Vietnam war. The pacification cycle is a long and tedious challenge, especially when dealing with Vietnamese refugees.

An Binh, on the island of Ky Hoa north of the Marine air base at Chu Lai, is a refugee hamlet. The density of the Viet Cong in their ancestral areas required that they be moved to a safer location. The 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion (LAAM) assumed the pacification responsibilities for the villagers.

Lieutenant Colonel Stanley A. Herman, battalion commander,

SAIGON (MACV) — Enemy forces in South Vietnam, launching their biggest offensive of the war thus far, lost more than 21,000 men killed in the first week of fighting. In addition, Allied Forces detained 4,727 suspects during the same period. There were 1,729 Allied soldiers killed in the fighting that raged up and down the country.

The following summary is a compilation of significant events, released through the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), which took place throughout the country from Jan. 29-Feb. 5.

After the initial attack on Dalat early in the morning of Feb. 1, enemy forces still held portions of the city three days later. An estimated two companies of VC infiltrated the city and seized the sector headquarters and provincial hospital. Cadets from the Vietnamese Military Academy forced back other VC advances.

Friendly casualties in the three-day fighting were eight killed and 27 wounded. The enemy lost 22 killed and nine wounded. On Feb. 4 the city and airfield were reported secured.

Fighting broke out in Ban Me Thuot shortly after midnight Jan. 29 and heavy contact continued through Feb. 2. Using rockets, mortars, tear gas and automatic weapons, the VC infiltrated the city, occupied the airfield and attacked the MACV compound.

All enemy attacks were repulsed, and on Feb. 3 only sporadic small arms fire was being ported. In Ban Me Thuot as of the 3rd, the enemy had lost 238 killed and 191 captured while the friendly forces reported 74 killed and 161 wounded.

Early on Jan. 30, fighting broke out on three fronts when Pleiku, Tan Canh and Kontum came under heavy mortar attack. By evening, the MACV compound in Tan Canh had received and repulsed 18 probes.

Elements of the 4th Infantry Division moved into the area to reinforce the ARVN defenders and heavy fighting continued through the night.

On Feb. 1 the new Pleiku airfield came under ground attack, and the 71st Evacuation Hospital was receiving mortar fire. The Kontum attack continued south of the city.

Final reports, as of 9 a.m. on the 3rd, showed that the enemy lost 563 killed and 118 detained, with friendly losses of 52 dead (Continued on Back Page)

has been directly involved with winning the friendship of the people of An Binh since he joined the unit in July, 1967. He and Major Harry J. Baldwin Jr., an active participant in the Ky Hoa civil affairs programs, knew that these refugees had not become as receptive as the island's native inhabitants.

Civil affairs Marines studied An Binh and its needs. Then, 2nd LAAM Bn. initiated a simple three-point program to overcome the reluctance of An Binh refugees to give full cooperation.

First, the people needed a hospital. So a location was selected with the aid of the hamlet chief and a Vietnamese and Americans coordinated and built a hospital, full of furniture built by the Marines of the missile battalion.

The next project was the construction of a pig pen where more specialized care could be (Continued on Back Page).

Editorial!

Now Not Later

There is little doubt in anyone's mind that a good education is necessary to succeed in today's modern world. Certainly, there are still a few success stories about the man who made a million with only a third grade education, but you hear them less and less.

A quick look at the help wanted section of any metropolitan newspaper will graphically show that the better paying jobs with the greatest opportunities for advancement go to those who are educationally prepared to meet the challenges.

If you were to check the service records of those military personnel who have advanced rapidly and have been given the more responsible assignments, you would find that these men have taken advantage of every opportunity for self-development.

The thousands and thousands of military personnel engaged in off-duty education programs are doing something to improve their military careers.



Whether the courses they take are part of a long-range development process leading to a college degree, allow them to complete high school, improve their technical skills or simply increase their general knowledge and keep their minds active, these men are moving forward.

They will be the ones who receive the promotions and responsible assignments.

Will you be one of them or will you be in the group who never quite got around to taking that course and getting that diploma?

There is an unlimited opportunity to further your education while in the Armed Forces, but only you can decide to make full use of that opportunity. It is your decision—and it will be you who either reap the benefits or pay the penalties.

Right now, this week, this weekend is the time to see your education advisor and take the first step. (AFPS)

Promotion Policy Emphasizes Ability

WASHINGTON—Army's new accelerated promotion policy for enlisted men is expected to place more emphasis on performance and potential.

Approved last month by Army Chief of Staff General Harold K. Johnson, the policy includes special grade increases for personnel in Vietnam, or those headed there, and increased promotion opportunities for personnel in service schools.

By June 30, the estimated "promotion potential" under the new policy will be about 90,000 men to E-4, 62,000 to E-5 and 15,000 to E-6.

In Vietnam, MACV and USARV may promote to fill vacancies in grades E-4 and E-5 without regard to DA quotas, and all E-2s will be promoted to E-3 when they arrive.

Other commanders in Vietnam are authorized to promote men monthly to grades E-4 through E-6, using a percentage of the authorized strength of each grade to figure the allowance. For E-4 the allowance is four percent of strength, and five percent and two percent

for E-5 and E-6.

A similar promotion allowance is authorized for units alerted for Southeast Asia duty and other Army commands, but the percentages are higher for the alerted units and lower for the other commands.

In school commands, commanders may promote some individuals as high as E-6 if they are in MOS or non-MOS producing courses. However, they must meet normal time in grade and service requirements if they are in a non-MOS course.

Second, the best rate of monetary exchange available in Sydney is located at the R&R center where there is no waiting. Some personnel are exchanging their currency at Darwin during a short stop there and the rate is normally less.

Tips For R&R In Australia

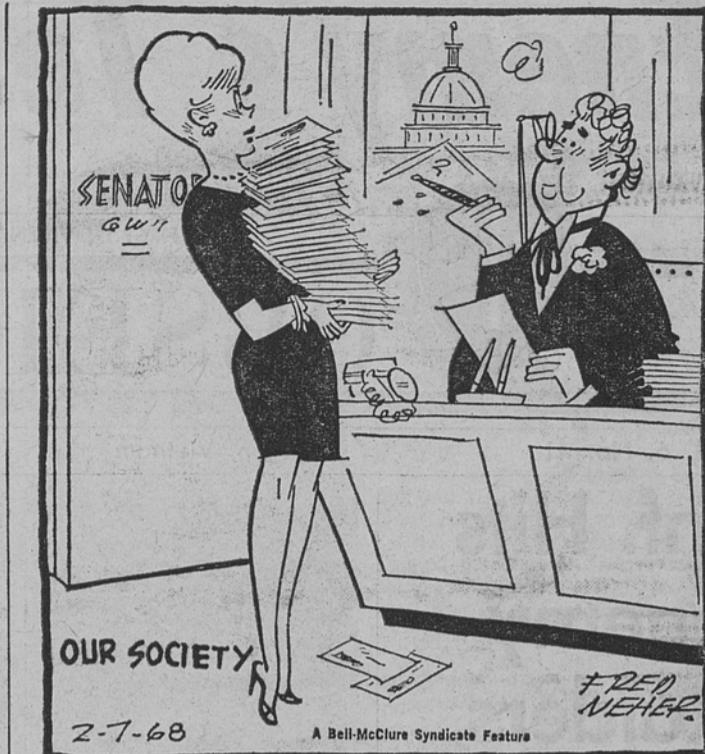
SAIGON (MACV) — In a recent notice from the MACV R&R office, several tips were given for those personnel planning an R&R to Australia.

First, the Australian customs officials are checking virtually all personal possessions of US personnel arriving on R&R flights. This includes opening cigarette packages and cameras. Personnel should therefore remember not to load film into their cameras prior to completing custom checks.

Second, the best rate of monetary exchange available in Sydney is located at the R&R center where there is no waiting. Some personnel are exchanging their currency at Darwin during a short stop there and the rate is normally less.

It's Taboo In Vietnam

A strict taboo in Vietnam is placing ones feet on any part of a table or chair. This practice is an insult to Vietnamese and should never be done in a Vietnamese home, office or restaurant.



"Senator, to whom do YOU write if you have a complaint?"

Code Of A Soldier 'Never Surrender'

America's military history recounts again and again the saga of the individual warrior or the unit or the division that would not quit when faced with the toughest of odds. Captain John Paul Jones said, "I have not yet begun to fight!" when called upon to surrender his ship, the Bonhomme Richard. An Army general replied "Nuts!" to a demand to surrender at Bastogne during World War II, fanning the patriotic spirit of the nation. A machinegunner in Korea, cut off from his unit, stayed with his weapon fighting. At the last moment, he feigned death as the enemy overran his position. Then the foe was driven away and U.S. troops recaptured the hill. And the machinegunner lived to fight again.

Surrender means a prisoner of war camp and an extremely uncertain future. The communists in the Far East have shown them they have no regard for the Geneva Conventions relating to the treatment of prisoners of war. In Vietnam today, both the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese claim the Americans they are holding are not prisoners of war but "war criminals." Even if this were not so, there is only one course for the American fighting man, that approved by the code... never surrender... fight as long as you have the means. (MACV)

Want Some More Mail?

just love to receive letters on a "person to person friendship basis" from the U.S. and would like you to get on their mailing lists. As Terry puts it, "It isn't a matchmaking effort, dating bureau, or lonely hearts club."

Your letters should be addressed to "Operation Write", P.O. Box 16221, San Diego, California 92116 or "Operation Write", 5021 North Kilbourn, Chicago, Illinois.



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February 14, 1968

TOO CLOSE—Private First Class Ted Angus, 25th Infantry Division, displays the helmet credited with saving his life. While on an operation, an AK-47 bullet entered and exited his helmet just a fraction of an inch from his ear. (USA PHOTO By Sp4 James Friar)

RF Medics Train In III CTZ

LONG BINH (II FF) — Regional Forces within the III Corps Tactical Zone whose units serve as defenders for a series of outposts throughout the area augmenting their own ranks and how to practice basic sanitation. The latest cycle of trainees graduated Jan. 8, with all 52 students completing the course.

A Medical School — established last July at the Buu Long Training Center near Bien Hoa — is meeting its initial goal of training 200 medical corpsmen per year for the Regional Forces (RF).

Master Sergeant Thomas B. Conner serves as the chief advisor for the training center and says of the medical training, "The instructors, highly qualified and motivated, keep the students keenly interested in the eight-week course. I consider Buu Long, which is run by the Regional and Popular Forces, a success story."

To date, more than 100 Buu Long graduates have completed this additional training in "Dust Off," learning how to direct

New IMPACT Program To Help RF/PF Troops

LONG BINH (II FF) — Headquarters officials here have placed a high priority on a relatively new unit called the Improvement Action Team (IMPACT) operating in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

"Our mission is to help the RF/PFs improve fortifications and security, then give instruction in squad tactics, ambush techniques and other fundamentals," he explained.

Lieutenant Chung gave this capsule summary of IMPACT team operations: "We make things happen by looking at an outpost from a fresh point of view and showing its defenders how they can get help."

The RF/PF serve on the front lines of the war, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

After aiding an outpost, the team moves to another RF/PF sector and repeats the process. They check periodically on unit progress.

"Our goal," concluded Lieutenant Chung, "is eventually to work ourselves out of a job."

However, there are more than 200 RF companies and in excess of 700 PF platoons in the III Corps area.

The RF/PF serve on the front lines of the war, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Marine Drinks Blood, Becomes A Tribesman

DA NANG (USMC) — An American Marine here had mixed emotions recently after a jubilant ceremony initiating him as an honorary Montagnard tribesman.

Sergeant Allan Paul earned the honor from the villagers of nearby Thuong Duc for participating in a three-day combat patrol with some 30 tribesmen.

The tribesmen serve with the A-109th Army Special Forces camped near Thuong Duc.

One of the requirements, which Sergeant Paul grudgingly fulfilled, was to down a half cup of water buffalo blood. He said it was an honor few Americans ever receive. His reaction afterwards, well...

Some 300 Montagnard villagers took part in the ceremony, an occasion that included native dancing, singing, and a ceremonial meal of rice and roasted water buffalo, plus a few other local delicacies.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Thuong Duc village chief presented the sergeant with a gold wrist bracelet as a token of the Leatherneck's membership in the tribe.

The bypass connects Highway 13 north and south of the village with Rolling Stone Road. It now serves U.S. and Vietnamese military traffic leaving Highway 13 for local traffic through Ben Cat.

The new road and Highway 13 are the most vital transportation route used by the division convoys, according to a unit spokesman.



BEWARE OF THIS—Sergeant Willie J. Walker, assigned to the 43d Infantry's Scoutdog Platoon, introduces his dog, "Rolf," to a VC mine. The scoutdogs are taught to recognize deadly traps and objects while in the field with the 9th Infantry Division. (USA PHOTO By Sp5 Joe Conley)

Sergeant Paul is an aviation operations chief with the 1st Marine Division Air Office. He was technically on a Rest and Recuperation stint when the episode occurred.

1st Engineers Build Bypass

DI AN (USA) — That heavy traffic problem which has plagued Ben Cat for years has been solved by the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Engineers. They have constructed a mile-and-a-half bypass around the village that has all but ended major snarls in Ben Cat.

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RF/PF Repulse VC, Capture Explosives

LONG BINH (HFF)—An estimated force of 200 Viet Cong attacked the district town of Trang Bang recently in an apparent attempt to capture the district headquarters, but they were repulsed and driven out by the Regional/Popular Forces troops stationed there.

The civilians suffered the most casualties, with 35 wounded among whom were 16 women and eight children. One National policeman was also killed in the attack.

The attack began shortly after midnight, with the VC mounting a concentrated assault using small arms, automatic weapons, mortars, recoilless rifles and rockets. One group approached the headquarters building through the town marketplace; a second group, firing recoilless rifles and rockets, assaulted from the front; and a third group, the largest, attacked from the right flank.

One Viet Cong soldier made it to the barbed wire in front of the building, but was killed there by the PF defenders. Major Frank T. Chance, Deputy Sector Advisor for Trang Bang, said: "Directly in front of the headquarters is a Popular Forces bunker. Those soldiers were simply outstanding. The VC timetable was upset seriously by these troopers who kept a continuous stream of rifle fire on the Viet Cong."

U.S. elements are commanded by Major General S.W. Koster, commanding general of the American Division. ARVN elements are led by Colonel Nguyen Van Toan, commander of the 2nd ARVN Division.

MUSCATINE, named for a county in Iowa, has taken a toll of 245 enemy to date. U.S. losses so far, are 20 killed and 80 wounded. ARVN casualties were described only as "light".

Battalions of the 2nd ARVN Division have conducted complementary combat missions in conjunction with troops of the American Division to destroy enemy local and main forces in the area.

Aside from the fighting, a refugee resettlement program has also been conducted in the area. On the Batangan Peninsula, a fishing community of nearly 1,500 people was moved from An Ky to Phouc Thuan in Binh Son District, where they will be under government protection.

VC Attack Brings Reprisal

DONG TAN (USA)—A combined force of U.S. and Vietnamese units recently detained 11 VC suspects in the village of Binh Duc three miles east of the 9th Infantry Division camp in the Mekong Delta.

The cordon and search operation was coupled with a MEDCAP, movies and other civic action efforts.

Recent terrorist incidents along the Dong Tam-My Tho highway in the area was the reason for the operation. Recent VC attacks had been directed against Vietnamese civilians, public officials, ARVN and U.S. Army personnel.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel George Bland, the 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry moved in before dawn to cordon an area of two square miles.

Roads leading into the area were sealed off at the same time by members of the 9th Military Police Company, Vietnamese National Police and Revolutionary Development personnel from the My Tho area.

Search operations began immediately after the area was encircled, with National Police, Regional and Popular Forces going from house to house looking



ERRAND OF MERCY—A corpsman with K Company, 3rd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, braves enemy automatic weapons fire to race across an open paddy to aid a wounded man during Operation Badger Tooth. (USMC PHOTO BY Cpl M. R. Wolfe)

ARVN, US Begin Joint Operation

CHU LAI (USA)—Operation MUSCATINE, a jointly coordinated American Division and the 2nd ARVN Division operation, was announced recently by the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV).

The Joint multi-battalion operation is being conducted generally in the Binh Son and Son Tin districts of northern Quang Ngai Province, an area that was formerly controlled by the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade.

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US Marines Aid ROK Units In Air Power Coordination

DA NANG (USMC)—Living

and working with Korean Marines is a "number one" experience, according to Corporal Gary L. Bennett. He is assigned to the 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison (ANGLICO) detachment that serves with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade (ROK).

Corporal Bennett is one of a handful of U.S. Marines at the new 3rd Battalion command post south of Da Nang.

"We are attached to each ROK company," the corporal said. "Our job is to stick with them at all times to bring in air support when they need it."

The ANGLICO Leatherneck explained that he and his team operate radios to contact U.S. Marine aircraft when medical evacuation helicopters or fixed-wing air strikes are needed. Except for these liaison activities, they operate just as

the ROK Marines do.

"We eat their food, follow their daily schedule and join all their patrols and operations," Corporal Bennett said. "It's a great opportunity to learn about their customs and language."

The corporal feels that language is the biggest problem faced by the ANGLICO team in performance of their mission.

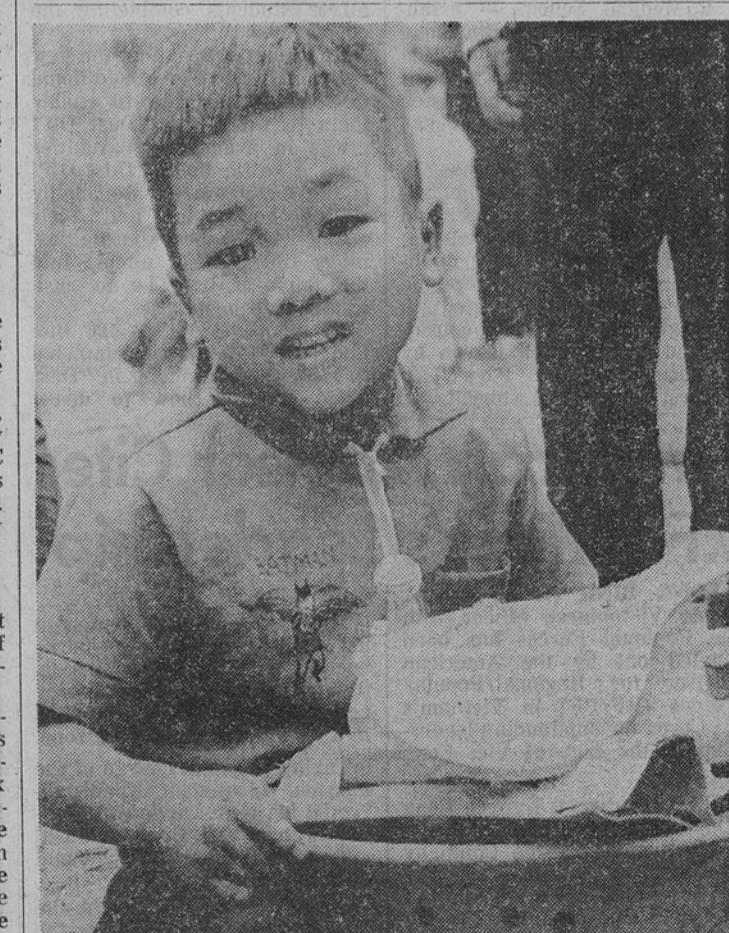
"Actually that's why we're assigned to work with the ROKs," he explained. "Our ANGLICO team can be understood on the radio when the

Koreans need air support."

"We weren't trained in Korean language," he continued, "but you can pick up a lot just living with them 24 hours a day."

Corporal Bennett works with the battalion's 11th Company, which recently participated in a combined operation with the Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

"It's a satisfying job, and I've enjoyed it," he said. "I've learned a lot about people of a different way of life. The Koreans are great people to work with."



HELP FROM HOME—These toys were donated to the village of Vinh Cam, along with nearly 2,000 pounds of candy, food, clothing, school and medical supplies. The items were presented by the men of Headquarters, 1 Field Force, the 864th Engineer Battalion and three stateside churches.

(PHOTO BY Pfc D. Nye)

Village Builds Harbor

TAN TRU (USA)—Some 26 miles southwest of Saigon, the Mekong Delta village of Tan Tru is currently constructing its first harbor with an adjacent marketplace.

It is being built under the combined efforts of the 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry and local villagers. The U.S. unit has donated hundreds of sacks of cement which are being used on the two projects.

"The harbor will give the villagers a much greater capability for unloading sampans because they will no longer have to wade out to the boats," said First Lieutenant Peter Campbell, civic action officer.

"Our entire civic action program," explained Lieutenant Campbell, "is to show the villagers that the American and Vietnamese governments do care about their personal needs and wish to help them."

even housewives who learn such things as budget management and more efficient marketing techniques."

The Germans hope these people will go back to their communities and teach and lead others. "Our whole program in the social centers is accented toward bringing out latent leadership qualities in the people we train," continued director Noldner.

A supplement to the social centers from Hue in the north to Saigon in the south.

These centers are three and four-room buildings which serve as community schools for the kids as well as adult education and vocational training sites.

They can handle only 40 to 50

students a session, but BISH planners say more than 2,500 graduates will leave the centers in a two year period.

But who are these people... what do they learn and where do they come from in the Vietnamese social strata. Director Noldner drew this comparison:

"Just as in your President's Great Society Program, these people are the ghetto dwellers who are taught useful trades; non-demand workers who must learn new skills; disadvantaged Montagnards who want their instrument for moving into the mainstream of society. The flying teams are usually made up of two Vietnamese and one German.

Out of this collaboration, the German group has been able to build, staff and finance 16 social

Germans Build VN 'From Within'

SAIGON (MACV)—"What can we do to help you in Vietnam?" Former West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard is said to have put that question to President Johnson at a 1964 meeting.

The result was an ambitious 3.8 million dollar aid plan that, in many respects, closely paralleled the President's own Great Society Program. The German plan proposed to "formulate productive societies in certain rural and economic fringe areas of war-ravaged South Vietnam."

To implement its program, the West German Government decided to fund a private organization called the Bureau of International Social Help (BISH).

This organization has charter members scattered throughout Latin America, Africa and Asia. All are directing their efforts toward improving existing social structures (in their respective areas) to the point where they can be moulded into more productive societies.

"Many similar organizations in Vietnam are engaged in the concept of nation building," explains BISH's dynamic director, Klaus Noldner. "We feel we must go a step farther so our workers concentrate on developing effective societies from the people who already form existing social structures. In this way, people can identify with a completed project as something of their own accomplishment."

BISH first came to Vietnam in 1965, when a representative

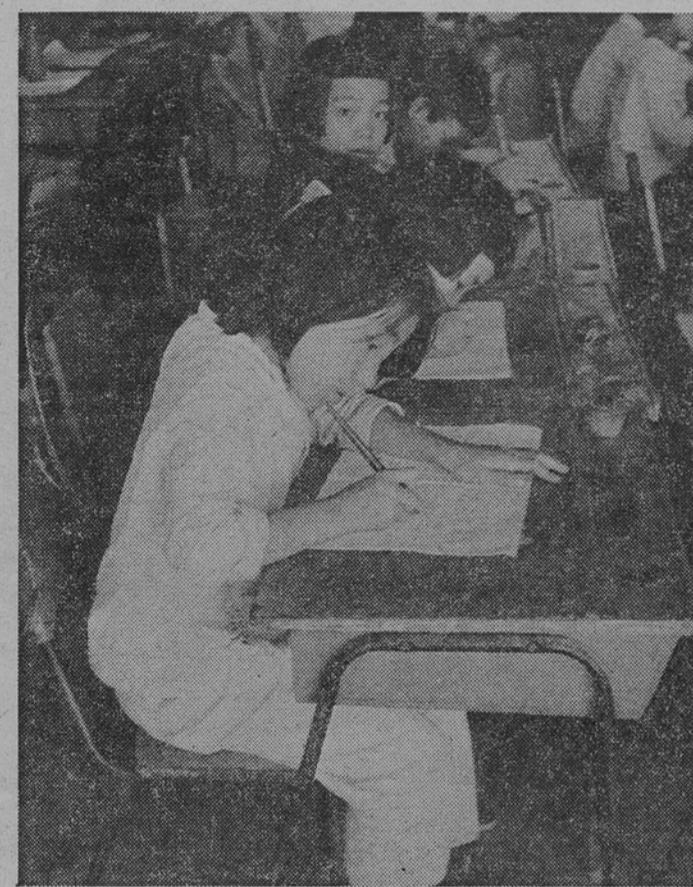
came here to "find out what could be done" to put the German plan into action.

The organization now has 27 specialists scattered throughout the country, with headquarters in Saigon. They are doctors, engineers, social workers, economists, vocational technicians, and agricultural, clerical and administrative workers.

Relative newcomers here, BISH officials have adopted a policy of close collaboration with the Vietnamese Government, labor unions and several counterpart organizations which have been integrated into most of the country's social structure for some time.

Just as in your President's Great Society Program, these people are the ghetto dwellers who are taught useful trades; non-demand workers who must learn new skills; disadvantaged Montagnards who want their instrument for moving into the mainstream of society. The flying teams are usually made up of two Vietnamese and one German.

Out of this collaboration, the German group has been able to build, staff and finance 16 social



BISH concentrates much of its program on the very young.

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These centers are three and four-room buildings which serve as community schools for the kids as well as adult education and vocational training sites.

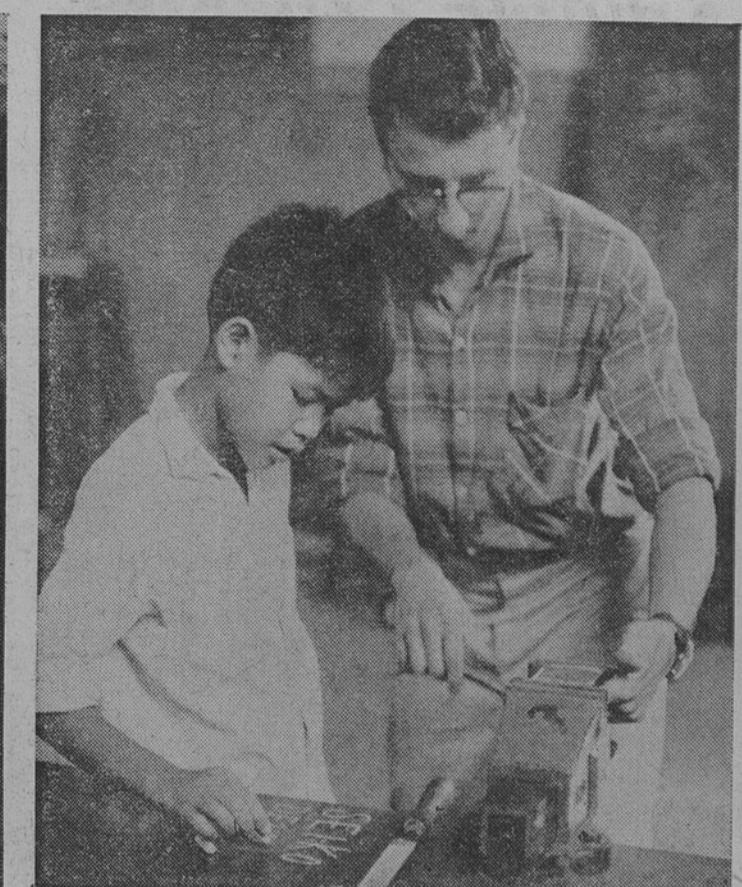
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A BISH worker instructs a Vietnamese boy in a useful trade.

youngsters in need of "proper guidance in their formative years".

On this and all BISH projects, most of the work is being done by Vietnamese, with advice, instruction and financial backing from the Germans.

However, director Noldner, who is an economist, is quick to point out that "We are not a charity organization. The funds supplied from our government are not given to the Vietnamese Government, local organizations or agencies in dollars and cents aid."

The point he was making is that BISH itself uses the funds to build from within societies which can be productive and responsible assets to a nation at war.

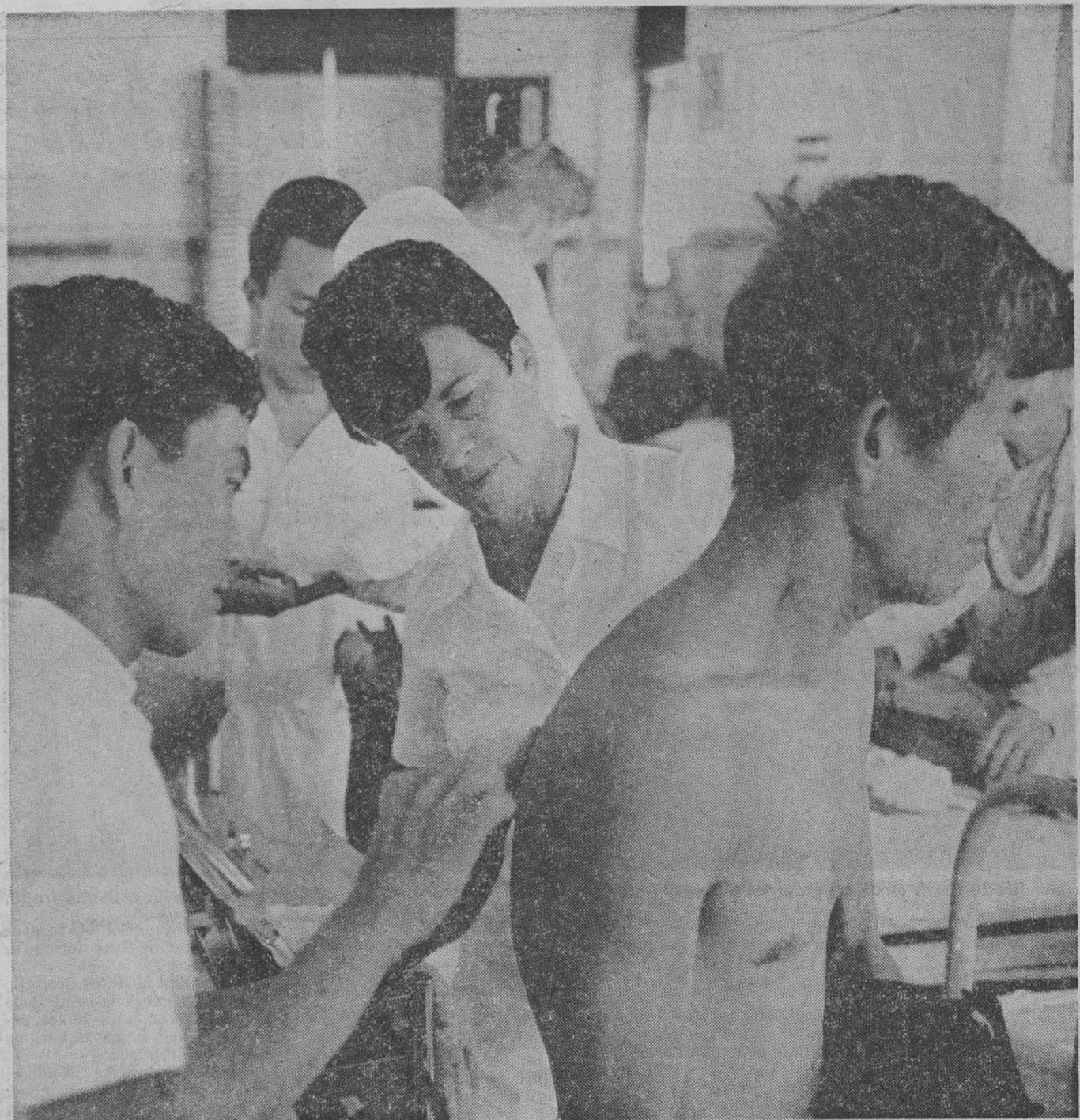
Story And Photos
By
JOE WILLIAM POLK
Staff Writer/Photographer



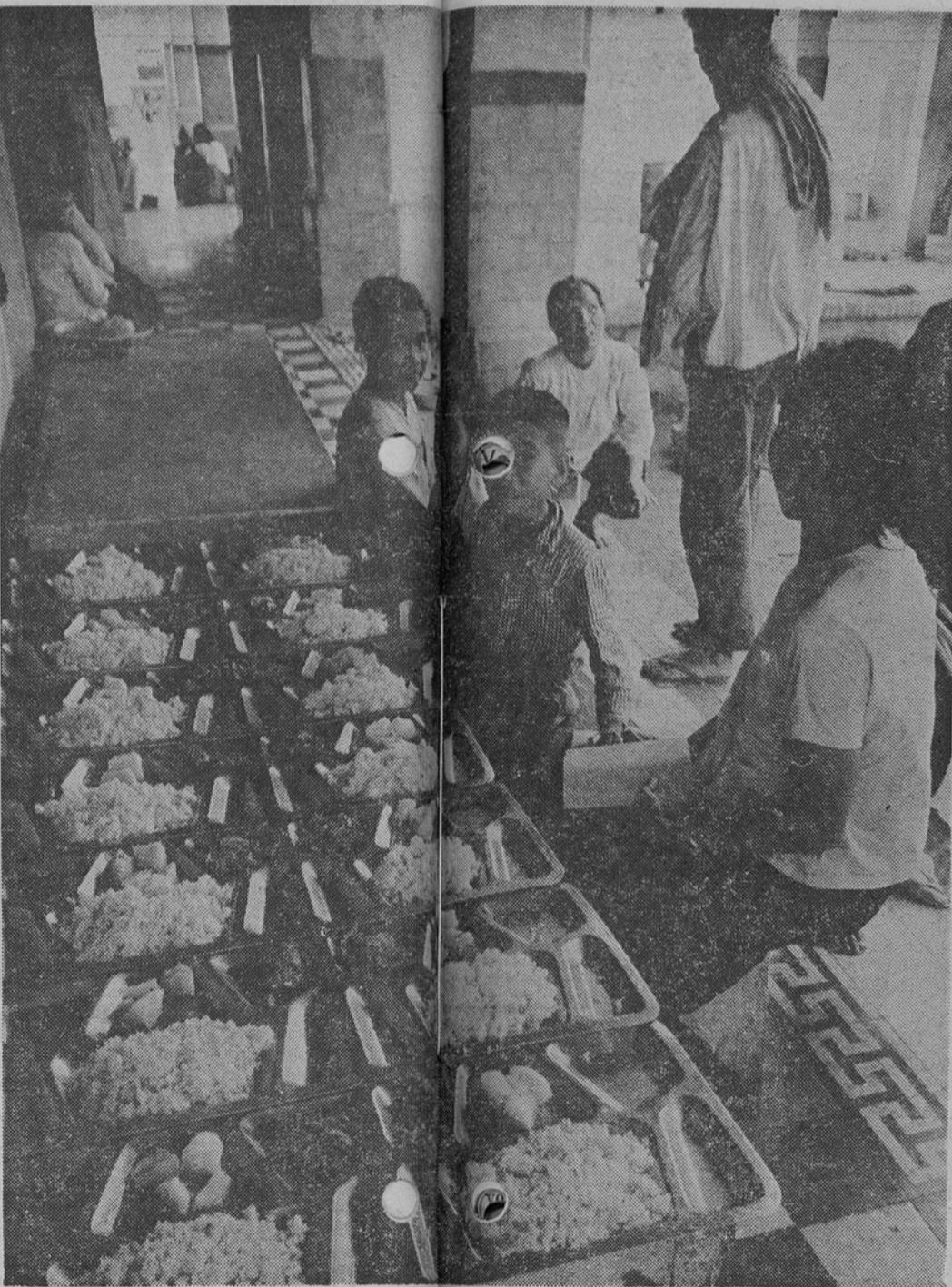
German and Vietnamese work together on BISH's programs.



Medical stations such as this one are important in the BISH nation-building program.



In the male surgical ward, Nurse Iva Bonness works with Vietnamese students who are studying to become nurses.



Everyone in the hospital is well, especially the patients.



This little girl who was shot through the kidney and spleen, was saved from death by the staff of the hospital.

Sixteen Countries Provide Medical Care For Vietnamese

Story & Photos

By

Vietnam Feature Service

RACH GIA (VFS)—For the American doctors and nurses in Rach Gia, the day began at 7 a.m. when Doctor Murray Cohen came into the "bac si" (doctor) house adjoining the provincial grounds to announce multiple casualties were crowding the emergency room.

Breakfast went by the boards as Doctor John Baker, chief of the medical team, followed Doctor Cohen into the hospital through the crowd outside the emergency room. Many people there—the casualties, 50 men, women and children wounded by Viet Cong mortar and rocket fragments—friends and relatives had brought them in, hangers-on and spectators from among hospital patients, and the Americans and Vietnamese whose it was to take care of the wounded.

Among the latter were a U.S. Navy corpsman, the doctors, several Catholic nuns who work at the hospital, Vietnamese nurses and Nguyen Van Hen, an X-ray technician trained by the Americans. He was formerly the hospital's janitor.

Eight cases went straight to the operating room with doctors. The rest had their wounds cleaned and bandaged quickly by the nuns and nurses and were sent to the wards to be examined again later.

By 9 o'clock, the casualties were treated, the crowd outside the emergency room had faded away, and the hospital staff, Vietnamese and Americans alike, were ready to start a normal day.

With fewer than 200 of Vietnam's 1,000 registered doctors available to care for the medical needs of the civilian population—the needs that have risen sharply because of the war—much of the burden of civilian medical care has fallen on the Free World medical assistance program supported by the Agency for International Development. One-hundred-and-fifty doctors and 300 medical students from 16 countries as diverse as Spain, Korea, Iran, West Germany and Britain are helping fill this gap in Vietnam's medical needs. On the American side, they include 35 physicians serving under the Volunteer Physicians for Vietnam program, 100 AID nurses, 22 American military teams, each consisting of three doctors and 12 corpsmen located in province and district medical facilities.

In Kien Giang province, there are 20 Americans working under the leadership of Doctor John Baker on AID-supported public Health programs. Of these, 12—four doctors, three AID public health nurses, and five U.S. Army corpsmen—work at the prov-

hospital in Rach Gia, the province capital, while the remaining eight are out in the provinces' seven districts.

By current standards in Vietnam, Rach Gia—which is located at the far southeastern end of the country on the Gulf of Thailand—is a relatively quiet place. There are no U.S. units or North Vietnamese nearby and major battles are rarely fought there.

The Rach Gia hospital is more fortunate than most. At a time when some provinces have no Vietnamese physicians at all to care for civilian medical needs and must rely solely on midwives, nurses and technicians to meet these needs, the hospital has three Vietnamese physicians. It also has a good physical plant, including a new operating suite, generators, and several wards built with AID's assistance in recent years.

Almost all of the Americans are involved in training activities of one sort or another, whether in the wards, laboratories, operating suite, or emergency room.

In the wards, the doctors give instruction to the Vietnamese nurses and their assistants as they make their daily rounds, while American nurses work not only with their Vietnamese counterparts, but a host of other aspirant trainees such as new nurse assistants, getting their on-the-job training, the hospital's nuns and porters, and even the patient's families instructing them in simple patient care.

Most Americans find that a Vietnamese hospital presents a very different world from an American one. Much of the patients' personal care—such as feeding and bathing—is provided by the families who live and sleep at the hospital. During the day, parents, grandparents, and children help bring food and water to the patients, attend to their personal needs, or sit outside on the porches chatting and enjoying the passing scene. At night, in the silent wards with their white shrouds of mosquito netting, they squat quietly by the beds fanning the patients, or sleep on the floor on mats.

All of this creates problems of sanitation and infection. Yet with the shortage of trained nursing personnel, the families serve the very necessary purpose of providing personal care for the patients. And, the American nurses have discovered, they are often their most interested students.

In addition, the Americans have set up a new supply room and system to provide medical supplies not only for the hospital but for the entire province. And the hospital now has a modest blood bank and X-ray equipment which was not functioning three years ago.



Dr. Baker checks a patient while members of the patient's family watch.



A young victim of a VC mortar attack and his mother are aided in the hospital's emergency room.



Lt Beeler advises ARVN soldiers on thinning tomato plants.

STORY AND PHOTOS

BY

M GySgt John T. Frye
USMC

Sp5 Miller inspects a boar occupying a new pen near Tuy Loan.



Team members visit experimental "Miracle" rice plot 10 miles southwest of Da Nang and discuss its progress with the local villagers.

US Agricultural Team 'Sells' Modern Farming Techniques

DA NANG (USMC) — Heard the one about the three farmers who turned out to be traveling salesmen?

Well, there were three young farmers who joined the Army. Now they're working the fields and paddies of South Vietnam's I Corps area with the U.S. Marines. Their job is "selling" agriculture improvement and American cooperation in the rural areas of the five northern provinces of the country.

The three form the food and agriculture team of the U.S. Army's 29th Civil Affairs Company attached to III Marine Amphibious Force at Da Nang.

Their is the down-to-earth mission of increasing crop yields and the variety of produce, introducing new crops and methods, improving local livestock, advising on irrigation, fertilizer and equipment while also instilling the population with confidence and trust in the U.S. serviceman.

The three farmhands, Second Lieutenant Donald H. Beeler, Second Lieutenant William M. Bivens, and Specialist 5 Glenn Miller spend most of their working days on the road and in fields and hamlets. Much of their job consists of coordinating and cooperating with Civil Operations Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). And they work with and through other units, usually Marine.



Vietnamese farmers discuss rice culture with team members.

Biggest business and most time-consuming for the food and agriculture team is rice, the staple crop of I Corps.

They promote the new IR-8 Miracle rice, an improved better yielding type of rice.

Last spring Specialist Miller spent two weeks traveling and studying the new grain at the International Rice Research Institute, a Ford-Rockefeller Foundation beneficiary at Los Banos, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Great interest has been stirred up among the Vietnamese by the team's work in vegetable gardening. Local farmers have for centuries raised vegetables, specializing in salad crops such as leaf lettuce, Chinese cabbage and mustard greens. But, since most of the available land is devoted to rice, gardening is seasonal, confined to certain areas and usually for subsistence only.

The farmers may be complacent and difficult to swing from tradition, but they stop by to compare size and yield and to watch demonstrations of the advantages of commercial fertilizer over manure. They're also advised on improved insecticides to combat the green leaf hopper and the always hard-to-control stem borer. Eleven of the plots are in Montagnard territory in the northwest mountain regions. According to Specialist Miller the Montagnards are excellent farmers.

A valuable innovation has been the simple, foot-pedal operated rice thresher introduced from Taiwan. It's especially popular in the North, according

to the specialist, but in southern I Corps the farmers think it throws the rice around too much. More than 200 threshers have been sold to individuals and co-ops at \$3,500 piasters each (under \$30.00). Corporal Bill Taylor, 3rd Marine Division Civic Action NCO, demonstrated and sold at least 100 and put the money back into the civic action revolving fund.

Career type courses are offered for the various grades and ranks, but all courses are designed to make combat engineers. The school's 32 different courses include the teaching of Dozer and Scraper Operators, Demolition Specialists, Masons, and Water Purification Specialists.

To meet the training mission,

classes concentrate primarily on engineer equipment operator and first and second echelon maintenance.

Although it is entirely military at present, School Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Van Huu hopes that civilians will be able to attend the school, and supply Vietnam with highly qualified personnel for the re-development of the country after the conflict has ended. Prior to 1951, the Vietnamese Corps of Engineers was officered and led by French personnel. Only a few Vietnamese were trained as instructors.

In 1951 the military situation made it desirable to integrate a greater number of Vietnamese officers in the Corps.

The first class to train Vietnamese officers, which was held in 1951 under French supervision, marks the beginning of what later developed into the Engineers School.

School funds are provided by the Military Assistance Program (MAP) and are coordinated through the Civil Operations of Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) organization.

After several moves, the school located at its present site in Phu Cuong in August 1961.

The school has an average 700 student enrollment and can handle as many as 1,000. The school has over 139 pieces of heavy machinery, 50 acres of land, with 14 indoor and 12 outdoor training sites. Each year more than 4,000 engineers graduate.

Practical exercises at the

school are two-fold. Students learn while the surrounding areas benefit with improved road construction, bridges built and irrigation systems installed.

School funds are provided by

the Military Assistance Program (MAP) and are coordinated through the Civil Operations of Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) organization.

DA NANG (USMC) — Nguyen Thi Nahn is a nine-year-old Vietnamese girl. She is from a small hamlet south of Da Nang, and for the past year has been subject to the oppression of the Viet Cong.

In mid-1967 her father was

killed by the Viet Cong and her

mother, unable to support her,

left Thi at the China Beach

orphanage. To her, happiness

was a bowl of rice, a bed to

sleep on and shelter.

But now, she has a new

sparkle in her eye. She was

adopted by the members of

Marine Aircraft Group-16's Ser-

geant's Club as a foster child.

Her schooling, clothing, food and shelter until she completes high school will be paid for from funds contributed by the MAG-16 sergeants.

Colonel Richard H. Johnson,

the 1st Brigade commander

(known to his men as "Chero-

kee") could hardly believe his

eyes at the evening briefing

when in walked First Lieuten-

ant Walter Chun, the assistant

S-5 officer, with the little girl

in his arms.

Explaining her sudden or-

phanhood, Lieutenant Chun ad-

ded, "We have nicknamed her

'Little Cherokee' in honor of the

brigade commander." He went

on to relate that arrangements

had been made to send the girl

to the hospital in Dak To, where

she would be cared for by the

Montagnard nuns there.

Mr. Harvey Hooker, the

American Red Cross field rep-

resentative to the 1st Brigade,

plans to adopt the child.

ARVN Engineer School Helps Provide For Future

STORY BY

SGT GARY LIVENGOOD

LONG BINH (II FF) — Housed in an 85-year-old French compound, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam Engineer School serves as a staging area for producing qualified personnel for the future structural development of Vietnam.

Located on the outskirts of Phu Cuong village in Binh Duong Province, the school serves as an Officer Candidate School for aspiring Vietnamese soldiers. It also serves as an engineer training area for officers, non-commissioned officers, and enlisted men of the Vietnamese Corps and allied service.

The Engineer School, completely under the control of the Vietnamese since 1954 and the only one of its kind in Vietnam, revolves around military engineering subjects. Students are taught the techniques, procedures and methods of engineering.

Career type courses are offered for the various grades and ranks, but all courses are designed to make combat engineers. The school's 32 different courses include the teaching of Dozer and Scraper Operators, Demolition Specialists, Masons, and Water Purification Specialists.

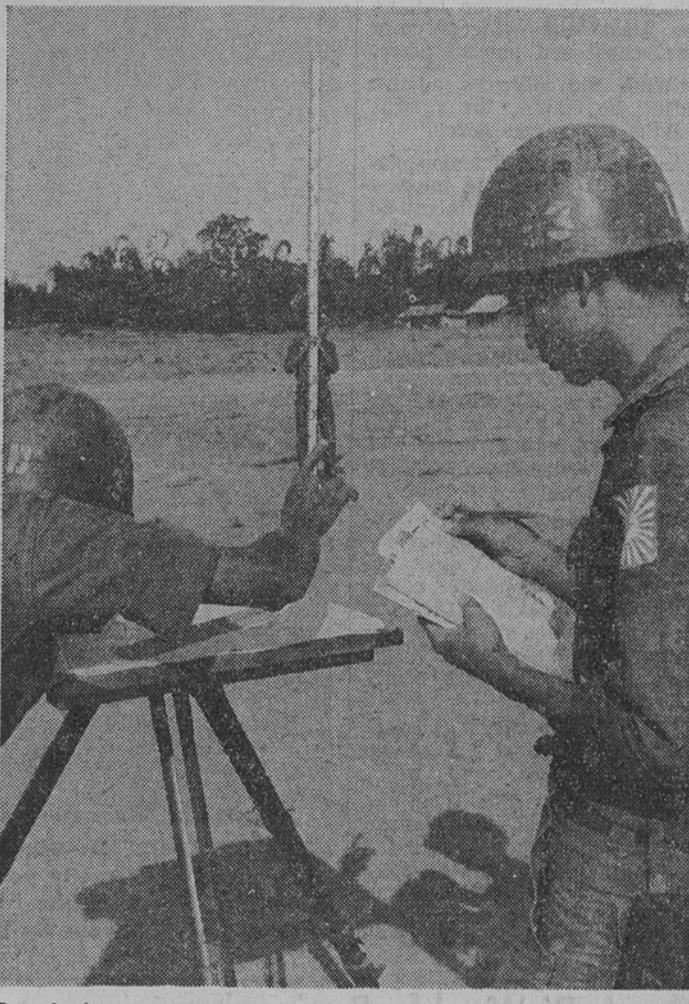
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Practical exercise in surveying is demonstrated by students.

By Providing Basic Needs

Marines Adopt Orphan Girl



Nguyen Thi Nahn has been adopted by over 300 sergeants.

From Overturned Truck

Chopper Saves 3

TAY NINH (USA) — Major Jack O. Johnson, commanding officer of the 188th Assault Helicopter Company, 269th Combat Aviation Battalion, and the crew of his helicopter are credited with saving the lives of three Filipinos in a truck accident near here.

Major Johnson, and his pilot, Warrant Officer Phillip E. Coats, spotted an overturned 3/4 ton truck in a ditch near the runway at Tay Ninh. Observing no other vehicles near the area and a man sprawled on the ground near the wreckage, the Major and his pilot decided to investigate.

Landing their aircraft near the scene of the accident, they found that while one man had been thrown clear of the wreck, a man and a woman remained, pinned under the truck. All three were bleeding from various injuries and were unconscious. The two Filipinos in the ditch were in danger of drowning in the water that filled the drainage ditch, as they were unable to keep their heads above water.

Warrant Officer Coats ran to the helicopter and radioed for medical aid and notified the authorities. The ship's crew chief, Specialist 4 James E. Hensley and Major Johnson attempted to free the trapped people, while Private First Class Charles Patrick administered first aid to the victim who had been thrown clear. Major Johnson and Specialist Hensley were immediately able to free the man, but the woman was pinned in such a way that they had to have help from PFC Patrick who held her head clear of the water, as they dug rapidly in the mud around her. After 20 minutes of digging, the men were able to free the woman.

They continued to administer first aid until a medical "Dust Off" helicopter arrived to rush the injured, still unconscious, to the hospital.

"This system is bringing unusual results," he said. "It seems the more they do for themselves, the more pride they take in their work. They show more respect for the completed project."

In addition to helping through furnishing building materials, the brigade makes three MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) visits a week.

Marine Sergeant Teaches Viets To Help Themselves

DA NANG (USMC) — A farm boy from the Bluegrass State is working at the "rice-roots" level to show Vietnamese villagers how to help themselves.

Marine Sergeant James C. Osborne commands the Combined Action Platoon Quebec 5 (CAP Q-5) approximately 15 miles north of Da Nang.

The Kentuckian's unit is made up of 14 U.S. Marines and 22 Vietnamese Popular Forces (militia) troops, who guard the hamlet of Kim Lien and share the protection of Hoa Hiep village with another CAP unit.

Besides guarding the surround-

ing hamlets, Sergeant Osborne and his men work with the people to win their confidence.

Sergeant Osborne combines combat experience with a year's college training to aid the Vietnamese.

He had started as a psychology major in college and he has been able to put his studies to use in Vietnam. Throwing out western logic, he has developed persuasion to a fine art. Sergeant Osborne tries to convince the villagers that any project he initiates is their own idea.

"A well-reasoned argument in favor of something often isn't

convincing; you have to be a salesman," he said. So far, he has "sold" the villagers on a new school and market place.

"What the villagers admire most," he claims, "is a swift reaction to any emergency."

And the combined action platoon has been able to impress the Vietnamese with its can-do attitude and quick response. The villagers respond with gestures of friendship.

Residents from Kim Lien were invited to a pre-Tet feast at the CAP compound. The PFs slaughtered a fattened calf and heavily spiced it in the Vietnamese manner. After the banquet, the leftovers were salted down and stuffed into bamboo shoots for preservation.

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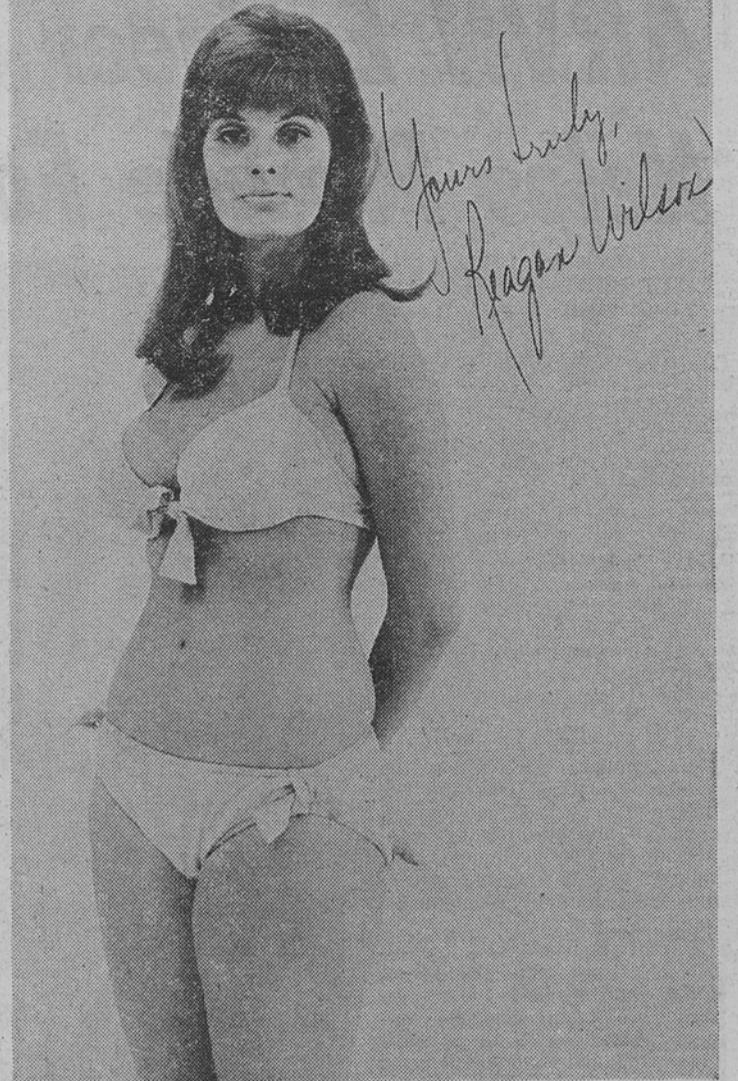
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In addition to their military role, the MAT members also advise RF company on revolutionary development projects. Some of the results of that advisory capacity are seen in the hamlet's newly constructed medical dispensary, a school, a water supply system and a sidewalk complex.

Lieutenant Hand is quick to point out that, "We were just the catalyst; Lieutenant Khanh and his men were the dynamos who got the job done."



DRESS RIGHT DRESS! — When the drill sergeant yells "dress right, dress," this pretty young lady can't seem to do anything right. But then, she isn't even in uniform; the service uniform that is. Anyone for DI school? (PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)

On A Bi-Weekly Basis

12th Inf. Conducts MEDCAP

DAU TIENG (USA) — At first the villagers weren't too receptive to our treatment, but after returning every Wednesday and Sunday, they know our MEDCAP Team had come to help them," said one member of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry.

The first job faced by Lieu-

tenant Hand is commanding a five-man Mobile Advisory Team (MAT), which serves as advisor to Regional Force (RF) Company 819 of the Vietnamese militia. The unit is located some 40 miles southeast of Saigon at the hamlet of Bo Kinh, and serves as primary defenders for nearly 400 families.

Meanwhile, Sergeant Osborne and the Marines are slowly bringing changes.

For centuries Hoa Hiep had remained immune to change. But today, the men of CAP Q-5 are introducing concepts from the world beyond the rice paddy. They are also teaching the Vietnamese villagers to help themselves.

The Vietnamese commander made that job, "mighty, mighty easy," according to Lieutenant Hand.

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"Next generation's kids will hate us for making more history."

Marine Sergeant Teaches Viets To Help Themselves

DA NANG (USMC) — A farm boy from the Bluegrass State is working at the "rice-roots" level to show Vietnamese villagers how to help themselves.

Marine Sergeant James C. Osborne commands the Combined Action Platoon Quebec 5 (CAP Q-5) approximately 15 miles north of Da Nang.

The Kentuckian's unit is made up of 14 U.S. Marines and 22 Vietnamese Popular Forces (militia) troops, who guard the hamlet of Kim Lien and share the protection of Hoa Hiep village with another CAP unit.

Besides guarding the surround-

ing hamlets, Sergeant Osborne and his men work with the people to win their confidence.

Sergeant Osborne combines combat experience with a year's college training to aid the Vietnamese.

He had started as a psychology major in college and he has been able to put his studies to use in Vietnam. Throwing out western logic, he has developed persuasion to a fine art. Sergeant Osborne tries to convince the villagers that any project he initiates is their own idea.

"A well-reasoned argument in favor of something often isn't

convincing; you have to be a salesman," he said. So far, he has "sold" the villagers on a new school and market place.

"What the villagers admire most," he claims, "is a swift reaction to any emergency."

And the combined action platoon has been able to impress the Vietnamese with its can-do attitude and quick response. The villagers respond with gestures of friendship.

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American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of February 14-20, 1968)

Wednesday Feb. 14

1830 News Headlines
1830 Lost in Space
1830 News and Sports
2000 Insights
2005 Metropolis in the Sea
2030 Addams Family
2100 Carol Burnett
2200 Sports (Re-Run)
2300 Late News
2315 Sports (Continued)

Thursday Feb. 15

1830 News Headlines
1830 Third Man
1830 Fishing
1830 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2025 Information Feature
2030 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Party Mason
2200 Sports
2215 Jerry Lewis

Friday Feb. 16

1830 News Headlines
1830 Daniel Boone
1830 News & Sports
1930 Wild Wild West
2000 News and Sports
2025 Information Feature
2030 Bewitched
2030 Bill Tracy
2030 Alfred Hitchcock
2200 Late News
2315 Joey Bishop Show

Saturday Feb. 17

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective
1830 Mike Douglas Show
1845 Greatest Dramas
1845 CBS Goliath
1850 Sports of the Week
1850 Information Special
1850 Lawrence Welk
2000 News and Sports
2000 Insight

Sunday Feb. 18

1830 News Headlines
1830 Chapel of the Air
1830 Feature Movie
1830 Sports
1830 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea

Monday Feb. 19

1830 News Headlines
1830 Daniel Boone
1830 News & Sports
1930 Wild Wild West
2000 News and Sports
2025 Information Feature
2030 Bewitched
2030 Bill Tracy
2030 Alfred Hitchcock
2200 Late News
2315 Joey Bishop Show

Tuesday Feb. 20

1830 News Headlines
1830 Official Detective
1830 Mike Douglas Show
1845 Greatest Dramas
1845 CBS Goliath
1850 Sports of the Week
1850 Information Special
1850 Lawrence Welk
2000 News and Sports
2000 Insight

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1-Mountain in Crete
4-Babylonian deity
6-Rents
11-Fame
13-Way away
15-Indefinite article
16-Irritates
18-Chinese mile
19-Pronoun
21-Harvest
22-Gift
24-Wife of Zeus
26-Hurried
28-Lamprey
29-Dropsey
31-Ireland
33-Rupees (abbr.)
34-Name
36-Civil Service (abbr.)
40-Expires
42-Stories
45-Chapeau
47-Body plant
49-Be to
50-Word of sorrow
52-Death rattle
54-Three-toed sloth
55-Noun suffix occurring in names of diseases
56-Advance
59-Preposition
61-More pungent
63-Made of gold
65-Partners
66-Printer's measure
67-Poem
1-Man's name
2-Negated
3-Indefinite article
4-Pitcher

DOWN

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Enemy's Offensive Blunted By Allies

(Continued From Page 1)
and 168 wounded.

Post-Tet festivities were suddenly interrupted Jan. 30 when NVA troops struck at the cities of Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Tuy Hoa and Ninh Hoa.

Both the Kan Hoa sector head-

Village VC Rally En Masse

LANDING ZONE BALDY (USA) — For the second time, the Viet Cong infrastructure of a village in the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division area of operations has rallied to the Government of Vietnam en masse. The brigade is a part of the Americal Division's Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

Thirty members of the infrastructure of Phu Dien village left their village to become Hoi Chanh's. They were induced to leave by constant and effective Cavalry operations in the area and by their growing belief that they were on the losing side. In addition, Phu Dien had been an early and successful target of early-morning cordon-and-search raids conducted by the Cavalrymen and Vietnamese National Police. The raids, designed to root out the Viet Cong, has succeeded in detaining a number of key VC personnel, and the remaining members saw that they would have to be constantly on the run to avoid the cordons.

The mass Chieu Hoi was one of a number of indications of declining enemy morale in the 3rd Brigade area. Ralliers told Government of Vietnam authorities that North Vietnamese officers told them, "The people were with us before, but now they disappear or refuse to help us." Another soldier was warned before his unit moved to an area that, "The enemy has observation planes and helicopters flying constantly, and they seem to have artillery support wherever we appear."

quarters and province headquarters in Nha Trang were occupied by the enemy after fierce fighting. By mid-afternoon, the enemy forces were annihilated by the allies. The three days of fighting in Nha Trang resulted in 215 enemy killed and 44 detained. Friendly losses were reported at 64 killed and 95 wounded.

Action in Qui Nhon resulted in 144 enemy killed and 40 detained, with friendly casualties of 24 killed and 40 wounded. The first day of the attacks also saw 171 enemy killed in Tuy Hoa and 37 detained, with friendly losses at 24 killed and 97 wounded.

US and ARVN troops killed 4,577 NVA and VC soldiers in the III Corps Tactical Zone, while the US suffered 46 killed and 613 wounded through the 3rd. Also, 281 enemy were taken prisoners.

On Feb. 2, Xuan Loc came under a ground attack from the east and west. When the enemy was repulsed, they left behind 66 dead. Two US lives were lost; ARVN casualties were light.

At 3:30 a.m., Jan. 30, the Da Nang air base, Marble Mountain air facility and Hoi An headquarters came under rocket and mortar attack. Again Jan. 31, Marble Mountain, Phu Bai, Chu Lai, Quang Tri and Hue all came under mortar and rocket attack.

US Marines and ARVN troops reported killing 85 enemy in the Da Nang area while Americal Division soldiers killed 302 enemy when the Chu Lai airfield was attacked. Other enemy losses were sustained at I Corps Headquarters, 378 VC killed; Quang Ngai City, 276 VC killed; Tam Ky, 264 VC killed; Hoi An, 235 VC killed; Dug Xuyen, 108 enemy killed; and Quang Tri City with 100 VC killed.

All cities except Hue were reported secured on Jan. 31. In Hue, heavy fighting continued through Feb. 3 with ARVN and US Marine forces engaged. On the 4th, sporadic contact continued within the Citadel as mopping-up operations were conducted. Thus far in Hue, 557 enemy have been killed. US losses are reported as 16 killed.



A dead soldier lies near a Russian-made B-40 RPG rocket captured at the American Embassy. (USA PHOTO BY Sp5 Don Hirst)

and 88 wounded with ARVN casualties described as light.

As of the 2nd, total enemy casualties for the six I Corps' cities were reported as 2,698 killed.

In IV Corps, as of the 3rd, there were 2,003 enemy killed, 286 VC detained and 132 VC suspects. Friendly casualties were 199 killed, 89 US wounded and 586 ARVN wounded.

Hardest hit areas were: Can Tho, Can Tho airfield, Binh Thuy, Vinh Long City and its airfield, Ben Tre, Chau Doc, Ca Mau and My Tho.

The attack against Saigon came about 3 a.m. Jan. 31 when an estimated VC platoon tried to gain entrance to the American Embassy. They managed to enter the grounds, but could not gain entry to the Embassy.

After a 6½-hour firefight, 19 of the attackers were killed and one captured. Five US soldiers and one Marine were killed with

seven wounded during the fight.

While the battle for possession of the Embassy was going on, VC troops also were launching attacks against many US officer and enlisted billets, the Vietnamese Royal Palace, and other key US and Vietnamese installations in and around the city.

In less than two days of fighting, more than 600 VC were killed in the capital. By Jan. 31, President Nguyen Van Thieu declared martial law throughout Vietnam.

Heavy fighting was reported Feb. 1-2 in the Cholon section and in the northwest section near the cities' race track. It was reported that nine enemy battalions — approximately 3,600 men — were fighting in Saigon and Cholon.

By Feb. 4, allied forces had killed more than 2,300 enemy in the Saigon area. Friendly forces killed more than 2,300 enemy in remaining enemy elements.

Infantry Hits VC Raiders . . .

(Continued From Page 1)
MPs, and infantrymen risked sniper fire to take wounded villagers over the barbed wire fence of the perimeter so they could be treated.

Many of the villagers are employed at Camp Frenzell-Jones.

Some of the families are refugees from North Vietnam and past victims of terrorism.

Village sources reported that three men, realizing that refugees would need food, went to their homes and got a small amount of provisions for the young. Viet Cong raiders caught one man and slit his throat.

Terrorists fled the village after their plans to attack nearby Camp Frenzell-Jones and adjacent military areas failed. They went toward a plantation area near Loc Lam village to try to reorganize for another attack. Many were caught by blocking forces from the brigade and by fire from artillery and helicopter gunships.

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TO:



MG O'Connor awards US medals for Valor to Viet Marines.

"Vietnamese Marines are well known for their bravery, and this is another glorious page in their history," stated General O'Connor while addressing Lieutenant General Le Nguyen Khang, commandant of the Marines.

"Our division is eager to join with the Vietnamese Marines to fight the Viet Cong," the general continued, "I hope that our combined efforts lead to peace in Vietnam in the near future."

Pacification Rates High . . .

(Continued From Page 1)
administered to the hamlet's valuable livestock.

At this point, Major Baldwin still wasn't convinced that the people's confidence had been won. But he changed his mind enroute to the dedication of the latest project, a school in mid-January.

Citizens of An Binh lined the path from the Marine jeeps to a colorfully decorated stage which was adjacent to the new school. They were surrounded by An Binh children and led to their seats of honor beside the hamlet elders.

The refugees began the dedication ceremony by standing and saying their pledge of allegiance to the Republic of South Vietnam, a comforting sight and sound to the Marines.

Trinh Minh Hieu, Vietnamese chief of Ky Hoa, expressed appreciation for the Americans' help and support; he also presented hand-painted wall plaques to Colonel Herman, Major Baldwin and Sergeant Amado Aguirre, civil affairs non-commissioned officer for the battalion.

Following the ceremony, the Marines were treated to a Vietnamese dinner.

Sergeant Aguirre had daily contact with the people of Ky Hoa and he said he felt the withdrawn atmosphere of An Binh until this day. "We didn't know anything about the preparation these people were putting into this ceremony, and we certainly didn't expect the welcome we received."

PFs, Cavalrymen Reverse Ambush

BONG SON — Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's, 1st of the 50th Mechanized Infantry have combined with Vietnamese Popular Forces to rout an enemy force attempting a classic ambush.

The enemy, estimated at two battalions, lost 140 killed and 32 weapons.

The action began when an estimated 2 companies of a main-force Viet Cong regiment attacked three PF positions in the village of My Chanh, 35 km southeast of Bong Son with mortar and small arms fire.

Both Disastrous

The VC apparently intended to overwhelm the PF position and ambush a relief force. But both attempts proved disastrous.

PFs Hold Position

The PF's withstood the 3 attacks without losing a single man killed. Four of the PF's were wounded. The VN accounted for 13 enemy killed and they captured two B-40 rocket launchers, a BAR and four K-50's.

When dawn broke with the enemy still in the area, an element of the 1st of the 50th mounted on armored personnel carriers rumbled towards the scene.

This was what the ambush party had been waiting for. But the track commander, Captain Michael Dash, had been alerted to look out for an ambush, and he spotted an enemy soldier from his lead track. The APC's were brought up on line and met heavy resistance. Tube and aerial rocket artillery and gunships of the Cav's 1/9th went to work on the enemy and an air strike to the north blocked off one possible route of escape. The mechanized infantrymen dismounted and continued their assault on foot.

Meanwhile, a second mechanized element was inserted to the north to block an enemy escape to the Nui Mieu Mountains. Moving into the contact, the element, led by Captain Herbert Randall met antitank fire and pulled back as artillery

began shelling the enemy.

The enemy broke contact just before dark, leaving behind the bodies of 127 more men and nine AK-47's, three SKS, four B-40 rocket launchers, two 7.62-mm light machine guns, three RPD machine guns, two BARs, an 81mm mortar, and a rocket-propelled grenade. Friendly casualties were four KIA and 21 WIA.

Later Encounter

In a later encounter an element of the 2/8th accounted for eight enemy killed. The element was engaged in a search and clear mission on the Bong Son Plain some 8 km northwest of Bong Son when an enemy soldier threw a grenade from a hole. No one was wounded by the grenade, but two Cavalrymen were wounded in an ensuing exchange of rifle fire.

A Second Brigade scout helicopter killed one other enemy during the day, bringing the total for the day to 149.

America Relocates Farmers

CHU LAI (USA) — An America Division commander and his men recently persuaded some 250 frightened Vietnamese farmers to relocate in a more secure area.

Company D, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, evacuated the farmers and their families during a sweep of a Viet Cong controlled area just outside a Popular Forces location northwest of Tam Ky.

"That was the purpose of the sweep operation," the company commander said. "We were to offer assistance and transportation to people desiring to leave the Viet Cong — dominated territory for an area of relative security guarded by Popular Forces."

The OBSERVER

FIRST IN VIETNAM

Vol. 6, No. 40

Saigon, Vietnam

February 7, 1968



ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE—Members of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st of the 50th crowd the deck of an APC as it moves into action. (USA PHOTO SP/5 Jester H. Smith)

Medical Teams Bring Hope To Harassed Montagnards

PLEIKU (I FF) — Although the relocated Highland (Montagnard) village of Pleillneh — some six miles east of Pleiku — is repeatedly harassed by the Viet Cong, there are times when it can forget about war and look to the future.

These are the brief periods when Captains Harold H. Gardner and Theodore R. Boyce, two Army physicians, make their weekly visits to the village with the 937th Engineer Group's MEDCAP team.

MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) is instructing the villagers in elementary hygiene and sanitation prin-

ciples along with rudimentary first-aid measures.

"We are preparing them to take care of themselves for the time when we are no longer around to help them," said the team leader. "And it's not an easy assignment."

The team's major work is with fungus and bacterial skin diseases, worms, malaria, pneumonia, countless infected cuts and occasional cases of plague. Although each village visited by the team usually has its own trained aidman, according to the U.S. doctors, ancient witchcraft and superstition still exist, thus hampering the progress of modern medicine among

the villagers.

"But these Highlanders are beginning to learn the basic elements of personal hygiene," said Captain Gardner. According to the doctor, the elder are now bathing as often as once a day and have begun to use soap which is distributed by the MEDCAP group.

Captain Gardner stressed the importance of helping prepare the villagers to take over his duties themselves one day in the future. "We can help them to build schools and teach them the fundamentals of medical treatment, but in the end these people must replace us if our project is to succeed."

Who's Throwing What?

CU CHI — If you asked PSG Cornell Johnson Jr. of the 4th Bn, 9th Inf "Manchu," what it is like to train rookies while fighting Viet Cong, he just might sit down and tell you a few things.

It all happened on a recent search and destroy mission, 16 kms south of Katum, during the 25th Div's Operation Yellowstone, when elements of the 3rd Plt, Bravo Co, were searching a woodline.

Suddenly SP4 Hubert Stennis, Johnson's radio-telephone operator from Jackson, Miss., heard a soft thud to his left rear, whirled around and spotted what looked like a rock 20 meters away. "Hey Sarge," Stennis yelled, "someone is throwing rocks at us." Johnson turned slowly saying, "Throwing what?" For one long second, there they stood, out in the mid-

dle of a spacious clearing, staring from each other to where the object landed. Then, when a similar object was thrown from the woodline, Johnson immediately dove for cover, screaming at Stennis to keep low, and opened up with his M-16 on full automatic fire.

"So there I was, caught flat-footed, while Sarge was blasting away. What made it even worse, was just then 'Charlie' opened up with an AK-47. I may be a rookie, but I hit the ground fast."

Contact was broken as quickly as it began. Slowly, Johnson and Stennis inched to where the objects lay. "As soon as we saw what they were—grenades that had failed to detonate — we scrambled out of there fast," Johnson said.

"I learned my lesson," Stennis said, "Now, whenever I hear any sounds, I hit it fast and discuss it later."



A MEDCAP team member examines Highlanders at Pleillneh.



ON THE MONEY—This 4th Infantry Division mortarman aligns his weapon to make sure it's ready when the enemy comes calling. (USA PHOTO)

Editorial

'Getting By' Is Not Enough

What would be your reaction to a situation such as this: You've taken your car to a mechanic for some repairs and when you go in to pick it up, you overhear him saying to one of his friends, "I guess I could have done a better job, but what the heck, this is good enough to get by and he'll never know the difference."

You would no doubt be pretty upset. After all, you're paying this man to do a job and you don't expect it to be done with a "get by" attitude.



When you are doing your job, are you an artist, a craftsman, with the particular tools of your trade? When you turn out a piece of work, is it the very best you can produce—or have you cut a few corners because "it's close enough for government work"?

Don't accept mediocrity.

Whether you are an administrator, cook, baker, mechanic, or in one of the hundreds of other assignments in the Armed Forces, strive to do your job better than anyone else. You will certainly have a great deal more personal satisfaction knowing your job was done correctly and completely. You will also find that a little extra effort and attention to detail on your part will benefit you in the long run.

When someone says, "When you give him a job to do—you know it's going to be done right—he's a real artist," make sure they're talking about you. (AFPS)

Your Help Needed To Combat Inflation

Recent national and international events have spotlighted the economic problems of the United States and the world.

At home, according to the president and the leading economists of the nation, we face a potential spiral of inflation and further reduction of the dollar's purchasing power.

From all indications, the U.S. and its citizens are going to experience a period of economic readjustment during which the people are going to have to decide what must be done to strengthen the dollar of an economy that has just, for the first time in history, achieved a Gross National Product (GNP) of more than \$800 million annually.

It is a meaningless event unless all America acts to halt inflation and to strengthen the dollar. Those of us in Vietnam play a role. The war here is costing us \$30 billion a year. Our dollar is linked to the piaster. Regardless of which currency we use, piasters or dollars, we need to make sure we are spending them wisely. We need to insure that we get full



Just In Case You Have Not Heard Nov Report Noted By Civic Gains

SAIGON (MACV) — Military civic action by Free World Forces during November, 1967, included the construction of 1,726 new dwellings for the people of the Republic of Vietnam and repair of 48 others.

A MACV spokesman, citing figures from a recently released report, said other construction during the month included 54 dispensaries, three hospitals, 127 new bridges, 451.2 kilometers of new roads and 101 public schools.

The figures represent work performed by all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces as well as that completed by members of the Korean, Australian and Filipino forces either alone or jointly with members of the Republic of Vietnam's Armed Forces.

In addition to this, U.S. forces contributed nearly all of 3.1 million piasters donated to support nine areas of need among the Vietnamese.

Orphanages received almost a third of the money, while general welfare, religious activities, hospitals and medical care and schools were designated for large shares of the remainder.

In the field of medical and dental care, it was reported that slightly less than 600,000 medical treatments and over 26,000 dental treatments were given the Vietnamese people during the month. There were 1,149 surgical operations performed, 691 emergency evacuations completed and 233 X-rays made in addition to the medical and dental treatments.

More Tips On Local Customs

SAIGON (MACV) — As a

means of furthering Vietnamese-American friendship, The Observer will print regularly a series of brief notes on Vietnamese customs, traditions and taboos, it is hoped that by knowing and observing these local customs, each U.S. serviceman will have a more successful tour here and return home with a better understanding of the Vietnamese people.

The following is the second in the series.

In Vietnam there is a custom which says it is all right for adults to pat, rub or touch children's heads, but it is a taboo to do the same to other adults. This custom comes from the influence on Vietnamese of the Confucius religion, in which they respect different parts of the human body — especially the head.

Another Vietnamese custom permits an adult to put his arms around a child's neck or shoulders, but forbids this practice with other adults. It is, however, permissible for two adults to walk hand in hand.

Social Security Withholding Total Increased For 1968

WASHINGTON (CD) — Social Security pay check deductions have been increased, for military personnel and all other Americans under the system, by legislation signed into law shortly after New Year's Day by President Johnson.

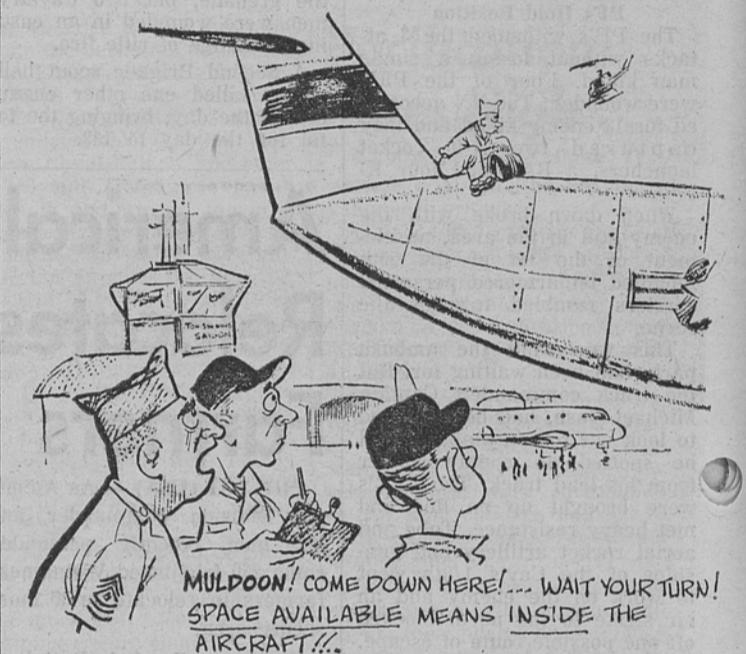
The President pointed out these increases will increase Social Security benefits by at least 13 per cent for about 24 million Americans beginning in March.

While Social Security pay check deductions remain at 4.4 per cent, the old \$6,600 annual salary maximum from which

deductions are taken has been raised to \$7,800. This means that the maximum possible total deductions is increased from 1967's \$294 to \$343.20.

Specific benefits stressed by the President in signing the legislation were:

- Maximum benefits for a retired couple will rise from \$207 to \$234 and ultimately to \$323 a month.
- Minimum benefits for an individual will be increased from \$44 to \$55 a month.
- Outside earnings can total \$140 a month with no reduction in benefits.



Army Short Tour Returnees Offered Drill Sergeant Option

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Unaccompanied U.S. Army enlisted personnel who complete a normal overseas tour of duty in a short tour area may now qualify for drill sergeant duty under a new reenlistment option.

This option offers an 18-month stabilized tour of duty at one of three training centers of the applicant's choice provided he completes the drill sergeant course and is accepted as a drill sergeant.

All male enlisted personnel in grades E-4 to E-7 who are serving one of the combat arms or in a surplus or balanced MOS, and are not drawing proficiency pay, are eligible to reenlist for this option.

Prerequisites include proficiency in present military occupational specialty, general technical aptitude area (GT) score of at least 90, and demonstrated leadership and soldierly qualities. An applicant must be less than 39 years old.

Reenlistment for this option must be accomplished no earlier than 180 days and no later than 30 days prior to returning from overseas. Personnel are not eligible to select this option after returning to CONUS for reassignment.

The following is the second in the series.

In Vietnam there is a custom which says it is all right for adults to pat, rub or touch children's heads, but it is a taboo to do the same to other adults. This custom comes from the influence on Vietnamese of the Confucius religion, in which they respect different parts of the human body — especially the head.

Another Vietnamese custom permits an adult to put his arms around a child's neck or shoulders, but forbids this practice with other adults. It is, however, permissible for two adults to walk hand in hand.

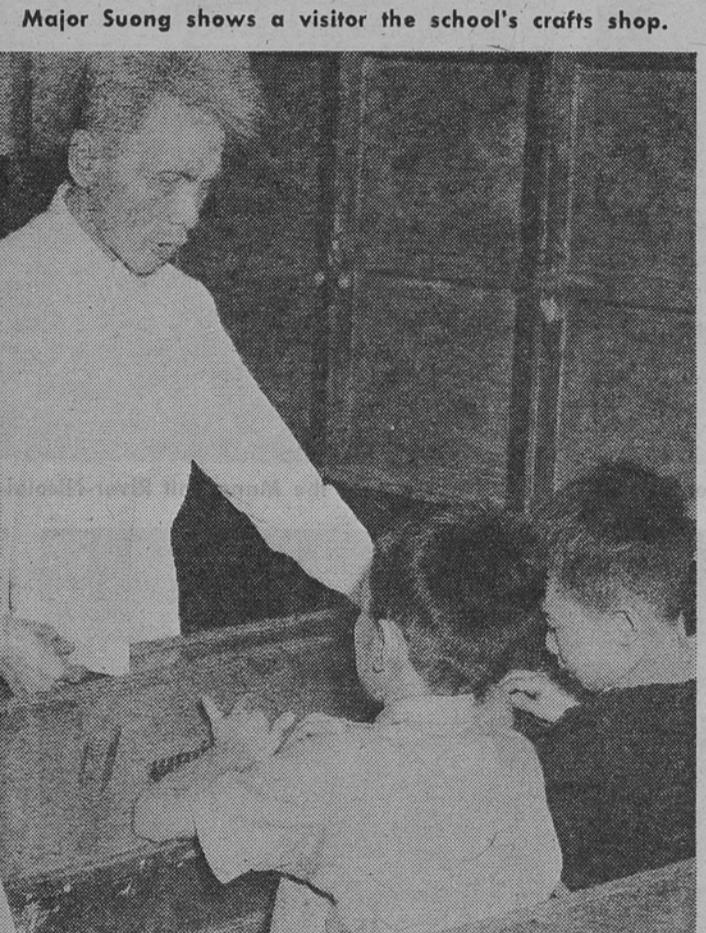
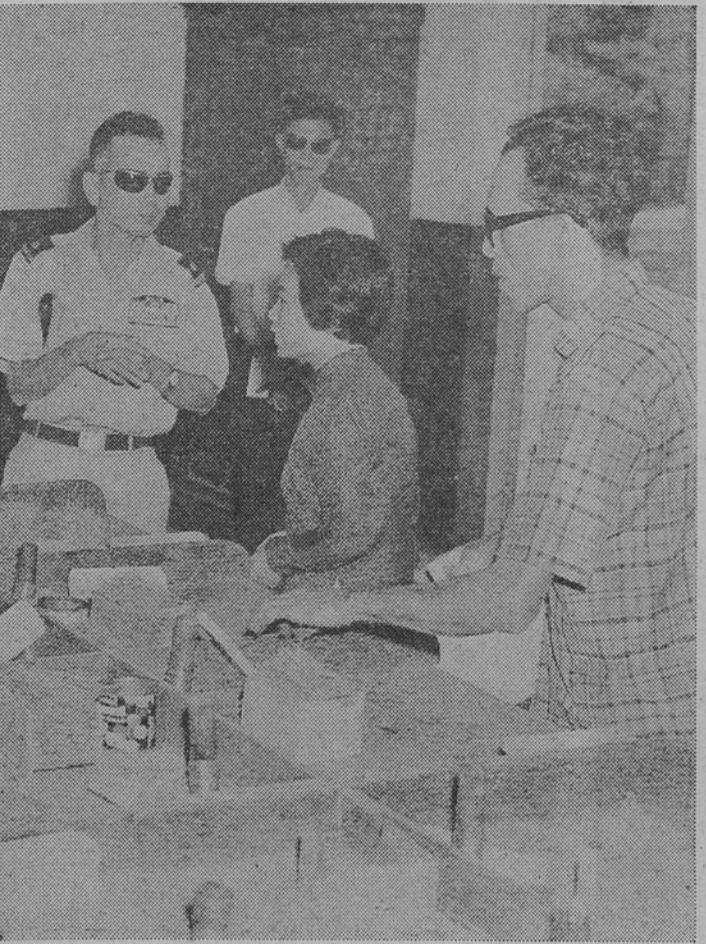
Editor in Charge 1st Lt. W. L. Nack, USA
Editor TSgt George Sterling, USAF

FIRST IN VIETNAM The OBSERVER

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Three U.S. Units Team Up; Modernize School For Blind

SAIGON (MACV) — Three U.S. forces have teamed up to bring a little comfort and happiness to some 45 students of the Primary School for Blind Boys in Cholon, the sister city of Saigon.

The units are the J-1 personnel section of MACV Headquarters, the 1st Infantry Division at Dian, and the personnel of Naval Forces Vietnam (COMNAVFORV).

Upon learning of the school, and its needs for food, clothing, modern plumbing, adequate kitchen facilities and a host of other items, a civic action project was undertaken by Commander C. D. Wheeler, J-1 section at MACV. Commander Wheeler inspected all of the facilities and made a mental inventory of the work necessary to modernize the school.

On the list of immediate needs were blankets, clothes, mosquito netting, and kitchen

and dining hall utensils. With the boys' immediate necessities provided, Commander Wheeler and the team went to the task of rehabilitating the kitchen. Seeing that the kitchen and mess hall would take more than just donations of equipment and money, Commander Wheeler took leave and turned into the role of "Mr. Fixit." With hammer, saw and paintbrush he became a familiar figure around the school.

Word of the commander's efforts spread to the Commander, Naval Forces Vietnam, headquartered in Saigon. The navymen there began to collect money to purchase needed items for the school. First a refrigerator was purchased, then a water cooler, then a radio—and the list continued to grow.

News of the efforts of the J-1 Personnel and the COMNAVFORV men spread to still another group of U.S. servicemen—the Army's 1st Infantry Division at Dian. Red tape was snipped and a truck load of recently captured rice was on its way to Saigon.

Arrival of the rice was quite an occasion for the boys, said school supervisor, Major Phan Van Suong. He expressed his sincere appreciation to Commander Wheeler and his men, the COMNAVFORV personnel, and to the 1st Infantry Division.

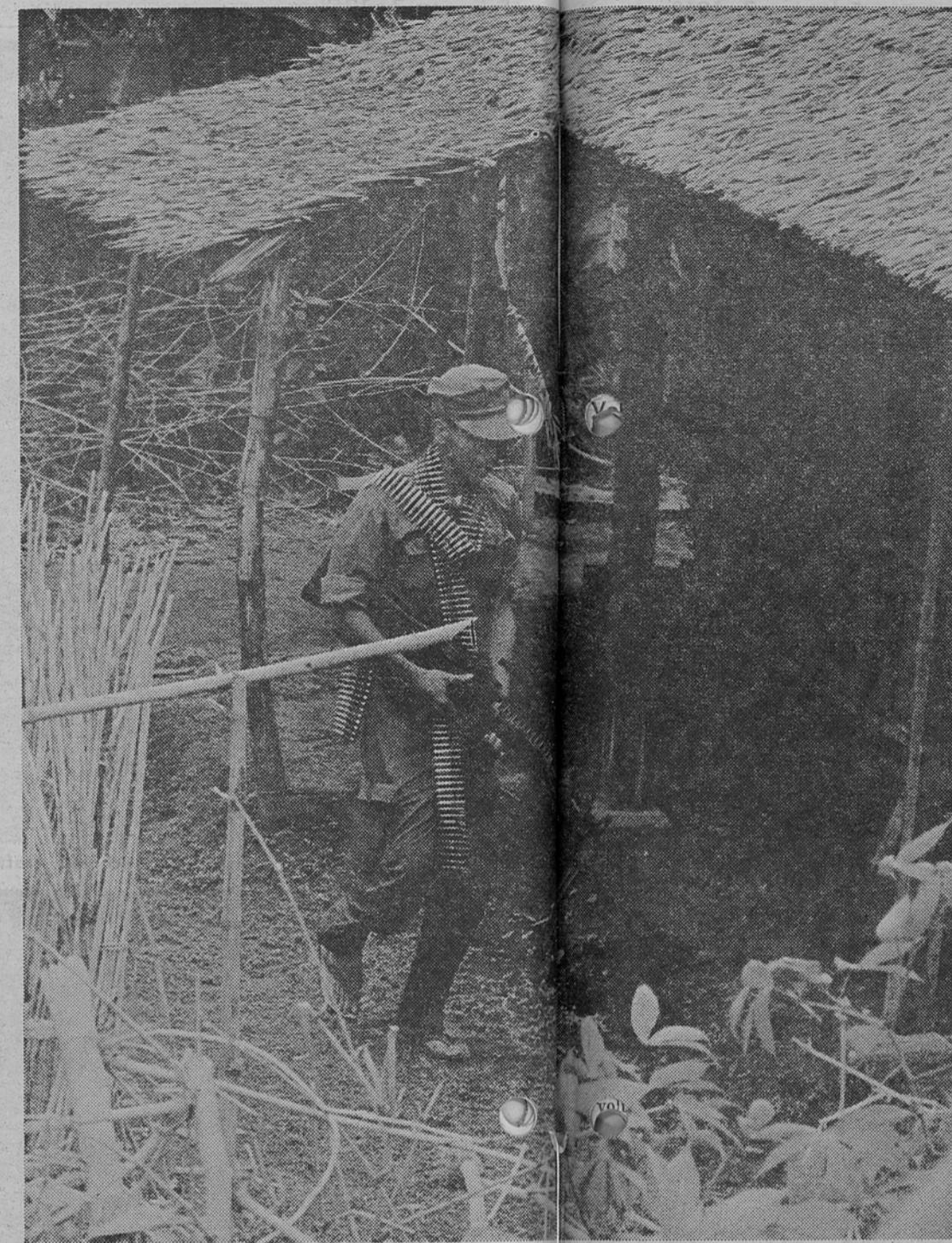
Major Suong spoke briefly about the school and how the boys were learning to cope with their handicap. He also spoke of the long road of adjustment necessary to make one's way in the dark world, having been permanently blinded himself during a battle with the Viet Cong.

Photos By
Sp 4 Thomas G. Wong
69th Signal Battalion

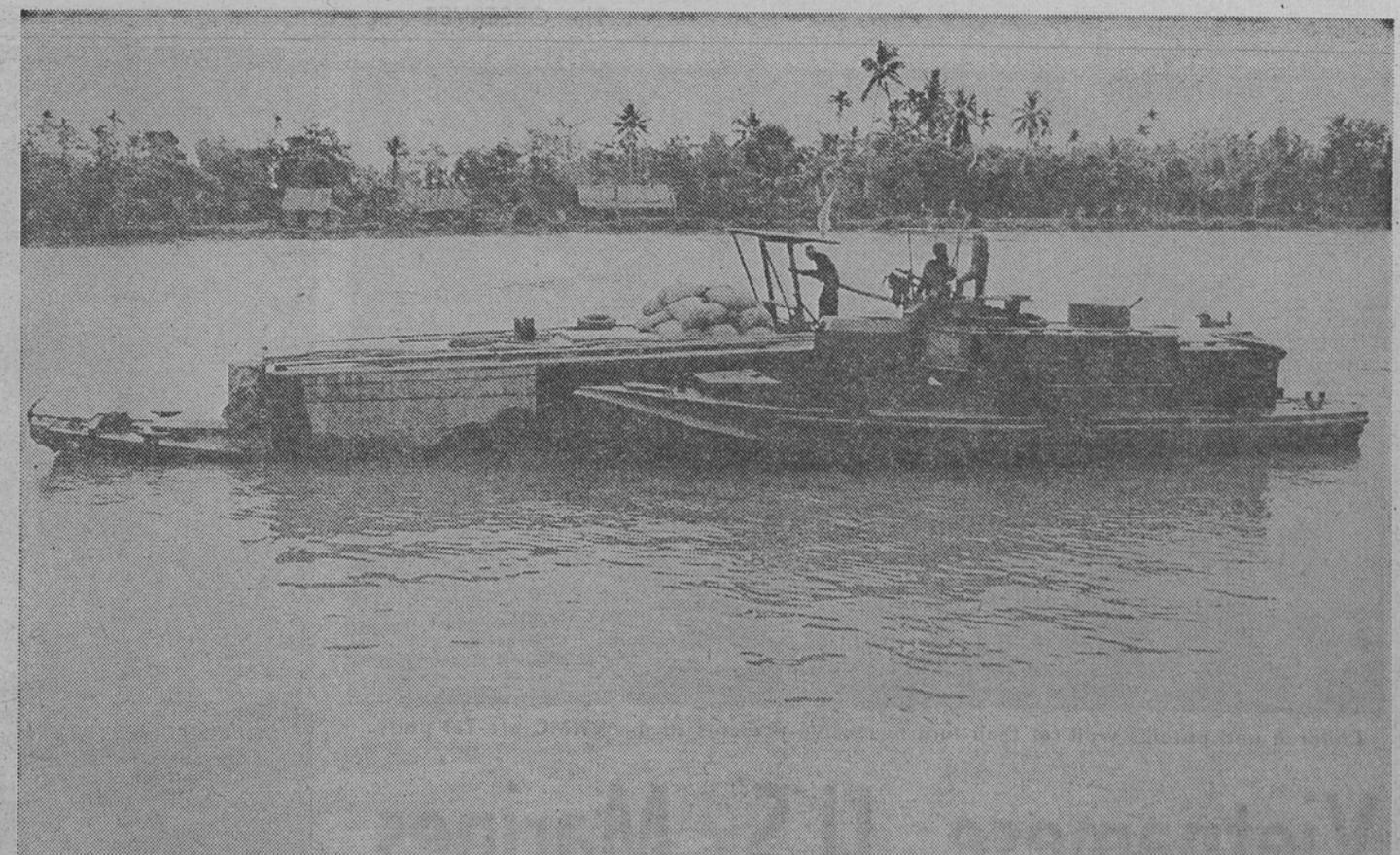
Students of the Primary School for Blind Boys in Cholon learn to play musical instruments in classes taught at the school.



Vietnamese sailors check identification papers of all people using the Mang Thit River.



Houses near the Mang Thit River-Nicolai Canal inspected daily for VC troops.



Commercial junks using the Mang Thit River are inspected by Vietnamese River Assault Group 31 personnel.

Mang Thit-Nicolai Waterway Vital Link In Mekong Delta

SAIGON (USN) — The Mang Thit River-Nicolai Canal complex, a vital water passage in the Mekong Delta, is steadily becoming more secure and safer for travel, with the result that the number of civilian craft using it is increasing rapidly.

One reason for its increased use involves effective military operations. From the beginning of the river-canal campaign last February, through December 1967, a combined Vietnamese Government force killed 536 Viet Cong and detained 158.

At the same time, they captured 95 enemy weapons, as well as a large quantity of ammunition and equipment, destroyed two VC grenade factories, 10 propaganda centers and 235 booby traps along the canal.

Regaining operational control of the canal from the VC was no easy task. It required securing the entire length of the canal as well as everything within a mile on both sides. More than 30,700 people live within these boundaries.

Canal Patrol

The RAGs had the main responsibility of patrolling the canal on a 24-hour basis until it was formally declared open. Each RAG would spend 10 days patrolling the waterway while the other was being used to support other Mekong Delta operations. On April 11, 1967, they transited the entire canal — the first time it had been done in more than two years — without VC harassment.

Combined VN Forces

Two ARVN battalions, five Popular Force platoons, three Regional Force companies and one company of the National Police Field Forces were sent into the region adjacent to the canal. Their mission was to organize and pacify the population and to reopen as well as provide security for the canal-river complex.

Vietnamese River Assault Groups (RAGs) based at Vinh Long were used in the campaign to provide armed landing craft and gunboats for troop lift, patrol and gunfire support for ground operations.

Echoing the sentiments of the Vinh Long Province chief, Lieutenant J.A. Daniel Smith, current advisor to RAG 23 said, "The reopening of this canal is probably one of the most important operations ever conducted in the Delta."

"It shows the people that their government is actively interested in the peasant farmers and merchants of remote regions, as well as the heavily populated metropolitan areas.

"It also demonstrates to what lengths the Vietnamese Government is willing to go for the benefit of the people."



Hundreds of villagers shop at a river-side market as a Vietnamese river assault craft provides security on the Mang Thit River.



U.S. Naval advisor discusses future Mang Thit River operations with his Vietnamese counterpart.

Story By: JO1 E. T. Tompkins
Photos By: PH1 L. R. Robinson



Children and parents wait for their turn to receive presents at the VNMC pre-Tet party.

Vietnamese, U.S. Marines Hold Pre-Tet Celebration

TU DUC (MACV) — Officially it was a week before Tet, but for 147 Vietnamese Marine Corps dependent families it didn't seem to matter . . . they all had a good time and came away loaded with gifts.

The occasion was a pre-Tet celebration held at the Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC) Training Center here. It was sponsored by Vietnamese and American Marines and the internationally known CARE organization.

Throngs of children anxiously awaited their names to be called to receive the presents

of school kits, woodworking kits, mosquito nets, clothing, soap, toys and blankets.

As each child stepped forward to receive the gifts for his family, the excitement generated by the occasion could be felt by each person present. The children received the gifts at the outdoor ceremony in the traditional manner, giving a quiet thank you and a bow from the waist.

Richard Noreikis, a CARE representative from Saigon, presented the gifts to the families of the cadre at the training center. All the gifts were furnished through CARE and donations from the United States.

Major Hoang Van Nam, commanding officer of the training center, officiated at the ceremonies along with Colonel Richard L. Michael Jr., senior U.S. Marine advisor to the VNMC, and Mr. Noreikis.

The presentation of the gifts was only part of a day long program for the Marines and their families. Later that day a ceremonial dinner complete with a stage show and dancing was held.

Story and Photos
By
SSgt Ted Owen, USMC
Staff Writer

Families received woodworking kits, clothing and blankets.

Both father and son seem pleased with their presents.



Two bashful recipients are reassured by Vietnamese Marines as U.S. advisor presents gifts.



A Vietnamese Marine gives a boy his gifts.

American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)

(Guide For Week Of Feb. 7-13, 1968)

Wednesday Feb. 7

1830 News Headlines
1930 Lost in Space
2000 Insight
2030 Scientists in the Sea
2030 Metrotone Newsreal
2030 Addams Family
2100 Sports (Re-Run)
2200 Late News
2315 Sports (Continued)

Sunday Feb. 11

1230 News Headlines
1300 Christopher's Sacred Heart
1330 Chapel of the Air
1330 Feature Movie
1800 GE College Bowl
1830 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea

1930 News and Sports

2000 Window on Vietnam

2030 Bell Telephone Hour

2030 Flickers

2100 Ed Sullivan

2200 Bonanza

2230 Late News

2315 Dean Martin Summer Show

Thursday Feb. 8

1830 News Headlines
1900 Third Man
1900 Flying Fisherman

1930 News and Sports

2000 Insight

2030 Dick Van Dyke

2100 Kraft Music Hall

2130 Perry Mason

2300 Late News

2315 Jerry Lewis

Friday Feb. 9

1830 News Headlines

1900 Wild West

1930 News and Sports

2000 Insight

2030 Information Feature

2100 Bewitched

2130 Big Valley

2200 Alfred Hitchcock

2300 Late News

2315 John Bishop Show

Saturday Feb. 10

1830 News Headlines

1900 Mike Douglas Show

1945 Grateful Drums

1945 CBS Golf Classic

1950 Sports of the Week

1730 Information Special

1830 Lawrence Welk

1930 News and Sports

2315 Insight

Tuesday Feb. 13

1830 News Headlines

1900 Official Detective

1900 Bobby Lord Show

1930 News and Sports

2000 Insight

2030 Biography

2100 Green Acres

2100 Red Skelton

2200 Combat

2300 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	4-Barracuda	4-MORD
1-Swiss river	5-On defeated	5-SECT
4-Ski	6-Exist	6-ARE
9-Crimson	7-Lair	7-NAVE
12-Falsehood	8-God of love	8-STELE
13-Puzzle	9-Cause	9-SADDLES
14-Period of time	10-Be mistaken	10-LES
15-Tall; idly	11-Period of time	11-TEA
17-Public official	16-Singing voice	12-EAT
19-Hinder	18-Small child	13-SPLINTER
21-Distress signal	20-Beam	14-LISP
22-Hold on property	22-Citrus fruit	15-LIVE
24-Male sheep	23-Turkish decree	16-BERIE
26-Fee	25-Male	17-DOMINATE
29-Mistake	27-Sufferer from Hansen's disease	18-APT
31-Sweet potato	38-Sum	19-RES
33-Born	41-Visions	20-SUM
34-Parent (colloq.)	43-Tennis stroke	21-BREATHES
35-Outlet	47-Fewest	22-LOADS
37-Workup	50-Free of leaving	23-AUNT
39-Parent (colloq.)	52-Males	24-ILLUSION
40-Unusual	53-Joke (colloq.)	25-BEDNA
42-Pigeon pea	54-Lampreys	26-LESS
44-Memoranda		27-OAS
46-Roman tyrant		28-SEEP
48-Tibetan gazelle		
50-Fruit cake		
51-Before		
53-Cry of goat		
55-Mouth of volcano		
58-Slanted		
61-Dress border		
62-More crippled		
64-Falsehood		
65-Possessive pronoun		
66-Look fixedly		
67-Sea eagle		
1-High mountain		
2-Ventilate		
3-Schoolbook		

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ANSWERS

1. Jack Nicklaus was pro golfer's leading money winner in 1967 with \$200,000 in official money. How much did Nicklaus pocket in his first pro tourney?

2. Who is the only auto racing driver to ever win the Indianapolis 500 and the Le Mans endurance race in the same year?

3. Who is the oldest player in the National and American Football leagues?

George Blanda of the Oakland Raiders is another place kicker.

4. U.S. Auto Club's 500 in May was won by a native of the Americas, "Rocky" in his first appearance on the circuit. Phil Readigress was the driver.

5. Nicklaus tied for last mon-

thday in the 1962 Los Angeles Open and won \$33,333. The tournament was won by a native of the Americas, "Rocky" in his first appearance on the circuit. Phil Readigress was the driver.

6. Who is the oldest player in the National and American Football leagues?

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