

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 other side 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-Thanh 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

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)

CHU LAI (USA) — A disconcerted 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 underway.

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 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 "immeasurable 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 Americans agree to make 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."

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**Photo Contest Announced By DoD**

WASHINGTON (DOD) — The Department of Defense, in cooperation with the National Press Photographers Association, the University of Missouri, and the World Book Encyclopedia 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 mount: photo category, title 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/NPDA liaison officer, Defense Information School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, 46216, is the Department of Defense project officer for this competition.

No Weapons On R&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.

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

CRITICS' REVIEWS

Should be taken once a week

—First Sergeant's Bulletin

'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

—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. Rizutto, a missile-launcher maintenance man with "E" Battery, 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Battalion, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

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**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 friendships.

Practices 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 rejoin 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 taboo lest the gods be annoyed. Griefs, setbacks and annoyances are hidden beneath smiling faces and

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.

FIRST IN VIETNAM
THE OBSERVER

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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.

"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.

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 Lt Col 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."

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.

The main rivers and canals in Long An Province, III Corps Tactical Zone, southwest of Saigon, 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 up-country, and also participates 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 re-opening 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."

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.



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.

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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

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), 937th 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. Ahlf 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.

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 "battleship" — 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.

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

PX Donates To Refugees

SAIGON (VRE) — The Vietnam Regional Exchange (RVNR), which deals in services to the fighting man, is spearheading a project to provide shelter for unfortunate neighbors.

Thus, instead of collecting \$1,200 a month on plywood from incoming crates, the lumber is donated to aid a housing project for about 1,500 Vietnamese refugee families in the Cam Ranh Bay area.

After talks with the commander of Ninh Thuan province and the mayor of Cam Ranh City, the area exchange general manager decided to contribute the salvaged wood to the housing project, about five kilometers west of Ba Ngai.

The building materials are picked up three times a week at the depot by Cam Ranh Bay's civic action officer and a crew of U.S. servicemen and Vietnamese. So far, the exchange has donated six truckloads of materials, each one enough to build six houses.

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 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 the 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.

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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.

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.



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.

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.

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 used instantaneous fuses.



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 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 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.

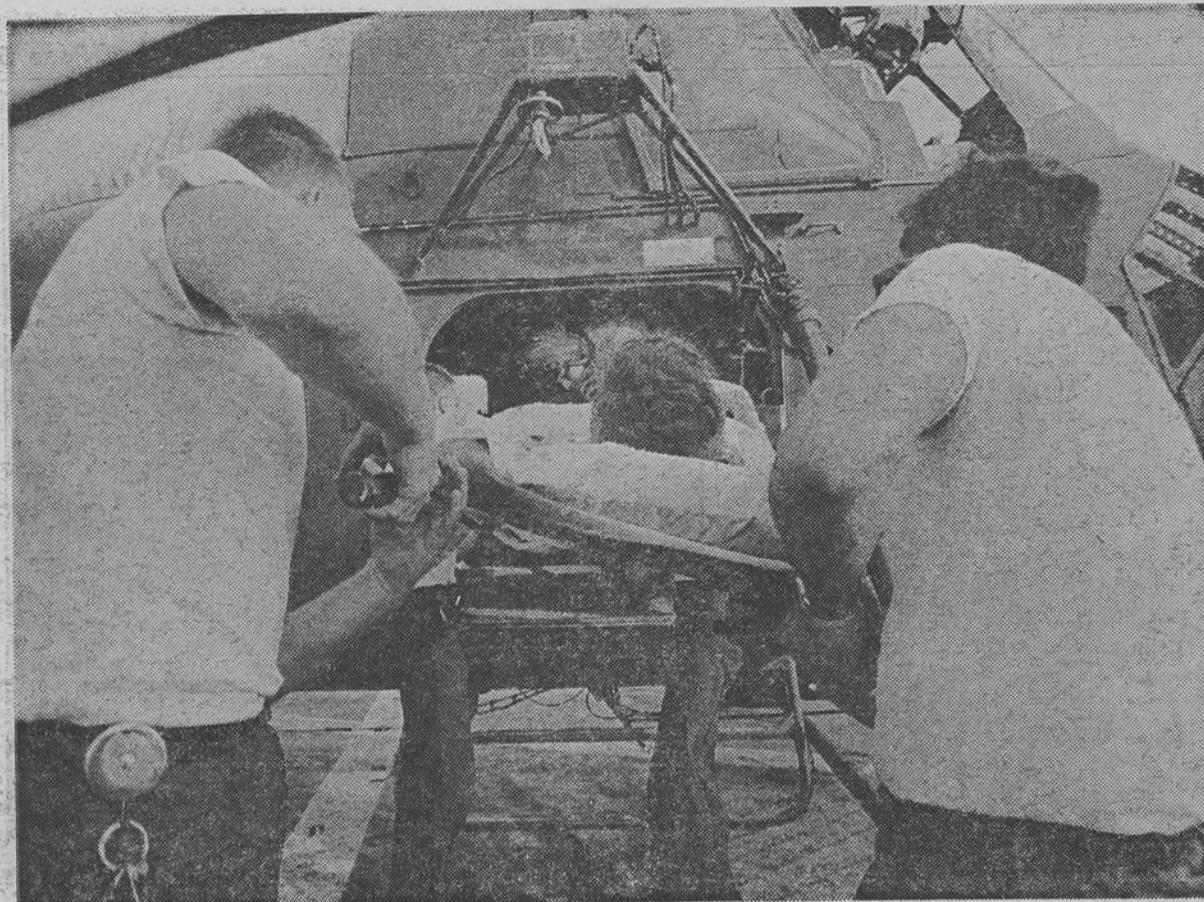
Although no contacts were made with the enemy during the sweep, the company found a number of enemy uniforms, documents and ammunition. It also destroyed numerous bunkers and tunnels.

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."

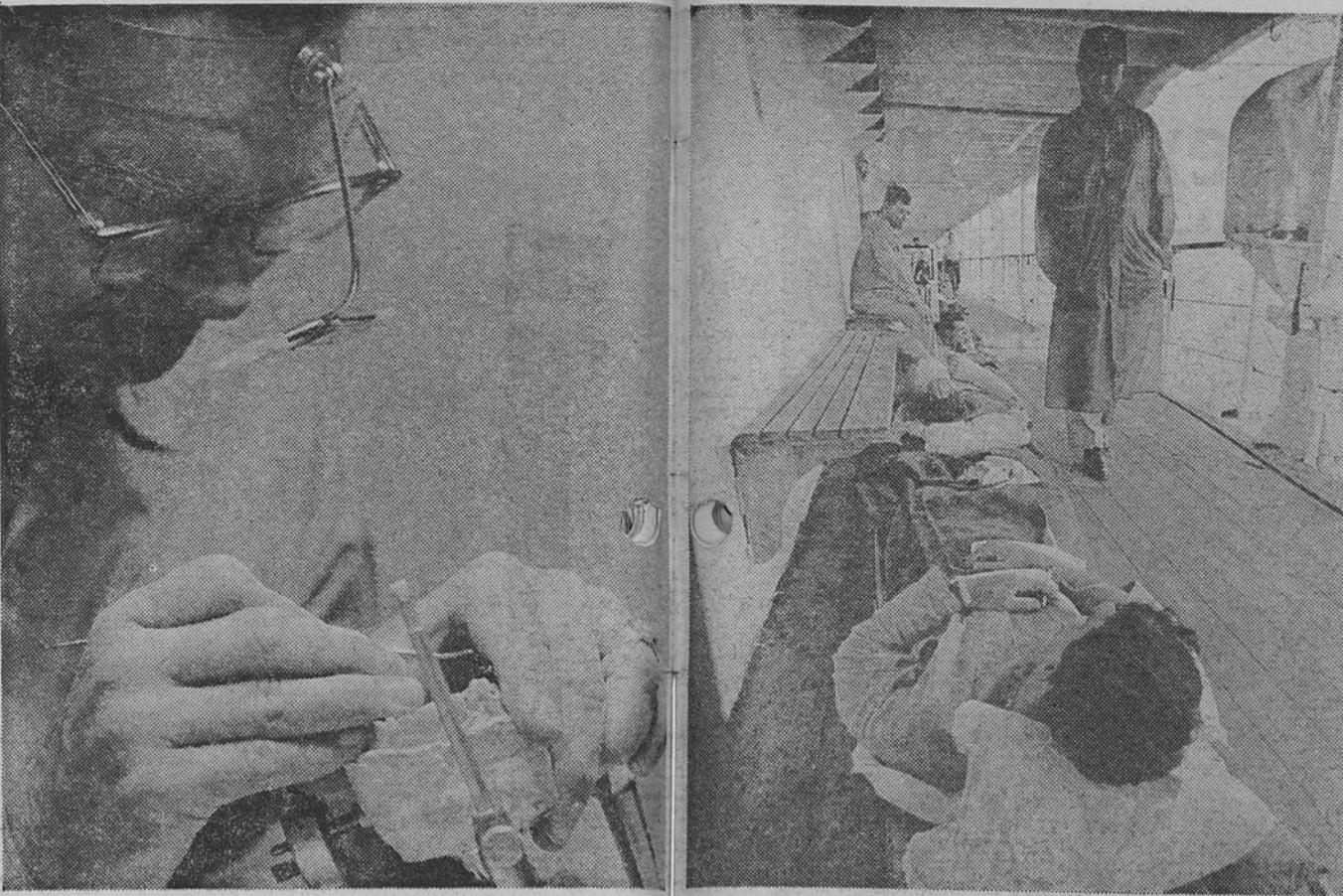
Story By
SP4 Larry J. Thomason
Photos By
SP5 Zack Richards



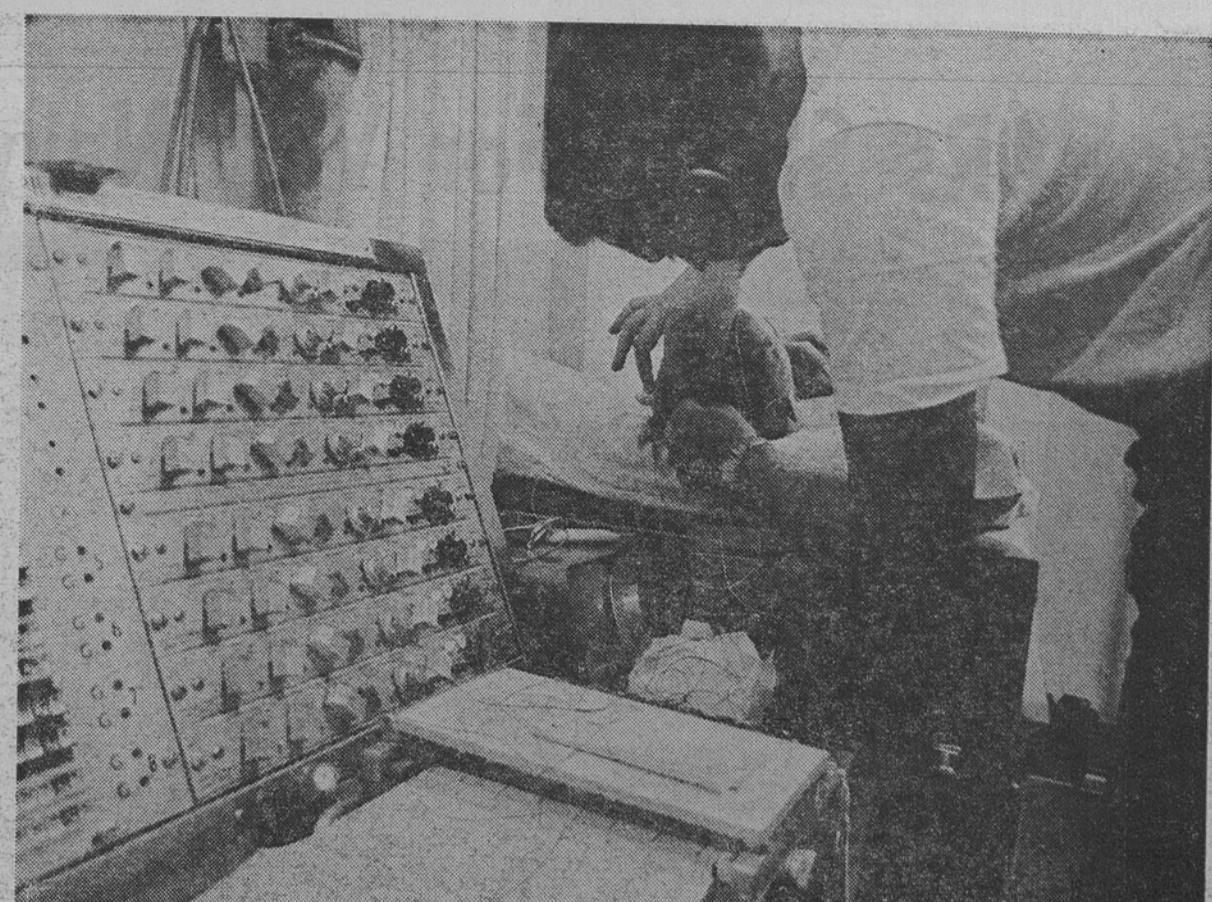
Brigade members question former VC who surrendered under the Chieu Hoi program.



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.

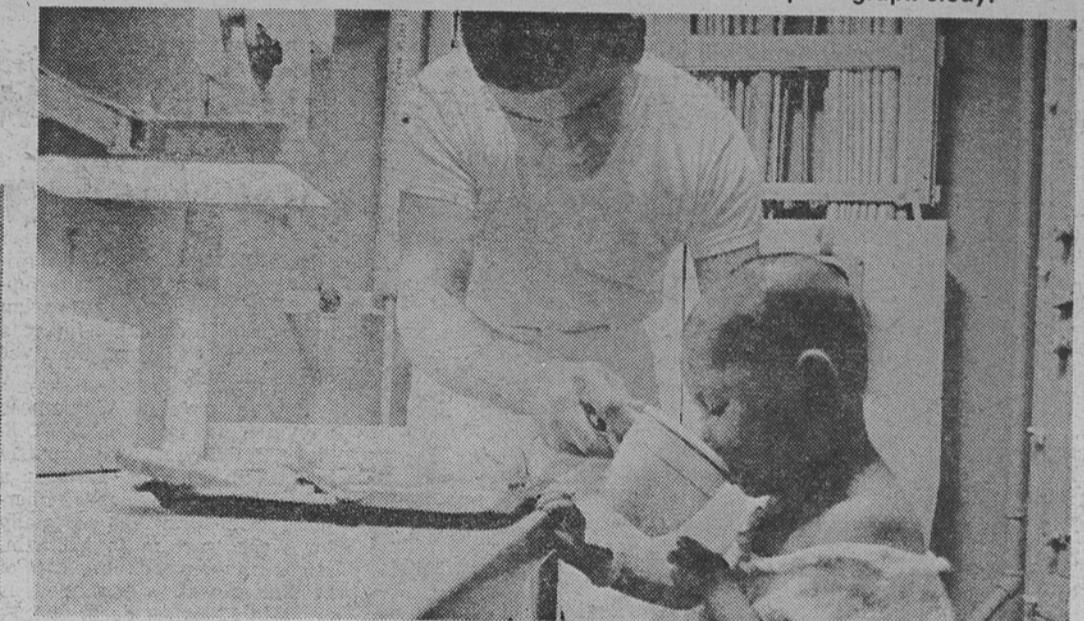
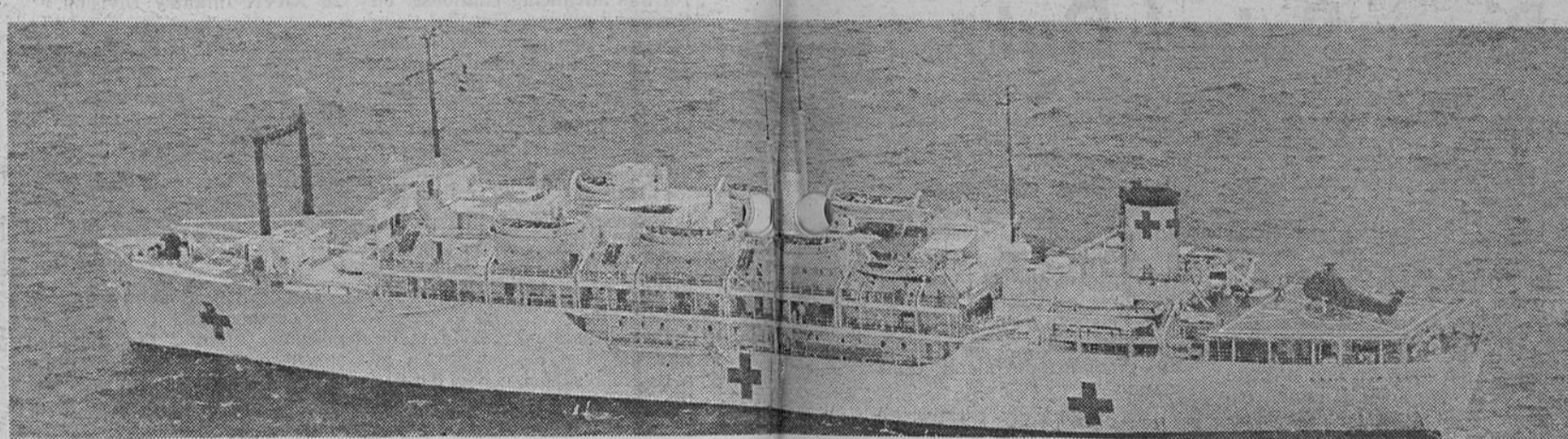


Lt. Annelle Lee overcomes the problem of understanding with a Vietnamese girl.



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

Hospital 'Angel Without Disguise'



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

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 impregnable, and Dong Ha near the

bordering North Vietnam. Repose currently steams in slow, graceful circles three days each week.

Here, at the no-man's-land

bordering North Vietnam, Repose

steams in

slow, graceful circles 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

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."

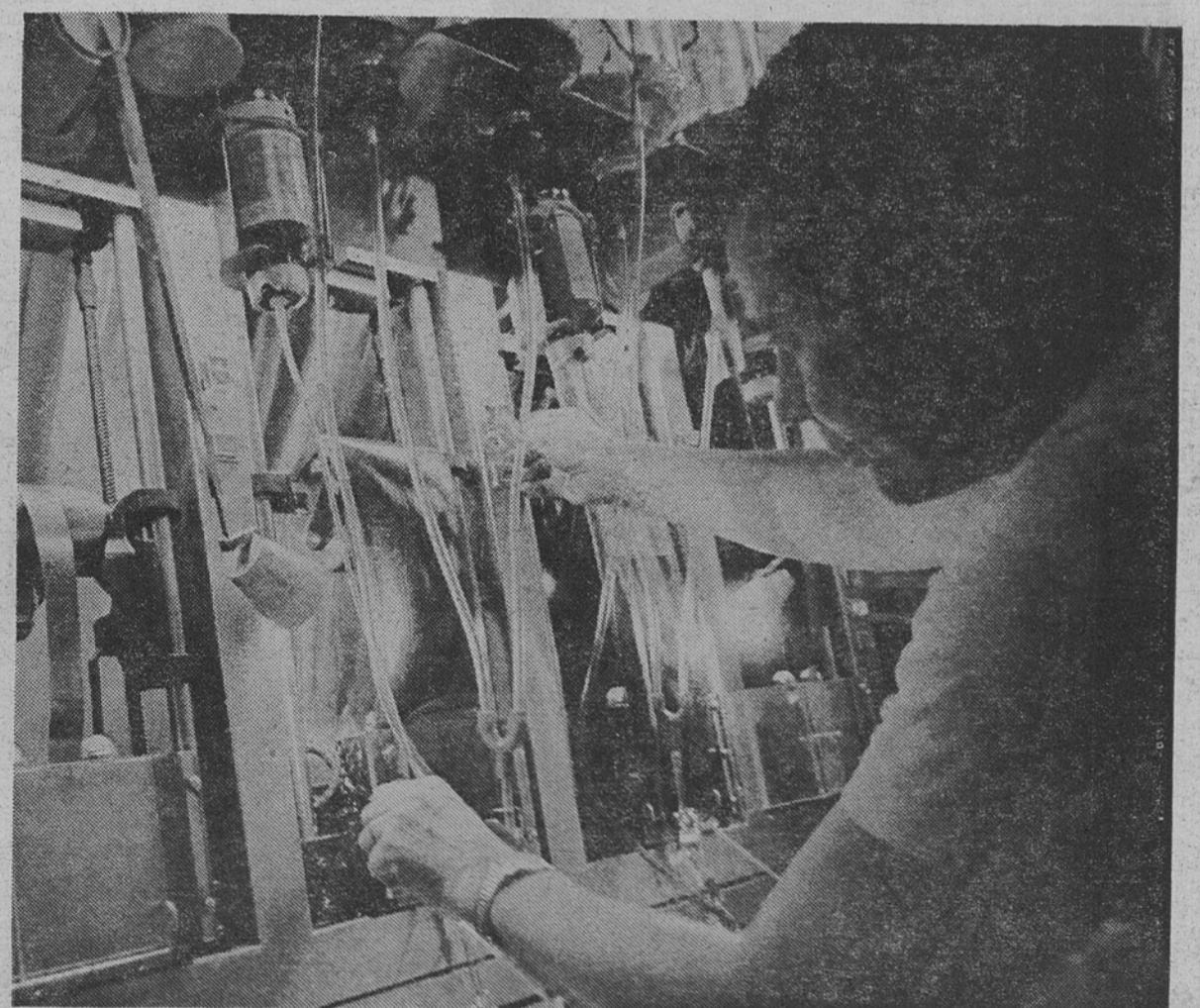
Repose is equipped with the most modern equipment and facilities available, including a 250-unit frozen blood bank, an artificial heart and lung machine and an ultrasonic diagnostic similar to sonar.

Comparing the casualty treatment provided in Vietnam with the past, Capt. Herbert A. Markowitz, says, "There are innovations 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.

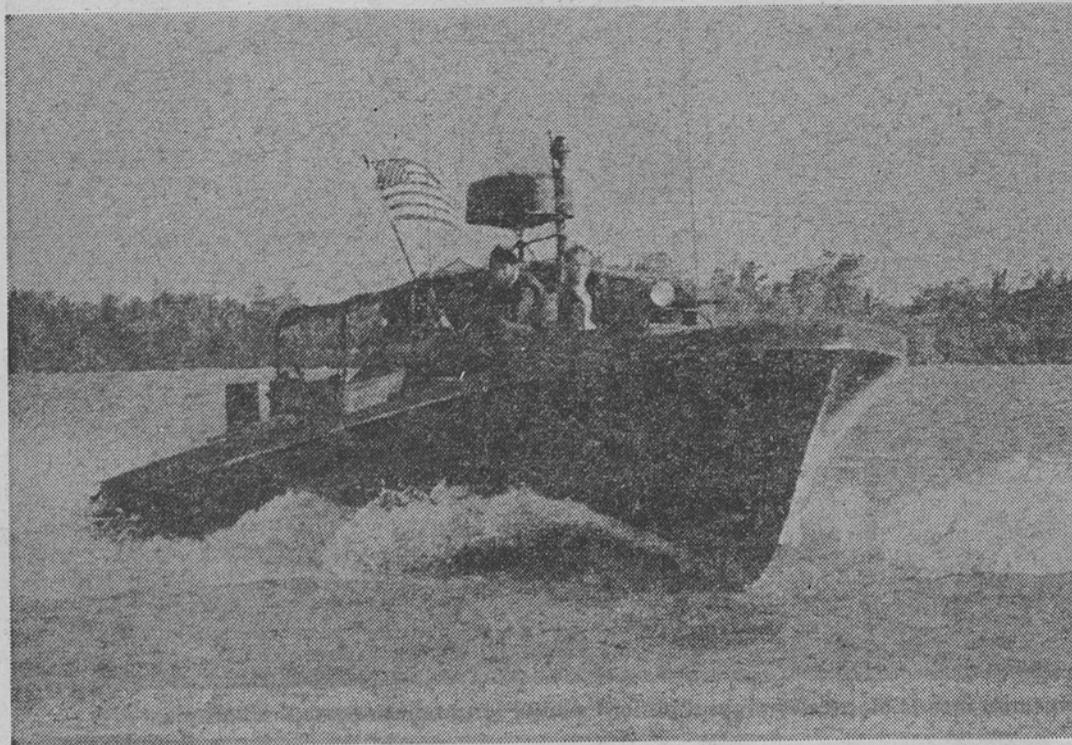


Frozen blood from the ship's blood bank is reconstituted by a cytometer.

Story By JO2 Rick N. Edwards, USN

Photos By JO2 Bert D. Moeser, USN

PBRs Slated For Viet Navy Next Year



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



Officer in Charge briefs students on boat assignments.

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

MACV STORY & PHOTOS
BY JOC William Polk



Learning to master the controls requires extra concentration.



Trainees practice refueling procedures at U.S. Base.

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.

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

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.

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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.

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

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.

Lieutenant Tay made our advising job simple from the first," said Master Sergeant Richard M. Stineman, the team's Non-commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC).

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

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 Hieu 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.

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

RFs Baptised By Fire

LONG BINH (II 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.

Lieutenant Tay and his men charged out of the bunker to meet the VC on their own ground," Lieutenant Dennis said.

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

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."

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 stopped 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 I Corps by the end of the year.

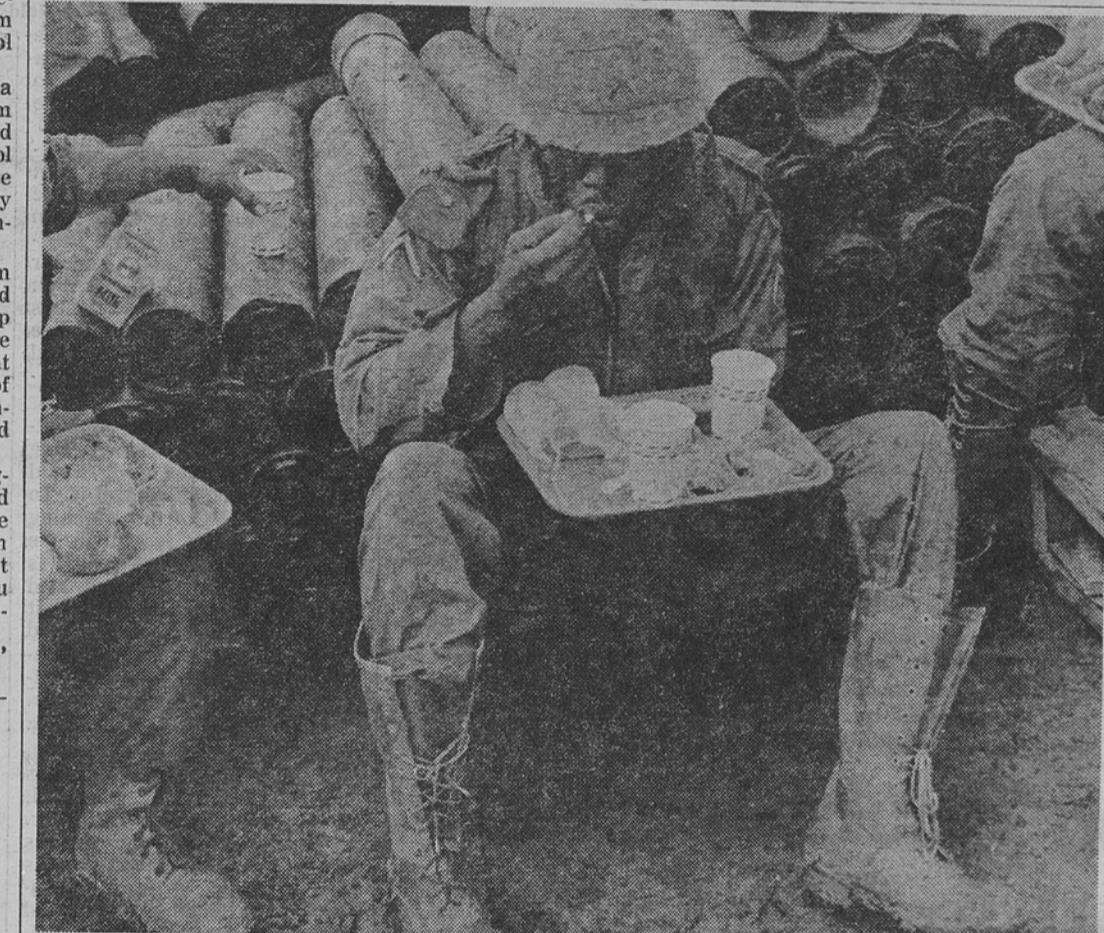
"The reaction of the local people, when we began to build our unit here, was one of curiosity," related Sergeant Norm Vilhauer, NCO in charge of the CAP.

"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.



"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.

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, 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.

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

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

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

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.

Engineers Aid Girls' Education

DI AN (USA) — Two young Vietnamese girls are furthering their education in the United States, thanks to the efforts of a unit from the 79th Engineer Group.

The unit is the 168th Engineer Battalion and the girls are Miss Cao Minh Nguyet and Miss Nguyen Thi Thuong. Both were employed as clerk-typists at battalion headquarters here prior to their selection.

A battalion spokesman said the girls were "selected on the basis of need and potential to learn."

After the selection, the engineers sought and obtained parental permission to send the girls to the United States. Battalion Chaplains Major Donald Welsh and Captain Ronald Rodeck then waded through official "red tape" to get final permission for the girls to enter the United States.

Stateside financial support for the venture has been arranged through two principal sources.

Miss Nguyet will live with Mr. and Mrs. Everett Jones of Damascus, Md. All of her living and education expenses will be paid by a local civic organization.

Miss Thuong will live with the Bud Boyd family in Mill Valley, Calif. The family has offered to pay all of her expenses.

The girls hope to return to Vietnam as teachers and to help further education in their strife-torn country.



MAIL CALL ANYONE?—Miss Vietnam Mail Call, 18-year-old high school senior Faye Horton, sits on a pile of 75,000 Christmas cards. This year more than 200,000 cards will be sent to Vietnam servicemen from supporters at home through a project started by E. Paul Stewart, Columbus, Ga. Even though Faye would like to, she can't deliver them personally.

Wandering Troubadors Bind Ancient Art To 20th Century

LONG BINH (II FIELD FORCE) — Winding their way from hamlet to hamlet minstrels of two unique Cultural Drama Teams have successfully combined 20th Century mechanization and the ancient art of the troubadour.

Singing, acting out comedies and tragedies, and performing feats of magic, the teams are minstrels with a purpose. The "wandering troubadours" travel circuits designed to reach remote villagers with the message that the government of Vietnam is committed to improving their welfare.

Composed of seven members — and under the operational control of the Civil Operations Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) — each team moves constantly by almost every means of transportation. Their formal performances are often the only entertainment a hamlet receives over a period of six months. A performance lasts 90 minutes — usually in conjunction with a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) or

whenever they feel troubadours will assist in accomplishing the mission.

Some teams log more than 10,000 miles annually to make nearly 250 performances for a combined audience of more than half a million Vietnamese.

Success of TF 2/7 can best be illustrated by recent election turnouts. In September 1966, 65 per cent of the eligible voters cast ballots for representatives to the Constituent Assembly.

Students take notes to help them prepare for an end-of-course written examination.

"Although the course is given in Vietnamese, instructors have to revert to English to explain many of the technical terms," an Exchange spokesman commented. "Therefore, our students come out of the school with a certain proficiency in English."



School Groundwork Finished

VUNG TAU (USA) — Army engineers recently completed the groundwork for a school for dependents of a Vietnamese airborne battalion.

Soldiers from Company D of the 36th Engineer Battalion (Construction), 3rd Engineer Group, placed five concrete pads for the five-classroom structure. The 6th Vietnamese Airborne Battalion will build the remainder of the school using material donated by the Min-

Allied Effort Stops VC Drive For Rice

PHAN THIET (USA) — In August 1966, the Binh Thuan Province capital of Phan Thiet was in a virtual state of siege. The Viet Cong controlled the fertile countryside and were camped near the outskirts of the coastal city. Travel was nearly impossible and almost all of the rice grown in the area was going into the VC caches.

It was at this time that a battalion-size task force of infantry and supporting elements was formed and detached from the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and sent to Phan Thiet. Upon arrival, Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry (TF 2/7) started "Operation Byrd" under operational control of I Field Force Vietnam.

It was scheduled to last for only a short time. Its aims were to break the siege and open the fields for the rice harvest. Using air assault tactics, the task force gained control of the area around the city and began to force the Viet Cong from the province.

Nearly 1½ years later, Operation Byrd continues in Binh Thuan Province. The task force has been working closely with the 4th ARVN Infantry Regiment, Regional and Popular Forces (RF and PF), Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG) and National Police Field Forces to help expand government control in the province.

The province is one of Vietnam's most fertile rice-growing areas and the Viet Cong would like very much to control it.

To prevent the VC from claiming the rice while it is still in the fields, immediate security is provided by Regional and Popular Forces during harvest time while TF 2/7, ARVN and CIDG elements conduct constant patrols and maintain ambush sites throughout the area.

Using this technique, and despite a drought this season, more than 300 tons of rice has been harvested and marketed, compared to 200 tons last year. The Vietnamese government's presence in the outlying areas of the province is being extended with the building of forts and strong points, while Revolutionary Development teams are moving into villages as they are secured.

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American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of December 27, 1967-January 2, 1968)

Wednesday Dec. 27

1330 News Headlines
Lost in Space
2309 Insight
2005 Information Special
Meftron News
2030 Addams Family
2109 Sports (Re-Run)
2200 Late News
2315 Sports (Continued)

Thursday Dec. 28

1330 News Headlines
Third Man
1929 Flying Fisherman
1938 News and Sports
2005 Insight
2035 Information Feature
2050 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Smothers Brothers
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Late News
2315 Variety Special

Friday Dec. 29

1330 News Headlines
1900 Daniel Boone
1930 News and Sports
2005 Insight
2035 Information Feature
2100 Bonanza
2150 Big Valley
2230 Alford Hitchcock
2300 Late News
2315 Joey Bishop Show

Saturday Dec. 30

1330 News Headlines
1900 Bobby Lord Show
1930 News and Sports
2005 Insight
2035 Biography
2100 Hollywood Palace
2220 The Fugitive
2300 Late News
2315 News
2315 Feature Movie
2315 Tonight Show

Monday Jan. 1

1330 News Headlines

1900 Wild West

1930 News and Sports

2005 Insight

2035 Magic Room

2050 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2220 The Fugitive

2300 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

2315 Tonight Show

Tuesday Jan. 2

1330 News Headlines

1900 Bobby Lord Show

1930 News and Sports

2005 Insight

2035 Biography

2100 Green Acres

2100 Red Skelton

2220 The Fugitive

2300 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

2315 Tonight Show

Wednesday Dec. 31

1330 News Headlines

1900 Christopher/Sacred Heart

1930 Chapel of the Air

1930 Feature Movie

2005 Sports of the Week

2030 Get Smart

2100 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea

2100 News and Sports

2200 Window on Vietnam

2200 G.E. College Bowl

2200 Fractured Flickers

2200 Bonanza

2200 Late News

2200 Dean Martin Summer Show

Thursday Jan. 1

1330 News Headlines

1900 Wild West

1930 News and Sports

2005 Insight

2035 Magic Room

2050 My Three Sons

2100 Hollywood Palace

2220 The Fugitive

2300 Late News

2315 Feature Movie

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1930 News and Sports

2005 Insight

2035 Magic Room

2050 My Three Sons

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 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".

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.

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-

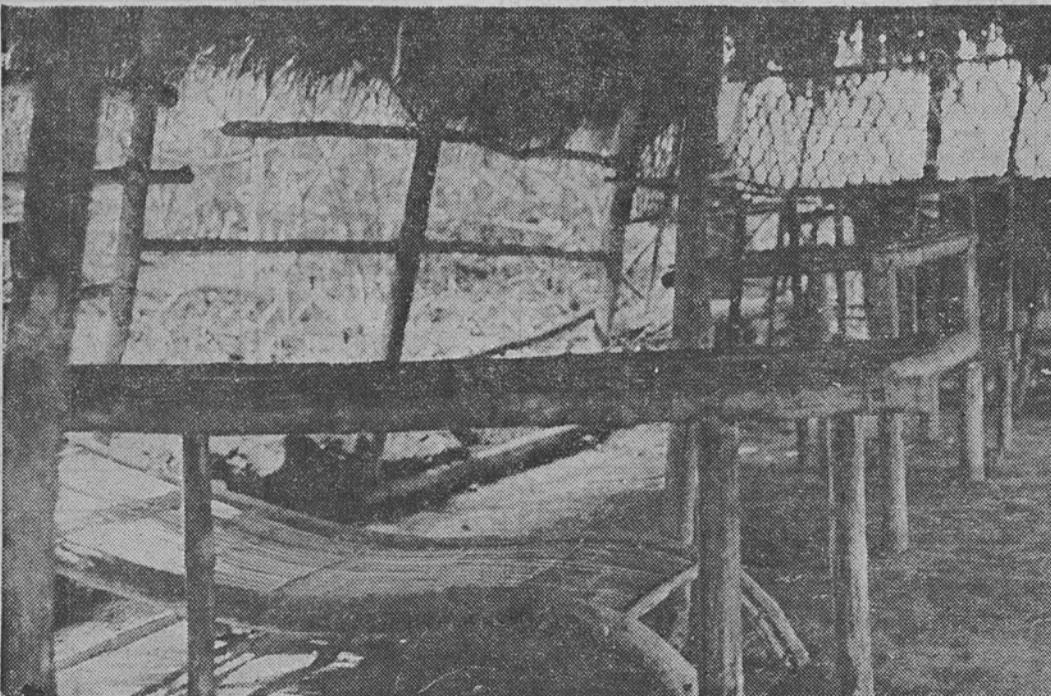
tions Company were airlifted into the hospital site.

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.

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FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE 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 (AET) — 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.



FIRST IN VIETNAM The OBSERVER

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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.

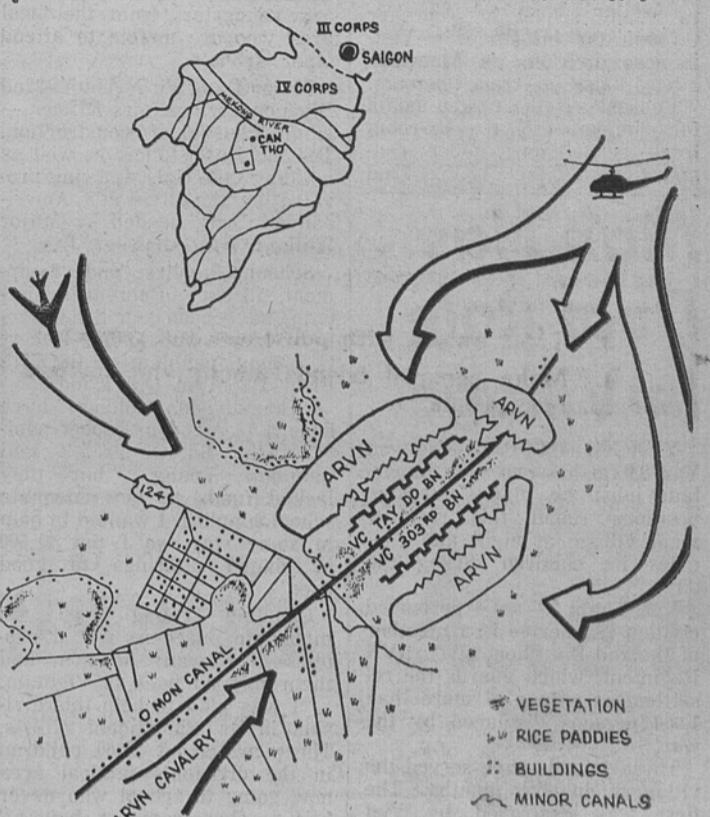
The Tay Do Battalion, working out of Can Tho Province, had been operating lately in scattered, platoon-sized units. It was once considered one of the most effective insurgent

forces operating in the Delta. 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.

* ARVN: ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM VC: VIET CONG



Signalmen Support Teacher's Studies

QUI NHON (USA) — In less than a year, Tran Thi Thanh 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 Thanh'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.

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.

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 Truong Son cadre.

The others were involved in supplying logs for the Truong 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 destroyed 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 RF-PF (Regional Forces and Popular Forces) outpost situated next to the school grounds. The sandbags increased the outpost's defensive structure.

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 out-post position Thanksgiving Day. (USMC PHOTO BY SSgt Jack Jansen)

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

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 AFVN 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."



MISS THAILAND 1967 — Parpassen Panichkul, a 17-year-old Bangkok beauty, meets airmen of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing. The trim Miss Thailand was served lunch. She then watched Phantom jets roar off to escort F-105s to their targets in North Vietnam. (USAF PHOTO)

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 convoy procedures.

The instruction began November 19 and will conclude December 31.



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)

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.

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.

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.

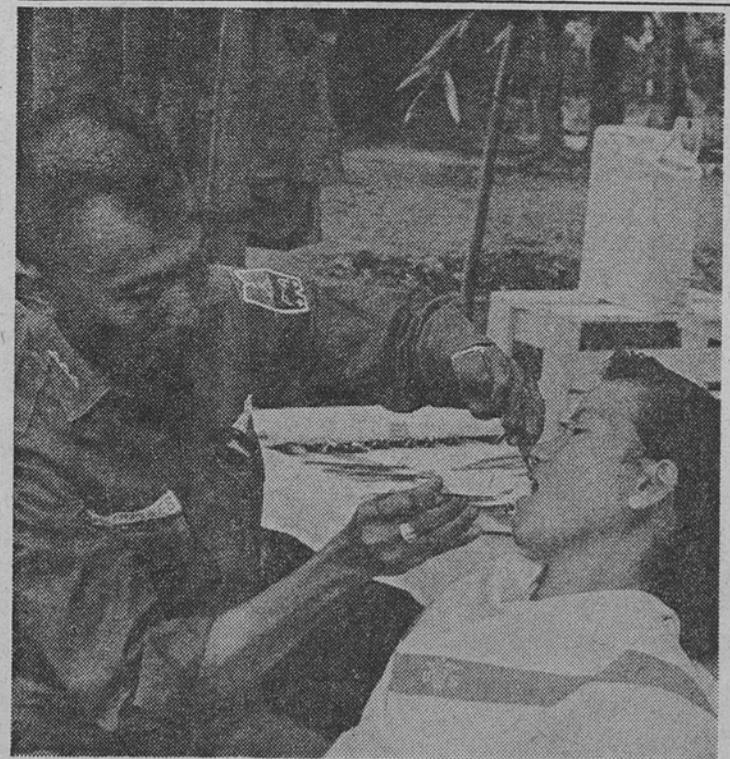
With the HES, the ambassador pointed out: "We can now at least measure the various factors which bear on the attitude of the people in the countryside."

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.

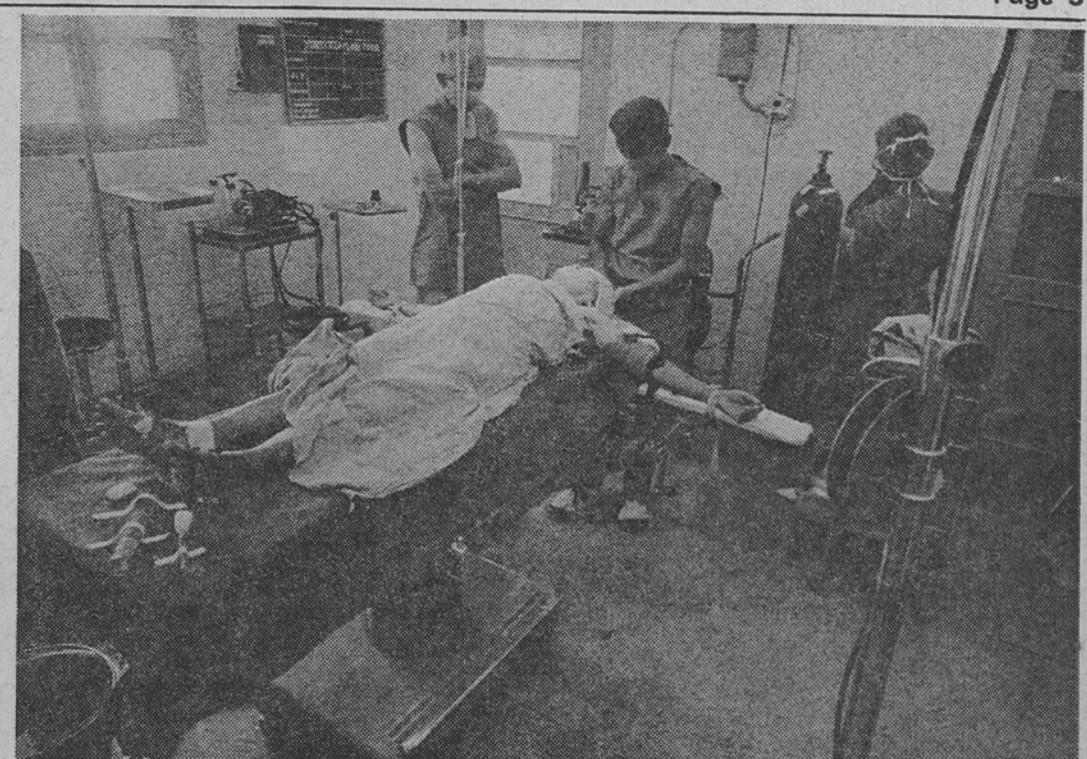
HES now provides data on 63 per cent of the 12,650 hamlets in South Vietnam. These hamlets are classified on a scale from "A" (secure with high development) to "E" (insecure with no development).

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 population of 3,452,000 in "B"; 3,196 with a population of 4,178,000 in



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

LONG BINH (II FIELD FORCE)

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

began fanning out in scores of different directions.

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

Has Filipino Accent

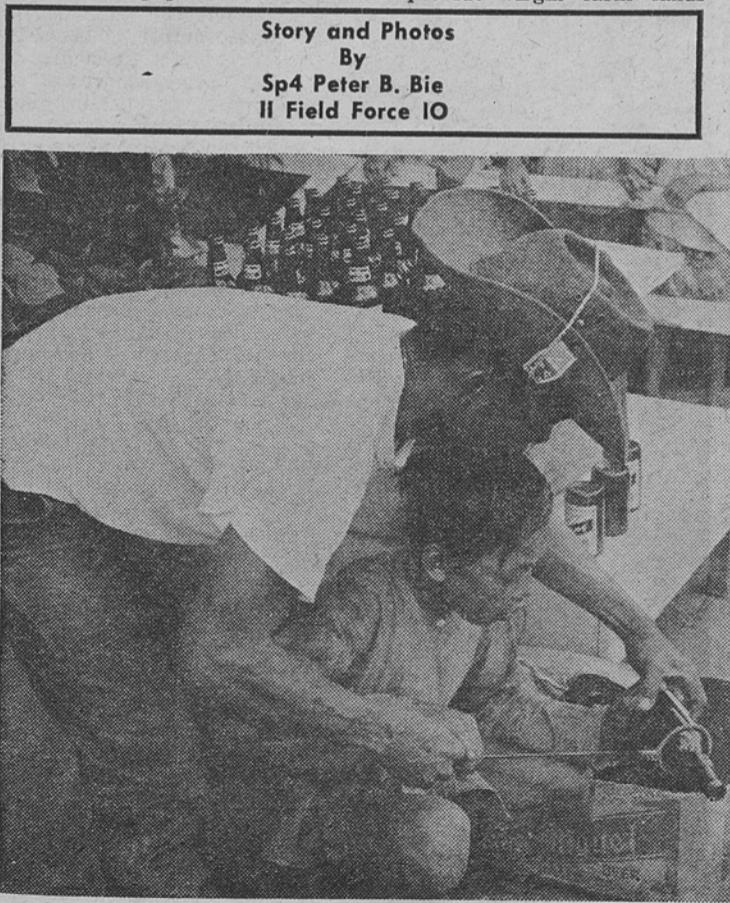
piaster (about \$100.00) allowance from the GVN and the advice of PHILCAG engineers.

Finished Product

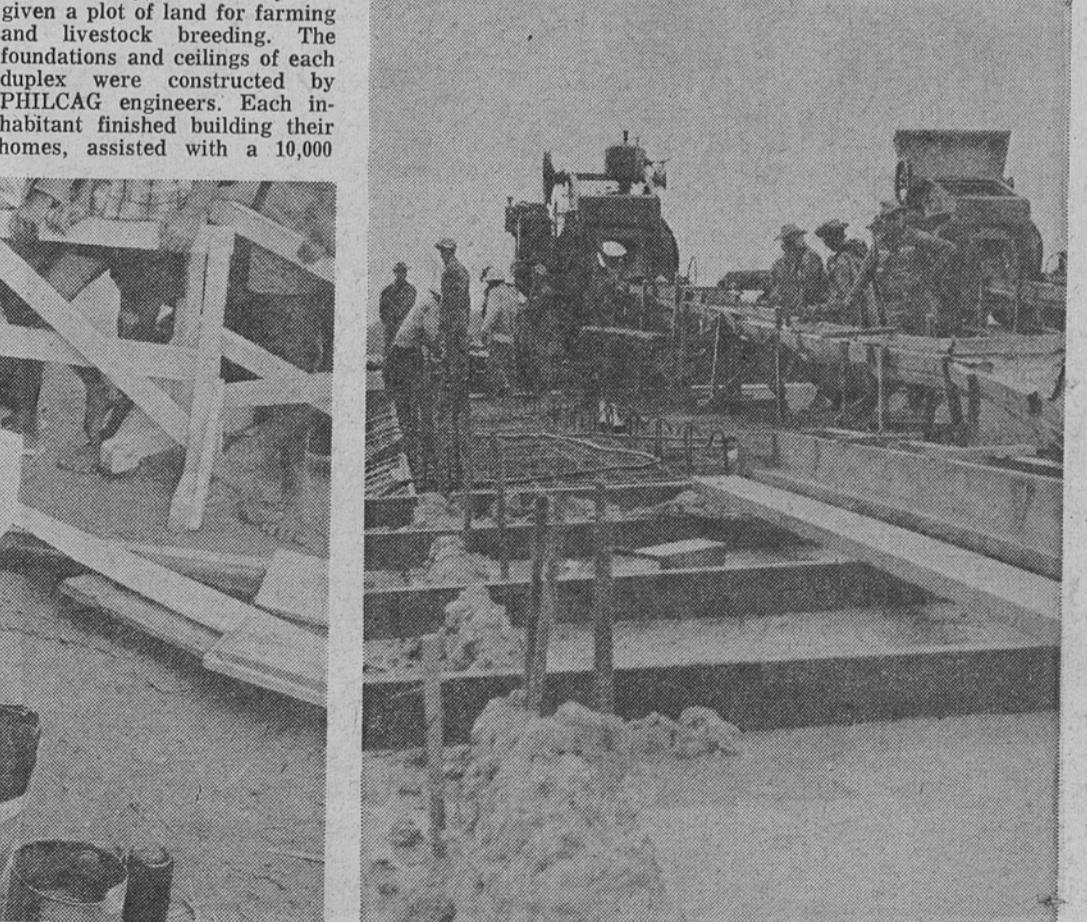
The results resemble an "instant Levittown." Than Dien is built around a community core containing a market place, hamlet office, dispensary and maternity clinic, power house and a 10-room school house for 700 students. Presently, the village has a 700 family population totaling more than 4,000 persons.

In the once forest land adjoining Than Dien, the farmers are beginning to plant the increasingly-famous IR-8 (Improved Rice). Developed in the Philippines and first introduced and harvested at Than Dien, the "miracle rice" grows to maturity 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.



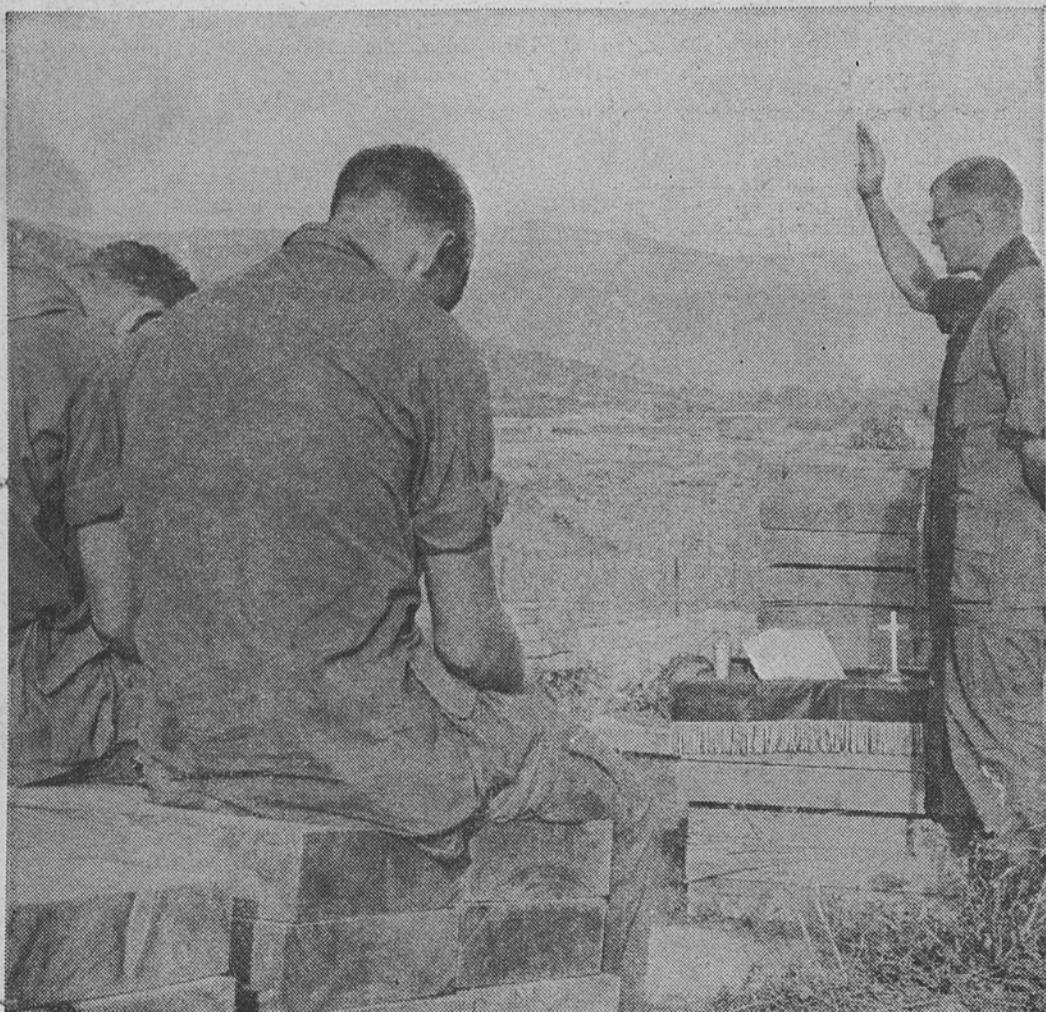
This PHILCAG soldier shows a boy how to make glasses from beer bottles.



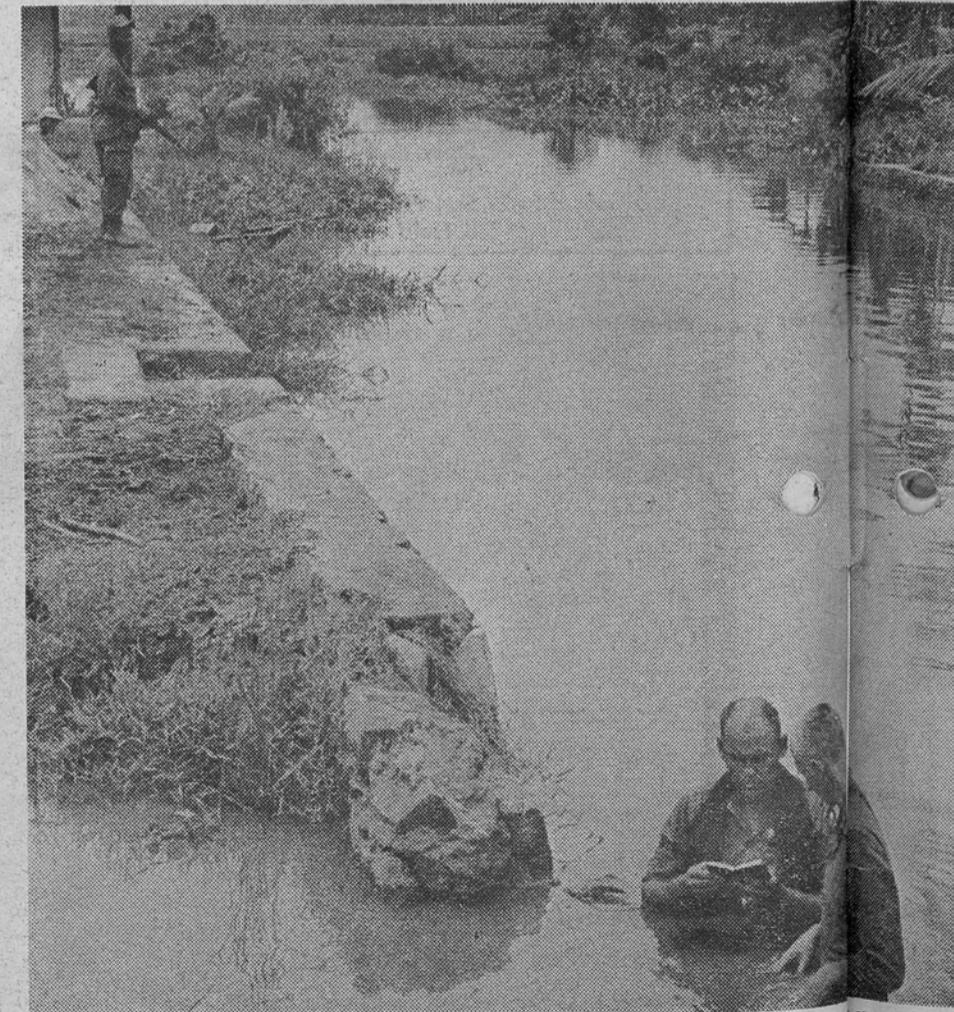
PHILCAG engineers pour cement for bridge near Tay Ninh City.



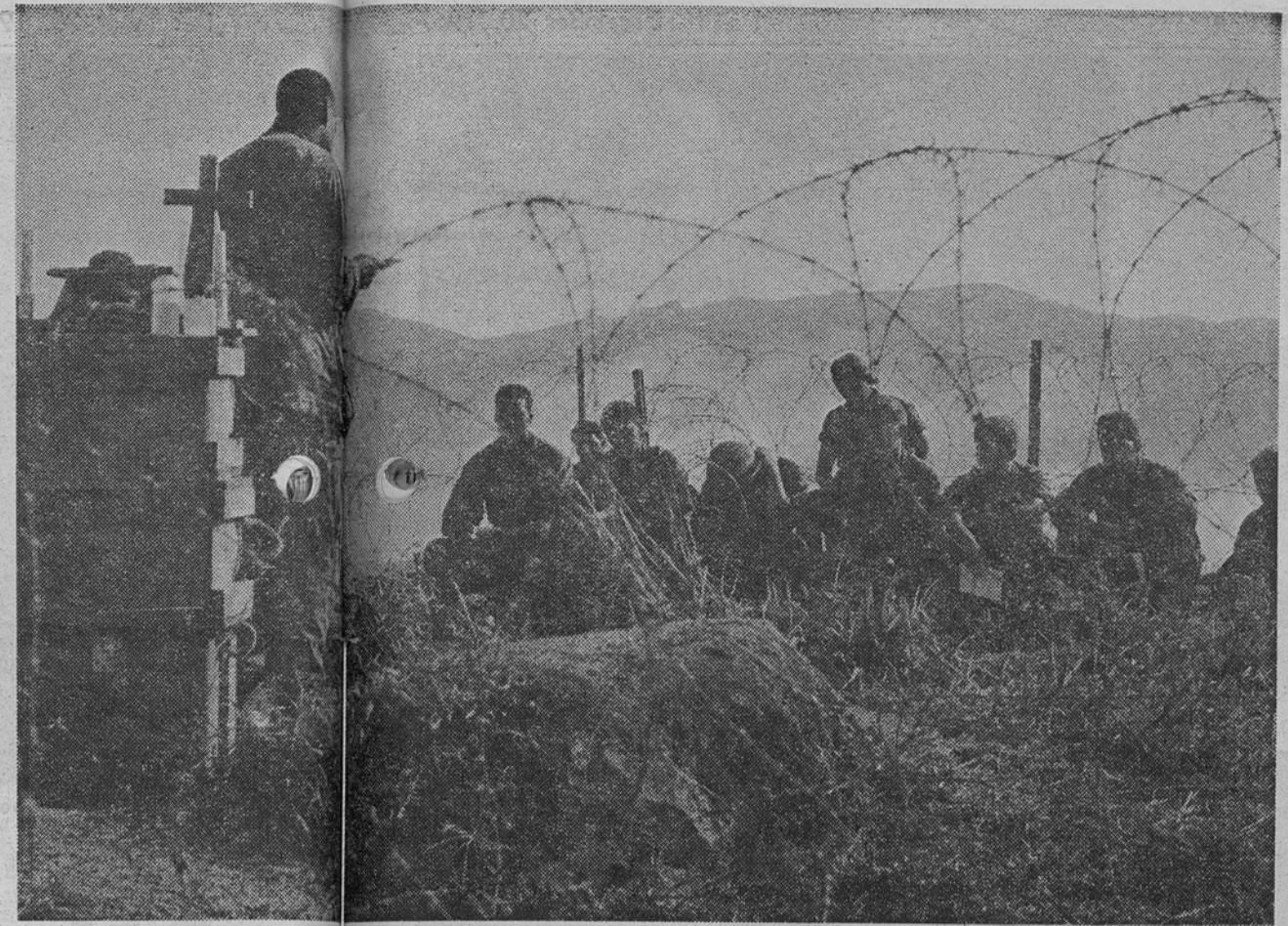
Framed by a helmet and rifle, Chaplain (Major) S.L. Shannon leads 25th Infantry Division soldiers in prayer for their lost comrades. (1)



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



PFC Paul Gress is baptized by Chaplain (Captain) Marion R. King. (3)



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-Sgtela Fischer
2-Sgt Allan Hyman	5-Sp1Don Hall
3-1st Air Cav IO	6-Sp1Don 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)

2nd Surgical Hospital Unit 'Cliff Of Mercy'



Sp4 Willie Kornegay finishes cast for enemy soldier.

With Nursery

Dependents Aided

CU CHI (USA) — Wives of Vietnamese soldiers, like their U.S. counterparts, frequently work to help support a family. This is not uncommon with wives of the 49th ARVN Regiment soldiers at Hoc Mon, 11 miles northwest of Saigon.

To allow mothers of young children freedom to work and to provide education for these children, a day nursery has been built at Hoc Mon by soldiers of the 49th Regiment, with the assistance of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade at Cu Chi.

The brigade provided some of the supplies necessary to build the nursery. The 49th Regiment supplied the labor and the remainder of the needed supplies.

Hoc Mon, the dependents housing area, has a commissary, a maternity ward, and a sewing class which makes school clothes for the children.

The soldiers of the 49th Regiment and the 2nd Brigade have

painted all the classrooms at the Hoc Mon school, filled the previously muddy school yard with sand, and constructed latrines.

The brigade also holds MEDCAPs (Medical Civil Action Programs) twice monthly in the village.

At a recent ceremony held for the nursery opening, Madam Nguyen Van Thieu, the Republic's first lady, praised the joint effort.

USAF Trains VNAF

SAIGON (USA) — The Air Training Command (ATC) — which provides training for U.S. Air Force personnel throughout the world — is helping in the molding of the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

The 615S Field Training Detachment—composed of nine enlisted men and one officer—is responsible for the transition of the maintenance personnel of the VNAF 33rd Wing from the C-47 Skytrain to the C-119 Flying Boxcar transport aircraft.

ATC, a familiar name to all Air Force personnel, is helping to provide the training for a more mobile and effective air force of the Republic of Vietnam.

1st Cav Man Saves Lives

BONG SON (USA) — A 1st Air Cavalry Division soldier who doesn't know how to swim risked his life to save two Vietnamese children by plunging into water near the Bong Son bridge and pulling them ashore to safety.

Specialist 4 William E. Horney, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, was on a security mission at the Bong Son bridge and noticed a crowd down near the water. He found that two children had fallen into the water and were thrashing to keep above the surface. Though unable to swim, Specialist Horney dove into the water and pulled the children to shore.

RF-PF trainees highlighted the occasion with an exhibition of skills taught at the center, which included field stripping weapons, karate, judo and close order drill.

The FTD personnel are assisted by VNAF instructor/interns.



STEADY BOY—Sp4 Charles R. Poovey guides his scout dog, Spook, across a stream during the 101st Airborne's Operation Wheeler near Chu Lai. Specialist Poovey and Spook are members of the 42nd Infantry Scout Dog Platoon.

(USA PHOTO BY SSgt Art Campbell)

CHU LAI (USA) — The big double doors are thrust open amid the shuffling of hurried feet.

"Put him down over here," exclaims Major Juanita M. Atchison.

And so another innocent victim of Viet Cong terrorism begins the slow road toward healing and eventual recovery.

This scene takes place almost daily at the 2d Surgical Hospital, 44th Medical Brigade, located near Chu Lai on a high cliff overlooking the South China Sea.

Major Atchison, chief nurse, who has seen the second injured Vietnamese child being brought in on this particular morning, shakes her head as she notes the extent of injuries to the 12-year-old boy. The tag reads: "enemy mine planted near victim's village . . ."

The boy will live, although he has lost a leg, an arm and an eye. The American doctors and nurses give him the same personal attention and care as they do all their patients. This 140-bed hospital is kept busy treating not only the innocents of the war, but also the wounded of the Free World Forces in the area and the enemy himself.

"At times we have received as many as 25 or more civilian casualties when the VC overrun a village, killing and wounding the men and their families," explained Nurse Atchison. "The injured arrive fearful, but they leave grateful."

The hospital moved lock, stock and bandages from An Khe to Chu Lai last April to support the units of newly formed task Force Oregon, now called the American Division. It is the northernmost U.S. Army hospital, and the only one in the I Corps Zone. Not only does the hospital perform medical and surgical care, but it also serves as a medical supply outlet for 18 original medical units in the enemy himself.

"An open reduction operation was needed to set the boy's jaw together," explained the Navy dentist. "We didn't have the facilities for the operation, but I knew the German hospital in Hoi An had everything required — so we took him there."

Doctor Margaret Wirth of the German hospital staff and Lieutenant Bond X-rayed the fracture and scheduled the boy for an operation the following morning.

"Doctor Wirth and I worked on the boy for three hours and literally wired his jaw together," related the lieutenant.

"After he came out of anesthesia, Phan wasn't too happy about the rubber bands that we used to hold his jaw together," explained the dentist. "He im-

mediately wanted to take them off. But, through an interpreter, I explained to him that just as you would put a cast on a broken arm, you also must put rubber bands on a broken jaw to keep it from moving."

After two weeks in the hospital, Phan was released and returned to his home—with the rubber bands that had been used to hold his jaw together.

When Navy Lieutenant Jim C. Bond of the 1st Dental Company examined the boy, he found that infection had set in, the youth's mouth was purple in color, and his gums were bleeding.

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"An open reduction

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.

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)

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)

FIRST IN VIETNAM The OBSERVER

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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 ARVN 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 Septer, an American advisor at the outpost.

Thirty-four tactical air strikes, seven AC-47 Dragon-ship 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 Tupac, 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."

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 Vietnamese and present 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 (USA) — 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

'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.

The examination which followed was extremely painful — Young gritted his teeth, and tightened his grip on the chair. Tears welled in his eyes, but still he refused to cry as the wound was checked.

It was apparent that several days of treatment were needed to cure the injury. After five days Young was able to run with his friends, and what was once an ugly infection is now only a scar.

Now when the medics visit the village Young brings patients to his friends for help because: "Bac Si make number one."

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)



Air mobility helps the ARVN 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.

"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.

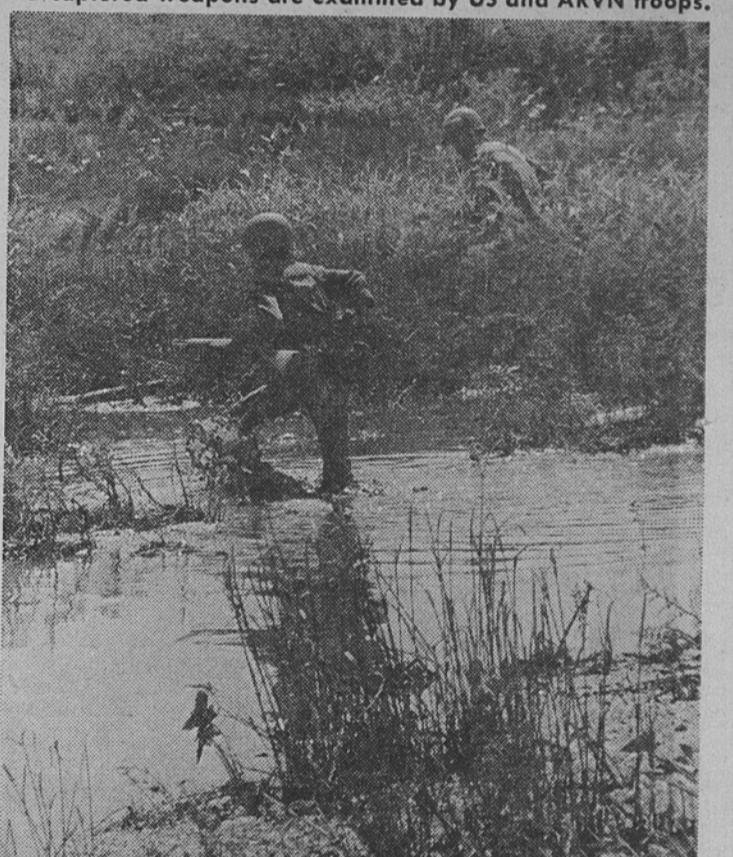
Story By
MSgt Sam J. Ballard
Photos By
Sp5 Gordon W. Gahan



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



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



Vietnamese infantry move out to engage the enemy.



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

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. 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



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



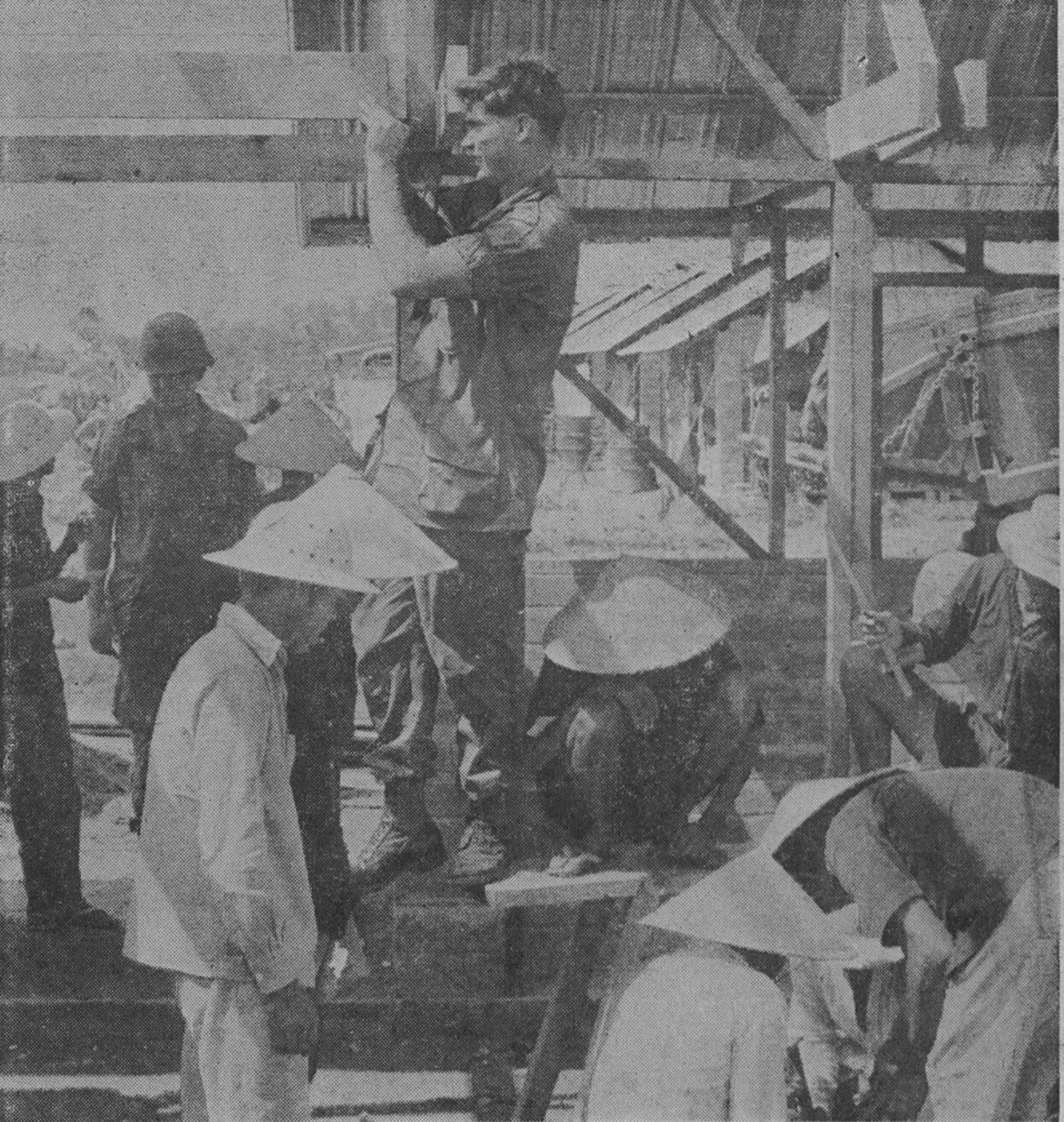
Orphans help an engineer sand one of the new seesaws



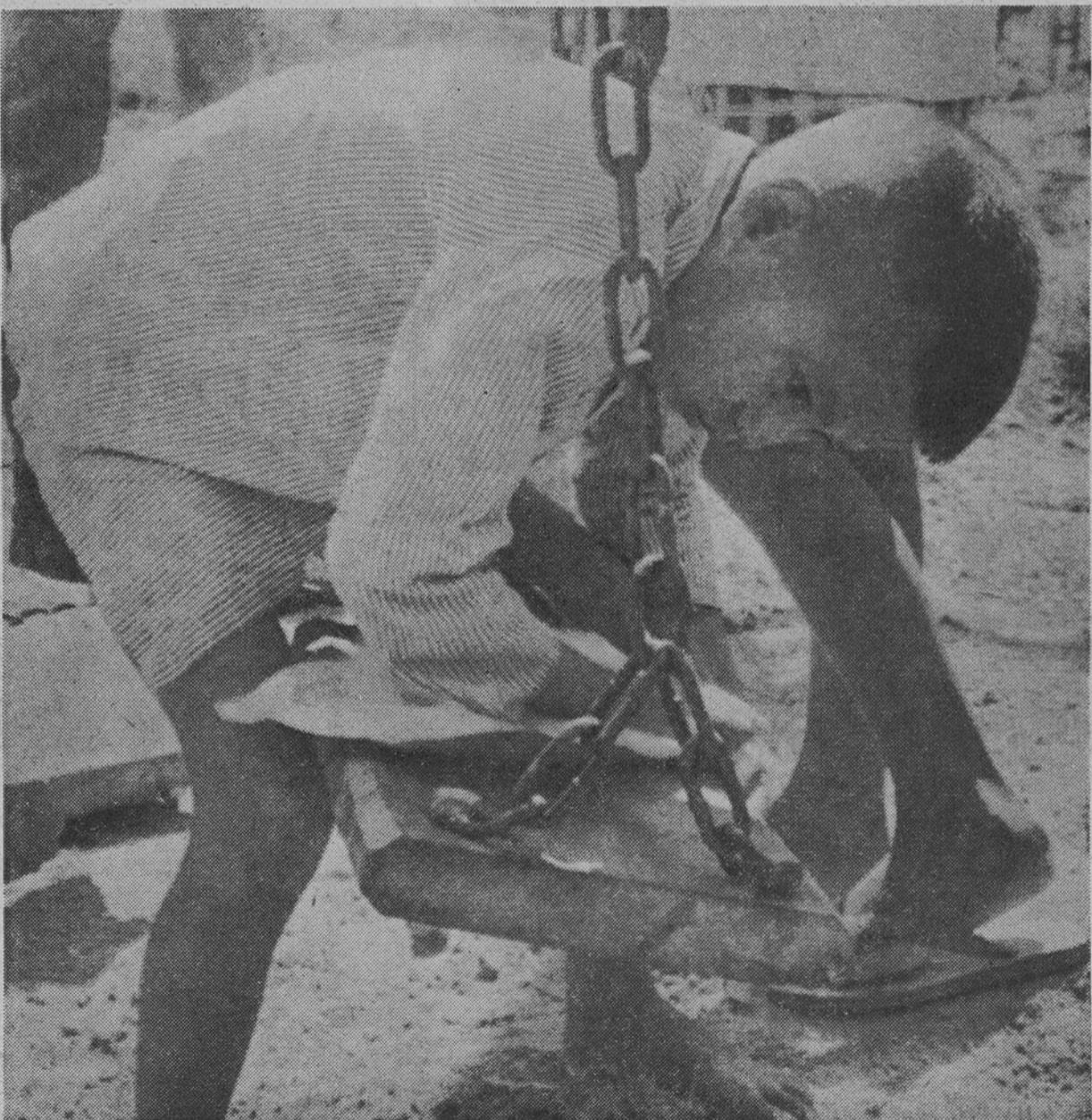
Two orphans help finish seesaw in Civic Action project conducted by 1st Division



An engineer helps four youths try out their new seesaw



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



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.

"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.

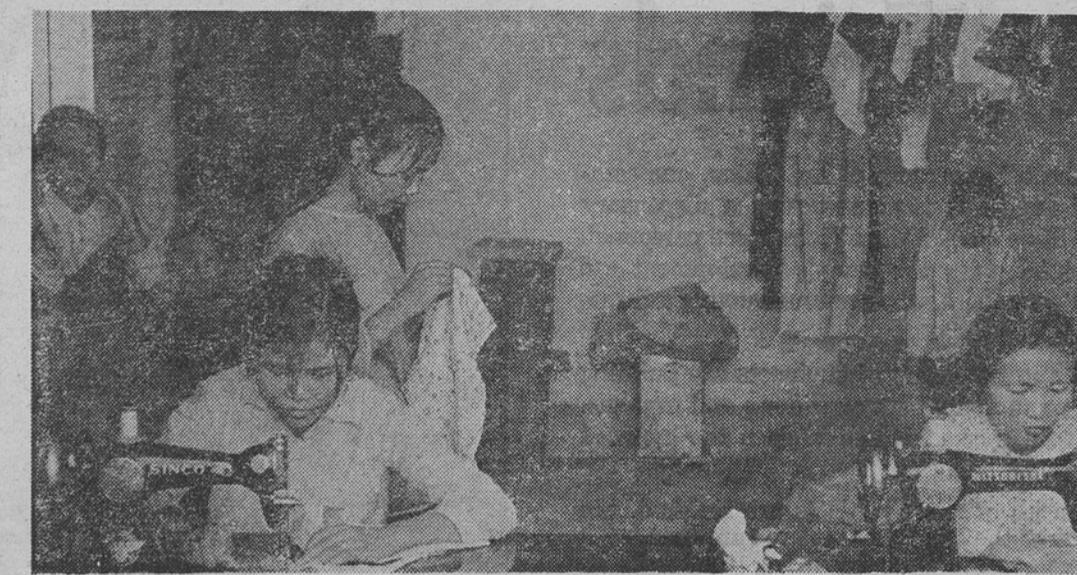
The U.S. government provided them with cement, tin and lumber. Then the people had what they needed; in early April, they began to build.

"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 add'd.

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

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



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 10

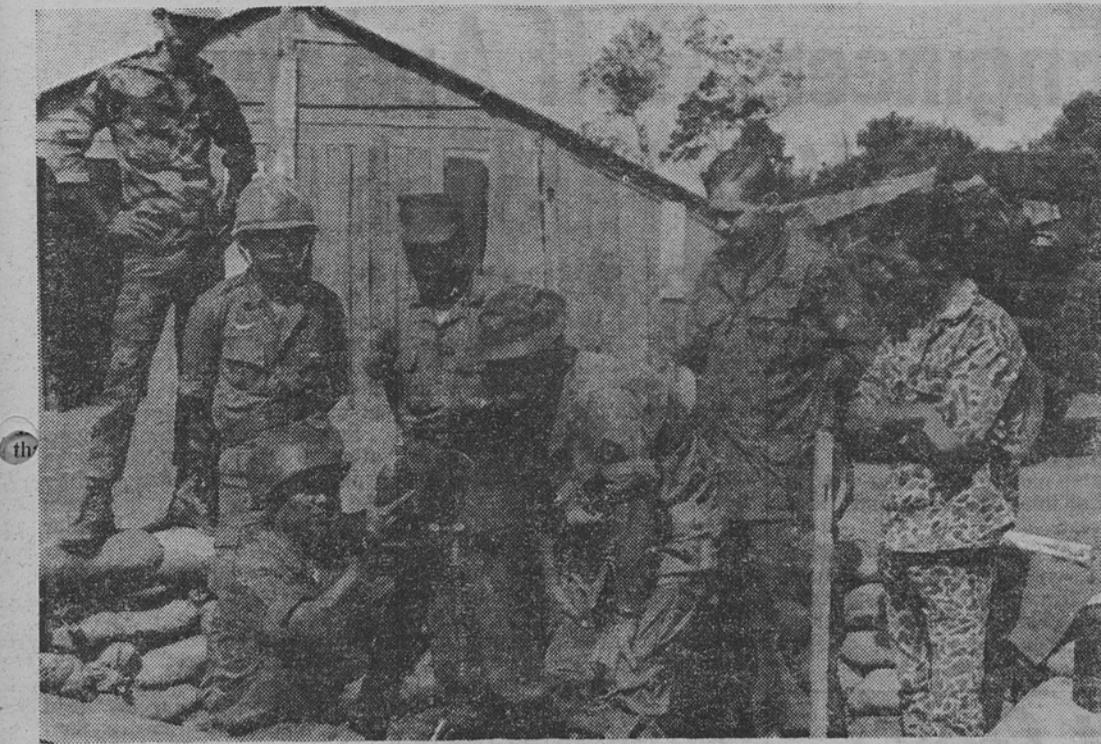
This is what enemy rockets did to Hoa Cuong hamlet.



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



The villagers have only six more homes to complete.



SSgt Clodfelter instructs an RF soldier on the use of the 81mm mortar.

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,

Cadets Aid
Orphans In
Qui Nhon

QUI NHON (USA) — The 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction), 45th Engineer Group and the 18th Engineer Brigade are helping to reduce disease, poverty and the poor living conditions for many homeless children in the Qui Nhon area.

Warrant Officer Frederick W. Hoppes, Jr. received a letter from Roland Yoshida, an Air Force ROTC cadet at the University of Washington in Seattle. Mr. Hoppes had taught there before entering the Army. Yoshida asked how the cadets could help the Vietnamese children.

Since the engineers had been doing much civic action work in the area, Mr. Hoppes had an immediate answer — "Send clothing, diapers and blankets."

The cadets then started an extensive clothing drive by placing advertisements in the Seattle newspapers.

More than 1,300 pounds of goods were collected. When the clothing and the supplies reached Vietnam, they were distributed to the Holy Infant Orphanage in Qui Nhon and the Kim Chua Orphanage in Binh Dinh.

The donations did not stop. Specialist 4 Vernon Jackson, a battalion medic, wrote to his mother describing the local situation. His mother showed the letter to members of two Enid, Oklahoma churches and they sent 250 pounds of clothing, toys and disinfectants for the orphans.

Two Private 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.

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 mountain people," said one private.

Specialist 4 Vernon Jackson, a battalion medic, wrote to his mother describing the local situation. His mother showed the letter to members of two Enid, Oklahoma churches and they sent 250 pounds of clothing, toys and disinfectants for the orphans.

Each Sunday the battalion medics hold a three-hour sick call at the Chua Orphanage.

Through the battalion's efforts, more than 1,550 pounds of clothing and \$4,000 have been presented to the Qui Nhon orphans.

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 Black-horse 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. Ottman and Specialist 6 John M. Lemaster will normally prepare their equipment and travel to a nearby village to hold a Medical Civic Action Program (MED-CAP).

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."

ades.

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



IT'S IN THE BAG — Sp4 John Puliatti uses a special water-carrier — a Spanish sheepherder'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 Wermel)

Viets Win US Medals For Valor



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

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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 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 nonexistent 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.

The water under the bridge was muddy and dark, and at first he could not locate the Vietnamese.

The Seabee climbed ashore, grabbed a bamboo pole and started probing the murky depths. One of the floundering fishermen under the water grabbed the pole but could not hold on. Petty Officer Hoskins reentered the water and brought both men to the surface and, with the help of other MCB-6 personnel, brought the men ashore.

After administering first aid, the Seabees returned to their job of bridge-building on Route 1.

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 counterfeit 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 — Airmen 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, astronomical 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.



WHERE YOU BANK OR WORK



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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. 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.

"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.

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 is 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 1965. 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.'"



Vietnamese and U.S. personnel paint the main dining room. (USA PHOTO)

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 Ludum, 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

return them to their respective base camps after completion of the second operation.

On another day, several companies may join forces for a massive air assault into an area. After hitting the landing zone, they would begin a day-long search-and-destroy operation. Late that afternoon, upon completion of the operation, they

would be air-lifted back to their base camp.

"The VC have been running scared since we started these new operations," said Captain Ludum. "Charley doesn't know where we're going to hit him next; we're hopping all over the DTA with these air assaults and all of the operations are proving very successful."

"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."

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.

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.

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.

The Old Reliabiles 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.

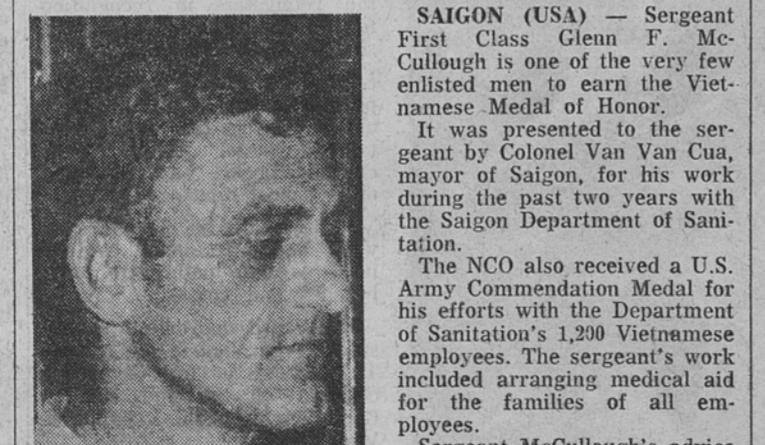
Convenience to the customer is the keynote at the two stores. Everything is displayed on shelves in a neat, orderly fashion, allowing customers to see at a glance what is on hand.

This new facility is the pioneer or pilot for other exchanges throughout South Vietnam.

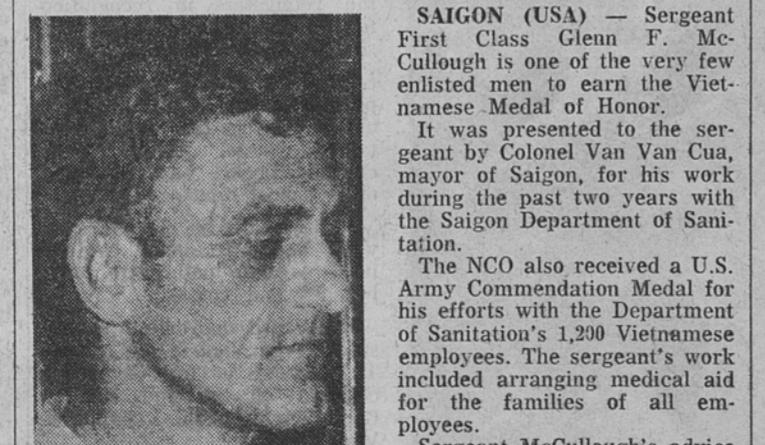
In addition to the commissary/exchange in Da Nang, two other facilities — one in Hué and one in Quang Ngai, are scheduled to open by the first of the year.

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.

Sergeant McCullough's advice in the cities' "war on refuse" has increased the daily collection from 510 tons to more than 2,000 tons. The job is now "... down to a clean-up operation," he said.

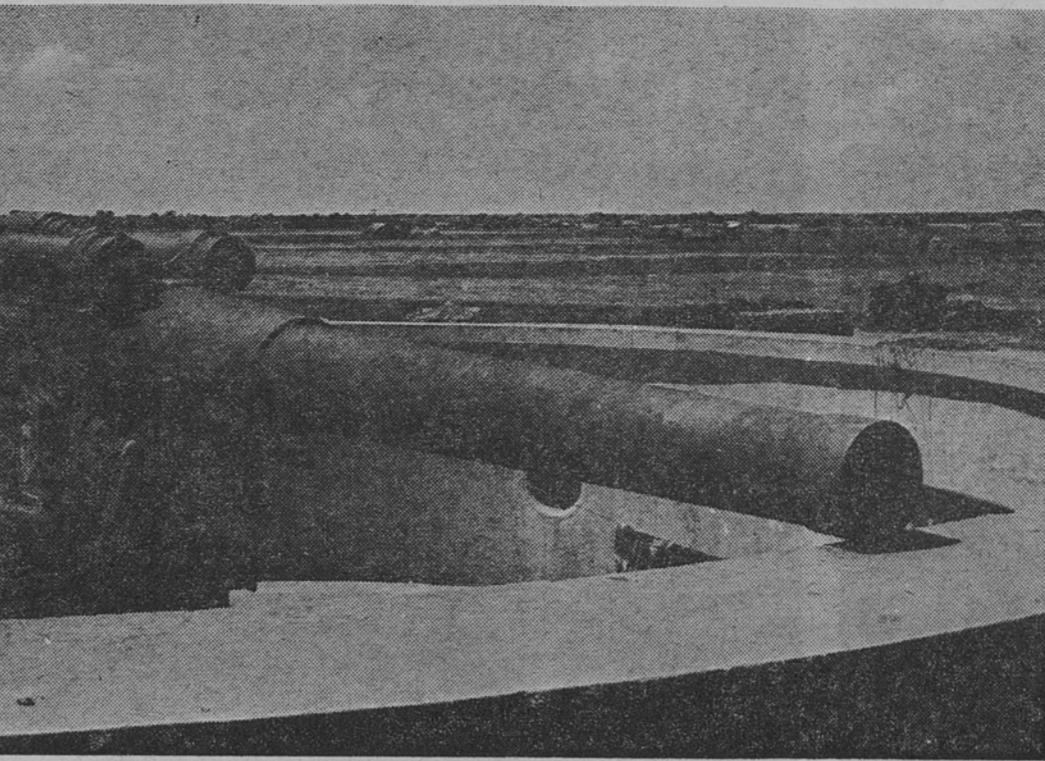


SERGEANT First Class Glenn F. McCullough received the Vietnamese Medal of Honor for his work in the Saigon Department of Sanitation.



Soldiers of the division have renamed the fort "Courage."

Metal gun emplacements once housed 16-inch naval guns at the fort.



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."



A 9th Infantry Division soldier stands guard at the old fort.

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.

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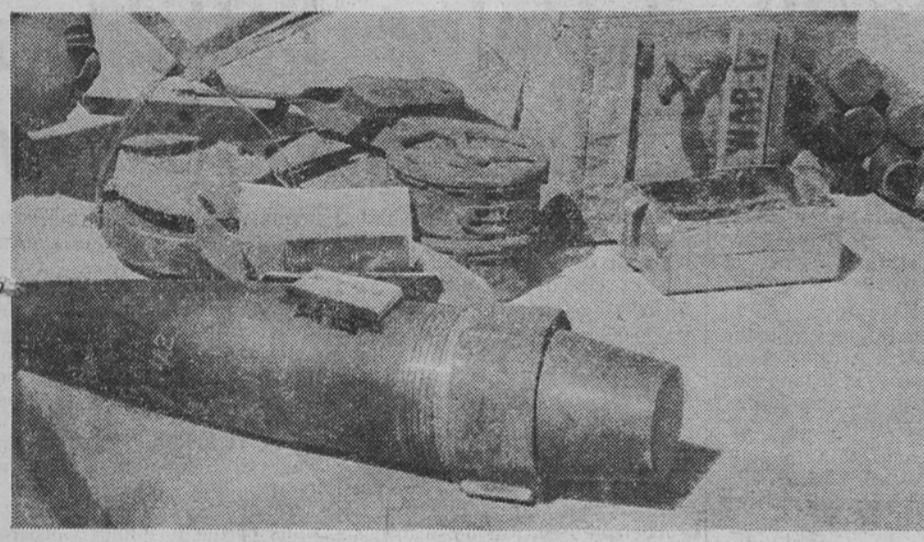
Disarming live ordnance is a very exacting job and is done with special tools



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



VC ordnance, such as this found in the Saigon city area, is destroyed by EOD men

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 sixteen period. The Saigon branch is divided into three areas: Saigon, Nha Be and Cat Lai.

The three officers and nine enlisted men rotate between the three area bases 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.

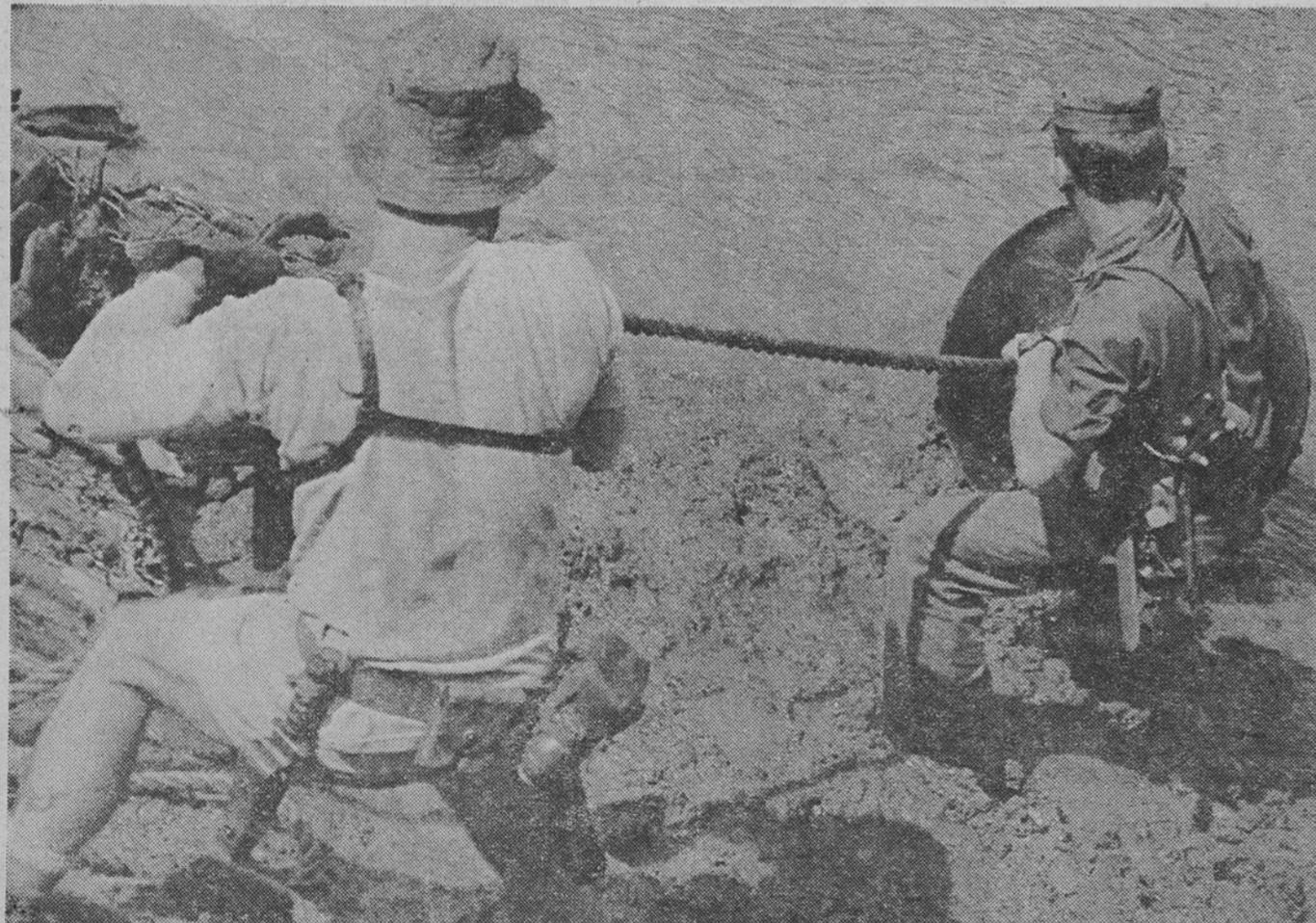
Some of the team's equipment includes hand-held sonars, an MK-15 stethoscope, an MK-10 Ordnance Detector and Locator used to find buried land mines, and non-magnetic diving gear.

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



After being cut loose from its moorings, this enemy command-detонated mine is gently pulled ashore to be disarmed



Two U.S. Navy EOD members prepare to disarm enemy mine found in the Long Tau River



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.

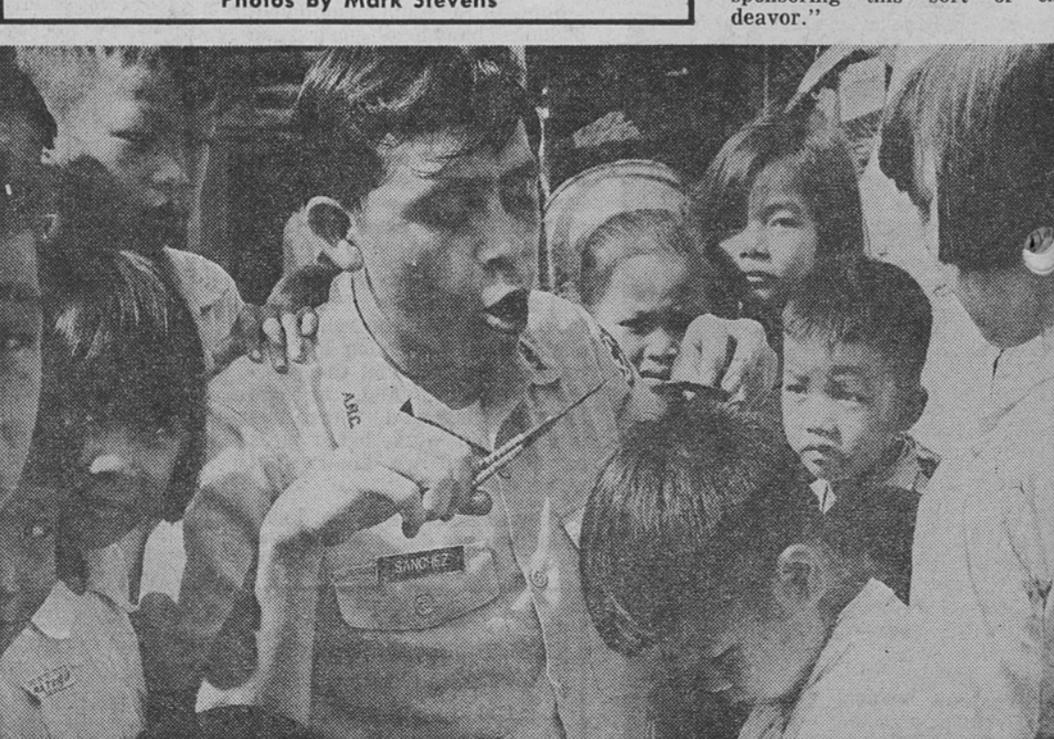


Hector conducts classes in English at Saigon's Interculture Exchange group several evenings a week.

Story By Red Cross IO
Photos By Mark Stevens



Singing is part of Hector's personal Civic Action.



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 month's 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, fat child," he recalls. "I went to a billet and picked up soap and a washrag and a bucket of water and came back 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."



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. (USMC PHOTO BY Cpl. Bob Leak)

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 up 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.

Phu My No Longer Home For Hopeless

SAIGON (USAF)—This is Phu My! The home of the orphaned, the aged, the paralyzed, the helpless, the spastic, the limbless, and those suffering from leprosy, tuberculosis and every other illness.

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 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 the institution is "doctors" for the institution.

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.

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DOCTOR AT WORK—Captain Stephen C. Vanna, flight surgeon at Tan Son Nhut air base, examines a youngster at Phu My. (USAF PHOTO BY Sgt. Sholom D. Frager)

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.



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 (USA) — 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

"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 of Scholars.

Parents sent most of their children to elementary school, where the cost was only \$1 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."

After the spirits had been appeased, work began. According to Chaplain Robinson, the rest was easy: "Finances were no problem because Marines are pretty generous."

Now, 11 months later, the buildings have been completed through joint cooperation by the men of MAG-36 and the islanders—the Vietnamese adding labor to dollars.

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

Marines Aid Nine Orphans

DA NANG (USMC) — Nine Vietnamese orphan boys have their high school education assured through the combined efforts of Marine Aircraft Group 16.

Personnel of the organization's nine squadrons contributed \$1,225 (114,500 piasters) to the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade's Children's Home in Da Nang to enable the youngsters to go on through high school.

Off Duty NCOs Tutor 7 VNAFs

SAIGON (USA) — 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.

Using equipment borrowed from the Tan Son Nhut-based 647th and 460th Reconnaissance Squadrons, Sergeants McGee and Sibitzky set up their classroom in the old Tactical Air Control Center. Their knowledge of photo interpretation was transmitted to their students through an interpreter.

An expanded program could lead to a better flow of intelligence analysis through joint efforts of VNAF and U.S. Air Force personnel.

"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

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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 Nghi, 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 pro-

grams.

"And these children, which are Vietnam's future, have been given a new chance for a healthier life," expressed one MEDCAP team member.

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 (USA) — 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 m said. "Each of the families in the hamlet then filled 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 encourages VC in the area to return to the side of the Vietnamese government.

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