

# Hoi Chanh Reveals NVA Hospital



SSgt Gene Jefferson searches for weapons hidden among bloody bandages and sheets found in the NVA hospital complex. (USA PHOTO BY PFC Robert Mosey)

## Villagers Frustrate Enemy In I Corps

**CAM NAM ISLAND (I CORPS)**—The people here are staging a 'live-in' and it may be one of the most difficult and frustrating situations the Viet Cong have faced in some time.

A ribbon of water 500 meters wide separates a free people from a Viet Cong controlled people—for on the otherside of this scant waterway the real estate belongs to the Viet Cong.

According to the Revolutionary Development cadre deputy, Hua Huu Quy, some of the people have lived here all their lives—has been built, two new classrooms have been added to one like Nguyen Dinh Taua, a resident net maker and fisherman. Others are refugees that have had to evacuate other areas to get away from the VC.

The Revolutionary Development Program is in full swing in the two hamlets on the island, and, Mr. Quy says, it has been well accepted by the people.

"As a result of this acceptance, and through the close relationship enjoyed by the village chiefs and the RD Cadre Teams, the people have made great strides in raising the health, sanitation and educational standards," he adds.

Mr. Quy points with pride to the irrigation culverts which have been installed, the wells which have been dug, and the latrines which have been erected.

On the cultural side, a Pagoda school, and a new four-classroom school is nearing completion; most of which has been done by the people themselves.

"The government is going all out to help these people find a new life here," says Dang-Thun An, another RD cadre deputy.

He explained that due to the proximity of the VC, Regular and Popular Forces platoons patrol the island during the day and lay ambushes at night to guarantee the people freedom to live a peaceful life—the

**CHU LAI (USA)** — A discontented Viet Cong's surrender and cooperation led troopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne to a North Vietnamese Army hospital complex recently. Twelve enemy patients were detained and given immediate medical care.

Officials said the man presented a 'Chieu Hoi' pass and told of poor morale and dissatisfaction among enemy troops. Further questioning revealed he was a cook at the hospital. He then led Company B, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, to the complex

atop a jungle-covered mountain. Upon entering the hospital, the soldiers discovered an operating room, with evidence of its recent use, and piles of new and used bandages. Communist Chinese and Russian supplies were also found.

The complex consisted of 10 large huts with underground tunnels, eight of which were hospital wards capable of housing 20 persons each. One served as the operating room, another as the dining hall.

"We were about 60 yards from the hospital when we heard

something in the brush," said Sergeant Fredrick Davenport, who led a platoon in search of other enemy dead or wounded. "We found six enemy wounded trying to crawl away."

The paratroopers picked up the wounded and carried them to one of the wards, where they were treated and prepared for evacuation to the 2nd Surgical Hospital.

Subsequent questioning identified one as a supply sergeant from the 1st Battalion, 21st North Vietnamese Regiment. (Continued on Back Page)



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## Province Chief Sows Seeds Of Democracy In Binh Dinh

**QUI NHON (MACV)** — The seeds for grass roots democracy have been sown in Vietnam's second most populous province of Binh Dinh by a new province chief, who is anxious to get on with revolutionary development.

Lieutenant Colonel Phan Minh Tho, on taking over the provincial reins, convened a three-day assembly here for all province officials.

He wanted to meet them, face to face, explain to them his plans for 1968 and get their reaction — favorable or unfavorable.

When the first session took place, few of the more than 700 hamlet, village and district chiefs showed any desire to use the public forum made available to them.

In Binh Dinh it has not been customary to criticize province officials in public, directly or indirectly.

But, with Colonel Tho's urging, they soon warmed up to the idea and a spark of democracy began to flicker in Qui Nhon. Thus, a novel experiment in democratic dialogue was under way.

By the final day's sessions, hamlet and village officials were eagerly contending for the public microphone and a chance to speak.

Many problems were thoroughly aired during the assembly. For example, security received much attention — security of hamlets, roads and bridges.

The public dialogue was

characterized by a lively give-and-take: "Colonel, we need a school in my village and we need help from the province. We are too poor."

The reply: "Under the new tax-collection system you will be collecting and keeping your own taxes. You will have money to build your own school. You must learn to help yourselves."

And so it went for three days. Sometimes the complaints were petty or peevish. Other times they were serious or indicated ineptness and corruption.

Where pertinent, the province chief called on his staff to answer complaints or criticism. Frequently, he himself responded directly, often with a decision or decree on the spot.

The assembly reflected a variety of provincial origins — from Phu Cat, An Tuc, northern Hoai Nhon they had come and been heard.

The new province chief had put his reputation on the line, in full public view.

## ARVN Kills 105 Enemy In Fight

**SAIGON (MACV)** — A reinforced regiment from the 9th ARVN Division, battling to destroy the enemy in the area of Tieu Can—74 miles southwest of Saigon in Vinh Binh Province—killed 105 Viet Cong in a single day of action Dec. 18.

A major clash occurred during the morning hours when an ARVN infantry battalion engaged elements of the Viet Cong's 501st and 509th battalions seven kilometers southwest of Tieu Can. Spokesmen reported that 44 enemy were killed in the action. ARVN casualties were described as "very light".

By the end of the day, following two more pitched battles, a total of eight enemy had been detained and seven crew-served and 24 individuals weapons seized.

## Santa Visits 350 Orphans

**SAIGON (VRE)**—Fat red and green Christmas socks, stuffed by youngsters in San Rafael, California with candy and gifts, came into the Headquarters, Vietnam Regional Exchange (RVNR) here recently.

The socks ended up in Santa's bag at a Christmas party for 350 orphans at the Queen of Peace Orphanage December 15.

The idea for the sock project originated when Colonel Jack C. Potter, commander, RVNR, sent pictures to his home of a previous party the PX employees had given the orphans at which time they held a fund drive to purchase TV sets for the institution. Colonel Potter's wife, Marie, and their nine year-old-daughter, Liane, told friends about the children.

The project was motivated by Mrs. Sandy Walters, leader of San Rafael's Girl Scout Troop 867, and Mrs. Potter's Brownie Troop 1821. Girl Scout Troops 2099 and 2573; Brownie Troop 2846; the Kunza Group, Campfire Girls; and the Bluebird Angels all participated.

San Rafael townspeople donated extra gifts, clothing, towels, and soap to the troops. Through Mrs. Walters' efforts, the girls collected money to cover mailing charges and the

(Continued on Back Page)



Santa Claus makes the rounds at Queen of Peace Orphanage.



## Editorial

## A Resolution

The calendar year in the greater part of the western world seems to build to a crescendo that peaks the last week of the year. Starting with the tearing away of the wrapper on the first Christmas present until the final stages of the New Year's party, it is a week of hope and happiness underlined with moments of solemnity.

Christmas—New Year has many themes commercial and moral. Some are widely heralded and oft-reported, others are more subdued and personal. But for most Americans they are family days. These are days of giving and receiving when even the poorest of us attempt, in some form, to share in the holiday spirit.

The greatest gift is the one in which the giver gives of himself. That is what Americans in Vietnam are doing. Many have given until they could give no more and have become part of American Martyrdom. Those who survive the legacy of their comrades expressed thousands of years ago: "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men."

This gift has the greatest price a man may pay—his life. Perhaps the full cost will not be required, but the fact that he was willing to pay it is in itself a measure of the man and his regard for his family and the family of man.

After the gift-giving and carol-singing comes the time of re-examination and rededication—sometimes called New Year's resolutions. Many times these resolutions are frivolous—"I'll stop making resolutions"—but America has quietly repeated the same resolution year in and year out: to preserve human dignity and freedom throughout the world. Backing up this resolution has been the wealth of the nation in goods and dollars and the determination of its people.

Our service in Vietnam is part of that continuing resolve that we will seek "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men." (MACV)

## Gen. Vien Sends Christmas Greeting

SAIGON (MACV) — Gen. Cao Van Vien, chief of the Joint General Staff, RVNAF, extended holiday greetings to American servicemen in Vietnam and their families.

In a letter to Gen. Westmoreland, Gen. Vien wrote, "I wish . . . you and all the officers and men in your command the best wishes of the Republic of Vietnam armed forces for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

Vietnam's top military man also asked the American commander to convey to the families at home Vietnam's, "immense gratitude" for the role American servicemen are

playing helping Vietnam "survive as a free and proud nation."

Speaking on behalf of all South Vietnam's fighting men, Gen. Vien predicted ". . . a series of important political and military victories from which the enemy will not recover" in 1968.

He concluded: "Forever aware of the fine spirit in which half a million American troops agree to making so many sacrifices for the sake of Freedom and Justice, I should like to ask you to accept this expression of my highest esteem and admiration."

## 'Malaria Pill Day'

DA NANG (USMC) — When "Malaria Pill Day" rolled around on Hill 55 recently, the Marines eating in the 7th Marine Regiment's Office and Staff NCO Mess had little chance to forget to take their weekly malaria pill. Beside the bowl of little peach-colored tablets was the latest advertisement for "THE PILL"

starring Mr. Chloroquine Phosphate and Miss Primaquine Phosphate Act 1 To be taken Weekly Act 2 Really Prevents Malaria Act 3 The End Results Show

**CRITICS' REVIEWS**  
Should be taken once a week —First Sergeant's Bulletin

A MUST for prevention of malaria — Regimental Surgeon's Journal

Soon, you'll ask your friends . . . Have YOU had your pill this week??

It STINKS — "Malaria Infested Mosquito"

The ad was of course for a necessary but sometimes irritating practice for American servicemen in Vietnam, the weekly taking of Malaria prophylaxis.

The "advertising campaign" is the brain-child of PFC George E. Rizzuto, a missile-launcher maintenance man with "E" Battery, 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Battalion, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

## Photo Contest Announced By DoD

WASHINGTON (DOD) — The Department of Defense, in co-operation with the National Press Photographers Association, the University of Missouri, and the World Book Encyclopedia Science Service, is once again sponsoring a Military Picture of the Year Competition.

This competition is open to active duty military personnel. Civilians employed by the Armed Forces as photographers or information personnel are not eligible.

Categories are: NEWS, FEATURE, PICTORIAL, SPORTS, PORTRAITS and PICTURE STORY. Only black and white material will be considered. Any size print may be submitted; however, all photos must be mounted on 16" x 20" board with a caption on the reverse side. In addition to the caption, the following identification information must be included on the back of the photo: photographer's name, rank, present military address, hometown address and, if APO or FPO, the country.

In order to be eligible for the title of "Military Photographer of the Year," entries must be submitted in ALL categories. Each individual is limited to 20 prints; however, a picture story counts as only one print.

Either black and white glossy or matte finish prints will be accepted. No toned prints will be accepted. Photos must be taken between January 1, 1967, and December 31, 1967. All entries must be postmarked not later than January 15, 1968.

Mail entries to Professor Clifton C. Edom, Journalism Annex, Room 27A, School of Journalism, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, 65201. Major Donald P. Blake, DOD/NPPA liaison officer, Defense Information School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, 46216, is the Department of Defense project officer for this competition.

## No Weapons On R&amp;R

SAIGON (MACV) — A new warning regarding the penalties for transporting weapons while on R&R was given U.S. servicemen today by a MACV spokesman.

Current directives prohibit carrying or transporting weapons of any type aboard R&R aircraft. A few members of the U.S. Armed Forces have violated these regulations, the spokesman said.

Customs officials at the various R&R sites, particularly those of the British Commonwealth at Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney, are thorough in their inspections.

Those who attempt to enter these countries with weapons and are apprehended face severe penalties under the laws of the host R&R nations as well as possible disciplinary action for violation of U.S. military directives, the spokesman said.

All American servicemen planning R&R trips are urged to follow one basic rule regarding weapons. Leave them with the unit, he said.



UP DONNER! UP BUTZEN! UP PRANCER!

## GIs To Celebrate Two New Years

SAIGON (MACV) — American servicemen in Vietnam may observe the arrival of two New Years during January — their own, January 1, and the Vietnamese Tet. Celebrated from January 31 through February 1, 1968, Tet will herald the Year of the Monkey.

More than just the beginning of a new year, it corresponds to America's Christmas, New Year, Easter, and the Fourth of July combined. It is a family reunion, a spring festival, a national holiday and everybody's birthday!

One of the cardinal rules of the holiday is that no loose ends are left over from the previous year. Business deals, social obligations and debts are all fulfilled as far as possible and animosities are buried under an avalanche of forgiveness and friendship.

Prices during the weeks preceding Tet are usually doubled. Most commercial establishments close during the holidays and, despite the dangers of travel in the war-torn country, Vietnamese make every effort to reunite their families. Even the departed are invited back and greeted with daily meals, rituals and the sweet aroma of burning joss sticks on home and temple altars.

Anything that detracts from the impression of contentment and prosperity is tabu lest the gods be annoyed. Grievances, setbacks and annoyances are hidden beneath smiling faces and

an amiable manner. Even the first guest of the holiday is often pre-selected to insure an auspicious start to the coming months. A person named Phuc (happiness) or Ban h (hand-some) is sure to be invited before someone named Cham (slow) or Cho (dog). After the select visitor, all company is welcomed and entertained graciously because an unkind word or thoughtless act is felt to indicate the perpetrator's conduct throughout the new year.

Tet also marks great activity in the spirit world. Good spirits head for the palace of the Heavenly Emperor of Jade where they turn in the annual report on their respective areas of responsibility. At the same time, demons are released for seven days freedom from Hell. This places man in a delicate position of being vulnerable to the assault of the rampaging devils.

Man devised a mystic arsenal to protect himself during the absence of the guardian beings—a 30-foot pole with protective adornments, (the Cay Neu); signs bearing significant words; the Apricot tree and flower (Bong Mai), the Narcissus, the unicorn dance, firecrackers and the powdered-lime circle of life drawn about the home with the sign of a bow and arrow in the front.

During Tet, Americans in Vietnam are afforded a brief glimpse of the diverse influences that shape the Vietnamese and their culture.



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## Viet Cong Vacate 'Pineapple Forest'

TAM KY (USMC) — With the "Pineapple Forest" being crushed around them, 52 fleeing Viet Cong have fallen to the 2nd ARVN Division soldiers in the past three weeks.

Thirty-nine others have been killed by supporting artillery and air units.

Within sight of the Quang Tin Province capital, the jungle-like abandoned pineapple plantation has been a sanctuary for North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong Forces for more than six years.

But today, U.S. armored personnel carriers and ARVN infantry are moving through the dense growth, chasing "Charlie" and protecting U.S. Marine engineers as they systematically clear the hills.

About 2.5 million square meters of trees and underbrush have been cleared. The remainder is falling at the rate of 300,000 square meters daily.

Two Finger Ridge is going now. "We hope to finish in about two weeks," says ARVN LtCol Nguyen Ngoc Nghia, 5th Regiment commanding officer and overall commander of the combined ARVN and U.S. force.

"We used to come in here and take a great many casualties," the colonel continued. "This time we came in strength, have taken few casualties and intend to stay. We've never before had the strength to stay or the armor and engineers to clear the forest."

The "Pineapple Forest" is an important piece of ground according to Colonel Carl C. Ulsaker, U.S. advisor to the 2nd ARVN Division. "The strong VC attack on Tam Ky on September

6th was launched from here," the colonel stated. "Growth was so thick we couldn't see what was going on inside."

"VC kills are pure bonus on this operation," stated Major Hawkins Conrad, advisor to the 5th ARVN Regiment. "We came in here to destroy a major VC base and staging area, where he organized attacks and regrouped his forces."

Colonel Nghia indicates that the objective is being attained. He reports that one VC tunnel complex 1400 meters long—capable of sheltering a battalion—has been uncovered. Forty-two lesser tunnels and eleven kilometers of trench have been filled in. Over 400 foxholes have given way to the bulldozers.

"Everybody knew the forest had to go," Major Conrad said. "But nobody could spare the men until the U.S. troop strength in this area was increased."

The few remaining farmers are not being disturbed, Colonel Nghia stated. Bulldozers crush tunnels, fill trenches and uproot trees right to the edges of fields and side of houses. Then they stop.

Most of the residents left years ago. They couldn't tend their fields with the VC among them. The young men have left, too. Willingly or not they have joined the VC, or fled to safety in government-controlled areas.

The forest has yielded some strange booty. One cache gave up 300 pounds of tea, two bags of tobacco and three live pigs, trussed and ready for market.

Some things left behind by the VC are less strange and more dangerous. A carefully planted crop of mines makes engineer work and armored cavalry movement hazardous.

The only way to clean out the "Pineapple Forest" was to destroy it tree by tree. The 5th ARVN Regiment, U.S. Army cavalry and U.S. Marine engineers are doing just that.

## SF Trains CIDG As Jumpers

DA NANG (USA) — The Mobile Strike Force of Company C, 5th Special Forces, held a jump school for Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) soldiers recently.

The school was instructed by both Vietnamese and U.S. Special Forces personnel. With training comparable to state-side jump school, the course was condensed in to an intense, one-week training program.

The school started with a grueling seven days of ground training that normally takes twice the time. The soldiers held up very well, however, and on the eighth day they moved into the jump phase.

The jumps were made from 1500 feet with an HU1B (Huey) helicopter. The drop zone used was an empty stretch of beach located just south of the Special Forces "C" detachment.

On the first day, high winds halted activities early in the afternoon. The second day brought better weather and the instructors were able to qualify all the jumpers by nightfall.

Several days later, in a special ceremony, 183 proud Vietnamese were presented with shiny new jump wings. In the entire rigorous course, only one man had been injured. The whole course had been completed in record time without a single sacrifice to the quality of the training, a credit to both the Vietnamese and American Special Forces instructors.

## Engineers Help Give 'New Life'

PLEIKU (USA) — Hoa Nguyen Thi is a Vietnamese girl with beautiful facial features and a charming disposition.

But she was born cross-eyed. The distorted alignment also made her nearly blind in one eye.

But efforts of the medical section of the 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 937 Engineer Group, have opened up a new life for the girl.

Hoa — a 15-year-old house-girl working in the non-commissioned officers' barracks of the battalion — was first noticed several months ago by Captain Harold H. Barner.

He arranged corrective surgery for Hoa at the Evangelical Clinic at Nha Trang. Meanwhile, Sergeant Major Robert C. Ahlfs made arrangements for the girl to be flown out of Pleiku air base to Nha Trang.

The "sweetheart of the battalion", as the sergeant major calls Hoa, was flown to Nha Trang a few weeks ago. On November 22 surgery was performed successfully.

Hoa is back in Pleiku today. Her brown eyes work together now and the cross-eyed condition has been corrected. As for her vision in the bad eye, the battalion medical section chief said it should improve with time.



DEADLY HARVEST—A small Vietnamese boy hands over a 60mm mortar shell he found near his home to Marine Corporal Tom O'Dell of the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment. The boy's face is not shown to prevent VC reprisals. (USMC PHOTO)

## Water Commerce Kept Alive By Joint Army-Navy Effort

LONG BINH (II FIELD FORCE) — Vietnam's thousands of miles of waterway are coming alive to commerce, thanks to Army-Navy cooperation at province levels.

The main rivers and canals in Long An Province, III Corps Tactical Zone, southwest of Sai-

gon, are patrolled by River Assault Group (RAG) 24. The largest arteries — the Van Co Tay and Can Co Dong Rivers — are fast becoming safe routes for fishermen and merchants.

RAG-24 — advised by Navy Lieutenant Lawrence A. Morrison — is a 19-boat flotilla operating in close cooperation with the Long An Province authorities. It is one of 27 such groups operating throughout Vietnam.

"The RAG fleet has two missions," explains Long An Province Senior advisor, Army Colonel James A. Herbert. "It provides armed escort for supply barges destined for small military posts and outposts upcountry, and also participates frequently in combat assaults."

Colonel Herbert points out that the presence of the fleet also encourages the Vietnamese to resume using the waterways for commercial traffic and fishing. He compares it to the reopening of highways. "When enough civilians begin using the rivers and canals, the Viet Cong will be unable to terrorize them into stopping. There's safety in numbers."

The boats are named by members of the Vietnamese Navy and range from WWII vintage craft to specially-designed, Vietnamese-made vessels. The command ship, Headquarters 6004, is a converted Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM). It is equipped with radar and sophisticated communications equipment. The ship is also heavily armed, carrying a 20mm cannon, .30 and .50 caliber machine guns and an 81mm mortar.

Other vessels in the fleet include minesweepers, scout ships, troop transports and the Monitor — the fleet's "battle-ship" — which is armed similarly to the command ship. The basic load of ammunition carried by the fleet is one million rounds, primarily for the machine guns.

Cruising on the river, the flotilla is usually preceded by light Army aircraft. Unseen but powerful backing is provided by artillery and air support on call. Travelling at three knots per hour upstream, or ten knots per hour downstream, RAG DEUCE FOUR usually covers 30 miles in a day's operation.



MEMORIAL—Helmets, rifles and jungle boots represent 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne paratroopers killed during Operation Wheeler west of Chu Lai. The offensive—began Sept. 11 and terminated Nov. 25—accounted for 1,105 enemy killed. (USA PHOTO BY Sp4 Ben Croxton)

## Orphans Receive Home

CAT LAI (USA) — The men of the 117th Transportation Company of the 4th Transportation Command are helping to build a new home for 60 Vietnamese orphans.

Located about 10 miles northeast of Saigon, the orphanage is being constructed by Vietnamese from a nearby village and soldiers from the 117th.

When the 117th first heard about the orphanage, there were 12 children living there. The number quickly grew to 48, and

now there are about 60 children being housed temporarily in a private home until the new building is completed.

Aiding the 117th in their undertaking, the Church of Christ is sending \$10 per child to help defray the cost of operating the orphanage.

Having adopted the nickname of "Red Barons", the men of the 117th—with the enthusiastic approval of the children—have named their new home the "Red Baron Orphanage."





The Montagnards play their traditional music during a funeral Capt. Conlan attended. (MACV PHOTO BY Sp5 Bob Collins)

## Montagnards Start Industries With Civic Action Assistance

Story By  
SP5 Bob Collins, USA  
Reporter/Editor

**PLEIKU (MACV)** — Civic action takes many forms and means many things to many people. But to Captain Daniel C. Conlan, a doctor at Pleiku air base, it means becoming a personal friend of the Montagnards with whom he works. "MEDCAPs (Medical Civic Action Programs) and civic action do little good if they are done on a one time basis," said the captain. "It has to be a long range program where you become involved with the people."

Involvement for the captain and about 20 other officers and enlisted men of the base means living with the people. "You have to visit with them, drink rice wine with them, eat their food and learn how they feel and what they think."

Since the Montagnards are slow to accept new ideas and change, it sometimes becomes a real long range program. "In February, when I arrived here

and started working with the villages, we tried to talk them into starting a crossbow industry," said Captain Conlan. "In June they decided that perhaps they would try the idea."

Once the cross-bow industry got underway, it became a success almost over night. Now the captain and other civic action people buy crossbows from the villagers and sell them to the exchanges throughout Vietnam.

"We except only good bows," said the captain. "We don't give them anything for nothing. If they want to work for it, we provide an opportunity."

So far the people have utilized the opportunity and are starting to branch into other areas, such as making knives, swords and other types of metal works.

The profits from the industries are used to help the villages build a better life for themselves and to start other industries. Soon the villages around Pleiku plan to open a cloth and a wood industry.

This type of long range civic action has not only helped the people progress and better their lives, but it has provided a security perimeter for the base which makes it more difficult for "Charlie" to get in close.

Many of the villages provide information about the enemy and his activities. "They have an intelligence system which is almost unbelievable," Captain Conlan said. "I don't know how they get their information, but they sure get it."

Helping the people become self-sufficient, the nearby Special Forces camp trains medical personnel so that the people can care for each other without outside help.

Ignorance, not stupidity, is one of the biggest problems of the Montagnards according to the captain. "They are very quick to learn and are intelligent people."

Is the program working? According to Captain Conlan it is. As he explains it, "A year ago when I arrived, we were sniped at each evening as we stood on the steps of our BOQ; now, since we have been working in the villages, we aren't sniped at any more."

As the perimeter of friendly Montagnard villages is extended, "Charlie" loses more and more of his hold on the people.



A Montagnard shows Capt. Conlan how to string a crossbow.

(MACV PHOTO BY Sp5 Bob Collins)



"YOU SURE IT WON'T HURT"—The reassuring face of 101st Airborne paratrooper Sp4 Nick Poulos, is questioned by this little boy's expression as the tyke is vaccinated against smallpox. (USA PHOTO BY Sp4 Robert Chambers)

## Bridge Relocated In Delta Operation

**MEKONG DELTA (USN)**—While planning a recently completed phase of Operation Coronado IX, Mobile Riverine Force planners were faced with a major obstacle to their schemes of maneuver.

The plan called for Navy assault boats to move U.S. Army troops and Vietnamese Marines up the Rach Rong River in southwestern Dinh Tuong Province.

A short distance up the stream, the passage of the assault boats was blocked by a steel truss bridge built so low that the boats could not pass under it. A check of the bridge revealed that it was built years ago by the French for a road which no longer exists. Over the years of neglect, the wooden flooring of the bridge had disappeared, leaving the steel frame intact.

Since the bridge served no practical function, it was suggested that the bridge be destroyed. The U.S. Navy men directed their suggestion to the Commanding General of the 7th ARVN Division, with whom the operation was being conducted.

However, the general had a better idea. He proposed that the bridge be removed intact and utilized in another location where a bridge was needed.

The ensuing events were a classic in allied and inter-service cooperation. U.S. Navy assault boats lifted and supported the Fifth Vietnamese Marine Corps Battalion as they moved in to secure the area. A Vietnamese Navy river assault group then brought in the 40th ARVN Engineering Group with their equipment.

Scaffolding was built on a barge which the river assault group positioned under the bridge. The engineers unbolted the bridge, raised it up off its foundations and lowered it onto the scaffolding. The river assault group then towed it out of the area.

During the operation, a U.S. naval officer from the staff of Commander River Assault Flotilla One circled the operation in an Army helicopter to help coordinate the movements of the diverse units engaged in the bridge removal.

Within three hours from the time Vietnamese Marines went ashore from the assault boats, the waterway was open. Other boats moved upstream immediately to support a U.S. Army battalion that had been airlifted into the area.

## AF Unit Supports Orphans

**BINH THUY (USAF)** — The Air Force 632nd Security Police Squadron, sentry dog section, at Binh Thuy Air Base, has taken up the task of supporting the De La Providence Orphanage in Can Tho.

Two hundred children make the orphanage their home.

Sergeant Thomas C. Triplett, who suggested the orphanage as a civic action project, said: "I was introduced to the orphanage through a Vietnamese friend. One day he and his wife were going to the orphanage and asked me if I wanted to go along. When I first saw the children my heart went out to them. Right then I decided to help these children as best I could."

Sergeant Triplett went on to say, "When the men from the section went to the orphanage it was love at first sight. They felt the same way I felt."

Since they have been helping the orphanage, they have contributed to it more than 3,000 boxes containing baby powder, baby lotion, clothes, powdered milk, first aid material, toys, canned fruit juices, baby food and many other necessities.

To receive all of these "blessings from home" the men went to the orphanage, took pictures showing each of them with some of the children, and sent these pictures home to their families.

"In the last two months we have received more than \$250 from our fellow Americans. We have also collected \$370 from some of the Air Force men stationed at Binh Thuy," the sergeant stated.



Members of the 198th receive instructions on the VC technique of booby-trapping a foot bridge.



A hut is checked for VC by men of the 198th on a mission.

## ARVN Shows U.S. Unit VC Tricks

**DUC PHO (USA)** — The patrol was advancing cautiously on the small village. The Viet Cong had been seen entering it earlier. Everything was quiet. As the patrol entered the village gates, they were greeted with yells and screams. Children! Surprised and pleased, the soldiers dropped their guard.

Luckily this was only a training exercise for the advancing troops because their momentum was delayed. This would have given the VC in the village plenty of time to escape.

This attention-diversion tactic was the first demonstration in a training school conducted for the U.S. Army's 198th Light Infantry Brigade by the 3d Battalion, 6th Regiment (Mobile) 2d ARVN Infantry Division.

The ARVN 3d Battalion, commanded by the highly decorated and experienced Major Pham Van Nghin, established this complete orientation course in a former Viet Cong village. The course was designed to show some 1,800 members of the newly arrived 198th the tactics employed by the VC that the soldiers are most likely to encounter.

The 198th was shown the VC use of the cross bow with its poisoned arrows, the weighted spiked-mace, and false-bottom trenches where an unwary GI may be impaled on poison punji stakes.



ARVN soldiers uncover a camouflaged simulated weapon.

Later they were shown the Viet Cong weapons and concealment techniques and individual hiding places in a typical village. Another demonstration showed how the enemy catch soldiers off guard at a well. With a cheer, the demonstration squad raced for the water. Everything was quiet as the men indulged in a cool drink and shower. The next instant, a simulated claymore mine exploded a few feet away, catching them completely off guard — the bucket had been booby-trapped.

The men were taught to be cautious in handling innocent-looking souvenirs. This was shown by a squad coming upon a deserted house. Finding it unoccupied, one soldier snatched up a VC flag and ran outside. The flag was wired and an explosion ripped through the house — the blast had a delayed fuse to allow the men enough time to move away — but the VC use instantaneous fuses.

The orientation closed with an interview by the students with four VC who had recently defected as Chieu Hoi. At the close of the interview, Australian Warrant Officer Dave J. Wallner, assistant advisor to the

The enemy's tactics of using women and children as decoys also was demonstrated. A woman, using age-old tactics, lured a soldier from his companions and into the waiting arms of a hidden Viet Cong.

A final display showed an array of vicious booby traps. From an innocent-looking can on a shelf to a walk across a foot bridge, the men of the 198th watched booby traps explode at random.

The orientation closed with an interview by the students with four VC who had recently defected as Chieu Hoi. At the close of the interview, Australian Warrant Officer Dave J. Wallner, assistant advisor to the

ARVN battalion, gave the men a brief rundown on the ARVN unit.

"The men of the 3rd Battalion are excellent fighters," he stated. "They have a kill ratio of 25 to 1, never run from a fight and ask no quarter. You'll be proud to serve beside them."

The 198th put this training to use the next day as a company went on an actual sweep of a village. Nothing was overlooked, nothing was removed until a methodical check had been made for booby traps.

Although no contacts were made with the enemy during the sweep, the company found a number of enemy uniforms, documents and ammunition. It also destroyed numerous bunkers and tunnels.

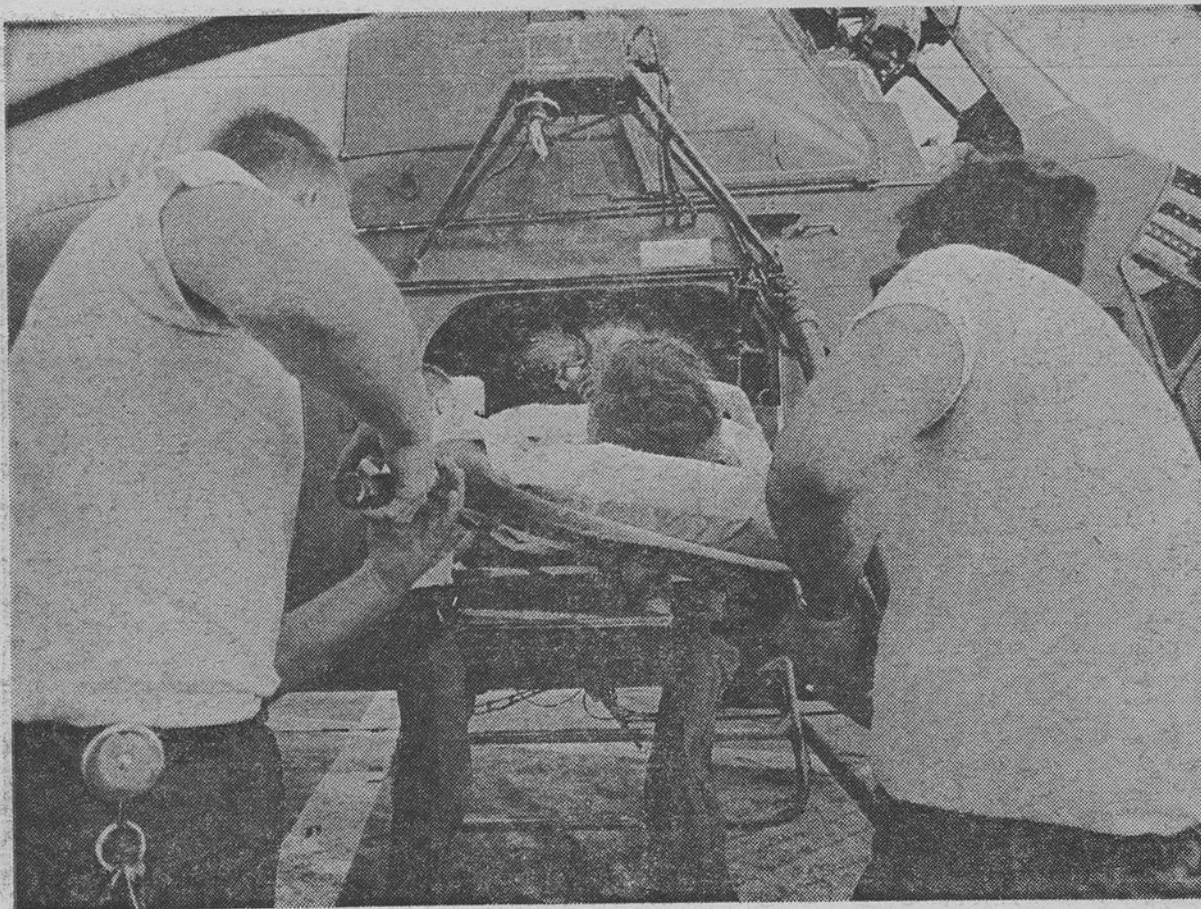
Experience of the ARVN soldiers gained from years of encountering these VC tactics and then passing them on to newly arrived U.S. units is another step in the ancient tactic of "knowing your enemy."

Story By  
Sp4 Larry J. Thomason  
Photos By  
Sp5 Zack Richards

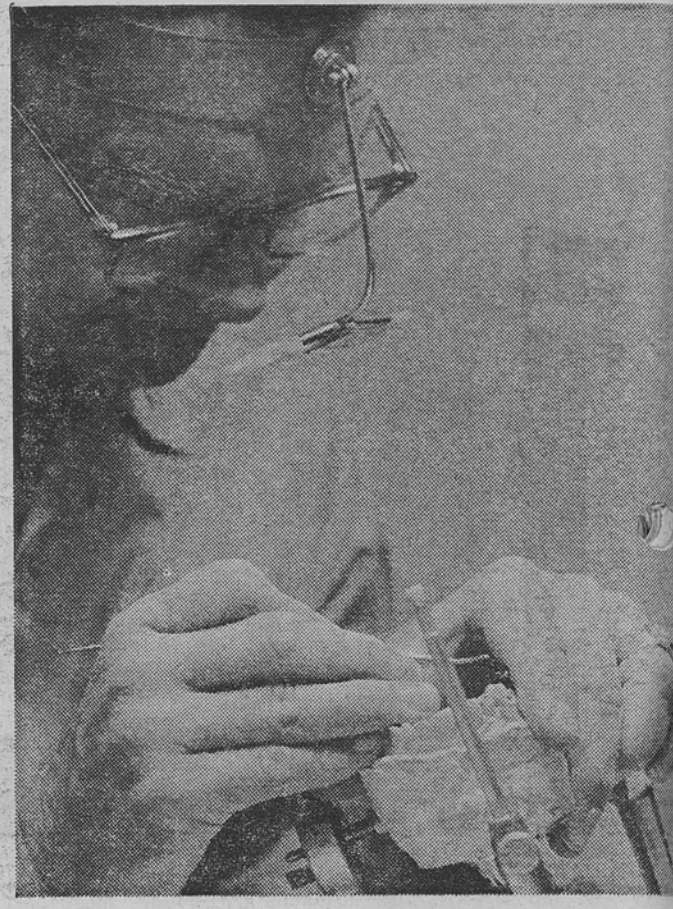


Brigade members question former VC who surrendered under the Chieu Hoi program.

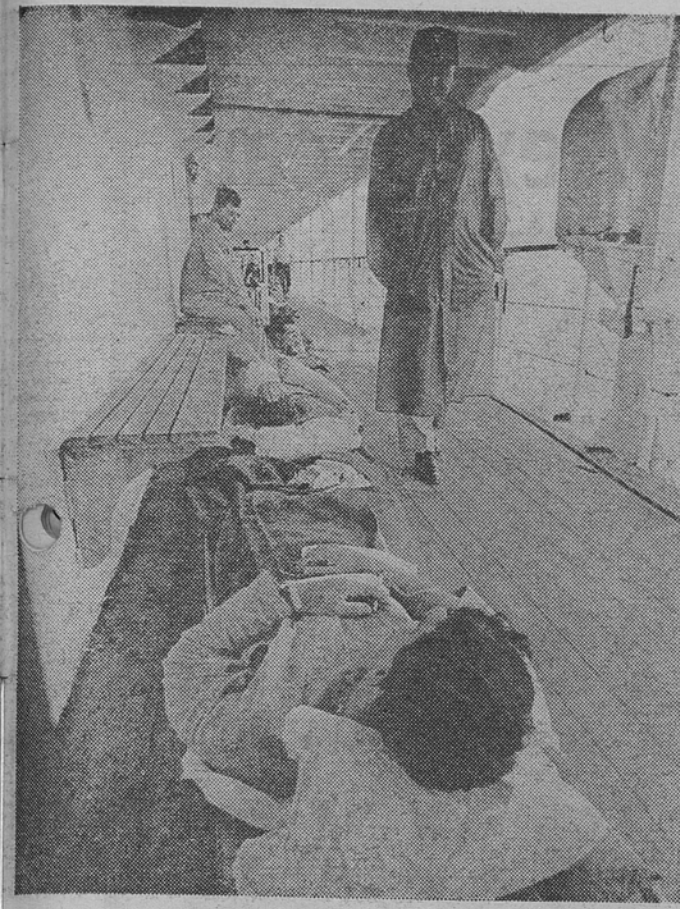




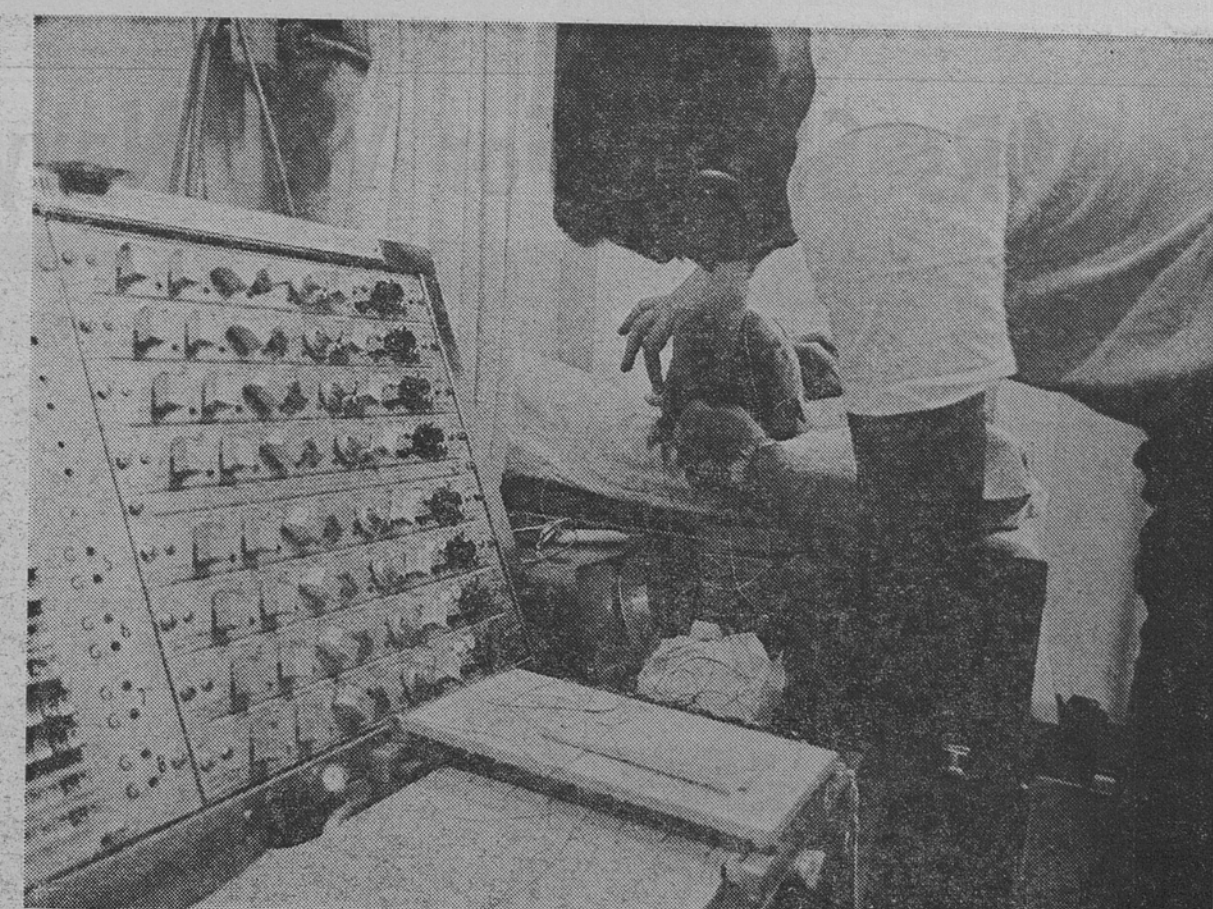
Wounded U.S. Marines are transported by helicopters from battlefields ashore.



Capt. O.G. Nystul makes, rebuilds and repairs dentures.



Captain strolls a weatherdeck chatting with patients.

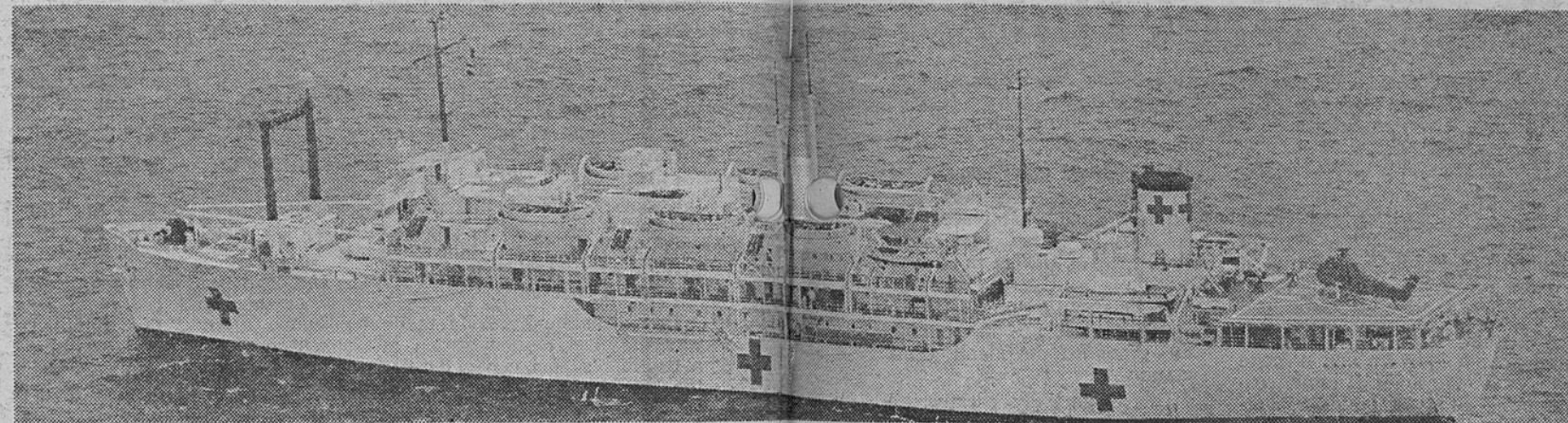


A corpsman inserts electrodes around patient's head for an electroencephalograph study.



Lt. Annelle Lee overcomes the problem of understanding with a Vietnamese girl.

## Hospital 'Angel Without Disguise'



Civic action wards treat patients with any malady and from any country.



Instruments are always kept ready in the operating room for surgery.

### ABOARD THE USS REPOSE

Few ships of any naval force sail without weapons of war or protective armor, but the U.S. Hospital ship Repose is an exception to many rules of combat. She is an angel without disguise.

In contrast to combatant counterparts, Repose and her sister ships of mercy are awkwardly conspicuous and as vulnerable and harmless as a luxury liner. Her construction more consistently resembles the Queen Mary than it does any ship of the American Navy, yet her mission is no less serious than the most powerful man o'war.

Protected by rules of the Geneva Convention, Repose steams within sight of battle and amid hostile fire from both land and sea, fighting not with shore bombardment but with medical care, saving lives that others aim to destroy.

But Repose is also involved in war—sanitary and quiet as it is. Her deadly enemies are the infectious elements of conflict against death and disease not confined to battlefields ashore.

Following the tradition she established in World War II and later as "Angel of the Orient" in Korea, USS Repose steams independently of the combatant fleet, her stark white silhouette and red crosses beckoning instead of discouraging all who seek treatment and care.

Since arrival off the coast of South Vietnam in February 1966, Repose has admitted some 10,000 patients and performed over 5,000 major surgical operations. Her mercy mission is not only a contrast to, but also a countermeasure in, the Vietnam war.

Her first arrival off Chu Lai did more, however, than revive this legendary ship of the white fleet. It immediately doubled the number of hospital beds available to the tactical zone nearest the demilitarized zone.

Initially, the 750-bed floating hospital steamed between Chu Lai and DaNang, headquarters of the Third Marine Amphibious Force. Her operating schedule now includes stops offshore near Hue, Vietnam's imperial city, and Dong Ha near the parallel.

Here, at the no-man's-land bordering North Vietnam, the Repose currently steams in a slow, graceful circle three days each week.

Most patients are U.S. Marine and allied battle casualties from this sector which comprises 10,000 square miles, three million Vietnamese civilians and some 100,000 militarymen.

Like any hospital, however, her service is not limited to any national or social group. She is available to all humanity where a need exists.

In a suite of wards called International House, Vietnamese and other Asian men, women and children—civilian and military alike—receive the most advanced medical and surgical treatment and care the United States has to offer.

A landmark occasion occurred on Repose in August, 1966, when the first open heart surgery at sea was successfully accomplished on a 13-year-old Vietnamese girl. Many others since then have been saved by use of the cardio-pulmonary bypass technique.

Recalling his year as a chief surgeon on Repose, Capt. Wil-

liam A. Snyder, a thoracic surgeon says, "We remember a lot of skinny sick Vietnamese children who come aboard and many fat, healthy children who depart, often many months later."

Repose is equipped with the most modern equipment and facilities available, including a 250-unit frozen blood bank, an artificial heart and lung machine and an ultrasonic diagnostic similar to sonar.

Comparing the casualty treatment provided in Vietnam with the past, Capt. Herbert A. Markowitz, says, "There are innovations and improvements in just the routine things. It's not unusual now to give a patient 50 or 60 units of blood, but in World War II this was almost unheard of and during Korea it was not common."

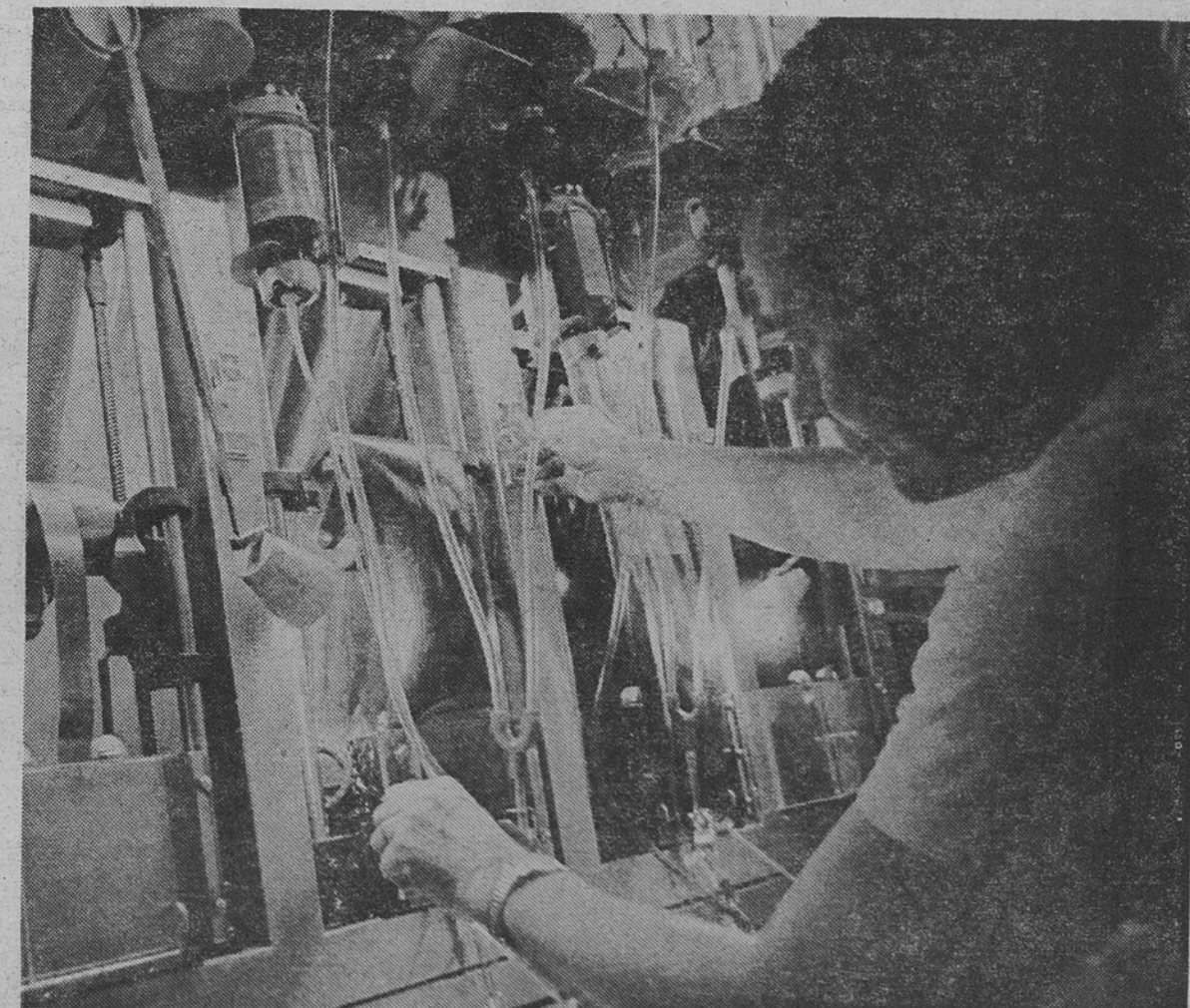
Currently, he says, the mortality rate is at an all-time low of about 1.4 per cent for casualty treatment. About three-fourths of all patients admitted to Repose, however, will return to duty or a normal life and the remaining percentage of patients are transferred or evacuated to hospitals ashore for continuing treatment or recovery.

But the mercy mission of Repose and ships like her cannot be assessed accurately by figures alone, staggering as they sometimes are.

Doctors, nurses, corpsmen and ship's crewmen total about 600, a small staff when compared to a large general hospital ashore. But on Repose, all hands are constantly on call.

Story By JO2 Richard N. Edwards, USN

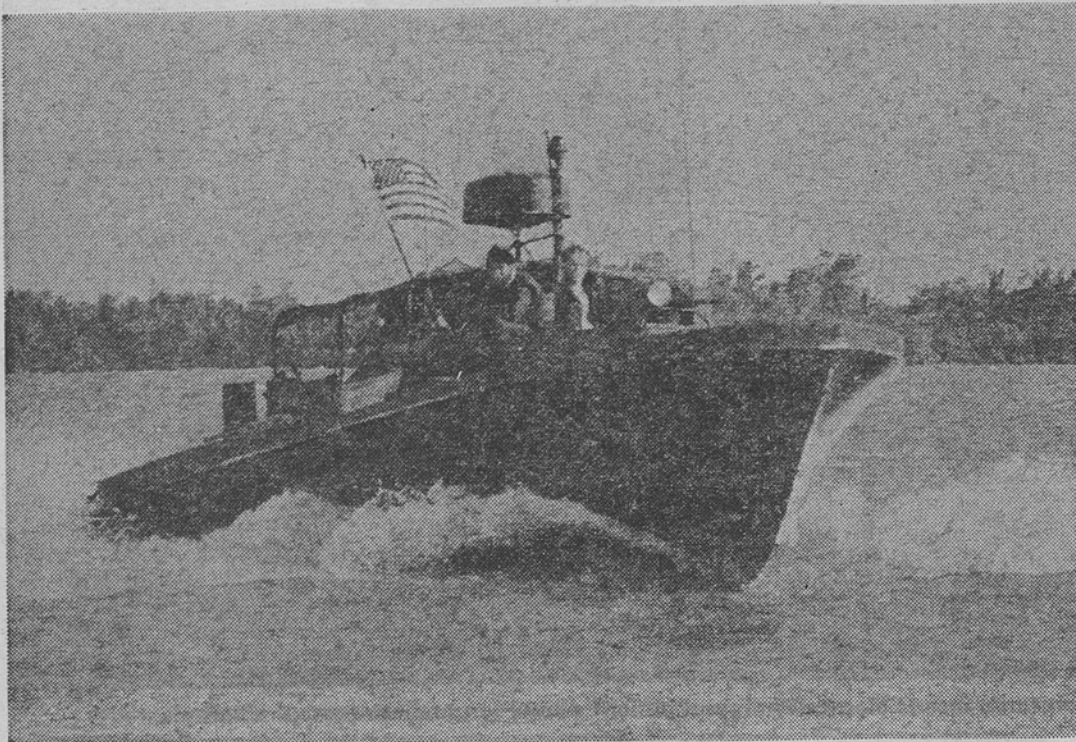
Photos By JOC Bert D. Moeser, USN



Frozen blood from the ship's blood bank is reconstituted by a cytoglomerator.



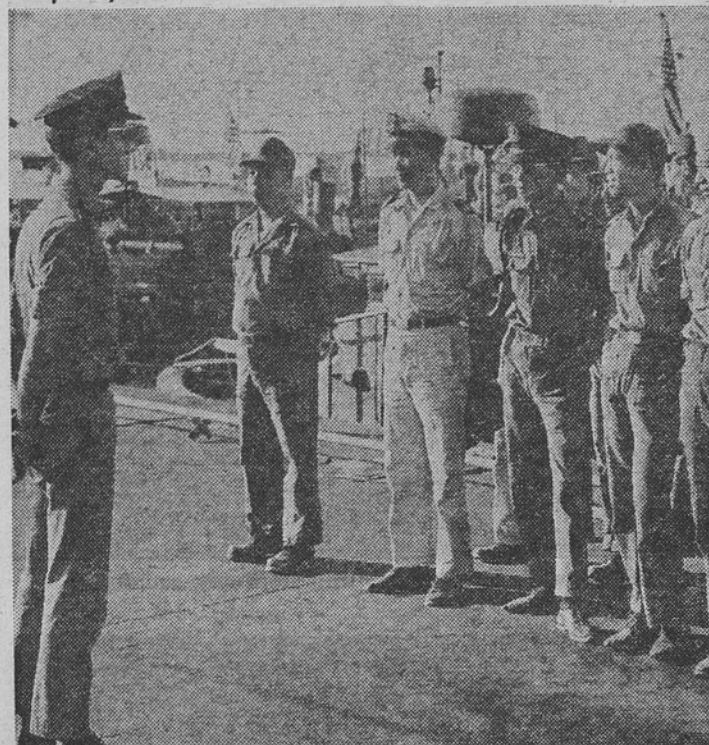
# PBRs Slated For Viet Navy Next Year



Speedy River Patrol Boats will join Vietnamese fleet in fight for nation's independence.



Trainees practice refueling procedures at U.S. Base.



Officer in Charge briefs students on boat assignments.



Learning to master the controls requires extra concentration.

## First Crews Being Prepared For Delta River Patrol Duty

NHA BE (MACV) — American navymen at the Naval Support Facility here are preparing a new and formidable force to fight the Viet Cong on the river of the Mekong Delta.

They're training Vietnamese navymen to operate the U.S. Navy's mighty mite river patrol boats (PBRs). The PBR is a heavily armed, high speed fiberglass craft designed especially for river warfare in Vietnam. It can attain speeds in excess of 29-knots in waters as shallow as eight to 12-inches deep.

A pilot class of 15 officers and men completed PBR training

November 3. They are now the nucleus of a Vietnamese PBR Training School in Saigon.

The men currently under instruction are the first trainees from the Saigon School. They were sent to the Naval Support Facility for four weeks of practical training as part of a combined seven week course.

Instruction is conducted on a rotational basis. Each man rotates jobs until he can operate in all four basic PBR crew positions — Boat Commander, Forward Gunner, After Gunner and Engineer.

Having mastered crew positions and other operational data, each man is assigned to regular combat river patrols with an American crew. This procedure is reversed in the last week of training when the Vietnamese form their own PBR crews as-

sisted by an American advisor. Their crews operate "sister boats" to craft manned by American crews.

"All trainees are selected by the Vietnamese Navy and each man is a highly motivated career man," states Lieutenant John F. Doyle, Officer in Charge of Training.

Their instructors say the fledgling PBR men are apt pupils, well grounded in small craft seamanship.

"This is partially because all of the men are veterans of the junk force or some other Vietnamese combat unit, and many have attended schools in the United States," Lt. Doyle explained.

Vietnamese PBR units are expected to join U.S. boats on Delta rivers sometime next year.

MACV STORY & PHOTOS  
BY JOC William Polk



Instructor explains PBR twin 50 caliber machine gun mount in practical training exercise.

## Viet Trainees Set Record With Aid From Army Helo

NHA TRANG (USA) — An Army CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter crew teamed up with trainees at the Vietnamese Artillery school at Duk My, 24 miles northwest of Nha Trang, to achieve an aviation "first" at the school.

The Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) requested help in moving a 105mm artillery battery at the school for training purposes.

"This was the first time a 'Chinook' had moved a 105mm battery at the school," said Major Frederick Meyer, school advisor. "And it was also the first time a Vietnamese battery had moved while still in training."

Chief Warrant Officer William M. Dempsey—who represented the 17th Combat Aviation Group as a CH-47 advisor—briefed the battery and training officer at Duk My on the employment of the "Chinook" and the responsibilities of the aviation and ground units.

"We actually had the unit rigging loads the third day," said CWO Dempsey. "And on the fourth day a Chinook flew down from the 180th Assault Support Helicopter Company at Phu Hiep to participate in the training session."

"It was a flawless mission," he said.

## MARS To Take To Field

LONG THANH (USA) — Now in its sixth month of operations, the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) plans to take to the field.

MARS stations at Bearcat and Dong Tam are establishing a mobile link to the forward areas to service 9th Division troops in the field.

The two mobile units will be housed in ambulances converted into small transmission stations and will use the same equipment as the stationary base installations.

Since placing its first call on June 2, the MARS team of ten full- and part-time workers has put through more than 5,000 calls for men of the 9th Division, according to Master Sergeant William D. Lee, communications chief.

The Bearcat installation has ranked first in a network of seven stations for the past four months, averaging 25 calls per day.

## RFs Baptised By Fire

LONG BINH (H FA) — A Regional Force (RF) Company has defeated the enemy in its baptism of fire a scant three weeks after completing basic training. RF Company 969, commanded by Lieutenant Vo Van Tay, stationed at Hon Quan Compound, Binh Long Province, was hit recently in a dawn attack by a VC company. When the fire fight was over, six VC, including the enemy company commander, were dead.

First Lieutenant Steven J. Dennis, advisor to Company 969 and officer-in-charge of the six-man Regional Force Company

The advisory team was well pleased with the "Chinook" training which the Vietnamese classes had received during the sessions.

"They will be far ahead of the graduating classes by receiving this type of direct training," said Major Meyer.

## MP Battalion, National Police To Sponsor Police Scouts

SAIGON (USA)—Two-, three- and four-fingered salutes are now being given to the officers of the world's largest Military Police battalion.

Saigon's 716th Military Police Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Gordon D. Rowe—along with the Saigon National Police Department—is now sponsoring the National

Police boy, cub, and girl scouts as a civic action project.

First Lieutenant David B. Berg, liaison officer for the project, said: "The first thing we are doing is giving uniforms to all the scouts in districts one and three who were not able to afford them in the past. Over 100 uniforms will be distributed in these two precincts alone."



"IT'S GREAT"—PFC James E. Green digs into a holiday dinner at Gio Linh. PFC Green is a member of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery, 108th Artillery Group, which supports the Marines along the DMZ. (USA PHOTO BY Capt. Charles B. Moore)

## U.S. Army MEDCAP Team Treats VN Villages Weekly

LONG BINH (USA)—After the U.S. military ambulance and three jeeps halted in the center of the Vietnamese village, an American doctor, nurse and two medics dismounted and began setting up their mobile dispensary.

They form a MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) team from the 720th Military Police Battalion stationed at Long Binh.

Before the day ends, the doctor and his assistants will treat from 75 to 125 patients for ailments ranging from the

nutritional deficiency diseases of children to the arthritis of the older villagers. The team services the village of An Hoa Hung once a week—and the village of Long Hung every other week—as part of the battalion's Civic Action Program.

Other members of the unit's Civic Action Program have helped the villagers of An Hoa Hung by cleaning one well, fixing the pump on another and having surveying work done for the location of a new well. Surveys have been completed for the repairing of the roads in the villages and for providing the entire area with electricity.

Future activities call for securing additional teachers for an elementary school and repairing the school building. Plans also call for constructing a building which will double as a village office and police station.

The Civic Action Program is not a charity organization but a program that provides the Vietnamese with advice and the means for their own self-improvement.

This approach is typified by the once-a-week garbage collection service started in An Hoa Hung. Although the Civic Action team provides the vehicles, the villagers do the work

themselves under the direction of local officials.

The program is also reinforcing the image of the Vietnamese government in the eyes of the people by showing them that their government is willing to help them raise their social and economic standards.

## Beauty Test Aids Orphans

LONG BIEN (USA) — A unique statewide beauty contest last June will mean a \$2,500 gift for Vietnamese orphans who are supported by members of the 1st Signal Brigade.

In order to be eligible to vote in the Miss STRATCOM contest at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., citizens had to donate 25 cents—in the name of their favored contestant—to an orphanage fund.

In all, \$5,099.46 was raised in voting for 15 contestants. The winner, Alice Boogher, had \$1,039 donated in her name.

The rest of the money raised will go to the other subcommands of the Strategic Communications Command, which Miss Boogher will represent for a year.

Recently the National Police tailors, who are making the uniforms, measured the scouts for them at a scout meeting where representatives from all of the scouting districts met their new military police sponsors.

The 2,000 scouts—all sons and daughters of National Policemen—have not yet received international recognition for their organization, but application has already been made to the International Boy Scouts Association in London.

"Future plans of the 716th include providing the scouts with club buildings, supervising a training program of scouting leaders, and generally aiding the organization. Other ideas include a camporee tentatively planned for December," Lt. Berg continued.

After the program is more fully established, each company of the battalion will be supporting a district or a troop of scouts.

"The 716th became associated with the scouts when the battalion started looking for a worthwhile civic action project," said Lt. Berg. "The National Police then stepped in and asked us if we would like to help with the scouts, and we accepted."

"Scouting has always been looked upon in our country and throughout the world as a foundation for assisting young men and women in their future role as leaders and respected citizens of their community. We are amply rewarded by contributing to these high ideals," Lt. Berg concluded.

## Sierra II New CAP In Hoi An

DA NANG (USMC)—Sierra II is the name given to a Combined Action Platoon which recently took on the mission of protecting the city of Hoi An.

It consists of 14 Marines, one corpsman and approximately 35 Vietnamese Popular Force (PF) soldiers. The squad of Marines volunteered for the duty and the PFs were recruited from the area which the unit was established to protect.

Sierra II is the 79th CAP of 114 slated to be in operation in I Corps by the end of the year.

"The reaction of the local people, when we began to build our unit here, was one of curiosity," related Sergeant Norm Vilhauer, NCO in charge of the CAP.

"But after they learned the reason for our being here and saw us go out on daily security patrols, they accepted us with optimism," he said.

Marines believe the CAP program is an answer to the problem of continued security and pacification. This is because it protects the land and people freed from Viet Cong control through the use of large-scale operations of the Marine and government forces.

Eventually the Marine squad will return to its parent organization, but only after the PF unit's ability to maintain the security of the area is assured.

Once that goal is reached, the next step will be an acceleration of civic action programs. These programs are geared to assist the Vietnamese villagers to help themselves.







# Three Former VC Collect 700,000 'P'

TAM KY (USA)—Three former Viet Cong soldiers here have been personally cited by South Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Van Loc for performing "outstanding service to their country".

The trio, Dang Huan Hung, Pham Hanh and Tran Coi, received a total of 700,000 piastres reward for helping uncover VC weapons and equipment and inducing other enemy troops to defect.

## Santa Visits Orphans

(Continued from Page 1)  
boxes were on their way to Saigon.

In the Vietnam capital, exchange employees—behind the Engineer Branch's "Help the Orphanage Club"—used contributions to buy food for a big party. They located store display decorations, planned, and then worked a full day to turn a school auditorium into a real Christmas setting.

Santa Claus, alias Mr. Karl A. Kowalski, chief, Engineering Branch, RVNR, rode in a jeep through the orphanage compound's gates around 4 p.m. to open the festivities.

Nearly 350 orphans—perhaps 50 of them in corrective braces—sat around the edge of the auditorium staring at the 12-foot Christmas tree twinkling with 100 colored lights. At its base appeared toys and other gifts from San Rafael and from the engineer's club.

Adding to the excitement of the party, a nationwide US TV network moved a sight and sound crew in to document the party preparations in the morning.

All three men are returnees under the South Vietnamese Government's Chieu Hoi Program. Chieu Hoi is the Vietnamese term for "Open Arms", a description of the welcome and promise of fair treatment included in the government's standing offer to returning enemy troops.

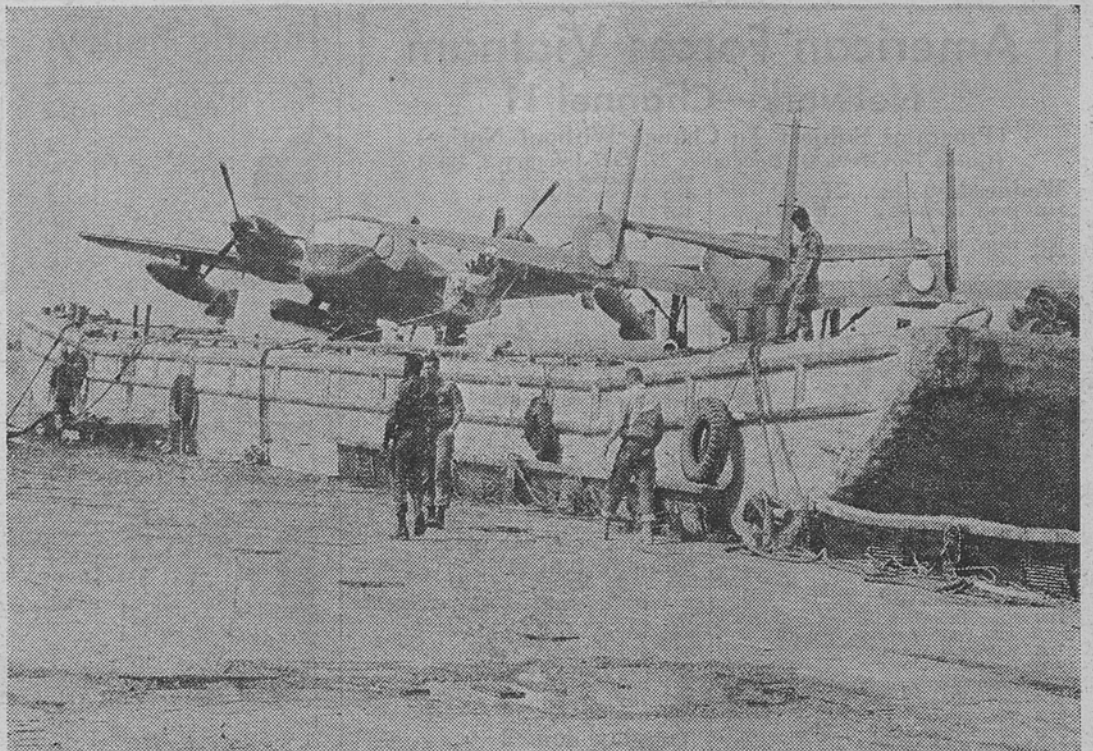
Prime Minister Loc formally congratulated the returnees after being briefed on their individual acts of service.

Twenty-six year old Dang Huan Hung was cited for leading U.S. Airborne troops to a Viet Cong hospital northwest of here.

In addition, he was instrumental in the capture of 20 VC, two Russian built machine guns, a B-40 rocket launcher, 300 pounds of TNT, two M-79 grenade launchers and two tons of ammunition.

Hung's reward for this was 400,000 piastres.

The next highest cash award went to Tran Coi, who received 200,000 piastres for convincing 30 others to defect with him. A 100,000 piastre reward was given to Pham Hanh for leading infantry and rangers to a cache of 24 radios near Thang Binh.



**SMALLEST AIRCRAFT CARRIER**—They can't take off and land here, but these two Mohawk airplanes help this barge at Vung Tau qualify as an aircraft carrier. Such transportation problems are handled by the Traffic Management Agency. (USA PHOTO BY David Frazier)

## Vietnamese Escapes Enemy After 14 Months Captivity

DA NANG (USMC)—Nguyen Mat is a 39-year-old South Vietnamese peasant. He suffered the same plight as thousands of his countrymen who were forced to work for the Viet Cong.

For 14 months he worked as a coolie for the VC, under threat of death if he refused.

When North Vietnamese Army units moved into Quang Nam province—Nguyen Mat's home area—the VC turned him over

to the NVA.

The North Vietnamese made him feed, house and help care for their wounded. He also buried their dead. Whenever the NVA moved, he'd have to move with them.

Nguyen Mat finally got the chance to escape when the 1st Marine Division encountered the NVA forces during Operation Essex. He was burying bodies from an earlier fire-fight when his captors were pinned down by heavy fire from the Marines.

Nguyen Mat and six other coolies fled the NVA. Fearing recapture, Nguyen Mat surrendered to the Marines and of-

fered to show them where he had buried the corpses.

The Marines took him to the battalion command post in the Duc Duc district of Quang Nam province. There he helped the Marines question and identify captured Viet Cong and NVA suspects.

The operation completed, Nguyen Mat was sent to the III Marine Amphibious Force headquarters here. He feels he's made a "small contribution" to his country's war effort, but there are Marines in Quang Nam province who feel, "we owe him".

## Hoi Chanh Reveals Hospital...

(Continued from Page 1)  
The others were members of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Viet Cong Regiment, detailed as food production teams for the 2nd NVA Division.

Continuing the search, two more huts were found 200 meter north of the main complex. Hidden documents indicated that the hut served as a hospital staff living quarters.

The next day, five more enemy soldiers surrendered to the paratroopers. The three NVA and two VC were carried to the hospital where they were treat-

ed. All of the wounded were subsequently evacuated to the 2nd Field Hospital for proper care.

At this point in the search, Captain Thomas Mercer, the company commander, requested a psychological operations team to continue the search for enemy wounded.

"We knew there were more nearby," Captain Mercer said. "We hoped the psy-ops team could persuade them to surrender."

Sergeant Michael Stone and Specialist 4 Gary Fairchild of the 244th Psychological Opera-

tions Company were airlifted into the hospital site.

With rucksacks and loudspeakers on their backs, the team was briefed, then sent to the top of the mountain. An NVA soldier volunteered to broadcast an appeal to the other enemy troops.

The next morning, another NVA patient walked into the complex, his hands clasped behind his neck.

He was the last to surrender. "The NVA said there were 52 patients and 30 staff members and cadre at the hospital" concluded the captain.



Paratroopers found this operating room complete with operating table and mosquito nets.

## Tries, But Doesn't Make It

DA NANG (USN)—Delivering babies isn't the job of Hospital Corpsman Second Class Bill Hardin.

At least it wasn't until recently.

Corpsman Hardin, who serves with an advisory team south of Da Nang, received word that a Vietnamese Popular Forces soldier's wife was about to have a baby. He picked up the expectant mother and brought her to the dispensary at 9 p.m., where a midwife was to deliver the baby.

At 10 p.m. he learned that no midwife was available to make the delivery, so he put the expectant mother in his pickup

truck and headed for the U.S. Overseas Mission hospital.

He came close to getting the woman to the delivery room—but not close enough.

"We made it to the parking lot but then her time had come," said the corpsman. He delivered the baby in the front seat of the pickup.

"I sent my interpreter to get some help from the hospital and they came and took care of the mother and the baby," he said. "It's the most worthwhile thing I've done in the 18 months I've been in Vietnam."

The baby, a boy, and his mother are doing fine, according to Corpsman Hardin.

### Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp Here	
(16 cents Airmail)	
(10 cents 1st class)	

TO:



The



FIRST IN VIETNAM

# OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 33

Saigon, Vietnam

December 20, 1967



## COMUSMACV's Christmas Day Greeting

*I am proud of you and deeply grateful for your magnificent performances of duty during the past year. To each of you, and to your families I send my warmest personal wishes for a joyous Christmas and a satisfying New Year.*

*W. C. Westmoreland*  
W. C. WESTMORELAND  
General, United States Army  
Commanding



# Nine Rules

The Vietnamese have paid a heavy price in suffering for their long fight against the communists. We military men are in Vietnam now because their government has asked us to help its soldiers and people in

winning their struggle. The Viet Cong will attempt to turn the Vietnamese people against you. You can defeat them at every turn by the strength, understanding, and generosity you display with the people. Here are nine simple rules:

1. Remember we are guests here: We make no demands and seek no special treatment.
2. Join with the people! Understand their life, use phrases from their language and honor their customs and laws.
3. Treat women with politeness and respect.
4. Make personal friends among the soldiers and common people.
5. Always give the Vietnamese the right of way.
6. Be alert to security and ready to react with your military skill.
7. Don't attract attention by loud, rude or unusual behavior.
8. Avoid separating yourself from the people by a display of wealth or privilege.
9. Above all else you are members of the U.S. Military Forces on a difficult mission, responsible for all your official and personal actions. Reflect honor upon yourself and the United States of America.

## Magic Word

Gold! Gold! That is a word that has fired the imagination of mankind through the ages. It has played an important part in the legends, folk tales and writings of man.

Even in our highly specialized and technologically advanced modern world, gold still plays a major role. In international finance, gold is the means of ultimate settlement among monetary authorities.

Because of the economic strength of the United States and the stability of the U.S. dollar in international trade, the U.S. gold price serves as an anchor for the world's currencies.

The continuing value of U.S. currency depends upon a sufficient gold reserve to meet demands for exchange



of U.S. dollars for gold by foreign countries. In recent years, these demands for dollar-gold exchange have increased.

We must meet these demands inasmuch as the U.S. Treasury has given its word to do so and the continuing value of U.S. currency depends on the validity of this promise.

These increased demands for exchange of U.S. dollars received in world trade for payment in gold have resulted in the "gold flow" we have heard so much about.

Since 1949, our gold supply has dropped from \$25 billion to \$15 billion as a result of foreign claims.

How do we stop the dollar drain that contributes to the gold flow? We must reduce the outflow of U.S. dollars to foreign countries.

As individuals, we don't have much to say about dealings in upper financial strata. But we can control our own spending. For example, we can buy American made products and, of course, we can invest our money in U.S. Savings Bonds or the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program.

In doing this you not only cut down on foreign spending, but help build individual financial security as well. (AFPS)

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### New Law To Benefit All Vets

WASHINGTON (AD) — Some veterans benefits were added and some were greatly increased by Public Law 90-77 (Veterans Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967) which became effective October 1, 1967.

Flight training eligibility is unlike the eligibility for ordinary classroom study. Check carefully into the matter before committing yourself for flight lessons. Allowances range from \$130 to \$175 a month.

A GI on-the-job apprenticeship and farm cooperative training program will soon be available. Training period payments will vary but range from \$80 to \$100 a month for the first six months. Smaller payments are provided for additional six month periods.

Higher payment rates are in effect for school attendance under the GI Bill. Even part-time students receive a proportionate increase.

The age limit for educational financial assistance from the VA for sons and daughters of veterans is raised from 23 to 26.

If you have a GI-guaranteed home loan be sure to get a release of liability from the VA if you sell your home through an "assumption" purchase. If not released, you remain liable in case of subsequent foreclosure.

More detailed information is available from your Personal Affairs office or the local VA office.

## Concessions Take MPCs

SAIGON (VRE) — All current piaster concessionaire shops in the Vietnam Regional Exchange have converted from piaster sales to MPC effective December 11, 1967. The change has been accomplished as a first step in standardizing price lists of like items from one concession to another throughout the Vietnam PX operation.

Concessionaires will display official, standard price lists, supplied by the PX system. Look for the list and pay the MPC price indicated.

## Aliens Report In January

WASHINGTON (AFT) — All aliens who are presently serving in the U.S. armed forces in Vietnam are reminded that January is the regular month for reporting to the Attorney General.

Because of any overseas tour in which a military person or their family may be serving, this requirement is waived until return from overseas. It must, however, be done within 10 days of the time the alien re-enters the states.



CHRISTMAS CARD—"Peace on Earth" is hand-written on this special Christmas card addressed to the fighting men in Vietnam. The artist is Billy Lodges, 22, who suffers from a muscular ailment. He is confined to bed, but he has heart for the fighting men in Vietnam. In his labored handwriting he has added "May you have a very blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

## A Gift Of Thanks

General W.C. Westmoreland received this unsigned letter, written on Thanksgiving Day, from a woman who asked that her message of thanks be relayed to the men in Vietnam. Dear Soldiers,

Today after the rush of the usual Thanksgiving dinner and guests, plus putting the baby to bed for the night, I decided to relax by reading the paper. There on the front page was your Thanksgiving gift to us. I have no gift in return, so I hope this message of thanks will be accepted as my gift.

Maybe it seems that many of us at home have dismissed you over there except when one has someone personally involved. If you feel that we have, please remember that so many of us are proud of your courage and sense of duty.

It is much easier to sit at

home in a warm comfortable chair and be critical of others when one does not have to move out of that chair. For those who feel that way, you can always take pride that it is you who are allowing them to sit there. Even though they can not admit this, you know. And that is what the war is all about — the freedom to do what one likes as a reasonable human being here and there.

Thank you for allowing me and my family to have the kind of Thanksgiving Day we all love so dearly. Thank you for allowing me to be able to put my daughter in a nice warm bed. Thank you for allowing me to sit at home and to do all the thousand other things I enjoy doing.

My prayer is that the next Thanksgiving Day, you can do all the things you like to do.

A belated thanks



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# ARVN's Sting 3 VC Battalions

SAIGON (MACV) — A multi-battalion force from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), tearing into three crack Viet Cong battalions which had massed along the O Mon Canal in the Mekong Delta, killed 456 of the enemy in explosive fighting Dec. 8-10.

The battle, which raged along the crucial waterway approximately 102 miles southwest of Saigon, represented a major victory for the ARVN forces. Elements of the 21st ARVN Infantry Division, including the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 31st Regiment, the 3rd Battalion, 33rd Infantry Regiment, and the 9th Cavalry Squadron, and elements

of the 42nd, 43rd and 44th ARVN Ranger Battalions took part in the action.

The three enemy battalions, identified as the Tay Do, the 303rd and the U Minh 10, were bloodied heavily in the fighting. The 303rd VC Main Force Battalion, designed to control its operational area of Chuong Thien Province, had been avoiding contact since losing 350 killed last February to the ARVN's 21st Division.

The Tay Do Battalion, working out of Can Tho Province, had been operating lately in scattered, platoon-sized units. It was once considered one of the most effective insurgent

forces operating in the Delta.

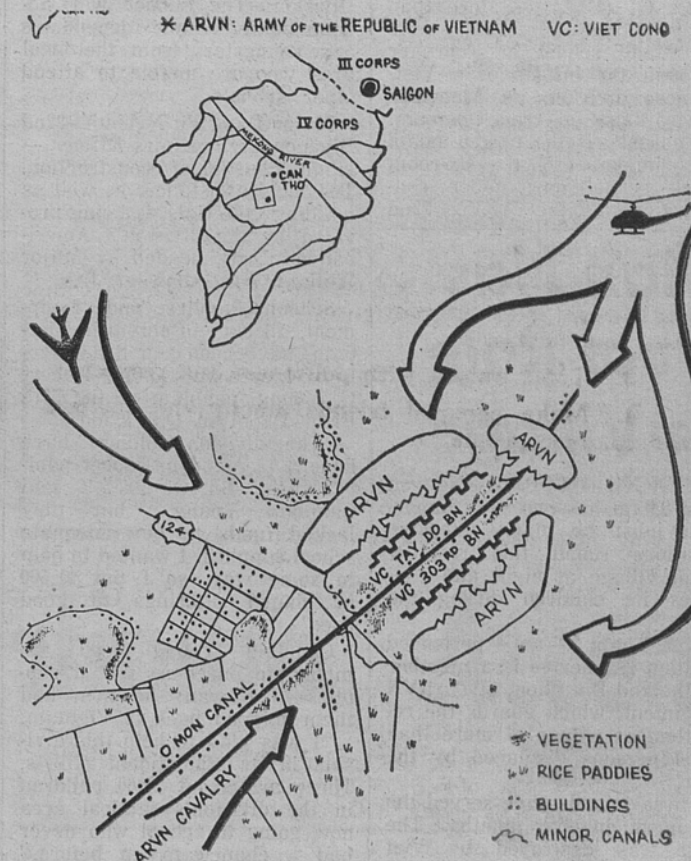
The U Minh 10, operating in Kien Giang Province, has not had contact in force for a year, being engaged primarily in small-unit harassing forays.

The ARVN infantry and ranger units were heli-lifted into positions encircling the enemy positions on three sides early on the morning of the 8th. The encirclement was slowly and steadily closed throughout the day. A troop of cavalry closed off the fourth side of the trap and then attacked through the circle into the enemy's positions.

At the end of the first day's fighting, the ARVN troops had killed 365 Viet Cong—the largest number of enemy killed by ARVN troops in a one-day single engagement.

On the 9th, an enemy force—composed of elements of the U Minh 10 Viet Cong Local Force Battalion and remnants of the other two VC battalions fleeing the battle area—was engaged a short distance northwest of the main contact. On the 10th ARVN troops swept the battle area and pursued the fleeing Viet Cong.

Eighty-six enemy were killed on the 2nd and 3rd days of the engagement. The ARVN troops also captured 16 of the enemy and 129 of their weapons. Friendly casualties were reported as 65 killed and 136 wounded.



## Signalmen Support Teacher's Studies

QUI NHON (USA) — In less than a year, Tran Thi Thang will be teaching Vietnamese children their ABCs. A few months ago she had little hope of ever becoming a teacher.

Now, the pretty 22-year-old has her teaching career assured through the generosity of the men of the 41st Signal Battalion.

Miss Thang's family is poor. Her father was killed by the Viet Cong and her mother supports a family of four in the northern city of Hue on what is barely a subsistence income.

Her ambition to become a teacher is now being aided by the signalmen; they are giving her 2,000 piasters (about \$17) a month while she is attending school. She is one of 15 students aided at the Qui Nhon Normal School. Ten receive "full scholarships" of 2,000 piasters a month while the others, who have outside sources of income, receive 1,000 piasters.

"This is probably the most worthwhile of our long-term projects," stated Chaplain (Captain) George O. Elgin, who oversees the unit's ambitious civic action program.

"We also help build orphanages, support a Boy Scout troop and give clothes and food to self-defense teams in the hamlets," he said. "But, this is the project that will probably pay off more in the long run."

"Last year we supported 10 students," Chaplain Elgin said. "Three are teaching now and the others are in their final year of the two-year school. These teachers will go out into the communities to teach more children. Without our support, many wouldn't be able to complete the required schooling."

The men of the 41st are now in the process of installing electric lights and a public address system in the Qui Nhon Normal School.

## Navymen Become Firemen

DA NANG (USN) — Nine Naval Support Activity men became volunteer firemen recently when they helped contain a blaze in a Da Nang residential district.

When the navymen sighted the flames, they raced to the scene to offer their assistance.

"On arriving at the scene, we found one building on fire and two others threatened," said Construction Man Kerry L. Woodward. "Flames were shooting up along the main street."

The men—all taxi drivers at the support activity — called their dispatcher and asked him to report the fire to the base Fire Department.

"We pitched in to help the Vietnamese fight the fire. Some of the guys climbed to the roof and began pitching water on the fire," continued Woodward.

The navymen also helped Vietnamese residents remove valuables from adjoining buildings.

Firemen soon arrived, but the first building was already beyond saving. The two adjoining buildings were saved.



TIGER BY THE TAIL—From left, Lance Corporals James R. Ortega and Thomas L. Little and Sergeant James L. Griffith display the tiger skin they brought back from a five-day recon patrol. The tiger was killed when it entered their outpost position Thanksgiving Day. (USMC PHOTO BY SSgt Jack Jansen)

## CORDS, Green Berets Assist Victims Of Viet Cong Terror

TRA BONG (USA) — The Viet Cong squad which burned the Tra Trung hamlet to the ground Oct. 29 probably did more to damage their cause than to help it.

No definite motive for the burning and kidnapping of eight

villagers was evident for the early morning raid.

Of those abducted, one was an assistant hamlet chief. Another was a member of the Trung Son cadre. The others were involved in supplying logs for the Trung Son sawmill. Whatever their reason was for the total destruction of the hamlet, the VC terrorist act left 250 villagers homeless and in need of immediate help.

Company C of the nearby 5th Special Forces Group—with the assistance of the Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), Highland Affairs and Refugee Divisions—diverted a Caribou aircraft to haul in civic action supplies. The first load of supplies began arriving the morning following the raid.

Green Beret troops also brought with them materials, food, clothing and tools for rebuilding the hamlet.

By the end of the first day following the raid, three aircraft had delivered more than 8,000 pounds of supplies. They were distributed by the Green Berets, Vietnamese Special Forces and

Truong Son Cadre.

A Vietnamese psychological unit was sent to the VC-deployed hamlet to make tapes, posters, and leaflets of the incident.

## Soldiers Build Wall Of Safety

DI AN (USA) — Traffic accidents endangering the Vietnamese children attending classes at the Dong Hoa Public School have been lessened by the 1st Inf Div's 1st Engineer Bn.

Numerous children had been injured during the class recesses when they wandered onto the highway running alongside the school. E Co provided the solution to the problem by building a cement wall between the school grounds and the heavily traveled Highway 1A.

A squad of engineers—reinforced by Vietnamese masons employed by the 1st Bn—built the wall to a height of four feet. Then the children painted the wall white during their class recesses.

A playground, complete with a swing set and two see-saws, was erected within the school grounds to insure the children's presence in the recess area. The engineers constructed the playground from scrap bridge materials.

The men from E Co also donated a truck-load of sandbags to the RFPF (Regional Forces and Popular Forces) outpost situated next to the school grounds. The sandbags increased the outpost's defensive structure.

## BSA Spans The Ocean

SAIGON (USN) — Amidst Vietnam's war for independence and democracy, an American Boy Scout Troop here is helping improve relations between the two peoples by aiding a group of Vietnamese Boy Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop 1 is the group spearheading this international effort. There are 15 boys in the troop, all dependents of American missionaries and businessmen in Vietnam.

The American Scouts have been teaching the Vietnamese Scouts new methods of preparing outdoor cook-out dishes.



# ARVN Div Builds Dependent School

BA GI (USA) — More than 600 youngsters here will be able to attend school in February through the efforts of a Vietnamese division, its American advisors and an Army Chaplain. February is the target month for completion of the six-room brick school now under construction by the ARVN 22nd

Division. The school will accommodate ARVN dependents and youngsters from the local area who are unable to attend other schools.

Major Dang Vu Nghiem—22nd Division Civil Affairs Officer—is in charge of construction. Technical assistance, as well as building materials, is being provided by the division's American advisors, headed by Major William W. Galloway, Jr.

School supplies and equipment, difficult to obtain in Vietnam, have been supplied largely by Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Young, chaplain at the 58th Field Depot in Qui Nhon.

"The division soldiers have done a tremendous job of pacifying the Ba Gi area," said Chaplain Young, "but they lacked funds to buy adequate school supplies. I wanted to help in some way, so I put \$1,500 in chapel offerings to good use."

Chaplain Young used the money to purchase school supplies in Hawaii; he then had them shipped back to Vietnam.

"I was glad to help this division in its educational efforts. There are about 2,000 children in the division's tactical area now going to school who never had a chance to go before."

This was an apparent reference to the division's previous efforts toward educating Vietnamese children. A more recent example of such an effort was the establishment of a temporary school for 250 children of ARVN soldiers this past spring.

Three teachers were hired from a Vietnamese civilian agency, and the division's commander, Colonel Nguyen Van Hieu, assigned seven troopers to help out with the teaching chores.

Expressing strong support of the division's efforts, Col. Hieu said the education of Vietnam's children has always been one of his major concerns.

# Man Has Dual Role In Village

YEN NE (I CORPS)—Nguyen Van Tham has two very important jobs: he mans defensive positions round this resettlement village at night and educates its children during the day.

Van Tham—an experienced civilian teacher—is a member of the 2nd Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment, which guards the resettlement village of more than 1,000 persons displaced by the war.

Three schools have served the villagers in six months. The first was destroyed by Viet Cong sappers because villagers were using it for town meetings.

School number two was a crude metal lean-to erected by ARVN soldiers. In October a new two room school house opened its doors.

Built by villagers and 51st Regiment soldiers, the school is furnished with desks fashioned from scrap lumber by soldier-carpenters.

"Destruction of the old school did the VC more harm than anything else they have done," according to Captain Norman C. Lemieux, U.S. Advisor to the battalion. "When Charlie interrupted the education of the children, the villagers began to hate him."

# Movie Too Realistic

CU CHI (USA) — Who said television these days isn't realistic?

One 25th Infantry Division soldier would disagree, for he sat through the opening rounds of a mortar attack and thought that it was part of the television show he was watching.

Specialist 4 Richard Speitel had just settled down in front of a TV set at a neighboring signal unit when a "rip-roaring" combat movie came on.

About the same time, Viet Cong guerrillas opened fire on the division base camp with mortars and recoilless rifles.

Specialist Speitel, a member of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, just sat and watched the show.

"The explosions were sounding off in a big action scene," he explained. "Suddenly I realized we weren't just hearing explosions from the screen. Mortars were landing all around us."

Grabbing his hat and heading out the door, Specialist Speitel raced through a hail of fire in the battalion motor pool and dove into his bunker.

"After it was all over, we went back into the barracks. When I took off my hat, I almost died—there was a hole right through the brim."



A GIRL IS A GIRL—Pfc George H. Tucker catches up on the news during a lull in the 101st Airborne's Operation Wheeler near Chu Lai. Pfc Tucker appears to be finding the news in great shape. (USA PHOTO BY Sp4 Croxton)

# Engr Bn To Train Viets

BEAR CAT (USA) — The 86th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 34th Engineer Group, has been selected to train the 303rd Engineer Battalion Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

Selected cadre personnel from the ARVN battalion—including both officers and enlisted men—will be attached to the U.S. battalion for the purpose of being trained in the skills of combat engineers. The training will consist largely of on-the-job training and occasional classroom instruction.

During each phase of instruction, the ARVN engineers will live with and work side-by-side with the U.S. engineers who are instructing them, both in the field and at various base camps where the 86th has units stationed.

The ARVN engineers are scheduled to receive training in maintenance and operation of vehicles, concrete and culvert uses, reconnaissance, construction of float, and panel bridges, mines and demolitions, project planning and material estimating, quarry operations and conveyance procedures.

The instruction began November 19 and will conclude December 31.

# Komer Explains New System For Measuring Pacification

SAIGON (MACV) — A revolutionary system for obtaining a more accurate determination of the status of pacification in South Vietnam was unveiled Dec. 1 by Ambassador Robert W. Komer at a news conference here.

The new program is called the Hamlet Evaluation System

(HES) and, using computers fed with data collected by more than 1,000 American advisers in the field, it is designed to cover the more than 12,000 hamlets in the republic as they are cleared of Viet Cong.

Ambassador Komer, who is deputy to General William C. Westmoreland for U.S. Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support of the Government of Vietnam, said of pacification:

"It is variously termed but basically it is a process of converting people who support the Viet Cong or are neutral to the Government of Vietnam's side. Some call it chiefly a matter of providing population control or continuous local security."

With the HES, the ambassador pointed out: "We can now at least measure the various factors which bear on the attitude of the people in the countryside."

He reminded reporters that he was not making a progress report on pacification but wanted to explain the new system that would enable the U.S. Mission and the Government of Vietnam to gauge more accurately the factors which win the hearts and minds of people.

HES now provides data on 63 per cent of the 12,650 hamlets in South Vietnam. These hamlets are classified on a scale from "A" (secure with high development) to "E" (insecure with no development).

The classification of a hamlet is determined by HES on the basis of nine security indicators and nine development indicators which are provided by U.S. advisers in the field.

Thus, as of Oct. 31, HES showed that out of 8,650 hamlets rated there were 216 with a combined population of 659,000 in "A" category; 1,854 with a population of 3,452,000 in "B"; 3,196 with a population of 4,178,000 in

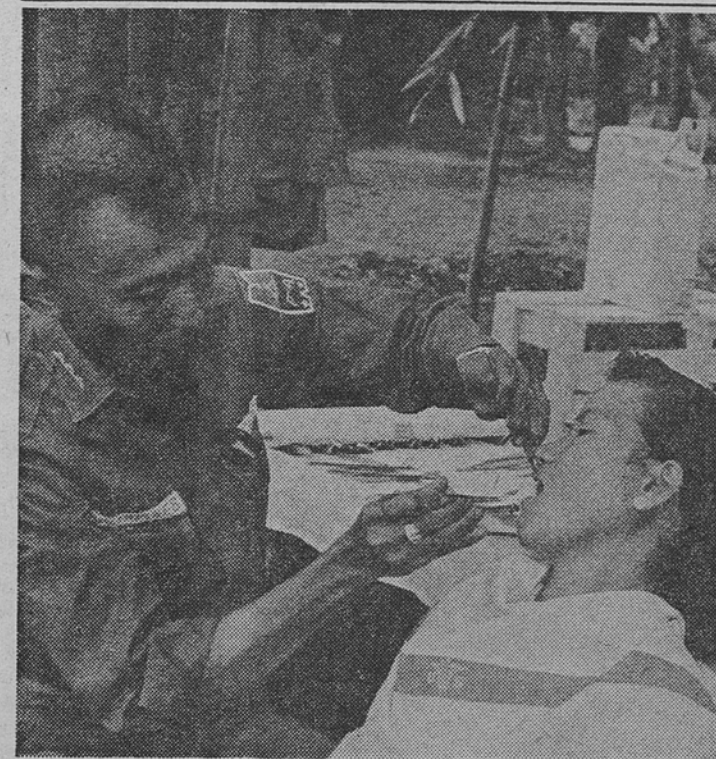
"C"; 2,221 with a population of 2,103,000 in "D"; 472 with a population of 331,000 in "E"; and 3,989 with a population of 2,804,000 held by the Viet Cong. There were approximately 700 hamlets that were not evaluated because they had been abandoned at one time or another.

In explaining the scale, Ambassador Komer pointed out, for example, that an "E" category hamlet showed a Government of Vietnam presence, usually military, but the VC are active there too; there is VC political and subversive activity, and an infrastructure is operating; friendly security is inadequate; GVN officials are present only in daytime, and health, education and welfare programs are non-existent and there is no economic development.

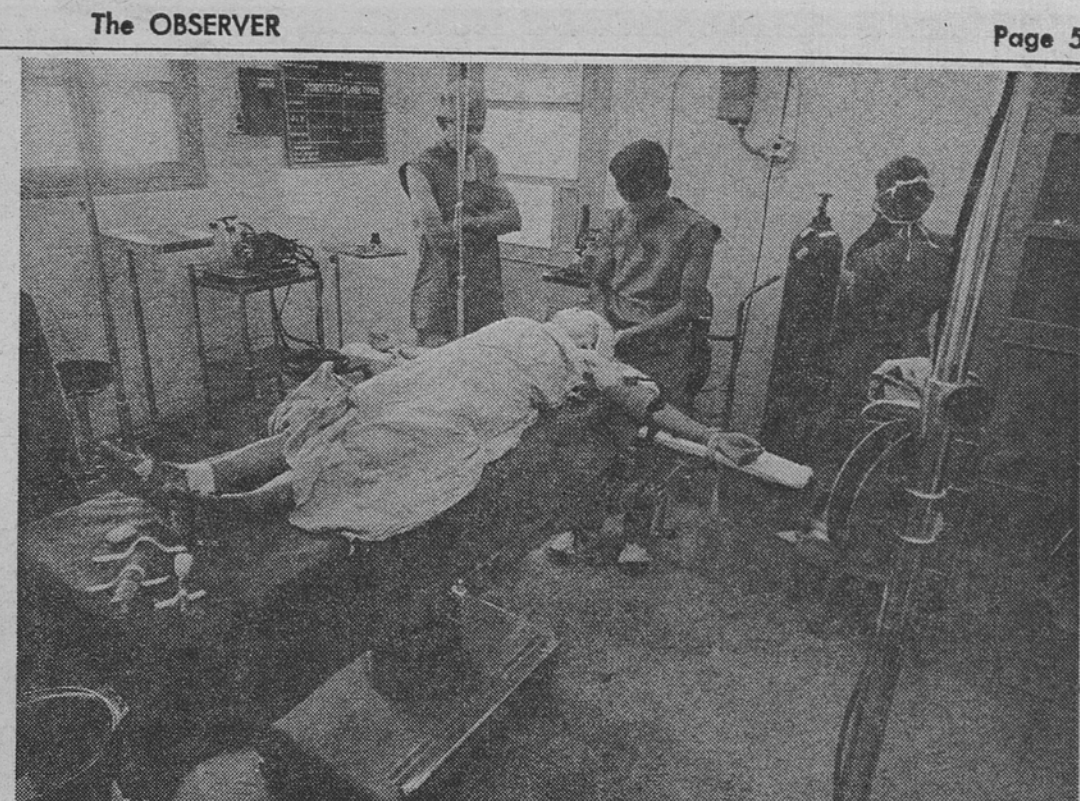
He said that the "C" category hamlet is in the middle, classed as being relatively secure with VC military control broken, most of the hamlet's infrastructure identified, no overt VC incidents noted, although continuing VC taxation is suspected. Also, officials remain in the hamlet overnight, full-time medical facilities are available and primary education is being conducted in permanent classrooms.

The ambassador observed that HES now shows that security is running ahead of development in most hamlets, and he emphasized that HES "is not perfect but is the best measurement yet developed."

"I have been talking strictly population control rather than numbers of hamlets," he told reporters. "Population control is much more significant than hamlet control. A hamlet can vary from 50 to 20,000 people. Most of the VC controlled hamlets seem to have a very small population—500 or less, while the larger and richer hamlets tend to come under control of the Government of Vietnam."



A toothache will soon be gone thanks to a PHILCAG dentist.



Preparing patients for operations is a daily task of the PHILCAG surgical team.

# RD Program Has Filipino Accent

LONG BINH (II FIELD FORCE) — Long Binh-Revolutionary Development has a marked Filipino accent in Tay Ninh Province in the II Field Force near the Cambodian border.

The Filipino accent comes from a unique organization called PHILCAG I (Philippine Civic Action Group). The Roman numeral indicates that it is the first of a series of such groups planned for assignment to Vietnam.

PHILCAG Started In 1966  
Housed since October 1966 in a model base camp—a camp which will hopefully one day be the site of a major Vietnamese university—PHILCAG I quickly established contact with all governmental and military units in the area. It made a thorough assessment of the needs and desires of the populace before it

and an area for the community. Refugees, they were told, were a major problem to the hard pressed provincial authorities. Tay Ninh was attracting those who were fleeing VC-dominated areas; those escaping military operations; and those who merely wanted to build new lives around a major urban center.

New Community Designed  
In the conferences that followed, it was agreed that a major PHILCAG project would be the construction of a model refugee center—actually a brand new community designed for permanent occupancy.

The site chosen was the VC-infested Than Dien Forest, just a few kilometers from Tay Ninh City. It meant that the VC had to be routed from the forest and the forest had to be leveled to provide virgin farm lands

piaster (about \$100.00) allowance from the GVN and the advice of PHILCAG engineers.

Finished Product  
The results resemble an "instant Levittown." Than Dien is built around a community core containing a market place, hamlet office, dispensary and maternity clinic, power house and a 10-room school house for 700 students. Presently, the village has a 700 family population totaling more than 4,000 persons.

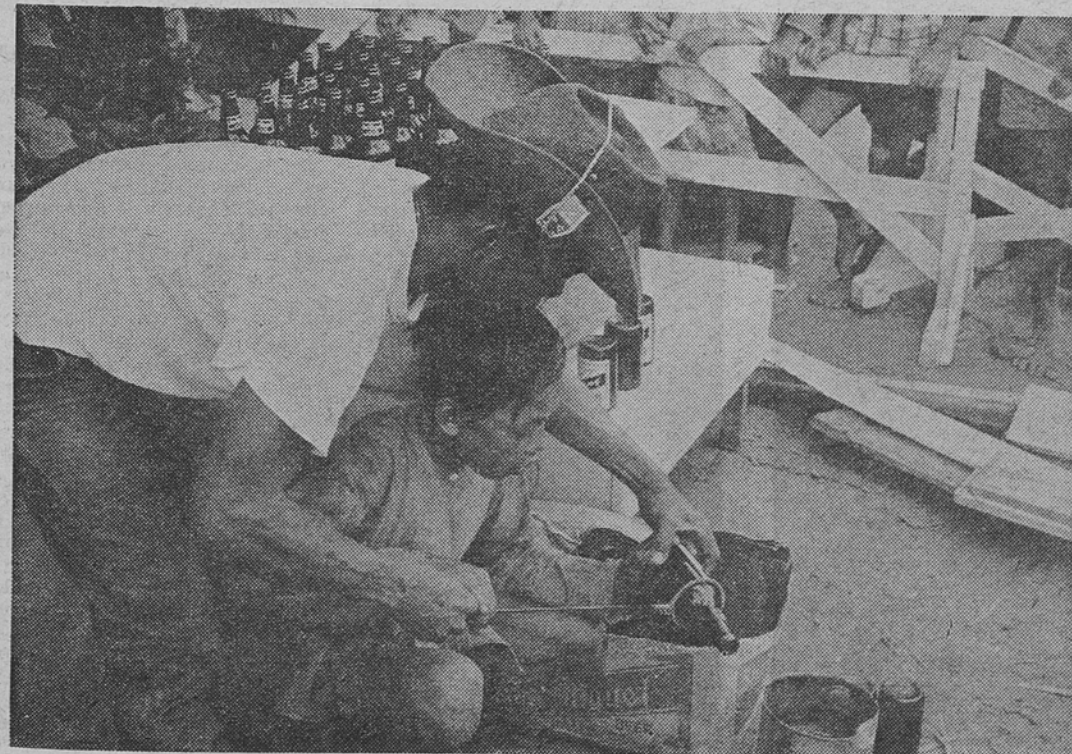
Villagers Hold Conference  
Conferences were held with the new inhabitants so that the community would be built to meet their desires. Than Dien village was laid out in a one kilometer square, with 600 duplex buildings to house 1,200 families.

Additionally, each family was given a plot of land for farming and livestock breeding. The foundations and ceilings of each duplex were constructed by PHILCAG engineers. Each inhabitant finished building their homes, assisted with a 10,000

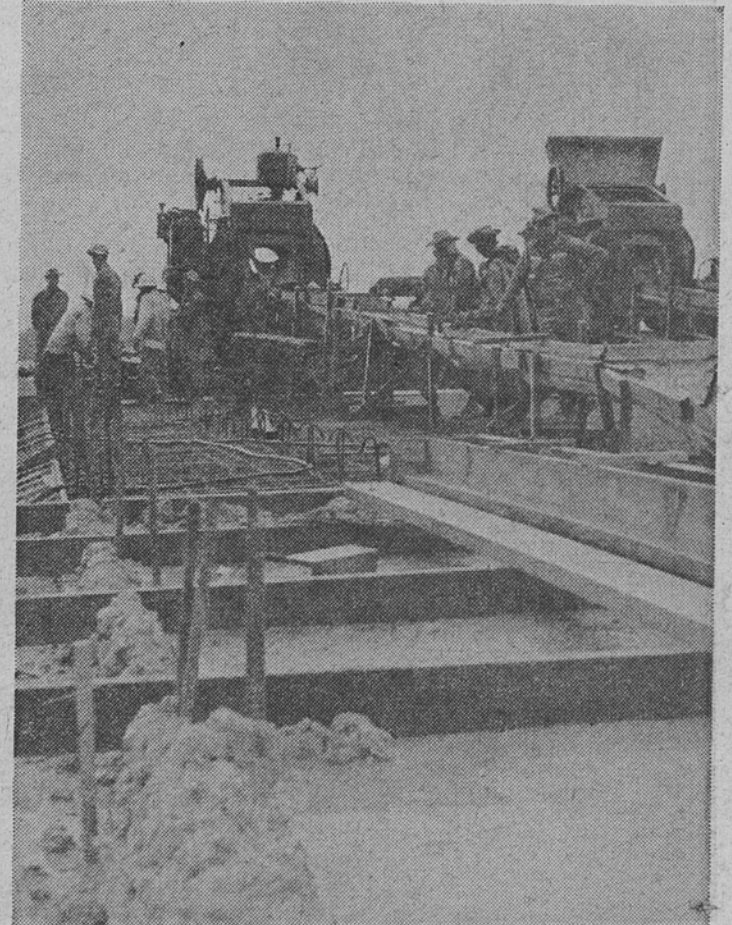
ty in four months (versus six for Vietnamese strains), has a shorter and stronger stalk, and produces from four to ten times as much yield.

More than 100 Viet Cong have returned to Government control by "rallying" to PHILCAG soldiers. Some have come from deep in the Delta (over a hundred miles away) specifically to report to PHILCAG. One reason, PHILCAG authorities are quick to point out, is that the Tay Ninh Chieu Hoi Center is one of the most modern in the III Corps Tactical Zone. PHILCAG helps at the center by giving on-the-job training to Hoi Chanh (GVN returnees) who wish to learn such engineering techniques as bulldozer operations.

Story and Photos  
By  
Sp4 Peter B. Bie  
II Field Force IO



This PHILCAG soldier shows a boy how to make glasses from beer bottles.

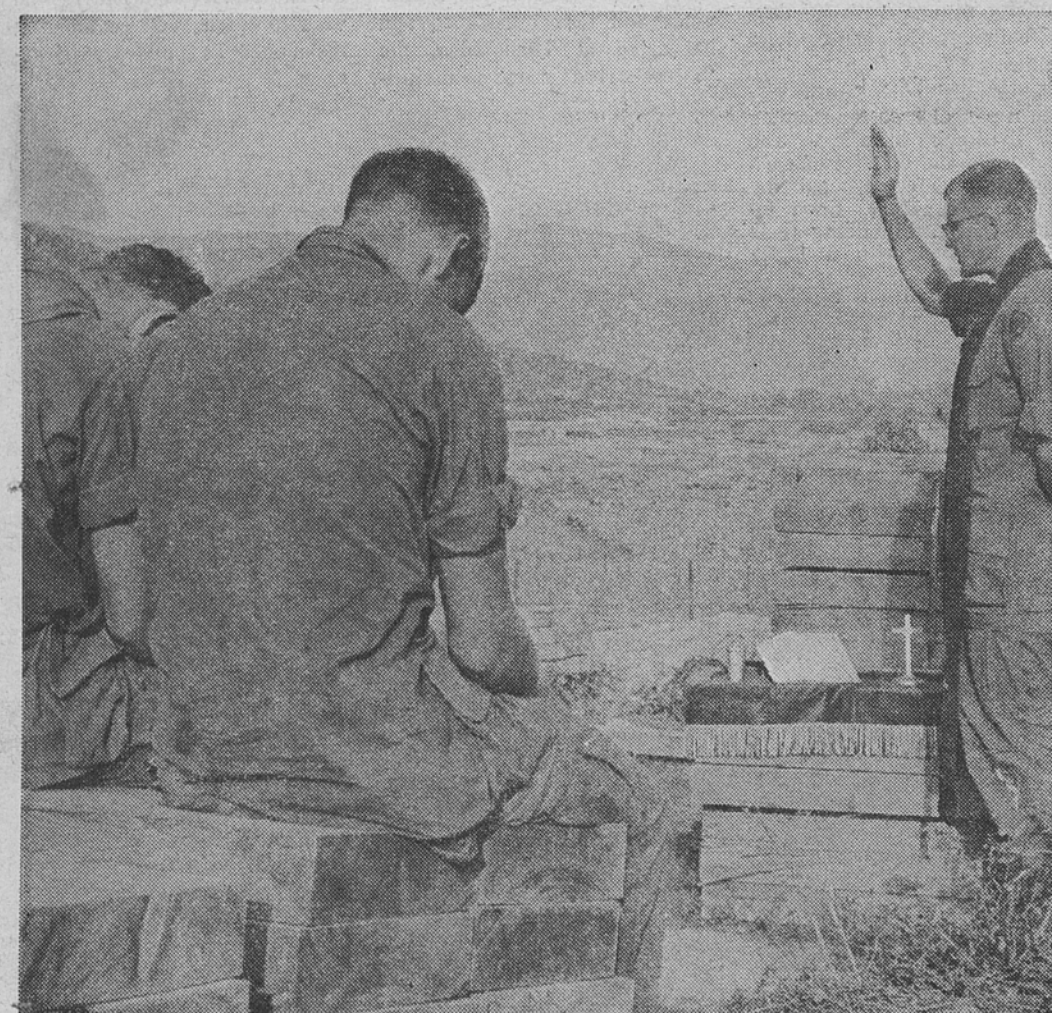


PHILCAG engineers pour cement for bridge near Tay Ninh City.

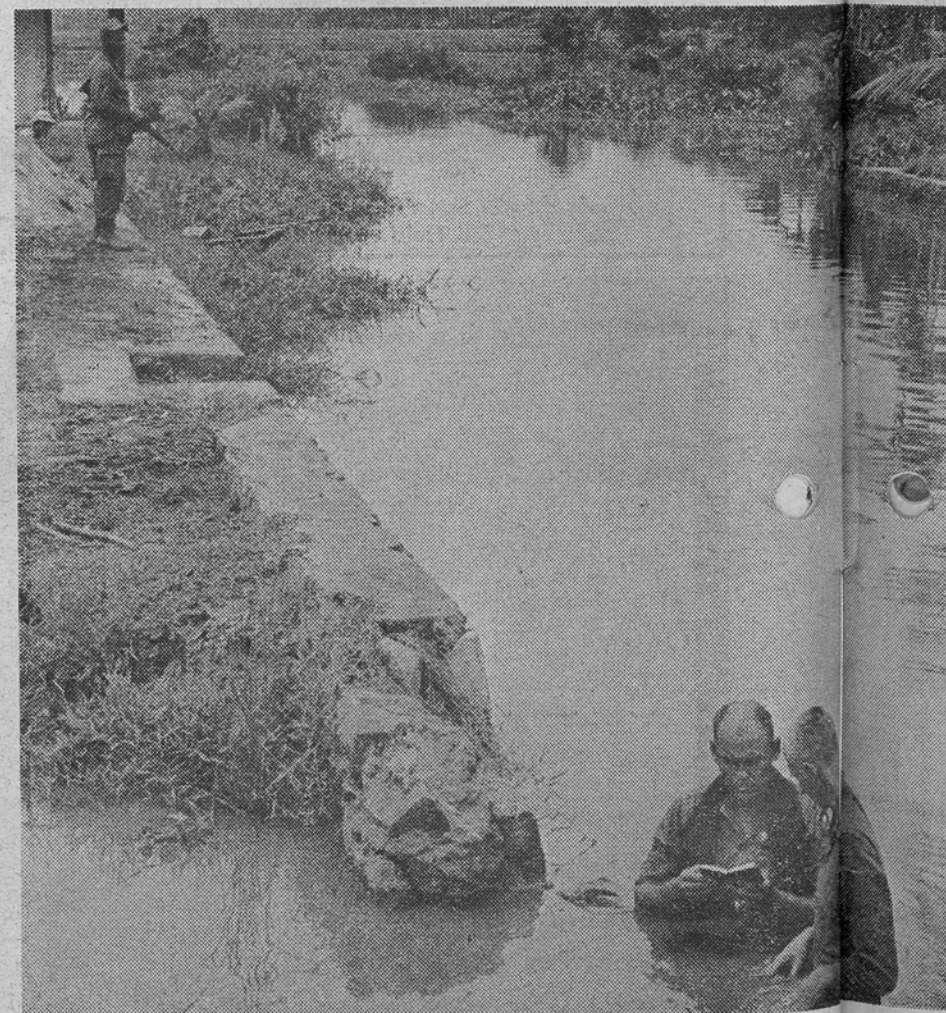




Framed by a helmet and rifle, Chaplain (Major) S.L. Shannon leads 25th Infantry Division soldiers in prayer for their lost comrades. (1)



Worship services are conducted for engineers by a 4th Division chaplain. (2)



PFC Paul Gress is baptized by Chaplain (Captain) Marion R. Kinn. (4)



During the construction of a landing zone, 1st Air Cavalrymen attend services. (3)

# For Thou Art With Me Always

## PHOTO CREDITS

1-25th Infantry IO	4-Spl. Jela Fischer
2-Sgt Allan Hyman	5-Spl. Don Hall
3-1st Air Cav IO	6-Spl. Don Hall



The tactical situation permits only a brief pause for communion. (5)



Chaplain (Major) Roy V. Peters celebrates mass with 173rd Airborne Brigade paratroopers at a fire base near Dak To. (6)





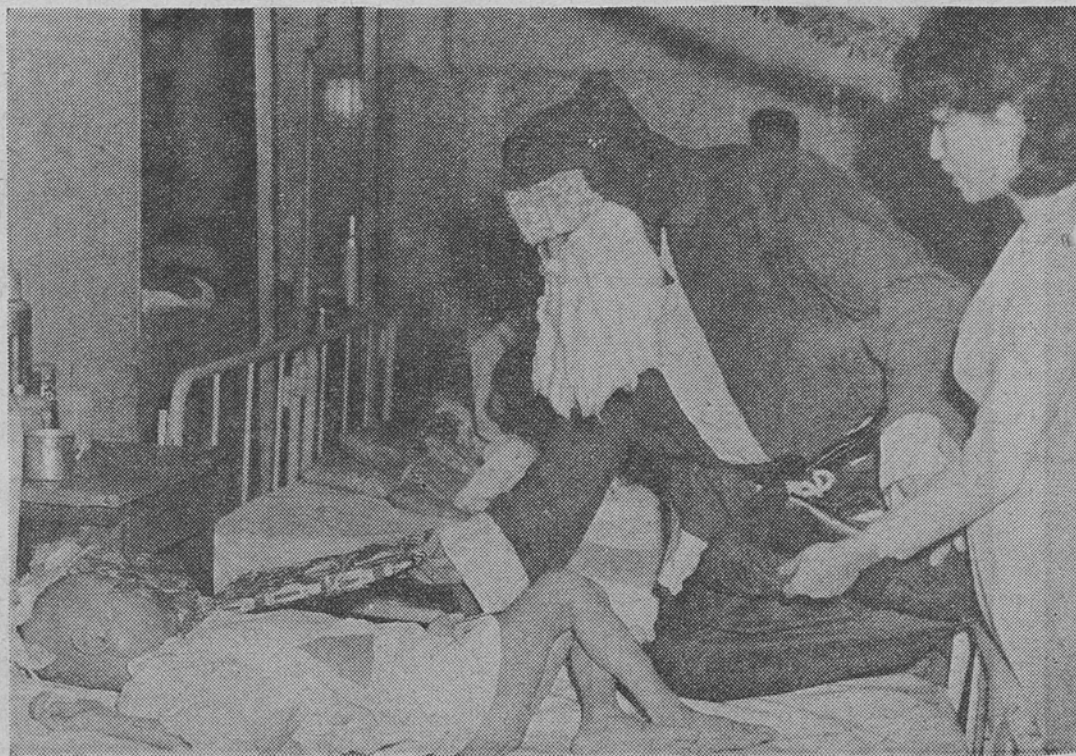
Women in conical hats pitch in to improve their neighborhood streets.



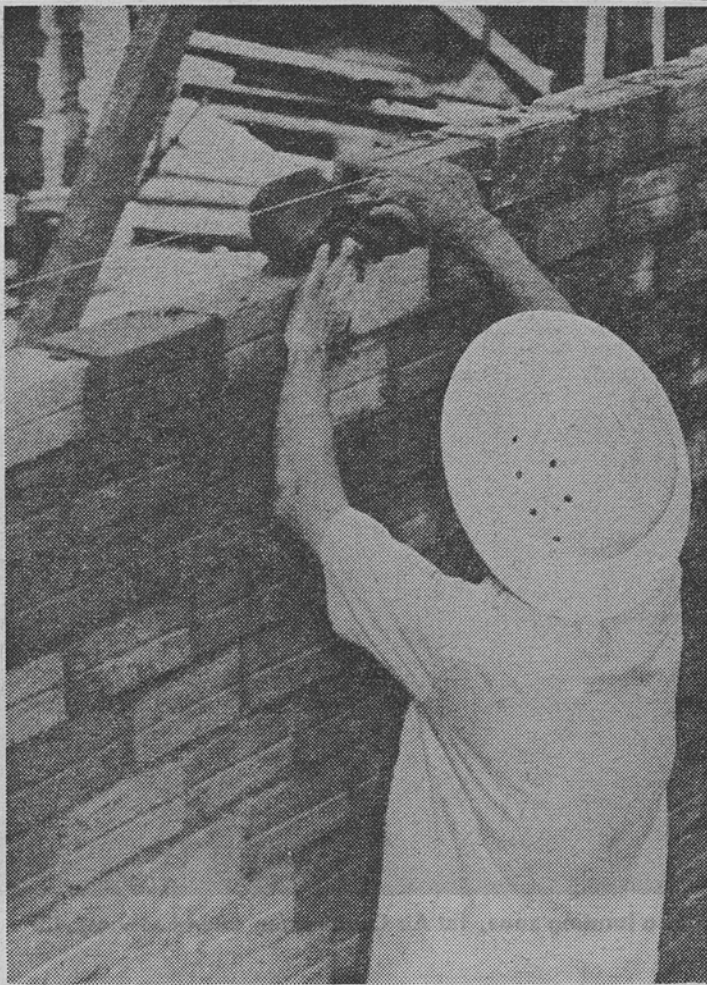
A buddhist monk thanks a civic action officer for his help.



Wielding a pneumatic hammer, a G.I. aids two Vietnamese.



Christmas presents are distributed to hospitalized youngsters by HAC Santa.



His home destroyed by fire, this man rebuilds with HAC aid.

## USAHAC Increases Aid To Vietnamese

SAIGON (USA) — In July 1966, the U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command's Civic Actions Office was sponsoring two projects. Today they are maintaining an average of almost 80 projects at any given time.

Staffed by three officers and four enlisted personnel plus assistance from nine Vietnamese Information Service district chiefs, the office is aiding the people of metropolitan Saigon in many different ways.

All projects have a central theme — that of helping the Vietnamese to help themselves, or, as more commonly known — the "Self Help Program."

"The average Vietnamese is seeing actual proof of what cooperation with their neighbors can accomplish through teamwork on the self help projects, and are proud of their accom-

plishments," said Lieutenant Colonel James F. Bodine, USAHAC Civic Actions chief.

Civic action projects are initiated through neighborhood councils in coordination with their district chiefs. They agree to furnish the required labor while USAHAC Civic Actions supplies the materials.

So far this year, the office has supplied 450 tons of cement, 250,000 board feet of lumber, and 180,000 sheets of tin which the local neighborhood councils and chiefs have employed to improve the standard of living for the people in their districts.

Story and Photos  
By  
USAHAC IO

# VC Lose Control Through 3-way Effort



Soldiers of the 1st ARVN Division help build new homes.

HUE (1 CORPS) — Some 6,500 Vietnamese are now starting a new life — a life free from Communist threat and taxation — through a three-way military-civilian effort.

They were moved from the "Street Without Joy" area of Thua Thien province, a VC stronghold, to two sites north of Hue. The move was made between Nov. 2-8 with the help of the 1st ARVN Division, U.S. Marine units and the U.S. Government.

While the ARVN division held the VC at bay, the Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) officials and Vietnamese officials handled the move, with the Marines furnishing transportation.

On the first day, only 33 families were moved, but some 2,000 were able to make the trip the second day and 2,300 on the third. The remainder was brought in the last day.

There are now 12,888 Vietnamese settled in five locations in the Phong Dien area and approximately 5,700 living in the Quang Dien area.

They began building their own homes the first week in December after receiving financial and material support. Both centers initially received five tons of rice, blankets, cooking oil and money for other needs.

CORDS also brought in public health personnel, and the Marines had medical teams come in to take care of the peoples' medical needs.



This women prepares to leave for the refugee center.

## Flood Victims Hit Road To Recovery

LONG BINH (USA)—Vo Dat rice farmers in Binh Tuy Province are well on the road to economic recovery from the recent disastrous flood that wiped out more than 2,000 acres of rice seedlings.

The road to recovery is being paved by the U.S. agency for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). Immediately after the flood, CORDS supplied the farmers with enough food to tide them over the crippling economic hurdle.

More recently, CORDS introduced the 20,000 residents to new and advanced methods of growing rice. One method that came out of this introduction involved giving the farmers a new rice strain, code named IR-8.

Developed in the Philippines,

IR-8 rice stalks produce a much thicker head of rice and mature in four months as compared to the usual six for Vietnamese rice. Seventeen tons of IR-8 rice seedlings were imported from the Philippines for the Vo Dat farmers.

"At first, the farmers were reluctant to try the new seedlings, but an intensive orientation program by the Vietnamese Information Agency helped allay fears of failure," a CORD official reported.

Work has begun on an irrigation system as technical assistance, materials and supplies pour in from CORDS and numerous Vietnamese agencies.

The Government of Vietnam has also established an agricultural loan bank for the area, enabling the farmers to draw money on long term contracts. The service was initiated to provide basic necessities for Vo Dat families during planting time.

Many of the farmers have invited Montagnard tribesmen to sharecrop the land in order to relieve the workload of families who cannot afford to hire help.

## Booby Traps: No Buffaloes

LANDING ZONE ENGLISH (USA) — Troopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade are thankful today they are not as heavy as water buffalo.

It seems that while on a recent sweep on the Bong Son plains, they saw a sign—written in Vietnamese—on the side of their trail. It was hidden behind some bushes, so rather than remove the sign, the soldiers—although unable to read it—copied down the words and continued their mission.

The company followed the same trail for the remainder of the day until it reached its destination. After their defense had been set up and the evening meal served, the company interpreter was asked what the sign said.

He looked at the words, grinned, and translated: "Do not walk water buffalo along this trail—it is booby trapped."

## Infantry Battalion Refurnishes 400-Student Village School

CU CHI (USA) — "When I first saw the school I thought it was deserted," said First Lieutenant Stanley McKee on his first visit to the Hau Nghia Province village of Thai My.

The visit by this civil affairs officer from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry started a chain of events which led to the complete refurnishing of the 400-student school.

According to Lieutenant McKee, the need for restoration was obvious. "The walls were full of holes, the woodwork was rotting and livestock were grazing in the school yard."

After talking to the schoolmaster, the lieutenant agreed to furnish the needed material for the project.

Lieutenant McKee, who witnessed part of the work, said, "After the materials arrived,

the villagers turned out in force. While the men worked, their wives cooked meals."

After the interior was repaired and painted, the villagers started on exterior improvements. "The paint worked like magic," said the Lieutenant. "The villagers built a fence around the school yard, replaced the doors and even hung maps and pictures in the classroom."

At the official opening of the school, Lieutenant Colonel Fremont Hodson Jr., battalion commander, presented the schoolmaster with world globes—one for each classroom. When asked about the success of the project, Colonel Hodson declared, "It was a job well done. It has definitely helped the 25th Division pacification effort—and, more importantly, won us some friends."

## Marines Donate Sewing Machine

DONG HA (USMC) — A Vietnamese woman who suffered the loss of a leg in 1966 has been presented a U.S. sewing machine by Third Regiment Marines.

Colonel J.E. Lo Prete, regimental commander, made the presentation to Mrs. Thi when she hobbled into an aid station for treatment. They gave her new crutches to replace the home-made sticks she was using. They also provided her with blankets for her children and firewood for her home.

Captain Robert M. Reed, regimental civic affairs officer, then arranged for the sewing machine, realizing that Mrs. Thi needed permanent employment.

The Marines have had a place of business established for her along the main road in the Cam Lo refugee village.









Peace on earth . . .



RANfone 67



# Australians

# Shield VN Farmers

## Task Force Takes Off On 'Operation Forrest'

SAIGON (MACV) — Elements of the 2nd and 7th battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment — given the mission of protect-

ing farmers and their rice harvests — launched Operation Forrest Nov. 23 in an area centered about 40 miles southeast of Saigon in Phuoc Tuy Province.

Through the first eight days of the operation, 11 enemy soldiers were killed and 38 individual and crew-served weapons captured. The Australians have also detained nine suspects.

Two companies of the Regiment's 7th Battalion, making a sweep through a fortified enemy base camp 32 miles east-southeast of Saigon, engaged an unknown size hostile force Nov. 27.

The Aussies made contact when two machineguns — and a number of small arms and automatic weapons — opened fire on them at 4:30 p.m. as they entered the base camp. Pulling back to the outer edges of the camp, the two companies called in artillery strikes on the position.

Following the last artillery strike, the enemy broke contact and fled, leaving behind five dead. Two enemy machine guns were destroyed in the action and a search of the base camp revealed quantities of weapons, equipment and munitions. Australian casualties were reported as light.

The two-hour firefight was the most significant action reported in the first eight days of the crucial operation, an operation designed to cut off the enemy from his food supplies in the Province.

The two battalions are being supported by Australian cavalry, artillery, and U.S. and Australian tactical fighter aircraft.

## Airborne Builds Up Ly Tra

LY TRA (USA) — This hamlet north of Chu Lai was a primitive sanctuary for Vietnamese who had been displaced by war. They had no school. Roads were merely rutted trails. Ancient wells dried and collected dust.

All this has now changed because the civil affairs staff of the 101st Airborne learned about their plight and decided to do something about it.

"About three months ago, I took 400 refugees to Ly Tra," recalled Captain Pete Reinhart, assistant brigade civil affairs officer. "At that time I became critically aware of the hamlet's problems."

Before a plan of action could be developed, the paratroopers left the Chu Lai area for a short period. But Captain Reinhart, while working on other projects, remembered Ly Tra and did some planning.

And when the Screaming Eagles returned to Chu Lai to begin Operation Wheeler, he was ready for this growing hamlet.

"Because of limited air transportation, we decided to restrict our civic action program in

(Continued on Back Page)



FIRST IN VIETNAM

# THE OBSERVER

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December 13, 1967



**KEEP IT COMING!**—Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Brigade pour it on in support of a combat assault during Operation Wheeler. The section fired 400 rounds in 15 minutes on this mission. (USA PHOTO BY SSGT Al Wilson)

## 'Airpower' Helps ARVNs Repel Attack On Bo Duc

SAIGON (USAF)—Air Force tactical airpower—coupled with Vietnamese Army (ARVN) firepower—thwarted a North Vietnamese attack Nov. 29, on the Vietnamese District headquarters at Bo Duc, an outpost, 90 miles north of Saigon in Phuoc Long Province.

"The only thing that kept us alive was air support," said Army Sergeant First Class Glynn Seper, an American advisor at the outpost.

Thirty-four tactical air strikes, seven AC-47 Dragonship missions, and three C-47 flare ships aided the outpost manned by Vietnamese Army forces and three U.S. Army advisors.

Vietnamese Army Forces and U.S. Air Force air strikes killed 78 enemy troops during the battle.

Bo Duc was attacked shortly after midnight. The south compound of Bo Duc was taken by the North Vietnamese, but ARVN forces regained control of the compound by dawn.

"The enemy came right up to the southeast edge of the compound—then mortars, automatic weapons, and small arms fire opened up all at once. There was no preparatory barrage or warning. They just opened up," said Army Captain Harold E. Bolin, an advisor with the 5th Reconnaissance Company, 5th Vietnamese Army Division.

"About 2 a.m. the enemy breached the southeast bunker. Then the southwest bunker fell.

Lieutenant Hung, 5th Reconnaissance Company Commander, started pulling his men out of the south compound while setting off claymore mines in the direction of the Viet Cong. At this time, we consolidated our positions in the north compound," the Captain recalled.

First Lieutenant Gene Tupacz, of Flight D, 4th Air Commando Squadron at Bien Hoa, pilot of one of the AC-47s said, "We dropped 45 flares and fired 14,000 rounds of ammunition from our mini-guns."

Lieutenant Hung rallied his

forces in the north compound and they were holding their own with the air support. "About 4 a.m. the Viet Cong began laying down smoke on one side of the compound while a force attacked from the other side. The force on the side opposite the attack would then remove the dead. They kept this up until dawn when they retreated," Bolin related.

The friendly forces were well dug in and were able to withstand the blasts of the Air Support, but its effect on the VC in the open was devastating.

## Boy Goes Fishing, Catches 'Freedom'

DA NANG (I CORPS) — Nguyen Van Dung is now free to do what he wants because he went fishing.

The 16-year-old native of North Vietnam became a Hoi Chanh (Open Arms Returnee) very easily. He simply hooked a ride on a South Vietnamese naval vessel while he was fishing in the Tonkin Gulf.

After a couple of transfers, he ended up in the Chieu Hoi center at Da Nang.

When asked why he did it, he said, "Because in the north, we had to have passes to go anywhere and we resented attempts

to indoctrinate us into the communist way of life. Now, at least, I'm free to do what I want."

He is not quite sure what he will do now that he is in South Vietnam, but he is anxious for an education. "One must have an education for living," he said, "and I'm going to school for this reason."

Because the boy's parents are still living in North Vietnam, the name given him in this story is not his real name. The story, however, is true and he is hopeful his parents also will take a "fishing trip to freedom."

## May I Begin?



**JUST WHEN TO START?**—Seems to be the question of this little girl, one of the 31 orphans from the China Beach Orphanage who were treated to a turkey dinner at the Naval Support Activity's hospital on Thanksgiving.

(USN PHOTO BY MM3 Richard Ferneau)



## Watch Yuletide Spending Spree

The Yuletide season is one of joy, love, peace, goodwill toward men, giving of gifts . . . and running up the bills.

'Tis the season to be jolly and gay—without care or worry—and often without a thought of financial responsibility.

Caught up in the spirit of the holiday, servicemen can unwittingly walk into the "credit gap" and over-extend their ability to meet the bills which inevitably



follow the Yuletide shopping spree.

Falling into the "credit gap" is simpler now than ever before. The advent of the credit card and the so-called "easy" Christmas shopping loan from the friendly neighborhood finance company have made the purchases of Christmas gifts quick and almost painless—until the bills arrive.

Once trapped, the serviceman often finds it all but impossible to extricate himself without the painful process of dunning phone calls, letters and finally communication with his unit commander.

There is no question that the giving of gifts is one of the more joyful occasions during the merry Yuletide season, but Christmas shopping should be tempered with thoughts of the budget and of the capability to meet financial responsibilities. (AFPS)

## Army Announces New VN Reenlistment Option

**SAIGON (MACV)** — A new Army reenlistment option bearing a four-year service commitment allows returnees from service in the Republic of Vietnam a choice of duty station in the U.S.

Effective Oct. 31, 1967, the option is for a 12-month stabilized tour of duty at the station of choice provided a requirement exists within current priorities. All enlisted grades serving in Vietnam are eligible.

Those who will complete a normal overseas tour of duty but are not eligible for separation may be discharged for the convenience of the government under the provisions of AR 635-100 for the purpose of immediate reenlistment under this option.

This action must be taken not more than 180 days nor less than 90 days prior to return from Vietnam. Those who do not elect this option prior to return from overseas are ineligible to take advantage of the option.

The option will not be granted to those who do not complete a normal overseas tour.

An exception to this rule are personnel medically evacuated from Vietnam earlier than 90 days before their normal overseas departure date. They may elect this option upon their availability for reassignment.

Army enlisted personnel with more than four years service, who are scheduled to return to the states for normal ETS separation, must reenlist for this option prior to their return and complete their normal Vietnam tour.

Those with less than four years service who are returning to the states for separation after their normal overseas tour may either elect this option while in Vietnam or may reenlist for it after arrival in the U.S. If the later choice is made, it must be accomplished within three months after the date of separation and the man must be otherwise qualified.

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### Infantry Unit Uses Time For Diplomas

**LONG THANH (USA)** — Not everyone in the 9th Infantry Division spends his off-duty time in the club or in the front of the TV tube.

More than 200 have enrolled in correspondence courses through the division's Education Center since September. In addition, 750 have taken the general educational development (GED) series of tests leading to high school equivalency certificates, and 140 have successfully completed the tests.

The center offers 6,000 correspondence courses at all levels of education, including 300 U.S. Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) courses, for which books are already available in the center. Other courses are offered by 46 different universities.

The center also gives college board tests, graduate record examinations, and end-of-course tests for USAFI correspondence courses.

Its director has two goals for increased service as the center grows. "First, I would like to get everyone's GT (general-technical) score up to 100, through 20-hour evening courses in math and English, and then to have qualified men within the division get certification to teach college credit courses here at Bearcat, under the University of Maryland extension program," he explained.

## Put Orders In Luggage

**SAIGON (MACV)** — Members of the U.S. Armed Forces booked for flights on Military Airlift Command or commercial aircraft must place a copy of the pertinent orders directing travel on the top inside of each piece of checked or unchecked luggage.

This action has been taken to allow more rapid recovery of mishandled baggage and to reduce claims against the government due to lost baggage.

Tags normally affixed to the exterior of luggage, regardless of whether it is checked or unchecked, may become obliterated or detached thus causing delays or confusion in identification and delivery.

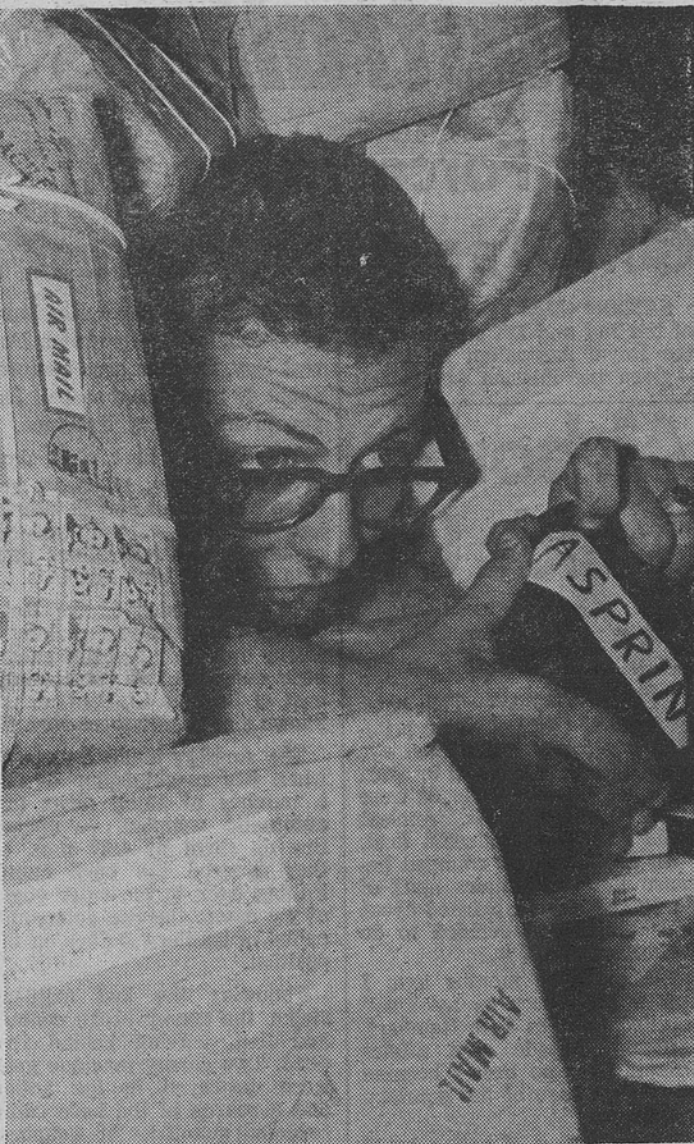
The orders should be placed inside baggage before the individual reports to a MAC check-in counter for processing.

This eliminates the inconvenience of taking this step at the time of check-in. It also reduces congestion at counters and expedites passenger processing.

## PX Christmas Sale Underway

**SAIGON (USA)** — The Vietnam Regional Exchange's commander, Col. Jack C. Potter, has announced the second PX sale of the fall season, to take place throughout its 300 retail outlets.

The CHRISTMAS BONUS SALE will offer merchandise such as radios, tape recorders and other electronic equipment,



**HELP!**—This seems to be Specialist 4 Kenneth Kestezewski's plea as the 43rd Army Postal Unit operations clerk reaches for an aspirin from under tons of Christmas mail. His unit will handle more than 25,000 tons of mail during the holiday season. (USA PHOTO BY SSGT C.B. Canady)

## Oakland Explains Processing Format

**OAKLAND ARMY BASE, CALIF.** — The old Army adage about "hurry up and wait" does not hold true for Army Vietnam returnees processing through this station.

Official policy states that all army enlisted personnel returning from Vietnam for either separation or reassignment must process through the U.S. Army Personnel Center at Oakland, whether or not they arrive at Travis Air Force Base in greens, blues or khakis.

Once the returnee lands at Travis, he is processed with the least amount of delay. Baggage is thoroughly checked by customs officials, which takes about 1 to 1½ hours. After this, he is bussed to Oakland for final processing.

## Support Letters Arrive

**SAIGON (MACV)** — Expressions of support for efforts of U.S. and Free World forces in South Vietnam arrive frequently, addressed to the commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

It is the policy of the OB-

SERVER to announce the receipt of some of these resolutions, telegrams and letters on this, the editorial page.

The following communications have been answered by General Westmoreland:

Telegram sent to President Johnson, and forwarded to COMUSMACV, expressing support with 700 signatures from the faculty and student body of Angleton (Texas) High School.

Scroll honoring veterans, living or dead, of all wars, signed by 4,453 citizens of Richland County, Illinois. Sent by Mr. Charles Putz, Chairman, Scroll Signing Committee, 404 East Main Street, Olney, Ill.

## Viet Unit Raps VC First Try

**CHU LAI (USA)** — In an isolated Special Forces camp west of Duc Pho, 50 Montagnard and Vietnamese soldiers prepare for their first mission with a U.S. infantry company.

Men of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry are checking their equipment and wondering what it will be like to operate with the Special Forces-trained Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) troops.

As the CIDG soldiers—dressed in tiger striped fatigues—disembark from hovering choppers, a curious crowd of Americal Division troops view the small-featured soldiers and their varied assortment of weapons.

With the help of sign language and pigeon English, the men quickly learn to communicate and begin making friends.

"They look pretty good to me," comments, one U.S. infantryman.

"We'll soon find out how good they are," adds, another.

Then the CIDG force moves out in the point position. After an hour march, sniper rounds shatter the stillness of the rainy morning. Everyone dives for cover.

Suddenly the shrill sound of a whistle echoes through the area, and the CIDG troops react quickly to the commands blown by their tough little Montagnard platoon leader.

Rushing the tree line in force, the CIDG silence the sniper. Pats on the back, smiles and handshakes greet the Vietnamese troops as they return. There are no more doubters in Delta Company now.

After a blistering, sweaty march, the combined U.S.-Vietnamese force reaches the peak of a 1,500-foot mountain — the objective for today.

The valley below is tomorrow's objective and the CIDG soldiers excitedly point to the valley — whispering "Beaucoup VC!!!" to their American friends.

There are no fires on this hill tonight — not even cigarettes. On the eve of battle, a strong bond of friendship is developing between the two groups of soldiers.

Cold and wet, the infantrymen move out before daylight in a driving rain. The path down the mountain is treacherous. Half way down the hill a Viet Cong sentry spots the U.S.-CIDG soldiers and fires warning shots. Tiny figures are seen fleeing in the valley.

Special Force advisor Specialist 5 Robert B. Spicer leads a small team of CIDG to the west as the Americal Infantry unit sweeps from the east. Only sporadic sniper fire is received, but nine VC are killed. The team seizes a large cache of enemy supplies and destroys enemy equipment.

The operation ends in success, but the engagement is successful in more ways than enemy killed and supplies captured or destroyed. It builds a mutual respect and admiration between allies sharing a common struggle.

## CIDG Finishes Jump Course

**DA NANG (USA)**—The CIDG (Civilian Irregular Defense Group) soldiers assigned to the Mobile Strike Force Company C of the 5th Special Forces at Da Nang are now airborne qualified. Both Vietnamese Army and U.S. Special Forces personnel served as instructors during the



**SEARCHERS**—A Special Forces advisor, Specialist 5 Robert B. Spicer (rear), and Vietnamese comrades in Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) search for elusive Viet Cong. (USA PHOTO BY Sp4 Bob Towle)

## Village Returns to Life After 14 Years of 'Death'

**CU CHI (USA)**—The sound of laughter has returned to the village of Loc Thanh after 14 years of virtual isolation from the outside world. The village is alive again, and its young people no longer move away to seek "greener fields."

This rebirth of Loc Thanh has those few people who stayed and by the arrival of the U.S. 25th Infantry division last July.

The village is located 40 miles northwest of Saigon in the vast swamp area of Hau Nghia Province, midway between Trang Bang river bridge, a vital transportation link essential to the village economy. Within a few months, the Viet Cong also mined roads leading to Loc Thanh from the south. It became increasingly difficult for villagers to market their goods by going around blocked roads or aboard costly river ferry boats.

Viet Cong goon squads began collecting "protection" money and people moved away in terror or simply to seek better opportunities elsewhere.

All of these events brought about the "death" of Loc Thanh. But things are different today. The Viet Cong have been cleared out by the 25th Infantry Division. Unit engineers have rebuilt the Trang Bang bridge and constructed or improved roads leading to the village from the north and south.

Traffic now moves freely in and out of Loc Thanh for the first time in 14 years. People have returned to formerly va-

seven-day condensed special course.

On the eighth day the actual jumps were made from a HU1B "Huey" helicopter flying at 1,500 feet. In a special ceremony, several days later, parachutist wings were presented to the 183 proud CIDG troopers.

HERE CATCH! — Enemy supplies are passed out of a North Vietnamese tunnel by a member of the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry. The tunnel complex was taken in the heavy jungle fighting southwest of Dak To last month. (USA PHOTO)

## Hospital Corpsman Builds Dispensary

By SN Henry Eichel

**DA NANG (USN)** — Contributions from Buffalo, N.Y., are helping a Navy Hospital Corpsman bring modern medical facilities to the village of Truyen Tinh. Hospital Corpsman Second Class Thomas E. Eagles has built a dispensary and hired a nurse with money

donated by the folks in Buffalo, his home town. He also wants to build a nursery, a first aid clinic, and a classroom.

## Now She Walks Unaided

**CHU LAI (USA)**—Doctors at the 1st Marine Hospital here have helped a 10-year-old Vietnamese girl walk for the first time in her life.

The girl—Can Duc Danh from the nearby village of Trong Anh—was operated on several weeks ago to correct a deformed left foot. Can was born with her left foot inverted.

Now, after six weeks in a cast, she can walk with the aid of a tiny crutch. Doctors say she'll soon be able to walk without a crutch if she attempts a few steps without it each day and does her prescribed exercise.

"She'll always have a slight limp," said one medic, "but without the operation, she would never have been able to walk at all."

Can was discovered early this summer during a MEDCAP, by Sergeant First Class William B. Wisniewski of the 408th Radio Detachment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

"She was very shy at first and wouldn't even come near the MEDCAP team," Wisniewski recalled, "but her father soon gave family consent for the operation, and Can was taken to the 1st Marine Hospital in Chu Lai."

Eagles said he built the dispensary by combining the funds from back home with materials he begged or borrowed from military units in the Da Nang area.

He used most of the money to buy medical supplies and equipment, install lighting, and pay a carpenter to put in shelves and cabinets. The nurse he hired helps hold sick-call.

Sick call is held twice a day—six days a week—with emergency care available anytime. Recently, an American doctor from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been coming to the dispensary two afternoons a week. Dental treatment is provided by a visiting Navy dentist.

The Navy corpsman says he hopes to extend his dispensary building project to other villages around Da Nang. To do this, he has just extended his enlistment on the condition that he stay in Vietnam to work in Civic Action.

## Children Given Red Cross Kits

**DAU TIENG (USA)** — Seven hundred "Friendship Kits" donated by the American Red Cross Youth were given to the children of the RF-PF forces defending the village of Dau Tieng recently.

The gayly colored bags of goodies contained small toys, whistles, soap, crayons, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other small items.



## Involved, But Very Effective

CAT LAI (USA)—American to French and French to Vietnamese equals Vietnamese understanding English in Cat Lai.

If this sounds like a complicated equation, think how it must be for the American and Vietnamese teachers of the 199th Infantry Brigade who are using just this linguistic circuit to teach the Vietnamese of Cat Lai the English language.

It seems that, after the hamlet chief requested English classes be started in his village and after text books were obtained, no one could find a teacher who knew both Vietnamese and English.

Then it was discovered that one American was fluent in French. So, it was decided to have the American teacher present the lesson plan to the Vietnamese teacher in French; he would then translate it to the class. The Vietnamese teacher explains the grammar in Vietnamese and the lessons are reviewed in English. It is a complicated but effective method, effective to the extent that part one of the two phase course was completed recently.

Fifteen students, who have obtained a conversational ability in English in phase one, are now meeting five nights a week to discuss American-Vietnamese relations, culture, and advanced English in phase two.

The students range in age from 14 to 21 and say the main reason they want to learn English is to better understand the American people and their culture.

## AF Hosts Allied COs

BINH THUY (USAF)—A security and law enforcement seminar was recently conducted at Binh Thuy Air Base, with more than 50 key Allied commanders and military personnel attending.

The seminar, — hosted by the 632nd Security Police Squadron — was staged to establish closer working relations with military and civilian law enforcement officials in and around the Can Tho area in IV Corps.

Representatives attending were from U.S. military services, U.S. civilian agencies, Vietnamese Air Force, (VNAF), Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), and National Police officials.

## 'Bac Si Make No. One'

DAU TIENG (USA) — "Bac Si (Doctor) make number one," were the words uttered by Young, a Vietnamese child from Dau Tieng as he pointed to the leg he could very possibly have lost if it weren't for the alert eyes of the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery medics.

During one of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division MEDCAPs (Medical Civic Action Program), Young and his mother requested aid for his infected knee. At first sight it appeared just to be another minor infection, but Captain Robin L. Wulffson noted the seriousness of the condition.

# ARVNs Use Ex-VC Village



Once an infested VC village, this area is now used as an ARVN training site.

## Mutual Aid Program Assists II Corps Village, Hamlets

BA GI (II CORPS) — A mutual aid program between civilians in the Ba Gi area and men of the 22nd Infantry Division ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) is building understanding as well as a better life for the area's villagers.

The Hamlet Adoption Program, begun in late summer of 1966, provides for the military to assist local civilians in civic action and self-help projects. In return, the military receives assistance from the villagers in securing the division's headquarters in the Ba Gi area.

There are two phases of the program: first the use of Initial Action Teams; and then the use of Adoption Teams from the division's personnel. After nearly a year of operation, two of the five villages in the area have been secured and won over to the Vietnamese government, and another two are nearing this stage.

As the name implies, the Initial Action Teams are the first to move into a village. They establish security and screen the population for Viet Cong, communist sympathizers and civil offenders. They are followed by the Adoption Teams which continue the security mission and provide guidance, materials, an assistance in civic action and self-help programs.

With ARVN soldiers working

alongside local civilians, the construction projects have built roads, fences, dikes, wells and made a general cleanup of the villages. Some villages have been able to build new market places and, in one instance, a new dispensary.

Also, special emphasis is placed on informing the villagers about the Saigon government. This includes an explanation of the Revolutionary Development and Open Arms (Chieu Hoi) Programs as well as discussion of topics ranging

from communist aggressive action to the political and social importance of the countryside in the past and present.

In August, 1966, the population of the first two hamlets to be secured totaled 118 people. Today, the number of returning refugees has boosted that figure to 1,758. In establishing elected governments for these two hamlets, more than 70 per cent of the eligible civilians turned out to vote in one hamlet while the other village had a 90 per cent turnout.



SLEEPING IN—A paratrooper of Recon Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, makes the best of a short break in the day's action to take a quick nap during a recent operation. (USA PHOTO BY Sp4 Harley G. Rice)

DUC PHO (I CORPS)—"This is the real McCoy," said Platoon Sergeant James Blair, who was talking about a village set up to represent a typical Viet Cong village, one that was actually infested with VC booby traps less than a year ago.

It had been left completely deserted after it was cleared by members of the Free World Forces in that area.

The ghost town came to life again at the hands of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division, which was seeking a realistic VC village as a training site for new troops.

Major Pham Van Nohin, commanding officer of the unit, is a veteran of 15 years service, ten of which he has spent fighting the VC in the area of the village.

"When I was told of the plan, I called my officers and NCOs together and asked for ideas," said the Major. "In less than two days the complete course of instruction was set up and approved by the Division."

Three days later the village was finished and ready to take its first class. The latest VC devices were installed by Hoi Chanhs, who were more than willing to assist in the program.

Members of the newly arrived U.S. 198th Light Infantry Brigade are getting their first real look at the enemies front door. "The cooking fires are still smoking and it looks like Charlie has just pulled out," one trooper said.

"I've seen mock villages in the states but they were nothing like this—I know that this is the real thing," he added.

Punji pits, trip mines, booby-trapped souvenirs and numerous "do's" and "don'ts" are covered during each two-hour briefing.

## Civilian Hospital Dedicated

PHU BAI (USMC) — A Vietnamese hospital two miles from Phu Bai — which will support 92,000 civilians — was dedicated last month.

The Thua Thien Province chief, Colonel Phan Van Khoa, cut the ribbon formally opening the building and then briefly toured the facilities with Vietnamese and U.S. Marine personnel.

The hospital is the only major civilian medical facility between Hue and Da Nang — 60 miles to the south. As such, it will be the nearest hospital for the 92,000 civilians living along this narrow coastal stretch.

It was described by one American doctor as offering "possibly the best treatment available for civilians in the I Corps area."

Marines and Seabees furnished supplies and manpower to build the hospital from what was once an old theater. It will be run by Nguyen Hun Khon, district health officer, and a staff of Vietnamese nurses, midwives, and health workers. Khon operated a hospital in the nearby village of Gia Le before the building was destroyed by the Viet Cong.

The new facility can handle nearly 30 patients at one time, including eight maternity cases; but it does not have surgical capabilities. Surgery will continue to be done at the Navy facility at Phu Bai, and then the patient will be transferred to the Vietnamese hospital to recuperate.



Air mobility helps the ARVNs get to and from remote VC areas.

## ARVN Infantry Rout 'Charlie' In Remote Search Operations

BEN LUC (USA)—The communist guerrilla attacks and ambushes South Vietnamese and Free World troops and murders innocent villagers, then he scatters his forces over a wide area to hide.

This elusive and cunning foe may decide to fight or he may choose to flee. When he fights he usually picks a time and a place when the odds are in his favor.

To defeat this adversary it is necessary to find him and to dig him out of his hole. This was

done with precision in a recent day-long battle in a remote rice paddy and scattered palm growth area near Ben Luc, 20 miles southeast of Saigon.

"Huey" helicopters landed Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) infantrymen and their U.S. Army military advisors into the enemy's back yard. Sleek U.S. gunships assaulted the mud defenses while the ARVN soldiers moved in and mopped up. They destroyed VC positions in four separate palm growths.

The gunship pilots and crews killed 16 Viet Cong while the ARVN ground forces killed 24 to achieve a kill ratio of 40-0.

Similar battles are being fought throughout South Vietnam and "Charlie" is finding it more and more difficult to wage his "hit and hide" warfare against ARVN forces who are becoming increasingly adept in air-mobile warfare and who are getting a bigger share of helicopter support.

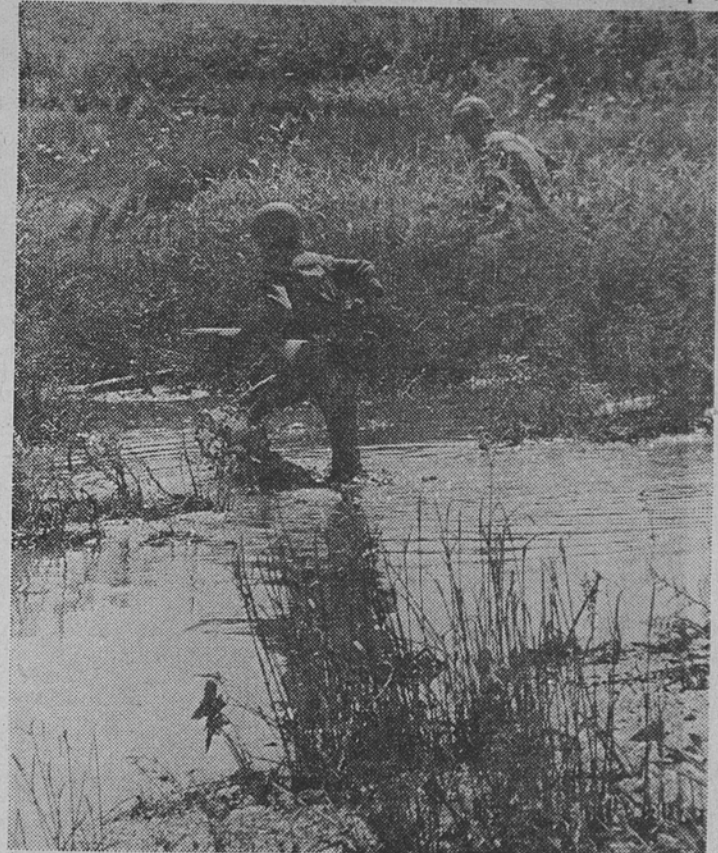
Story By  
MSgt Sam J. Ballard  
Photos By  
Sp5 Gordon W. Gahan



A lieutenant shows his men the way into an enemy hideout.



VC-captured weapons are examined by US and ARVN troops.



Vietnamese infantrymen move out to engage the enemy.



Midway through an operation, a U.S. advisor talks with the ARVN commander.





Thu Duc orphans receive regular medical treatment through 1st Infantry Division MEDCAP visits

# Engineers Use Talents To Help Viet Friends

DI AN (USA)—Engineers of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Engineer Battalion have joined Operation Lam Son and have undertaken a number of civic action projects designed to improve the life of many Vietnamese in their area.

They adopted the Thu Duc Orphanage and have provided it with food, clothing, toys and medical supplies. The battalion's Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) team, assisted by a Vietnamese nurse, treated nearly 300 patients during their most recent visit to the home.

MEDCAPs also are playing a vital role in the civic action program by developing a close working relationship between Americans and Vietnamese.

"Vitamins and regular medical care given to the orphans over the past two years have changed the health and even the appearance of the children," commented the team doctor.

Another engineer unit recently assembled and installed a playground at the orphanage. It is complete with swing sets, seesaws and monkey bars, and was made by the engineers from spare bridge parts left over from past operations.

At the refugee camp at Lai Thieu, one company of engineers is constructing a dispensary which will be staffed with Vietnamese personnel. Also helping with the camp's development are U.S. Navy Seabees, who are constructing a three-room school house.

Still another group of engineers are building a multi-room home for war widows and orphans. When it is finished it will replace the crowded dwelling now being used.

When all of these projects are finished, the engineers of the Big Red One are sure that, with their imagination and initiative, they will be able to find other building projects which will help make the life of their Vietnamese friends a little more comfortable.

Story and Photos By

SP4 Robert J. Stevens

1st Infantry Division OI



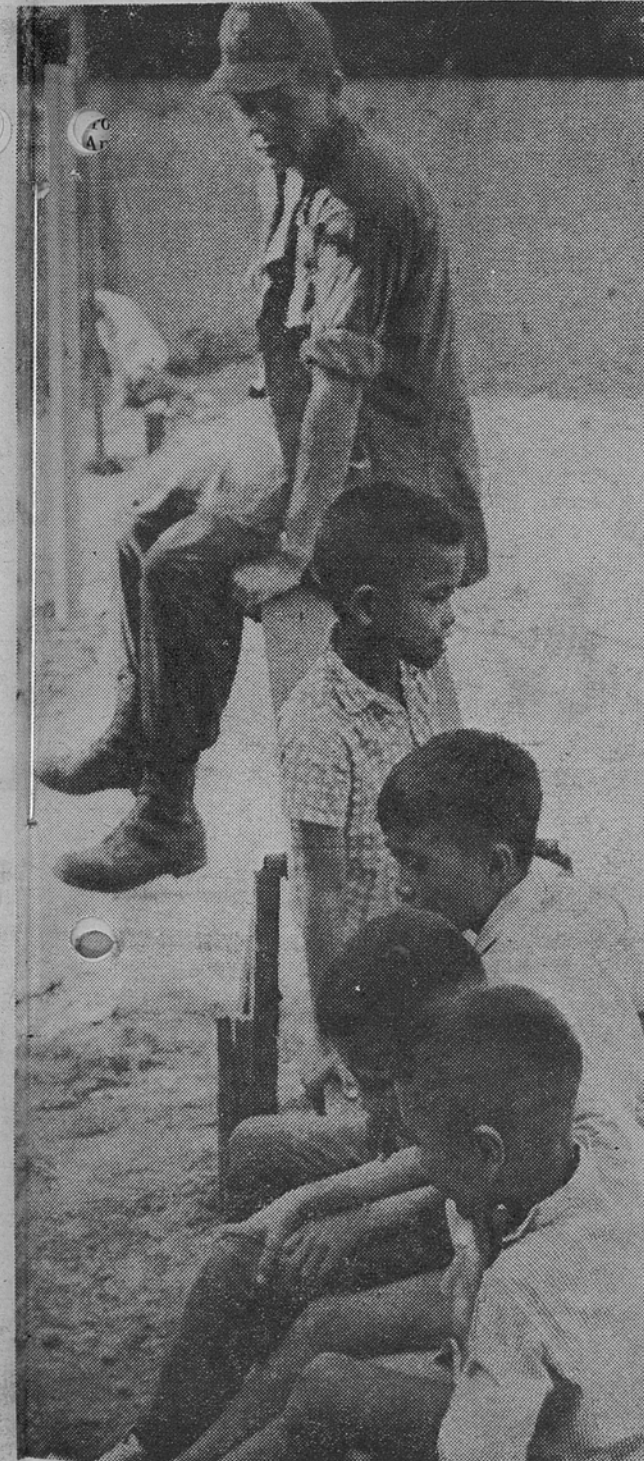
U.S. military engineers building a new dispensary at Lai Thieu are assisted by Vietnamese



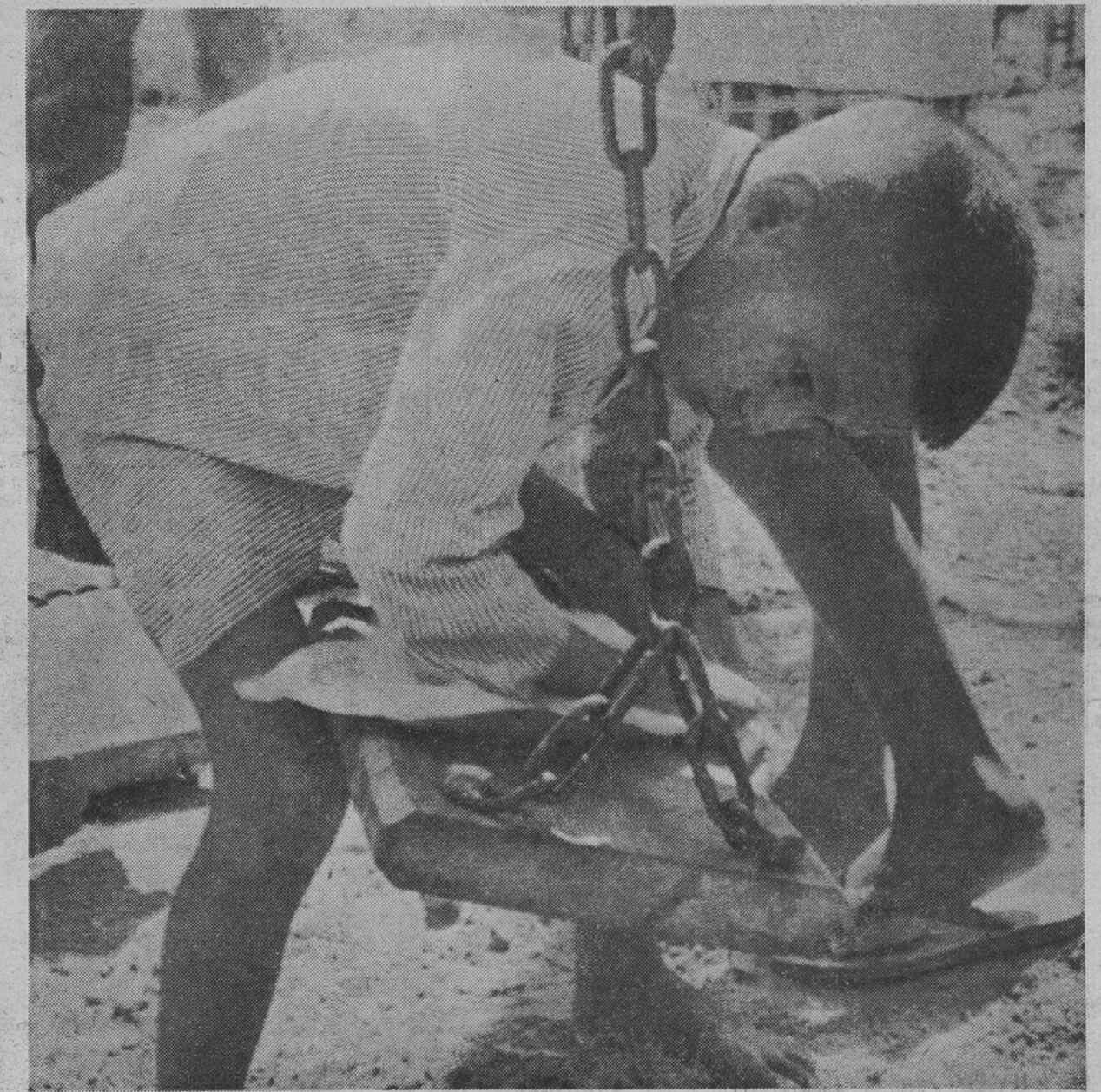
Orphans help an engineer sand one of the new seesaws



Two orphans help finish seesaw in Civic Action project conducted by 1st Division



An engineer helps four youths try out their new seesaw



A Vietnamese boy works vigorously at sanding the seat to one of the newly built swing sets



# Hamlet Rebuilds After VC Attack

DA NANG (I CORPS) — A group of residents near Da Nang proved enemy rocket fire can't discourage them.

The people of Hoa Cuong hamlet have been pretty busy the last nine months — ever since February 27, when 11 rounds of 140mm rocket fire leveled 67 per cent of their hamlet.

One hundred and thirty-six homes have been constructed. Only six more remain to be completed. Four new wells and a dispensary have also been built and several other projects are in the mill.

They're all steps forward for the village that was never meant to be hit. It was nearby Da Nang air base the VC were after. But the rockets hit over their mark. Thirty-nine villagers were killed and 29 were wounded.

"The people bounced back quickly though," said Hoang Day Phien, the hamlet chief. "And they had a lot of help along the way."

"The government provided food and clothing after taking care of the wounded," he said. "Then, U.S. military affairs teams came in with more supplies and temporary homes were set up in tents."

One week later, the people began receiving building supplies.

The U.S. government provided them with cement, tin and lumber. Then the people had what they needed; in early April, they began to build.

"We had good financial support and some outside help," Mr. Phien said.

"The people were glad to receive so much help. It made the price they had to pay a little easier to bear," he added.

The outlook for the future of the hamlet's 1,000 residents is bright.

Plans are being made for a new school and market place. The people also hope to improve the hamlet roads and add new ones. Electrical power in each home is another goal.



One of the many new shops the villagers helped to rebuild.



After reconstruction, the hamlet looks like this today.

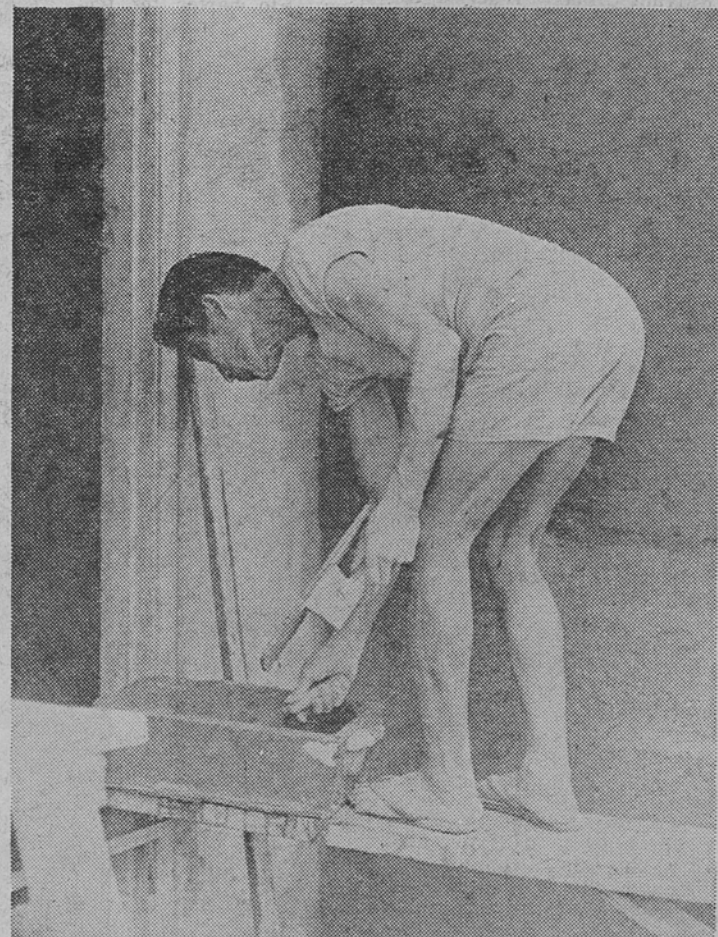
Story and Photos  
by  
I Corps IO



This is what enemy rockets did to Hoa Cuong hamlet.



A market place will be built here to replace the old one.



The villagers have only six more homes to complete.

## 11th Armored Cav Provides Advisors

XUAN LOC (USA) — A small outpost on the pinnacle of a desolate hill in the northern part of Long Khanh Province overlooks Highway 20, a vital economic link between the gardens of Dalat and the markets of Saigon.

Manning the outpost with Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and Regional Forces soldiers are five 11th Armored Cavalrymen. The Blackhorse troopers are all volunteers, and together they form a Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) working under MACV.

The outpost — with its eagle's eye view of the surrounding terrain — is referred to as the Rock. Each day at the Rock is unique.

An average day starts when the team leader, First Lieutenant Charles N. Lundy, gathers his men to assign them varied activities for the day.

Staff Sergeant Homer L. Oittman and Specialist 6 John M. Lemaster will normally prepare their equipment and travel to a nearby village to hold a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP).

Staff Sergeant Larry W. Clodfelter has the responsibility of training soldiers of the nearby 984th Regional Forces camp in the use of 81mm mortars.

Private Ernest L. Bigelow, the team's youngest member, remains in the base camp to monitor the radio and work on the team's vehicles.

Lieutenant Lundy, together

with the ARVN operational commander, an interpreter and a Regional Forces counterpart, usually will travel the operational area during the day, directing, assisting and helping the soldiers and men of the villages in the area.

## 'Mamma' Plans Big Christmas

AN KHE (USA) — It should be a big Christmas for members of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Mamma Bradford, who has adopted the 1st Cav. and written letters to soldiers everywhere in Vietnam, began selecting Christmas gifts in early July.

I had to move all my things out of my bedroom," Mamma writes. "I have it stacked high with gifts. I plan to send something to every man I can."

Mamma, Mrs. Joe Bradford of Kansas City, is a marathon letter-writer, writing over 300 "sons' personal letters every week. She has distributed hundreds of soldier's names to others who wish to write.

She gets plenty of support from her husband, Joe, and the rest of the family. Every letter a soldier receives from Mamma is like a small Christmas. Pens, paper, Kool-Aid, razor blades, balloons, the practical, the impractical, the edible — anything that might keep a man's spirit high may fall out of one of Mamma's two-page "notes".

"I just became mother to at least another dozen soldiers," said Mamma Bradford. "I adopted 52 others out to a school that wanted to send packages. Even though I get others to write the men, I never give a man up."

In addition, 102 small arms, nearly 4,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 123 pounds of medical supplies, and three tons of rice were seized from the enemy.



IT'S IN THE BAG—Sp4 John Puliatte uses a special water carrier—a Spanish shepherd's bota sent to him by his mother. The young 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division soldier claims it keeps water cool during the hot search and destroy operations.

(USA PHOTO BY Sp4 Bill Weirmine)

## MPs From 4th Infantry Div Ease Montagnards' Burdens

PLEIKU (USA)—As the big 5-ton U.S. Army truck rounded a bend in mud-rutted narrow road, squeals of laughter and the rhythmic slap of clapping hands broke the stillness. Dozens of the loin-clothed men and semi-clad women began to gather up huge stalks of bananas, squash,

clucking chickens and bundles of dried bamboo. It was time to go to market.

These were "Mountain People" — Montagnards of the village of Plei Ho By — about 17 miles southeast of Pleiku. They were about to be transported to the market in Pleiku by members of the 4th Infantry Division's Military Police Company. "It all started this way," explained Captain Robert H. Hazelwood, commanding officer of the 4th M.P. Company. "We found out that every season these people begin to run out of rice a few weeks before their new rice is ready for harvest.

"It might be from over-production of rice wine or under-production of last season's rice," continued the captain, "but whatever it is, they needed to purchase more rice from the Pleiku markets."

In the past, the Montagnards would walk the 36-mile round-trip over rugged mountainous terrain to barter for the rice with the Pleiku merchants. Because of the terrain and distance, they could not carry much for trading and so were forced to make more than one trip to the market each season.

Hearing about the needs of the tribal people, the men of the M.P. company decided to carry the natives and their goods to the market in the company trucks. Now, just prior to the harvest season, this scene is repeated almost daily in the villages aided by the M.P.s.

The Montagnards show their gratitude by plying the soldiers with gifts of bananas and a warm acceptance into their villages, and are now flying the flag of the Republic of Vietnam over their villages.

"It takes so little on our part to fill the needs of these moun-

tain people," said one private. "For them it means much—it means that somebody cares about them."

Many of the soldiers will long remember their acceptance as friends of the mountain people, symbolized in a ritualistic drinking of the powerful Montagnard rice wine. Their stomachs may never forget the experience, either.

## Tri-Nation Effort Drives VC From Base Areas

LONG THANH (USA)—Operation SANTA FE has been termed a success, according to information from 9th Infantry Division Base Camp headquarters at Long Thanh.

SANTA FE is a tri-nation drive centered 35 miles east of this Division base camp, and includes American, Australian and Vietnamese units. The allied force is composed of the 9th Infantry's 1st Brigade, 1st Australian Task Force and the ARVN 18th Division.

Reports on the action, which began November 3, said numerous Viet Cong base and supply areas have been uncovered, though only light and scattered contacts with the enemy have been made.

ARVN troops have highlighted the operation to date with a sizable weapons find at the base of Tay Tao Mountain in Phuoc Tuy Province. The find: eighteen 60mm mortars, 32 sub-machine-guns, and three French rifles.

Other figures for a 13-day period credited Allied units with knocking out 739 bunkers, leveling 115 enemy structures and destroying 40 Viet Cong gren-

## 'Jackson Twins' A Problem

DA NANG (USMC) — The male counterparts of the comic strip "Jackson Twins" are causing identity problems for fellow marines in Vietnam.

Two Privates First Class, William and Welton Cochran, are assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

The twins enlisted in the Marine Corps on the same day and went through recruit training in the same platoon.

"Our drill instructor used to chew us both out at the same time, just to make sure he got the right one," said Welton.

"When we came over on the ship to Vietnam, it was the same thing all over again," Welton said. "Someone would grab Will and put him on a working party, then they'd go below decks and find me sitting around. I'd try to explain, but somehow 'that was my twin brother' didn't always work," he said.





NICE SOUVENIR—Specialist 5 Gordon L. Vick of the 25th Infantry Division holds a cross bow captured from VC forces which attempted to overrun the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, 3rd Brigade forward command post during the battle of Loc Ninh. (USA PHOTO BY SP4 Vince Housden)

# Engineers Huff And Puff Their Way Through Jungle

CU CHI (USA) — Huffing and puffing and blowing their way through acres of jungle, U.S. and South Vietnamese forces are steadily clearing a Viet Cong-ridden area 20 miles north-west of Saigon.

The "huffing and puffing" comes from bulldozers and Rome plows razing long stretches of thick hedgerow and heavy forests.

The "blowing" erupts when U.S. engineers—unable to level the brush with their plows—blast it sky-high with bangalore torpedoes and reels of detonation cord.

Thai My.

Once accomplishing this, they conducted search and destroy operations throughout the area, clearing it of Viet Cong before the engineers and their vulnerable equipment arrived.

Several weeks after the operation began, residents who would have been endangered by the advancing plows had been relocated by the Popular Forces.

For the engineers, previous jobs such as the leveling of the Boi Loi and HoBo Woods and operating in a forward area was a new experience.

"It was construction platoon turned combat engineers," said First Lieutenant Charles Snyder, operations officer for the engineers.

While 5th infantrymen formed a protective screen, bulldozers and Rome plows began their systematic advance into the underbrush and woods, at times clearing as much as 5,000 meters a day.

Still, they had to be discriminating. The engineers constantly skirted expanses of fruit trees and croplands, spared for the villagers who would eventually return.

# Hamlet Supports Viet Gov't Deep In 'Charlie' Territory

QUE SONG (I CORPS)—Cam Dong is a small hamlet deep in Viet Cong territory, but its 960 inhabitants are not VC sympathizers. In fact, they are supporters of the Vietnamese government, for Cam Dong is a "new-life" hamlet.

Its new life began last January when the Popular Forces drove out the VC and a government-sponsored Revolutionary Development (RD) team came to the hamlet.

The team began to build new homes, repair damaged ones and bring a new way of life to the villagers.

Then, in May, the VC attacked, killing three RD members, four civilians and kidnapping one civilian. The villagers

fled in fear but returned to repair their damaged hamlet. They went on to build 40 irrigation ditches, dig 30 new wells and construct new sanitation facilities and roads.

Three months later, the Viet Cong hit the hamlet again. This time the people of Cam Dong chose to stand and fight. They beat back a full size VC company at the hamlet's defensive perimeter after 30 minutes of hard fighting. There were only light PF casualties and the VC left behind four of their dead.

Since this defeat, the VC have decided to leave Cam Dong alone and the villagers have returned to the project of improving their hamlet. They, with the help of the RD personnel, have

built a new school and are now building a new dispensary. They hope to soon have their own temple.

# Former VCs Now Aiding USMC, VN Government

PHU BAI (USMC) — Former Viet Congs are saving Marine lives, uncovering booby traps and identifying VC suspects for Leathernecks in the Phu Bai area.

# Airman Helps Badly Burned Viet Youth

SAIGON (USAF) — An eight-year-old Vietnamese girl, severely burned on the legs, is now on the road to recovery through the efforts of an Air Force medical technician at Tan Son Nhut air base.

Staff Sergeant Thomas A. F. Rose, assigned to the 377th USAF Dispensary, learned that the girl had suffered second degree burns in a village in Go Vap district.

The girl was in a Vietnamese hospital and Sergeant Rose went there several times a week to aid in her treatment. He contacted Staff Sergeant Eusebio Fontanez-Reyes and Sergeant Thomas R. Fernbaugh, both Army medical advisors, and arranged for the girl to be transferred to the Third Field Hospital near Tan Son Nhut.

She has undergone skin graft operations and is now in casts. Doctors say that she will have no permanent damage and will achieve full recovery.

Spearheading this program are 74 men of the Vietnamese government-sponsored Armed Propaganda Teams (APT) — all former Viet Cong. Marines are working with the APT in a combined effort to crush the enemy in this area.

Accompanying Marines on combat operations, the APT is able to gather valuable information from farmers and villagers which often aids the success of tactical missions.

"The mere presence of the APT is demoralizing to the local VC," said a Marine civil affairs officer, "because these men were once counted among their numbers."

Members of the team talk to relatives and parents of VC sympathizers and explain the Chieu Hoi Program. In this manner, they present themselves as an example of the good the Vietnamese government is accomplishing through the Chieu Hoi Program.

All APT members are volunteers and must undergo a four-week orientation course. Whenever the five-man teams go into enemy territory, they are armed. The Phu Bai APT is the largest propaganda unit of its kind in Vietnam. It began operations in September 1966.

"It's quite an accomplishment when you think that these teams find where mines are planted, ambushes are set-up, and who are the VC in each village," stated one Marine.



JUST FOR YOU—Coming to the troops five nights a week through the airwaves of the American Forces Vietnam Network isn't enough for Chris Noel. She's sending this photo to you hoping you will clip it out and keep near your radio to make her visits a little more personal.

# Cleans Up With Letter For Soap

TAN AN (USA) — Captain Robert E. Murphy of the 9th Infantry Division may be the indisputed "Soap King" of Vietnam.

What began as a passing request by the captain, in a letter sent home to Norwood, Mass. for soap to help treat prevalent Vietnamese skin diseases, has resulted in an avalanche of the fragrant substance pouring into the division's 3d Brigade Headquarters.

In late August, he wrote to his father asking if his Knights of Columbus Club would help him collect soap for children of Long An Province. During the organization's September meeting, members donated 300 bars of soap and the "Soap for Soldiers" drive was underway.

The drive spread throughout the town, and soon other civic and private agencies started collecting soap or money for the campaign.

The captain's hometown city council is hoping to send 100,000 bars of soap to him by Christmas, and, according to Captain Murphy, "It looks as if this goal is going to be surpassed."

After the soap reaches Vietnam, it is then cut up into small bars, wrapped in leaflets and distributed during the brigade's MEDCAPS throughout the province.

The leaflets explain that the Free World Forces are helping the villagers at the request of the Vietnamese Government and asks their cooperation in bringing a healthier way of life to all of its people.

"There has been an overwhelmingly generous response from the people of my hometown," said Captain Murphy. "It also shows that everyone isn't protesting our efforts in Vietnam but that there exists a large base of support for what we are doing here by the people back home."

# American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)  
(Guide For Week Of December 13-19, 1967)

## Wednesday Dec. 13

- 1830 News Headlines
- 1900 Lost in Space
- 1930 News and Sports
- 2000 Insight
- 2005 Information Special
- 2100 Addams Family
- 2100 Carol Burnett
- 2200 Sports (Re-Run)
- 2300 Late News
- 2315 Sports (Continued)

## Thursday Dec. 14

- 1830 News Headlines
- 1900 Third Man
- 1930 Flying Fisherman
- 1930 News and Sports
- 2000 Insight
- 2005 Information Feature
- 2100 Dick Van Dyke
- 2100 Smothers Brothers
- 2200 Perry Mason
- 2300 Late News
- 2315 Variety Special

## Friday Dec. 15

- 1830 News Headlines
- 1900 Wild Wild West
- 1930 News and Sports
- 2000 Insight
- 2005 Information Feature
- 2100 Bewitched
- 2100 Big Valley
- 2200 Alfred Hitchcock
- 2300 Late News
- 2315 Joey Bishop Show

## Saturday Dec. 16

- 1230 News Headlines
- 1300 Mike Douglas Show
- 1345 Armed Forces Digest
- 1400 CBS Golf Classic
- 1500 Sports of the Week
- 1730 Information Special
- 1830 Lawrence Walk
- 1930 News and Sports
- 2000 Insight

## Sunday Dec. 17

- 1230 News Headlines
- 1300 Christophers/Sacred Heart
- 1330 Chapel of the Air
- 1330 Feature Movie
- 1500 Sports of the Week
- 1800 Get Smart
- 1830 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea
- 1930 News and Sports
- 2000 Window on Vietnam
- 2005 G.E. College Bowl
- 2030 Fractured Flickers
- 2100 12 O'Clock High
- 2200 Bonanza
- 2300 Late News
- 2315 Dean Martin Summer Show

## Monday Dec. 18

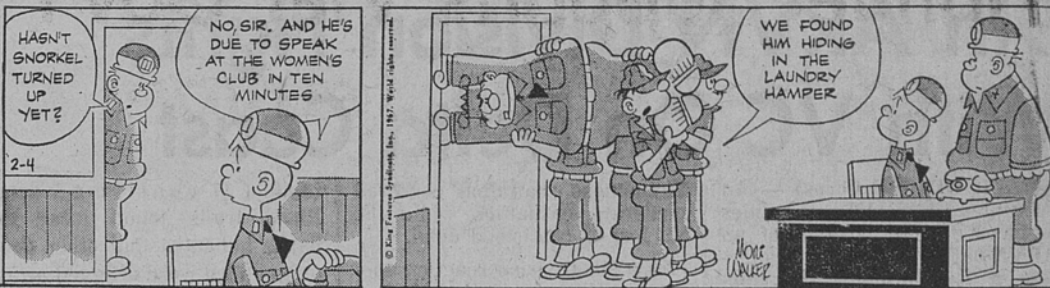
- 1830 News Headlines
- 1900 Daniel Boone
- 1930 News & Sports
- 2000 Insight
- 2005 Magic Room
- 2030 My Three Sons
- 2100 Hollywood Palace
- 2200 The Fugitive
- 2300 Late News

## Tuesday Dec. 19

- 1830 News Headlines
- 1900 Official Detective
- 1900 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
- 2315 Tonight Show

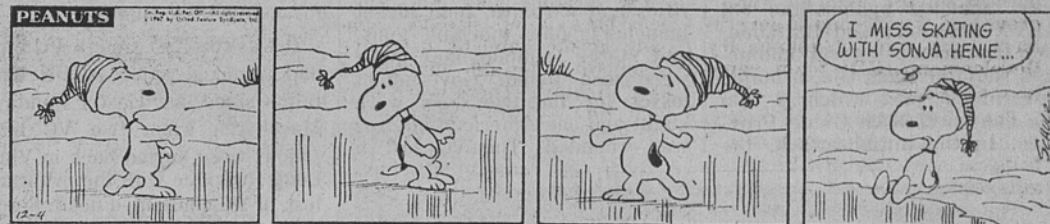
# Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



# Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS	2-Preposition	3-Girl's name	4-Lease	5-Chemical compound	6-Measure of weight (abbr.)	7-Prefix: not	8-Roman bronze	9-Town in California	10-Ketledrum	11-Couches	13-Gravestone	16-Lamb's pen	19-Snakes	21-Tibetan priest	22-Piggins	25-Any of rays	27-Man's name	30-Wear away	32-Wearied by dullness	33-Separate	35-Danish island	36-Renovate	39-Painful spots	42-Prefix: not	43-Roman official	45-Roman tyrant	46-Limb	48-Chemical dye	50-Parent (colloq.)	51-Instrument	53-Prepare for print	55-A continent (abbr.)	56-Painter	59-Puffs up	61-Mediterranean vessel	62-Raises
DOWN	1-Exert to the utmost	2-Group of three	36-Lasso	37-Mistakes	38-Otherwise	40-Wipes out	41-Soft drinks	44-Downy duck	47-Speak	49-River in Africa	52-Illuminated	54-Chinese pagoda	57-Compass point	58-Symbol for tellurium	60-Initials of 26th President																					

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# SPORTS

(AFPS Feature)

1. Name the current star who holds the NBA record for the most points in a single game?
2. What famous member of the University of Minnesota's "Golden Gophers" was named to two positions in the All-American football selections in a single season?
3. What Washington Senator pitcher holds the major league record for total shutout games pitched in his career?

Answers

1. Walter Johnson. He threw 113 shutouts during his career.
2. Bronko Nagurski was selected as fullback and tackle in 100 points against the New York Philadelphia 76ers. He scored 100 points against the New York Philadelphia 76ers. He scored 100 points against the New York Philadelphia 76ers.
3. Willie Chamberlain of the Philadelphia 76ers. He scored 100 points against the New York Philadelphia 76ers.



# Airborne Builds Up Ly Tra...

(Continued from Page 1)

Quang Tin Province to an area we could reach by vehicle," said the captain. "This made Ly Tra ideal for our self-help program."

Major Wayne J. Prokup, brigade civil affairs officer, and Captain Reinhart first began to win the confidence of the people here by scheduling Medical Civic Action Programs (MEDCAP) visits twice weekly.

More than 1,900 persons were treated, including 280 children who received inoculations against cholera and small pox. Hamlet residents responded in mass—often during heavy monsoon rains—to receive medical care.

"Our friendship grew and one thing led to another," said the captain. "I found that many of their medical problems

stemmed from a lack of cleanliness, but there was no way to keep clean because their wells were dry."

With the help of hamlet citizens, Captain Reinhart launched a program of digging wells. "The people responded and did most of the work," Captain Reinhart said. "We furnished the materials and technical skill."

As wells were being dug, Reinhart noted the lack of drainage in the area. "During the monsoons, the village became a virtual mud-puddle," he said.

Enlisting the help of combat engineers from A Company, 326th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), Captain Reinhart and the civil affairs team began to build roads. Tons of earth were moved to fill in low areas. Drainage ditches were cut and culverts installed. A quagmire was eliminated.

The paratrooper civil affairs team looked for other projects which would involve hamlet residents. Construction of a school was the next likely project.

Hamlet residents responded to Captain Reinhart's suggestion. With materials furnished by the Americans and with help from the engineers, the school was constructed. Hamlet citizens are now building furniture. School will begin soon.

More than six and one-half tons of cement and 23,000 board feet of lumber were used to construct the wells and school. And four pumps provide an abundance of water for the once thirsty hamlet.

"Before we leave here, we hope to build a dispensary," said Captain Reinhart. "The people now recognize the need for hygiene and medical attention."

## 9th ARVN Division Fights With VC On Delta Coast

**RACH GIA (IV Corps)** — An estimated three VC companies attacked the position of an ARVN battalion that was protecting a Revolutionary Development area in the Mekong Delta recently.

The surprise pre-dawn attack was launched against the 9th ARVN Division's 2nd Battalion, 15th Regiment, several kilometers south of Rach Gia, a major government port which is also the capital of Kien Giang Province. In the initial attack, the

Vietnamese battalion suffered moderate casualties while the VC lost 62 confirmed dead.

In a 9th Division reaction operation, which started within two hours of the initial VC attack, an additional 32 VC were killed. Numerous weapons, including 31 rifles and carbines, four rocket launchers, four machine guns, and three submachine guns, were also found. Government losses for the two days were slight and one American advisor was wounded. The VC lost a

total of 97 confirmed dead. Blood trails found after the battle indicated that other dead or wounded were dragged away. U.S. Army gunships and VNAF and USAF air strikes supporting the reaction operation accounted for many VC casualties.

It was the first time a VC unit had attacked a 9th ARVN battalion since last Easter Sunday, March 26, when two VC battalions were hurled back in Vinh Long Province with the eventual loss of 182 confirmed dead. Since then, the VC of the seven provinces making up the 9th ARVN Division's tactical zone have played a cautious, defensive waiting-game.

There is some speculation that the VC's sudden shift in tactics was triggered by another ARVN operation in Kien Phong Province, 100 kilometers to the northeast.

When the attack occurred south of Rach Gia, a combined operation of the 7th and 9th ARVN Divisions was in the process of uncovering huge storage area along the Communists' most important commo-liaison route in the Delta. Elements of the 9th Division were rapidly diverted from the VC storage area after the VC launched their attack in force to the southwest.



**PAPER MISTER?**—Hawking the local newspaper is usually an unglamorous chore, but in one Vietnamese village a mini-miss in a mini-miniskirt, which is all the vogue, caught the eye of a paratrooper photographer whose camera captured this "extra" in human interest. (USA PHOTO BY PFC Jim Berry)



**ALL CLEAR!**—PFC Robert A. Fitzgerald, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, climbs from a VC tunnel during a search and destroy operation 15 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

(USA PHOTO BY Capt. Dennis Eilers)

### Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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## Surgeon Takes Live M-79 Round From Young Infantryman's Thigh

**CHU LAI (USA)**—The young Americal Division infantryman—covered with three flak jackets—lay sweating on the operating table. The attending surgeon, also wearing a flak jacket, probed the man's thigh for a live M-79 grenade round. The accidental discharge of an M-79 placed both men in a critical position.

When Major N.M. Nacheff, commanding officer, 2nd Surgical Hospital at Chu Lai, learned the plight of Private First Class Wilbert Eisinger, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, he immediately made preparations for the coming operation.

A special room away from the populated hospital was picked and all of its equipment was removed.

Captain Fred J. Puckett Jr.

from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team joined Major Nacheff in the room and described the M-79. "The M-79 round arms itself upon firing. It is very touchy and a dud is rarely found."

Private First Class Eisinger was covered with three flak jackets in case the round detonated. "If the round exploded," said Major Nacheff, "he would have lost his leg at a minimum. I was also quite concerned about my hands. 'They are the tools of my trade.'"

The three men talked through-out the operation. "Eisinger was given a spinal anesthetic. He was fully aware of the risk and was very cooperative despite the pain from his wound."

As Major Nacheff was about to remove the round, the muscles in Private Eisinger's

leg contracted. "I was sure the round would go off," said Captain Puckett.

Major Nacheff deftly removed the round and handed it to Captain Puckett. An EOD Team, waiting outside, disposed of it. All three men agreed they had never been through such an ordeal in their lives.

"Eisinger will be completely recovered in two months," said the 32-year-old surgeon. "He will require some physical therapy, but there will be no lasting disability."

When asked why he had performed the operation himself, the Major replied, "This was not a situation where I could tell another doctor on the staff to operate. I'm the commanding officer here and it was my duty to perform the surgery."



# Viets Win US Medals For Valor

## FIRST IN VIETNAM **THE OBSERVER**

Vol. 6, No. 31

Saigon, Vietnam

December 6, 1967

### ARVN's Stave Off NVA Bn

SAIGON (MACV) — A lone rifle company of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Regiment, 5th Division of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) staved off three furious attacks by a battalion of North Vietnamese Nov. 25 at Phuoc Loc, 72 miles north-northeast of Saigon.

The enemy battalion, identified tentatively as an element of North Vietnam's 275th Regiment, lost 110 men in the action. The ARVN company suffered six men killed and a small number wounded.

The battle erupted suddenly at 12:20 a.m. when the friendly outpost began taking mortar rounds. The three attacking waves, rolling at the ARVN company during the next 5 hours, attempted to breach the defensive perimeter. The first wave broke through the outer wire of the post but did not penetrate the tight, inner perimeter.

Fighting behind the supporting fires of artillery and air power, the out-numbered defenders beat back the onrushing enemy. When the NVA soldiers retreated following the last attack, ARVN soldiers found seven heavy machine-guns, 11 B40 rocket launchers, two flamethrowers, and 48 individual weapons strewn across the battlefield.

As the ARVN company was being attacked at Phuoc Loc, diversionary mortar attacks were also launched against the

(Continued on Back Page)



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE, EVEN FOR MONKEYS—A soldier of the 4th Infantry Division, a pet monkey and a dog all take a break after action west of Pleiku. (USA PHOTO CW4 Don Joyce)

### Brigade Trains 5 Viet Girls To Care For Village Health

CHU LAI (USA) — Five Vietnamese girls, trained by a U.S. Army doctor to be health aides, are bringing a better life to the villages in Quang Ngai Province.

The doctor, Captain Mike J. Scotti with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, established the Health Aide Training Course to teach the villagers in the unit's area to care for themselves.

Selected by their village chiefs, the aids are all volunteers. They are taught the care

and treatment of wounds, the importance of sanitation, how to recognize and treat infectious diseases, facts about nutrition, pregnancy, and dermatology — which accounts for about 75 per cent of MEDCAP patients.

The five aides are living within various hamlets in the area and work closely with U.S. Army and Marine Combined Action Platoon (CAP) teams.

"In addition to receiving valuable on-the-job training from treating the villagers," stated Captain Scotti, "these aids are also taking a great burden off our own personnel, and this lets us treat more seriously ill patients."

Although four of the five had no previous health training, the doctor feels the results of the past month have been most gratifying. One of their major achievements is that they are slowly putting an end to the ancient superstitious medical treatments that are common among the villagers.

"During a plague epidemic," related Captain Scotti, "I was taken to the home of a stricken boy. Inside, I observed an old man putting a variety of articles into a steaming pot in the middle of the room. Above the pot, in a sling, lay the little boy with the steam rising up around him."

"I tried to tell the parents that this treatment was not helping the boy and to let me take him with me to my dis-

pensary. But, I could not convince them.

"One of the health aides talked to them, and all of a sudden, the boy's father kicked over the pot and handed the boy to me. Fortunately, the boy lived, and as a result his parents were converted to modern medicine. This is just one example of how the girls are helping in the community — there are many other similar instances," said the proud doctor.

### Seabee Pulls Two From River Depths

CHU LAI (USN) — Refusing to give up when he first could not locate two drowning fishermen, a Seabee from Mobile Construction Battalion Six, kept searching, and finally pulled the men from almost certain death in waters under a bridge his unit was building.

Petty Officer Second Class Billy R. Hoskins was using his bulldozer to clear an approach to the bridge near Binh Son when he noticed two elderly Vietnamese fishermen standing on the edge of a by-pass culvert. While watching them, he saw them suddenly fall into the water.

He stopped his tractor, ran and jumped in to help them.

SAIGON (MACV) — Three U.S. medals for valor were presented in late November to Vietnamese soldiers for heroic actions against the enemy.

The highest award, the Silver Star, was earned by Captain Tran Tu Lap, a Special Forces commander at Duc Co. On April 12, 1966, he led a reconnaissance patrol into the Ia Drang valley where it came under heavy fire from an ambush.

Without regard to his personal safety, he assaulted the enemy with hand grenades while his men were pinned down by enemy fire. When his position became untenable, Captain Lap directed a withdrawal and stayed behind to cover his units.

As ammunition began to run out, he called for helicopters to extract his men; and then, when the enemy was within talking distance, he called out to non-existent platoons to advance and dared the enemy to cross "the minefield" which he warned existed between him and the opposing force.

While the enemy was attempting to cope with Captain Lap's imaginary "minefield" and "platoons," the helicopters arrived to pick up his men.

The first Vietnamese armor officer to earn the U.S. Bronze Star for valor is Captain Hoang Van Thi.

As commander of the 3rd Troop, 7th Armored Cavalry Squadron (ARVN) he earned his award for actions against Viet Cong attacking an infantry regimental command post. At the risk of his life, he maneuvered one platoon against the VC main force and at the same time moved his command track through heavy mortar fire to rescue two U.S. advisors trapped in a building. His actions saved the lives of the U.S. soldiers.

Popular Force soldier Lam Chen distinguished himself during a 21st Division search and destroy operation in Ba Xuyen Province.

While returning from their mission, the landing craft on which he was riding came under intense automatic weapons fire. Lam Chen and U.S. Advisor, Lieutenant Colonel George E. Homony were fully exposed and were drawing fire.

Using only rifles, they stood and returned the fire, breaking up the ambush. After the landing craft reached shore, Lam Chen was among the first to disembark and assault the VC positions.

His brave actions earned him the U.S. Bronze Star with "V" device.

### AF Civic Action Enters 2nd Phase

BINH THUY (USAF) — Men of the 1880th Communications Squadron at Binh Thuy Air Base are initiating the second phase of support for Phong Dien Gospel School for refugee children.

Since March, personnel of the squadron have contributed \$1,392, which has been used to construct three classrooms and a dining facility to complete the first phase of the program.

Sergeant Richard Guiles, a member of the Civic Actions Board, said, "The 150 men assigned to the squadron, in addition to contributing freely of their time and money, have rallied the support of many civic-

minded people back home through correspondence, which has really made this project a successful one."

In June 1966, the Reverend Richard Pendell of the Christian Missionary Alliance founded the school for children at Phong Dien Village, 5 miles from Binh Thuy.

In the last year, enrollment at the school has doubled, totaling 400 pupils. Three sessions are held daily in order to accommodate them.

The present goal of the squadron is to raise \$1,500 by February 1968 to construct three more classrooms and a small auditorium.



## It All Adds Up

Money seems to be a major concern of everyone: Not only how to make and save money, but more importantly, how to spend it wisely.

Government, business, industry, organizations, families and individuals are vitally concerned with getting the most for their dollar. Magazines and newspapers frequently publish articles on "How to Cut Costs" and "How to Get the Most for Your Money."

The Department of Defense and the various armed services are no different. They, too, want to cut costs and get the most for their dollar, or rather, the taxpayers' dollar.

The Department of Defense and the individual services have programs to cut spending and waste and to insure maximum economy and efficiency.

But what does this have to do with you? Why should you worry about government spending?

You should be concerned because it's our money that is being spent. More than half of every dollar you pay in taxes is spent on our defense establishment in one way or another.

Now, what can you do to help save your money and how much difference does it really make? Whether you are in an administrative field, a mechanic, vehicle operator or whatever, you can treat the material, tools and equipment you use as if you were paying for them out of your own pocket. Use them wisely, treat them carefully and eliminate all unnecessary waste.

What you help save as an individual may not amount to a great deal, but coupled with the dollars saved by other service personnel, it adds up to millions of dollars each year saved because individuals are cost conscious.

No program can be totally successful without the complete cooperation of everyone in the service. In the past five years, the Department of Defense has saved more than \$14 billion through the Cost Reduction Program.

There is, however, much more than can be done and that is where you come in. Remember, it's your money. (AFPS)

## MPCs Protect US Against Gold Flow

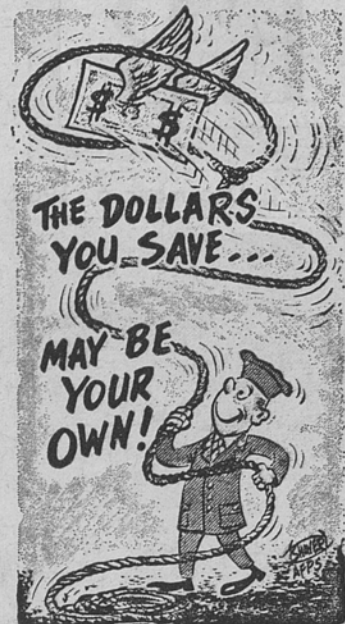
SAIGON (MACV) — "Don't take any wooden nickels" warns against getting stuck with something that has no value. Paper nickels, however, are part of a system that has great value to the individual in Vietnam and American fiscal programs overseas.

Military Payment Certificates (MPC) protect our country and host nations in vital economic areas. The use of MPC began in Vietnam on August 31, 1965, and they are also used, in another series, in Japan and South Korea.

U.S. dollars are one of the three currencies negotiable on the world market. Therefore, communist nations attempt to acquire all they can for use in international trade. Stopping the flow of U.S. dollars to communist bloc nations is one of the reasons for the MPC program.

The "scrip", as MPC are sometimes called, also serves to protect the economy of the host nation. South Vietnam, for instance, needs all of its piasters in circulation to prosecute the war and finance nation building. Converting piasters to dollars and removing them from circulation serves to retard the economic progress of the Vietnamese nation.

Two major threats to the MPC system are major counterfeiting operations and leakage of



## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### U.S.-Made Merchandise Duty Free

SAIGON (MACV) — Worried about payment of duties on gifts sent back to the U.S. from Vietnam?

A spokesman for the Vietnam Regional Exchange said recently the best way to eliminate this worry is to purchase American-made merchandise at exchange facilities or use one of a variety of mail order services offered for direct delivery in the States. New Mail-A-Gift catalogs have been circulated throughout Vietnam and representatives of a large mail order company are in-country to assure maximum distribution is made of special Christmas catalogs.

A check with the local exchange officer will provide information on what is available in the mail order line for Christmas shopping this year, a service which removes the worry about customs collections on the other end.

### Sgts Needed For TI Duty

HAWAII (USAF) — Air Training Command is seeking airmen in the grades of sergeant (E4) through technical sergeant to apply for military training instructor (MTI) duty at five bases in the United States.

More than 100 military training instructors are urgently needed at Lackland AFB, Texas. Additional vacancies are open at Chanute AFB, Illinois; Keesler AFB, Mississippi; Sheppard AFB, Texas; and Lowry AFB, Colorado.

Full criteria and application procedures are outlined in AFM 39-11. Personnel interested in applying for instructor duty should contact their local personnel office for details.

Headquarters USAF has announced that in addition to personnel with Air Force specialties listed as eligible to apply, any airman credited with a Southeast Asia tour of duty may apply, regardless of AFSC.

Airmen accepted for MTI duty will be given a three-year established tour with the possibility of a one-year extension.

### Quotas Unfilled

WASHINGTON — Airman Education and Commissioning Program has 139 vacancies, as of October 27, in its quota for fiscal year 1968. A total of 436 quotas, in 23 different fields, were allotted for FY68. Fourteen of these fields have not been filled. Fields where vacancies exist include aeronautical engineering, astronautical engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, nuclear engineering, electronic data processing, mathematics, meteorology, photographic instrumentation, precision photography and physics.

Don't take any wooden nickels — but take good care of your paper ones!

### Australia Opens New R&R Site

WASHINGTON — Soldiers in Vietnam now planning Rest and Recreation trips to Australia's R&R Center in Sydney will have a second choice January 1 when the new center is opened at Brisbane.

**BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS**  
WHERE YOU BANK OR WORK



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**—Three-year old Larry Kirkland of Columbus, Ga., wishes servicemen in Vietnam a Merry Christmas. The mail which he has to send to Vietnam is the result of a project started by his grandfather, E. Paul Stewart, called Vietnam Mail Call.

## Singapore Provides A Myriad Holiday

Start with a turbaned Indian merchant...

Add a pretty Chinese miss in a flowing cheongsam; A brusque western businessman in briefcase and lightweight tropical suit hurrying to an appointment;

Tourists armed with cameras just hurrying;

The ghosts of Kipling and the British army parading the harbor-front;

Shadows that conjure-up super-spies and beautiful Eurasian ladies;

Broad boulevards and bright buildings of the jet-age;

Oriental aromas slithering along shed-walled alleys;

Bright manufactured goods from machine-age nations;

Natural wealth of old worlds;

A joining of the ancient caravan routes, modern skyways and eternal seaways in the free port;

The echo of the departed Union Jack flapping in a ghostly breeze over the newly independent city-state;

The de-tongued sinners drink-

ing the juice of forgetfulness in the Chinese Hell beneath the Tiger Balm Gardens;

A cruise ship with a discotheque-deck sailing the harbor amid sleeping islands, by the light speckled city shoreline;

A sampan, weaving in and out of traffic, gondola style;

Restaurants that capture the menus of the world for eager gourmets;

Hotels that pride themselves on serving the luxury-lover;

Nightclubs impregnated with the frenzy of the West and the intriguing beauty of the East;

The myriad monthly holidays contributed by the many faiths and races and nationalities of Singapore;

This is the legend and life of Singapore —

The fact and the fancy —

The frosting that covers a cake of boundless richness,

Timeless traditions and pulsating progress;

Singapore swings —

And you can be there — ask any R & R office.



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## In Dispensary

# Sp6 Trains VNs As Replacements

PHUONG THO (USA) — Specialist 6 John M. Lemaster has started a dispensary in the village of Phuong Tho, but he doesn't intend to run it very long.

Instead, he plans to turn it over to three Vietnamese medics he is now training.

Specialist Lemaster—a medic from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's 37th Medical Company—is a member of a five man Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) working from an outpost outside Phuong Tho.

Recently he decided to start a hospital in the village—located in Dinh Quan District, Long Khanh Province—but funds for such a project were not available. To overcome this, the MAT asked the village chief to provide a building for a dispensary.

A large room in a well built tin-roofed building in the center of town was provided, and Specialist Lemaster furnished it with four cots, a medical supply cabinet, and two tables.

Two Vietnamese Army medics were provided to help run the dispensary, and the MAT recruited a Vietnamese girl to work as a nurse. Specialist Lemaster watches as they treat patients during two-hour periods twice each day, giving advice with the help of a Vietnamese-English phrase book.

The first day the dispensary opened, the medics treated 27 people, and there has been a steady stream of business ever since.

Augmented by MEDCAPS and DENTCAPS using 11th Cavalry doctors and dentists, and with the hospital in Xuan Loc, the provincial capital is available for seriously ill patients. Specialist Lemaster and the three Vietnamese medics are able to provide much better medical care for the villagers than was previously available.

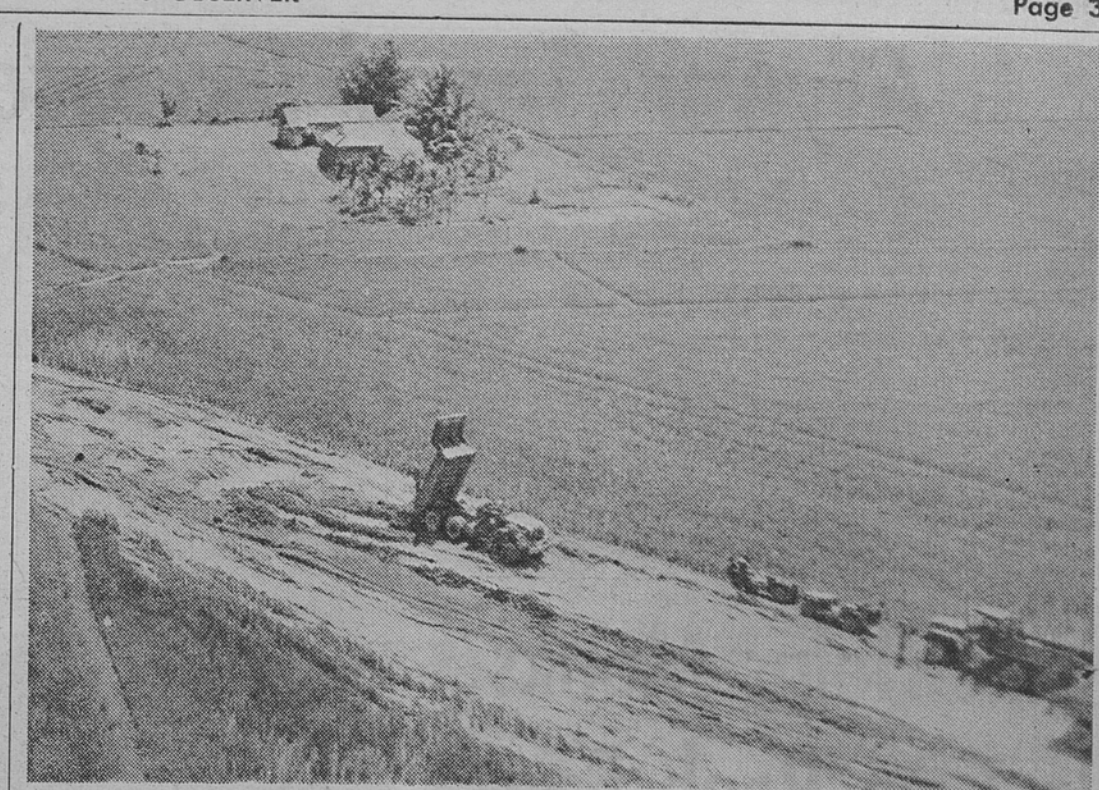
"I think this job is about the best anyone could have in Vietnam," said the Specialist. "You can see what you are accomplishing."

The opinion of some higher officers here is that the Viet Cong might be starting a "Cold War."

## Unit Aids Dependent School



Sgt Morris receives a big smile in return for school supplies.



Engineers fill in the deep craters on the road before they begin resurfacing.

## Army Engineers Join Viets To Nullify Enemy Control

CU CHI (USA) — U.S. Army engineers and infantrymen with Vietnamese forces have combined to destroy a 10-year Viet Cong reign of terror in the Tran Bang district, 31 miles northwest of Saigon.

Last July, Company A of the 65th Combat Engineer Battalion began the reconstruction of a 12,000-meter road from Bao Trai to Tang Bang, a road vital to the economic survival of the villages in the district. This is Phase II of the road construction project to connect the markets in Saigon through Duc Hoa and Dao Tri to Trang Bang.

Initially constructed by the French in the early 1900s, destroyed and rebuilt by the Japanese during World War II, and partially closed by Viet Minh forces in 1952, the road was completely closed to all traffic in 1958 by Viet Cong. Deep

trenches and crude anti-personnel and anti-tank mines forcibly kept villagers near their homes.

This prevented the villagers from getting their produce to the Saigon market, thus leaving entire harvests for the Viet Cong.

Monsoon rains, constant Viet Cong terrorism and hard-to-get laterite hampered the engineer effort, according to Captain Carl Toisis, Company A commander.

"Heavy rains caused graders and trucks to bog down, and our operation came to a standstill several times," said the captain.

Viet Cong activity necessitated a daily mine sweep of the entire stretch of road. "We alleviated much of the work by rigging up a home-made mobile mine detonator mounted on the front of personnel carriers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Mechanized Infantry."

"The high water table even flooded our main laterite pit, so we had to use water-pumps."

While providing job site security for the engineers, other elements from the mechanized battalion made sweeps into the villages, driving off the VC and reestablishing the village chiefs.

To prevent the reoccupation of the area by Viet Cong forces after the engineers and infantrymen had completed their mission, elements of the 34th ARVN Rangers were brought in to establish a permanent base camp and strategically placed outposts.

As the road work progressed, Medical Civic Action programs were held by infantry and engineer elements.

Psyops personnel conducted daily leaflet drops advertising the new road, welcoming the 34th ARVN forces and encouraging the Chieu Hoi program.

Entering the final phase, the engineers ran into another problem—dust.

"We covered the road with 100 barrels of an asphaltic material and 5,000 gallons of diesel oil each day," said First Lieutenant Rodger Renzulli, platoon leader. "The coating eliminated dust hazards, put a water-seal on the road and made any attempt to emplace mines very obvious."

Captain Toisis is convinced that the 25th Division mission

is a success. "Four months ago TL-10 was a barren, crater-filled wasteland," said the captain. "Today it is a well traveled road, with trucks loaded with produce racing to the Saigon market, bringing economic prosperity to a people who have been virtually penniless for a decade."

The prosperity has also caused many of the young men and women, who left their homes, to return—without fear of reprisal.

## Marine Flies 60 Missions On Leave

PHU BAI (USMC) — While most Marines who extend their tours of duty in Vietnam take their 30-day leaves in the United States, Gunnery Sergeant Paul E. Mayer preferred the gunner's seat aboard a UH-1E Huey helicopter.

The sergeant's reason for taking his leave with Marine Observation Squadron-6 was simple: VMO-6 is his old outfit. Sergeant Mayer served with the squadron on several occasions, including the Korean War.

Since going on temporary duty with VMO-6 last month, he has flown more than 40 missions with 60 flight hours.

When his 30-day flying vacation ends, the sergeant will return to his regular job as aircraft maintenance chief of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Da Nang.



MGySgt Paul E. Mayer



# Psywar Speed Increases Returnees

**PLEIKU (II CORPS)** — The quick use of information from Viet Cong returnees under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Program is helping to put psychological warfare leaflets into the field, in some cases within 24 hours after the information is obtained.

"The speed at which we can put this information to use depends on where the Hoi Chanh (Returnee) turns himself in, but under ideal conditions we can put the leaflets into the field within 24 hours," explained Major Claude D. Linkous, the psywar advisor assigned to the

II Corps Advisory Group in Pleiku.

Because of this quick reaction use of information in the II Corps psywar effort, the psywar office works closely with the Corps' Military Intelligence Detachment (MID), which holds all initial intelligence interviews with prisoners and returnees.

After the initial interview with the Hoi Chanh, the interrogation report is speeded on the way to the psywar office to determine how the information can best be used. At the same time, the MID goes to work on analyzing the information and

"fixing" the Hoi Chanh's unit.

As the information is being checked, the psywar office holds its own interview with the Hoi Chanh to determine the extent to which he will cooperate. They try to find out why he turned himself in and the effect, if any, previous leaflets had in influencing his decision.

"We ask him to write out a message to his old buddies, take his picture to show that he is alive and well, and if possible, get him to make a tape recording to broadcast to them," said Major Linkous.

Once the message is written, it is taken to the Propaganda Support Center where it is translated and its format and content checked. It is then forwarded to the 245th Psychological Operations Company, where it is reprinted in leaflet form and delivered to "B" Flight, 9th Air Commando Squadron, 14th Air Commando Wing in Pleiku, to be dropped over the target area.

Major Linkous noted that there are a number of different approaches that can be taken in leaflets or tape broadcasts but, in general, one of the aims is

to counteract the enemy political officer who tells his troops that they will be killed if they turn themselves in.

"The leaflet will have its greatest effect if the Hoi Chanh's old unit can be pinpointed and made aware of the defection of one of their comrades," he said, and added that the photograph adds a lot of credibility to the fact that the Hoi Chanh is being treated well.

"In short, we are simply offering the enemy soldier a chance to get out of a bad situation," concluded Major Linkous.

## Unit Helps Monks In Cam Ranh Bay

**CAM RANH BAY (USA)** — Standing isolated and unnoticed on the Cam Ranh Bay peninsula for three decades is the Catholic monastery at My Ca. It is the home of Vietnam's only Cistercian order — no longer a quiet haven for work, prayer and silence.

Almost overnight, U.S. Forces began the massive build-up of a supply base at Cam Ranh Bay in 1955. The My Ca monastery was thrust noisily into the modern world of rumbling trucks, screaming jet airplanes and a nation's struggle for its future. Today, as in the past, the monastery's work for the church continues — minus the solitude that prevailed yesterday.

Positioned a few hundred yards from the Cam Ranh Bay Air Base and bordered on the front by the main transport route leading off the peninsula, the French-built structure is a well-known landmark to American servicemen in this area. It houses six priests, 20 Vietnamese brothers, and a 19-year-old youth — known as Brother Robert — who serves as interpreter and guide for visitors.

Seven chapels are located in the monastery, varying in size from small cubicles, with little more than a simple altar, to the main chapel with outdoor seating. "We are painting the main chapel and dining room for an ordination . . ." explained Brother Robert.

A library contains books in French, Vietnamese, Latin and English. "We didn't have any English," said Brother Robert, pointing to a shelf filled with slightly worn hard-bound books, "until Father Forrester brought us these."

### Chaplain Really Moves Audience

**SAIGON (USA)** — One Army Protestant chaplain's sermon really moved his audience.

Chaplain (Major) Billy M. Whiteside, of U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command, believes in reaching out to his audience's imagination. On a recent Sunday, in the midst of a sermon, the building he was using caught on fire.

The small fire was quickly snuffed out and the attendants, who had exited quickly, were dismissed with a gentle reminder of other fires.

Chaplain Whiteside, a 34-year-old of Charlotte, N.C., chuckles over the incident. "We really moved the audience, but wait until next week. I'm preaching 'And the Walls Came Tumbling Down.'"

Chaplain (Captain) Fidelis J. Forrester, of Headquarters, Cam Ranh Bay Sub-Area Command who is a monk of the Benedictine order, has worked at the monastery since he arrived at Cam Ranh Bay. Through the efforts of Father Forrester, the monks have not only received books, but have also acquired paint, furniture, and materials and tools for repairing the building.

"The Cistercians," said Father Forrester, "are a branch of my order, the Benedictines, so working with these brothers has been one of my main interests, along with the local orphanages. The monastery has been in great need of repair work, and we've had excellent support from American soldiers in the area who have donated their free time."

## ARVN Division Hunts Enemy In Daily Airmobile Assaults

**BIEN HOA (III CORPS)** — The 18th ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) Infantry Division, with headquarters in Xuan Loc, is not classified as an "airmobile" division, but it would be hard to prove this by its operations lately.

Everyday, since the latter part of September, the division has been supported by helicopters of the 240th and 191st Aviation Companies at Bear Cat.

"In six days," said Captain Charles Ludlum, a U.S. advisor with the ARVN division, "we conducted 23 air assaults. By having airmobility, we can conduct an operation in one day that would have taken several days before — or could not have been conducted at all."

Most of the division's units are heavily committed with Revolutionary Development work and for this reason cannot go on sustained operations. Because of this, the daily air assaults within the division's tactical area (DTA) have been developed.

Typical of the daily assaults would see one unit, usually company size or larger, hitting an objective in the northern portion of the DTA in the morning, while another unit assaults a different objective in the southern part. These same two units then might have another operation to conduct in a different area of the DTA that same afternoon. Helicopters would be used to lift the units to their objectives on both occasions and



Vietnamese and U.S. personnel paint the main dining room. (USA PHOTO)

## 1st ARVN Exchange Is Opened

**DA NANG (I CORPS IO)** — ARVN soldiers and their families in Da Nang are starting to enjoy an American convenience — the discount supermarket department store.

This fall marked the opening of the first ARVN commissary and exchange in Vietnam.

Cut-rate shopping and modern merchandising techniques seems to be catching on. The store already serves 400 customers a day.

"Up until now, the only thing the soldier and his family had was a warehouse bulk sales outlet," said First Lieutenant Dinh Pham Nghia, officer-in-charge of the new facility.

He pointed out that the new store offers faster service and is less bothersome because the merchandise is packaged and each item doesn't have to be weighed or measured out for each sale.

According to Lieutenant Nghia, the opening of this Supermarket exchange store is creating a whole new trend in the shopping habits of the soldier and his family.

"Traditionally, grocery shopping and shopping in general was left pretty much to the wife," said Lieutenant Nghia.

"The novelty of the supermarket type of shopping and its atmosphere has aroused the male curiosity and we've had everyone from colonels to privates come in to shop or just to browse around."

The average family can save about 30 percent on food staples and sundry costs by using the commissary exchange, and in some cases the savings are as high as 50 percent, according to the lieutenant.

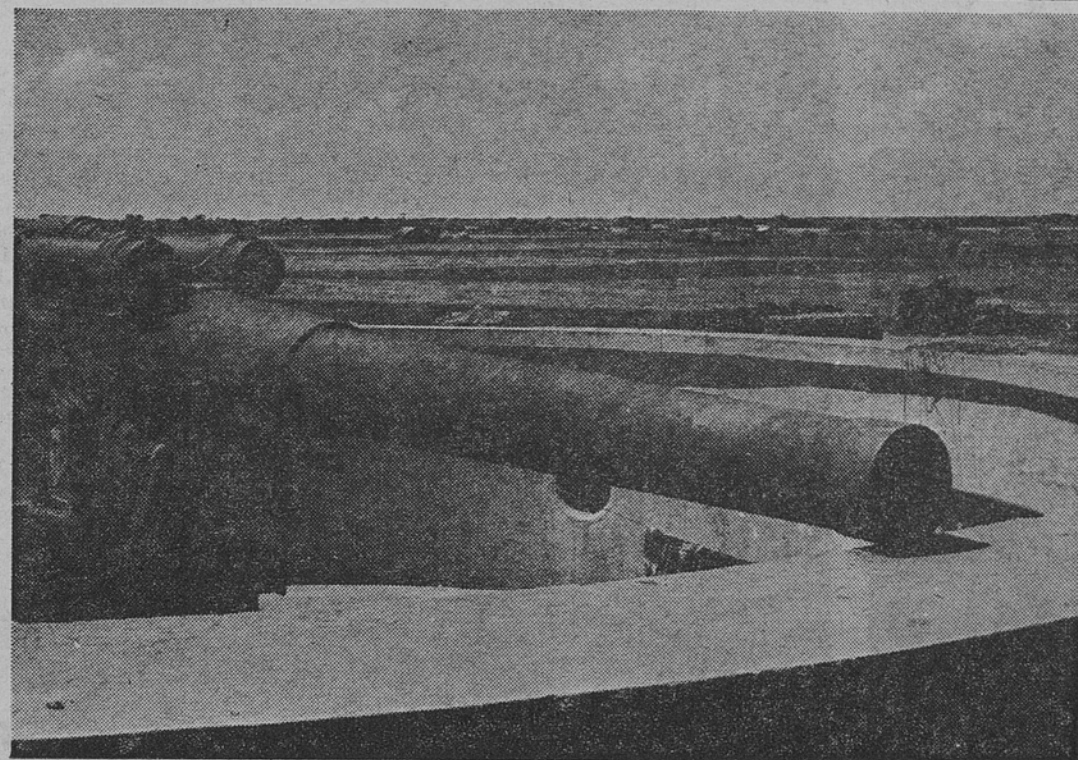
Convenience to the customer is the keynote at the two stores. Everything is displayed on shelves in a neat, orderly fashion, allowing customers to see at a glance what is on hand.

This new facility is the pioneer or pilot for other exchanges throughout South Vietnam.

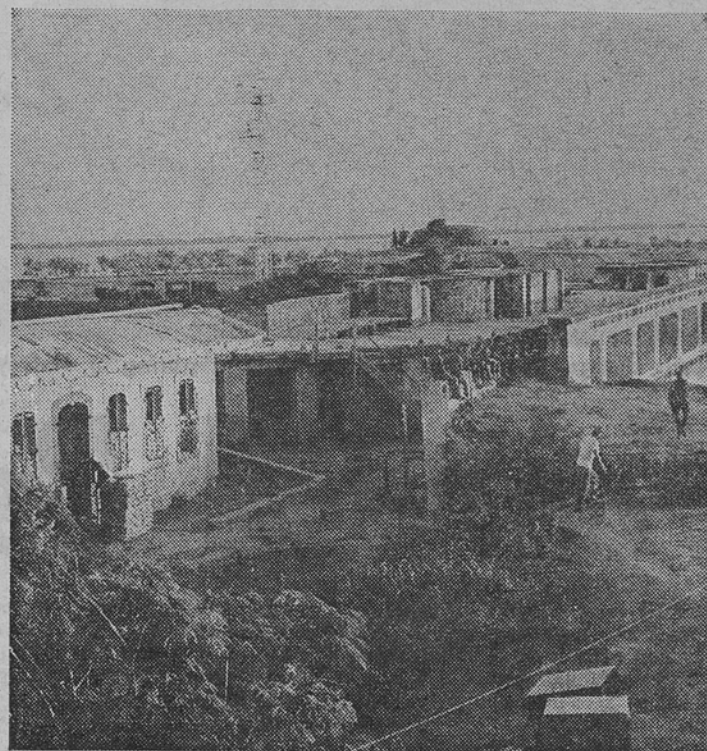
In addition to the commissary/exchange in Da Nang, two other facilities — one in Hue and one in Quang Ngai, are scheduled to open by the first of the year.

Lieutenant Nghia pointed out that the high quality and low prices the facilities offer is quite a shot in the arm to the soldier's standard of living.

"Because of his savings, he will have more buying power, and more money to spend on luxuries for his family," he concluded.



Rusted eight-inch French guns continue to point at Cua Soirap.



This once abandoned French Fort is now occupied by U.S.



Soldiers of the division have renamed the fort "Courage."

Story and Photos  
By  
Sp5 Bruce A. McIlhenny  
9th Div IO

## Two 9th Infantry Battalions Move Into Vietnam's History

**RACH CAT (USA)** — Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division have moved into a small corner of Vietnam's history.

Members of the Division's 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry and the 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery have become the latest in a long line of units to occupy the sprawling French-era fort here.

Since its completion in 1910, the fort's strategic position has been exploited by soldiers from four nations. Its original builders, the French, designed the stronghold to protect Saigon and parts of the Mekong Delta against attacks from the sea. The citadel was also intended as a backup defense for Vung Tau, 25 miles to the southwest.

Huge naval guns—16 inch and 8 inch—were positioned to cover Cua Soirap, the mouth of three waterways—the Vam Co, Can

Guioe and Nha Be Rivers. Two of the 8-inch guns remain in a state of disrepair.

A Foreign Legion atmosphere of isolation and military austerity is reflected by the concrete features of the structure. The inland wall contains a row of cisterns which stored water for sieges.

For 30 years until the beginning of World War II, the fort housed a garrison of French artillerymen and infantrymen.

Then in 1940, Japanese forces took over the location. A rusty artillery ammunition cart from their three-year occupation now houses a family of weeds.

The French reclaimed their fortress in 1943 and stayed there until the late 1940's.

When the French pulled out in 1947, Vietnamese Government forces moved in. Its 10-year stay was marred by frequent engage-

ments with the Viet Minh, who finally forced the Government troops out of the fort.

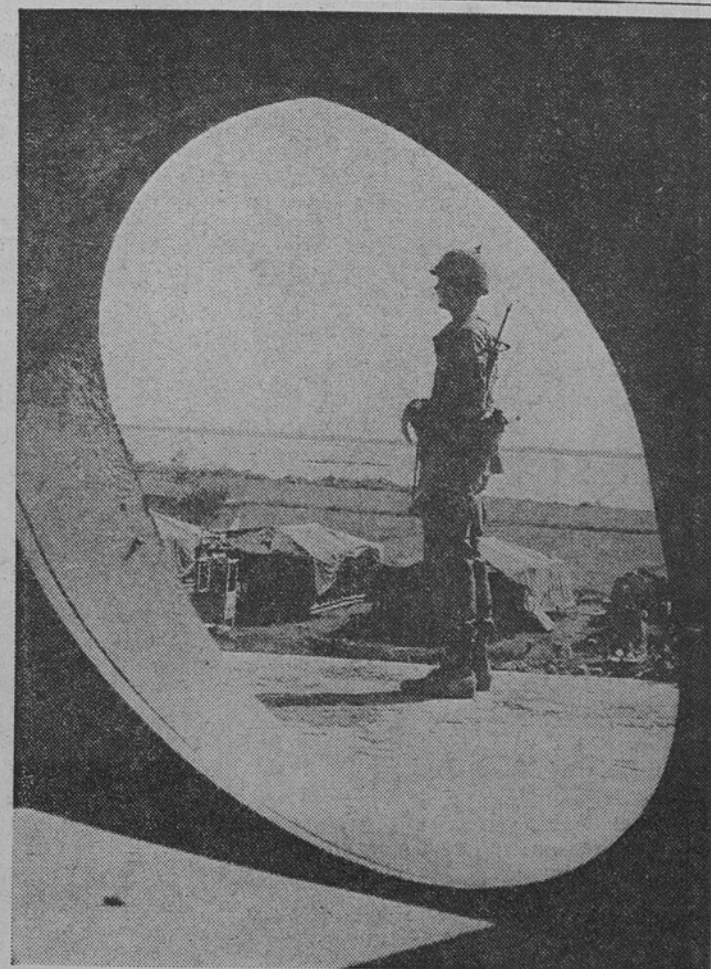
Viet Minh and later Viet Cong units were active in and around the fort until late 1964, when American-advised Army of the Republic of Vietnam forces began undermining the terrorist control.

The Old Reliabilities have introduced their own touches of home.

Pin-ups dot the weathered walls of the fort and transistor radios invade the somber air with rock and roll music.

One of the old squad bays sports a drink cooler and television as part of its club facilities.

The fort's present owners may sometimes wonder about its colorful past, but not often. They are too busy fighting the current war.



A 9th Infantry Division soldier stands guard at the old fort.

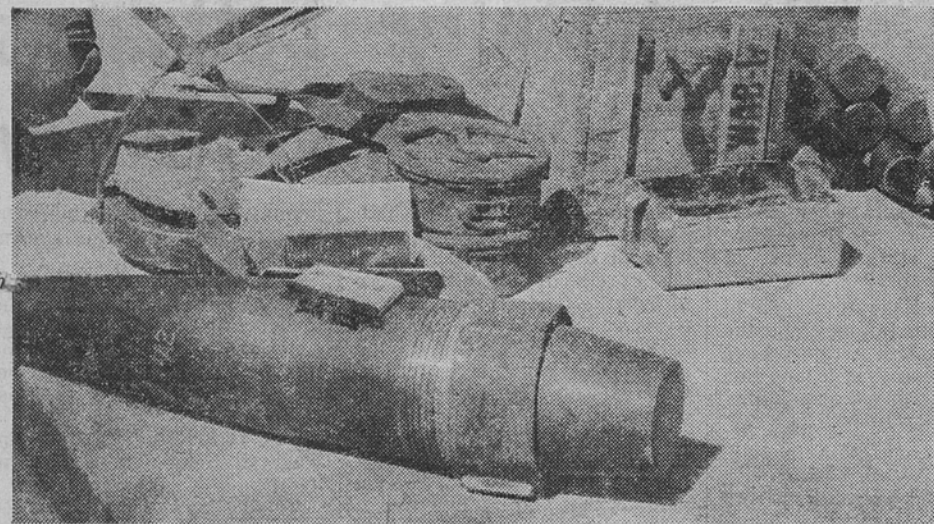


Metal gun emplacements once housed 16-inch naval guns at the fort.

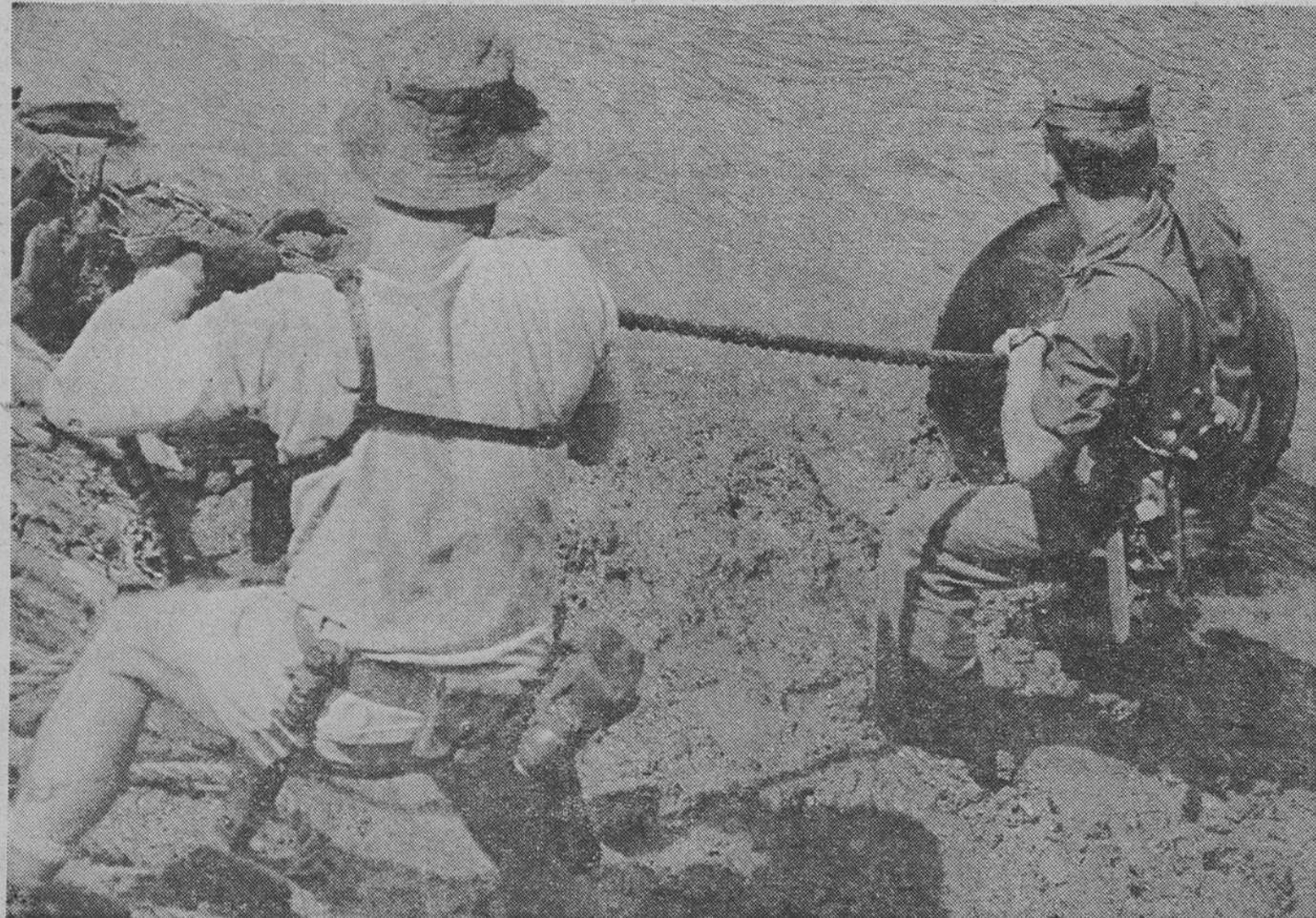




Disarming live ordnance is a very exacting job and is done with special tools



VC ordnance, such as this found in the Saigon city area, is destroyed by EOD men



After being cut loose from its moorings, this enemy command-detonated mine is gently pulled ashore to be disarmed



Using a plastic charge, this Saigon EOD expert is preparing to destroy a dud 500 pound bomb found in VC territory



A Navy EOD expert is helped by a river patrol boat sailor in loading boat with damaged rockets which must be destroyed

## Found A Bomb?—Call EOD

**SAIGON (USN)** — Probably one of the most nerve-racking jobs in the Saigon area is held by the U.S. Navy's 12-man Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team.

These men tempt the odds of fate every time they perform their job. Their primary mis-

sion is to render safe any type of ordnance or explosive that is endangering life or property in this area. Their duty requires a great amount of training, skill, pride — and, above all, plenty of nerve.

Saigon's Navy EOD Team is headquartered in Hawaii and

the men pull temporary duty in Vietnam for a six-month period. The Saigon branch is divided into three areas: Saigon, Nha Be and Cat Lai.

The three offices and nine enlisted men rotate between the three area branches and maintain a 24-hour duty status at all

times. They are able to be enroute to the scene of any emergency within two minutes.

To become a member of an EOD Team requires vigorous training. A member must undergo a 10-week diving course in Florida and then a seven-month ordnance course and

physical fitness training at Indian Head, Md. They must memorize all types of ordnance produced since the Civil War, plus know how to disarm them as well as render harmless any type of booby trap.

Saigon's team has been called to every sort of terrorist activity including that of clearing mines from the Saigon Harbor to disarming Claymores placed in front of U.S. billets.

The team is flown into the jungles to disarm and destroy dud bombs dropped by U.S. planes to keep the Viet Cong from getting the explosive.

Some of the team's equipment includes hand-held sonars, an MK-15 stethoscope, an MK-10 Ordnance Detector and Locator used to find buried land mines, and non-magnetic diving gear.

The team has one of the best displays of VC booby traps and weapons ever assembled—most of which they have disarmed themselves.

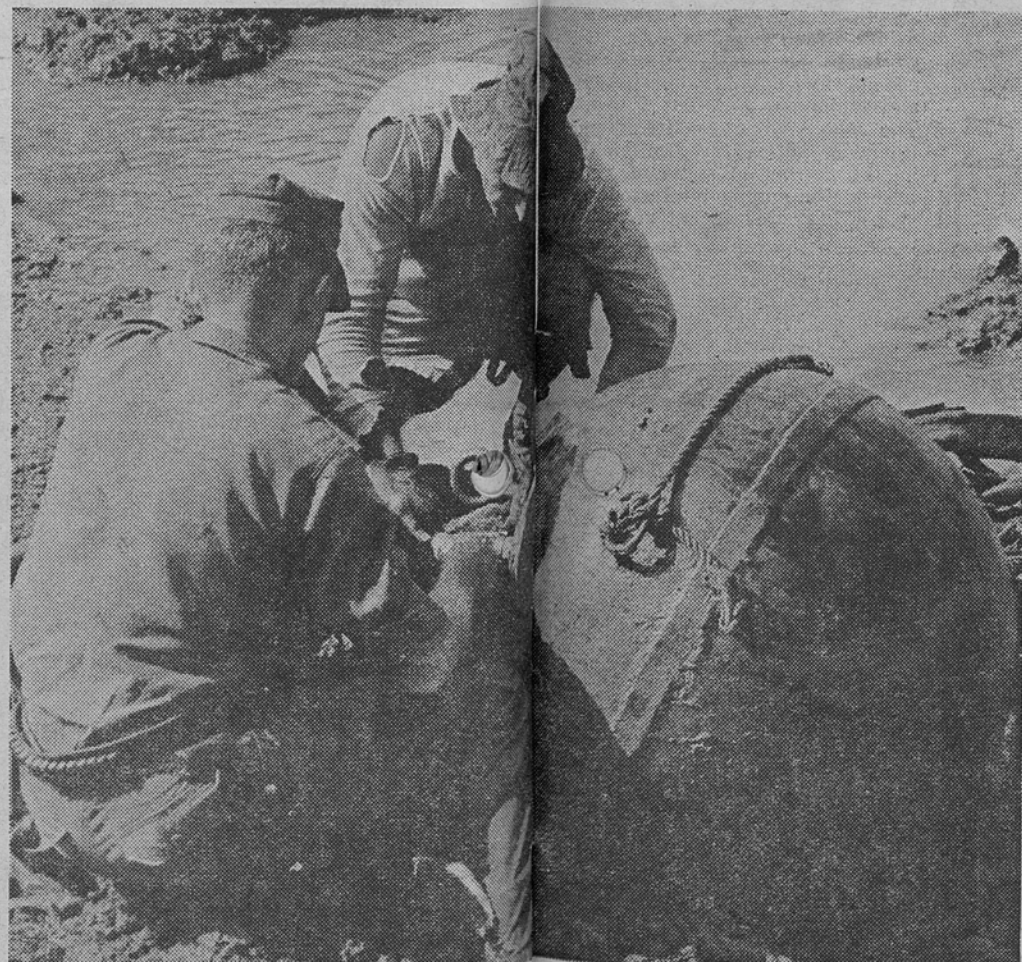
Doing a job that requires skill and nerve, the men of Saigon's EOD Team are continuing the challenge of protecting life and property against Viet Cong terrorist attacks. And, as one team member said, "Sure, this is dangerous work, but it must be done and we know what we're doing."

They are required to know what they are doing — one mistake is all they will ever make.

Story by  
JOHN Anthony G. Popowitz  
Photos by  
JO1 Jim Randall  
PH3 F.C. West

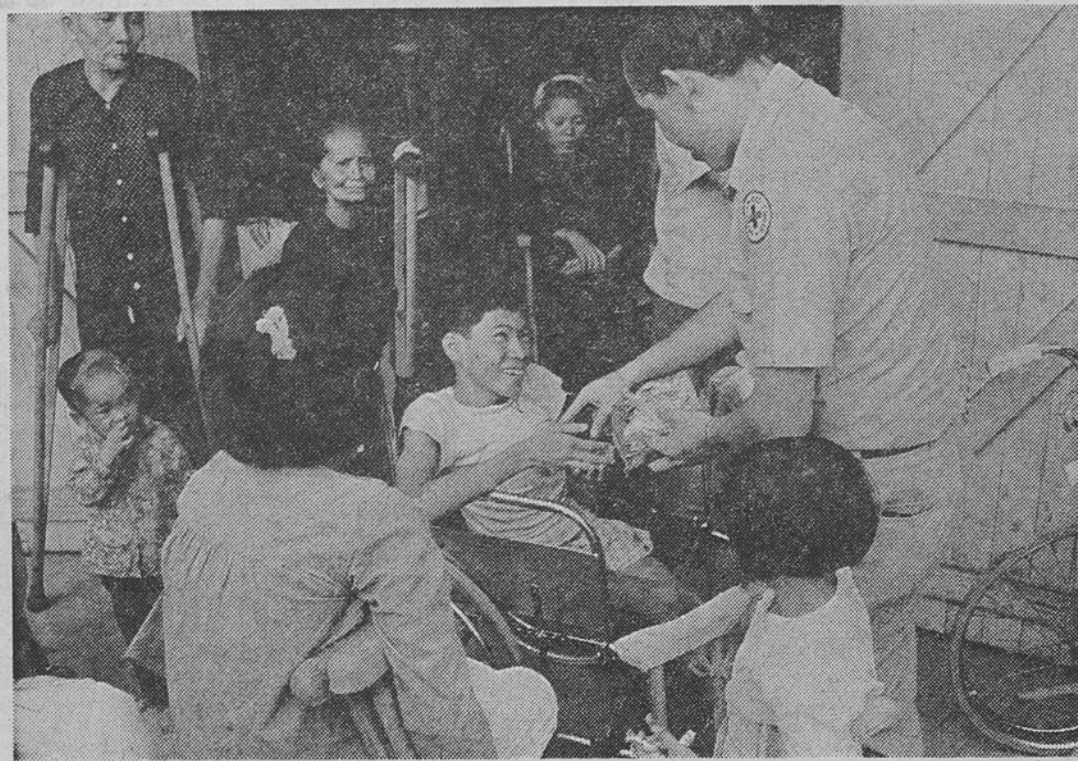


An EOD man uses a MK-10 Ordnance Detector and Locator in search for land mines





# RC Director Holds Civic Action



Children of the National Rehabilitation Institute receive weekly visits from Hector.



Hector conducts classes in English at Saigon's Interculture Exchange group several evenings a week.



Singing is part of Hector's personal Civic Action.

Story By Red Cross IO  
Photos By Mark Stevens



He is no professional, but he still gives a lot of children's haircuts.

SAIGON (ARC)—Hector Sanchez is not an ordinary man. Hundreds of servicemen and hundreds of Vietnamese students, orphans, cripples, and hospital patients think he is very special.

Mr. Sanchez was born in the poverty-stricken Indian village of Guana-junto, Mexico. He calls himself a "genuine wetback"—Hector, his mother and his five brothers and sisters literally swam across the Rio Grande in 1953 to seek a new life in the U.S. The boys soon found jobs shining shoes, selling newspapers and working in filling stations.

He was 12 years old when he entered the first grade; six years later he graduated from high school, second in his class. The family eventually became U.S. citizens.

Mr. Sanchez received a scholarship to St. Mary's College in San Antonio, but after two years decided to become a priest. He studied philosophy and theology at Catholic seminaries for five years. After two summers at the University of Houston, he completed an M.A. degree in philosophy and decided

to go to Vietnam.

After nine months preliminary training and experience as an assistant field director of the American Red Cross at Fort Bliss and Fort Hood, Mr. Sanchez left for Vietnam in March 1967 and was assigned to the Saigon Field Office.

"I wanted to make the most of these twelve months; I wanted to help the GIs, and I wanted to involve myself with the Vietnamese people," he said.

Mr. Sanchez teaches English to the members of a local intercultural association two evenings each week. This month he plans to initiate a class in telephone courtesy for Vietnamese secretaries who desire to find jobs in American offices in Saigon.

One day while on routine business, Mr. Sanchez visited the office of the director of the American Red Cross' refugee program. The office happened to be adjacent to Vietnam's National Rehabilitation Institute, which ministers to the cares and needs of amputees.

One of the nuns of the institute told him many of the patients had no visitors—so one evening each week, Mr. Sanchez visits the wards and sings for the patients.

But somehow Hector Sanchez found that he still had some leisure time that wasn't being put to use—so he did something about it.

"I was passing by a slum area one day and saw a naked, filthy child," he recalls. "I went in, bought a bucket of water and a washrag and washed his face. Then another came, and another—soon I'd cleaned up about a dozen kids. Boy, that washrag was filthy!"

"Then I started making a regular practice of doing this after work. Soon some of the women saw me and got the hint. I'd wash my arm to show them how it's done. They don't have money to spend on soap, so I have to supply it; and usually I tear up t-shirts for them to use as washrags. I haven't gotten around to buying toothbrushes and toothpaste yet, but I will. The whole thing is becoming financially difficult, so I'm thinking of writing to some of my friends who may be interested in sponsoring this sort of endeavor."

## Radio Assisting MEDCAP

DA NANG (USMC)—The 3rd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, has doubled the number of patients it has treated in the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) over the past two months. It now treats 6,000 patients a month.

Sergeant James W. Fletcher—a member of the battalion civic action section—credits the unit's success to the use of truck-mounted broadcasting units.

The truck is equipped with two speakers with a broadcast range of 2,000 meters. It is manned at each aid station periodically to inform the people of the location of the six aid stations and the purpose of MEDCAPS.

Villagers are informed that any wounds or diseases will be treated at the aid stations. If the aid station does have the proper facilities for treatment, transportation will be furnished to the Da Nang U.S. Overseas Mission (USOM) hospital.

A corpsman visits each aid station twice daily to hold sick call. He is available at all times in case of emergency.

The battalion is establishing a dispensary in Nui Kim Son hamlet, five miles southeast of Da Nang. It will be manned by a Vietnamese corpsman and nurse. Two doctors from MAG-16 will be available at the dispensary on Mondays and Fridays. A doctor and dentist from the 3rd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, will give medical assistance on Wednesdays.

"I talk to the people each day," Sergeant Fletcher said, "and they are well aware of the MEDCAP and what it is doing for them."

"Even though the number of our patients have doubled the past two months, we still expect it to increase even more."

## Phu My No Longer Home For Hopeless

SAIGON (USAF)—This is Phu My: The home of the orphaned, the aged, the paralyzed, the helplessly spastic, the limbless, and those suffering from leprosy, tuberculosis and every other illness.

It is a sanctuary for 1,500 Vietnamese who are struggling to survive in a place where there is little hope for miracles. It's a haven without doctors and only offers companionship, shelter, and simple care to its people—many of whom are hopelessly sick. Annually, death takes the lives of 25 per cent of its residents.

Amid the anguish of these Vietnamese there has come hope for a better life. It came in the form of a Civic Action program, started October 18 of last year by two Air Force units at Tan Son Nhut air base. Today, this project ranks as one of the largest single aid programs in Vietnam.

From what began with donations by members of the 616th Military Airlift Support Squadron and Detachment 1, 57th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, the project has swelled to include many donors in the United States and other Southeast Asia areas.

Tan Son Nhut-based doctors, nurses and medical corpsmen have begun a volunteer medical program at Phu My. They visit the sanctuary once a week dur-

ing their off-duty hours.

Since many of the people at the sanctuary suffer from incurable diseases, the aim of the medical team is to employ a system of evaluation and treatment of those that can be helped.

The two Air Force units have donated a total of 245,242 Piasters (\$2,078.30) since the start of the aid program. Other donations by unit members include beds, wall lockers, lumber, metal shelving, soap, building supplies, clothing, toys, candies, food and medical supplies.

And the Civic Action program is still growing. Relatives and friends of the airmen have sent money, clothing, medical supplies, food and other items.

"But, these donations made so far have only scratched the surface," stated the sergeant who heads the program. "Our units provide a monthly average of 20,000 Piasters (about \$160), plus an assortment of other tangible donations. This, however, isn't much when considering the vast needs of the 1,500 people at Phu My."

Located about one mile from the center of Saigon, Phu My is operated by French and Vietnamese nuns from the Order of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. The 25 sisters, headed by Sister Rose Marie, care for the young and old alike and serve as "doctors" for the institution.



OUCH—A frightened Vietnamese child lets Commander C.N. Clark know where the pain is while the Navy doctor administers first aid to the child's infected foot during a medical and civic action visit to Binh Son's Catholic orphanage near Chu Lai.

## Seabees Raise \$900 For Children's Hospital

DA NANG (USN)—During the last week of October, the men of Mobile Construction Battalion One (MCB ONE) held a combination battalion party and fund raising drive for the benefit of the Children's Hospital. More than \$900 were collected through the various games and contests run by the Seabees.

Some of the games and contests enjoyed by all hands included a test of strength, the penny pitch, greased pig, dart game, chariot races with "Georgia Buggies," and, by far

the most popular of all, the water drop platform.

The Children's Hospital has been in existence since November 1966. Since that time, the hospital has handled an average of 55 ward patients and 45 outpatients per day. The hospital is staffed by volunteer physicians and corpsmen working at the hospital in their off-duty hours.

Supported directly by funds donated by servicemen in the Da Nang area, the hospital is open to all children and takes patients from as far away as the DMZ.

## It's Uncanny, But Lt. Smells Mines

TAM KY (MACV)—They call him the mine sniffer. And it's a nickname he deserves.

Lieutenant Nguyen Van Son, a platoon commander with the 3rd Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) troop of the 4th Cavalry Regiment in Tam Ky, is proud of his uncanny skill.

## DMZ Area Supplied By Navy

DA NANG (USN)—There are approximately 30,000 men involved in fighting along the Demilitarized Zone and all of them depend on supplies brought in by landing craft from the Naval Support Activity at Da Nang.

The activity's detachment at Dong Ha, six miles from the DMZ, is the life-line that links the major port of Da Nang with members of all armed services serving in the northern part of Vietnam.

Men of this unit move supplies ranging from PX goods to necessities such as clothing, food and ammunition. Working two 12-hour shifts—which sometimes are interrupted by enemy mortar fire—men of the detachment offload cargo from landing craft at either Da Nang or Cua Viet. Supplies are then trucked to the unit needing the materials.

Begun in July 1966 with less than 20 men, the detachment grew in size and importance and finally took over the offloading task from the Marines in September.

"Our team spirit is very high," said the detachment commander, "and we like to think we're like McHale's Navy—except up here we work."

His record speaks for itself. So far this year, with the lieutenant in front, the cavalry troop has lost just one APC to mines.

Lieutenant Son credits his skill in spotting mines to his 10 years service with the French Army in the war against the Viet Minh.

A 21-year Army veteran, he served with a French armor unit from 1946-1956. "In those days," he said, "the Viet Minh used banana tree bark and strips of metal to cover mines."

"Today it's easier," he said. "The VC just plant and camouflage the mines and an experienced eye can spot them. One must first sense where the likely spots are, such as river crossings and areas the VC know we'll have to go around."

And until 1967 Lieutenant Son never had one explode on him, and even then he had warned the others.

Upon location a mine trap west of Tam Ky, he led his own platoon around them and then marked the area for the next platoon. But one APC missed the path the others had taken and hit the mines.

Lieutenant William, Shea, senior advisor to the troop, credits Lieutenant Son with being personally responsible for the unit's outstanding record against mines.

## VN Becomes Family Affair

CHU LAI (USA)—An Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialist stationed here with the 133d Ordnance Detachment (Explosive Disposal) claims that his family has done its part for the U.S. effort in Vietnam. Specialist 6 Gerald H. Black has 14 brothers and three sisters. Five of Specialist Black's brothers have already served in Vietnam.

Sometimes U.S. Army troops bring in a load of captured enemy rice, empty gas and ammunition cans, or lumber from broken crates for Phu My. A use is found for everything.

The building at Phu My houses up to 120 people in a single room and a French Sister, in Vietnam for more than 30 years, cares for the more seriously ill in the tuberculosis huts. Most of the

170 male patients—in the last stages of the disease—arrive at Phu My only a few days or months from death.

"Recently, a lad of 22 died—the same day a 27-year-old widower with five children arrived with death already upon him," said Miss Rosemary Taylor, a young Australian-born welfare worker working at Phu My. "This is only one case... there are 250 others like it."

From the tiny baby with sores sprinkled over his body to the old lady confined to her bed with cancer, the Air Force doctor and other base medical staff members examine them all. Some of the people they will be able to help—others are beyond that stage. The main effort of the medical team now is being directed toward treating those of whom more serious sickness will be prevented by early treatment.

Throughout Phu My, evidence of the Air Force Civic Action program can be seen... the tiny infant with clothes sent from relatives of a lieutenant from San Antonio, Tex.,... the medical supplies and soap in use by the young and old—donated by friends of a sergeant from Stanhope, N.J.,... the new water pump and building renovations underway... the soft encouragement of medical personnel, treating the sick...



DOCTOR AT WORK—Captain Stephen C. Vanna, flight surgeon at Tan Son Nhut air base, examines a youngster at Phu My.



## Advisors' Patience Pays Off

XUAN LOC (USA) — Patience and perseverance must be the by-words for U.S. advisors if they are to succeed in their job of assisting the Vietnamese armed forces and civilians to build a better defense system and community-government relationship.

It is a tough job, but one in which five men of the 9th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) have achieved significant results in only three months.

The team—headed by First Lieutenant John W. Wild—has been working with more than 5,000 civilians and 250 government forces in Xuan Loc district of Long Khanh Province. They live with a Regional Forces (RF) platoon-size outpost in Bao Vinh B hamlet and advise three Revolutionary Development (RD) teams and a platoon of Montagnard troops.

Since July, with the help of the MAT, the Vietnamese have upgraded their nine outposts, provided security for the hamlets and started a campaign to improve the economy and make the citizens more aware of the government's help.

"The reason we need patience is that as advisors," explained the lieutenant, "we can only suggest what actions should be taken. Then the suggestion must be cleared through not only the campaign commander, but through civilian and military leaders at all levels of government."

Some of the accomplishments of the team include establishing training programs for RF units, holding weekly meetings with Vietnamese commanders and RD team leaders, constructing test fire ranges, and conducting joint meetings with the civilians in the hamlets to promote cooperation between the hamlets.

The team also has improved coordination procedures with higher authorities, increased night patrols, and improved fire support by American and Vietnamese artillery units through the use of survey teams.

## Marine Building Project Is Island Success Story

CHU LAI (USMC) — During the past year American dollars and Vietnamese labor have combined to build a schoolhouse, church, and parsonage for the islanders of Cu Lao Re.

A Navy chaplain, Lieutenant James W. Robinson, credits the success of this program to the Marine Aircraft Group-36 and their former chaplain, Lieutenant Commander Howard W. Jeffers. The men of MAG-36 donated \$5,000 towards the purchasing of



SHOWTIME USA—Spending a lot of piasters? If you're not careful, you may not have enough money left when you return home to enjoy shows like these girls put on every night in Las Vegas. (PHOTO BY LASVEGAS NEWS BUREAU)

## Bien Hoa 8th Grade Student Accepts Scholarship Fund

BIEN HOA (USAF) — Sergeant Jack A. Martin awarded the 500th scholarship recently in the Bien Hoa Air Base "Dollars for Scholars" program.

The scholarship—presented to the 8th grade student Duong Van Thu of Thanh Long school in the village of Tam Hiep in Bien Hoa Province—marked the close of the three-month campaign at the base. More than \$12,000 was donated, with the average donation running \$23.

Initiated by Captain Richard Blair, base civic action officer, the Dollars for Scholars program was described by Lieutenant General William W. Momyer, commander, Seventh Air Force, as "An outstanding project, a model for all other Seventh Air Force bases to emulate."

"Response to my initial appeal for funds was terrific," said Captain Blair. "I sent out only one letter explaining the program. Base personnel immediately reached into their pockets to make donations."

The village of Tam Hiep is populated mostly by refugees from North Vietnam.

Thanh Long school—a private institution in Tam Hiep—is the only school in the village offering junior high school classes. Of the 2,000 children in the village, only 1,050 were able to attend the school prior to the start of Dollars for Scholars.

Parents sent most of their children to elementary school, where the cost was only 51 to 76 cents a month. But many could not afford to send their teenagers to the junior high school because of the \$2.12 and \$3.38 a month fees.

Dollars for Scholars has enabled more than 350 students to continue their schooling. The remaining scholarships have been used for needy students already enrolled.

The principal of the school, Nguyen Xuan Tho, commended the project as "One of the most outstanding examples I have seen in the realm of civic action." Commenting further, Mr. Tho said, "Captain Blair understands the way of life and problems of children in this area and through this program has helped them on the way toward a more meaningful life."

Captain Blair emphasized that Dollars for Scholars is not a random give-away program, but one of providing special financial aid. "A student must maintain a 'B' average in order to remain

## Off Duty NCOs Tutor 7 VNAFs

SAIGON (USAF) — Seven Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) personnel are now trained photo interpreters through the efforts of two Air Force non-commissioned officers at Tan Son Nhut Air Base who volunteered their off-duty time to instruct them.

Technical Sergeant James B. McGee and Staff Sergeant Stuart M. Dibitzky developed the photo interpreters' course after talking with Captain Le Minh Hoang, assistant to the chief of VNAF intelligence. The sergeants learned that a lack of trained photo interpreters existed and they set out to help remedy the situation.

An expanded program could lead to a better flow of intelligence analysis through joint efforts of VNAF and U.S. Air Force personnel.

Using equipment borrowed from the Tan Son Nhut-based 647th and 460th Reconnaissance Squadrons, Sergeants McGee and Dibitzky set up their classroom in the old Tactical Air Control Center. Their knowledge of photo interpretation was transmitted to their students through an interpreter.

"Although we had several obstacles to overcome, we believe the course was a success," said Sergeant McGee. "The Vietnamese were willing students and eager to learn."

The two men hope to continue and expand the course to allow more Vietnamese to be trained

## Filipino's 3rd 'War'

QUANG TRI (USMC) — A Filipino who fought as a guerrilla in World War II and then worked in intelligence during the Huk insurgency in the Philippines is applying his experience as an advisor to the Chieu Hoi program at Quang Tri.

Luis E. Balinasay is one of 45 Filipinos who came to Vietnam a year ago in an advisory capacity for the Vietnamese government.

"Basically, the situation faced by the Vietnamese government in trying to curb the Viet Cong is similar to the problem faced by my government during the Huk emergency," he said. "The Huk attempted to wrest control from the government using many of the methods currently employed by the VC."

The program is gaining momentum and will play an important part in the government's fight, according to Mr. Balinasay.

He assists in the sifting and selection of prospective scouts, in addition to his major job of advisor, which includes Chieu Hoi rehabilitation.



STUCK EH?... I THOUGHT YOU WERE A LITTLE TOO BIG TO GET IN THAT TUNNEL!... HMM. IS THAT INCOMING MAIL? I HEAR?..

## American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject to Change Without Notice)  
(Guide For Week Of December 6-12, 1967)

Wednesday Dec. 6

1830 News Headlines  
1900 Bewitched  
1930 Information Feature  
1950 News & Sports  
2000 Perry Mason  
2030 Alfred Hitchcock Hour  
2200 News Briefs  
Channel Theater (Movie)  
Sign-Off-News

Thursday Dec. 7

1830 News Headlines  
1900 My Three Sons  
1930 Air Force News Review  
1950 Metroland Newsreel  
2000 News & Sports  
2030 12 O'Clock High  
2100 News Briefs  
2200 The Fugitive  
News Briefs  
Joey Bishop Show  
Sign-Off-News

Friday Dec. 8

1830 News Headlines  
1900 Addams Family  
1930 Information Feature  
1950 News & Sports  
2000 Gunsmoke  
2100 Wild Wild West  
2200 News Briefs  
Tonight Show  
Sign-Off-News

Saturday Dec. 9

1100 News Headlines  
1215 Mike Douglas Show  
1230 Encyclopedia Britannica  
1300 Flying Fishermen  
1330 News Headlines  
1400 Wonderful World of Golf  
1430 Assignment Underwater  
1450 Sports of the Week  
1500 Official Detective  
1530 Green Acres  
1600 Lost in Space  
1630 Bobby Lord  
1700 News and Sports  
2000 Lawrence Welk Show  
2100 News Briefs

Hollywood Palace  
Away We Go  
2200 News Briefs  
Saturday Night at the Movies  
Sign-Off-News

Sunday Dec. 10

1100 News Headlines  
The Christophers Sacred Heart  
1130 The Answer  
1200 Window on Vietnam  
1230 Information Special  
1300 News Headlines  
Sunday Matinee (Movie)  
Sports of the Week  
1430 Football Scoreboard  
1500 Pro Bowlers Tour  
1530 The 3rd Man  
1600 Greatest Flights of the Century  
1915 Greatest Dramas  
1930 News & Sports  
2000 Window on Vietnam  
2030 Dick Van Dyke Show  
2100 Get Smart  
2200 News Briefs  
Bonanza  
Dean Martin Summer Show  
Sign-Off-News

Monday Dec. 11

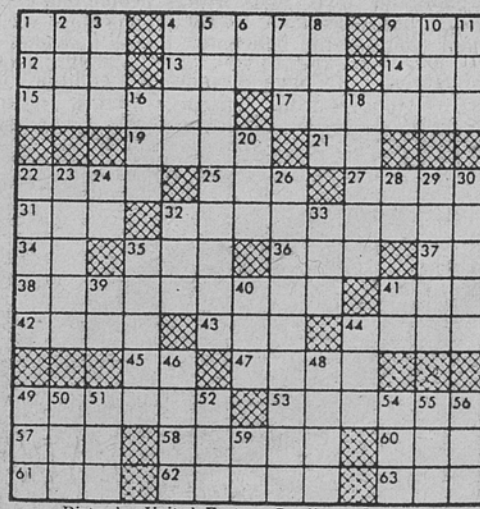
1830 News Headlines  
Fractured Flickers  
1900 Biography  
1930 News and Sport  
2000 Combat  
2100 News Briefs  
Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea  
2200 News Briefs  
Our Place  
Sign-Off-News

Tuesday Dec. 12

1830 News Headlines  
My Favorite Martian  
1900 Magic Room  
1930 News & Sports  
2000 Big Valley  
2100 News Briefs  
Daniel Boone  
2200 News Briefs  
Variety Special  
Sign-Off-News

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS  
1-Opening  
4-Bitter pungent  
9-Vessel  
12-Macaw  
13-Flexible  
14-Man's name  
15-Diminish  
17-Substance  
19-Lane  
21-Sun god  
22-Plaster  
25-Three-toed sloths  
27-Church benches  
31-Female deer  
32-Kissing  
34-River in Siberia  
35-Unit of electrical measurement  
36-Free of  
37-Parent (colloq.)  
38-Overlaid with plaster  
41-Obtain  
42-Girl's nickname  
43-Soak  
44-Measure of weight (pl.)  
45-Pronoun  
47-Reverberation  
49-Heavenly beings  
53-Harbingers  
57-Falseness  
58-Amphibious mammal  
60-River in Wales  
61-Likely  
62-Hospital sections  
63-Man's nickname  
DOWN  
1-Female (colloq.)  
2-Exit  
3-Dance step  
4-Appellation of Athena  
5-Holder  
6-Artificial language  
7-Doctrine  
8-Loved one  
9-Hole  
10-Native metal  
11-Sailor (colloq.)  
16-Resort  
18-Sound  
20-Pronoun  
22-Take as one's own  
23-Aristocratic  
24-Symbol for tellurium  
26-Distended  
28-Latin conjunction  
29-Females  
30-Chairs  
32-Witty remark  
33-Cover  
35-Send forth  
39-Conjunction  
40-Female ruff  
41-Proceed  
44-Rocky hill  
46-Sluggish  
48-Possessive pronoun  
49-A state (abbr.)  
50-Pinch  
51-Obtain  
52-Music: as written  
54-Total  
55-Sign of zodiac  
56-Lair  
59-Initials of 26th President



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(AFPS Feature)  
1. What two NFL teams have won the most championships?  
2. Who was the youngest pitcher to receive the Cy Young Award as best pitcher?  
3. What team holds the NCAA major college basketball scoring average over a full season?

Answers

1. The Green Bay Packers which averaged 99 points a game.  
2. The 1966 Syracuse squad he won the award in 1964.  
3. Dean Chance was 23 when Bears left.  
1. The Green Bay Packers have won 10 and the Chicago Bears eight.

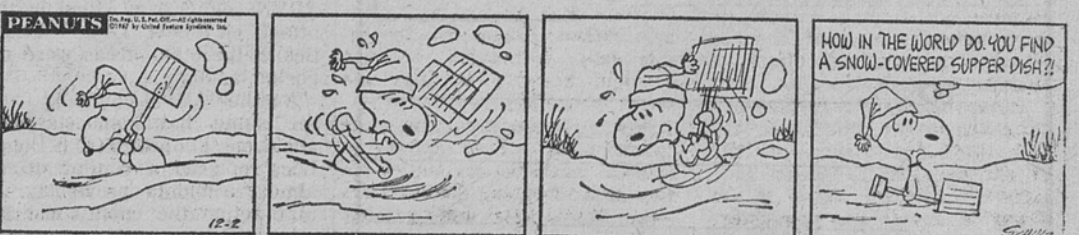
## Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



## Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz





## Pfc Fish Story No Joke!!!

DA NANG (USMC) — "It sure wasn't funny at the time, but now when I look back on it I have to laugh," said Marine Pfc Willard G. Wright while describing an incident which took place during a night patrol eight miles from Da Nang.

While walking point for his unit, Private Wright suddenly felt something around his ankle. Freezing in his tracks and looking down, he saw a thin line wrapped around his feet.

"I was out in the open, on a path across a paddy dike and there was nothing I could do but stand still and pray that nothing would explode," he said.

When nothing happened, members of his squad moved cautiously forward to see where the line led. Because no booby trap had been detonated when the private made contact, it was thought to be a pressure release-type mine that would explode if he backed away from the trip wire.

The line led into the rice paddy water at the base of the dike. After 30 minutes of slow, thorough checking, a Marine found out the hard way, what the line led to — he caught his hand on a fish hook.

It was a fishing line. The Marines believe a Vietnamese fisherman had forgotten to pull it in before going home for the night.

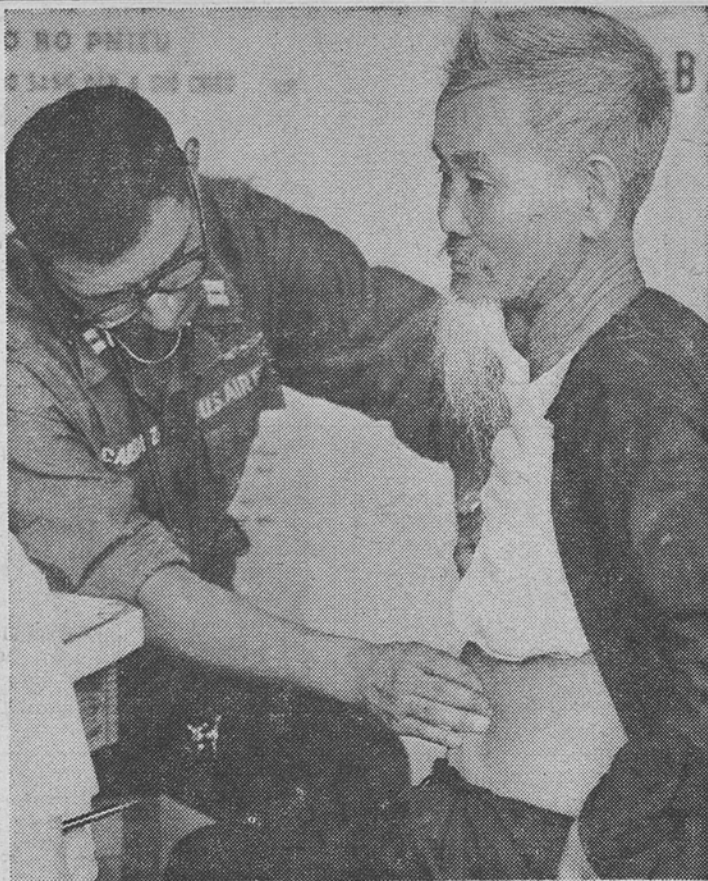
"It sure was a long time to stand there for nothing," stated Private Wright. "What made matters worse — there weren't any fish on the line!"

## Hamlet Gets Rec. Center

CAM RANH BAY (USAF) — Ba Ngoi, a small village south of the Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, dedicated its first recreation center recently, an additional structure complementing the small eight-room school built last February by men of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing.

The center contains a fully equipped kitchen and dining facility which will enable the Vietnamese students to have hot lunches on school days.

A group of 75 airmen and non-commissioned officers assigned to the 555th Civil Engineers Squadron (Red Horse) spent off-duty time for the past six months building the 103-foot by 40-foot structure. The Southern Baptist Missionary furnished 50 percent of the supplies used in the project.



Air Force doctor examines a Vietnamese on MEDCAP visit. (USAF PHOTO)

## Engineers Assist Three Orphanages

DI AN (USA) — A MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) team of the 79th Engineer Group at Di An is building a better life for children of three orphanages in their area.

Xuan Truong Orphanage is typical of the orphanages cared for by the team. On one of the recent MEDCAP visits members brought with them boxes of children's clothing and shower shoes — in addition to medical supplies.

Before making distribution of the clothing, the engineers set up a three-spout shower—donated by the unit—and directed all the children to wash and use plenty of soap which the unit also donated.

After the children had showered and dressed in the new clothing, the MEDCAP doctor and specialists treated all the children needing medical attention. Instructions on the use of various medicines also were passed on to the head of the orphanage so that treatment could continue when the team departed.

Before the MEDCAP came to the orphanage, the children were suffering from lack of proper nutrition and hygiene. Now, through intense care, health education and other MEDCAP instructions, the institution has seen many improvements in its overall health and hygiene programs.

"And these children, which are Vietnam's future, have been given a new chance for a healthier life," expressed one MEDCAP team member.

## Mistake Makes Friend; Montagnard Rides High

BAN BLECH (USA) — Members of the 4th Infantry Division made a new friend recently, and all because of a mistake.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry had been conducting cordon and search operations in the village of Ban Rang, when a "bubble" chopper landed on the edge of the village square. In addition to the pilot, the chopper had a bewildered Montagnard as a passenger.

The pilot escorted the Montagnard to the military information team working with Company C on the mission, and spoke to him through the team's interpreter.

The Montagnard had approached the Military Police at the gate at Ban Blech, and had tried to speak with them. The MPs thought that he was trying to tell them about VC activity in the area, so they whisked him into a chopper to be questioned by the military information team.

As it turned out, he had received some help from members of an engineer team in building a fence, and wanted to find

## ARVN . . .

(Continued from Page 1) province capitol of Phuoc Long, Phuoc Binh Subsector headquarters, Phuoc Qua post and the hamlet of Hieu Phong. One ARVN soldier was killed in the attack on Phuoc Long. Casualties in the other areas were reported as light.

Another ARVN company from the same battalion, stationed about one kilometer from Phuoc Loc, repulsed a similar attack almost a month previously. In that action the enemy lost 134 men killed.

## Chewing Gum Aids MEDCAP

BIEN HOA (USAF) — Giving chewing gum to children plays a big part in getting Vietnamese villagers to accept medical and dental care by MEDCAP (medical civic action program) teams from Bien Hoa air base.

A Vietnamese Air Force liaison officer accompanies the team and distributes chewing gum to the children in the villages they visit.

"The children are always the first to show up when we arrive," stated the liaison officer. "The adults are much more hesitant about approaching us."

"After we give the children gum, we tell them to bring their parents to us and we'll provide medical attention and give them soap. This almost always brings the parents to us."

After gaining the villager's confidence, the doctors, dentists and corpsmen of the eight to 14-man teams proceed to treat a variety of illnesses ranging from minor cuts and bruises to serious ailments.

The doctors examine the more seriously ill, the corpsmen clean the children's cuts and sores, and the dentists treat and extract diseased teeth.

While the medical aid is being given, civic action personnel mingle with the villagers seeking to gain their confidence and friendship.

The value of the MEDCAP is evident in the many friends it has made among the villagers

treated by the teams. "Their smiling faces as we leave the village is proof of their appreciation," said one team member.

All MEDCAP personnel volunteer their services and do the work on their own time. Most of them strongly believe they are also getting much in return for their time and work.

One of the team doctors explained his feeling by saying, "I actually hate to leave here. It is very satisfying treating these people who have so little and are so grateful for our assistance."

## Village Cares For Its Needy

CU CHI (USA)—Following the example of a 25th Infantry Division unit, the people of a hamlet near the HoBo Woods have started an aid program of their own.

The miniature project came to light when the Civic Action Section of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry, delivered a load of rice to the hamlet of Trung Hoa.

"After the rice was distributed, the old village chief ordered an empty basket to be brought forward," First Lieutenant Gar Stroh said. "Each of the families in the hamlet then filed by it, tossing in a cup of their rice."

Puzzled, the Lieutenant questioned the chief and discovered that the basket was for an elderly man in the hamlet who was mentally retarded and unable to fend for himself.

"The chief explained that his people had decided if the Americans were willing to share what they had with people less fortunate, so would they."



BEACON—This 33-foot helium-filled balloon is fitted with radio equipment and is floated 500 feet above Camp Bearcat to act as a radio tower. It is equipped with the standard squad radio and provides communications with units operating in the dense Bien Hoa jungle surrounding the base camp. The sign on its side also encourage VC in the area to return to the side of the Vietnamese government.

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