

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 Fredrick 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)



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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.

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.

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.

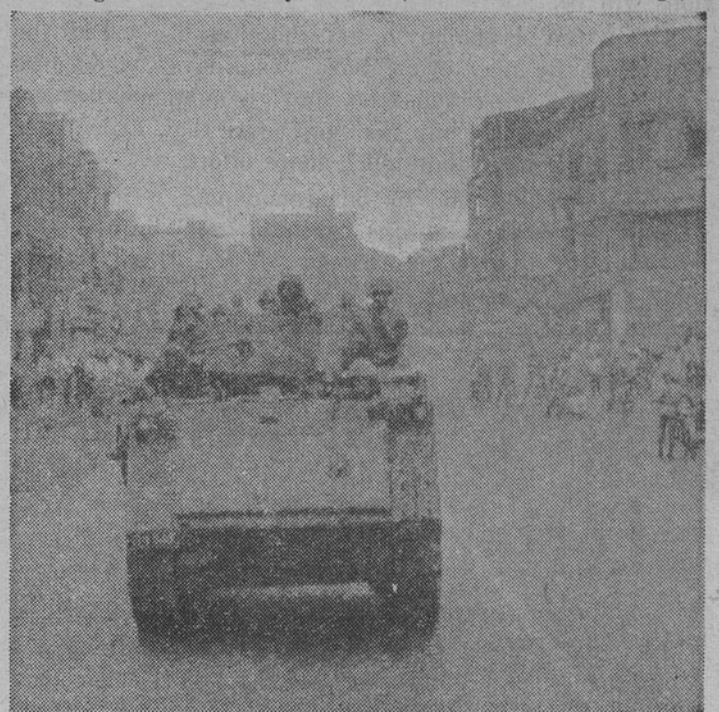
On June 30, 1966 as a member of Troop C, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, a Viet Cong regiment attacked his unit and another supporting troop.

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-



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 banyan trees. The most common saint-god is Tho-Dia or god of the earth. They worship their saints in small temples called Micu.



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 325 killed. ARVN losses were light.

In Quang Ngai and Tam Ky,

the 2nd ARVN Division killed 1,073 enemy and captured 409 weapons.

By mid-morning on Feb. 1, the tactical situation showed that ARVN forces were killing 11 enemy for every Vietnamese soldier lost in action.

Korean Marines and ARVN troops killed 571 Viet Cong at Hoi An, while ARVN and U.S. Army units swept Charlie from Quang Tri, killing 900 of the mixed VC and NVA force.

Only Hue remained contested, with vicious street battles raging through the historic city from early Wednesday through the weekend. Late Wednesday found enemy forces in control of much of the city's residential

area and a portion of Hue Citadel. But, the in-town compounds—1st ARVN Division and MACV—were holding out, while ARVN positions around the city also held, even though many were isolated from friendly forces during the first days' action.

ARVN and U.S. Marine reaction forces struck back at the well-emplaced enemy on Jan. 31 and began digging out the VC one-by-one. Heavy fighting continued through the following day and into the next before a break in enemy resistance came on Feb. 2. VNAF "Skyriders" backed up the friendly ground troops with air strikes against stubborn pockets of enemy resistance.

On Sunday evening (Feb. 3) ARVN forces in Hue made a preliminary report of 346 VC and NVA killed. Their own casualties were light and said they were no longer encountering heavy resistance.

In addition to the attacks on major cities, the enemy was busy in other areas of I Corps. At Duy Xuyen, 108 enemy fell to artillery during two unsuccessful assaults. Dien Ban, Que Son, Co Man, Cam Lo, Hai Lang and Noi Cam villages also were hit during the week.

Terrorist attacks continued unabated during the week as five civilians died in a bus mining near Hai Lang and 25 others were killed during a ground attack on a Quang Tin Province refugee camp.

Americal 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 Americal Division G-5's 6th Civil Affairs Platoon.

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

The school — located in the hamlet of Khong 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.

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



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.

Her hospital and school will be located in the nearby village of Phu Cap, an area of known Viet Cong operations. But this doesn't appear to faze nurse Seaton. She plans to enlist four young Vietnamese to help her with the project, which will consist of the school, a 10-bed hospital and a rural maternity center.

The lieutenant will have additional company in her venture — she's adopted a young Vietnamese girl who will live with her at the hospital.

One of her most important assets will be her ability to speak fluent Vietnamese, a skill she uses frequently at the 12th Evacuation Hospital and on Medical Civic Action Program visits (MEDCAPs) to neighboring villages.

Lieutenant Seaton has been decorated on several occasions by the Government of South Vietnam for her work with Vietnamese patients at the U.S. hospital and on MEDCAP activities.

Sailor Aids Phan Chu High School

DA NANG (USN) — A little more than two months ago Seaman George A. Serrechia, a member of the Da Nang Naval Support Activity Civic Action Division, began helping the Phan Chu Trinh High School improve its science program.

Last month, Rear Admiral Paul L. Lacy, commander of the unit, became aware of the seaman's work and decided to visit the school. During his visit he was introduced to the sailor, the school's faculty and students.

Favorable impressed with this new program, Admiral Lacy said before leaving the school. "If you pick your best boy and girl student this spring, we will sponsor them to attend the University of Saigon for one year."

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.

"We know that the young people in our country play an important role in the development of Vietnam's agricultural economy," says Vo Quang Tam, head of the national 4T office. "What we try to do is to provide a sound educational program aiming at helping these young people become progressive farmers and good citizens."

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.

An unpaid voluntary local leader, such as an older farmer, a teacher or schoolmaster, acts as technical adviser. Local 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.

The individual projects of club members must be realistic, capable of execution by the individual himself. A 12-year-old, for instance, might plant and care for about 20 watermelon vines, 20 cabbage plants, and two rows of sweet potatoes, or

raise one or two pigs or a dozen chickens.

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 absently 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.



This young farmer proudly shows his two pigs, a gift from CARE.



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

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 check 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.



New Industrial Community Being Built Near Cam Ranh

CAM RANH BAY (USN) — About two miles outside the Vietnamese village of Ba Ngoi, 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.

The housing project is a small part of a concentrated program now underway to transform this picturesque rural atmosphere into one of Southeast Asia's most progressive industrial centers.

Construction and development of this future "model

city" might very well be termed an international effort. Both the Government of Vietnam and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are responsible for the overall program.

Personnel from the U.S. Navy's Office 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 Ngoi port causeway. In addition, crack Korean troops of the 30th ROK Regiment are providing area se-

curing. Vietnamese sub-OICC and Korean have created a program that in the future will help relieve the acute housing shortage in this rapidly growing area.

Population of Ba Ngoi has grown from 32,000 in 1966 to more than 60,000 present and is expected to more than 150,000 in the near years.

Designed for both middle and income families, the housing 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 Cioeca 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.

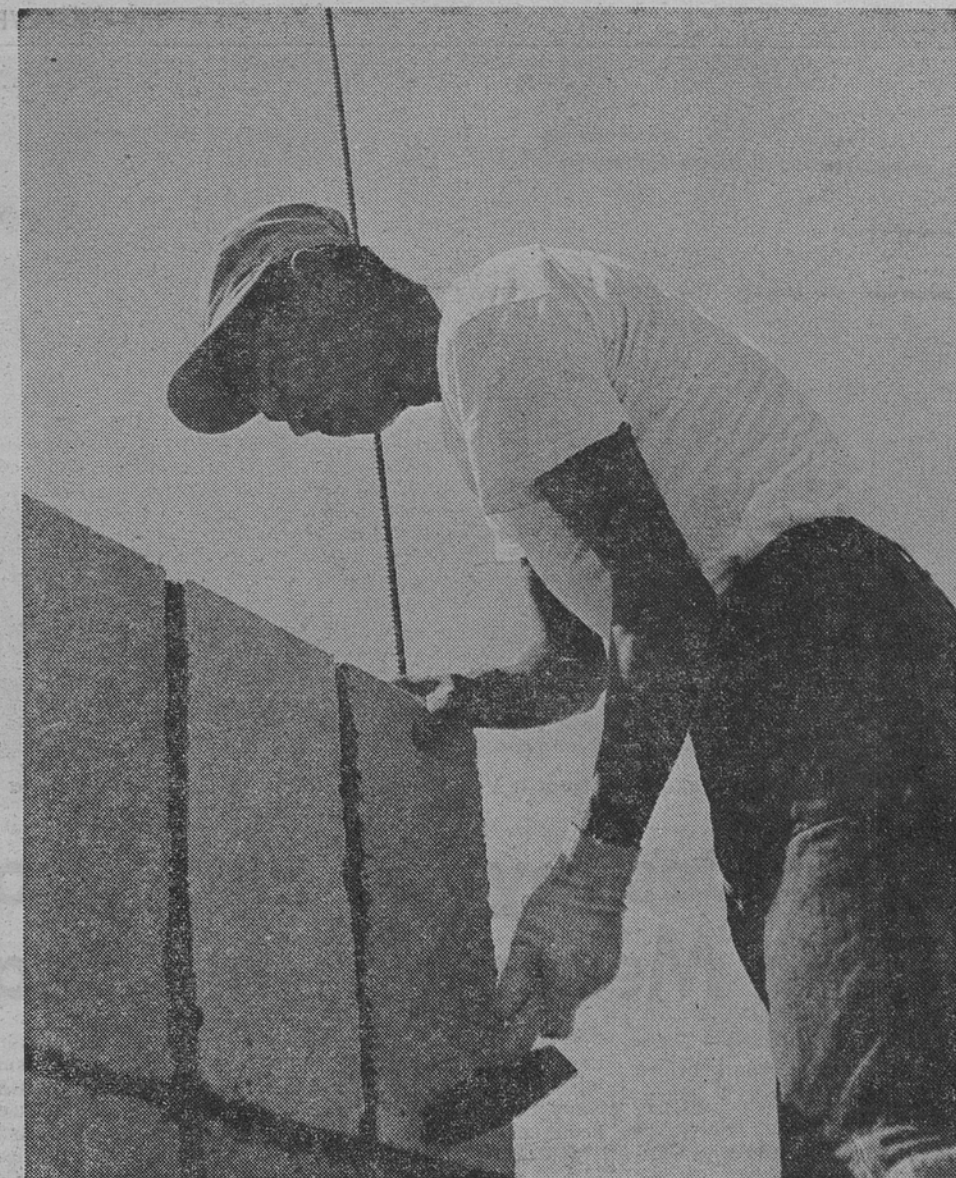
Future plans for Cam Ranh call for locating water sources which will provide more than 10 million gallons of water per day to support a populace of 150,000 people and supporting industry. Also, studies are underway to determine what industry would best be suited for the mineral rich area and encouraging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

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

STORY AND PHOTOS
By
Lt Richard Bennett, USNR



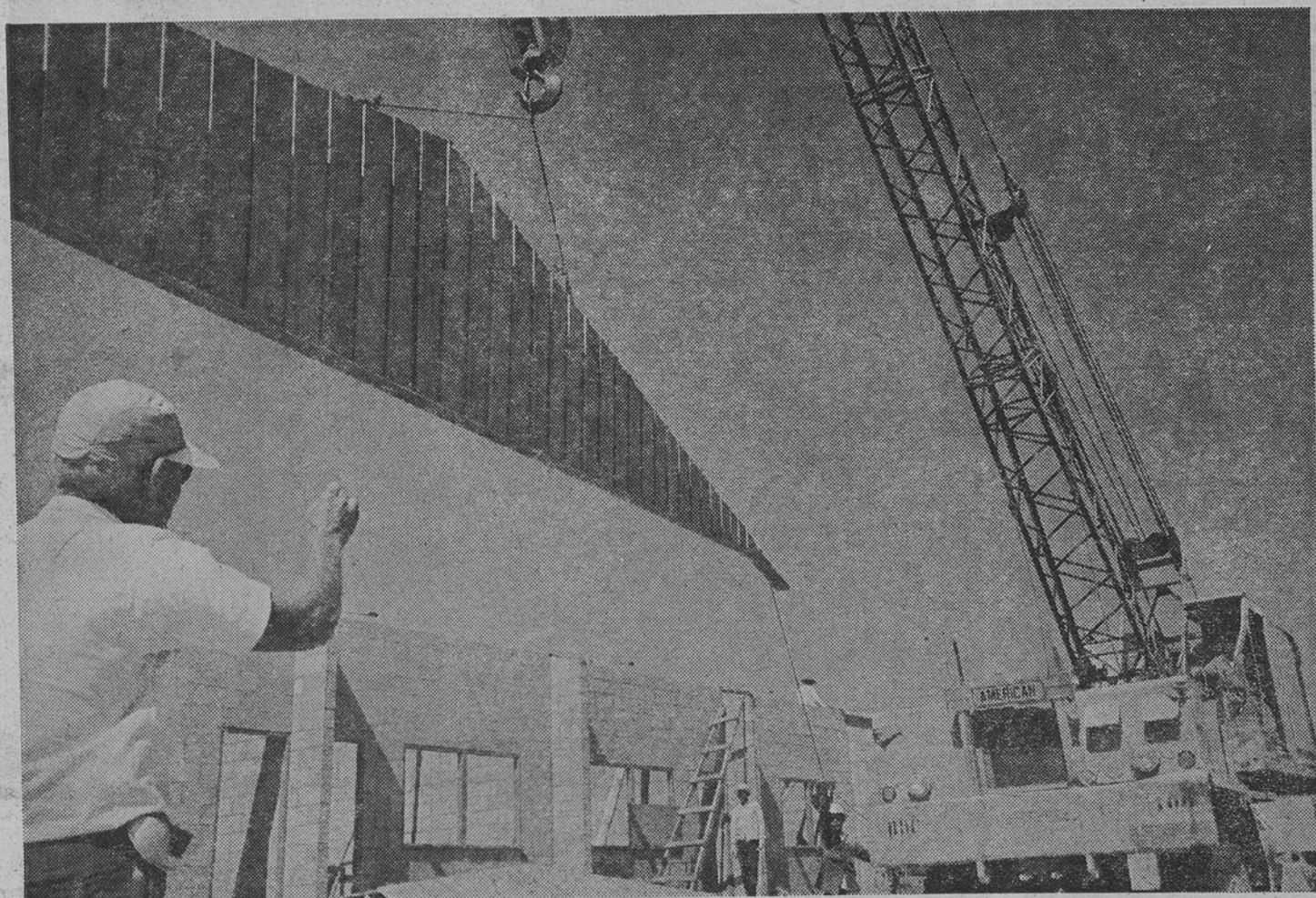
Korean construction workers are now completing the quarters at a rate of eight units a day.



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



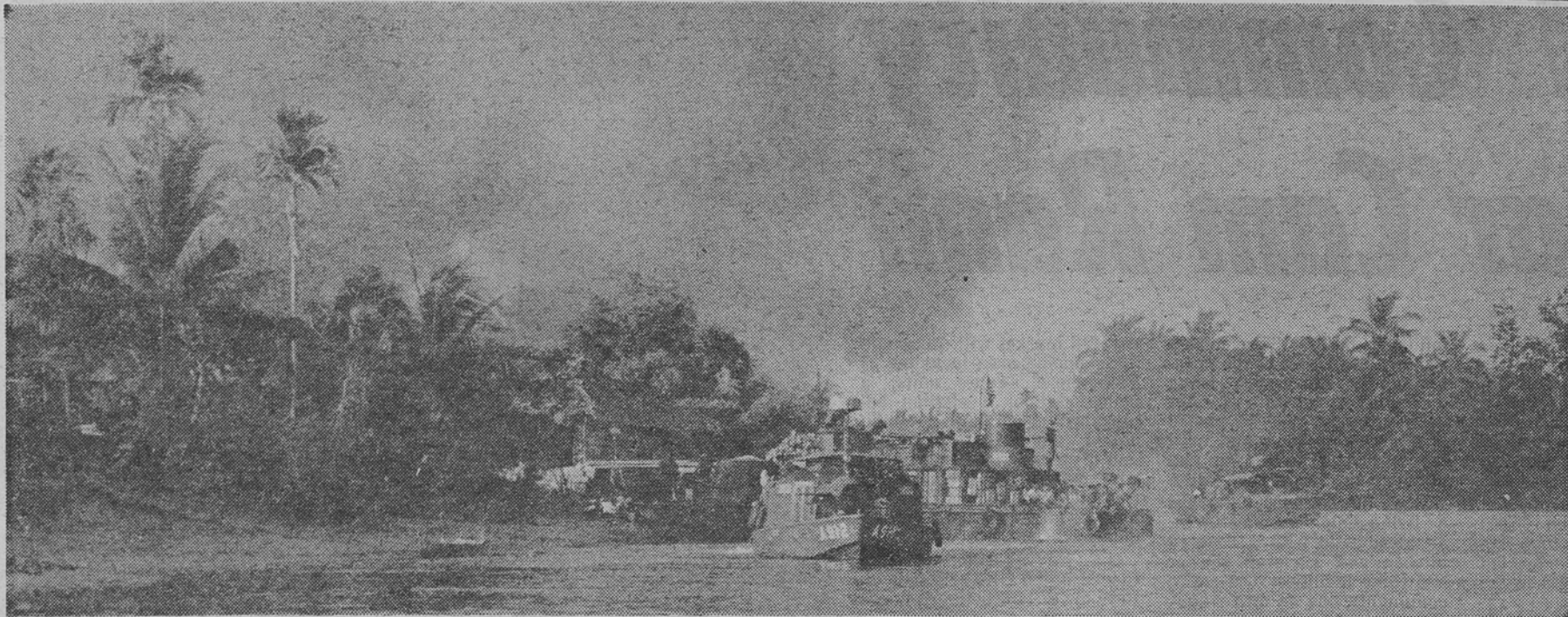
Vietnamese woman sands wooden window shutters for the new buildings.



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



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



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

VINH 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-guerilla activities are of the covert type, but this operation was strictly overt. They would destroy a Viet Cong stronghold.

With the first light of dawn the flotilla of small boats moved into the Rach Thom/Mao 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.



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

Viet Cong resistance was limited to sporadic small arms fire, but there was no doubt about his presence. Nearly every structure was adorned with VC flags and inside some had pictures of Communist leaders.

By the time the SEALs had finished sweeping the area they had detained 51 suspects. The next phase of the operation was to destroy the 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.

Story and Photos

By

JOI Tom Walton,
USN



A SEAL searches a bunker along Rach Thom/Mao Cay canal.



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.

Prior to the actual road building project getting underway, the U.S. engineers conducted an extensive training program for the ARVN engineers. Lieutenant Schmitt and Sergeant Hensley taught classes on bridge construction and the ARVN's assembled and disassembled a Bailey bridge; they also built a timber trestle bridge. The exercise provided the Vietnamese with practical experience in operating a water purification unit.

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.



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)

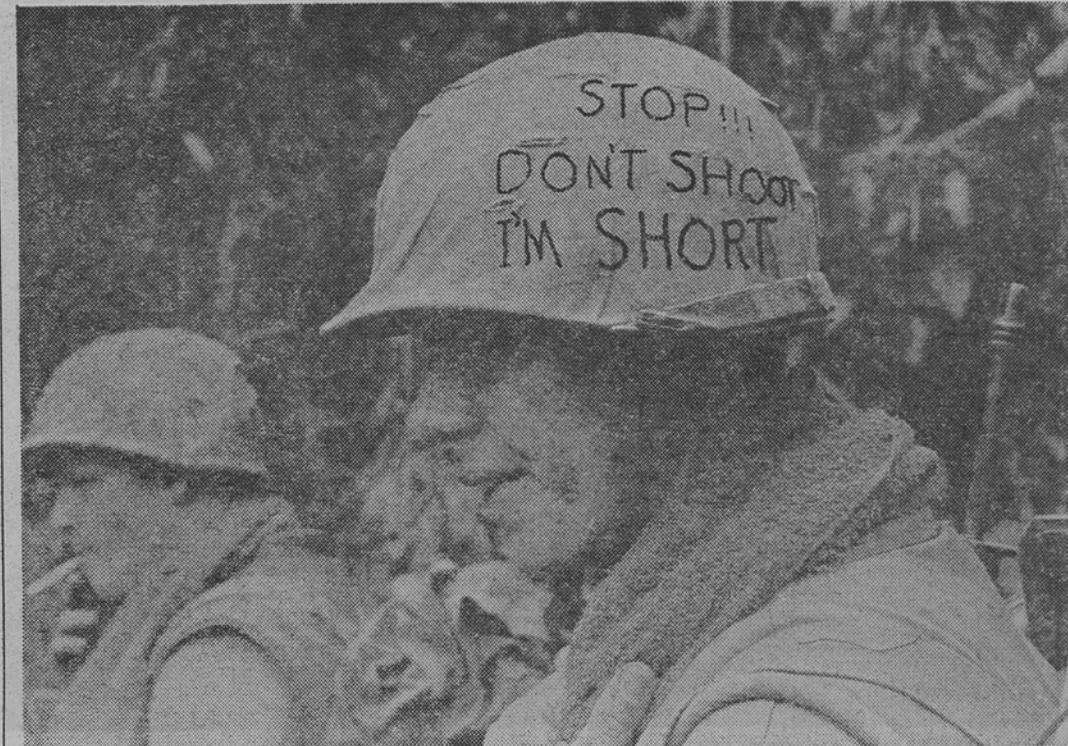
Trung An Has New Facility

CHU LAI (USA) — Thanks to the efforts of Chief Warrant Officer Ramon R. Fontanez and the S-5 section of the 196th Infantry Brigade's 8th Support Battalion, the people of Trung An hamlet in the village of Binh Sa have a new community center and dispensary.

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."

CWO Fontanez and his men are not stopping with this one project — they are now busy working on a Catholic church for the village and are furnishing cement and other materials to help the villagers build better wells and homes.



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 Americal 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.

"But we have also found that it provides an excellent means of support for some of the refugees we have living here in this area," said Sergeant First Class James Allen, a member of the platoon which coordinated its construction and provides nominal supervision over its activities.

The factory consists of four hand-operated machines which allow the worker to mold a dirt-cement mixture into a structurally sound brick.

"Before we came in and set up the factory, the people made their brick entirely by hand and were able to make about 800 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 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 dregs 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.

Sergeant Allen said he would like to enlarge the present factory, and possibly start a new one at a different location.

"There's nothing definite yet, but I would like to get at least one or two machines in here and possibly start another one somewhere else; a brick factory is something which is always needed around here," he said.

Long-range plans call for the factory to be turned completely over to the village and to become self-sustaining.

The sergeant said the villagers are "pretty enthusiastic" about the operation.

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.

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 cavalymen, 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 22nd 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 155 wounded. ARVN forces were credited with killing 149 of the enemy.

It is believed that the twin hopes of resupplying food needs and gaining a major victory over the Americans is what prompted the Communists to leave their mountain sanctuaries and return last July when the 22nd NVA Regiment suffered

a stinging defeat at the hands of the Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade.

Though severely battered by the recent fighting, the NVA unit is still believed to have significant members of troops on the plain, according to U.S. intelligence sources. The allies are pressing the search.

First WAC Reports In At 1st Log

LONG BINH (USA) — "I'm thrilled! This is the first time I've ever been first in anything." That was the reaction of Specialist 5 Grendel A. Howard when she was told that she was the first member of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) to be assigned to the 1st Logistical Command in Vietnam.

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 on her flight were bussed to the WAC Detachment at Long Binh.

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

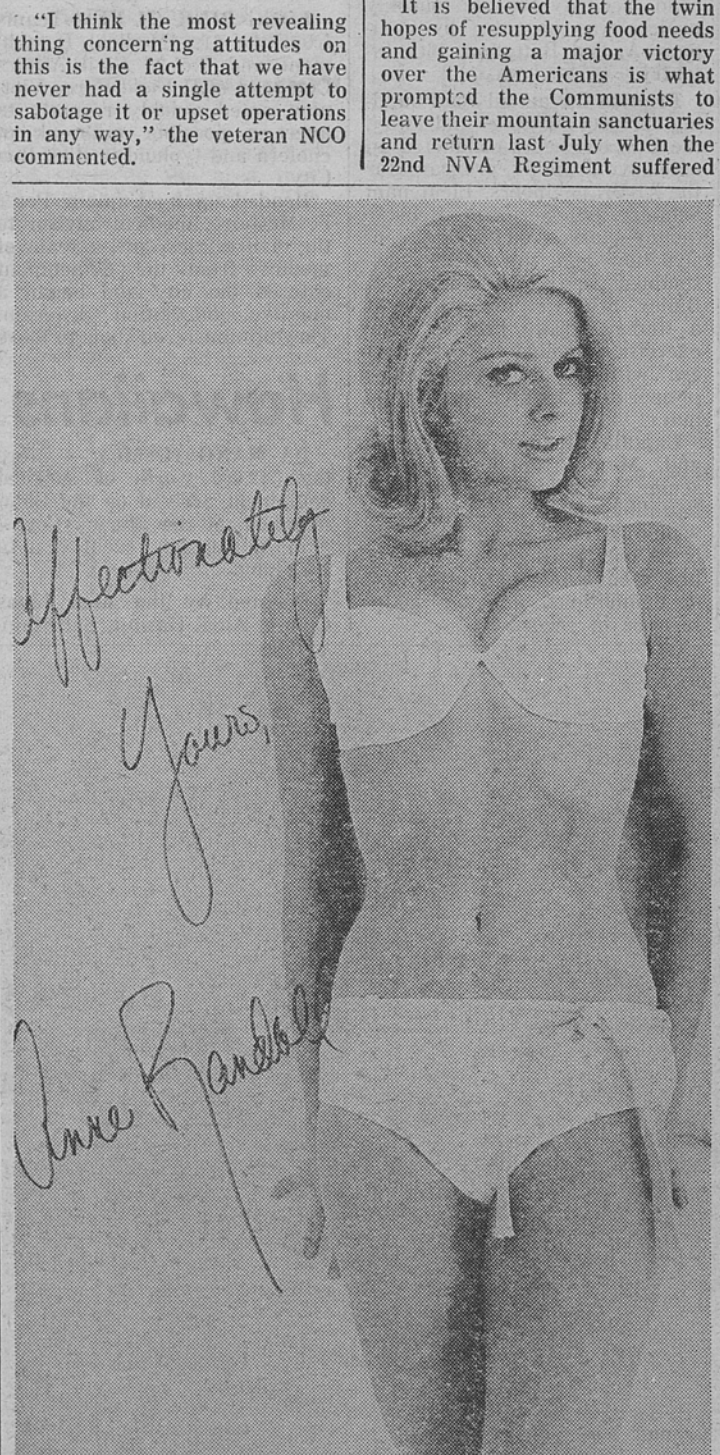
BA GI (II CORPS) — An elementary school which will serve 600 Vietnamese youngsters was recently dedicated during ceremonies held near Qui Nhon.

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.



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)

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 Last in Space
2000 News and Sports
2100 Insight
2200 Information Feature
2300 Addams Family
2400 Movin' With Nancy
2500 Sports (Re-Run)
2600 Late News
2700 Sports (Continued)

Thursday Feb. 29

1830 News Headlines
1930 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
2000 Flying Fisherman
2100 News and Sports
2200 Insight
2300 Information Feature
2400 Dick Van Dyke
2500 Perry Mason
2600 Late News
2700 Jerry Lewis

Friday Mar. 1

1830 News Headlines
1930 Wild Wild West
2000 News and Sports
2100 Insight
2200 Information Feature
2300 Bewitched
2400 Big Valley
2500 Star Trek
2600 Late News
2700 Joey Bishop Show

Saturday Mar. 2

1230 News Headlines
1345 Greatest Dramas
1400 CBS Golf Classic
1500 Sports of the Week
1600 Coach Bryant
1700 Late News
2100 21st Century

2030 My Favorite Martian
2100 Jackie Gleason
2200 Gunsmoke
2300 Late News
2315 Feature Movie

Sunday Mar. 3

1230 News Headlines
1300 The Answer
1330 Feature Movie
1500 Sports of the Week
1600 GE College Bowl
1830 Danny Thomas Hour
1930 News and Sports
2000 Window on Vietnam
2030 One Night Stands
2100 Fractured Flickers
2200 Ed Sullivan
2300 Bonanza
2400 Late News
2515 Dean Martin Summer Show

Monday Mar. 4

1830 News Headlines
1930 Daniel Boone
2000 News & Sports
2100 Insight
2200 Magic Room
2300 My Three Sons
2400 Hollywood Palace
2500 Mission Impossible
2600 Late News
2715 Tonight Show

Tuesday Mar. 5

1830 News Headlines
1900 Official Detective
1930 Ray Acuf
2000 News and Sports
2100 Insight
2200 Biography
2300 Green Acres
2400 Red Skelton
2500 Combat
2600 Late News
2715 Feature Movie

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

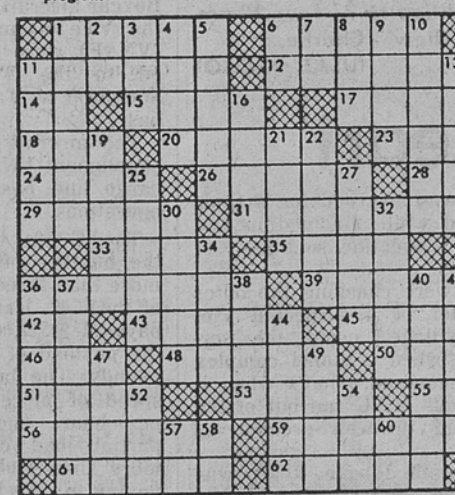
ACROSS

- 1-Cartoon
- 6-South American Indian
- 11-Cultivated
- 12-Catchword
- 14-Note of scale
- 15-Paradise
- 17-Pitch
- 18-Danish land division
- 20-Bismirch
- 23-Uncooked
- 24-Middy
- 26-Showy flower
- 28-Compass point
- 29-Body of soldiers
- 31-Group of students in research
- 33-Learning
- 35-River in Africa
- 36-Disagreement
- 39-Trials
- 42-Exists
- 43-Chemical compound
- 45-Let it stand
- 46-Man's name
- 48-Spanish title
- 50-Nahoor sheep
- 51-Makes lace
- 53-Entrance
- 55-Conjunction
- 56-Scot's
- 59-Lances
- 61-Vision
- 62-Abounds

DOWN

- 1-Great outcry
- 2-Artificial language

- 3-Reverence
- 4-Spreads for drying
- 5-Dropsy
- 6-Christian Science (abbr.)
- 7-Man's nickname
- 8-Decay
- 9-Man's name
- 10-Fruit
- 11-Shrub
- 13-More recent
- 16-Promontory
- 19-Instruments
- 21-Solar disk
- 22-Forgive
- 25-Loop
- 27-Vexes
- 30-Iron
- 32-Bird's homes
- 34-Heraldry: grafted
- 36-Follows food program
- 37-Land surrounded by water
- 38-Care for
- 40-Singing voices
- 41-Heavenly bodies
- 44-Perch
- 47-Roman road
- 49-Heavy cord
- 52-Bishopric
- 54-Female ruff
- 57-Sun god
- 58-Symbol for samarium
- 60-Part of "to be"



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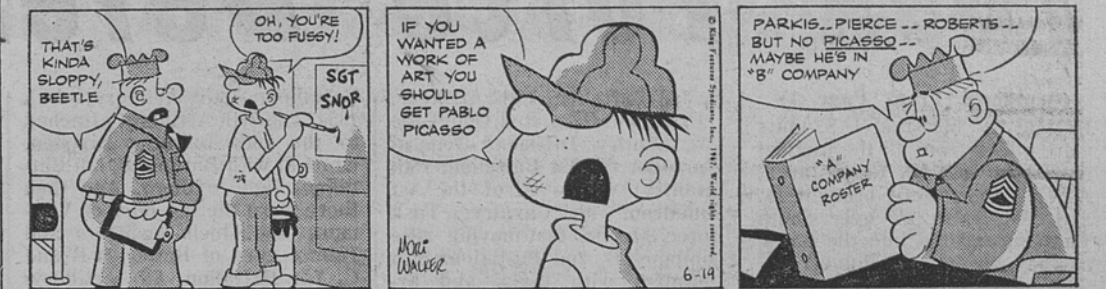
1. Who holds the major league baseball record for RBIs?
2. What National Hockey League club holds the record for consecutive victories?
3. Who is the youngest owner of a major franchise in the United States?
4. What is the world indoor pole vault record and who holds it?
5. Who has won the most games in the NBA's East-West All-Star series?

Answers

1. Hank Wilson drove in 190 runs for the 1950 Chicago Cubs.
2. The Boston Bruins won 14 consecutive games in 1929-30.
3. John McEum, 27, owns the New Orleans Saints.
4. It is 17 feet, four and one-quarter inches set by Bob Seagraves.
5. The East has won 12, the West six.

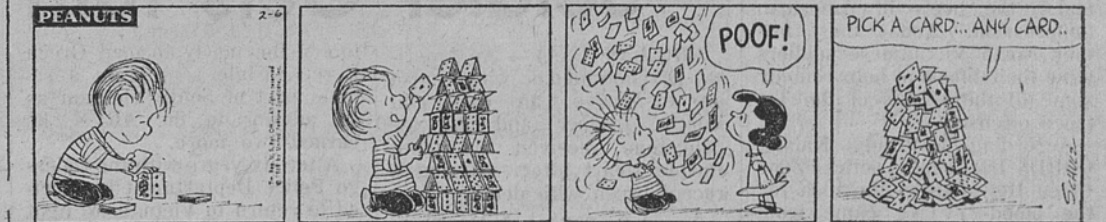
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



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 lanyard 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.

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.

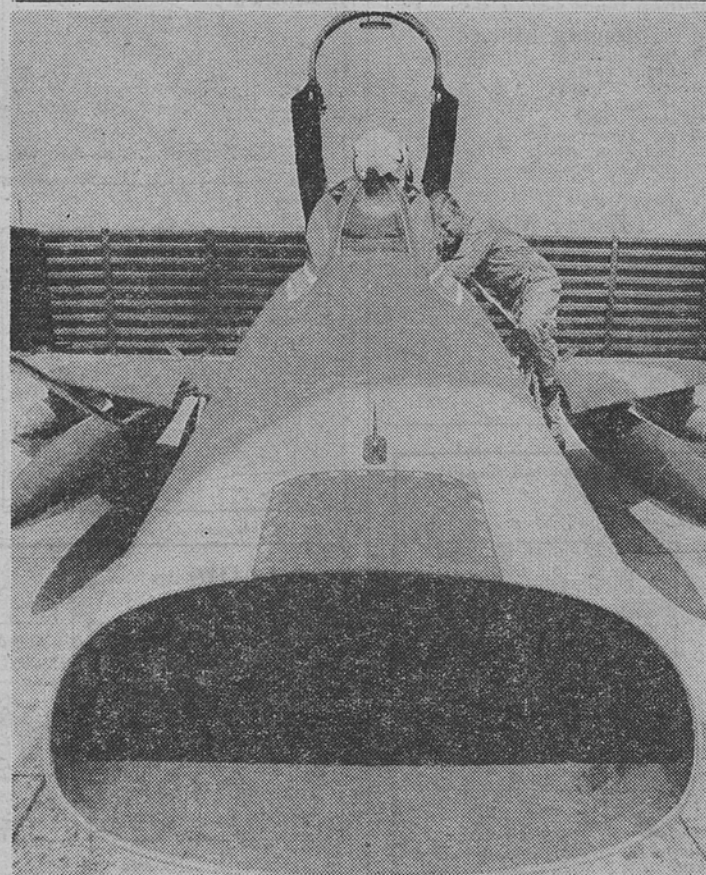
The Hoi Chanh discussed the idea among themselves and then approached Mr. Kaiser for as-

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



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)

Soldier Gets 10th 'Heart'

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.

First C-119s For VNAF Arrive TSN

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, copilots 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 preparations 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 ARVNs 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)



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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.

At the 1967 Guam Conference, international leaders discussed a special program for civilian casualties of the Vietnam war. They agreed that several hospitals should be built throughout the country explicitly for civilian medical treatment.

After an exhaustive study, Da Nang, Chu Lai and Can Tho were selected as locations for a total of 1,100 beds. U.S. Army medical personnel will staff the hospitals.

The Chu Lai hospital is being

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.

A Life Saver

**Just In Case
You Have
Not Heard**

Wise Buys For You Gl

LSU Supports Vietnam GIs

VA Acts Against Discrimination

"Oh, I stopped the paper . . . since we got the new disposal unit I don't need it anymore for the garbage."

'No Freeze' Says Dept. Of Defense

Police Recruiting At Military Bases Pays Off

NVA Trapped By Korean Infantrymen

ARVN Unit Cited For Gallantry

Six Courses Taught At Combat Training Center

**SURROUND AND KILL 278
NORTH VIETNAMESE
ARMY REGULARS**

- ☒ INFANTRY COMPANY
- ☒ MECHANIZED INFANTRY PLATOON
- ☒ TANK PLATOON

In Bien Hoa

Buddhists Use Civic Action

Village Builds School

"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."

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 Uszak)



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 Redemptionist 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 OI-E "Bird Dog" (OIs) observation planes.

The following morning the OIs 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.



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 project, "Task Force Builder", came into being in response to requests by province officials. Work is carried out under the supervision of Captain Michael Miller.

The purpose of the "self-help" project is to work alongside the Vietnamese and to assist them in developing needed skills. To achieve this, the Vietnamese government is supplying one person for every American worker.

Most of the Vietnamese workers are women. "We didn't realize that we would run into a situation of this nature," commented Captain Miller.

"The women work hard. Per-

haps this is because their men are either in the Army or working in the fields. The women seem to know that through this joint effort, their children will have a better life."

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

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 sites' 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 Meninrad 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.

Besides helping build new facilities for the Vietnamese, the battalion has also constructed school benches, swings and other equipment.

Task Force Builder is financially supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS).



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.

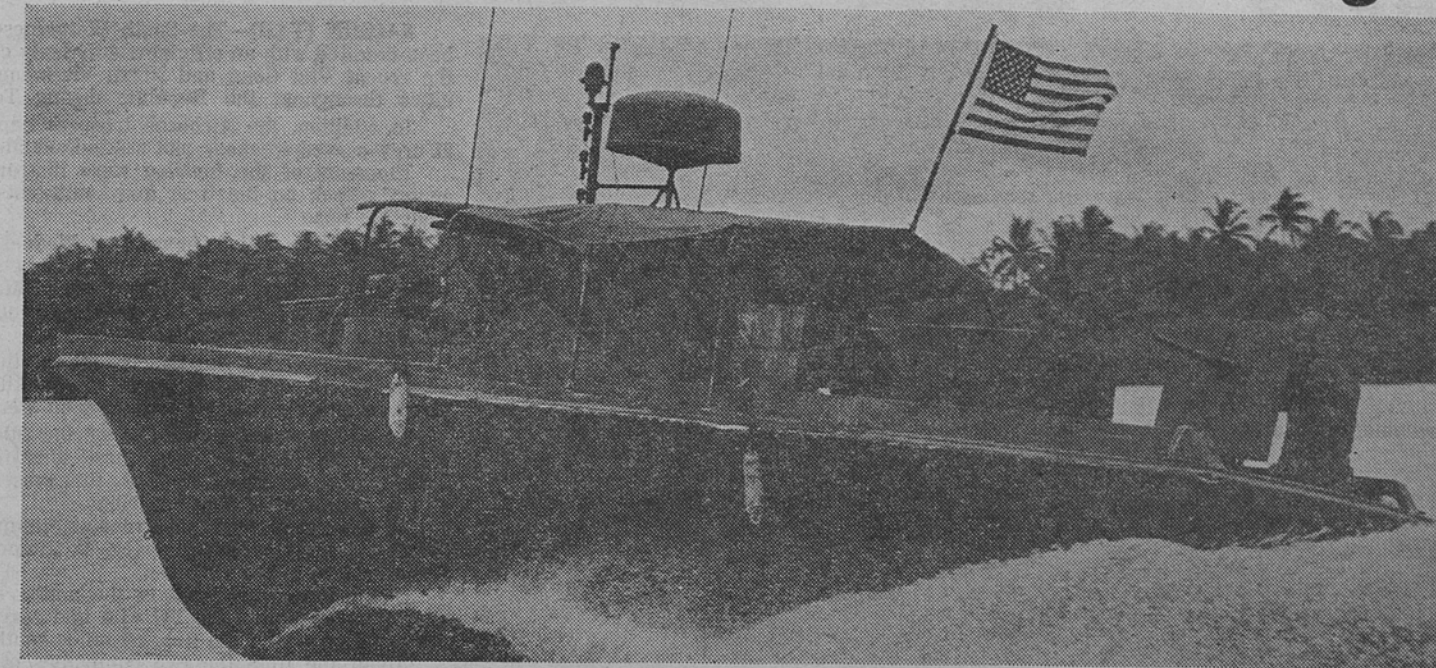
The poor but hard working villagers were accepting the clothes, shoes and toys from their friends, the American Navy men who patrol the many waterways of the Rung Sat to check the Viet Cong's movement of troops and supplies.

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 shoes, 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

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.

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

their boats, the villagers lined the river bank once again. This time a little better clothed, a little healthier, and a lot happier.

And the civic action is not over. The navymen of River Section 542 will continue to

make their monthly visits to their adopted village, and, according to Lieutenant Calhoun, the Kiwanis Clubs of Sacramento are continuing their "Project Vietnam" and already have another shipment of similar goods ready for mailing.



A Navy doctor examines a boy during the MEDCAP.

Story And Photos
By
JO1 Tom Walton

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



Several boxes of clothes given to the RF military personnel.



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



Women work with the engineers mixing cement.

ARVN Airborne Battalions Strike Hard At Enemy



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

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.

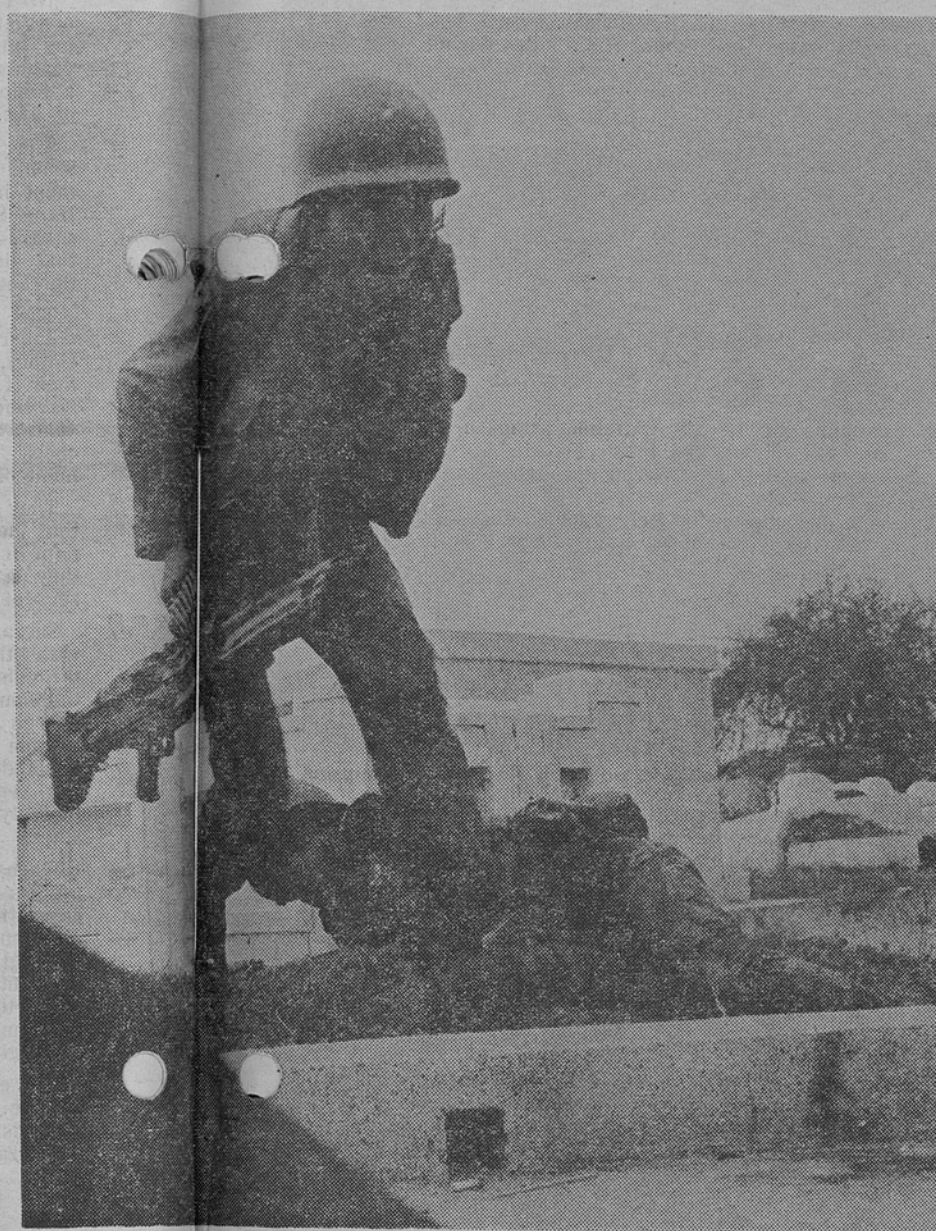
The newly formed 11th Battalion was attacked at its training center at Van Kiep, 20 kilometers northwest of Vung Tau. The enemy broke contact at 10 a.m., leaving behind 80 dead. A total of 34 individual and four crew-served weapons were captured here. The new battalion suffered four killed and 30 wounded.

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.

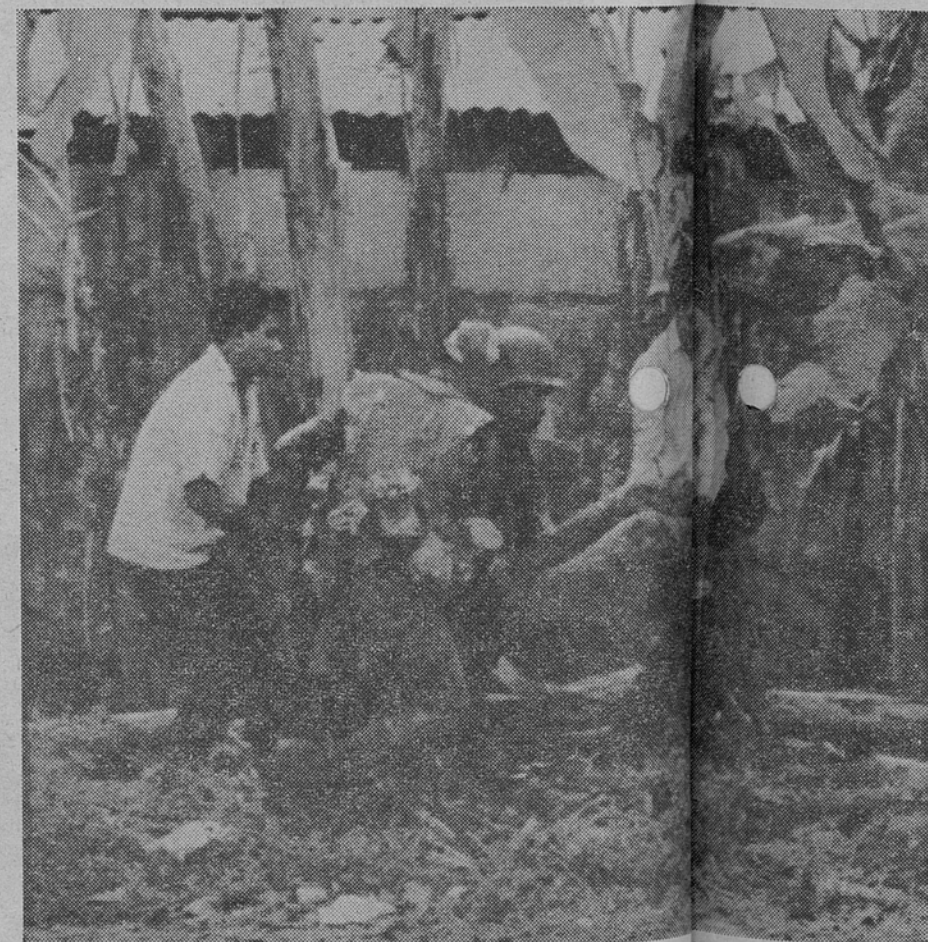
Staff & Photos
By
Vietnamese
Airborne
Division



Vietnamese paratroopers cross a city street under enemy fire.



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



With civilian aid, two paratroopers (one himself wounded) revive 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.

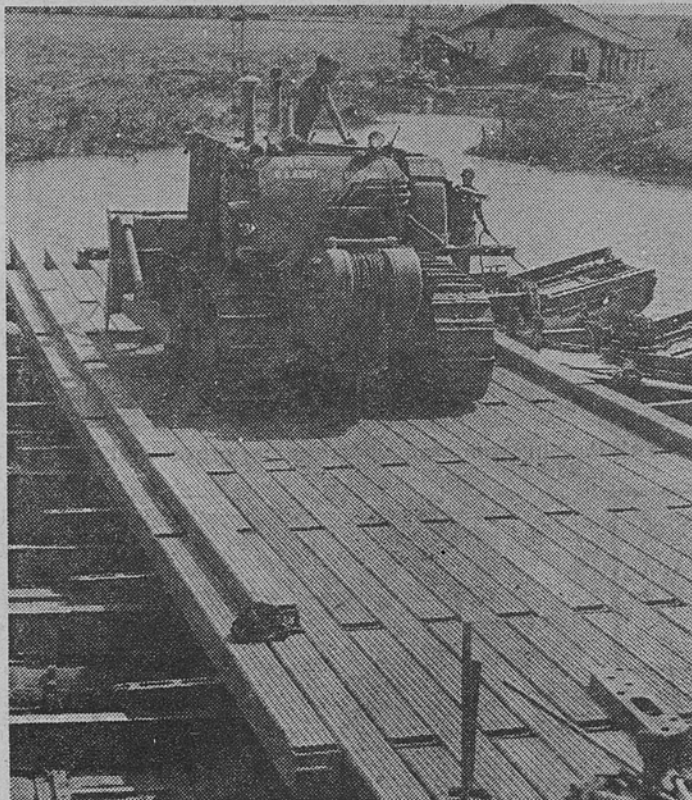
To combat this obstacle, flexible dry-span approaches, which rise and fall with the bridge level, were emplaced. In addition, powerful bridge erection boats were used to jockey the bridge's section against the river's strong tidal current.

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."



A CH-47 'Chinook' hooks a pontoon float for placement.

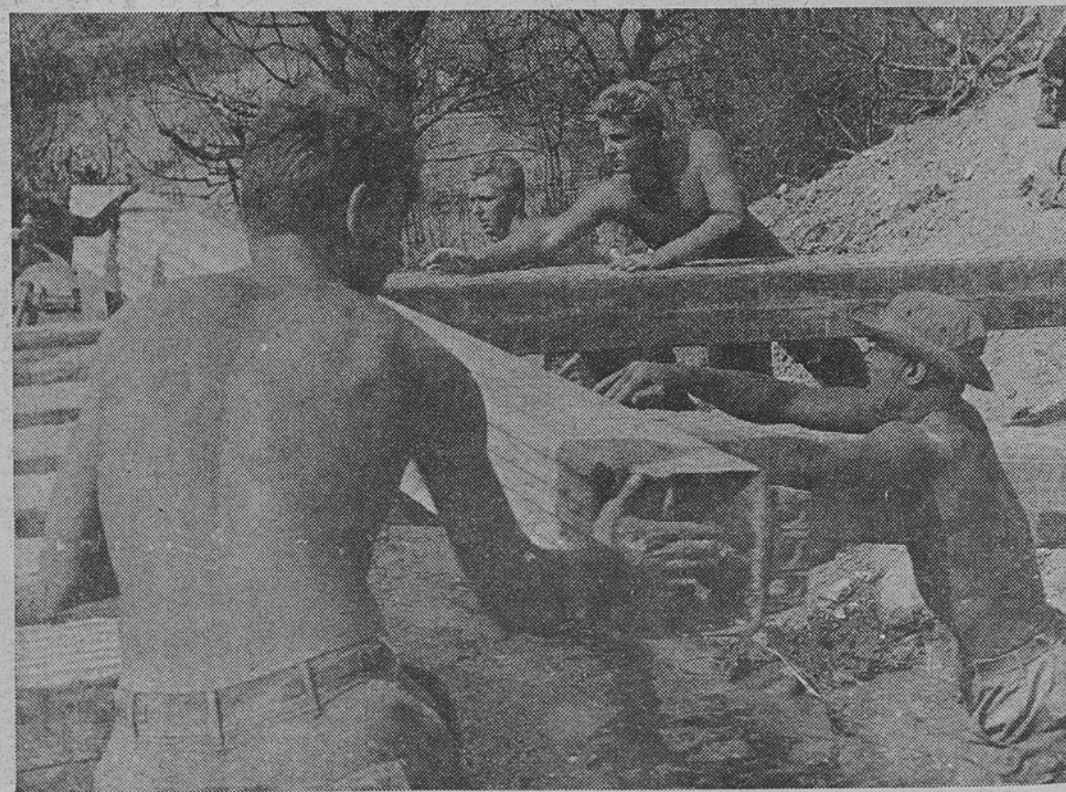


A bulldozer is ferried across a river on pontoons.



Men of the engineer battalion emplace sections of a bridge.

PHOTOS By
Sp5 Bruce McIlhenny



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 32nd 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.

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



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

to Saigon Central Lions Club members—said that no civilian job position will be held by American military or civilian personnel if qualified Vietnamese are available to do the job.

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

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.

Mr. Moyers mentioned benefits that many companies pay, such as housing and rice allowances, and "other items which we do not pay separate and distinct from basic pay." This differential, he explained, is given in monetary value included in the wages.

The average salary for the total work force, according to Moyers' figures, is 28 piasters per-hour, or roughly 25 cents. "So, you can be assured that U.S. Forces in Vietnam are not inflating wages, and to the contrary, only want to pay those wages that are being paid by the private sector and no more."

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

were laid. Food is prepared, and the company is assembled in the mess area where each man receives his ration. This concentration of men is undesirable in enemy territory however, so at such times the food is divided among large pots which are then carried through the fields to the various squads.

Captain Nguyen Duc Oanh, commanding officer of the division's 25th Quartermaster Company, pondered the problem of feeding a company under field conditions. He then devised a modification to the existing set of pots used by an ARVN combat squad. This solved the problem of keeping food hot under any field conditions, and eliminated the possible need of concentrating the company's squads in one area.

The squad's mess gear 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.

Learns Vietnamese In Korean School

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

US Engineers Train ARVNs

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 anchorage 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.

the ROK "Tigers" base camp near Dieu Tri.

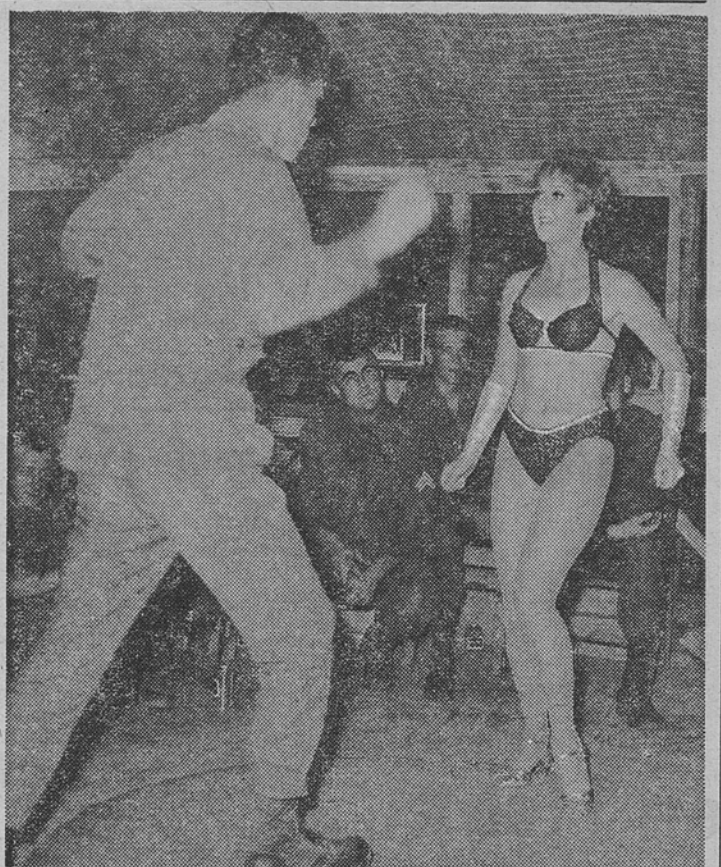
"I feel honored to have attended the fine Korean school. I was chosen by the ROK's school staff because I have mastered both spoken and written Korean," said the 41st Civil Affairs Company interpreter.

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 (USAF)—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 and 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 man hours later, the fruits of their labors began to materialize. Arrangements were made for a Vietnamese Air Force helicopter to take the

furniture to Thoi An. The helicopter was loaded with pre-cut wood; enough for four beds and two desks.

"We are continuing to work on this project," the Colonel said, "and will be delivering the rest of the furniture as soon as we can get it made."

He continued, "Our project will encourage the Vietnamese to help themselves even more. A project which strengthens the security of Gia Xuan also strengthens the security of Binh Thuy."

SEALs Strike At Enemy

SAIGON (USN)—Taking advantage of a confused enemy, U.S. Navy SEAL teams killed eight enemy along the Tien Giang River near Sa Dec. This is how the situation developed.

Two SEAL teams were inserted into an area on the north bank of the Tien Giang River about 77 miles southwest of Saigon. The teams, reinforced with Vietnamese counterparts, patrolled along two sides of one of the many canals in the area.

The teams engaged two sampans moving without lights along the canal. In reaction to their

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 firefight.

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.

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, underprivileged 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."

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
1930 Lost in Space
2000 News and Sports
2030 Insight

2035 Information Feature
2100 Melrose Place
2130 Addams Family
2140 Carol Burnett
2200 Sports (Re-Run)
2300 Late News
2315 Sports (Continued)

Thursday Feb. 22

1830 News Headlines
1930 Third Man
1950 Flying Fisherman
1955 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2035 Information Feature
2100 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Late News
2315 Jerry Lewis

Friday Feb. 23

1830 News Headlines
1930 Wild Wild West
1950 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2035 Information Feature
2100 Bewitched
2100 Big Valley
2200 Alfred Hitchcock
2300 Late News
2315 Joey Bishop Show

Saturday Feb. 24

1230 News Headlines
1345 Mike Douglas Show
1400 Greatest Dramas
1500 CBS Golf Classic
1530 Sports of the Week
1730 Information Special
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 Information Feature

Sunday Feb. 25

1230 News Headlines
1300 Christopher/Sacred Heart
1330 Chapel of the Air
1330 Feature Movie
1500 Sports of the Week
1800 GE College Bowl
1830 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea

1930 News and Sports
2000 Window on Vietnam
2005 Ice Follies
2030 Fractured Flickers
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Late News
2315 Dean Martin Summer Show

Monday Feb. 26

1830 News Headlines
1930 Daniel Boone
1930 News & Sports
2000 Insight
2005 Magic Room
2030 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission: Impossible
2300 Late News
2315 Tonight Show

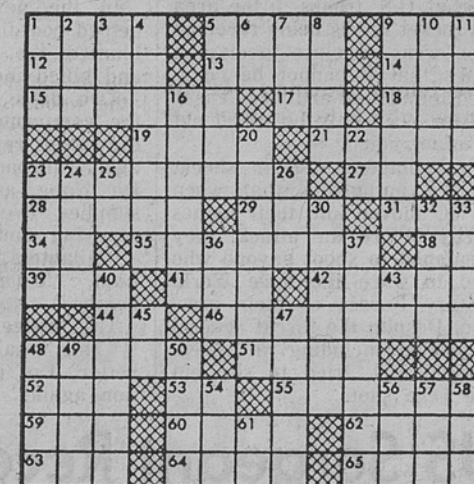
Tuesday Feb. 27

1830 News Headlines
1930 Official Detective
1930 Bobby Lord Show
1930 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2005 Biography
2030 Green Acres
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Combat
2300 Late News
2315 Feature Movie

CROSSWORD PUZZLE Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS
1-Three-banded armadillo
5-Cleaning substance
9-Part of face
12-Crippled
13-Unemployed
14-Southern blackbird
15-Censured
17-Parent (colloq.)
18-Possessive pronoun
19-Spanish pot
21-Flower
23-Roomers
27-Compass point
28-Get up
29-Study
31-Pigeon pea
32-Note of scale
35-Eccentric
38-Behold!
39-Cloth measure
41-Overspring
42-Missile weapon
44-Printer's measure
46-Drinking glasses
48-Domesticated
51-Small factory
52-Time gone by
53-Guide's low note
55-Confederacy
59-Writing implement
60-Fashion
62-Secretary of State
63-Paid notices
64-Insects
65-Dirk

DOWN
4-Penitence
5-Move
6-Hypothetical force
7-High mountain
8-Fuel
9-Incarcerated
10-One opposed
11-Small bunch of straw
16-Church officials
20-Secret
22-Pronoun
23-Reveal
24-City in Russia
25-Three-toed sloth
26-Drunkard
30-Eat in small bits
32-Winglike
33-Defeat
36-Decay
37-Part of coat (pl.)
40-Citrus fruit (pl.)
43-French article
45-Pronoun
47-Distance
48-Bark cloth
49-Ancient
50-Speechless
54-Pedal
56-Weapon
57-Employ
58-Piece out
61-Prefix: down



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SPORTS

(AFPS Feature)

- How many times in the 21-year history of the NBA has the season's individual scoring leader been a member of the championship team?
- What player holds the major league record for stolen bases in a single season?
- Who are the top four men on the National Hockey League's All-Time list of shutouts by NHL goalies?
- When was the first NFL title game played?

- Who holds the all-time World Series hitting record?
- Babe Ruth with .358 in the 1928 Series.
- In 1933 between the Chicago Bears and the New York Giants.
- Terry Sawchuk, George for the L.A. Dodgers in 1967.
- When was the first NFL title game played?

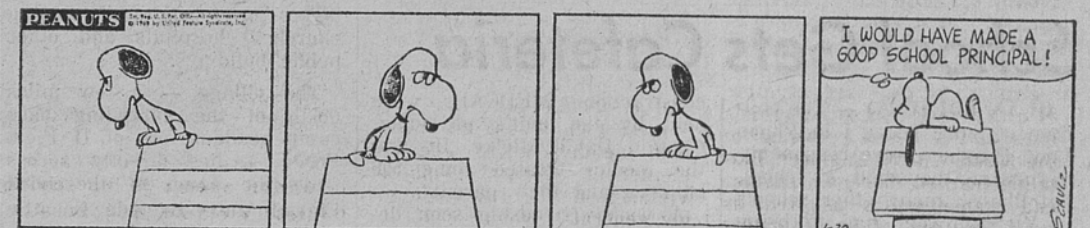
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



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

Informant Program Succeeds

CHU LAI (USA) — Due to his promotion of the Voluntary Informant Program, Second Lieutenant Patrick F. Van Duynhoven used up approximately 90 per cent of the Americal Division's December allotment for the program.

By encouraging the local Vietnamese to turn in mines and other explosives for a piaster reward, he depleted the VIP funds in less than a month and had to work on credit until the funds were replenished.

Lieutenant Van Duynhoven is a platoon leader in the 39th Engineer Battalion's Charlie Company which is located just outside the town of Mo Duc, 40 miles south of Chu Lai.

The purpose of the Voluntary Informant Program is to encourage Vietnamese civilians to give information concerning the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army, to show the location of mines and booby traps, and to turn in weapons, ammunition and explosives for cash or material rewards.

Lieutenant Van Duynhoven got no response when leaflets explaining the Voluntary Informant Program were distributed, so he went into Mo Duc to talk with the people personally. He found the boys who spoke a little English to be the most interested in the program.

At first they brought in only a few mines; but after receiving 50 to 1,000 piasters for each explosive (depending upon the size), they began to bring in an average of 20 munitions a day. From 30 to 40 boys bring in the explosives from a radius of four to five miles around Mo Duc.

School Gets Cafeteria

QUAN LOI (USA) — The children of Sung Trung I in Phuoc Long Province were reasonably fortunate: they had a school, but like so many other schools in Vietnam they had to bring their own lunches, as the school did not have a cafeteria.

That is, it did not have a cafeteria until the 1st Infantry Division's civil affairs officer, First Lieutenant David Lambert, saw the problem and decided to have his unit do something about it.

He brought the problem to the attention of Lieutenant Colonel Mortimer L. O'Connor, commander of the nearby 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry.

The division provided the materials, and soon a group of infantrymen were busy working on the cafeteria. During the



ONE MILLION PIASTERS—President Nguyen Van Thieu talks with Nguyen Van Bang, former member, 2nd NVA Division, who showed men of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry of Americal's 196th Brigade, the location of 140 enemy weapons. President Thieu rewarded nearly one million piasters to Bang for the cache. (USA PHOTO By Sp4 Fred L. Tolman)

Ho Nai Refugees Aided By II FF Civil Affairs Company

LONG BINH (II FF) — Refugee care for the villagers of Ho Nai — 19 miles northeast of Saigon—began before the guns, rockets and mortars stopped exploding recently in the besieged village.

With the assistance of the 2nd Civil Affairs (CA) Company, II Field Force, Vietnam, Colonel

William H. Pietsch — assistant chief of staff for civil affairs—has continued his "Operation Friendship" for the predominantly Catholic village.

Over the year, Operation Friendship has brought numerous improvements to Ho Nai. Today most of those improvements are in ruins and the villagers are scattered among churches, hospitals and other public buildings.

The village — a few miles north of the sprawling base camp headquarters of II Field Force — lies directly across from the camp of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Because of its proximity to key military targets along the Saigon-Bien Hoa Highway, Ho Nai became the unwilling hideout of at least a battalion of the same enemy from whom the villagers first fled in 1954 when they trekked south from North Vietnam.

After the attack on the Greater Bien Hoa area at 3 a.m. on January 31—while the villagers were still celebrating the lunar new year (Tet) — Ho Nai was caught in the crossfire between the attacking Viet Cong and the defending U.S. troops. At least 20 per cent of the village was totally destroyed; the rest suffered damage.

The 2nd CA Company, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel David E. Wade, provided first for basic needs. Water in inflatable rubber tanks, and nearly 20 tons of rice, have been moved into the shattered community. The company has also provided tents for temporary shelter for 10,000 refugees from the village and neighboring hamlets.

It is presently estimated that the Ho Nai hospital is housing 4,000 of the refugees; another 3,000 are expected to seek shelter.

The 61st Medical Detachment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence LaTure, is preparing to inoculate at least 5,000 refugees as a preventive measure against cholera and typhoid, although there have been no indications that an

epidemic is imminent.

Plans are also being made to allow the villagers to return to their areas to salvage what is left and to begin sorting out their needs for rebuilding.

Heavy security remains around Ho Nai, as it probably will for the near future. Intelligence sources indicate that remnants of the Viet Cong are hiding among the villagers disguised in civilian clothes. Some VC have continued to snipe at U.S. troops in the area and rocket fire is being received from areas so close to civilian homes that it cannot be countered by air and artillery. These positions can only be taken out by infantrymen.

The villagers, still in shock, told U.S. authorities, that, when the VC moved into their homes shortly before the attack, they threatened to shoot anyone who tried to warn the Free World Military Forces of their presence. Despite the threat several townsfolk, including a seven-year-old girl, tried to slip out and were shot.

US Sergeant Receives Thai Medal For Valor

LONG THANH (USA) — Sergeant Thomas D. O'Connell, a communications specialist attached to the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Regiment, recently received a Bronze Star for Valor and the Thai Medal of Brav-



Sgt. Thomas D. O'Connell

Major's 'Dream' Fulfilled

(Continued From Page 1)

Major Milantoni said.

The bombs fell less than 200 meters away. The VC rifle fire slackened a little. The general smiled and called several more airstrikes.

Then as the VC started pulling out he called in helicopter gunships and hosed them down.

The general smiled again, tapped his ebony swagger stick against his leg and walked out.

The reaction force swept in on the VC.

ARVN Lieutenant Colonel Phan Hoa Hiep, Da Nang Defense Area Commander, planned the sweep on the spot—a spot so hot that the colonel's driver and his radio operator were killed.

The colonel designated Major Nguyen Van Hiep, commander of the 1st Ranger Group, as reaction force commander and named Major Nguyen Van Cua, executive officer of the 4th Cavalry — a former Olympic Boxer — as second in command.

The two officers put their command — which included one APC machinegunner who reported so fast that he spent the day in white pajamas — to work.

The soldiers pried the VC out of dense Ap Ba village just south of the I Corps headquarters, bounced them against Marine MPs who were blocking to the west, then drove them south into the fires of a force of Vietnamese soldiers and U.S. Marines.

Seventy-three of the VC died in sight of the I Corps headquarters. The southern blocking force killed 102 more.

Major Can was hard at work in his bullet-nicked TOC.

In the next three days he helped coordinate actions which blunted the VC Tet offensive and killed more than 3,000 VC.

Two days after the fight at the compound, North Vietnamese troops repaired a war damaged railroad bridge south of Da Nang and began hauling supplies over it. They were readying another attack.

"Milantoni," said General Lam, "bomb it. Use big bombs."

The bridge fell. "This," said Major Can, "is better. I'm getting lots of action again."

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

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TO:

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)

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 288 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)

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 attack 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 (H 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,

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 can 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.

In some cases, men attending schools to increase their MOS skill level will be promoted to E-4 when they enter the course, and, if the course is 12 weeks or longer, they may be promoted to E-5 when they graduate.

There is a similar policy for candidates attending the Non-commissioned Officers Candidate School's Combat Leadership course, except that five percent of the candidates may be promoted to E-5 when they finish the 12 weeks of formal training.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

New Aid For Hawaii R&R

SAIGON (MACV) — As a service to personnel serving in Vietnam who are planning R&R to Hawaii, the Fort De Russy R&R Center now has facilities available to make advance hotel reservations for servicemen and their dependents. Personnel interested in utilizing this service should write to Fort De Russy R&R Center, APO 96558. Request for hotel reservations should include the following:

1. Hotel preference (if any) are desired.
2. Amount you desire to pay for accommodations.
3. Period accommodations are desired.
4. If no specific hotel is desired, but a specific location is desired (near the beach, away from the beach, etc.) this should be included. Every effort will be made to comply with the above directions.

Review On Home Loans

WASHINGTON — An extensive review of the G.I. loan program for peacetime veterans and servicemen is planned early this session of Congress by the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

The Committee is concerned about the nationwide shortage of mortgage money available to G.I. home buyers.

Committee chairman Rep. Olin Teague (D., Tex.) has written to many of the nation's bankers and lenders asking them for suggestions on how to improve the G.I. loan program.

He said the Committee wants to "explore such questions as interest rates, supply of mortgage money, and the amount of money to be guaranteed by the Veterans Administration."

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.

There is a section of the U.S. fighting man's code which states, "I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist." These men helped write it. What it means is that no man may surrender himself or his men while he can still fight. If it looks like a hopeless situation, the fighting man does not give in to the enemy. He can and does break contact with the enemy forces, evades them and makes his way back to friendly lines where he will fight again. If he commands a unit, the unit remains intact and under his control. He and his men fight their way out. Surrender means a prisoner of war camp and an extremely uncertain future. The communists in the Far East have shown 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?

SAIGON (MACV) — For those of you who enjoy receiving mail but have been left out during the past few mail calls, we have just the answer for you.

"Operation Write," a correspondence project started by two lovely teen-aged sisters from San Diego, Calif., has come to your rescue.

Terry and Eileen Tucker, the original innovators of the program, have discovered that GIs

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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New IMPACT Program To Help RF/PF Troops

LONG BINH (II FFV)—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.

First established last October, the IMPACT program is designed to improve the effectiveness of South Vietnam's "Minutemen", the 50,000 man Regional/Popular Forces (RF/PF).

There are 11 IMPACT teams at work in the III Corps Tactical Zone. Each is composed of three men — a combat-experienced infantry lieutenant, a senior NCO and an interpreter. Additional personnel can be assigned to a team, depending upon the specific support needs of individual RF/PF outposts.

Assistance comes in the form of training in basic military skills, improvement of existing weapons fire plans and means of obtaining fire support, instructions in first aid and sanitation, and limited re-stocking of medical supplies.

RF/PFs are also taught to inspect and make limited repairs on weapons, signal devices, vehicles and other equipment. A course on civic action programs is also included in the instruction.

Second Lieutenant Steven

Chung, of the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, heads a typical IMPACT team.

"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."

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.

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.

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.

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 with qualified medical corpsmen.

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. Connerly 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."

The medical course trains the RF soldier in theory and practice of first aid, including how to stop bleeding, how to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and how to practice basic sanitation. The latest cycle of trainees graduated Jan. 8, with all 52 students completing the course.

Following graduation, the new corpsmen receive additional training designed to enable them to work with "Dust Off" crews in evacuating casualties from a battle field. "Dust Off" is the nickname for the highly skilled helicopters and their crews who evacuate casualties, many times flying almost into the thick of battle to rush wounded to hospitals.

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

helicopters to the exact location of wounded, how to place the injured aboard the helicopter without furthering his injuries, and how to complete patient loading in a minimum of time.

Doctor (Captain) Lam Ngoc Quang, the III Corps Chief Surgeon, is enthusiastic about this additional training and hopes "to see at least three times as many students given 'Dust Off' training in 1968."

American Advisor Cites RF Officer's Leadership

LONG BINH (II FF) — A young Vietnamese officer with the Regional Forces has been singled out by the American advisor for Regional/Popular Forces (RF/PF) in Vietnam's III Corps for outstanding leadership in the face of Viet Cong fire.

First Lieutenant Nguyen Cong Khanh — the commander of the 849th Regional Force Company in Thu Thua District — recently led his unit on a night ambush and helicopter assault.

When the ambush was sprung, Lieutenant Khanh directed the fire of his reserve forces and then led a river-crossing to aid his unit.

The Viet Cong were routed, two Viet Cong were killed and an AK 50 automatic assault rifle and an automatic pistol

were captured.

The next day the Lieutenant led his company on a helicopter operation. While he was in flight, the mission was altered and the company was inserted into an unfamiliar landing zone.

Taking personal charge of the mission, Lieutenant Khanh directed his unit's actions, resulting in two Viet Cong detained and several items of personal equipment captured.

Major Curtis L. McKenzie, the RF/PF Training advisor for the III Corps who accompanied the unit in both actions, said, "The dynamic leadership of this outstanding officer has resulted in the commendable performance of his unit. It also exemplifies the excellent support of the MAT unit (Mobile Advisory Team), which advises this unit."



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)

RF/PF Repulse VC, Capture Explosives

LONG BINH (IFF)—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.

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.

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 TAM (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 look-

ing for known VC residing in the area. Residents also were questioned about the recent attack on a truck carrying Vietnamese orphans home from a Christmas party at Dong Tam base.

In one instance, a civilian un-

der routine questioning told the search team that though he was not a Viet Cong, he knew where some were.

Acting on this information, the searchers raided a nearby barber shop and nabbed a VC suspect along with two of his cohorts without firing a shot.

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.

"And the new marketplace will provide more sanitary conditions for the farmers to sell

their goods," he explained. "It will be built over the site of the old market which was almost ready to fall down."

In conjunction with the construction projects, the unit's MEDCAP teams are administering cholera and smallpox vaccinations. The vaccine is being supplied by the Vietnamese government and is being given by U.S. personnel. And, in the lieutenant's words, "... is the first step in teaching the people preventive medicine and health sanitation."

"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."



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)

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-mate 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)

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 counter-part organizations which have been integrated into most of the country's social structure for some time.

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.

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 children to have the education they never had; orphan girls who become secretaries and



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

man. Another aspect of the BISH program is a school for social workers being operated in Saigon. It has a capacity for 30 to 40 trainees.

But the most impressive of all BISH projects in Vietnam, according to people who know the organization, is the 65-acre boys vocational center now under construction in Thu Duc near Bien Hoa.

It is a sort of Vietnamese Boys Town that will house 500 boys when completed in the summer of 1969. There'll be 19 trade workshops, bungalow-type dormitories, an amphitheater, a medical complex, a reception center and an athletic field.

The German administrators of the project emphasize that the boys who live at the vocational center will not necessarily be juvenile delinquents. They say most of the boys will be merely

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
JOC William Polk
Staff Writer/Photographer



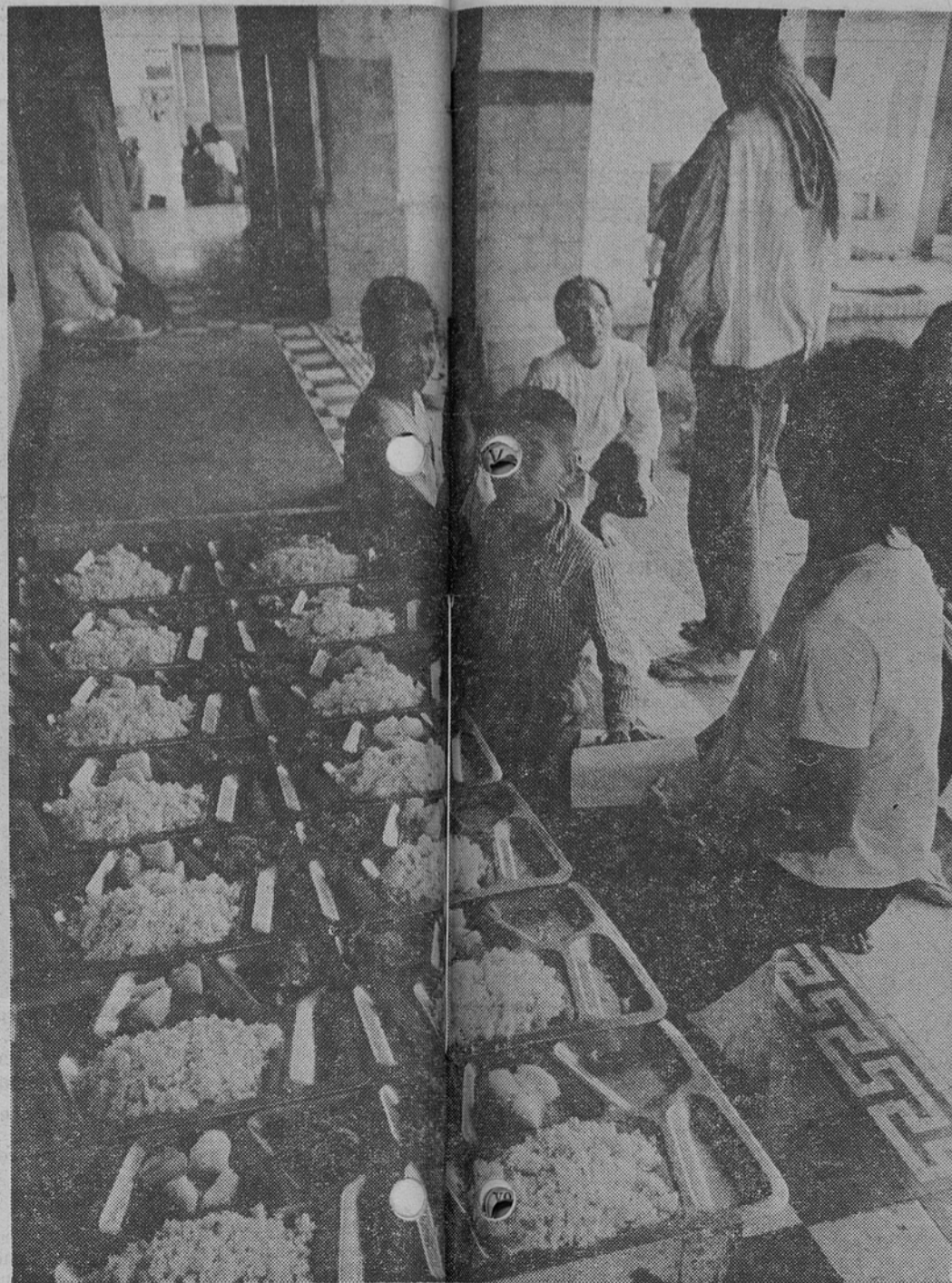
German and Vietnamese work together on BISH's programs.



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, Rach Gia, the day began at 7 a.m. when Doctor Murray came into the "bac si" (doctor) house adjoining the province hospital 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 the hospital patients, and the Americans and Vietnamese whose job 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 the 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—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 nurses 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 with 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 general duty nurses, and five U.S. Army corpsmen—work at the province

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 the 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

MGySgt John T. Frye
USMC

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. Theirs 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.

The team now has 74 experimental and demonstration sites in I Corps. These 10x20-foot plots are prominently located and marked by identifying signs.

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-peddle 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.

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 food and agriculture representatives give out CARE seeds after breaking down bulk lots into supermarket-size packets. In 18 months more than 5,000 pounds have been distributed in the provinces. Another 2,000 pounds of assorted seeds are on hand.

It is the team's hope to sell the Vietnamese on planting larger areas in vegetables than the usual family-consumption plots. The idea of selling in the market places, to RVN, and to U.S. and Free World forces is being promoted.



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.

ARVN Engineer School Helps Provide For Future

STORY BY
SGT GARY LIVENGOOD

LONG BINH (I 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.

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 Hue hopes that civilians will be able to attend the school, and supply Vietnam with highly qualified personnel for the redevelopment 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.

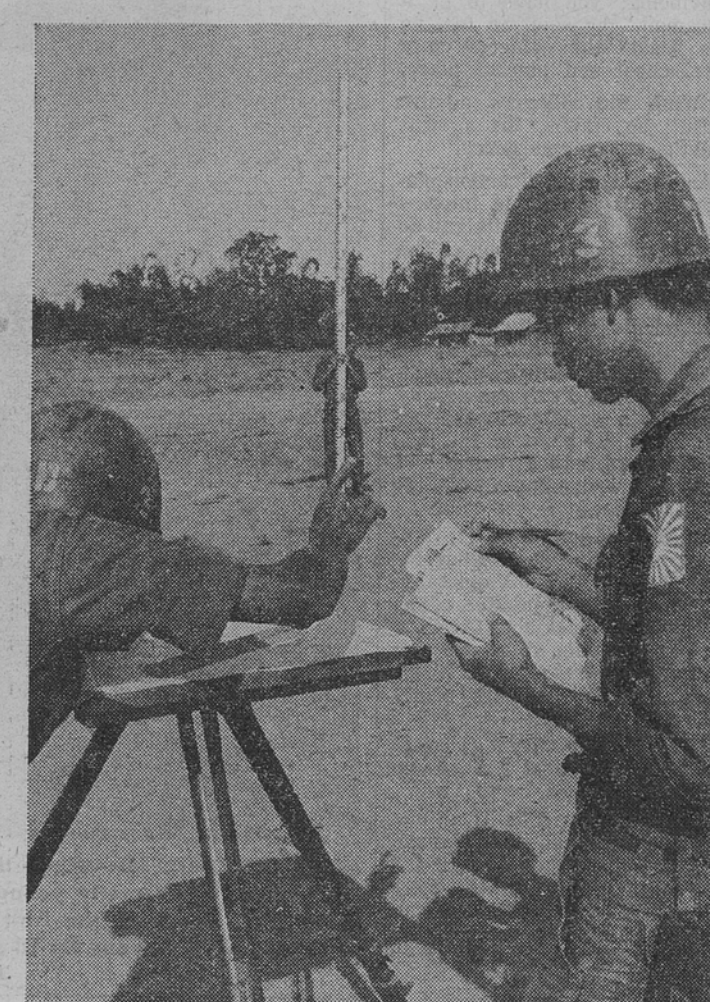
VC Ambush Villagers: Infantrymen Rush Aid

DAK TO (USA)—After spending a day at the market in Dak To, the Montagnard villagers of Dak Roman were returning home. As they walked along a forest trail, enemy gunfire broke the jungle stillness, wounding and killing several of the villagers.

Seeking medical aid for the wounded, the Montagnards decided to return to Dak To by way of a nearby village where they spent the night.

The following morning, a 1st Brigade MEDCAP team from the 4th Infantry Division arrived at the village for a routine call to find the wounded villagers. It was then that Warrant Officer William Braddock, a 4th Military Intelligence Detachment special agent working with the team, learned of an orphan girl whose parents had been killed the day before.

After the wounded had been treated, Mr. Braddock returned



Practical exercise in surveying is demonstrated by students.

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.

with the team to the 1st Brigade camp at Dak To with the little girl in hand to arrange for her care.

Colonel Richard H. Johnson, the 1st Brigade commander (known to his men as "Cherokee") could hardly believe his eyes at the evening briefing when he walked First Lieutenant Walter Chun, the assistant S-5 officer, with the little girl in his arms.

Explaining her sudden orphanhood, Lieutenant Chun added, "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 representative to the 1st Brigade, plans to adopt the child.

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 overturned truck, 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.

A Two-Way Civic Action Is Best: Maj.

CHU LAI (USA) — The civic action officer for the Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade—Major Robert M. Pugmire Jr.—believes civic action projects in his area must be a "two way street."

This means encouraging local officials to study the local civic problems and come up with their own solution to these problems.

Only recently the brigade was able to provide money for extensive repairs to the dispensary in An Thanh, which has some 3,810 residents. "We probably could have gone there and made the repairs ourselves," said the major, "but instead of doing this, we encouraged the villagers to select the materials and for them to do the repairs personally."

"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.

By Providing Basic Needs

Marines Adopt Orphan Girl

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 Sergeant'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.

It started before Christmas when donations were taken in some of the clubs at Marble Mountain. The club manager, Gunnery Sergeant Clarence C. Webb, decided that a simple donation wasn't enough. "Why not just go ahead and support an orphan?"

The idea snowballed until, a few days later, Nguyen Thi Nahn was selected as the "Sweetheart of MAG-16 Sergeants". A large sign with her picture has been placed in the club with a simple caption: "Happiness is a dollar well spent."

To a pretty little Vietnamese girl, who has seen too much war and sorrow, happiness is 300 foster fathers.



Nguyen Thi Nahn has been adopted by over 300 sergeants.

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.

"During off-duty time the Marines and PFs get together for Co Tuong (Sino-Vietnamese chess) and Hai Muoi Met, which is similar to blackjack. The PFs, all native of Hoa Hiep, are also spirited soccer players. Their band of play includes plenty of head knocking.

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.

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 MEDCAPs are one of the projects of the Battalion S-5 and the battalion aid station, which is gaining the friendship of the villagers of AP-5, a small hamlet just east of the 3rd Brigade,

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

(PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)

MAT Team Gives Aid To RFs In Bo Kinh

LONG BINH (H FF) — Army First Lieutenant Max R. Hand has a theory about how to achieve success in a job when you're working with the Vietnamese.

He feels that his theory is well expressed in the words, "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you," a familiar line from the musical comedy, "The King and I".

Lieutenant Hand's job 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.

The first job faced by Lieute-

nant Hand, on being assigned there three months ago, was "getting to know" all about his counterpart, First Lieutenant Nguyen Cong Khanh, the RF commander.

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

"He started out right from the beginning with a desire to make his company one of the best," the U.S. officer said. "For my part, I made it a point to learn as much of his culture and language as I could."

This has resulted in the development of an excellent rapport between the two officers, one that is readily visible to even the most casual observer. For example, the MAT unit has an interpreter assigned, but he is rarely needed when the officers get together.

In addition to their military roll, 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 dynamo who got the job done."

US Marines Airlift ROK To Hoi An

DA NANG (USMC) — Ten helicopters of Marine Aircraft Group-16 lifted more than 1,000 Korean Marines and 20 tons of cargo recently in one of the largest air lifts involving Korean forces since their arrival.

Four CH-53A Sea Stallion helicopters of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-463 were assigned the task of lifting the cargo, while six CH-46 Sea Knights of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265 flew the equipment-laden Marines from south of Chu Lai.

Gunships of Marine Observation Squadron-2 provided close armed escort for the lift. The UH-1E Huey gunships swept the area south of Chu Lai prior to the arrival of the larger transport birds of Mag-16.

The Korean forces were moved to their new area at Hoi An, south of Da Nang, where they joined the remainder of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade.

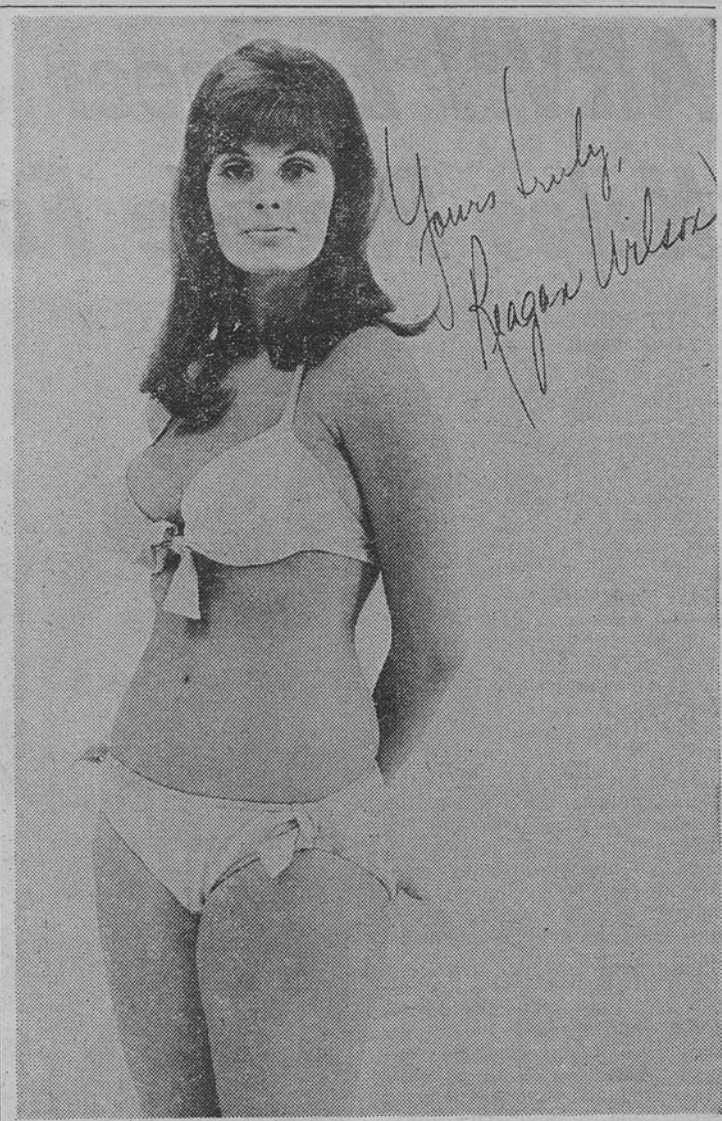
After the second wave of CH-46 Sea Knights delivered troops into the Hoi An area, well-hidden Viet Cong opened up from three sides, their bullets ripping into the sides of at least three aircraft lifting from the area.

Naval gunfire, 105mm howitzer fire and air strikes were called in while Korean Marines began routing the well-trenched enemy from tree lines and bunkers.

No casualties were suffered by the ROK force.



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



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

(PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)

25th Infantry Division base camp at Dau Tieng. When the first MEDCAP was held over two months ago it consisted of mostly young children who would come to get the candy the "Bac Si" would give them after being treated. But now both young and old alike are standing in line to receive medication. On an average Sunday, as many as 90 Vietnamese have been treated.

One of the first patients treated by the MEDCAP was a 10-year-old girl who had sores over most of her body. After being treated twice weekly for a month, the child's infections had healed almost completely.

"These continued treatments were not available prior to conducting bi-weekly MEDCAPs at AP-5," said Captain Paul

Pied Piper Rolls Along

LONG BINH (USA) — Thirty-nine-year-old William Winslow is the Pied Piper of Long Binh. He doesn't give anything away or play a flute, he just walks along the road rolling a wheel. Vietnamese children think this is pretty funny.

"So many of them were following me, I was frightened," said Mr. Winslow.

The kids looked on in quiet amazement, but the convicts that stopped Mr. Winslow and his compatriots as they walked from Long Binh to Bear Cat wanted answers. "What are you doing?" they would ask rather tentatively. "Pushing a wheel," we told them. But what they really were doing was more than just pushing a wheel. They were measuring the distance between two Army posts

so that they would know how much cable is needed to link the Army Headquarters at Long Binh with Bear Cat, home of elements of the 9th Infantry Division. William Zierer, another of the wheelers, explains that the wheel, with a three-foot orange handle, is equipped with a counter which clicks off the feet as it rolls along. James Outcault also walks the roads of Vietnam with the counter and covers most of the northern provinces. All are employees of Lockheed Electronics Company and are under contract to the U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command. They work for Communications Systems Engineering Management Agency of the 1st Signal Brigade.

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
1930 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2005 Scientists 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
1930 News and Sports
2000 Flying Fisherman
2030 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2005 Information Feature
2030 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Late News
2315 Jerry Lewis

Friday Feb. 16

1830 News Headlines
1930 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2005 Information Feature
2030 Bewitched
2100 Big Valley
2200 Alfred Hitchcock
2300 Late News
2315 Joey Bishop Show

Saturday Feb. 17

1230 News Headlines
1300 Mike Douglas Show
1345 Greatest Dramas
1400 CBS Golf Classic
1500 Sports of the Week
1730 Information Special
1830 Lawrence Welk
1930 News and Sports
2000 Insight

2005 Information Feature
2030 My Favorite Martian
2100 Jackie Gleason
2200 Gunsmoke
2300 Late News
2315 Feature Movie

Sunday Feb. 18

1230 News Headlines
1300 Christopher/Sacred Heart
1330 Chapel of the Air
1330 Feature Movie
1500 Sports of the Week
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 Fractured Flickers
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Late News
2315 Dean Martin Summer Show

Monday Feb. 19

1830 News Headlines
1930 News & Sports
2000 Insight
2005 Magic Room
2030 Hollywood Palace
2130 AFVN Tel Special
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Late News
2315 Tonight Show

Tuesday Feb. 20

1830 News Headlines
1930 Official Detective
1930 Bobby Lord Show
1930 News and Sports
2000 Insight
2005 Biography
2030 Green Acres
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Combat
2300 Late News
2315 Feature Movie

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

1-Mountain in Crete

4-Babylonian deity

6-Rents

11-Fame

13-Worn away

15-Indefinite article

16-Initiates

18-Chinese mile

19-Pronoun

21-Harvest

22-Girl's name

24-Wife of Zeus

26-Hurried

28-Lamprey

29-Droopy

31-Ireland

33-Rupees (abbr.)

34-Incline

36-Disk

38-Civil Service (abbr.)

40-Expires

42-Stories

45-Chapeau

47-Woody plant

49-Be borne

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

DOWN

1-Man's name

2-Negated

3-Indefinite article

4-Pitcher

5-Poker stakes

6-Assistants

7-Anger

8-Flower

9-Man's nickname

10-Dealer

12-Preposition

14-Indicators

17-Blind

20-Allowance for waste

23-French article

24-Pronoun

25-Among

27-Force

30-Landed

32-Approach

35-Frights

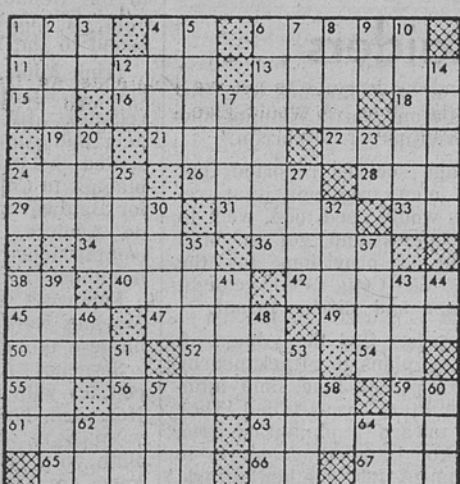
37-Lamb's pen name

38-Seat

39-Oriental salute

ACROSS
1-Mountain in Crete
4-Babylonian deity
6-Rents
11-Fame
13-Worn away
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25-Among
27-Force
30-Landed
32-Approach
35-Frights
37-Lamb's pen name
38-Seat
39-Oriental salute
41-Juncture
43-Prepared for print
44-Compass point
46-Symbol for tantalum
48-Encomium
51-Part of fireplace
53-Short jacket
57-Female ruff
58-Spanish article
60-Number
62-Symbol for calcium
64-Note of scale



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(AFPS Feature)
1. What two NBA players have been named to the All-NBA first team more times than any player in NBA history?
2. What former National Hockey League star once scored three goals in 21 seconds?
3. When was the only Rose Bowl game between two Pacific Coast Conference teams played?
4. Only twice in Rose Bowl history has the game not been between collegiate teams. When did this happen and who were the teams?

Answers

1. Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain
2. 1957
3. In 1914 when USC beat Stanford
4. 1956 when the Marquette Maroons beat the Navy Midshipmen

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



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.

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 jeep 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."

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.

Viets Earn US Valor Medals



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

LONG THANH (USA) — Fifteen Vietnamese Marines received awards for valor from the 9th Infantry Division in a ceremony at Marine Headquarters in Saigon.

Major General G.G. O'Connor, commanding general of the division, presented one of the Marines with the US Silver Star while 14 others received Bronze Stars for their gallantry.

The awards were given for the Marines participation in Operation Coronado II.

Combined US and 3rd Battalion Vietnamese Marine forces killed 285 Viet Cong in an eight day operation in the Cam Son Secret Zone.

"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."

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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TO:

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.

Americal Relocates Farmers

CHU LAI (USA) — An Americal 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."

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-



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. Garner 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 principles along with rudimentary first-aid measures.

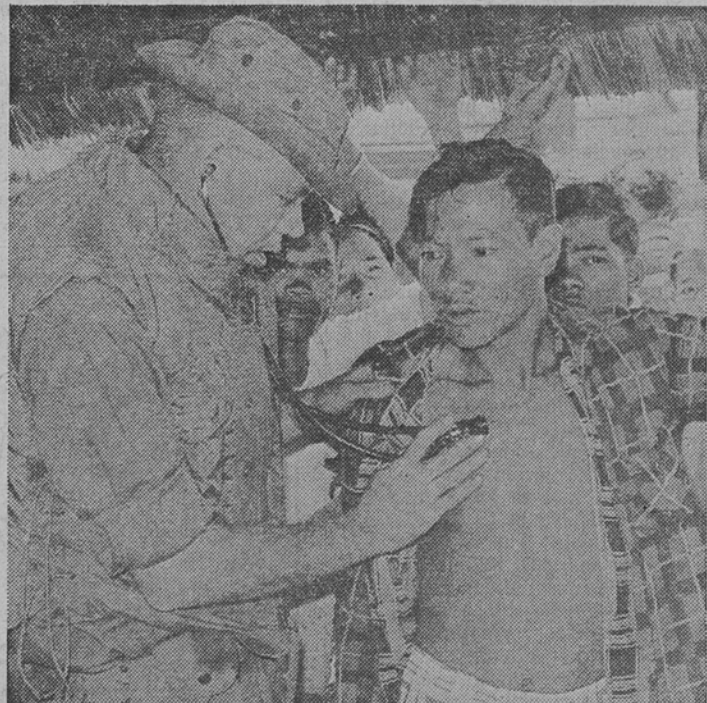
"We are preparing them to take care of themselves for the time when we are no longer around to help them," said the team leader. "And it's not an easy assignment."

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."



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

value for every dime spent. We need to buy only what we need, to save in every way we can and to budget carefully in those areas that lend themselves to reckless spending.

It is no easy task and there is no easy way to accomplish it, except by giving the subject of combating inflation our attention each and every day and in all areas of our operations here. (MACV)



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 \$7,900. 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 assignment.



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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 Dien, 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 then 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 navy men 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

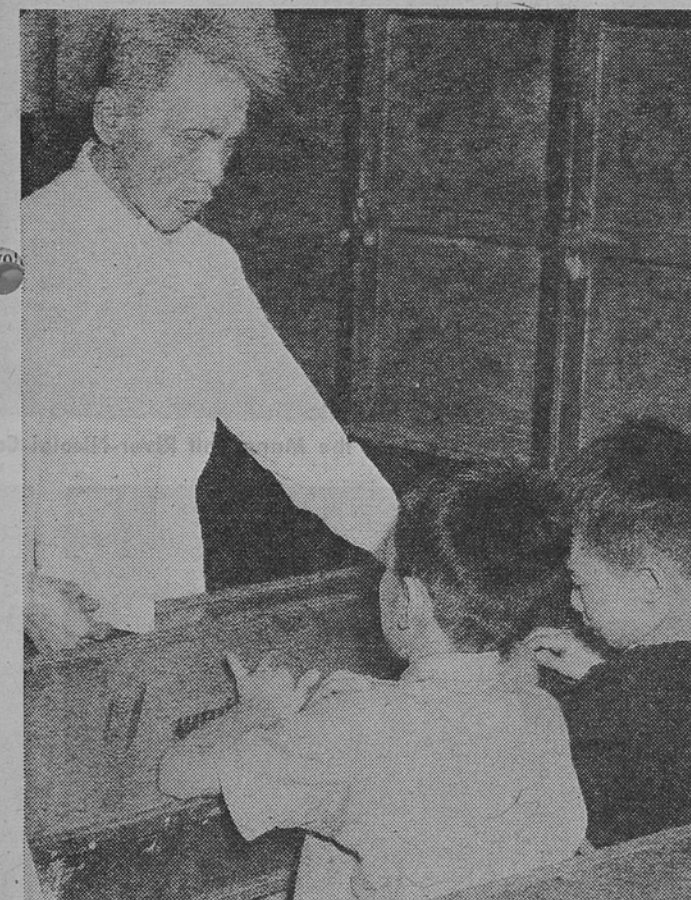
at Dien. Red tape was snipped and a truck load of recently captured rice was on its way to Saigon.

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

Major Suong shows a visitor the school's crafts shop.



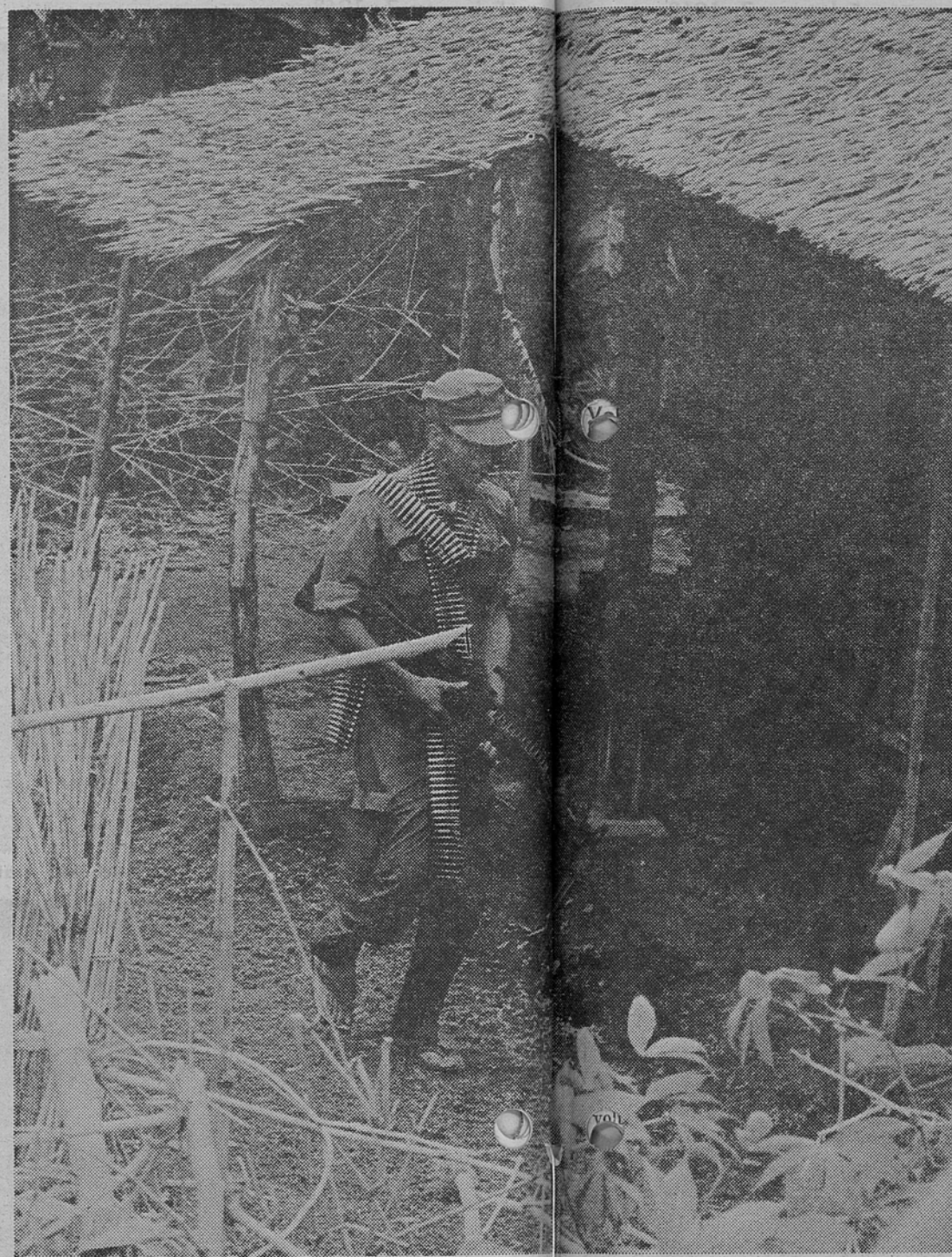
Two blind students solve math problems for their instructor. Typing and Geography are taught in the same classroom at the Cholon school for Blind.



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.

Even before the canal was declared formally "open" on Aug. 8, there was a noticeable increase in its traffic, with more than 940 large (60 to 100 ton class) crafts using the waterway between June 1 and Dec. 1, 1967.

Before this campaign, the Viet Cong used extortion as a means of getting supplies and collecting "taxes" from users of the waterway, as it was a major supply route for them.

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.

New Outpost

During the course of the campaign, the combined Vietnamese ground and naval forces constructed 11 new outposts to help in controlling the 31-mile long waterway. They also built bridges, classrooms, roads, medical facilities and a marketplace while pacifying five former VC-controlled hamlets.

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.

As the former U.S. Navy Advisor to RAG 31, Lieutenant Robert N. Tidball, put it, "The Vietnamese RAGs played an important part in reopening the Mang Thit-Nicolai canal. Without their courageous efforts in regaining control of the vital waterway, it might not be open today."

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



A U.S. Air Force dentist treats Vietnamese during a VNAF MEDCAP field trip.

VNAF Medics Visit Hamlets

DA NANG (I CORPS) — "We would like to come here more often, but there are so many other villages that need our help," said First Lieutenant Le Thuc Lang.

Lieutenant Lang was talking about his MEDCAP visit to Khue Trung II hamlet just south of Da Nang air base. He wants to do more for the people, but there are five other nearby hamlets that keep him busy.

Doctor Lang heads a Vietnamese Air Force (41st Wing) MEDCAP team in his free time. He visits the hamlets every chance he gets.

During his visit to Khue Trung, the VNAF doctor treated 70 patients.

"Most of the people are either young or old," the doctor says. Our cases range from stomach and headaches to malaria, skin

infections and rheumatic diseases."

"It's a fine program, but it isn't enough. We get back to the same hamlet about once a month, but more teams and medicine are needed," he added.

Lieutenant Lang has 10 Vietnamese Air Force medical specialists to help him and his team often gets a big boost from the U.S. dental clinic of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Da Nang. During a recent MEDCAP visit, the base dental section treated all patients requiring dental treatment.

"Most of our work," said the lieutenant, "involves diagnosing the illnesses and then doing what we can with pills, antibiotics and minor treatment. Our American friends in the dental clinic take care of the problems dealing with oral hygiene."

Marine Jets Support ARVN

CHU LAI (USMC)—Two F-4B Phantom jets of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-115 recently disabled a platoon of Viet Cong south of here during a close air support mission for an outnumbered Republic of Vietnam Army reconnaissance team.

Marine Captain John C. Hurst, the Phantom flight wingman, said, "A Marine helicopter was trying to evacuate a wounded ARVN soldier and a U.S. advisor when we arrived over the target area. The recon team was pinned down by heavy fire from a village of fortified structures. Our forward airborne controller told us that the enemy and ARVN troops were im-

peding the evacuation lift."

"The proximity of the team and the enemy was bad enough for both of our Phantoms, but the situation was a little more exciting for myself and my radar intercept operator (RIO) (First Lieutenant Allan L. Sherwin)."

Their Phantom blew a tire during take-off, adding another moment of tension to the situation. During the 30-minute mission, the pair worked with the controller to hit the Viet Cong at low altitudes while contacting Chu Lai to prepare for an emergency landing.

Over the target, the Phantoms drew intense enemy small arms fire, which allowed the heli-

copter to dip into the area and extract the wounded men. As the evacuation aircraft lifted away from the area, the ARVN troops began a speedy withdrawal and the jet fighters attacked.

According to Captain Hurst, the controller called upon the flight leader, Lieutenant Colonel Carl L. Battistone, and his RIO, First Lieutenant Ronald P. Robson, to make the first attack run over the fortified village. Alternating their passes, the two Phantoms delivered more than three tons of ordnance, destroying or damaging 22 structures and killing 10 enemy troops.

"After Colonel Battistone dropped his first two 250-pound bombs" the captain said, "the controller spotted the enemy troops abandoning the riddled section of the village and running in the open. They were the target for my first run with 500 pound bombs. Making low altitude runs to avoid endangering the friendly force, we could see the effects of our ordnance and the hostile fire ceased."

Flight line Marines at Marine Aircraft Group-13 were standing by as the Phantoms returned to Chu Lai. Emergency precautions had been taken for the landing of the crippled aircraft.

Captain Hurst piloted his jet with precision as the Phantom's dangling hook for short airfield landings caught the shore-based arresting gear line which stretches across the west runway.

U.S. Soldiers Help Build New Village Market

DAU TIENG (USA) — Not too long ago the village marketplace in Dau Tieng was badly in need of repairs and very overcrowded on market days. Today it is the village show-

case. It came about shortly after local district officials contacted the 25th Division's 3rd Brigade Civil Affairs Team about the possibilities of getting some assistance in remodeling the old market place.

The team obtained the needed materials and the villagers started doing the actual repairs. They expanded both sides of the building, which increased floor space by 40 per cent, and repaired and repainted the whole building.

All work was done by the villagers and Vietnamese soldiers stationed in the local area.

"We now have a market place

that will benefit all people of the district and one that we can all be proud of," stated the district chief at a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the improved marketplace.



The new marketplace in Dau Tieng is a beehive of activity.

Unit Tumbles Trees

Key Road Cleared

LONG THANH (USA) — During the recently completed operation Santa Fe, the 86th Engineer Battalion's Land Clearing team and Company A cleared 82 miles of roadway, created 11 base camps and landing zones and helped restore commerce to a large portion of Binh Tuy Province.

Until the past November, the jungles around Highway 1 in Binh Tuy had provided ambush cover for the Viet Cong. The route had been closed to civilian traffic for years, and villages along the route had been abandoned.

Then on Nov. 1 the engineers, supporting the 9th Infantry Division, moved in with their Rome plows-bulldozers equipped with angled, razor-edged blades and began clearing land. In all they

leveled 8,898 acres of medium heavy jungle and removed 3,821 acres of fallen trees.

In cases where the trees were too large for fast plow work, they were blasted out. Company A's Demolition Platoon used 192,850 pounds of explosives to fell 5,090 trees measuring from 18 to 76 inches in diameter.

A 100-yard swath was cut on each side of the road for much of the 82 miles, and 22 outposts and base camps were cleared for Regional and Popular Forces in the area.

Coastal cities like Ham Tan now have an overland route to ship their fish to markets in Saigon and the increased movement over the highway indicates new life within the provinces.

Friendship Platoon Teaches English

LONG BINH (II FF) — The "Friendship Platoon" of the 2nd Civil Affairs Company held a conference here recently to discuss the progress of its English Instruction Program in the Long Binh-Bien Hoa area. In the program, Vietnamese youngsters are taught conversational English through the voluntary efforts of American soldier-instructors.

The platoon commander, Captain Eugene J. Doll, said the meeting was called to exchange ideas as well as offer an explanation of the program's goals for the benefit of new instructors.

Vietnamese principals of schools, where the new instructors will teach, also attended the conference.

A dozen former students presented a typical classroom exercise to illustrate the various techniques and procedures in teaching. Specialist 4 Melvin E. Stone served as the instructor for the demonstration. He is generally credited with being the innovator of the English-instruction program.

The exercise demonstration pointed out that the major prob-

lem in teaching conversational English is the difficulty encountered by persons of each nationality attempting to apply their particular national pronunciation rules to a foreign language.

Montagnards Give Pipes To Marines

CAM LO (USMC) — Two 3rd Marine Division civil affairs officers have been presented silver-trimmed, handmade smoking pipes by hamlet chiefs of the Hung Phu (1) Highland (Montagnard) settlement at Cam Lo.

First Lieutenant John H. Eager, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines, and Captain Robert M. Reed, 3rd Marine Regiment civil affairs officer, were given the pipes as tokens of appreciation for assistance to the settlement.

"We've long since been accepted by the people," said Captain Reed, "and now we are almost considered part of the village."

The pipes were presented at a ceremony celebrating the beginning of construction on a new settlement school. Hamlet children sang songs in their native language.

It was hard to tell who was more pleased, the two officers being honored or the pipe-maker who beamed when the Marines filled the pipes and began smoking.

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