



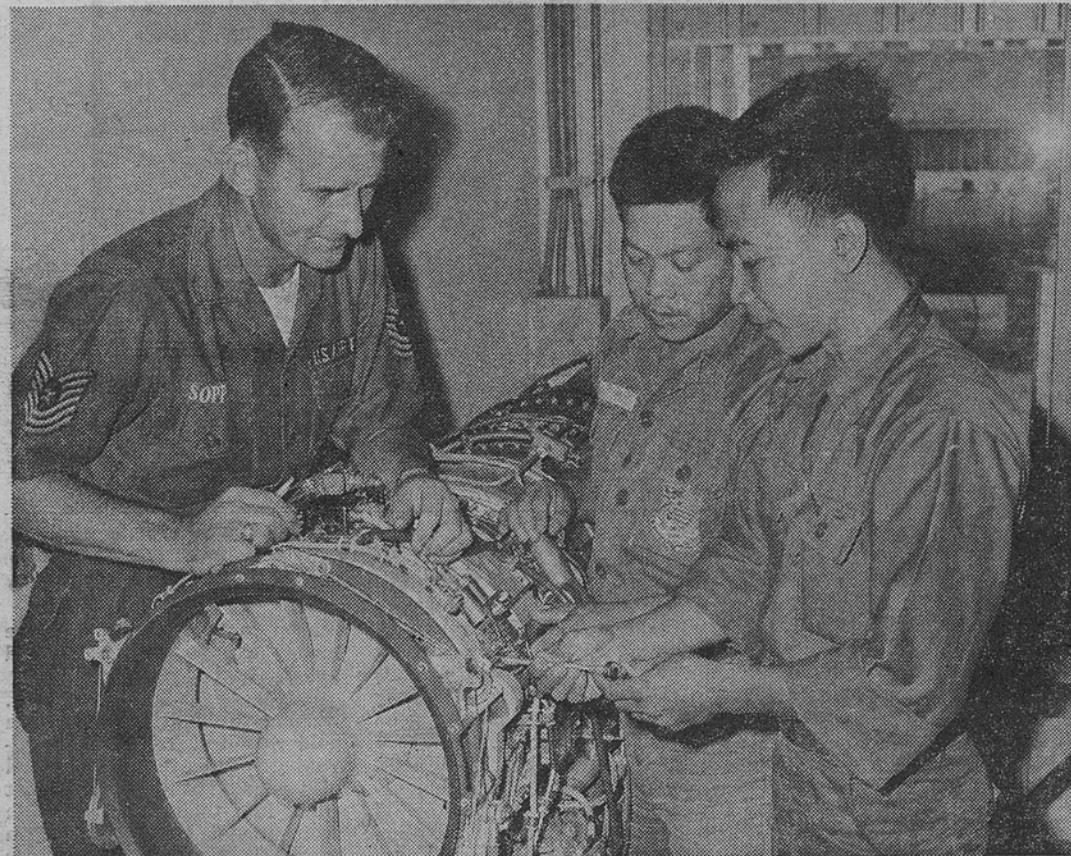
FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 8

Saigon, Vietnam

June 28, 1967



U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Duane C. Sopp, Chandler, Ariz., explains to Vietnamese students aspects of F-5 jet engine. (VNAF Photo)

Chief Malaria Combatant Had Big Job in Vietnam

Saigon (USN)—An Oklahoma-born doctor, lawyer, Indian (1/16 Cherokee) left South Vietnam after a year here as America's chief malaria combatant.

Under Viet Cong as well as mosquito attack for 12 months, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Robert G. Smith, Broken Arrow, Okla., served as the Chief of Preventive Medicine for the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

The Tulsa County native arrived in Saigon in May 1966 after preparing for his assignment at the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington. Commander Smith is a medical doctor, an attorney-at-law, and a public health expert.

He is licensed to practice medicine in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Massachusetts and to practice law in Oklahoma and Massachusetts. Commander Smith is one of only two known



COMMANDER SMITH

American doctor-lawyer-public health authority combinations... and the only one in the U.S. Navy.

Before leaving the States last year, he added Vietnamese to his language skills, which al-

ready included fluent French and Spanish and a working knowledge of German, Italian, and Russian.

"Seventy-five percent of all hospitalized American servicemen who have been in Vietnam are admitted for treatment of tropical diseases rather than for battle wounds," Commander Smith observed.

Confronted with that fact, the Oklahoma physician-public health expert assumed the task of "coordinating and supervising all preventive medicine activities of U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine forces in Vietnam and of advising the RVN armed forces and other Free World Forces on such matters."

He also served as the preventive medicine liaison officer between U.S. military forces and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The many-faceted job required that Commander Smith travel extensively to locate and combat the malaria mosquito problem. Visiting 27 of South Vietnam's 43 provinces, he estimates that he traveled 20,000 to 25,000 miles "investigating disease outbreaks" during his tour.

Probably the closest call of all his experiences during his year in Vietnam came during a trip in the northern provinces.

"A flat tire on our jeep delayed us for about half an hour as we traveled to a little village," Commander Smith ex-

Pony Express

Chu Lai (USA)—There have been many unusual letters received by American soldiers serving in Vietnam, but Private First Class Fred Charboneau, Syracuse, N.Y., may hold claim to the strangest.

Charboneau, a cook with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry, received a letter stamped "Delivered by Pony Express."

"At first I thought it was a joke," he related, "but when I read the letter, it explained everything."

Brings Mail

Placed in an express rider's pouch during the 10th annual Hash Knife Pony Express run which originates at St. Joseph, Mo., and ending at Sacramento, Calif. Charboneau's letter was picked up in Scottsdale, Ariz., arriving in Sacramento three days later.

"I'm sure glad it doesn't come by Pony Express every time," Charboneau said. "It takes those riders too long." "You don't know," someone chimed in. "Maybe the Indians held them up."

(Continued on Back Page)

R&R Winner

R&R's "Mr. 250,000" had a fine time in Bangkok. Read all about it on Page 9 of this issue. He stayed four more days to spend his own money, but there may not be a story about that.



Sp4 Radfield

VNAF Starts Jet Training

Bien Hoa (USAF)—The Vietnamese Air Force's (VNAF) 23rd Tactical Wing is taking another step into the Jet age here this month with the completion of a new training building for instruction on the supersonic F-5 Freedom Fighter. The F-5 was recently added to the Vietnamese airforce.

The building is divided into various rooms which have been constructed to house the components of the F-5. Some of the rooms are equipped to facilitate instruction in the 20mm cannon and bomb racks, the engines, the fuel system and the landing gear. One room has the cockpit of a F-5.

To assist in the transition from piston-engined aircraft to jet-engined aircraft, the U.S. Air Force Training Command has furnished a Mobile Training Team (MTT) to provide classroom instruction in all phases of F-5 maintenance. Entering the new program will be 160 officers and enlisted men of VNAF.

The six-month program will provide training in the necessary fields required to keep the F-5 in a combat ready state. Such things as armament, instrumentation, navigation, communication and engine tear down and build-up will be taught.

Victims Of Fire Get Donations

Can Tho (IV Corps)—Contributing funds to assist 71 Vietnamese families whose homes were destroyed by fire, American personnel in Can Tho donated 123,660 piasters for the relief of the stricken Vietnamese.

Although no injuries were reported, the Vietnamese lost all their belongings except the few items they were able to carry away from the blaze.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Westermann, senior U.S. advisor to the 4th Area Logistical Command, was the organizer of the piaster drive. Under his supervision, collection points were established at various locations throughout the city.

In addition to the money, relief commodities of clothing, food and building materials were obtained through the efforts of Advisory Team 10 and its Vietnamese counterparts.

The money and supplies are being distributed on a prorated basis, depending on the size of each family.

Cheney Award To MOH Winner

Washington (AFNB)—Air Force Major Bernard Fisher, recipient of the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam, has been selected to receive the 1966 Cheney Award.



Sp4 Radfield

The ultimate goal of the program is to prepare 13 VNAF instructors to take the place of the American instructors once the MTT completes its mission of 250 maintenance specialists for support of the F-5s.

When the VNAF personnel complete the course, they will join 120 other VNAF officers and enlisted men presently studying in the United States and form the 522nd Fighter Squadron, the first VNAF jet squadron.

The F-5 is designed to meet a wide variety of military conditions. For example, it requires only 20 maintenance hours per flying hour, less than any other supersonic tactical fighter.

VC Cries 'Uncle!'

Duc Pho (USA)—A touch of irony was detected recently on the battlefield when the leader of a Popular Forces platoon was found to be the uncle of a survivor of a Viet Cong platoon.

The Popular Forces platoon was operating north of Duc Pho when contact was made with the VC platoon. In the heated battle that ensued only three VC survived.

The next morning one of the survivors, To Tach, turned himself into A Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division under the Chieu Hoi (open arms) program.

The new Hoi Chanh (Chieu Hoi returnee) said his father warned him that Popular Forces had increased operations in the area. Disregarding the warnings, To Tach remained with his platoon.

Quite frightened, To Tach explained, "I am a VC, but I want to return to my government. I have been a VC for two years, free to roam as I pleased. Then suddenly everything changed. I have been hunted day and night with little or no time to rest."

Taken by chopper to Duc Pho for interrogation, he learned that his uncle was the Popular Forces leader. When asked what he plans to do now that his government has received him, he replied: "I want to join my uncle's platoon!"

Editorial

Letters for Freedom

IT'S up to every American to fight for the freedom we hold so dear. If we don't, the smells of free air could become dark and damp as in a prison cell.

This was written in a letter by Army Private First Class Hiram D. Strickland last year which won the George Washington Award from the Freedoms Foundation.

PFC Strickland never received the award. It was



presented to his family because he was killed in Vietnam defending the freedom he held so dear.

This freedom for which so many have sacrificed their lives on the battlefields of the world is the basis for the 1967 Freedoms Foundation Awards Program. This year's subject is, "Freedom—My Heritage, My Responsibility."

Every serviceman and woman on active duty is eligible to submit as many entries as he may desire. Each entry may be in the form of a letter, essay or poem of not less than 100 nor more than 500 words in length. Entries must be sent to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., 19481, prior to Nov. 1, 1967.

Members of the Armed Forces may also compete for the other Freedoms Foundation awards offered. Dependents of service members, who are not eligible to enter the Letter Awards Program, may compete for awards in other categories.

Additional information on the Freedoms Foundation Awards Program may be obtained by writing to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., 19481.

When you submit your entry, be sure to include your full name, rank, service number, branch of service, organization, and home state address.

This is your opportunity to be heard, to express your feelings about those freedoms you have sworn to defend and for which PFC Strickland and thousands of others have given their lives.

(AFNB)

A Dong Saved Is A Dong Earning

(PACAF-NS) — Your savings can earn 10 per cent interest per year if you are stationed overseas.

This helps reduce our country's gold flow. The money you save while stationed in a foreign country reduces the number of U.S. dollars being spent in that country.

The old saying "let your money work for you" could not be any more true than it is today. While most people are getting between four and five per cent interest on their savings in banks throughout the United States, the Government will pay you 10 per cent on your savings while you are assigned overseas.

That's right — a big 10 per cent on all savings deposited under the Uniformed Service Savings Deposits Program. Under Public Law 89-538, any member of the Armed Forces overseas, regardless of grade, can save any amount of his unallowed pay plus interest will be paid to you. And in case of death, all deposits, plus interest, will be paid to your survivors.

Upon your return, all deposits plus interest will be paid to you. And in case of death, all deposits, plus interest, will be paid to your survivors.

Get on the savings band wagon now. Investigate the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. Both you and your Government benefit.

While you are helping yourself by saving for your goals and future needs, you also will be

Justice 88 Years Later . . .

Washington (ALNS) — The favorable decision from an Army review board in the celebrated Major Marcus A. Reno case has been hailed by the American Legion as a historic milestone in military justice.

The decision by the Army's Board for the Correction of Military Records, announced at an American Legion press conference, reversed a court martial verdict of 1879 which gave Major Reno a dishonorable discharge for conduct unbecoming an officer. He was one of Colonel George A. Custer's troop commanders at the Battle of Little Big Horn, famous as "Custer's last stand."

The dishonorable discharge resulted from a series of misadventures. Major Reno's courage was questioned on his record at the Battle of Little Big Horn, even though he had been cleared of cowardice charges at a previous trial.

Charles Reno, Jackson Heights, N.Y., the great-grandnephew of Major Reno and the American Legion's star witness, in accepting the official document of decision from the Army board, said, "I am deeply grateful to the board, the Secretary of the Army and to the American Legion for all their help in this case. It is vindication and a victory at last for Major Reno."

"Eighty-eight years later," Charles Reno said, "justice comes to Major Marcus A. Reno, who will come to rest, recognized and rewarded — for 23 years faithful and loyal commissioned service to his country."

Okay, Goldfinger, here's the story.

The money of the United States of America is the most trusted currency in the world because it can be exchanged at any time for its value in gold.

The U.S. Treasury will give

one ounce of gold for every \$35

in currency — to foreign banks,

of course, since it is illegal for

U.S. citizens to keep any but

the smallest quantities of gold.

It is also true that paper currency — of any country, not just the U.S. is only as valid as the promise behind it. A country that prints more money than it can cover in gold reserves, is like a man who overdraws on a checking account.

Pretty soon his personal checks will be worthless because no one wants them. Of course, international finance is considerably more complicated, but the idea is the same. U.S. currency is valuable because it can be trusted.

With such a trustworthy currency, a "stable currency" as it is called, there is never any

in a nutshell, America's balance of payments problem is that more dollars are going out of the country than are coming in, putting the United States in a deficit position. This is the problem that must be overcome.

Thus, saving overseas not only helps you, but also protects the Nation's economic strength by reducing balance of payments expenditures and the resulting drains on our gold reserves.

Everyone benefits from this plan.

Upon your return, all deposits plus interest will be paid to you. And in case of death, all deposits, plus interest, will be paid to your survivors.

Get on the savings band wagon now. Investigate the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. Both you and your Government benefit.

While you are helping yourself by saving for your goals and future needs, you also will be

Wanted—Retired Marines

Washington (USMC) — Headquarters Marine Corps is seeking applications from retired Marine officers and enlisted personnel to fill instructor billets at Junior ROTC units. This includes three new schools and the five additional schools being considered for units, with activation dates tentatively set for later this year.

Applications, sent to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AF), Washington, D.C. 20380, should include the following information: (1) civilian employment since retirement; (2) area of the country in which the applicant desires employment as an instructor; (3) civilian education since retirement; and (4) a full-length photograph.

Those selected will receive pay and allowances for the grade or rank held at the time of their retirement. However, the movement of household effects or reimbursement for travel to the school location is not authorized if the retiree utilized the one such authorized move upon retirement.

Applicants will be considered on a competitive basis and will be informed of their status as soon as possible. Personnel selected for assignment will be recommended to the school for employment as instructors. The employment and assignment of instructors is expected to begin in late July or August.

Upon your return, all deposits plus interest will be paid to you. And in case of death, all deposits, plus interest, will be paid to your survivors.

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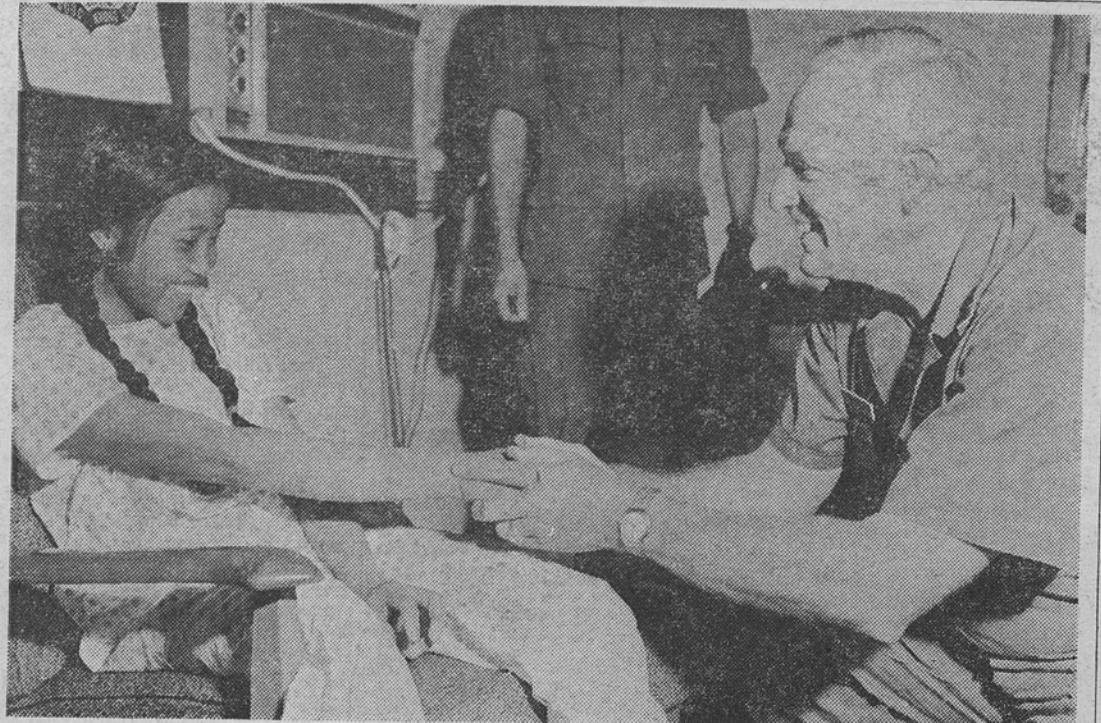
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The OBSERVER

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Education is the key that opens the golden door of opportunity. See your education officer and take advantage of the educational programs available to servicemen and women.



DOTTIE—Receives best wishes of General Robertshaw while en-route to Saigon for fitting and training with artificial leg. (USMC Photo)

Marine Air Wing Helps Girl Walk

Da Nang (USMC) — A 17-year-old Vietnamese girl, Do Thi Dong, "Dottie," is learning to walk again thanks to the efforts of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Dottie, as the young girl is called, was injured by artillery fire in June, 1965, and lost her right leg above the knee.

A Marine civil affairs officer from Marine Aircraft Group 12, learned of her plight and wrote to his wife in Hawaii who began a fund raising drive to purchase an artificial leg.

The artificial leg arrived at Chu Lai, but the Civil Affairs Office had the girl's name and former address and were unable to find her.

After a month-long search, Second Lieutenant Berne C. Hart, a civil affairs officer, located Dottie in a refugee camp five miles north of Chu Lai. On

crutches, she was financially supporting herself, her mother and a 12-year-old sister by working as a seamstress. Her father had been killed by the Viet Cong more than four years ago.

After a fitting it was found that she had outgrown the artificial leg. The officer who had initiated the project had already rotated home but the Wing personnel quickly solved the problem.

Major James H. Stewart, Wing civil affairs officer, made arrangements with the National Rehabilitation Institute in Saigon for Dottie to be fitted with an artificial leg and receive therapy.

Dottie was lifted aboard a UH-1E helicopter and brought to Da Nang where she received a new wardrobe courtesy of the Catholic Relief Service. She also

met the 1st Marine Air Wing Commanding General, Major General Louis B. Robertshaw, who spoke with her through an interpreter about plans for her rehabilitation.

Dottie will be in Saigon for several weeks undergoing therapy. Meanwhile, 1st MAW Leathernecks are contributing to a fund to move Dottie and her family to Da Nang which will permit her to return to school after a four year absence.

Gen. Walt Calls Pacification Program Important in Meeting With President

Pacification is one of the most important programs the United States has in Vietnam, Marine Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt told President Johnson June 12.

"As long as we help these people, they are going to get back on their feet, and get their government and communities reconstructed," he said.



ROCKETS—For interdiction and harassment are loaded by Staff Sergeant Dale Jennings, senior medical specialist. (USA Photo)

Special Forces, CIDG Watch 'Charlie'

Plateau GI (USA) — Defending even Montagnard villages from 3800 feet up, the Special Forces 'A' Camp at Plateau GI keeps an eagle eye on VC activities in II Corps' tactical zone.

The Special Forces Team and its Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) units, which they advise and train, conduct long range reconnaissance patrols into the outlying regions, keeping close tabs on VC movements.

Conducting training daily, Special Forces advisors stress physical conditioning, map reading and weaponry exercises.

Medical aid and preventive medicine have brought revolutionary improvements in the health of the local villagers. Through MEDCAP missions (Medical Civic Action Program) instances of malaria and other diseases have dropped considerably.

ably with a rise in the level of hygiene and sanitation standards and practices.

Heavily fortified, the camp's perimeter is laced with miles of barbed wire and claymore mines. Indicative of the team's ingenuity is a 2.75-inch rocket launcher, the type used on helicopters, which has been mounted on a vehicle trailer for harassment and interdiction firing.

Pleiku (USA) — Charlie's creeping up on him, says Captain Jerry W. White, Fayetteville, N.C., 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

The "Ivy" Division officer was wounded three times on his previous tours while serving with the 1st Special Forces in the Mekong Delta and one year in Pleiku.

"This year," relates Captain White, "Charlie's creeping. He's drilled my pack with bullets, shot holes in both my canteens and on one occasion has shot my pants off."

'We've Been Hit By More Weapons...'

Con Thien (USA) — The Special Forces 'A' Camp at Con Thien has the distinction of having been barraged by a wider variety of communist weaponry than any other camp in South Vietnam.

As the U.S. Army's northernmost outpost, the camp's close proximity to North Vietnam and the Demilitarized Zone accounts for the mixture of weapons employed against it.

Various calibers of mortars, recoilless rifles, artillery and rockets are among the communist arsenal of weapons thrown against Con Thien. Flame throwers, grenades, satchel charges, Bangalore torpedoes and countless automatic and semi-automatic weapons have also been used.

The camp's defenses are manned by Special Forces advised and trained Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) units. Marine artillery batteries and riflemen add protection for the outer perimeter.

Early in May, a regiment of the 324B North Vietnamese Division made an effort to capture Con Thien. The NVA Regulars were driven back, leaving 180 of their dead.

Building heavy fortifications and barb wire barricades, Special Forces personnel and Navy Seabees are continually strengthening the camp's perimeter.

'Blind Bat' Call Trouble For VC

Thailand (USA) — "Blind Bat," an Air Force combat air mission involving five eight-man C-130 crews of the 315th Air Division, begins during the afternoon in a small intelligence briefing room at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, eastern Thailand.

"Blind Bat" is the call sign for the C-130 night interdiction mission designed to deny the enemy the shelter of darkness and to keep up continual harassment along the communists' major lines of communication between North and South Vietnam.

This is a combination hunter-killer mission with these C-130 crews being the hunters and fighter-bombers the killers. For a seven-hour period between dusk and dawn, these crews cover predetermined areas, dropping flares to illuminate the area and then turning into forward air controllers (FAC) to call in air strikes against the enemy's ground transportation and storage areas along infiltration routes.

After the intelligence briefing, when the crews receive a comprehensive briefing on weather, on any reported firing in target areas, and on the search and rescue posture for the day, they man the aircraft and take up positions over the target areas.

"Our mission is very simple," Captain Richard C. Knoblock, Wantagh, N.Y., stated. "We just fly over predetermined areas along the enemy's major lines of communications and

try to spot truck convoys or anything else that we can find fighters in to 'zap' (destroy). We also look for storage or parking areas concealed under the heavy foliage or canopied areas of the jungle."

After spotting a truck on an illumination pass during the mission, a call to the area control ship verified it as a live one and not a burned out hulk from a late afternoon raid. "Ok," Captain Knoblock said, "send us some fighters. I'm going around again and relight the area."

Minutes later two Navy A-4 jet fighters called in for strike instructions. Captain Knoblock talked them into the target for a strafing run, then went around for a look. "I can't tell whether we've knocked it out or not," he said. "Have you got anything else we can throw at them?"

"Roger," one A-4 pilot replied, "we'll hit them with rockets this time." After the two fighters made a sweeping dive and released their rockets, Captain Knoblock shouted, "Right on target, right on target. You can chalk up another kill for yourselves tonight. Good work, and thanks."

"It's quite a sight to see the trucks go up," Staff Sergeant Beryl K. Reed, loadmaster, said, "and it's even more impressive when we get a secondary explosion." There were two during that mission.

Suggestion Worth \$50

Tan Son Nhut (USA) — Specialist 4 Baquero M. Canizares, a USARV mechanic with the 552d Transportation Company, received a \$50 award for a suggestion he submitted to the Army's Incentive Award Program.

Captain D.J. McMahon, commanding officer of the 552d, presented the award on behalf of the Incentive Award program. The adopted suggestion resulted in publication of a "field fix" in the USARV G-4 Maintenance Summary.

The "field fix" explains how Army mechanics in Vietnam can make on-the-spot repairs in a short circuit in an ignition timing light, rather than having each device sent to a repair shop.

"I worked with the system for a few days and spotted the trouble. I tried some rubber cement that we use to seal the fittings around windshields, and put it on the ignition system contacts. It worked like a charm," explained Canizares.

Charlie's Creeping Up On Capt

Pleiku (USA) — Charlie's creeping up on him, says Captain Jerry W. White, Fayetteville, N.C., 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

The "Ivy" Division officer was wounded three times on his previous tours while serving with the 1st Special Forces in the Mekong Delta and one year in Pleiku.

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River Traffic Control

PBR Crew Prevents VC Infiltration



SEARCH—Signalman Van Zandt uses a metal detector in an effort to locate hidden contraband.



INTERROGATION — Petty Officer First Class Van Zandt (center) turns in a Vietnamese woman to My Tho policeman for failing to possess an identification card.

My Tho (USA) — Whether nighthawking or making daytime patrols on the river, Signalman 1st Class James Van Zandt, a PBR (Patrol Boat River) crew commander with the 552d River Patrol Section at My Tho, finds a deep source of excitement in his missions.

A veteran of 200 patrols, Signalman Van Zandt has the job of searching a heavy volume of river traffic to prevent VC infiltration of personnel and contraband caches.

While patrolling the rice rich Go Cong district, Van Zandt's crew spotted a large sampan loaded with 10 occupants. The

craft, ordered to stop, suddenly opened fire with automatic weapons.

The PBR crew returned the fire, killing three VC with the initial burst and sinking the sampan. As the remaining VC climbed aboard the PBR, one desperate VC refused to surrender and swam toward shore.

As he reached the shoreline, he was cut down by machinegun fire. Reports later revealed he was the chief communist communications liaison officer in that area.

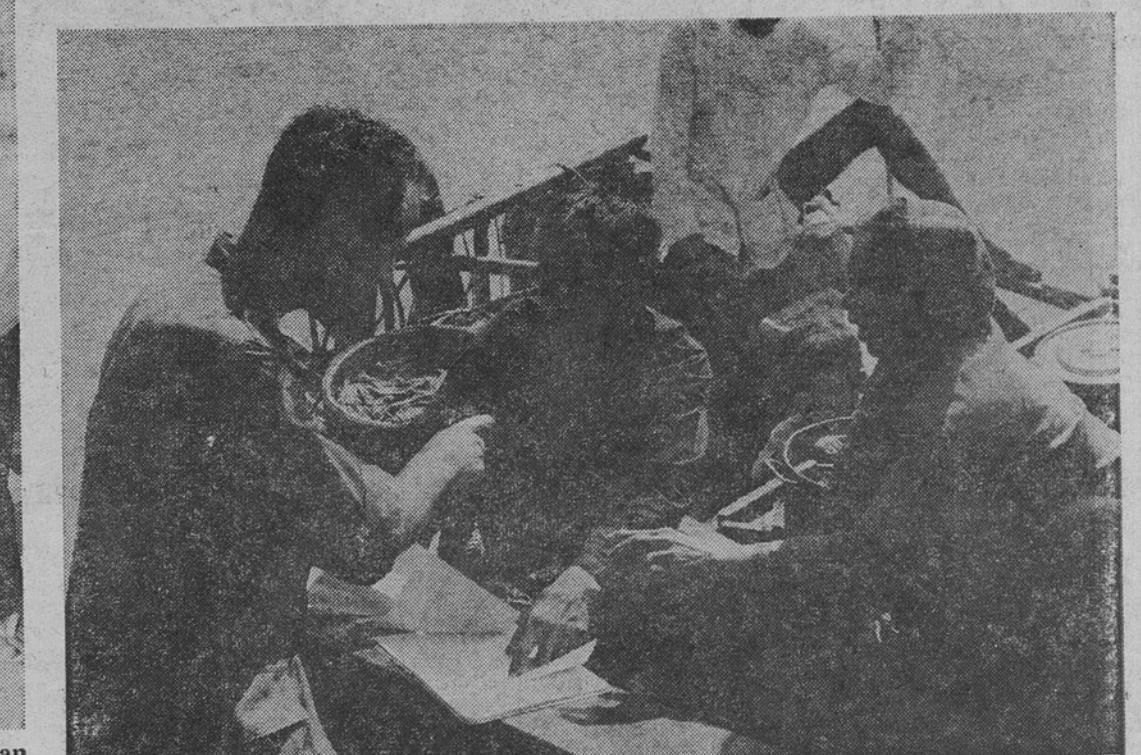
Story and Photos by
SSgt George Hicks, USA
Staff Writer and Photographer

In making searches for contraband, Van Zandt uses a metal detector which gives off a beeping sound when it nears a metal object. The VC often conceal contraband in plastic bags under their craft or dump their cache to avoid being caught.

"Life on the river is never dull," said Van Zandt. "The last time out, several snipers blasted away at my boat and, after the firefight, I counted 12 bullet holes in my craft."



RIDING HIGH—Patrol boat crewmen search a river water taxi which is loaded with villagers ready to market their wares.



YOU—Navy crewman makes his point clear as he checks a fisherman's cargo manifest.



A NEW START—A farmer gets help from a Popular Forces troop in laying the foundation of his new home.

Five Day Exodus

DMZ Hamlet Moved To Save Family Ties

Dong Ha (MACV) — The demilitarized zone (DMZ) north of Gio Linh is now depopulated.

Concurrently with Operation Hickory, 13,338 Vietnamese civilians were evacuated from Trung Luong district, which forms the eastern portion of the DMZ south of the Ben Hai River, and from Gio Linh district bordering the DMZ.

In response to a multidivision communist buildup within and around the DMZ, U.S. Marine and Army Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) ground forces invaded the DMZ for the first time in the war 18 May, beginning Operation Hickory.

In a five-day exodus, the civilians — mostly women, children and aged men — were moved by truck convoys to an expansive valley in Cam Lo district, west of Dong Ha and

some five months of the DMZ. Fifty ARVN trucks and 35 trucks the 3rd Marines' 10th Transportation Company made relocation move.

The civilian population inside and below DMZ has been caught in the midst of increasing my buildups on both sides the DMZ.

Entire ham to preserve family ties the hamlet structure, we evacuated and kept together as much as possible in their location in Cam Lo. Far brought as much of the household possessions as could carry.

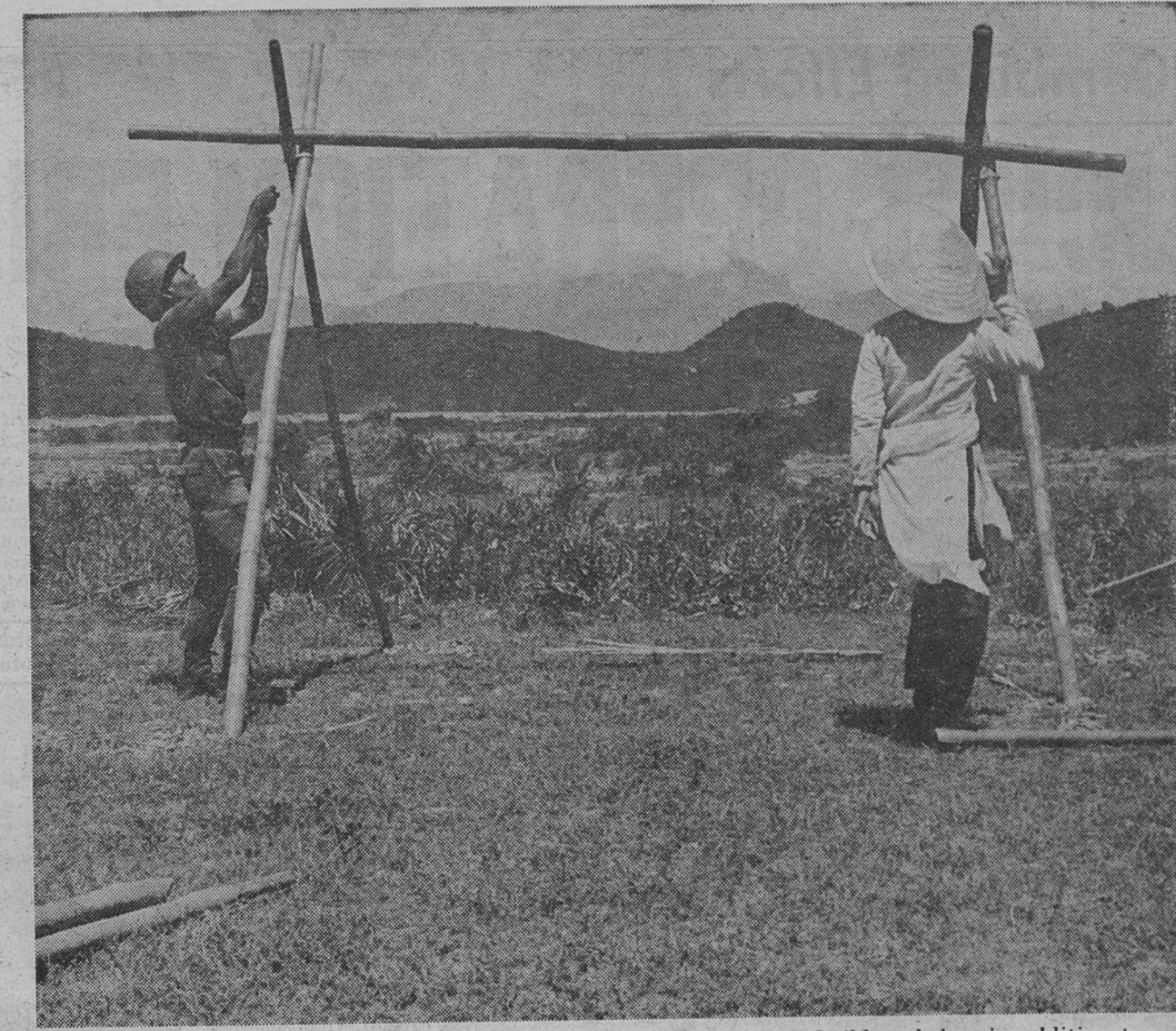
Three comes of Vietnamese Regi Forces are providing pector security for the new while Vietnamese PopuForce (PF) soldiers are helping the people build their homes. The United Statesency for International Dement (US-

AID) provided tin roofing and other building supplies. The villagers transported wood and thatching by foot from the surrounding hills to their virtually treeless valley floor.

The Vietnamese government is supplying food to all the settlers. Prior to their arrival, ARVN engineers surveyed the area and marked off 20 meter square lots for each family, enough space for a house and family garden. The even rows of new dwellings look like a mammoth housing development in U.S. suburbia.

Four U.S. Marine well-digging rigs have hit water, and a Vietnamese Public Works rig is drilling a deep well. In addition, water from a dammed-up stream will be pumped to an elevated water tank.

*Story and Photos by
Sp4 John Morgan, USA
Staff Writer-Photographer*



ASSISTANCE—A Popular Forces soldier helps an evacuated villager build a shelter in addition to providing security for the people.



BUILDING—Refugees from the DMZ area start building a new hamlet secure from the fighting. Each family has an area of farmland.



LIVESTOCK—A farmer evacuated from the DMZ tends his livestock after arrival in Cam Lo district. More than 13,000 people were moved.

Combined Efforts

JOINT OPERATION FRIENDSHIP

Dong Tam (USA) — One of the most extensive Civic Action programs ever conducted in the Mekong River Delta was completed recently by elements of the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade.

"Operation Friendship" required several days to complete, and projects included everything from MEDCAPS to road building and repair, bridge construction, marketplace repair, well-drilling and pagoda renovation.

Units included in the operation are: S-5 (Civic Action) sections

from the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, the 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, road and bridge crews from D Company, 15th Engineers and heavy equipment from C Company, 577th Engineers and heavy equipment on the project, under the direction of Major Richard F. Munsell, 2nd Brigade Civic Affairs Officer.

Men from the 15th Engineers wielded picks and shovels under a blazing Delta sun to make minor repairs on Highway 25 between Dong Tam and My Tho. In places where major re-

pairs were required, heavy equipment was employed.

Each morning, mine detection and demolition experts from the 15th Engineers checked the roads and areas where the men were going to work to assure the enemy had not mined the work areas during the night.

Platoons from the infantry battalions also placed themselves strategically around the work areas to provide security.

While the U.S. soldiers worked on the road, the civilians worked in the old buildings, salvaging wood and other useful material. When the engineers began filling sandbags for a bridge abutment, the children joined them, and soon several were wielding shovels and many more were holding sandbags.

Meanwhile, the civic action team from the 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry was working to alleviate a serious water shortage in the village of Binh Duc. The only water available to the villagers was rain water caught in jars and other containers; any other water had to be purchased from My Tho.

Directed by Captain James N. Laska, battalion S-5 began building rain catches. These consisted of two pieces of sheet metal, mounted on wooden stakes, and slanted into a 55-gallon drum. Thus all the rain that would fall on these catches would run off and into the water containers, to be used by the villagers as they need it.

In another area of the village, Captain Laska employed a hand auger to begin drilling a well for the village.

"If we succeed in this mission, and get down to fresh water for these people, it will open a whole new area for civic action," Captain Laska said. The well did reach fresh water, and the team is now awaiting the arrival of additional equipment to finish their project.

Meanwhile, the doctors and medics of the same battalion conducted five MEDCAPS in five different areas, treating 512 persons.

The 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Civic Action team, under the

supervision of Captain Jay S. Noxon, Battalion S-5, set up their projects in the village of Thanh Phu.

The team exterminated the termites from a pagoda, rewired it, and rebuilt a footbridge over a canal. They installed a new roof on the Thanh Phu School and the men of the village pitched in to help in the work. They formed a "disassembly" line from the top of the roof to the ground to remove the old stone shingles, and

they were followed by 3rd/60th soldiers installing the new roof. Inside the school the walls were resurfaced and repainted.

The 3rd/60th also conducted a MEDCAP in the village, treating 79 persons. Also, as a part of Operation Friendship five hours of movies were viewed by 180 persons, shown by the 2nd Brigade Psychological Operation Team. These movies, with Vietnamese soundtracks, included comedies and ARVN training films.

Story by Sp4 Joe Conley, USA
Photos by Sp4 John Millaire, USA



MEDICINE—The taking of medicine brings new hope to this woman in the Mekong Delta, where disease is common and medical aid is lacking or nonexistent.



ROAD—Repairs, major or minor, were a part of "Operation Friendship" conducted recently by the Army's 9th Infantry Division. Men from the division's 15th Engineer Battalion repair Highway 25 between Dong Tam and My Tho.



"DISASSEMBLY LINE"—Villagers join together to remove old stone shingles from the leaking roof of Thanh Phu School.



A WELL FOR BINH DUC—A Civic Action team moved into the village with pipes and drilling equipment, and soon men were busy digging a well.



Monkey For Sale at Bangkok's Sunday Market



Sea, Sun and Bikinis at Thailand's Pattaya Beach

Manifest Selection

Mr. 250,000 Wins Bangkok R&R Bonus

Bangkok (MACV) — A front-line machinegunner from the 25th Infantry Division was flabbergasted to find himself a celebrity in the fabled city of Bangkok, when he left on his long awaited Rest and Recuperation (R&R) trip 14 June.

Specialist 4 Keith Radfield, Belleville, Ill., an A Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry "Wolfhound," was just about to board the Pan American Airways clipper with 67 other R&Rers when Colonel Raymond H. Hitchcock, chief of the R&R program appeared and announced that the 250,000th serviceman to take R&R this fiscal year would receive a special expense-paid holiday.

Counting down the flight manifest, Specialist Radfield was it! After seven months of combat duty, the lucky trooper was suddenly a VIP as "Mr. 250,000."

Awaiting him in Bangkok were a deluxe hotel suite, an air-

conditioned sedan with chauffeur, gifts, special guided tours and a date with a lovely Pan Am stewardess.

After downing a filet mignon dinner enroute to Bangkok, Radfield was greeted at Don Muang Airport by three smiling Thai girls who hung leis around his neck, and by Pan Am Representative Alan Brooke, who introduced him to Stewardess Mary Alice Cavazos, Brownsville, Tex., his escort for five days of sightseeing, shopping and dining.

Zipping along a smooth highway and seeing modern city buildings and bright neon signs with the squiggle Thai writing was a real switch from the boones of Vietnam.

Hotel Manager R. K. Rufe ushered the Bronze Star winner into a plush, air-conditioned suite in the lavishly furnished Siam Inter-Continental Hotel. Asked "Is there something else you'd like?" the half-stunned 20-

year-old veteran of Operations Junction City and Cedar Falls replied, "Oh, just a glass of milk, thanks."

Next morning Specialist Radfield and Mary Alice started out with a boat tour of Bangkok's Floating Market, down the Chao Phya ("Great Lord") River and through a network of canals where a small flotilla of sampans paddle along selling fruits and vegetables.

They spent the afternoon in fine shops that carried Thai silk, brassware, wood carvings and handicrafts as well as the jewelry and gems for which Thailand is famous. At each merchant he visited, Mr. 250,000 was presented with a gift: a sapphire ring and a fat-bellied "Chinese Buddha" wood sculpture, a 12-place set of solid bronze tableware, Thai silk material for two suits, a dinner bell gong and a cigarette case.

In addition, he received a Seiko watch, a fur vest and two suits and a topcoat.

Next came a visit to the Thai-style boxing matches, which are to Thailand what bullfighting is to Spain. Thai boxing, a fierce sport done to the pulsing rhythms of special musical instruments that create a feverish excitement, is a "combination of karate, ballet, boxing and homicidal mania," as Alan Brooke put it.

An 80-mile drive down Thailand's gulf coast brought the couple to a fabulous seaside resort called Pattaya Beach — one of those tropical paradises apparently as yet "undiscovered" by the jet set. Here Specialist Radfield and Mary Alice water-skied, lay on the smooth sand and swam in the clear warm gulf water.

The way to Pattaya is a

beautiful ride past coconut palms, banana trees, tapioca plantations, salt farms with their windmill water pumps, trim wooden houses on stilts and lush green hills and fields under a clear blue sky. Above the treetops, TV antennas mingle with the ornate spires of bright-colored Buddhist temples.

Specialist Radfield toured several of Bangkok's magnificent temples, including Wat Arun ("Temple of the Dawn"), The Temple of The Emerald Buddha, and the Solid Gold Buddha, then went on to Timland, a Thai version of Disneyland

where a composite of Thai life can be seen in an afternoon.

There were demonstrations of elephants moving two-ton teak logs like matchsticks; rural farming methods, typical architecture, sword-fighting, boxing and classical Thai dancing and music by young girls in their resplendent costumes.

Specialist Radfield wound up his R&R as guest for lunch with an American family, Mr. & Mrs. Allan D. Repleglo. R&R servicemen are welcomed by American families living in the city to come for a home-cooked meal and evening visit. The R&R in-processing center provides phone numbers to arrange it.

At the Repleglo's, Specialist Radfield had salad, bacon and cheese sandwiches and ice cream. "Ah, finally I've had a simple American meal again," he said. The lucky R&Rer wanted to stay longer to visit with the Repleglo's beautiful daughter, Heidi, but he had to move on to keep his schedule. Such is the life.



Sightseeing at Wat Arun "Temple of The Dawn"



A Rahad at Timland—"Here Comes The Water!"

Story and Photos by
Sp4 John Morgan, USA
Staff Writer-Photographer

Survival Requires Practice

Da Nang (USAF) — "Learning by doing" is the method employed by members of the Da Nang Personal Equipment Shop in keeping 366th Tactical Fighter Wing jet pilots briefed on the latest idea in survival gear.

Currently, the topic of conversation at personal equipment briefings centers around a new piece of equipment called "a tree lowering device." It is not, as its title implies, to be used for lowering trees, but instead is used to lower pilots who have the misfortune to parachute into a wooded area and become entangled in the branches of trees.

"In use," said Staff Sergeant Paul W. Donnelly, Woolmarket, Miss., NCOIC of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing personal equipment shop, "the dangling pilot merely attaches the end of the webbing to a convenient tree limb, or to the fork in the parachute risers, and to himself, through a special modification in the parachute harness, unclips his chute, and lowers himself to the ground."

"The braking device is so simple to use and so effective, that the pilot's descent may be completely controlled by one hand, leaving the other free to handle a weapon or to clear branches out of the way."

Currently, pilots attend classes in small groups, held at the equipment shop six afternoons a week.

In addition to receiving instruction and actual experience in the use of the new lowering device, they are rebriefed on bailout procedures utilizing the egress system in their aircraft and the deployment and use of their personnel survival gear.

Sergeant Donnelly also said, "The device should be issued to the field soon and all of our pilots will be ready for it."

A Bad Tooth Is Taken Out By Shrapnel

Due Pho (USA) — A piece of grenade shrapnel served as a tooth-extractor for a 101st Airborne paratrooper here recently during Operation Malheur.

Specialist 4 Jimmy G. Ward, Sweeny, Tex., made an appointment with the brigade dentist, but action in the field took care of the painful tooth.

His buddy, Private First Class Floyd A. Bunting, Wichita, had fired his M-79 grenade launcher into a tunnel where a group of Viet Cong had disappeared. Specialist Ward, standing nearby, felt a blow to his jaw and fell backwards. A stray piece of shrapnel had penetrated his lip, knocking out the offensive tooth.

"I thought I was out of range," said Specialist Ward. "It was just one of those freak things. But I won't be able to put the tooth under my air mattress for the good fairy," he added. "I swallowed it in the excitement."



LOUDSPEAKER—Packed by Private First Class Bobby E. May, the amplifier helps prepare villagers for sweep by 25th Infantry Division's 3d Brigade near Duc Pho. Interpreters accompany the brigade's Psychological Operations Teams to warn the innocent and bring in more Hoi Chanhs through the Open Arms Program. (USA Photo)

April Civic Action

Single Month Almost Matches Entire Year

Saigon (MACV)—During the month of April the Military Civic Action Program was responsible for building 1,713 new homes and repairing 395 others which provided 5,270 families with shelter. It was announced by MACV civic action officials here this month.

The number of homes built during this single month is only 300 short of the total number erected in the entire year of 1966. These figures include projects by all the Free World Military Forces and the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam (RVNAF).

In April the combined Free World and RVNAF forces constructed 99 bridges and repaired another 710; they built 26 places of worship and renovated 16 more; they erected 37 dispensaries and improved 18 and built eight hospitals while repairing seven.

Free Booklets

Saigon (MACV)—The Chapel Foundation of St. Louis, Missouri, organized by local businessmen, is offering religious booklets and magazines free of charge to servicemen in Vietnam.

Multi-denomination in nature, the organization will send the literature according to the designated religious preference of the serviceman.

For those interested in receiving such literature, send name, address and religious preference to:

Chapel Foundation
2927 S. Brentwood Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63144

Water was provided to many villages and hamlets as 190 wells were installed and 37 improved for better service.

Education also received a helping hand as 53 schools were built and 53 were repaired. This provided 155 new classrooms with 41 being better prepared for use by renovation.

To increase the health and sanitation of the Vietnamese people, the Free World and ARNAF forces gave 745 classes on personal hygiene. These classes were attended by 57,000 people. Added to this were 272,000 immunizations.

To help increase production from the land, 4,977 spraying operations were completed with eight swamp areas being drained. Then 35,000 pounds of fertilizer was provided for the farmers.

Distribution of commodities continued at an accelerated pace. During the month nearly 3,000,000 pounds of cement was distributed and more than 4,500,000 pounds of food was given to the needy. Also 558,206 board feet of lumber, 44,983 school kits, 51,398 pounds of soap, 44,563 sheets of tin and 123,757 pounds of cloths were provided under the program.

Kits were provided to aid in such things as fishing, wood-working, carpentry, gardening, teaching and textile working with miscellaneous supplies relating to health, athletics and hygiene.

Voluntary cash contributions by Free World and RVNAF personnel totaled 3,688,287 piasters. This money was for the support of hospitals, orphanages, religious activities, schools and for the general welfare of the people.

Hoi Chanh Kills 31 NVA in Battle

Da Nang (USMC) — A Viet Cong guerrilla, who rallied to the government of South Vietnam last July, personally killed 31 of his former comrades while serving as a Kit Carson Scout with the Fifth Marine Regiment during Operation Union II in an eight-hour battle recently.

The action came after Thruong Kinh, a Kit Carson Scout for the Marines, was helicoptered into the area with F Company, 2nd Battalion, during the first two days of heavy contact by Marine forces and a North Vietnamese Army unit south of Da Nang in which 540 of the enemy were confirmed killed.

Speaking through an interpreter at a press conference, Kinh told of how he discovered the first NVA hiding in rice paddies about 35 yards away as the Marines advanced towards a treeline.

Kinh shot four of the six in the paddy, killing three. He then raced into the field to kill another three, one of whom was an NVA officer, and captured an

Swiss Chalet Is Willed To Short Timers

An Khe (USA) — Reports from helicopter pilots of the 1st Air Cavalry Division that there is a Swiss chalet at English Army Airfield are not false.

Complete with balcony and upstairs guest room, the chalet is owned by Captain Richard Ehmann, a pilot in the 229th Aviation Battalion. The captain built it from empty ammunition boxes and when he finished the structure he furnished it.

Salvaging more ammunition crates, he built a bar, a bed, a writing desk, a storage closet, a foot locker and a wash basin.

The captain said that while he was building everything he felt like Noah (the one who built the ark). "Many laughed during the construction, but now that it is completed they want to visit."

What is going to happen to the chalet when Captain Ehmann rotates? No one really knows for sure. The captain says, however, that he is going to donate it to all short-timer pilots so that "they can get use to the comforts of home before they leave."

AK47 rifle and a pistol.

Later, Marine Staff Sergeant Anthony Marengo, Ozone Park, N.Y., platoon sergeant, said the scout moved throughout the company area guiding Marines to safety and killing the enemy.

At one point Kinh destroyed an enemy machinegun position with a grenade killing seven NVA and later fought along side a Marine element which encountered and destroyed a platoon.

Kinh, as a former VC, was able to spot and kill the NVA before the Marines were able to see them.

During the day, Kinh is also credited with leading three Marines to safety after the NVA pinned down a group of the headquarters section of the company and the company commander ordered the walking-wounded out to get aid.

For Kinh, Operation Union II was his second action with Marines. Previously he led the Leathernecks into a village in an action that accounted for 16 VC killed and the uncovering of a large cache of rice and equipment.

Kinh said that he spent 20 months as a Viet Cong squad leader after he had been pressed into service when the VC came through his hamlet near An Hoa.

Chief . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

plained. "After changing the tire, we continued on, and some distance down the road, we came upon American Marines carrying mine detectors. A few minutes before, they had detected and destroyed three enemy mines buried in the road. Had we not had the flat tire, we may well have hit those explosives."

He assessed his 12 months in Vietnam as "one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

"After visiting hundreds of towns and hamlets and seeing first-hand the effects of Viet Cong coercion," he said, "I am convinced that our purpose in Vietnam to stop communist aggression is both just and essential. When I saw a three year old Vietnamese boy with both feet missing, the result of an enemy terrorist attack, I realized that deliberate acts of atrocity by the Viet Cong are real and must be stopped."

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

(16 cents Airmail)

(10 cents 1st class)

TO:

Marines Liberate Refugees

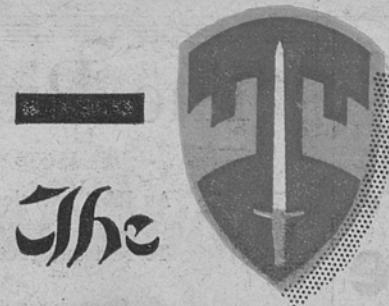
Da Nang (USMC) — Vietnamese government officials and civilians from Quang Tin province gathered at the Fifth Marine Regimental field command post to thank the Marines for liberating and protecting 300 South Vietnamese who wished to leave a Viet Cong controlled area during Operation Union.

The Marines, during the 26-day, multi-battalion operation conducted 30 miles south of Da Nang, protected the 300 refugees during their eight-mile march from their homes to an area where they could be heli-lifted to the safety of refugee villages in the Tam Ky area.

For many that made the helicopter ride to freedom, it also meant a reunion with other members of their families already at the Tam Ky resettlement centers.

The Quang Tin deputy province security chief said to the assembled Marines at the command post, "The people of the province are grateful for the sacrifices of the Marines who gave their lives on Operation Union for the freedom and happiness of our people."

Colonel K.H. Houghton, Fifth Marines' commander replied to the Vietnamese delegation that "when the Hiep Duc area refugees walked out with the Marines, it was a vote of confidence for the government of Vietnam." He pledged his Marines continued support in helping the people of the province fight oppression.



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

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June 21, 1967

ARVN-RD Team Improves Hamlet

Vinh Long (IV Corps) — Nga Ngay Hamlet will never be the same. Eight weeks ago, it was just another line of huts along the Mang Thit River in the heart of the Mekong Delta. Then the soldiers came.

There were 34 of them. They didn't act like ordinary soldiers. They talked to the people, not about war or the Viet Cong, but about improving their hamlet.

They talked about projects—a network of sturdy bridges, sties to keep the pigs from running wild, fish ponds to assure a stable food supply, and a road through the entire multi-kilometer length of the river-hugging hamlet.

And, when the time came to begin work, the soldiers didn't stand aside and give orders. Nor did they take over the job themselves. They worked and sweated along with the people.

The soldiers were part of two units, the 401st Psychological Warfare Company and the 412th Civic Action platoon, both attached to the Vietnamese 9th

Infantry Division.

Until this year, the civic action soldiers served primarily in emergencies, such as floods and fires. But with the shift of emphasis in the Vietnamese Army toward Revolutionary Development (RD), the decision was made to commit the men to long-term projects in individual hamlets.

Nga Ngay Hamlet, in the heart of the government's crucial Mang Thit River/Nicolai Canal development area, was the first hamlet in the (ARVN) 9th Division area to be chosen for the new approach. Now, for

(Continued on Back Page)



RICE CACHE—Vietnamese workers load rice, captured by elements of the 1st Cav. during an operation, so it can be taken by helicopter to District Headquarters for distribution.

(USA Photo)

Sky Troopers Cut VC's Rice Supply

Bong Son Plain (USA)—The problem faced by members of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade in the rice-rich Bong Son Plain was how to keep the rice harvest out of Viet Cong hands during harvest time.

Cooperation between the Vietnamese people and the 1st Brigade soldiers has solved part of the problem. In a program set up by the 1st Brigade's civil affairs team, the villagers of Tam Quan and Gia Huu were issued special passes by the air cavalrymen; now when they go into the fields to harvest the rice, they won't be detained by the sky troopers operating in the area. The villagers were allowed certain times to be in and out of the harvest area so that they could get the rice back into the villages before dark.

Representatives from the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang helped distribute the gifts. On the table were CARE packages donated to the Soldiers' Families' Center of the 5th Regiment, Infantry in Phuoc Tuong village.

Members of MAG (Marine Aircraft Group) 11, the 1st Marine Air Wing and a representative from the Catholic Relief Service, also participated in the gift giving ceremonies.

After the gifts, containing soap, clothing, toys and other useful items, were distributed, food was issued to the widows. Headquarters company commander, Captain Tran Dai Si, had this to say about the ceremony:

"The gift-giving was a complete success. This could be easily detected by the smiling faces and complimentary comments of the people."

"Because the gifts were presented by Americans to the widows, the occasion was a more joyous one for them and an important step in our program of Civic Action," added Si.

Many tons of rice that the VC

planned to take as "taxes" were moved safely into the government-controlled villages.

As the rice harvest goes on, American soldiers in the area are searching for caches as well as Viet Cong. When a large cache is found, a report goes back to the civil affairs team and, together with a group of VC detainees, they pick up the captured rice and return it to the Vietnamese people.

With this two-pronged attack on the VC rice resources, the flow of rice to enemy hiding places in the mountains has been sharply curtailed.

Certainly the Viet Cong are still getting some rice from the Bong Son Plain, but if the old adage "an army travels on its stomach" is true, then the VC should be making fewer and shorter trips in the months to come.

VNAF Lt Gets DFC

ed by enemy ground fire."

The lieutenant quickly took control of the aircraft from the rear seat by reaching over the unconscious pilot's shoulder and, supporting him with one hand, flew the aircraft some 30 miles to Ban Me Thuot with the other.

"The American pilot recovered slightly from the initial shock of his wounds, and with some assistance was able to land the aircraft safely," said the lieutenant.



THANK YOU CARE—Peering through a barbed wire, a small girl displays her gift from CARE.

Editorial The U.S. Soldier Is A Special Individual

Washington (AD)—As we observe our Army's birthday this month, certain thoughts come to mind:

We of today's Army are here for but one purpose—and that purpose is to guard our Nation. This is not an easy task. Its performance requires the employment of a very special individual. To qualify you need no experience, but you must possess the special qualities of courage and dedication, of high moral convictions, and above all, a strong sense of pride in your country.

You must give of yourself willingly, for this is being a soldier. The soldier of today has many problems, but he should realize the importance of his mission and place it above all else. He should be proud of himself—proud to be a soldier.

We are all subject to decisions during our lives in determining the factors which will guide our moves. We must never let our personal wants interfere in the final accomplishment of the mission. True soldiers are unique in that they must possess the desire and determination to put their responsibilities as members of the Armed Forces above all else.

As we all know, it is not an easy thing to do, but we must separate the difference between what we would like to and what we are required to do.

To emphasize your responsibility as a soldier, I feel I need only quote the motto of one of our fine fighting divisions—"No Mission Too Difficult, No Sacrifices Too Great, Duty First."

William O. Wooldridge
Sergeant Major of the Army

Integration of CORDS

Saigon (MACV)—General W. C. Westmoreland, Commander MACV, was given full control of previously civilian programs in the Revolutionary Development effort on May 11.

Ambassador Robert W. Komer was appointed deputy to General Westmoreland for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), effective May 28.

The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for CORDS has recently been created by MACV. The new staff agency will assume all activities and functions of the former Office of Civil Operations (OCO) and the MACV Directorate for Revolutionary Development Support.

DOD Establishes New Casualty Data System

Washington (AFNB)—The Department of Defense has established a computerized casualty data system to maintain historical-type information on deaths from both hostile and nonhostile causes of U.S. military personnel in Southeast Asia.

Lists are arranged by state and based on "the home-of-record" listed by the service member at the time of his last entry into active duty. DoD officials said this should not be

confused with the emergency address of next-of-kin used in daily news releases of casualty names.

Defense officials said that in many instances this emergency address is a temporary address where dependents relocate, or is the last duty station of the serviceman prior to his assignment to Southeast Asia. It is for this reason the home of record is used for the state lists under the new system.

FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSEVER

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Embassy List Will Overrule

Saigon (MACV)—A Command Information pamphlet distributed in April listing Vietnamese commemorative dates and national holidays has caused questions about holiday time off for Vietnamese employees of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The pamphlet states in a footnote that the holidays shown are "according to the most recent government decrees." However, the holidays which are observed by civilians of MACV are those contained in an annual list published by the U.S. Embassy.

In some aspects the lists differ. MACV personnel officials state that the list provided by the Embassy is binding on MACV. So, even though a date contained in CI Pamphlet 10-67 is shown as being observed as a holiday, if that date is not on the Embassy list, civilians are not entitled to the time off.

Quarantine Guarantee In Penang

Saigon (MACV)—Penang health officials have on record 19 cases of R&R visitors who arrived with outdated cholera shots since April. Though officials have been lenient up to now, continued violations are now causing "grave concern," according to the Embassy.

Cholera immunizations must have been administered at least six days prior to arrival in Penang, and may not be more than six months old.

To avoid the possibility of spending five days and nights in quarantine all personnel are advised to check their own shot records well in advance when planning R&R. Remember, cholera shots must be administered at least six days before departure.

Retirement Increases

Washington (AD)—The Department of the Army reports that in recent months the number of applications from individuals in grades E-7 through E-9 requesting retirement in the next lower grade has increased. Commanders should advise individuals that they may not retire in a grade lower than that in which serving and they may not be reduced for the purpose of retiring in a lower grade. Exceptions are outlined in paragraph 10g, C 6, Army 635-230.

Bees Attack

Phu Bai (USMC)—A 3rd Marine Division Reconnaissance patrol came upon a new type of enemy north of Hue, when the ten-man patrol was wounded by a swarm of bees.

"Just as everyone was in the middle of their meal, the bees hit us," said Corporal Nick Estavillo, Brooklyn. The Marines jumped up swinging, trying to avoid the stingers.

Corporal Estavillo, a radio-man for the patrol, called in a spot report to a relay team at the 4th Marine Regiment headquarters.

Today, there is a new Korea.

The Piaster Poet

An R&R traveler was set,
To rest and recuperate with his pet.

Once he got in the line,
He was shocked to find,

All the prizes they said he would get.

A chauffeur with a Mercedes Benz,

Drove him around town—no expense.

A stewardess tall,
And he had a ball,

As they painted the town like old friendz.

He got tailor-made suits from Hong Kong,

VIP treatment, a dance and a song.

Gift certificates, steak,

A free suite and a cake,

For games he played _____ and ping pong.

After spending his R&R so,

He got rid of frustrations—no dough.

So to rest from his rest

At the site he loved best

In Bangkok he spent five days more.

What for, you may ask, did this trooper,

Get a free R&R and the loot?

Forn with luck like a champ,

When he walked up the ramp,

As the 250,000th American serviceman to go

On out of country R&R this fiscal year (Whew).

United Nations Command To Guarantee Security

Washington (AD)—Seventeen years ago this month, the Republic of Korea was attacked by communist North Korea. In a bloody three-year war that brought into being the United Nations Command in Korea, the aggressor was repelled and a military armistice brought an end to the fighting.

A major element of the United Nations Command was the Eighth United States Army, which to this day remains in Korea to help guarantee the security of the Republic and the Demilitarized Zone set up by the armistice.

The United States can be proud of the dedicated Americans who served here in the past and of those who serve here now to help insure that the works of democracy can continue in this land.

General C.H. Bonesteel, III
Commanding General,
Eighth U.S. Army
Commander-in-Chief,
United Nations Command
Commander, U.S. Forces,
Korea.

Blind Boy Maneuvers Easily With Help of Audible Tones

Saigon (USA)—In a small room at the Saigon School for Blind Boys, a Vietnamese boy stood cautiously in the darkness of the blind as strange hands inserted a small earphone into his ear. Then an unfamiliar object was put in the palm of his hand. The youngster listened intently.

Nine year old Le Quang Manh had been told earlier that this strange device would help him sense objects in his path. The desire for this experience was apparent as his eager hands carefully manipulated the small plastic object.

The man who said, "it will help you," stood nearby—Air Force Second Lieutenant Forrest M. Mims, Houston, who devotes his off-duty time to helping the blind with a device he has invented. The lieutenant's invention produces an audible

tone received through an earphone, by use of an invisible infra-red light and a photo diode and amplifier, to detect objects encountered in the path of the instrument.

The youngster moved cautiously about the room with the soft-spoken encouragement of the 22 year old lieutenant. Within ten minutes, the boy was

moving freely throughout the small room, sidestepping the lieutenant, chairs and tables—things in his path that he had been unable to sense before.

The lieutenant, a photo interpreter with the 13th Technical Reconnaissance Squadron, Tan Son Nhut, also worked with seven year old Pham Duy Thao that day.

"The boys' response was wonderful even though instructions had to be translated in Vietnamese through Phan Van Suong, the school director," said Lieutenant Mims.

"I've done all that's possible with building the basic device. Now, aid for research and production of more seeing aids is needed to give blind people the chance to use the aid."

Designed and handmade entirely by Lieutenant Mims, the seeing aid was completed in March 1966 and has been exhibited before many educators, doctors, engineers and students. It proved highly successful during tests with the blind in the United States.

Lieutenant Mims, a graduate of Texas A & M, is a self-taught inventor. The seeing aid is only one of the lieutenant's projects.

Lieutenant Mims sparkles



SEEING DEVICE—Lieutenant Mims, center, explains the use of a seeing-aid device to Le Quang Manh, with Vietnamese translator Phan Van Suong, school director, looking on. (USAF Photo)

The biggest boosters are the blind themselves.

"It's a heartwarming experience to bring new hope to them and my goal is to do everything I can to help the Vietnamese."

Howdy, Pardner Says Interpreter

Oasis (USA)—"Good ol' Southern hospitality" reached to South Vietnam's Central Highlands when a 10-gallon Texas cowboy hat arrived, hand carried, all the way from Dallas.

After meeting his wife in Hawaii, Specialist 4 Bobby Sexton, Arlington, Tex., a communications specialist with the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry ordered the size 6½ Stetson for his Vietnamese friend Diep Nam, an interpreter with the division's 2nd Brigade.

Donning his new 10-gallon Stetson, the Vietnamese interpreter beamed with joy as he thanked his comrade in Vietnam. "Just a little Texas southern hospitality, that's all," replied Specialist Sexton.

Chu Lai (USMC)—During Operation Happy Dragon, the crying of a Vietnamese baby heard by Korean Marines led them to uncover and destroy a massive Viet Cong tunnel complex.

Captain Kang Deal Shin, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Republic of Korea (ROK) Marine Brigade, had set his men up in a perimeter around hedges near a Vietnamese village. Suddenly they heard the cry of a baby coming from a nearby hedge. A Korean sergeant moved in the direction of the cry but it had stopped. He listened carefully. There was another sob and he dug through the bush.

The cave opening was well concealed by brush and undoubtedly would have not been found without the baby's cry.

They found a mother with her new-born baby boy. She had hidden in the cave days earlier and given birth to the child while hiding from the Viet Cong.

The ROK Marines found a series of caves and tunnels running under the hedges, with each containing men, women and children.

After the Koreans separated the men from the rest, Vietnamese interpreters were brought in by a U.S. Marine helicopter from the brigade headquarters to find out why the civilians were still in the area. The Koreans had dropped warning leaflets telling them to leave the area three days before the operation started.

The Vietnamese interrogators picked men from the group who seemed likely VC, and questioned them individually. One admitted to being a Viet Cong and said that he had gotten trapped in the area while on the way to rejoin his unit in the mountain.

He was questioned about the



CROSS OF GALLANTRY—U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Henry C. Mustin, Chief Staff Officer to Commander Delta Patrol Group receives congratulations from Vietnamese Navy Commander Nguyen Than Chau, after receiving the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. (USN Photo)

nized techniques enables the Recon Platoon to blend right in with the Cav unit and work as a team."

When the terrain becomes too difficult for the Armored Personnel Carriers (APC's) to maneuver, the Recon Platoon dismounts and forges through mud and mangroves to complete the mission.

The ARVN squadron operates 15 APC's with nine .50 caliber machine guns and thirty .30 caliber machine guns mounted on the tracks.

First Lieutenant William Brantley, Jackson, Miss., leader of the Recon Platoon, said, "The tremendous firepower the Cav can provide has gotten us out of several tight spots."

Specialist 4 Edward Vinson, Oklahoma City, a radio-telephone operator with the Recon Platoon, said, "The men of the 2nd Squadron are real good soldiers. They always share whatever they have with us. They'll find us all the coconuts we want, and whenever we stop and the ARVN's cook roast duck and rice, we're invited to join them."

"Specialized training in mechan-

US/ARVN Forces Successful in Delta

Rach Kien (USA)—A platoon of the US Army's 9th Infantry Division and a squadron of armored cavalry from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) have found they make such a successful fighting team that they have joined forces in 18 separate Delta operations.

The 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry's Reconnaissance Platoon, teamed up with the 2nd Squadron of the 10th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ARVN) to make a fast and dangerous pursuit unit fighting in the Rach Kien district of Long An province.

The pair originally teamed up for just one operation, but it worked so well that almost everything there's an operation, whether it's ARVN or U.S., we work together," said Captain James Lyle, Castine, Me., the senior MACV advisor for the squadron.

"You couldn't ask for a finer team in this area than a Recon Platoon and the Cav unit," the assistant operations officer of the 3rd Battalion, Captain Paul Barnes, Albuquerque, said.

"The men of the 2nd Squadron are real good soldiers. They always share whatever they have with us. They'll find us all the coconuts we want, and whenever we stop and the ARVN's cook roast duck and rice, we're invited to join them."



FLOATING BARRACKS—Major J. W. Oliver (left), Collinsville, Ala., points out to Lieutenant R. R. Boaman, Bakersfield, Calif., how the series of 55-gallon drums will float the barracks. (USA Photo)

Wet-Weather Camp To Float on Drums

My An (USA) — A new concept called a "floating camp" is being tested at the U.S. Army Special Forces Camp, My An, in the IV Corps Tactical Zone of the Delta 50 miles southwest of Saigon.

Major James W. Oliver, Collinsville, Ala., one of the staff engineers, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, considers that this camp may revise all the theories of the U.S. Army Engineers regarding how a wet-weather camp should be constructed.

The camp uses some of the principles first observed in Holland: an earthen wall called a berm is constructed completely around the camp. For defensive purposes, interspersed along this berm are several elevated machine-gun pillbox bunkers, with all-around and overhead protection provided by layers of sandbags. These pillboxes and fighting positions are located above the high water level.

An inner ring of pillboxes is situated so that defenders can fire over the outer wall. This gives concentric defense to the camp, for the inner wall can be used as a final protective line should the enemy penetrate the outer wall. These fighting positions are also located well above the high water level.

The homes of 160 Vietnamese families had been destroyed in the Catholic Refugee village of Phuoc Quang.

The Vietnamese accomplished much of the re-building by using methods taught them by the Seabees in the "self-help" project. In five weeks, 76 duplex units were completed.

Vietnamese Smiles at Sounds

Saigon (USAF) — An Vinh Phan, a 23-year-old Vietnamese, has been unable to hear or speak since he was two years old. When two Air Force sergeants presented him a gift, his broad grin and the excitement in his hands perhaps signaled the start of a new life.

Chief Master Sergeant George F. O'Bryant and Senior Master Sergeant James R. McBurnett, San Antonio, changed Phan's world of no sounds by getting him a hearing aid from the United States.

The device was donated by a hearing aid corporation in Chicago after the sergeants wrote them of Phan's plight. Phan also received 24 extra batteries and spare parts for the hearing aid.

"We had intended to buy the hearing aid for Mr. Phan," said Sergeant McBurnett. "The corporation gave it to him as a gesture of friendship between the Vietnamese and American people."

"When Mr. Phan broke out in a big smile after turning on the

hearing aid, we knew he could hear. He hears sounds well and in time should be able to understand words. It will require some practice," the sergeant concluded.

Sharing the same living quarters in the same housing area as Phan, the Air Force men carry on a conversation through sign language and note-writing.

"The best is yet to come," the sergeants said. "It will be great to have Mr. Phan able to understand everything we say."

(USN Photo)

Had Faith in Charlie

Viet Cong Murder A Priest But His Work Will Remain

Phu Bai (USMC) — The Viet Cong came in force to the village of Phong Dien last week to murder the Catholic pastor.

During the early morning darkness they stole into the village and surrounded his church. They told him to open his door and come outside, and when he refused, they poured high explosive rocket rounds through the walls of his rectory.

Father Matthieu fell, wounded by a piece of shrapnel. As the VC broke into the rectory, friendly mortar fire drove them off. The wounded priest crawled almost a hundred meters to the nun's quarters, where a reactionary force of Marines found him.

He was given first aid treatment and flown by Marine helicopter to the medical station at Phu Bai. There, 39-year-old Father Matthieu, Vietnamese Catholic Priest, died of his wounds.

When he arrived at Phong Dien three years ago, it was just a cluster of weather-beaten shacks. From this meager beginning, Father Matthieu developed the refugee camp into a model village embodying many of the characteristics of a large city.

Together with the villagers, he laid out the streets of houses in blocks and lined the blocks with cypress and eucalyptus trees among the sharply defined intersections of sandy roads.

The Father acquired material and funds for the refugee center through the Vietnamese government, through benefactors in the United States, and from his friends in the Fourth Marine Regiment, based nearby.

He organized the village and set up local industries to help the many, who had fled Viet Cong controlled areas, earn a living and learn a new trade.

The women were taught to sew and weave hats for market, a barber shop was built where older men could earn a wage and the younger men could learn the business, a bicycle repair shop was opened for business, and he organized a laundry service between the villagers and the nearby Marines.

Father Matthieu believed that the future of his country ultimately rested in the hands of the children, and he would spare nothing to insure their education. Opening a nursery school and a primary school, he had plans for a future high school.

When the Fourth Marine Regiment moved into the area in February, Father Matthieu became a popular and a familiar figure around the command post. He obtained medicine and supplies for his village from the regimental field hospital and arranged weekly visits to the village by Navy surgeon Ted Gross, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

The Fourth Marine Regiment helped Father Matthieu build the schools, the barbershop, and the laundry business. They donated tin, concrete, and other building material to the village.

(Story and Photos by SFC A. Wakefield, USA
Staff Writer and Photographer)

Da Nang (USN) — A small boy yelled, "Bacsi!"

Scores of children came running, elderly women came running and several men approached with caution.

Bacsi is the Vietnamese word for doctor and in this case the shout was directed at Hospitalman Administrative Specialist Joseph Coy, Pittsburgh, Pa. Acting as a guide and also to assist Specialist Coy was Village Action Team (VAT) 3 leader, Machinist Mate First Class Ernest Butler, Pomona, Calif.

Petty Officer Butler and the other members of VAT 3, Airman Mike Wolford and Fireman Steve Rosen, are in the village to give advice and to provide materials for new houses.

VAT 3 is assigned to the civic action department at the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang, while hospitalman Coy is employed by Office of Civil Operations (OCO). He volunteered his spare time to the Medical Civic

Program (MEDCAP) in the village of Binh Thuan.

"Coy's MEDCAP proved to be an immediate success and a tremendous relief for us, because VAT 3 is here to build and advise. We seldom have time or medical supplies to treat the sick," said Petty Officer Butler.

Almost 75 per cent of the people have "Tropical Ulcers" which are mosquito bites that have become infected through scratching.

"If the people would refrain from irritating the bites, there would certainly be a drastic decrease in the disease," remarked Specialist Coy.

"The biggest problem here is lack of cleanliness. The Vietnamese are beginning to realize this and they are doing something about it with our help. We are providing 30 gallon drums for trash disposals. We also issue them soap and encourage them to use it," Petty Officer Butler said.

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The Vietnamese accomplished much of the re-building by using methods taught them by the Seabees in the "self-help" project. In five weeks, 76 duplex units were completed.

(USN Photo)

Da Nang (USN) — Vietnamese civilians and Seabees of the U.S. Navy's Mobile Construction Battalion-58's "D" Company worked together to re-build a village that was destroyed by fire.

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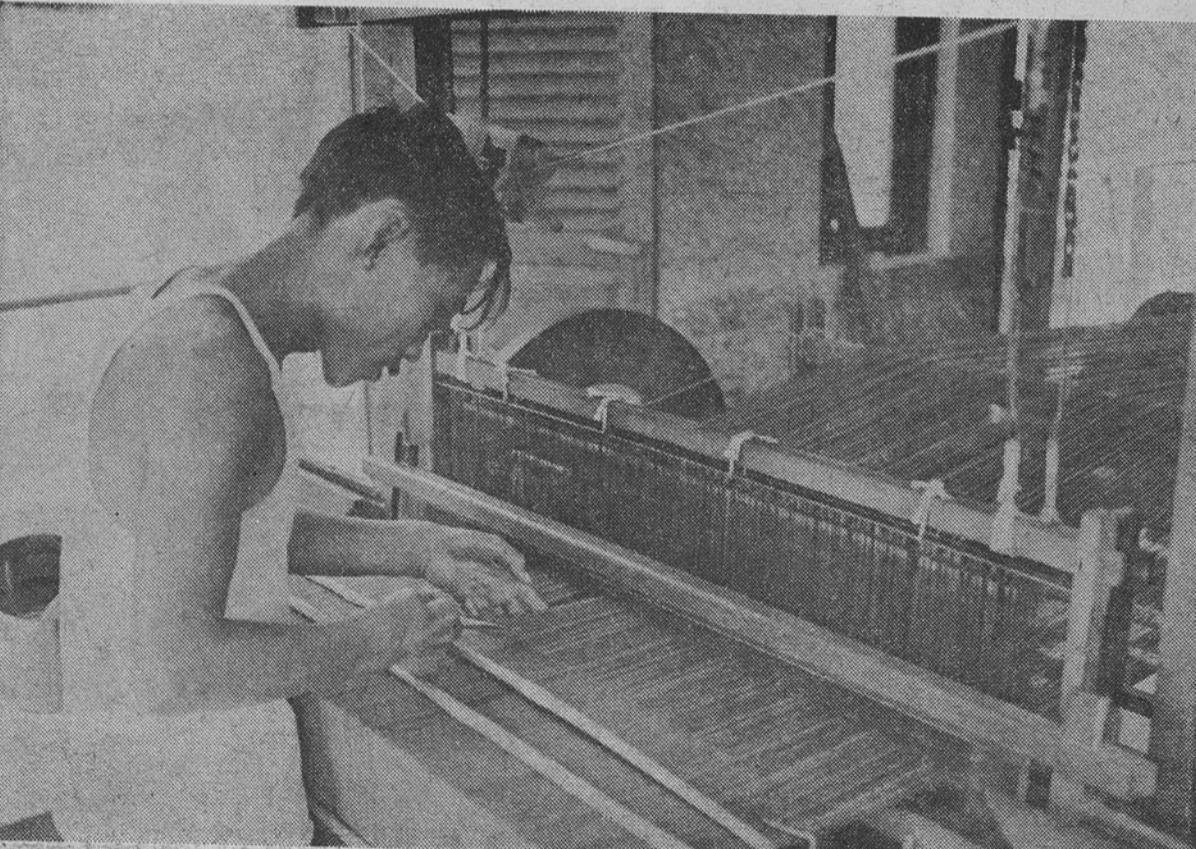
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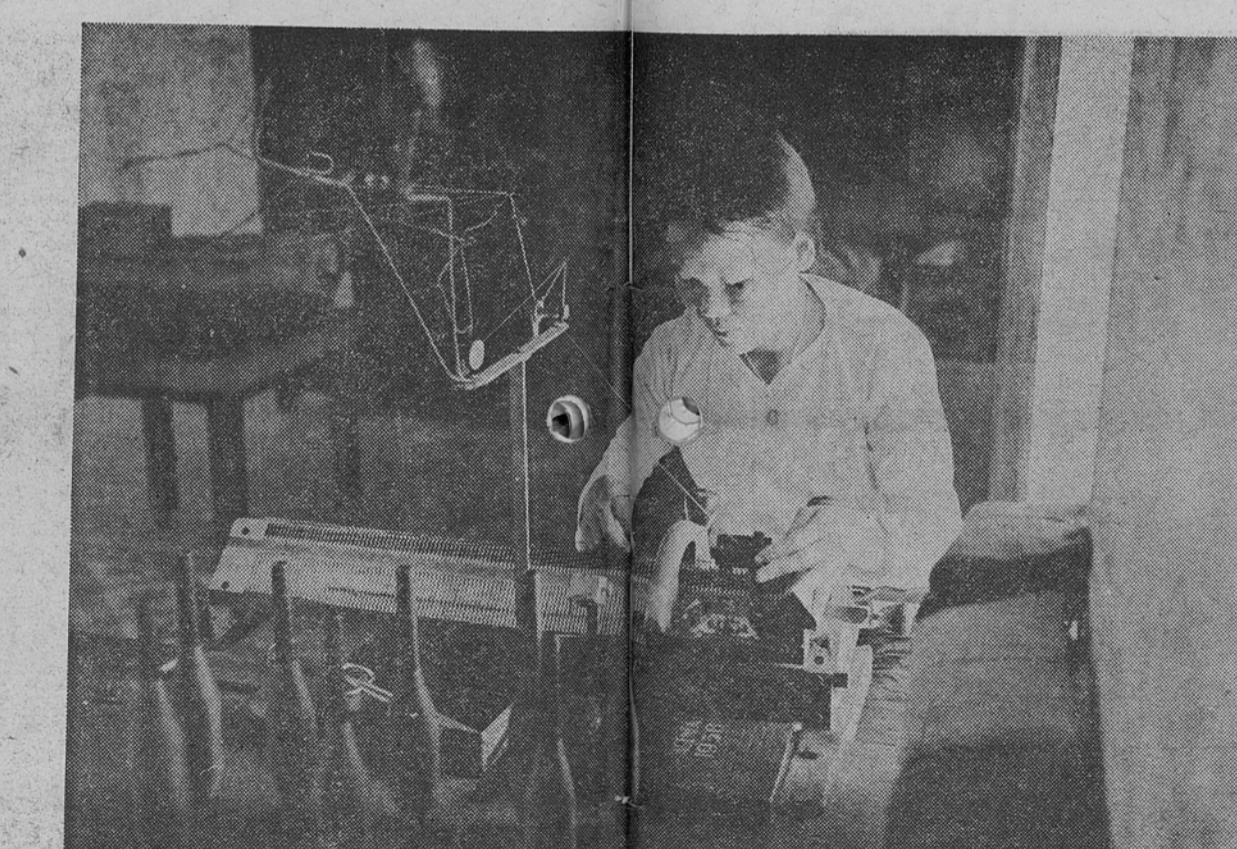
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WEAVER—Utilizing thread shipped from churches in France, bolts of beautiful cloth are produced by the careful weavers.



BUSY HANDS—A modern knitting machine, under the hands of a patient, turns out handsome knitted pieces.



LAB WORK—Sister Marie Ancella, a native of northern France, checks a skin specimen in the leprosarium's laboratory.

Home for Lepers

Qui Hoa—Seaside Sanctuary

Qui Nhon (MACV)—Situated two miles south of Qui Nhon on a sparkling expanse of South China Sea beach, the Qui Hoa Leprosarium stands in peaceful contrast with the rest of strife-torn Vietnam.

Upon entering the grounds of the institution, the first impression is that of immaculately kept grounds and buildings. Some of these buildings housing the 900 lepers were built by funds donated by various American units in the area of Qui Nhon. Everything is spotlessly clean, neat and colorful with the multi-hued pastels of the buildings.

Operation funds for the leprosarium stem from world-wide donations. It costs over 20 million piasters to run this institution for a year. The bulk of the funds are used to purchase basic materials which are used in daily operations. All building, construction and maintenance is done by the

Various shops manned by skilled patients produce everything from textiles, knit goods, tailored clothing and wrought-work to the brilliantly colored floor tiles and well-made furniture.

The leprosarium had a modest beginning in 1929, when a missionary priest, Pierre Maheu, assisted by Doctor Lemoine and his sisters, began caring for about 150 lepers. At that time there were no roads in the area and travel was chiefly by water.

In 1932, following the departure of Pierre Maheu, Franciscan Sisters arrived to continue the good work. It was in the following year that the colony suffered a setback when a typhoon destroyed the hospital, dispensary and most of the homes.

The year 1939 brought the beginning of the Japanese occupation, and for the next six years the Franciscan Sisters valiantly carried on their humanitarian work under the hard-ships of military rule.

In 1945, following the war's end and the resulting coup d'état, all sisters of foreign nationality were forced to leave Vietnam. The operation of the leprosarium became the responsibility of a Vietnamese priest and four Vietnamese sisters who elected to remain. One of the sisters is still there.

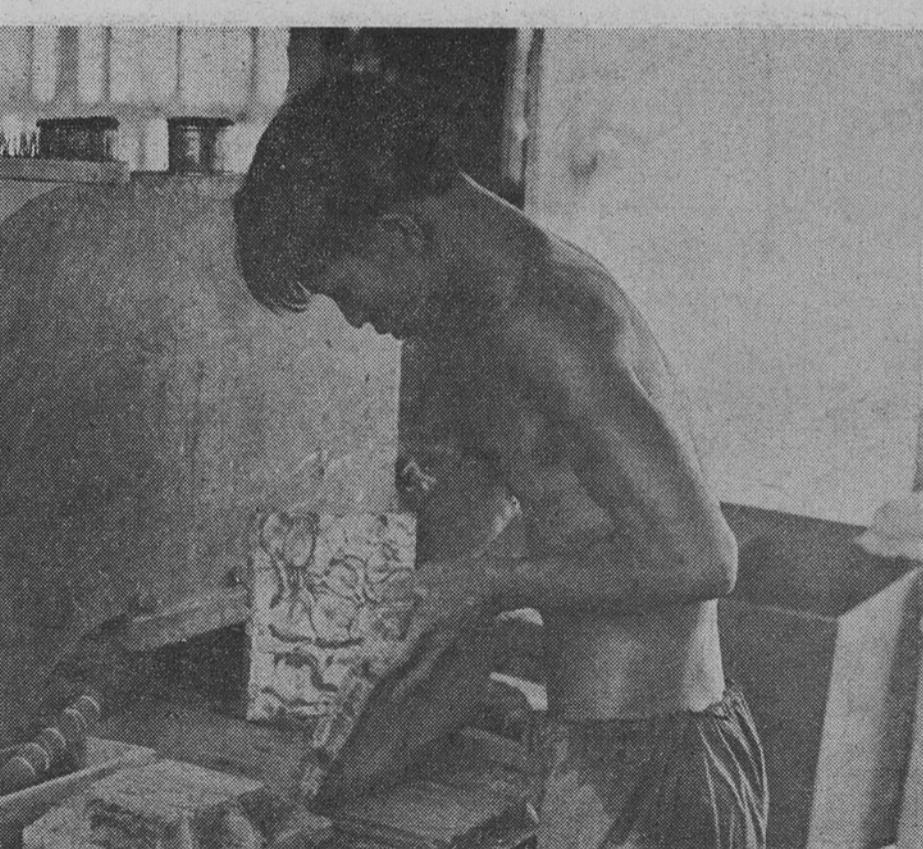
The 6th of July 1955, ten years later, was a long awaited day, as the foreign-born Franciscan Sisters were allowed to return to Vietnam.

The patients at Qui Hoa are primarily Vietnamese, with a few Montagnards, Chinese, Cambodians and Indians among them. All nationalities, creeds, and colors are welcome in this quiet spot along Vietnam's coast. In its 250 spotless cottages families live, work and play together. And hordes of laughing children, playing in the carefully raked-streets or on the gleaming beaches, make this seem like any peaceful community.

As you wander the shady streets, there are plaques on many of the houses denoting individuals, organizations and units throughout the world which have made construction of the buildings possible through their donations of money and materials. One such plaque reads: "In memory of Lieutenant Joseph D. Pellegrino, who died in action 17 May 1966, 5th Special Forces Group Airborne."

Needs of the patients range from building materials to food and clothing. A number of units in the Qui Nhon area, such as members of the ROK Capital Division and the U.S. Army Support Command, Qui Nhon, are regular supporters of the institution.

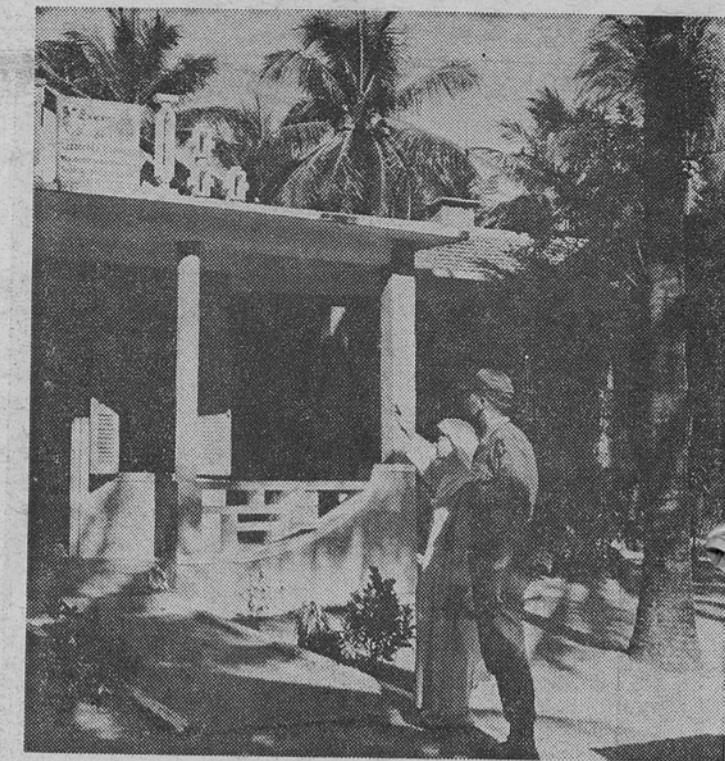
Story and Photos by
SFC A. Wakefield, USA
Staff Writer-Photographer



CAREFUL—One of the leprosarium's skilled tile makers slips a brilliantly patterned tile out of the mold.



SEWING AND MENDING—The institution's tailor shop is a scene of busy activity in the late afternoon.



TOUR—Sister Marie Ancella points out one of the many plaques to Specialist 4 Albert Wallis, 297th Transportation Company.



SOLITUDE—A sister prays in the quiet solitude of the colony's chapel.

The World As Its Drop Zone

Cam Ranh Bay (USA) — With rear cargo doors open, an Air Force C-130 swoops low over a jungle clearing. The pilot releases an extraction parachute and the cargo load is pulled from the aircraft's belly.

As the plane turns and heads



PACKING—Specialist 4 Fred Bolt, Grandview, Wash., goes on a personnel chute. The company also packs extraction chutes which are used to pull loads from aircraft and cargo chutes.



AIR FORCE—The last load of diesel fuel is loaded into a waiting Air Force C-130. The unit works closely with the Air Force to resupply troops in remote areas of Vietnam.

for home at Cam Ranh Bay, the load of ammunition and supplies drift down to combat troops waiting on the ground.

The U.S. Army's 109th Quartermaster Company (Air Delivery) and the U.S. Air Force have again done their job as

combat aerial delivery specialists. Commanded by Major Christopher Croddy, Dunedin, Fla., the 109th is the only air delivery unit of its type in Vietnam. It rigs most of the supplies and equipment air-dropped in the Republic.

"If the Air Force will fly it, we'll rig and drop it," boasted Captain Charles Ulsh, Cadiz, Ky., aerial delivery officer. Most items delivered are ammunition and equipment. Water, rations and petroleum products are also included in many of their drops.

"We work according to demand," stressed Captain Ulsh, "But we also maintain supplies on standby—rigged and ready to go at all times."

"This is a joint operation and our relations with the Air Force are excellent," he added.

The effectiveness of this form of aerial re-supply was vividly demonstrated when the 109th dropped more than 500 tons of supplies during the opening phase of "Operation Junction City."

The aerial deliveryman's job doesn't end when the supplies leave the plane. Following the load to the ground — often in the midst of the action — are two men of the unit. They recover the unit's rigging and parachutes.

The 109th, with its 383rd Quartermaster Detachment (Air Delivery) and the supporting 623d Air Equipment Repair and Depot Company, finds little free time between drops.

The air delivery units pack all cargo extraction chutes used to pull the loads out of the aircraft. They also pack personnel and cargo chutes for the Air Force, Army aviation units and Special Forces.

The 623d keeps busy with maintenance and storage of rigging and parachutes. All are reconditioned after every drop to insure proper working condition.

"The World is Our Drop Zone," is the motto of the 109th. With the help of the Air Force, the unit is ready and able to drop anything, at any time, anywhere in Vietnam.



SPECIAL DELIVERY—Tons of 105mm Howitzer ammunition drift to the ground for the 199th Light Infantry (Red Catcher) Brigade. The air drop was made at Cat Lai, seven miles northeast of Saigon.

Story and Photos by
Sp4 Jack Germeau, USA



INSTANT SUPPLIES—Men of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade unhook parachutes from bundles of 105mm Howitzer ammunition in a Delta rice paddy. The ammo was trucked directly to the waiting 105s and used to support ground operations.

Destruction Committee Burns \$\$\$

Saigon (USA) — Captain Arthur L. Junkins, Olex, Va., has confirmed what many have long suspected: Watching your money go up in smoke is no fun.

As commanding officer of U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command's 34th Finance Detachment in Saigon, Captain Junkins has supervised the burning of some \$7 million of worn and unusable military payment certificates (MPC) during the last few months.

"One of our missions," he says, "is to collect mutilated or unseizable MPC from finance units throughout Vietnam. These notes are then destroyed and replaced with new currency."

To witness the burning of the money, which takes place as often as three times monthly, a committee of U.S. officers, representing all of the armed services, is convened by MACV.

"This Destruction Committee is the only one in Vietnam for burning money," Captain Junkins points out. "Seven officers are appointed at one time, and they serve for a period of three to four months."

In a recent month, \$2 million in unusable MPC was destroyed under the committee's supervision. The bills are burned in a large incinerator, after which

Captain Junkins regards the



ADDING MORE FUEL—Specialist 4 James E. Musser, Caldwell, Idaho, helps the MACV Destruction Committee burn unusable MPC.

(USA Photo)

the ashes are carefully sifted to make certain that nothing remains. Finally, the furnace itself is searched before the Destruction Committee's members go back to their normal duties.

Captain Junkins regards the

money-burning as a routine part of his duties. "It's no fun at all," he says. "Actually, it's a hot and dirty job which lasts all day. Those ashes flying around used to be thousands of dollars, but when you're hot and sweaty,

there's not much thrill in it."

At least one unnamed soldier stationed in Saigon agrees: "Big deal," he says. "I burn up my paycheck all by myself every month, and I don't even get a committee to help me."

What's In A Name? It's Identification

Da Nang (USMC) — Marines of Combined Action Platoon (CAP) D-1, in the village of Nui Kim Son near Da Nang, have "adopted" a group of Vietnamese boys.

Most of the boys, ages 9 to 15, are from homes where one or

both of the parents are dead and there are many brothers and sisters.

During the night the boys live with the villagers, returning to the CAP unit in the morning for breakfast.

"They have found mines, booby-traps and loose ammunition on various trails around Nui Kim Son which were placed by Viet Cong," said Sergeant James W. Fletcher, Pensacola, Fla., platoon leader. "They feel that they're part of the platoon and we try to treat them as such," he said.

The Marines have a little difficulty pronouncing some of the Vietnamese names, but they have tagged most of the boys with American names. The boys usually come to CAP wearing old caps which Marines have lost or discarded. The name on the hat is given to the boy.

So around CAP D-1, there are Vietnamese boys named Jackson, Thompson, or Smith. One boy without a hat got his moniker from the T-shirt he wore — Batman.

The purpose of the festivals is to win the confidence of the people. If the local military commander can do this, he will gain a valuable source of information about the Viet Cong activity in that area in the days to come.

Turning out for the rare occasion, the people of Luong Hoa were given medical treatment by a medical civic action team, composed of American and Vietnamese medical specialists. The team treated 200 patients the first day.

In addition, the people were entertained by a culture team consisting of a combo and dancers, while American and Vietnamese military and civilian organizations working in the area distributed food and clothing to the villagers.



WAITING—Patience and hope reflect in this old woman's face as she waits for her grandson to be treated during a recent MEDCAP. The 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division worked with their ARVN neighbors near Xuan Loc.

(USA Photo)

Wants the Air Force

You Should See the Short Skirts!

Chu Lai (USN) — "The girls keep getting better looking (WOW!) in the U.S. and their skirts keep getting shorter and shorter," wrote one Hampton, Fla., schoolboy to a Navy man in Chu Lai.

Nearly 40 eight-to-10-year-olds in the small school sat down one afternoon, took notebook paper and wrote letters to the sailor—Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 71, based on the sands of Chu Lai, South Vietnam.

Their teacher, Bill Cliett, has a younger brother with the Seabees who wrote and told of the life the Navy builders were having in the hot sun and dust. Their 40 letters in response reveal their various thoughts and concern for the U.S. servicemen in Vietnam.

Other comments in the 40 letters read: "You should be here because the girls' dresses are getting shorter . . . You know, the more I think about sailors, the more I want to join the Air Force . . . I bet you guys need some air-conditioning to cool you off."

"When I get old enough I might come help you fight, but I am only ten years old . . . We work pretty hard in school but I know you are working eight times harder."

"If I had a big enough envelop about the whole thing."

Do Your Share

Doing your share of training? On-the-job training is a program that calls for personal responsibility on the part of both supervisors and trainees alike. Been doing your studying lately?

Hoi Chanh Points Out VC Mines

Di An (USA) — A 16-year-old Hoi Chanh (Chieu Hoi returnee) uncovered Viet Cong tunnels, bunkers, intelligence documents, and booby traps for troops of the 1st Infantry Division on a search operation around the Division's base camp at Di An.

Elements of two battalions, the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, sealed off the village of Tan Hiep, two miles north of the base camp. Afterwards, a search force of 60 members of a Vietnamese provincial reconnaissance unit moved in, searching house-to-house for Viet Cong.

As the search progressed, the former VC led American troops through the fields, uncovering tunnel complexes, bunkers, and caches of documents. The papers discovered ranged from writing tablets to propaganda leaflets telling U.S. soldiers to give up.

The 16-year-old Hoi Chanh, a Viet Cong since he was 12, continuously aided the American troops throughout the operation. He pointed out and disarmed a command-detected 105mm artillery round planted as a mine, like the one which had killed an American officer and wounded two others in the same village two weeks earlier.

While the troops searched, other Hoi Chanh were circulating among the villagers, explaining the improvements in their living conditions since leaving the VC. They passed out information about the Chieu Hoi program and advised the people to urge their friends and relatives to desert the Viet Cong.

During the searching and probing of the village, the people left their homes, but the U.S. forces tried to compensate them for this temporary hardship. The division band entertained the villagers with music while a medical civic action team provided medical care and a free lunch.

Some of the people in the village didn't care for the American-style food, but the Army cooks didn't attempt to produce Vietnamese dishes. Lieutenant Colonel Jack Hughes, Alexandria, Va., brigade executive officer, explained, "We would rather give them American food and have them say they don't like it, than insult them by offering native food incorrectly prepared."

Recruiting Duty

Washington (AFNB) — A new reenlistment option is offered to qualified WACs in E-5 and E-6 pay grades, for recruiting duty assignment. Details are in DA Msg 808941, which modifies AR 601-275 and AR 601-210.



SUPPORT YOUR RED CROSS

VC Escape Route Now Under Control

Chu Lai (USA) — The Song Tra Bong River, with its tributaries snaking inland and serving as a convenient highway for sampans and fishing junks from the South China Sea, is no longer under the control of the Viet Cong.

Until recently the river was a natural escape and supply route for the Viet Cong, who moved freely up and down the waters in fishermen's grab. At least, it was an escape route before the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry of the 196th Light Infantry Bdg. moved into the area.

With the aid of district, village and hamlet authorities in Quang Ngai Province, the battalion and the 196th Brigade's Military Police platoon are establishing a control point for the purpose of checking boat traffic along the heavily populated Song Tra Bong River.

The first step in the program is boat registration. Every boat owner in the area—or any owner who uses the waterway—is required to register his boat at the registration point. In charge of boat registration are Staff Sergeant William Davison, Detrict, and Staff Sergeant Roger H. Luckson, South Paris, Maine, both from the Brigade MPs, and a crew of six men.

Psychological warfare teams were put to work with their loudspeakers, calling across the river for the owners to bring their boats in to be registered. Leaflets were dropped and district authorities spread the word to the villages and hamlets. Right from the start boats began floating in by the hundreds from everywhere and registration proceeded in a busy but orderly manner.

"After all boats are registered," continued Sergeant Davison, "the second step will be to build a floating pier approximately 50 feet out in the river, with a 50-foot long dock at the end. Extending from the opposite side of the river will be a string of buoys roped together, so every boat using the river will be forced to pass by the control platform or check point.

"After talking with my squadron commander, Colonel Fowler, it was decided they would go a step or two further. The flags were to be taken on a combat mission and flown on the base flag pole the next day.

"In answering their letter, I told them to send the flags and they would be flown on an F-100 combat mission," he added.

One week later the flags arrived in Vietnam and the next day Colonel Fowler placed the flags in his F-100 and departed for a strike against an ammunition dump in IV Corps.

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As the brigade's MPs continue with the registration they are also training Vietnamese Popular Forces (PFs) for the job. Twenty PFs will eventually take over control with the aid of Vietnamese patrol boats.

Power Through Knowledge Equals Private to Colonel

Tan Son Nhut (USA) — A private who entered the Army with only two years of high school is now a colonel with four college degrees, working on his doctorate and teaching college courses to soldiers at off-duty classes in Vietnam.

Colonel Francis J. Vassett, director of services for the 1st Logistical Command, entered the Army in 1940 and studied

A Boy's Request

Jet Pilot Takes Flags on Flight in Combat Mission

Bien Hoa (USA) — Two flags from the John H. Webster Elementary School in Philadelphia flew into combat aboard an F-100 Supersabre with Lieutenant Colonel Walter M. (Mel) Fowler, commander, 531st Tactical Fighter Squadron, Bien Hoa Air Base.

En route to the target the flight of two F-100s were diverted to an automatic weapons position. The two pilots destroyed one .50 caliber automatic weapons position, three bunkers, and killed five Viet Cong.

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Seabees Attend VN Graduation

Da Nang (USN)—At ceremonies, honoring top students at the new My Da school in My Thi hamlet, Da Nang East, it was a proud moment for both the students and their special guests, members of Mobile Construction Battalion 5.

Commander E.J. Williams, Jr., commanding officer of MCB

Culvert Ends Dry Seasons

Dong Tam (USA)—A new culvert installed under a segment of road between the base camp of the Army's 9th Infantry Division and My Tho will channel enough water under the road to irrigate 250 acres of farmland during the dusty dry seasons.

Farming the acreage on a seasonal basis, the Vietnamese of Thanh Duc depended on the rainy season for a flourishing crop.

Acquiring a rented pump for the dry season, the villagers found this method to have only temporary results and proved ineffective in irrigating large tracts of land.

As a joint community project, 300 villagers donated money to purchase sand, rock and gravel for the culvert project.

Supplying the Vietnamese with cement and steel culverts, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contacted the 9th Division's 2d Brigade for assistance and supervision on the project.

With the help of engineers attached to the brigade, the Vietnamese completed the project in three days.

5, and a number of officers and men of the battalion were asked to be special guests at the program marking not only the end of the present school term but the beginning of long educational service to the hamlet by the new school.

Materials donated by the battalion enabled the people to complete the school. The Seabees also built desks, donated school supplies and sent students to school who otherwise could not afford to attend. The battalion kept a security platoon in the hamlet to protect the Vietnamese from the VC terrorists.

The ceremony and program were highly successful with the top students of the highest four grades receiving gifts and awards. The entertainment included Vietnamese folk songs, comedy-tragedy skits and dances.

L Nhat Le, hamlet chief, as a member of the area government, thanked the Seabees for the aid. He said, "I want to thank the allies and express deep appreciation for their fighting here. We are happy to be able to have you enjoying the benefits for which you are responsible."

Captain Williams told the Vietnamese, "It is with a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction that we are privileged to witness this significant event." He told the people that the Seabees were glad they could help bring a better life to the hamlet and help bring peace to Vietnam.

The school is now progressing well and application has been made to have it declared a public school, meaning more students could attend at less cost.

ARVN-RD Team Improves . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

the first time, the Army could be seen not only providing security for RD, but doing the work themselves.

In the little more than two months, the soldiers and villagers have replaced 18 rickety foot bridges with concrete-supported wood bridges capable of supporting small vehicular traffic, constructed a small road along the entire length of the hamlet, and built demonstration models of pig sties, fish ponds and vegetable gardens.

Since the work began nearly a hundred refugee families have streamed into the hamlet from Communist-dominated areas. The word is getting around.

"Perhaps the most noticeable improvement in the hamlet," said Lieutenant Colonel Theodore R. Roth, New Platz, N.Y., senior U. S. advisor to Vinh Long province, "is the attitude of the people. They want to improve their hamlet and themselves."

And they want the soldiers to stay and help. Although they were scheduled to leave Nga Ngay in May, Brigadier General Lam Quang Thi, commander of the ARVN 9th Division, authorized an indefinite extension of the project in accordance with the wishes of the villagers.

Future projects include a school and a dispensary. As a result of the work by the soldiers and villagers, Nga Ngay

was recently classified an Ap Doi Moi (New Life Hamlet).

Will the concept of Vietnamese soldiers working directly in RD turn out to be the key to victory in the so-called "other war"? It is too early to say. General Thi has detached 10 of the 34 soldiers originally in Nga Ngay to a new project in Cang Long District, but with only one Civic Action platoon assigned to each division area, it is considered only a pilot approach at present.

But the idea has appeal. As Colonel Roth put it, "I feel that one of the biggest motivational factors which caused the hamlet people to respond to the Civic Action platoon was to see them working along with the people. These men are not just supervisors, but laborers too, and this is what is needed—soldiers working side by side with the people."

modern and spacious facilities thanks to efforts of Air Force Technical Sergeant Robert V. Tomaselli, North Adams, Mass., and his unit, the 35th Air Police Squadron.

The children were sleeping two and sometimes three to a crib in a 12 foot by 12 foot room. There were no facilities for isolating the infants who became sick with communicable diseases.

With the completion of the new building, sick children are placed in an eight-crib ward and two of the orphanage's Catholic Nuns have sleeping quarters within the building and with one awake at all times are able to give better care to the infants.

The project began in January when one of the Air Force doctors assigned to Phan Rang Air Base visited the orphanage.

He suggested that the air policemen could build a structure for isolation purposes. Shortly before this, the 35th Air Police Squadron had "adopted" the orphanage and assumed the responsibility for continuing aid to the children.

Reacting to the doctor's suggestion, squadron personnel, led by Sergeant Tomaselli, quickly erected the basic framework while coordinating closely with the Nun's needs and the doctors recommendations.

After the basic 16 foot by 32

foot structure containing the children's ward, isolation ward and formula room was completed, the sleeping quarters for the two Nuns and a treatment room was built in an L-shaped addition.

All the rooms have shutters, fluorescent lights and tile floors. New cribs were purchased in Saigon. From a post above each crib dangles a toy donated by relatives of squadron personnel.

"I've never worked with kids before, except my own," Sergeant Tomaselli said, "but I've found that it's been one of the most satisfying things I've ever done in my life."

Painful Reminder

Washington (ANF)—An Army major, walking along his perimeter at night, was reminded that weapons used in Vietnam are not always modern. "I was there not more than a minute when I felt something hit my left leg just above the knee," said Major Richard Mills, operations officer for A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). When his leg began to sting, he looked down and discovered a foot-long crossbow arrow stuck in it.

'We Try Harder' 173rd A/B

Bien Hoa (USA)—Camouflaged "we try harder" buttons are now standard field equipment for the paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Thanks to the efforts of the "we're only number two" international car rental agency, and "the world's most experienced airline," the 2nd, known as the "we try harder" battalion, sports a button geared to the field conditions of Vietnam.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Sigholtz, former battalion commander, conceived the idea of using "we try harder" as a motto for his unit in September, 1966. He wrote to the car rental agency, which mailed an ample supply of buttons for use by the paratroopers of the battalion. The only problem was that the buttons were printed in red, on a white background, and were too bright for jungle operations.

New, Vietnam-oriented but-

tons, black lettering on a camouflaged olive drab background, were presented to representatives of the battalion at a ceremony at Tan Son Nhut Airport. Airline stewardess Deb Reaune pinned the first button on the fatigue shirt of Specialist 4 Gary Baura, Aiken, S.C.

The 2nd Battalion, part of the first Army ground unit to arrive in Vietnam, made the first and only American combat jump in Vietnam, during Operation Junction City, in February, 1967.



A BABY BREAK—Sergeant Tomaselli pauses during his work day to hold one of the Vietnamese infants. (USAF Photo)



This Could Be You!

Number 250,000 'King for a Week'

Tan Son Nhut (MACV)—Some lucky R&R traveller who checks into the R&R Processing Center at Tan Son Nhut on or about June 15 will be surprised and delighted to discover that "his number is up." That is, he is the 250,000th serviceman in Vietnam to depart on an out-of-country R&R.

Are you that quarter millionth man?

The unsuspecting traveller will be showered with a send-

off celebration with a lovely airline stewardess as his guide. All compliments of Pan American World Airways.

A big cake is to be cut in his honor and will be served aboard the airline en route; and on arrival at the R&R site he will be met by the vice president of Pan American Airways.

He will occupy a suite in one of the finest hotels located within distance of exotic sights and

sounds. Room service will be available with meals which will delight his taste-buds.

A chauffeur-driven Mercedes limousine will be placed at his disposal, assuring red-carpet "King For A Week" treatment! In addition, he will be measured for a tailor-made suit, compliments of a well known couturier, plus gift certificates and guided tours that will be offered by local merchants.

A network TV camera will follow this 250,000th R&R on his adventures at the unknown R&R site. It could be Penang, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Hawaii, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Manila, Taipei or Bangkok.

If you are selected and the planned schedule does not fit your plans, you will be given an extra four days, on your own, to do what you started out to do. Bon voyage!

FIRST IN VIETNAM

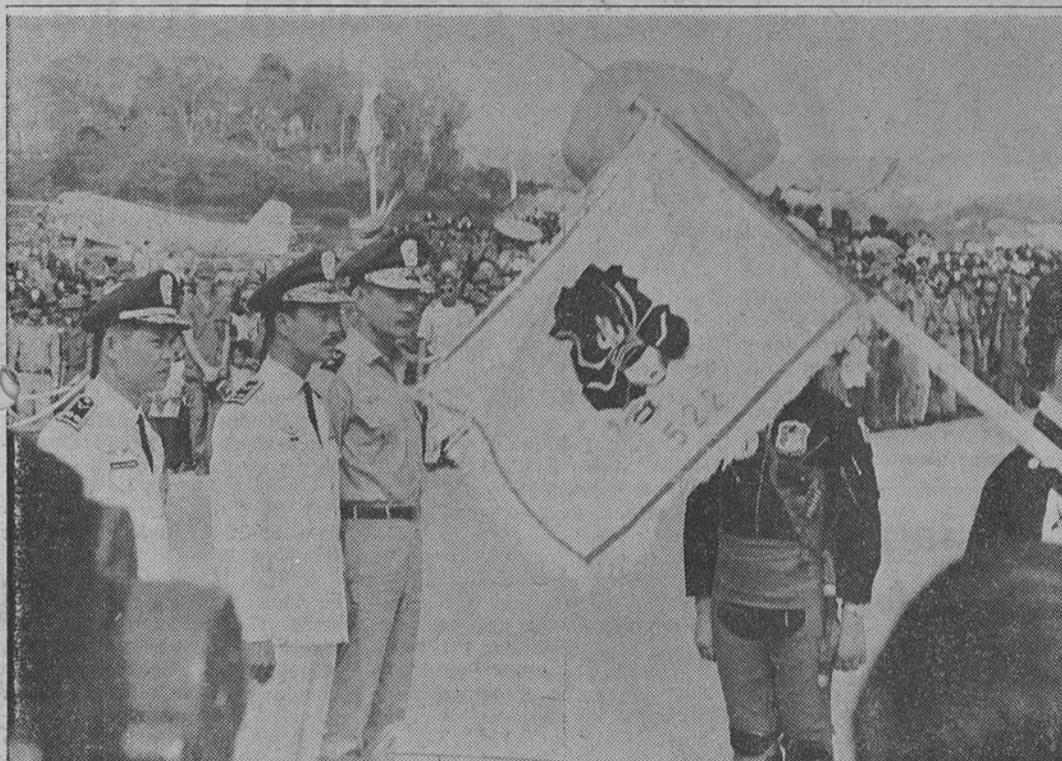


OBSERVER

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June 14, 1967



COLORS—Prime Minister and Air Force Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky reviews the colors of the Vietnamese Air Force's 522nd Tactical Fighter Squadron.

International Medical Team Is Nucleus of VN Hospital

Da Nang (USN) — "The air is going in, but it's not coming out. I think something's wrong," exclaimed Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class S. Goldstein, Rochester, N.Y., to a German anesthetist who was putting a wounded Vietnamese civilian under sedation prior to surgery.

With the trouble located, the German continued preparing for the operation. Then a Vietnamese doctor and his assistant stepped in and started the operation.

An international blend of talent such as this can be found in most of the 43 provincial hospitals in South Vietnam. This scene took place at the Hoi An civilian hospital in Quang Nam province, 30 miles south of Da Nang.

Navy Corpsman Goldstein was part of a unique team of medical specialists, part of the Military Provincial Hospital Augmentation Program (MILPHAP). Eleven other corpsmen, three Navy doctors and one medical administrative special-

ist make up MILPHAP Navy Team Two.

For a year they have lived in Hoi An, far removed from any other permanent military base. MILPHAP teams were started to assist and teach the Vietnamese better operating procedures, sanitation measures and general administration of hospitals.

Prior to coming to Vietnam, Team Two underwent special training at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Tex.

In the latter part of the team's one-year tour, a group of German medical specialists joined the Americans. The Germans work alongside the Vietnamese specialists rather than advising and teaching them.

"The history of the Vietnamese Air Force is one of remarkable achievement," said Ambassador Bunker. "By 1962, the Air Force had grown to over 4,000 men. By 1967, this number has increased to nearly 16,000. In 1966 alone, the Vietnamese Air Force flew some 25 per cent of all Free World combat sorties flown in support of ground operations."

VNAF's growth has come under the guidance of the U.S. Air Force Advisory Group of approximately 500 U.S. advisors stationed at various VNAF bases. Operating from Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, Binh Thuy, Nha Trang, Da Nang and Pleiku air

Saigon (MACV) — Republic of Vietnam will celebrate Armed Forces Day on June 19. In a letter to General Cao Van Vien, Chief of the Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, General W. C. Westmoreland, Commanding General, MACV, expressed his pleasure in joining the people of Vietnam in paying tribute to the servicemen and women of the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

His message reads in part: "We who have come to serve beside the Vietnamese in this vital struggle gain strength from their indomitable spirit. They have long suffered the rigor of fighting terrorism and aggression, and for this they wear the badge of courage proudly."

"Your nation stands today on a foundation built by gallant men who continue to sacrifice in the cause of freedom and self-determination. Your nation can be justifiably proud of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces and their record."

"On behalf of all of the servicemen in this command, I extend warmest greetings to you and the men and women of your services."

Special celebrations have been scheduled for June 19.

ARVN Div Foils VC Attack

Vo Dat (III Corps) — Quick action by a reaction force of U.S. Advisors and South Vietnamese troops turned a well-planned VC attack into a rout for the enemy in a recent skirmish about five miles north of Bien Hoa.

The attack came while the 1st and 3rd Companies, 52nd Regiment, 18th ARVN Division, were conducting a routine road clearing operation between Vo Xu, where regiment headquarters is based, and Vo Dat. The government troops were only three

miles out of Vo Xu when the 1st Battalion of the 275th Viet Cong Regiment opened up from within the hamlet of Chin Due. The 1st Company, leading the clearing operation, was hit hardest in the crossfire.

Simultaneously, the regiment camp at Vo Xu received diversionary mortar fire approximately 50 rounds near the compound. There was little damage and no casualties.

Receiving word of the action, Major Winston A. Dahl, Walnut Creek, Calif., Vo Dat Sub-sector

advisor, and Captain Lam Thanh Liem, Hoai Duc district chief, assembled a reaction force consisting of the 351st Armored Car Platoon and 738th Regional Forces Company.

At the same time, Captain Edward P. Grumelet, Gregory, Mich., assistant subsector advisor, began preparing artillery fire support. Coincidentally, only minor adjustments were required for the artillery because the guns were preparing to fire close-in concentration rounds near the scene of battle.

(Continued on Back Page)

New Milestone As VN Air Force Gets 'Freedom Fighters'

Story and Photos by
Sp4 John Morgan, USA,
Staff Writer & Photographer

Bien Hoa (VNAF) — The Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) plunged into the jet age with the formal acceptance of 20 F-5 jet freedom fighters and the activation of the 522nd Fighter Squadron at Bien Hoa air base June 1.

U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Ellsworth Bunker officially presented the supersonic aircraft to Prime Minister and Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky at an airstrip ceremony marking Vietnam Air Force Day 1967.

The 1,000 mile-an-hour F-5 "Freedom Fighter" is designed for such varied missions as close support of ground troops, interception of enemy aircraft, attacks on supply lines, and armed reconnaissance at high and low altitudes. It carries 6,200 pounds of air-to-air and air-to-ground combat ordnance, and has two 20mm nose cannons. It can operate from short, semi-prepared fields in forward battle areas.

VNAF was first formed in July, 1951, as part of the French Air Force. Although VNAF became a separate organization in July 1955, the French continued in their advisory capacity until November, 1956, when this function was assumed by the U.S. Air Force.

"The history of the Vietnamese Air Force is one of remarkable achievement," said Ambassador Bunker. "By 1962, the Air Force had grown to over 4,000 men. By 1967, this number has increased to nearly 16,000. In 1966 alone, the Vietnamese Air Force flew some 25 per cent of all Free World combat sorties flown in support of ground operations."

VNAF's growth has come under the guidance of the U.S. Air Force Advisory Group of approximately 500 U.S. advisors stationed at various VNAF bases. Operating from Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, Binh Thuy, Nha Trang, Da Nang and Pleiku air

Message Keynotes AF Day

Editorial

A Tradition of Duty

Washington (ANF)—The U.S. Army celebrates its 192nd birthday Wednesday, June 14, still deeply committed to a mission that has remained unchanged since its first anniversary—the preservation of freedom and the defense of the United States and its allies.

June 14 also is Flag Day, a patriotic occasion celebrating the resolution of the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, which established the Stars and Stripes as the National Flag.

Both anniversaries mark events that began in troubled times, when brave men dedicated to revolutionary ideas of freedom and personal dignity struggled against incredible obstacles to preserve their new way of life. Nearly 200 years later, another generation of Americans is called upon to protect the heritage of freedom from forces that would destroy it.

The Army personnel of this new generation represent a modern, powerful, highly mobile organization of well-trained, well-equipped, well-supplied soldiers. Today's Army is the result of a constant effort by the United States to be prepared, a policy outlined in the early years of the country by George Washington: "If we desire peace, one of the most powerful institution of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war."

The high-powered, rapid-firing rifle has replaced the musket, but the June 14 anniversaries—for the Flag and the Army—stand as a reminder to today's soldier that something more valuable and more effective than any material was handed down from the militiamen who saw the first birthday of the Army and later the birth of a new Nation. That something is the tradition of courage, duty, and honor that has endured and been strengthened through years of strife and years of peace.

VA Announces A New Outpatient Plan for Vets

Washington (ANF)—The Veterans Administration has begun a new outpatient plan that permits a veteran requiring private treatment to choose his own doctor.

Under the old rules, VA, which has authorized private outpatient care since World War II, established how much outpatient care a veteran would need during a year and issued an authorization to a specific doctor to give treatment at government expense.

In the new program, VA will issue an identification card to veterans authorized outpatient

New Service Deposits Plan Surpasses Old in 7th Month

Washington (AFNB)—The new Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program has surpassed in seven months of operation the old Soldier's, Sailor's and Airman's Deposit program.

Defense officials said \$79,495,839 were deposited in the new program at the end of March.

FIRST IN VIETNAM

The OBSERVER

The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER uses materials from the Armed Forces Press File, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER HQ MACV, APO 96222.

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Magnetically coded.

Ball Caps 'Didi Mau'

Washington (AFNB)—Army's Chief of Staff has approved a tropical full-brim combat hat for Southeast Asia replacing the "baseball cap."

The new hat, which provides increased sun and rain protection, will start coming off production lines sometime after August.

Effective date of supply for the new hat, which can be fitted with mosquito netting, will be established as soon as possible. The hat was chosen from three designed by Army's Natick Laboratories, Natick, Mass., that were evaluated by Army Concept Team in Vietnam.

Marines Cited For US Bond Participation

Da Nang (USMC)—The United States Treasury Department's highest award—the Minuteman Flag—was presented to the 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, for 100 per cent participation in the U.S. Savings Bond program.

In addition to the flag, congratulatory letters were received from the U.S. Treasury Department, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, and the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division.

The battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jack D. Rowley, accepted the award in behalf of the unit from Colonel C. C. Crossfield, Seventh Regimental commander.

Clothing Cost Needs More Money Layout

Washington (AD)—Army has decided to raise supplemental clothing allowance to meet clothing price increases. Under the proposal, limit will be boosted from \$83 to \$125. In certain special allowance categories, costs were more than allowances in the last year. Those categories were military police, escort duty, both men and women (enlisted) on recruiting duty and band duty for enlisted women.

Q. What is the interest rate on Freedom Shares?

A. Like Series E Bonds, they are bought at a discount and the increase to face value represents interest. For Freedom Shares, this will average 4.74 per cent a year when held for the full 4½ years to maturity.

Q. Does the same rate now apply to E Bonds?

A. No. E Bonds continue to return an average of 4.15 per cent when held to their seven-year maturity.

Q. Can Freedom Shares be

cash before maturity?

A. Freedom Shares may be redeemed after two months.

Q. What do Freedom Shares cost?

A. They are issued in face amounts of \$25, \$50, \$75, and \$100, with corresponding purchase price of \$20.25, \$40.50, \$60.75 and \$81.00. In other words, they cost 81 per cent of the maturity value.

Q. But Series E Bonds cost only 75 per cent of their face values. Why do Freedom Share cost more?

A. Because they mature in a much shorter length of time—only 4½ years as compared with seven years for E Bonds.

Q. What do you mean by a formal plan?

A. In either one of two ways: (1) Allotment, whereby the individual serviceman authorizes a monthly deduction for purchase of a bond; or (2) On a bond-a-month plan whereby a depositor authorizes monthly deductions from an account at his bank.

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Big Load Elephant Enclosed

Saigon (USA)—U.S. personnel rotating from Vietnam are sending more elephants home than ever before, according to officials in charge of packing and crating the animals.

The deputy chief of U.S. Army Headquarters A-rea Command's newly reorganized Personal Property Branch (formerly Household Goods and Baggage Section), First Lieutenant Michael Carreras, Tucson, Ariz., estimates that 130 elephants are sent home each month by departing personnel.

"For some reason, they've become a pet souvenir of Vietnam for troops heading home," Lieutenant Carreras says. "Each elephant has to be handled with a great deal of care if it's to arrive safely. After all, our job is to make sure that the men's baggage makes it home in the same condition that it left."

The customs inspector for the branch, Specialist 5 James R. Lawrence, Sonoma, Calif., said, "The elephants give us no problems. If the crates we have are too small for them, we can build one to size in about five minutes."

The pachyderms make up only a small portion of almost 7,000 pieces of baggage that the branch handles each month. Since the majority of the shipments are items of personal property, the branch has recently been redesigned to identify its function more clearly.

Progress Is Their Business

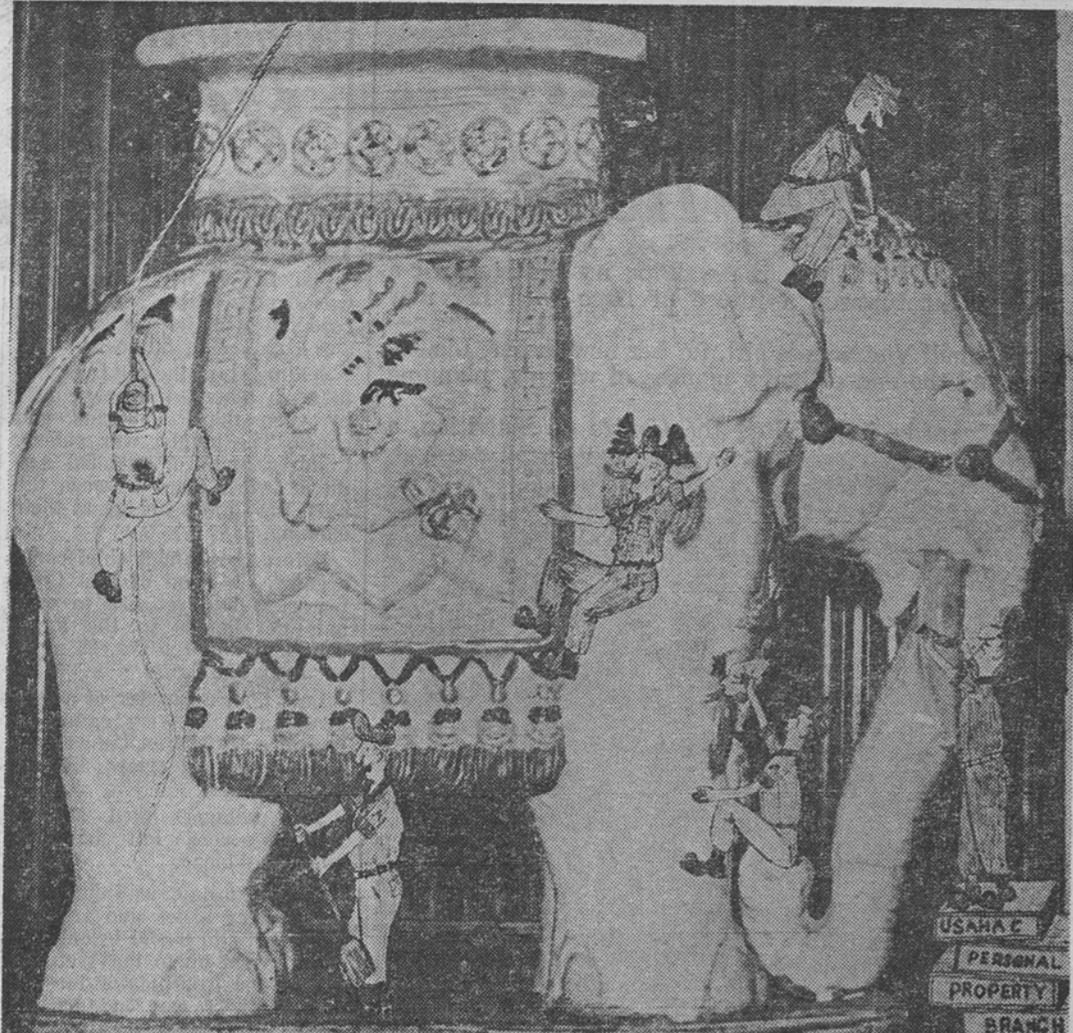
Phu Loi (III Corps) — Members of the 9th Infantry Regiment, 5th ARVN Division and their advisors had a busy month. Not only were units involved in tactical operations, but in Revolutionary Development and Civic Action as well.

Three classrooms were added to the Tham Rot School. Then, in a joint hamlet, construction was begun on a fence which will surround Tham Rot. Another construction effort in the Regiment's area of operations was the capping of wells with concrete.

In the agricultural field, ten families have been selected to produce their own "Victory" type garden. Seeds have been furnished by Chon Thanh District. After the project achieves a measure of success, additional seeds will be obtained. The program is currently being supervised by the hamlet chief, with the 9th Regiment advisors monitoring the progress.

Improvements are being made at the Buddhist Temple at Chon Thanh under the supervision of the regimental S-5. The 1st Bn., 9th Reg., has supported this project by sending daily work details for carpentry, painting and general decorations.

A remarkable improvement in Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) in the area has been made possible through the coordinated efforts of the 9th Regiment and Chon Thanh District Headquarters. Credit for the program goes to Sergeant First Class Sayers, medical advisor for the regiment.



SAFE ARRIVAL—Preparing another elephant for shipment to the United States. (USA Photo)

"Most of the men think that the elephants will enhance the outside or inside of any house," continued Specialist Lawrence.

"But the animals usually wind up as holders for magazines, ash trays, or flower pots."

After all, the brilliant glazed

colors in the ceramic statues, averaging 20 inches in height, are so vivid that they would go with any decor.

Student's Favorite Subject Taught By Two Teachers

Tan Hy (USA) — The enthusiastic teaching style of First Lieutenant Walter L. Corey, Concord, N.H., of the 196th Light

Infantry Brigade, who teaches a class to students of the Tan Hy village school, makes his English class a very popular

one for the students.

The small, dull-grey concrete schoolhouse in Tan Hy village, south of Chu Lai, with its bullet-riddled walls, stands in sharp contrast to the school houses which most Americans attended.

Still, with the great emphasis on education that the Vietnamese people instill in their children, it is no wonder that the one-room building is packed every day with students eager to learn.

With most students there is one subject that becomes the favorite over all the others, and the students in Tan Hy are no exception. They say that their favorite subject is English, and one of the reasons is that it is taught by Lieutenant Corey, civil affairs officer for the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Each morning and afternoon, Lieutenant Corey, with the aid of his interpreter, Sergeant To Tham, visits the school to teach his popular English class. Before the class the children can be seen crowding into the room, hoping to squeeze in just one more desk or bench among the crowded rows.

Equipped with school kits that Lieutenant Corey received from CARE, the students begin the class with a Vietnamese song. Corey writes the day's lesson on the blackboard in English and Sergeant Tham writes the Vietnamese translation alongside it. After he points to the words and says them in English, the children repeat the sentence in English. He does this several times and before long the students are proudly yelling out the words on their own.

Approximately two hours later, PBR 35's boat captain, Petty Officer Second Class Delbert L. Gibson of Ponca City, Oklahoma, received a radio call from the sub sector advisor at a Vietnamese Army (ARVN) outpost located along the Bassac.

Petty Officer Second Class James D. Dawson, Dayton, Ohio, boat captain of PBR 127, and his crew were on routine combat patrol on the Bassac at a point 100 miles southwest of Saigon, when a sampan approached their boat and its occupants called to them.

Investigation revealed a Vietnamese couple, whose son had been seriously wounded in the stomach by the Viet Cong. The crew of the 512 rushed the boy to medical facilities at Can Tho.

Approximately two hours later, PBR 35's boat captain, Petty Officer Second Class Delbert L. Gibson of Ponca City, Oklahoma, received a radio call from the sub sector advisor at a Vietnamese Army (ARVN) outpost located along the Bassac.

After proceeding to the outpost and discovering a Vietnamese woman with an appendicitis attack, boat 35 rushed her to the Can Tho hospital for treatment.

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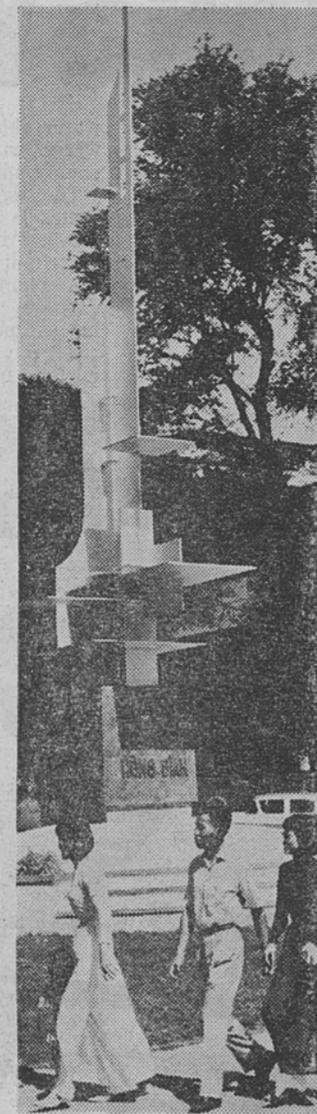
VIETNAM ARMED FORCES DAY

June 19, 1967



Red Beret Airborne

A figure of Saint Michael the Evangelist stands before Sung Chinh hospital, Cholon, as the founding saint of the Vietnamese Airborne Red Beret.



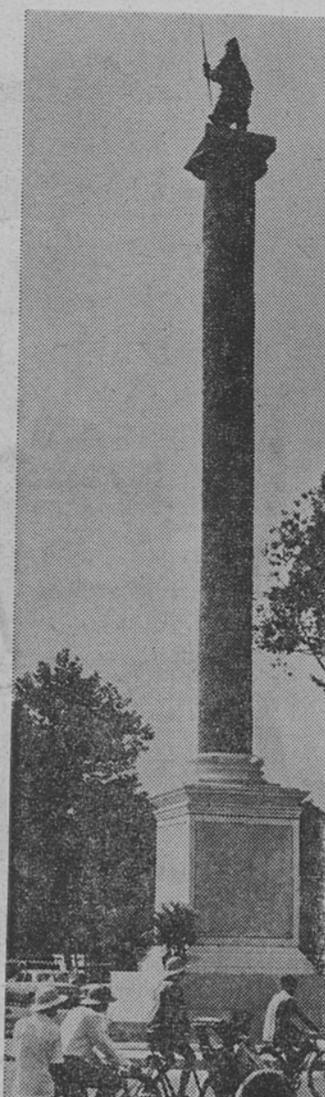
Air Force

In stark contrast to the historical personages chosen as figureheads of the armed branches, the Air Force erected a modern structure suggesting the conquest of space.



Signal

The Signal branch chose General Tra Nguyen Han as its saint founder because he was the first commander in Vietnamese history to use carrier-pigeons to take messages during battlefield operations.



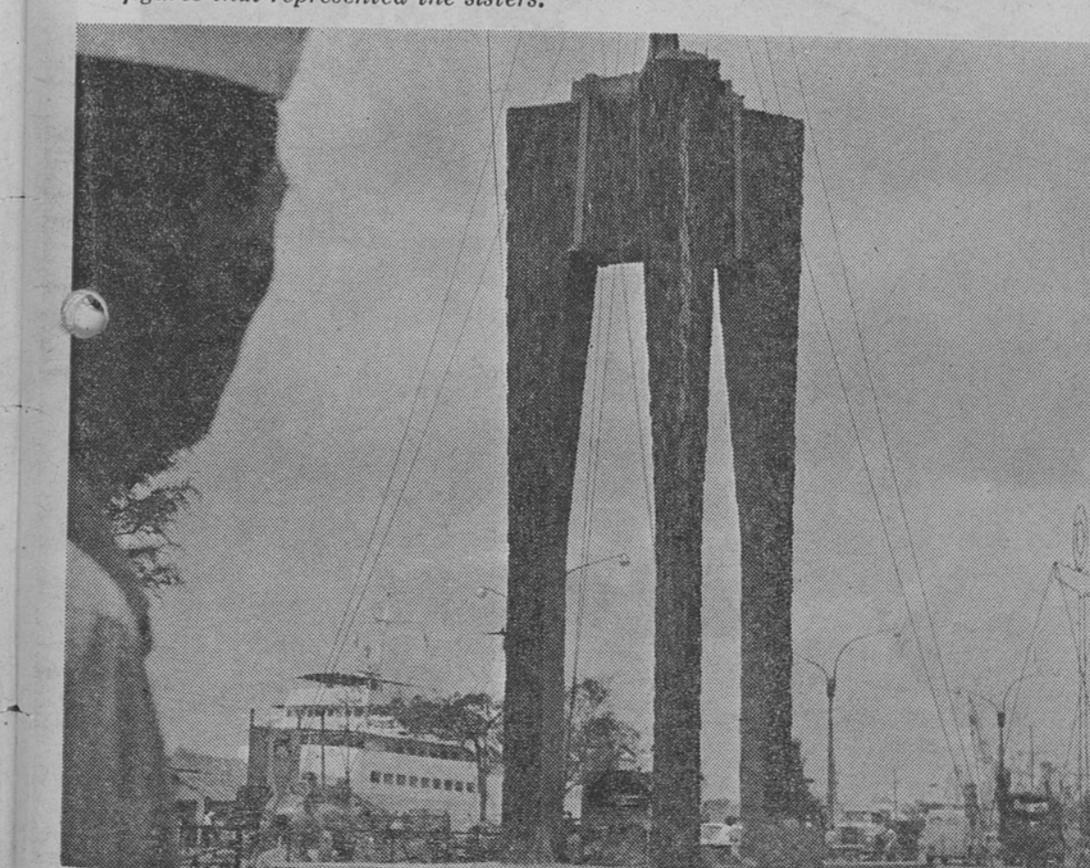
Armored

During the sixth generation of Hung Vuong, Vietnam was invaded by Chinese pirates. King Phu-Dong mobilized a cavalry and defeated the invaders. The ARVN Armored now follows his courage and patriotism.



Ranger

A statue of three soldiers honors the Vietnamese Rangers. Rangers operate in jungles and remote areas in their mission to eradicate the Communists.



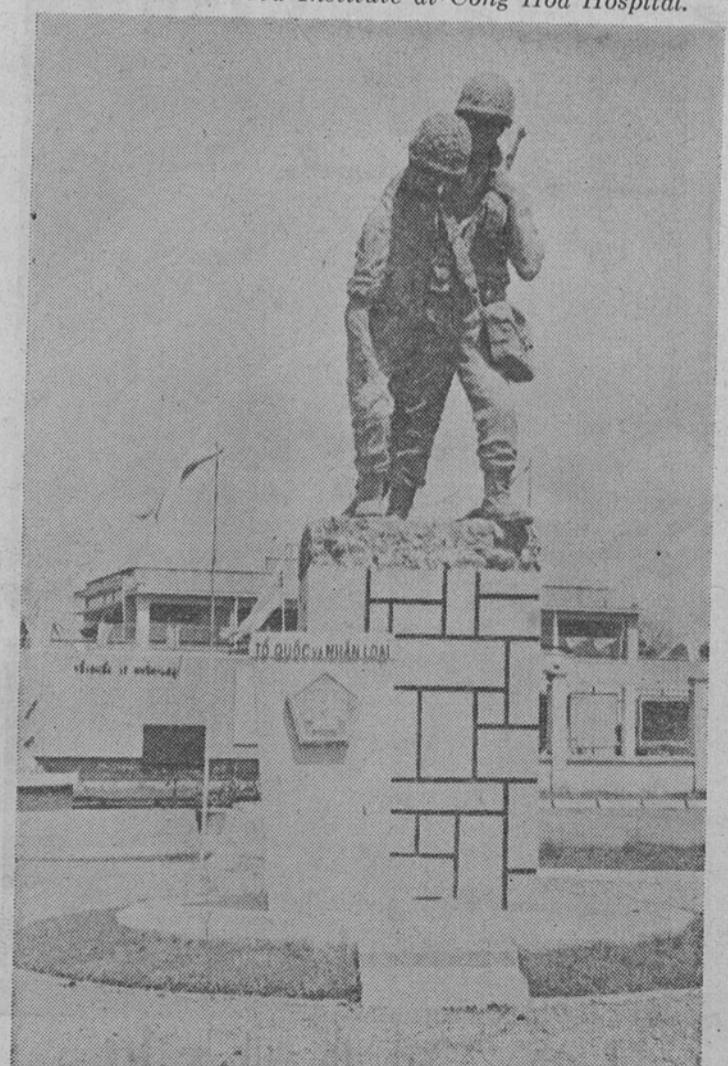
Navy

This massive structure located on Bach Dang Street near the docks was known as the Statue of the Trung Sisters. It now represents the Vietnamese Navy after the removal of the figures that represented the sisters.



Marines

This massive sculpture of two "Unknown Soldiers" facing the Vietnamese government assembly building at Lam-Son Place represents the Vietnamese Marines.



Medic

Representing Vietnamese military medicine, a statue of a medic helping a wounded man stands before the gate of the Central Blood Institute at Cong Hoa Hospital.



My Friends Call Me BARC

Qui Nhon (USA) — My full name is Barge Amphibious Resupply Cargo; but like most Americans I prefer to be known by my nickname. So just call me BARC.

Since there are 16 of us in Vietnam, we have been organized into a Provisional BARC Company. We are the only company of its kind in the U.S. Army. As a member of the 1st Logistical Command's Qui Nhon Support Command, I am commanded by U.S. Army Captain Fred Morrison, Hamilton, Ohio.

I tip the scales at about 100 tons, which is my fighting

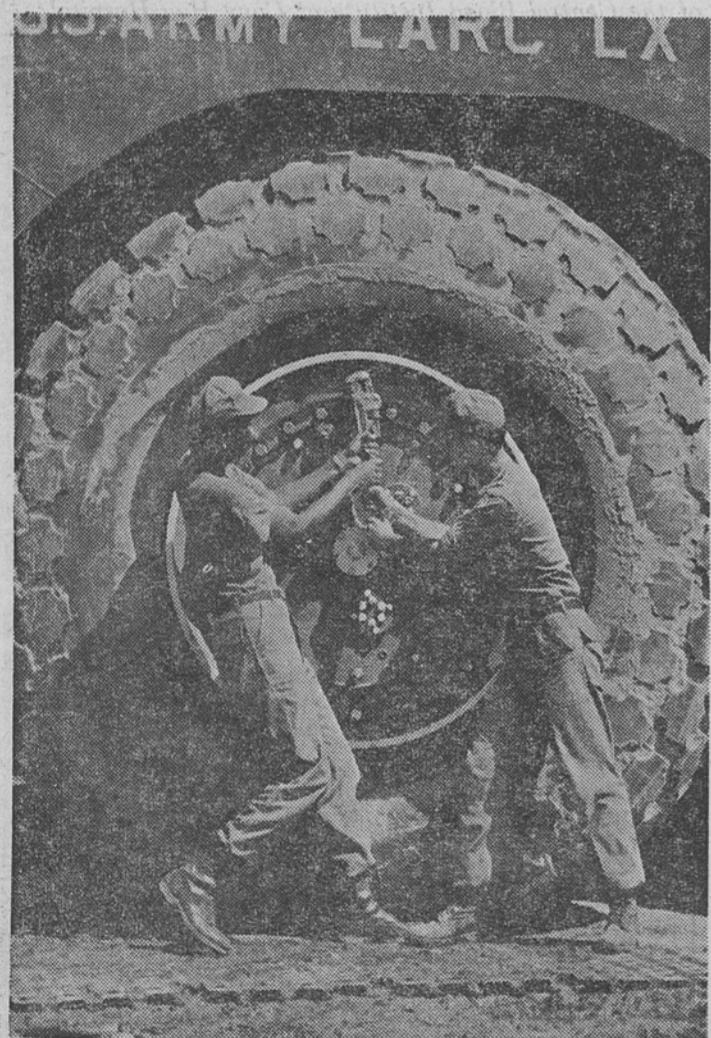
weight. I can carry a 60-ton load without exerting myself. I've been told I'm as big as a five-room house. While I am equally at home on land or sea, I spend most of my time in the water performing the critical mission of hauling troops and equipment from ship to shore. One of the advantages of traveling with me is that no longer do the troops have to debark into waist-high water, nor does the cargo have to be unloaded at dockside. Like a taxi cab, I deliver right to the door.

Keeping me in fighting trim is a real job for my trainers. My rubber soles weigh more than 3,000 pounds, and it takes some 50 hours to repair my fallen arches. But the Bar-

carriers take a lot of pride in their work and they labor around-the-clock to keep me in ship-shape.

Since I work night and day, I don't get much opportunity for R&R. But once in a while I get the assignment of taking some Vietnamese refugees to an area where they will be able to start a new life away from the harassment of the VC. I have also been known to transport a group of combat-wearies.

Story by Cpt Loris Scott, USA
Photo by Sp5 Tom Lusher, USA



Size 10 Feet Tall



A Dry Trip—For Sure

Air Force Moves 24 Orphans

Da Nang (USA) — Twenty-four children were airlifted from the Special Forces camp at Thuong Duc in the Central Highlands to an orphanage on the shores of the South China Sea by aircraft of the 311th Air Commando Squadron.

The airlift was first set into motion when the Vietnamese government asked Reverend Gordon H. Smith, director of the World Evangelization Crusade Relief Service (WECRS), if he could place the children, whose parents had been killed by the Viet Cong, into the WECRS orphanage at Da Nang. Reverend Smith contacted Chaplain (Major) David P. Jordan, Albion, Mich., to try and arrange the airlift. Chaplain Jordan spoke to the commander of the 311th Air Commando Squadron, Colonel Donald L. Zedler, Topeka, Kan., and the airlift was set up.

Captain Harold S. Harsin, Lebanon, Ill., who has been making routine medical examinations at the Da Nang orphanage since October 1966, was asked to go along to treat any of the children who might have been ill.

By the time they'd been taken off at Da Nang Air Base and were driven to the orphanage, they were chattering happily among themselves and inspecting their new home by the sea.



LEADING THE WAY—Chaplain Jordan leads a group of orphans to a waiting C-123 Provider. The children, whose parents were killed by Viet Cong, were taken from the Special Forces camp of Thuong Duc of the World Evangelization Crusade orphanage. (USA Photo)

Floating Barracks Ships Join River Assault Force

Saigon (USN) — The recent arrival of two unique Navy ships in Vung Tau marks the beginning of a new concept of River Assault (Riverine) operations in Vietnam.

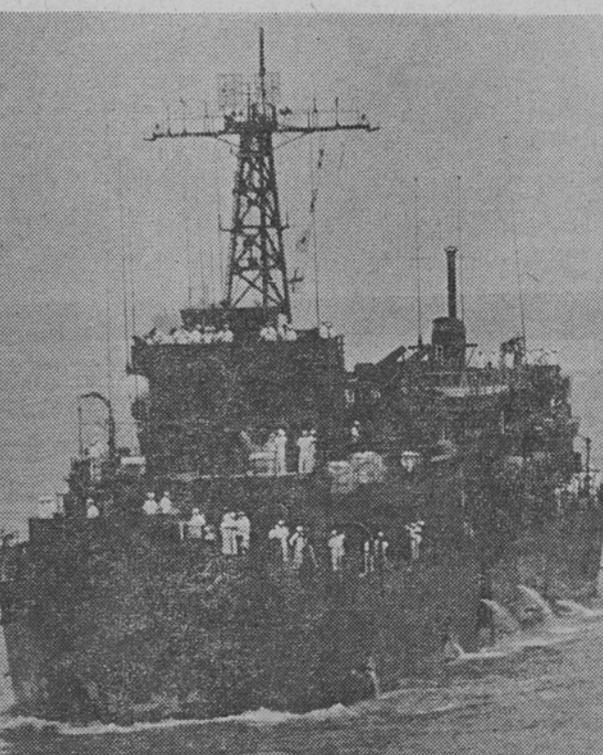
The USS Benewah (APB 35) and USS Colleton (APB 36), the only self-propelled barracks ships in commission in the U.S. Navy, arrived in Vung Tau, 35 miles southeast of Saigon, to form a mobile base for the new riverine assault force already operating in the swamps surrounding the main shipping channel to Saigon. The ships will provide living quarters and command-control facilities for the Army/Navy team conducting the operations.

The riverine assault force first saw action in February, after the Viet Cong had stepped up their attacks on ships going to and from Saigon. This is the first time the United States has engaged in this type of operation since the Civil War.

Comprised of units from the Army's Ninth Infantry Division and the Navy's River Assault Flotilla One, the operation has consisted of search and destroy sweeps of the Viet Cong controlled, mangrove covered tidal swamps known as the Rang Sat Special Zone.

To make them harder to be seen against the dense foliage along the rivers of South Vietnam, the barracks ships and the boat repair ship, USS Askari, are the only U.S. Navy ships painted green.

Three new types of boats are used to extend the operation from the mobile riverine base,



A NEW CONCEPT—One of the Navy's two olive-drab painted, self-propelled barracks ships steams into Vung Tau Harbor to take over support of the Navy's Task Force 117. (USN Photo)

assortment of weapons. After the ATC's have inserted their troops, the boats patrol the adjacent waterways to block the movement of enemy troops and to provide gunfire support until it is time to pick up the troops again.

Pacification Mission Supported by VAC

Cu Chi (USA) — The citizens of Farmingdale, N.Y., can take a share of the credit for signs of the increasing success of the pacification mission presently being undertaken by an element of the 25th Infantry Division.

Last year the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, was adopted by a Farmingdale group who called themselves the "Vietnam Assistance Committee" (VAC).

VAC sent food, clothing and medical supplies, which the people of Farmingdale donated, for the soldiers of the battalion to distribute to villagers living along the supply route between Trang Bang and the Boi Loi Woods.

Still in the early stages of the pacification mission, the battalion has already seen signs of success. Not long ago a village chief came to the battalion's field camp early in the morning and reported that the night before terrorists had raided the village, stealing food and collecting taxes.

The fact that he was sufficiently confident in the ability of the Americans to assist him and that he risked his life by reporting the terrorist activities proved to the battalion that it has partially accomplished its goal in the area.

The battalion, aided by the Vietnamese soldiers, is striving to provide both day and night security for the villagers.

The main road running through the area has been closed for two years because of VC activity. The Americans have now replaced two bridges that had been destroyed by the VC and have cleared away

Soldier's Kin Receives Aid From 9th Div

Long Thanh (USA) — In tribute to the courage of a Vietnamese soldier who was killed when he attempted to disarm a booby trapped grenade, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division established a memorial fund and gave material assistance to his family.

While conducting operations in an area 15 miles east of Saigon, the company had encountered numerous booby traps. Private Vo Ba Tong, a dog handler who traveled with A Company, many times in the past had detected these traps with the aid of his dog, Czar. His past alertness had prevented many injuries and loss of life in the company.

Captain Alfred G. Issac, company commander, wrote in a letter to Private Tong's commanding officer, "His enthusiasm and dedication was exemplary in all respects and his presence was a definite moral booster for all personnel with whom he worked."



FIRST FLIGHT—Under the whine of the superjets F-5 jet engine, a ground crewman signals ready to a Vietnamese pilot of the newly-created 522nd Tactical Fighter Squadron.

New Milestone for VNAF...

(Continued From Page 1)

In October, 1966, 33 Vietnamese pilots were selected to attend F-5 jet training in the U.S. Following language training at Lackland AFB, Texas and six months flight training at Williams AFB, Ariz., the VNAF pilots returned in April to form the nucleus of the new jet squadron at Bien Hoa.

To assist in the transition from Skyraider to Freedom Fighter, the U.S. Air Force Training Command furnished a Mobile Training Team (MTT) to VNAF's 23rd Tactical Wing at Bien Hoa. The MTT's staff of 10 non-commissioned officers provide classroom instruction in F-5 maintenance to 160 VNAF airmen and officers.

Simplified maintenance features of the Northrop F-5 reduce ground support requirements to only 20 maintenance hours per flying hour—less than any other supersonic tactical fighter.

Safety and reliability of the F-5 are increased by its dual engines, low rate of fuel consumption, separate dual fuel, hydraulic and electrical systems. The "Freedom Fighter" has a range of more than 1500 miles, depending on payload.

The presentation of the aircraft at Bien Hoa was followed by a flight demonstration, display of ground equipment, awarding of decorations to Viet-

namese and U.S. Air Force personnel, and a parachute jump by Vietnamese paratroops. A mass formation representing all

elements of Vietnamese armed forces stretched for nearly a quarter mile along the flight line.

Marine Pilot Extracted By Tri-Service Rescue Team

Da Nang (USMC)—A Marine pilot hit by enemy ground fire and forced to eject from his burning jet southwest of Phu Bai was rescued in less than 45 minutes.

Major Edward F. Townley, Jr., Prairie Village, Kan., Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron 232, was flying an aerial reconnaissance mission when his F-8E Crusader jet was hit.

His fire warning light flashed on as he passed near the deserted French airstrip of Tabat in As Hua Valley. Seeing fire under his right wing, he radioed his wingman, Captain Richard J. Pederson, Central Valley, Calif., that he was heading to sea.

Moments later, handling difficulties forced Major Townley to eject. During his parachute descent, he became entangled in the 150-foot jungle trees and he was forced to slide down a tree trunk to the ground. Unhurt, he worked to evade any enemy forces in the area.

Meanwhile, Captain Pederson had notified rescue authorities and a tri-service rescue operation was launched. Two Crusaders from VMF (AW) 232 were

orbiting overhead as four U.S. Army helicopters skinned above the treetops.

Major Townley signaled the choppers with flares and his survival radio. They circled protectively, but could not extract the downed Marine pilot because of the thick jungle growth.

Approximately 40 minutes after Major Townley had touched ground, an Air Force rescue helicopter arrived with a special hoist. A medic descended through the jungle canopy, then he and the Marine

pilot rode the hoist out together.

"I am very grateful to everyone for their rescue efforts," Major Townley said. "It was a hell of a lonely feeling riding down that parachute and knowing there were no friendlies around, and it was a rewarding thing to arrive back in Da Nang one hour later."

Their Version

Dong Ha (USMC)—Combined Action Company (CAC) Papa 1 established its own version of the "hot line." The telephone linkup runs between the company's headquarters seven miles south of Dong Ha, and the Vietnamese force headquarters for the village of Trieu Ai. The added hookup will eliminate confusion, especially at night in case of an attack.

Wives Get Fares Cut To Hawaii

Saigon (MACV)—Military Airlift Command has announced that wives of military personnel planning to visit their husbands in Hawaii during R&R may take advantage of new reduced air-fare effective June 24.

The discount of approximately 25 per cent is on economy (tourist) class tickets from the west coast to Hawaii. Flights will depart from Seattle-Tacoma, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Airlines offering the reduced fares are Pan American, United and Northwest.

The reduced rates apply only to wives (not parents or dependent children) of men in Vietnam; to round trip tickets which are good for only 15 days from time of departure until time of return. Reservations may be obtained at any airline ticket office or Joint Airline Military Transportation Office JAMTO. Cost of the round-trip ticket will be \$165.00.

A MACV orders form similar to DD1580 overprinted on the reverse side must be used. It will be available to individuals through component commands. The forms are authorized to be reproduced locally.

Vietnamese Praise Dragonship's Crew

Da Nang (USAF)—Appreciation for the close air support provided by an AC-47 Dragonship crew, which aided one of his units in resisting a recent all-out attack, was shown by an Army of Vietnam (ARVN) sector commander in a letter of commendation sent to the crew members.

"As soon as we began firing, the VC began to disengage, and after a short while, we found ourselves flying as far as two and a half miles away from the outpost, firing and dropping flares as we went, hitting various VC escape routes," he said. During their two and a half hours over the target, the crew dropped 43 flares and fired 20,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition.

In his letter of appreciation, ARVN Lieutenant Colonel Le Tri Tin, commander of the Quang Nam sector, said: "This glowing victory owes a great deal to the effective support of the crew members who dropped flares to light the battle ground and strafed timely and accurately, enabling the enemy to withdraw with over 30 bodies left behind, including the VC company commander.

"Arriving over the area, we found that the VC had burned out most of the village and were massing for an attack on the government outpost," said Captain Cole.

"We immediately began drop-

ping flares, so both we and the men on the ground could watch for VC movement. We made our firing passes with the mini-guns at the direction of the Special Forces advisor on the ground, who was relaying strike messages to us from his ARVN counterparts.

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"The high serving spirit and noble sacrifice of the crew members has voiced the determination for victory to gain the just cause of the U.S. and Vietnamese peoples."

ARVN...

(Continued From Page 1)

The reaction force reached the scene in time to stave off the VC's attempt to merge and surround the government troops. With the western flank sealed off by the reaction force, the 1st and 3rd Companies rallied together and the Viet Cong battalion was split. Realizing their plan was foiled, the insurgents broke contact and retreated.

Although only seven VC dead were counted after the smoke had settled, villagers reported at least 56 killed in action. Friendly casualties were 10 killed and seven wounded.



"So you're from Dalat huh? What a coincidence. I'm from Hoboken."

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

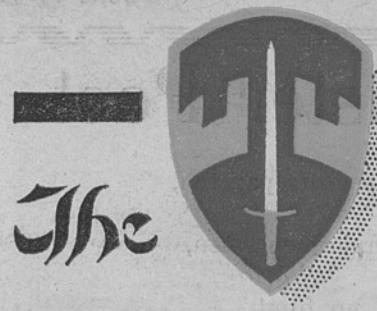
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TO: _____

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(16 cents Airmail)
(10 cents 1st class)



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 5

Saigon, Vietnam

June 7, 1967

He Lives Because Someone Cared



A RELATIVE TO COMFORT—Nearly a year ago, a relative waited on a runway near Huynh Tai. (USAF Photo)

Phan Rang (USAF) — Little Huynh Tai was a pitiful sight that day, more than a year ago, when his father, Huynh Tho, carried him into the Phan Rang Province Hospital after walking more than three days to make the 50-mile journey through Viet Cong controlled territory.

Barely eight years old, tiny Tai was not mauled and torn by Communists terrorists; his frail body was ravaged by a different killer — tuberculosis. Already paralyzed, his life expectancy could be counted in days. This hospital in Phan Rang city was his last hope.

Donating his spare time and medical knowledge to help the understaffed Vietnamese doctors at the hospital, Air Force Captain Harry L. Tucker, Winter Park, Fla., a physician at the air base hospital, examined the new patient.

He found pulmonary and probable abdominal tuberculosis. The disease had attacked the spinal column, destroying several vertebrae which collapsed the spine into a bent-over position. Pressure, caused by the abnormal position, had paralyzed Tai's lower extremities.

Within two weeks, Tai was airlifted to the modern medical facilities at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base. A three-man team, including Captain Tucker, performed the operation to drain an abscess and relieve the pressure. Encased in a cast from hips to chin, Tai was returned

(Continued on Back Page)

Humane Treatment Towards 14-Year-Old VC Is Rewarded

Phu Bai (USMC) — Humane treatment given to a 14 year-old VC detainee by Marines of the 26th Marine Regiment induced him to lead them around a booby-trapped area and into a Viet Cong hideaway.

He was constructing homemade booby-traps just before being captured by the Marines. They found him playing dead in a nearby river. The Marines waded out and dunked his head and he gave himself away.

Instead of being roughed up and shot on the spot as the VC had told him, the Marines gave him food and water and sent him back to the headquarters area.

The decent treatment paid off as the boy decided to give them intelligence information about the VC. He told them of a VC meeting scheduled that night.

MACV Reports On Extensions

Washington (AFNB) — MACV Reports that more than 5,000 Army personnel have extended their Vietnam tours from Dec. 16, 1966 through March 31, 1967. These extensions were under Public Law 89-735, authorizing these six-month extendees a special 30-day leave.

where the booby-traps were set around two camouflaged VC tunnels and gave names, weapons and areas where other VC were operating.

"The boy had only been a VC for a couple months," said Second Lieutenant William A. Brown, Jacksonville, S. C., "He said he was forced into it and headed a team of 10 other youngsters. He's just a kid, caught in the middle of a very complicated war."

The Marines decided to take the boy with them and check the information out. When the Marines arrived at the VC area, the youngster signalled that he him-

self would probe for the booby-traps. After about five minutes of searching he showed that he had found one.

"I was going up to inspect the booby-trap," said Gunnery Sergeant Thomas H. Baker, Jacksonville, N. C., "when the kid warned me back. He disarmed it himself and handed it to us."

The boy later led the Marines to an enemy village and pointed out two well-concealed caves.

"I sort of like the boy," said Private First Class Ronald J. Butler, Houston. "I felt he wouldn't lead us into a trap. He seemed glad to be helping us out."

Sightless Pilot Hits Pay Dirt

Da Nang (USAF) — Blinded in his left eye, and with blood obscuring the vision in his right eye, Colonel Richard Ayersman, Tempe, Ariz., followed directions from an Air Force forward air controller (FAC) and his Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) flight leader to safely land his A-1G Skyraider at Phu Bai air field.

Colonel Ayersman, commander of Air Force Advisory Team 5 attached to the VNAF 315th "Tiger" Fighter Squadron at Da Nang, was flying as wingman for First Lieutenant Phan Trung on a strike mission in the A Shau Valley. They were being directed on target by Major William Roth, Aurora, Ill., a FAC flying out of Phu Bai.

"Trung and I made a low level pass," Colonel Ayersman said. "Major Roth gave a correction on his bomb drop, and he put it right where it was called for. I came in behind him, dropped mine and I was pulling off when I got hit."

A high explosive .50 caliber shell lodged in the canopy beside Colonel Ayersman's head. When it exploded canopy fragments hit the colonel in the face, shattering his flying glasses. Slivers of glass lodged in his left eye and blood was pouring from his facial wounds.

Colonel Ayersman remained conscious. The canopy had been jammed. "I didn't even think about bailing out; the plane was flying okay."

"We heard him say he was hit and that he couldn't see," said the major. "He was holding the plane steady as he was coming up. I just had him come higher so he could clear the mountains, and told him to turn 90 degrees. We were close to Phu Bai and we wanted to get him there right away."

As the aircraft started toward Phu Bai, the faster A-1s began to pull ahead of the O-1E. While Major Roth had been talking to the colonel, Lieutenant Trung had been trying to contact the air controllers at Da Nang, but the only people he could talk to were the Marine control tower operators at Phu Bai and the colonel. He requested the tower to have VNAF rescue helicopters standing by in the event the colonel crashed.

Lieutenant Trung, a veteran of 600 combat missions, brought his A-1 close to the colonel's to assess the damage. "He wasn't flying like he was wounded," Trung said. "He had blood on his face, but he was flying like everything was okay."

Nearing the field, Colonel Ayersman began to make his landing approach. Lieutenant Trung told him when to pull up or drop down. The colonel

(Continued on Back Page)

Spent 22 Years 'Underwater'

Da Nang (USN) — A Navy submarine veteran for 22 years finally surfaced long enough to receive orders ashore—almost. His orders brought him to a repair barge at the Naval Support Activity, Da Nang.

Senior Chief Electrician Felicisimo Fernandez, San Narciso, Philippines, has spent his entire career aboard submarines. Now on the YR-70, a yard repair facility that never leaves dock,

Chief Fernandez is assistant to the electrical officer. He supervises the overhauling of electrical motors.

When asked why he never received orders to a shore station before, Chief Fernandez said, "They just kept giving me 'subs' and I liked it so I never put in for shore duty."

The Chief conceded, however, that he had been on land four times during his career—in boot camp and at three service

schools.

In comparing his present duty to service on submarines, the Chief admitted he felt somewhat like a "fish out of water."

"I prefer smaller organizations," he said. "It doesn't take long to get to know everybody."

So after 22 years, Chief Fernandez, with his head above water, can wake up every morning and look at the shoreline, only 20 feet away.

Editorial

Rusk On Vietnam

The following statement of United States policy on Vietnam was made by Secretary of State Dean Rusk at the opening of a recent news conference:

"There has been a good deal of discussion in recent days about the prospects for peace in Vietnam. President Johnson has pressed for peace in Southeast Asia in capitals all over the world, over and over again. He has demonstrated that he is prepared to meet the other side more than half way.

He has urged a conference, unconditional discussions, or private and discreet contacts in order to move ahead with talks which might open the way to peace. He has responded affirmatively to the efforts of 17 nonaligned nations, of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers of Asian Nations, of the British cochairman, of members of the International Control Commission and to attempts made by leading personalities.

The United States has made it clear that Hanoi's four points could be discussed along with points which others may wish to propose or that we would engage in preliminary discussion to attempt to find an agreed set of points as a basis for negotiation. We have made it clear that we want no bases in Southeast Asia and do not wish to retain United States troops in Vietnam after peace is assured.

At Manila, the Allies stated that they would withdraw their forces not later than six months after the other side withdraws its forces to the North, ceases its infiltration and the level of violence thus subsides. We have stated that we believe that the question of reunification should be determined by the Vietnamese through their own free decision.

We have emphasized that we much prefer to use our resources for the economic reconstruction of Southeast Asia rather than war and that peace could permit North Vietnam to participate in a regional effort to which we would be prepared to contribute at least one billion dollars.

On the military side, we have on two occasions stopped the bombing of North Vietnam to discover whether there might be some constructive reaction from the other side. In May 1965, a pause was limited to five and a half days because it was rejected by the principal communist capitals during the first three days.

At the beginning of 1966, there was a cessation for 37 days—a period much longer than had been indicated might produce some constructive result. It elicited no response other than the continuation of the movement of men and arms into the South, and an assertion that Vietnam must be settled on communist terms. We have emphasized that we would be prepared to discuss steps of mutual deescalation or would take note of any deescalation and respond accordingly.

But for some time now there has been evident a systematic campaign by the communist side to bring about an unconditional and permanent cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam without any corresponding military action on their side in exchange for the possibility of talks—talks which are thus far formless and without content.

We cannot accept a situation in which men and arms move, without interruption by us, to cross the 17th parallel and attack allied armed forces and Vietnamese civilians in the South. We must know the military consequences of such a military action on our part. They must not expect us to stop our military action by bombing while they continue their military action by invasion. No one has been able or willing to give us any information on this subject.

It is entirely within the resources of the quiet diplomacy of both sides to talk about peace and to discuss mutual steps to reduce the violence. We have been trying in every way known to us to invite and to engage in such talks. Unfortunately I cannot report to you today any tangible forward movement in this direction. All channels remain open and are being utilized."

FIRST IN VIETNAM
OBSERVER

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Support From Home

(Editor's Note—Gen. W. C. Westmoreland receives daily, hundreds of letters, scrolls, petitions, etc., from the citizens of the United States from every corner of the U.S. and from all over the world. Since it would be impossible to print all the names of the individuals and organizations in The Observer, we will pick at random several and print them in one column periodically.)

STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION
To All Servicemen
In Vietnam
Mrs. S. Kudrick
Brooklyn

RESOLUTION
Ninth Guam
Legislature
Agana, Guam

STATEMENT of Support
VFW Post 2550
Ocala, Florida

RESOLUTION
Oklahoma State
House of
Representatives
and Senate
Oklahoma City

RESOLUTION
Third Regiment
Pershing Rifles
Indiana University
Bloomington, Ind.

BLOOD COLLECTION ASSISTANCE
(400 Pints)
Free Americans
Against Disarmament
Burnsville High School
Burnsville, Miss.

LETTERS TO SERVICEMEN
Zapotec Hall
San Diego State
College
San Diego, Calif.

GIFTS and LETTERS
"Those Who Care"
Mrs. J. H. Burleson
Port Lavaca, Tex.

TELEGRAM
(50 Signatures)
Sons of Liberty
Harvard Class of '67
Cambridge, Mass.

The Piaster Poet

Service Savings Deposits pay ten,
Per cent to all servicemen when,
The money's up front,
By the tenth of the month,
Save some sawbucks, C-notes or a fin.

"You buy me one 'Bond!'" said a Miss,
As a sailor's left ear she did kiss.
"By me BOND?" yelled he,
As he tested her tea,
"Ba Muoi Ba", she replied with a lisp.

A dollar's a dollar's a buck,
If it grows it is not due to luck.
Once converted to P's,
It's gone like a breeze,
A bank is good luck for a buck.

Intelligence sources admit,
The VC will someday submit.

But only if we,
Use wisely the 'P',

And hold off inflation, dammit.

Said a Tunnel Rat crawling near Nui Mang,

"Through the PX I'll buy a new Mustang.

With my savings I'll git,

Bucket seats, the whole bit,

And my 'P' saving won't be in vain."

Tax Break Assured

Saigon (MACV) — U.S. Savings Bonds interest is not subject to state or local income tax. The interest is, however, subject to federal income tax and excise taxes.

Interest earned on Series E bonds is not payable until the bonds are cashed or they reach final maturity. This makes them an excellent investment for retirement, since income is usually lower in retirement years.

This fact, plus the double income tax exemption after age 65, could greatly reduce or even wipe out the tax liability on Class E bond interest.

An alternate plan is to wait until the child begins to cash the bonds to pay college expenses. He then files his own tax return each year, reporting the interest on the bonds he cashes as income. If this and other income totals less than \$900, he will owe no tax at all.



JOINT PATROL—At a highway checkpoint near Cam Ranh Bay, an Air Policeman, a Vietnamese National Policeman, a Korean MP and an American MP check Free World Forces supply traffic. (USA Photo)

Central Highland Fighters Receive Div's High Praise

Oasis (USA)—A unit of Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) from the Plei Me Special Forces Camp working with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division has won praise for its role in clearing villages as part of a security program.

In the past few days the

Artillery Det Trains ROKs

Cam Ranh Bay (USA) — Members of the 238th Field Artillery Detachment located in Dong Ba Thin are training an average of two Republic of Korea (ROK) soldiers every four weeks in the use of the U.S. Army's Counter Mortar Radar Unit, Q-4.

The 238th, dubbed "Watchdog", is strategically located between all major units in the Cam Ranh Bay area. They keep a 24-hour vigil on all the important military complexes, depots and the large air base in the sprawling bay area. Using the Army's Q-4, the men are able to locate the point of origin of any enemy mortar fired into their area of responsibility.

Major Mary A. Armstrong, Janesville, Wisc., is one of four U.S. Army Medical Specialist Corps dietitians serving in Vietnam. All four dietitians are assigned to the 1st Logistical Command.

She will manage all aspects of the food service operations for the 44th Medical Brigade's 17 hospitals. "I will, no doubt, spend a lot of time visiting the brigade's many hospitals all over the country," Major Armstrong said.

"Of course, many of those trips will be made by plane. Unfortunately though, I'll have to settle on being a passenger on those trips."

A 1939 graduate of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., Major Armstrong served as a dietetic intern at Walter Reed Hospital as a civilian in 1943 and 1944. She received a direct appointment as an officer in 1944.

Should a round fall outside the scanner's range, the unit calls on the 238th to pinpoint the enemy's location.

Last year the 238th Field Artillery Detachment totaled 5,000 hours of radar vigilance and was happy to report "no incidents of mortar attacks".

Private First Class Gary Paul, San Diego, a rifleman with A Company, related one particular incident. "Just before we got out tracks (APCs), we were operating in dense jungle with a group of CIDG's working as scouts, when one of them shouted and began firing into the brush. Then the remainder of the group charged what was a well-concealed NVA ambush. They moved right in there, pumping lead into the surprised Charles."

"They were somewhat skeptical of our newly acquired APC's, but now they've become adept at applying tactics peculiar to a mechanized unit. They are some of the best fighters I've seen."

Come Fly With Me

Lady Bird's With Med Brig

Saigon (USA)—A lady pilot with 700 hours flying time and 249 days sea duty has been assigned as the dietary staff advisor for the 44th Medical Brigade in Vietnam.

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Major Mary A. Armstrong



VICTIMS OF VC GRENADE—Three Vietnamese civilians lie in hospital beds of the My Tho Province Hospital. Approximately 30 were injured, 15 seriously, when a lone VC terrorist threw a hand grenade into a crowd of 250 persons that had gathered in the Than Phu village marketplace to watch a television program.

(Photo by IV Corps, MACV)

Children's Hospital, Done Over

Saigon (USA)—Saigon's Clothing Sales Store, which is frequently called on to fill large orders for uniform items, was given a big pair of shoes to fill late last year.

The request, which came from U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command's (USAHAC) Civic Actions Office, was to provide assistance to a deserving children's hospital in Saigon.

The Nhi Dong Children's Hospital, caring for almost 500 Vietnamese youngsters who range in age from newly-born infants to 12-year-olds, was in critical need of labor to improve the hospital building and of supplies to assist in the children's care.

In 1966, the Vietnamese started drifting back into My Heip after their own time and with materials donated from USAHAC's Post Engineers, they assisted in building the hospital's first shower. Plumbing was needed to insure adequate washing facilities for the hospital's patients.

Concurrently with the shower installation, Captain Richard A. Harman, Sullivan, Mo., deputy chief of the Civic Actions Office, conducted an inventory to determine which supplies were the most critical.

Fast action after the inventory brought in sheets and beds to help the crowded 240-bed hospital take care of a larger number of patients.

Civic Action rapidly followed up with five tons of multipurpose high protein food supplement and large quantities of soap and disinfectant.

U.S. Losses

Washington (AFNB) — DoD Statistics show that 9,226 U.S. service personnel lost their lives in Vietnam from hostile actions from Jan. 1, 1961 through April 22, 1967. Additionally, 1,935 lost their lives from non-hostile action causes.

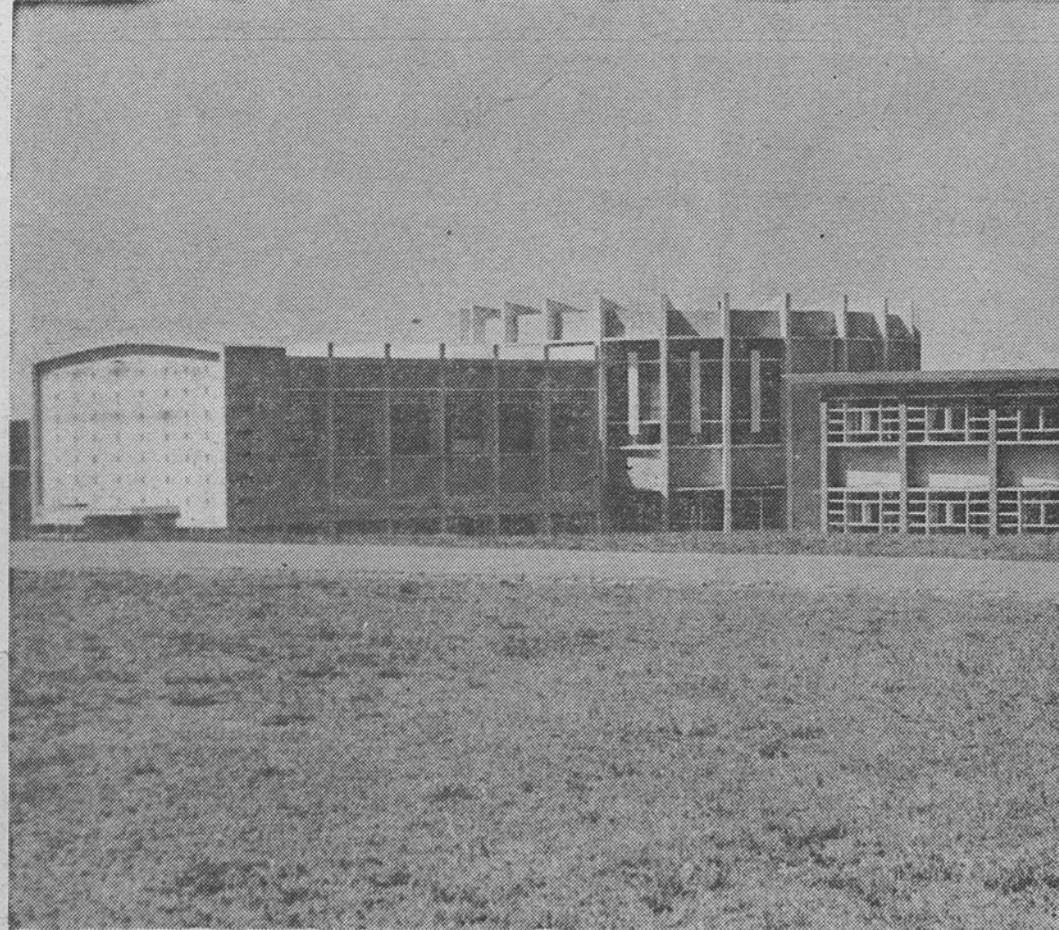
Perhaps the greatest joy to the

Progress Well on Its Way At Former VC Headquarters

Qui Nhon (USA)—A former headquarters for the Viet Minh and the Viet Cong, the Nha Da Catholic Church on Highway 1, 25 miles from Qui Nhon, is now once again the center of religion, education and medicine for the My Heip village, Phu My district.

Although presently there is no high school, Father Tan takes great pride in showing plans for the soon-to-be started 500-student high school. The school will be situated on a site which has been cleared and leveled by the U.S.

VIETNAM'S 'WEST POINT'



The administration building is just one of the many new, well equipped buildings on the campus.

Dalat (USA)—West Point is a long way from Dalat, Republic of Vietnam, but the gap is being bridged. An educational revolution is now underway at the Vietnamese National Military Academy that is transforming it into an institution of higher learning that will, in the future, make it comparable to the famous school on the Hudson.

The method of instruction, length of course and material presented have all undergone significant changes through the combined efforts of the school's officials and the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) staff advisors assigned to the Academy.

Until the current term, the method of instruction had been that of the European educational system. Professors lectured but did not encourage cadet participation in the classroom. Outside assignments were practically nonexistent. The only tests that were given were those at the semester's end.

Under the old system a student would begin to specialize in a particular field at a very early stage in his education. If, for example, a student chose mathematics, he would study only this subject. Although he would become highly proficient in that field, he would not be trained to correlate it with other fields of knowledge.

These points were brought out last year in a MACV study of the Academy. Action was taken immediately to adopt a more progressive educational system.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard F. DeKay, New York City, senior Academy advisor, and his staff have worked with the Academy superintendent, Colonel Do Ngoc Nhan, to closely pattern the school's operations after those of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Major changes have been made at the school in the method of instruction. Cadets are now tested daily in each class and have required study assignments each night. Classroom participation is encouraged and cadets are often called upon to promote discussions in class. Smaller classes (average student/teacher ratio is 20-1) are helping promote a more personal relationship in the classes by providing more individual attention.

Another innovation borrowed directly from West Point is the posting of grades, showing where the student stands scholastically in the class. Classes are regrouped from top to bottom according to this standing at six-week intervals.

All of the advisory team officers are graduates of the United States Military Academy. Major Charles M. Madler, Westmont, N.Y., academic advisor, came directly from a faculty position at West Point.

A new curricula, designed to acquaint the cadets with a variety of subjects, is now being followed. The well-rounded selection, from basic sciences to social studies and language, will provide a more encompassing scope of knowledge and assist the graduate in his ability to handle problems in fields other than his particular specialty.

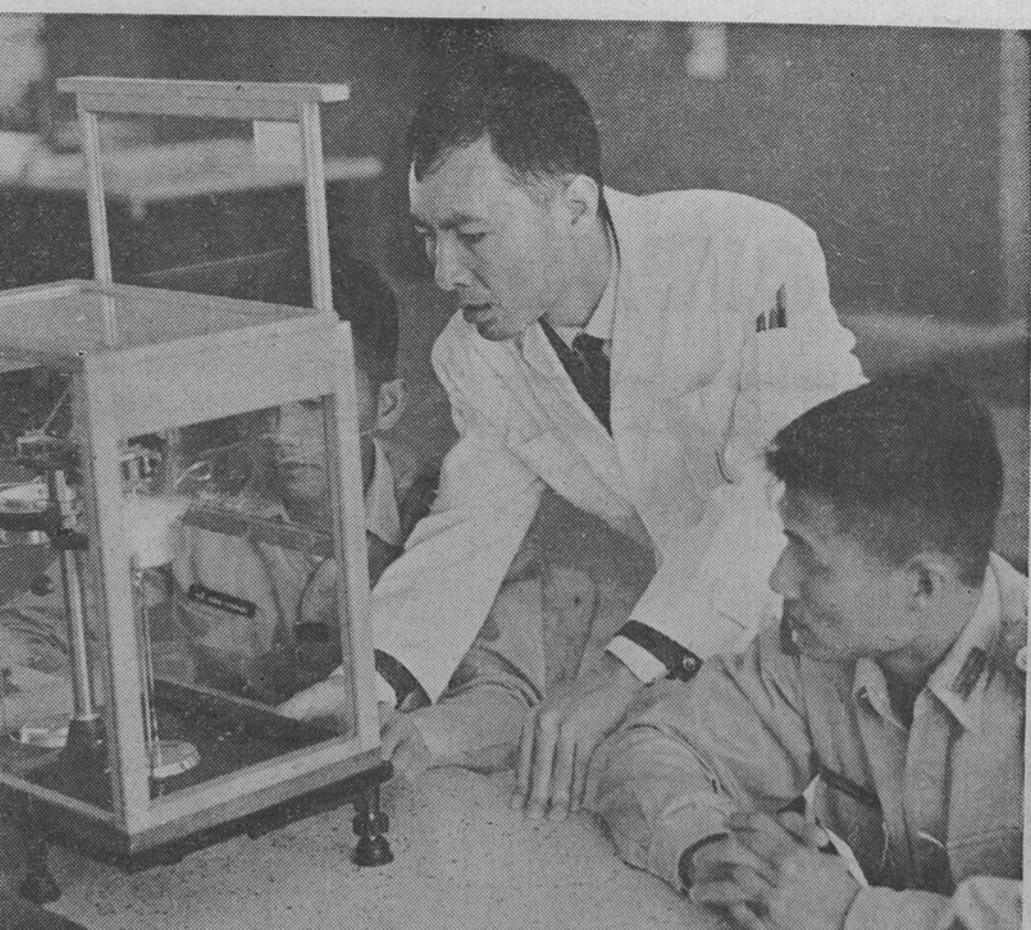
The Academy was established by the French in 1948 with the Vietnamese taking over complete control in 1954. A presidential decree was signed in 1962 lengthening the course of instruction to four years. However, increased hostilities in the nation the following year, coupled with a shortage of junior officers, forced the Academy to remain a two-year institution.

In September, 1966, Premier Ky signed a proclamation making the Vietnamese National Military Academy an accredited four-year university. The first four-year class is currently in its second year. These cadets will graduate not only as officers but as holders of a bachelor's degree.

Military training is constantly impressed upon the cadets from the time they enter the Academy until graduation. Classroom and field training exercises in military science are an everyday part of the cadet's 37-week academic year. Each cadet also receives eight weeks of intensive field training each summer.

An active intramural athletic program has also been started at VNMA with the cadets participating in a wide range of sports. This program helps to keep the cadets in top physical condition as well as developing a spirit of competition.

The Vietnamese Academy graduates officers in all four branches of the service, Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines, thus providing for the future top military leadership in all services.

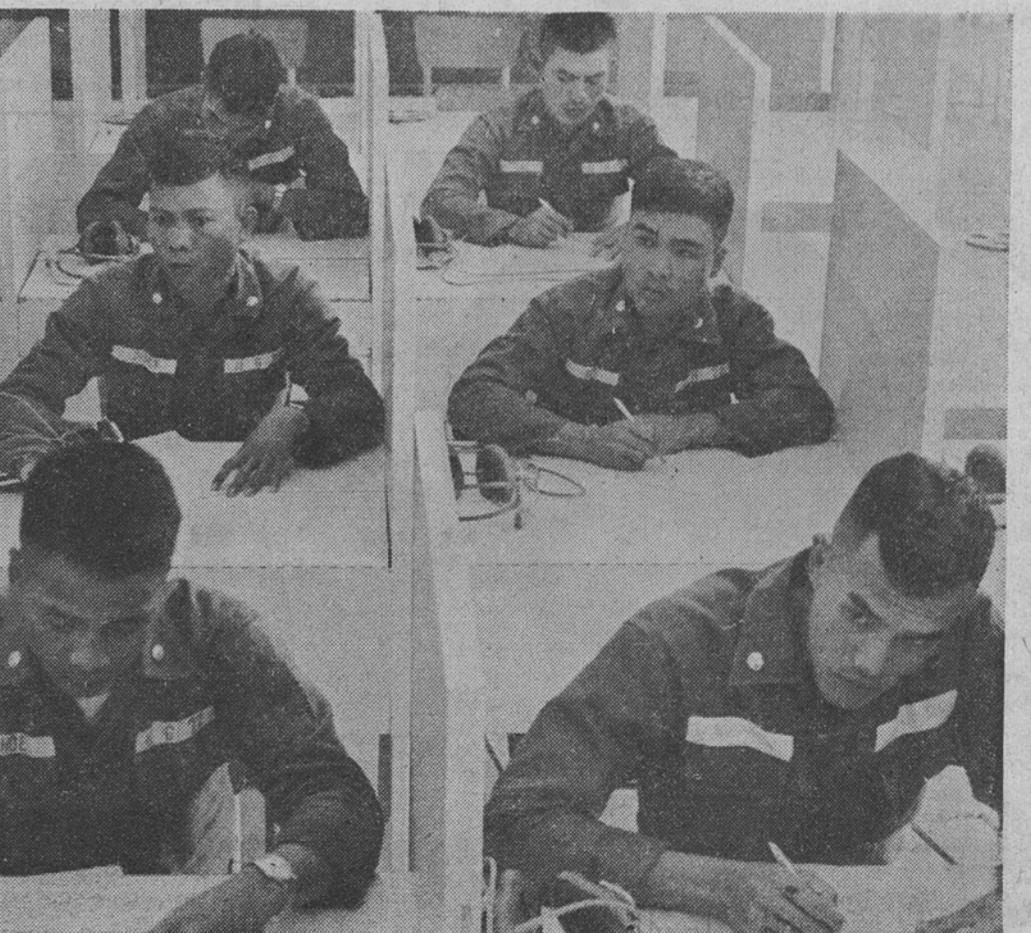


Physical sciences are taught to cadets in modern, well equipped laboratories.



Cadets learn in the field about military science. The new four-year program is designed to produce well qualified military leaders.

Instructors from the Republic of Korea instruct cadets daily in the art of hand-to-hand combat.



Cadets pay close attention as their instructors lecture in English in the all-new language laboratory.

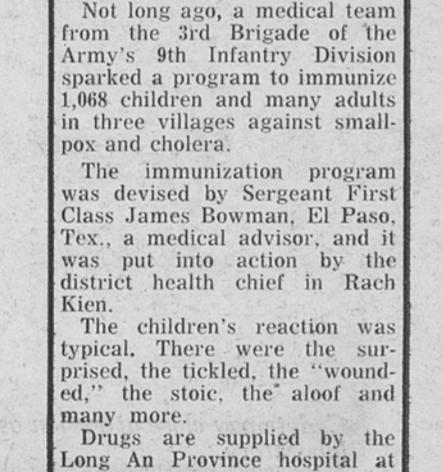
A Universal Feeling

Preventive Care the Sharp Way



Story by 9th Inf Div IO

Photos by
Sp4 Gary Dipes, USA



VC Mine Found by Tiny Bus

Bong Son (USA) — A broken tail light, a little girl's hat and the arm of a child were the only recognizable items at the scene of a typical Viet Cong atrocity along Highway QL-1 between Bong Son and Tam Quan.

Members of the 35th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 45th Engineer Group, came upon this scene as they set out to determine what had caused the destruction of a culvert along the road. They found that apparently a Lambretta (small Vietnamese vehicle) loaded with people had struck a land mine planted by the Viet Cong.

After sweeping the rest of the road, the engineers extracted a large chunk of shrapnel from the culvert and turned it over to an explosive ordnance demolition team. It was determined that a 750-pound bomb had been devised as a land mine.

Few of the villagers seemed interested when the team first began to set up the rice thresher in a local farmer's courtyard. S.K. Cheng, one of the Chinese advisors, started a foot pump, which rolled a barrel inside the machine. The villagers were amazed when he held a bundle of rice stalks over the whirling barrel and in seconds there were no grains left on them. After another demonstration by Cheng, more and more farmers tried the rice thresher and soon over 50 Vietnamese stood in the small courtyard.

Lambrettas are not equipped this way and Vietnamese civilians don't wear flak vests. As a result, an undetermined number of innocent, woman, and children met violent death when their vehicle struck the Viet Cong implanted mine.

Private Taylor and Lieutenant Decker worked out a plan to

Villagers Treated

Xuan Loc (USA) — After conducting intensive security checks in a village near here, a MEDCAP team of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division treated between 120 and 150 people.

A surgeon, six helpers and an interpreter entered the village and set up an aid station at the school house.

Khánh Duong (USA) — A former North Vietnamese Army regular did such a professional job of guiding paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division to his former hide-

Rice Thresher Demonstration Becomes International Affair

Phu Bai (USMC) — An ordinary bundle of rice stalks became part of an international operation at a small Vietnamese village not far from Phu Bai.

Marine Private First Class William Taylor, Huntsville, Ala., 3rd Marine Division civil action agricultural advisor, acquired a Japanese rice thresher, designed to reduce the time and increase the efficiency rate of a rice harvest, but didn't know how to use it.

To help him, Lieutenant Van Decker, Corvallis, Ore., of the Army's 29th Civil Affairs Team, contacted the Chinese Agriculture Technical Mission in Hue. The Chinese team said that they knew how to run the thresher and would be glad to demonstrate it.

Private Taylor made arrangements to transport the thresher and meet the Chinese team in a small village not far from 3rd Marine Division's headquarters.

Later during the day three soldiers were almost killed when their five-ton truck struck another mine nearby. The truck was demolished, but flak vests worn by the men and sandbags lining the truck saved their lives.

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Private Taylor and Lieutenant Decker worked out a plan to

bring the machine back to the village in two days and the villagers could bring in their rice crop and use the machine to thresh it.

In a single day, the villagers

threshed their entire season's crop, which they had just harvested.

By the time the next crop is ready, the village will have its own rice thresher.



PREPARATION — S. K. Cheng, a member of the Chinese Agricultural Technical Mission, prepares bundle ties for beaten rice stalks prior to a rice threshing demonstration. (USMC Photo)

Former NVA Receives Aid For Year-old Chest Wound

A year later he defected. His reasons for leaving the NVA were that he could not get medical treatment for his wound, he was sick and field conditions were poor.

They arranged to have a year-old shell fragment removed from his chest.

During Operation Summerall, Private Nguyen Van Minh surrendered under the Open Arms (Chieu Hoi) Program. Eighteen days later, he acted as a guide for B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry on a search and destroy mission.

Specialist 4 Emmett E. Ballree, Mount Olive, N. C., worked closely with Private Minh and was impressed by the young NVA conscript's jungle lore. "He showed us VC signs we would have missed," he said.

The squad leader learned his guide was walking around with a small but painful shell fragment in his chest. Captain Thomas M. Schlaak, Ft. Benning, Ga., company commander, said, "We enjoyed working with him and wanted to help him. The whole company felt that way."

Battalion headquarters made arrangements to aid Private Minh when B Company returned from the field. The operation was set up by Major James M. Tajiri, Monterey, Calif., commanding officer, 181st Military Intelligence Detachment. The detachment was responsible for the Chieu Hoi returnee while he was working for the "Screaming Eagles."

Specialist 6 Henrik B. Mork of the brigade Surgeon's Office removed the fragment.

Private Minh is from Thanh Hoa province in North Vietnam. He was drafted for the duration of the war. An air strike at Kontum last April wounded him.

'Sgt Yorks' Train for Deadly Art

Di An (USA) — The story is told of a Confederate marksman, armed with a cap-and-ball, single-shot rifle, lurking on the fringes of a Union camp for a week to assassinate a general. He had carefully plotted distances from maps, and he knew his weapon thoroughly. Finally he got his man with a single shot at a range of a full mile.

Although such drastic actions may never be required in Vietnam, the 2d Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division will begin training volunteer soldiers to be expert marksmen soon. Twelve men from each battalion will be accepted for specialized training. Volunteers will receive a seven-day course of instruction.

Expert marksmen trainees will be selected from volunteers who have the highest qualification scores with their weapons, and at least four months' retainability within the command. Preference will be given to those experienced in competition marksmanship.

At the end of each training cycle, the eight top men from each battalion will be selected and equipped with telescopic-sight rifles. The selection authority will be looking for men who display the seven essential requirements of an expert marksman: aggressiveness, reliability, patience, initiative, dedication, mental discipline, and, of course, rifle proficiency.

Experience shows that there is a critical need for expert marksmen in jungle warfare. In recent times the U.S. has not made extensive use of these techniques, but during World War II, the Germans and Japanese used them with great effectiveness, and some American troops were trained in this deadly art during the Korean War.

25th Inf Div Receives 900 Lb 'Frozen Cow'

Captain James P. Flowers, division Special Services officer, noted that the machine is capable of producing more than 45 gallons of ice cream per hour. The machine is chugging out two flavors at its normal rate, but future plans include providing the men with additional flavors such as strawberry, peach and other fruit flavors.

In the days to come perhaps cones, shakes and even banana splits will become a reality to the thousands of men in Cu Chi.

New Look For Sailors

Da Nang (USN) — Fleet sailors at the Da Nang Naval Support Activity are sporting a new look and liking it. The new look ranges from light-weight jungle fatigues to standard Seabee greens.

Seabees have been using the fatigues for years, but the Vietnam conflict is responsible for bringing them to fleet sailors stationed ashore in Vietnam.



"Don't worry Pal, I used to run the best tattoo parlor in Chicago."

TeamWork Snares VC On Beach

Ninh Hoa (USA) — Team work between a Vietnamese Navy patrol boat, two U.S. Army helicopter pilots and two Republic of Korea (ROK) sergeants gathered in a hustling Viet Cong soldier.

While flying the picturesque shoreline north of Ninh Hoa on a routine resupply mission for a unit of the 9th ROK Division, Warrant Officer Jack L. Finn, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Warrant Officer Bradford M. Jones, Monterey, Cal., noticed something developing on the beach below them. A figure dressed in black pajamas and burdened with a heavy pack was scurrying along the sand, apparently being pursued by a Vietnamese Navy patrol boat.

The boat was speeding toward the shore, but was still 300 yards out at sea. Dropping down for a closer look, the helicopter made a rapid, low level pass over the boat. The sailors waved at them and frantically pointed to the man scrambling up the beach.

The pilots quickly circled their aircraft and touched down not ten feet from the surprised fugitive. Two Korean sergeants who were on board the chopper jumped out and took the man captive.

When questioned later at the ROK battalion headquarters, the man admitted that he was a Viet Cong. Still not completely sure what had happened to him, he repeatedly expressed his displeasure at his unfortunate turn of events.

Medevac Operates On Time

Nha Trang (USA) — One of the big factors in high American morale is that the soldier knows that if wounded, Medevac helicopters will be on the scene to fly him in minutes from the battlefield stretcher to the hospital bed.

The speed and efficiency with which pilots and airborne medics operate was demonstrated recently by the Army's 498th Air Ambulance Helicopter Company (Dust Off).

A Medevac request came in for a hoist pickup near Ninh Hoa, 18 miles northwest of Nha Trang. Within five minutes Major Warren E. Roller, Youngstown, Ohio, was aloft in his UH-1D "Huey" helicopter and heading towards the pickup site.

Arriving at the scene Major Roller, discovered that he had answered the call so quickly the landing zone hadn't even been prepared yet. So, after orbiting the area for ten minutes, Major Roller took his chopper in for the pickup.

Hovering 30 feet below the tree line, with the rotor blades nicking the edge of the trees, the chopper's hoist was lowered 50 feet to reach the wounded soldier. Hanging on with only his arms and one leg in the rescue vest, the patient was hauled aboard and taken to the 8th Field Army Hospital in Nha Trang.

Not counting the ten-minute orbit, Major Roller's craft had arrived at the pickup site, extracted the man and transported him to a field hospital in just 25 minutes.



HAND-CARRIED—First Sergeant William Pickle presents the American flag to General W. C. Westmoreland, climaxing its 10,000 mile journey from New York City. (MACV Photo)

Full Course Instruction In Forklift

Saigon (USA) — The U.S. Army Saigon Support Command's 506th Field Depot has begun a series of two-week instructional courses that will turn out 20 forklift operators each graduation day.

The idea of taking willing but untrained Vietnamese and turning them into qualified forklift operators was developed by Major William R. White, executive officer of the Depot's 264th Supply and Service Battalion.

Since the 506th, one of the 1st Logistical Command's field depots, supplies much of the goods going into Vietnam's III Corps sector, forklift operators are in constant demand by the depot.

"This course is a way of helping the Vietnamese to help themselves," stated Major White. "When peace is restored here, these forklift operators will have a trade that can help rebuild their country and make them self-sufficient."

The course is taught by Vietnamese operators and each graduate is issued a U.S. Army, Vietnam, forklift operator's license that will be valid on any U.S. military compound in Vietnam.

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Sleep Well Tonight

Rifle Company Has Unusual Job

Saigon (USA) — Whether you spell it MP or SG, it still means trouble for would-be Viet Cong terrorists who pose a threat to U.S. and Free World forces in Saigon.

Saigon's military policemen are familiar sights to personnel in the South Vietnamese capital, but the SGs, or security guards, who perform many MP-type duties in the city, play an important role alongside their better-known counterparts.

According to Lieutenant Joseph C. Wilson, Apple Valley,



STICK WITH THE NAVY—That's what this beauty is doing. She models a new swim suit stocked by Navy Sea Stores. It looks good on Australian stowaways and other beach types friendly to the Navy. (NSSO Photo)

Calif., commander of C Company, 52nd Infantry, his unit has an unusual job for a rifle company. "My men pull security duty at static guard posts," he explains, "which frees MPs for law enforcement duties."

This is a challenging job in a city like Saigon, where you never know when the next terrorist attack will occur."

Lieutenant Wilson's company, along with the 527th MP Company and one other platoon of SGs, are all assigned to the reinforced 716th MP Battalion, the Army's

Old Glory's Journey Symbolizes Support

Saigon (MACV) — On Saturday, April 15, many miles from Vietnam's jungles, in New York's Central Park, a band of war protesters, bitter in their dissent over United States' policies in Vietnam, burned an American flag and stomped it into the ground. The act outraged Americans everywhere.

Among the outraged were the organizers of a "Support Our Boys in Vietnam" parade which took place a month later, also in New York City. A supporter, actor Chuck Connors, acquired from Congressman Edward Reinecke (R-Calif.) an American flag which had flown over the U.S. Capitol. Congressman Reinecke, Connors, parade chairman Raymond Gimmer, and Medal of Honor Society president Thomas Kelly went to New York and raised the flag on the exact spot of the earlier desecration.

Connors then carried the flag in the "Support" parade down Fifth Avenue. He brought it back to Los Angeles with him and, "I will hand carry it to the site of that desecration and, joined by thousands, will rededicate this flag and return it to General Westmoreland and our brave fighting men in Vietnam."

The flag will continue to have special meaning. Said Chuck Connors, "If ever an American flag is desecrated or burned again on American soil, and I pray this will never happen, I will ask General Westmoreland to return this flag to the United States."

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Bong Son (USA) — A North Vietnamese Army soldier surrendered near Bong Son to elements of the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division because he said that he had become disillusioned with the Viet Cong and their torture tactics.

He was attached to the 7th Battalion, 22d North Vietnamese Army Regiment and had been with them for the past two years.

The night before he surrendered he had succeeded in evading a 1st Cavalry Division ambush. He said he had been in a shack with two friends when Cavalrymen pounced upon them. His friends were killed, but he managed to escape.

He voluntarily surrendered the next morning. He said that he would have surrendered sooner but had been told that he would be shot by the Americans if he did so.

The soldier said he was weary of Viet Cong treatment to the Vietnamese who refused to cooperate or join with the communists. He said he saw them tortured, usually so severely that they would be life-time invalids.

city during late hours.

An M60 gunner on one of these patrols, Staff Sergeant Charles L. Springer, Greensburg, Pa., one of C Company's security guards, says of his job, "We stand an eight-hour shift every day, seven days a week, outside U.S. and Free World billets and key military installations. From our kiosks (a semi-circular sandbagged concrete structure), we keep watch for possible signs of attack against our building."

About 40 percent of C Company's members are former soldiers with the 4th, 9th or 25th Infantry Divisions, with many of them holders of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

SGs perform another important security function: furnishing machine gunners for the MP jeep patrols that roam the

largest MP unit of its kind.

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Bunard Refugees Get Rangers' Aid

Bunard (USA) — Hacking, sawing, and moving dirt and logs are all a part of the 1st Infantry Division's "Ranger" rehabilitation program for the Vietnamese refugees of the Bunard area in War Zone C.

Setting the movement into full swing is Lieutenant Colonel Rufus C. Lazzell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry. "These people have come out of hiding in the jungles at the risk of being captured by the Viet Cong," he said. "They have asked for our help and we'll give it to them."

Sweating and sunburned, Private First Class Joe Dibiasi, Groveland, Mass., laughed and shouted, "Get to work, you're now a member of the 'Ranger Peace Corps!'"

At the other end of the "Ranger" camp, groups of soldiers were helping move laterite and logs to add the finishing touches to a dam that was being constructed for the refugees of the area.

Along with the construction of the dam, the "Rangers" plan to enhance the national pastime of fishing by dumping 10,000 fish in the reservoir. Private First Class Ray Mitchell, Mt. Pleasant, Tex., held up a long slender bamboo pole and yelled, "if Tom Sawyer can do it, so can I. Bring on the fish."

The "Rangers" were taking yet another step in the way of helping the refugees who were

Sightless

(Continued From Page 1) couldn't see his instruments and had to rely on the Lieutenant to tell him his landing gear was down.

Before he touched down, the bleeding stopped and partial vision returned to the colonel's right eye. He could faintly see the runway rushing toward him. "I expected to really set down hard," he said, "but it was a real good landing. The best I've ever made."

He could see well enough to taxi the Skyraider onto a ramp. The medics cleaned his wounds and in minutes he was aboard a Marine helicopter on his way to the Naval Support Activity hospital at Da Nang. There an eye specialist removed the glass from his eye and face.

"Everybody did a real professional job," said Colonel Ayersman, a veteran of Korea with two MIGs to his credit.

"My left eye was my weak one anyway, but now it seems to be better than ever. However, I don't recommend this method for eye improvement," he said with a smile.

Caught With Pants Down

Da Nang (USMC) — A combat patrol of B Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment foiled a would-be quick-change artist.

While searching a hut approximately 40 miles south of Da Nang, the 1st Division patrol discovered a Viet Cong hiding in the hut's attic. The Marines surprised the guerrilla by capturing him with his pants down. He was caught changing from a green uniform into peasant attire.

still out in the jungle hiding. An Air Force Psychological Warfare plane was flown to the "Ranger" camp and a special message was made by the battalion interpreter.

VC Playing Possum Is Dangerous

Gia Dinh (USA) — A Viet Cong playing possum can be a very dangerous quarry, so learned Sergeant Robert Ashe, mortar platoon sergeant, E Company, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

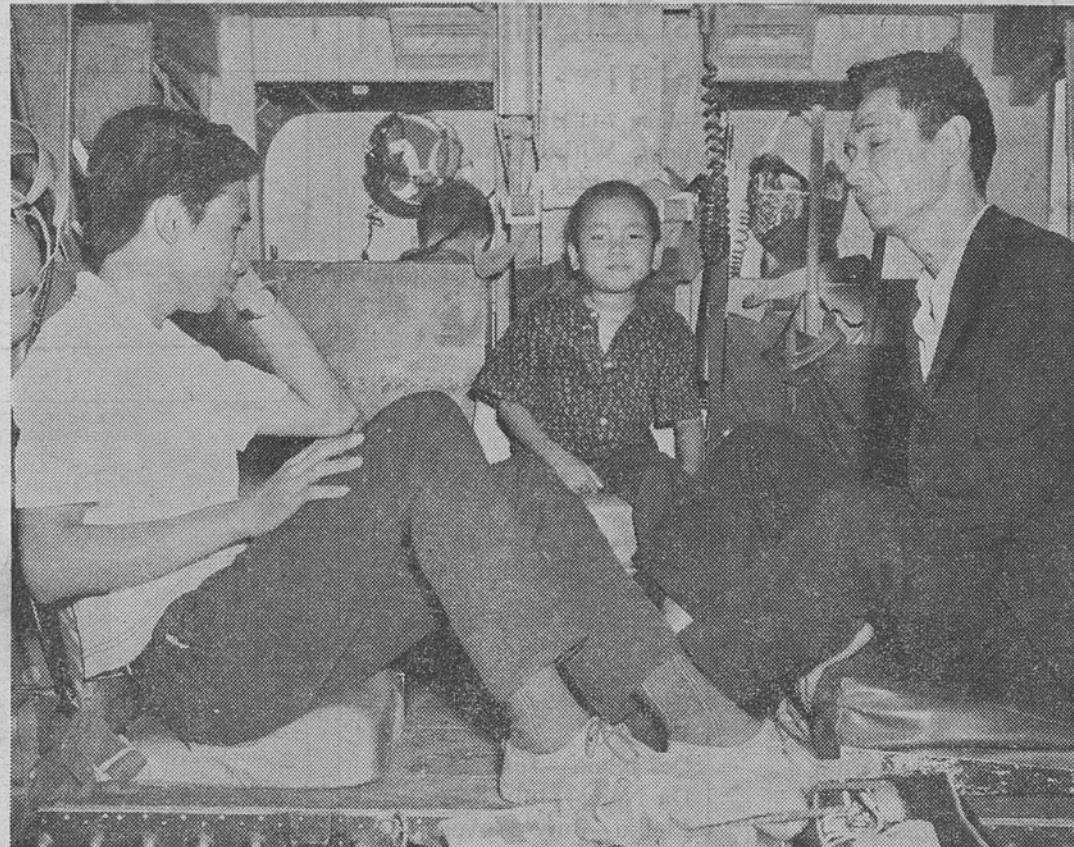
During a search and destroy mission in Gia Dinh province, Sergeant Ashe's platoon had contacted a VC squad and was in the midst of flanking the survivors, having killed three already when he ran across a hut in the path of his advance.

Cautiously, and with rifle at the ready, Sergeant Ashe entered the hut. In the gloom inside lay a dead Viet Cong on a cot, or at least he seemed to be dead.

Suddenly the sergeant heard the click of the release handle on a hand grenade and saw one fall from under the VC to the floor.

Acting quickly, Sergeant Ashe jumped outside and into a ditch and escaped the blast. He tossed a few hand grenades into the house and produced a secondary explosion, burning the structure to the ground.

Besides the "possum", four other VC were killed and their weapons captured.



A PICTURE OF HEALTH—Flanked by an interpreter (left) and his father, little Huynh Tai is a picture of good health as he is returned to his home in central Vietnam. (USAF Photo)

He Lives Now Because . . .

(Continued From Page 1) to the province hospital in Phan Rang.

Vietnamese doctors, nurses, ward attendants and other patients watched Tai take his first steps. Already, it seemed the captain was responsible for a miracle. But the horizons of Captain Tucker's hope knew no bounds for he then turned his efforts towards a permanent cure for Tai—an operation to fuse his spinal column.

The operation demanded a modern, well-equipped hospital and a specialist in this field. Captain Tucker contacted Dr. Royston Miller, a noted surgeon and chief of orthopedics at

Orange County Memorial Hospital in Florida, who volunteered to operate.

Nearly seven months after Tai's condition became known to Captain Tucker, the Vietnamese boy and his father boarded a jet transport aircraft that took them to the United States.

After the operation in Florida to fuse his spine, the heavy body cast was replaced with a lighter and more comfortable brace. Months of recuperative care and additional medical treatment brought the now stocky Tai back to Vietnam.

Since Captain Tucker has returned to the United States, Tai is now under the care of Dr. Henry Hamilton, Cheshire, Eng-

land, a member of the International Rescue Committee at the Phan Rang hospital.

Dr. Doan Trinh who was at the Phan Rang Province Hospital when Tai was first carried in said, "He is much happier. He has a straight spine." The gift of this straight spine came about because of a reason not hard to understand; an Air Force captain who cared.

Art of Jungle Fighting By VN Rangers

Tay Ninh (USA) — Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division have been learning the Vietnamese style of jungle fighting from the Vietnamese Rangers during Operations Manhattan and Junction City III.

A 17-man long range reconnaissance platoon of the 9th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, led by First Lieutenant Fred L. Rodriguez, Honolulu, has accompanied Vietnamese Rangers on search and destroy patrols in the Tay Ninh area.

"We learned a lot about jungle patrols from the Vietnamese," said Captain John Parker, Little Rock, Ark., senior advisor to the Vietnamese Rangers. "They are much more at home in the jungle than we are. Working together has helped us both to excel and has demonstrated that our unit and the Vietnamese are fighting the enemy side by side."

The long range reconnaissance platoon, armed with lighted weapons, goes into the jungle with a mission of gathering intelligence rather than making contact with the enemy.

During Operation Port Sea last month, intelligence gathered by the platoon led to a sweep by the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry which netted more than 60 individual weapons and 50,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Blueprints on Drawing Board For CB Civil Affairs Program

Phu Bai (USMC) — Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 62, based at Phu Bai, are putting a little extra effort into their civil affairs program in the village of Thuy Chau.

Thuy Chau, a four-hamlet village located about four miles north of Phu Bai, has two public schools, a Catholic orphanage and Catholic and Buddhist churches throughout the area.

Backbone of the battalion's

civil affairs program is the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) conducted six days a week in the village. Navy MEDCAP teams are comprised of hospital corpsman and dental technicians working under the direction of battalion medical and dental officers.

The Seabees are presently working on plans to build a dispensary in Thuy Chau which will be able to handle about 20

patients.

Other future projects include providing truckloads of scrap lumber and bags of cement so that the villagers themselves can repair and expand the public schools and hauling sand in so that the villagers can fill in the market place to improve sanitation and alleviate flooding during the rainy season.

The battalion chaplain, William Bohart, has made plans to join efforts by Pastor Tom Stebbins, Christian Protestant Organization in Hue, to construct a new Phu Bai Protestant Church.

"It seems we have a hand in almost everything that goes on in the Thuy Chau hamlets," said one civil affairs officer. "We have made plans for a rice threshing demonstration, have acquired some top-grade pigs to help the villagers improve their stocks, and we also have plans to import fish to be planted in pools for better fishing."

Members of the battalion have donated money to bolster the scholarship funds for Thuy Chau students, and to help the public schools defray expenses. Also boxes of food, clothing, building materials and school supplies are regularly taken to the village to be used in need.

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