

The



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

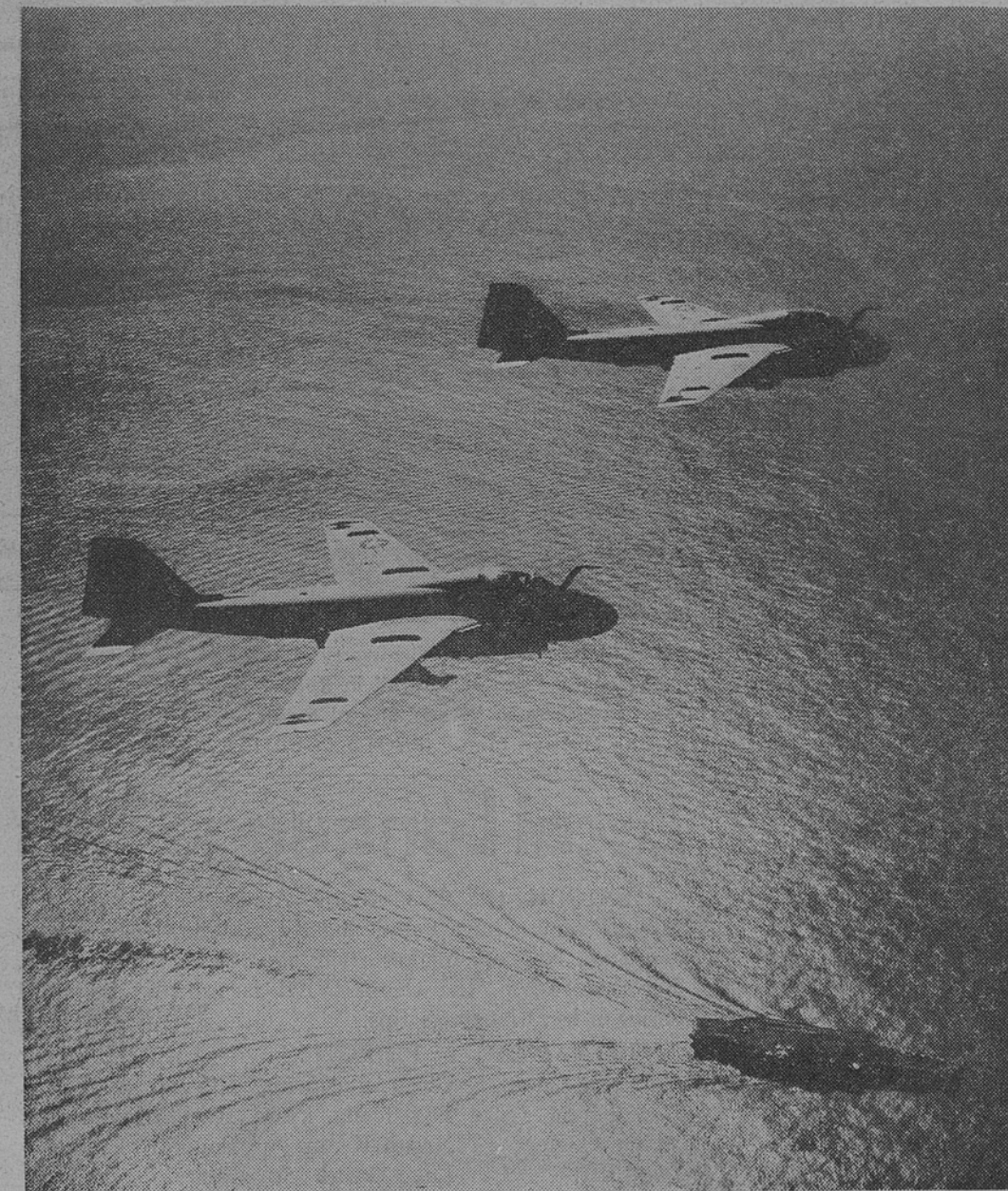
Enemy Weapons Losses Mount



Vol. 6, No. 52

Saigon, Vietnam

May 1, 1968



NIGHT INTRUDERS—Silhouetted against the Tonkin Gulf, A-6A Intruders return to the attack carrier USS Ranger after another mission over North Vietnam. The intruder is an all-weather jet attack aircraft whose electronic capabilities allow accurate bombing at night and in adverse weather. (USN PHOTO)

Makes Supreme Sacrifice

Marine Receives Medal Of Honor

WASHINGTON—A twenty-year-old Rossburg, Ohio Marine who was killed when he smothered an exploding enemy hand grenade with his body to save his comrades has been awarded the Medal of Honor.

During ceremonies honoring Private First Class Douglas E. Dickey, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dickey, received the Nation's highest decoration from Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius.

Private Dickey died March 26, 1967 while engaged in Operation Beacon Hill I near the hamlet of Gio An in Quang Tri province.

His unit, the 2d Platoon of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, was battling the enemy at close range in dense jungle when it was pinned down by heavy machine gun and small arms fire.

The platoon's radioman was wounded and the platoon commander called for PFC Dickey to replace him.

Six Marines now were in the immediate area. Private Dickey, the wounded radioman, the Navy corpsman treating him, a second wounded man, a Marine who had come forward to evacuate him, and the platoon commander.

Then someone yelled, "Grenade!" An enemy hand grenade had landed beside the Navy Corpsman who was administering first aid.

"He must have realized it was too late for us to take cover," recalls the corpsman, HM3 Gregory R. Long.

"He gave me one short glance and lunged forward, deliberately covering the grenade with his body."

His citation reads in part:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Suddenly an enemy grenade landed in the midst of a group of Marines, which included the wounded radio operator who was immobilized. Fully realizing the inevitable result of his actions, Private First Class Dickey, in a final valiant act, quickly and unhesitatingly threw himself upon the deadly grenade, absorbing with his own body the full and complete force of the explosion. His personal heroism, extraordinary valor and selfless courage saved a number of his comrades from certain injury and possible death at the cost of his own life. His actions reflected great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

SAIGON (MACV) — Allied forces seized enough weapons during the first quarter of this year to fully equip the equivalent of the infantry battalions of more than four North Vietnamese Army divisions.

Due to his lengthy logistical support system, much of the enemy's time and effort is devoted to solving his supply problems. Losses of weapons and munitions represent such a serious issue to the enemy that specific personnel are designated in advance of a battle to do nothing but recover arms and equipment from the battlefield. In spite of this priority task, Allied forces seized over 15,000 individual and 3,300 crew-served weapons during January, February and March of this year.

A frontline North Vietnamese Army infantry battalion is authorized 395 individual weapons (24 pistols, 127 assault rifles and 244 crew-served weapons, 36 light machine guns, 27 anti-tank rocket-propelled grenade launchers, three heavy machine guns, six 60mm mortars, three 82mm mortars and three 57mm or 75mm recoilless rifles).

An NVA division varies in the number of infantry battalions

assigned for combat, but nine is the average. If an ideal distribution of the captured weapons existed (which of course, is not the case), the enemy would have lost 38 battalion-equivalents of individual weapons and 42 battalion-equivalents of crew-served weapons. This amounts to more than five division-equivalents but in view of the varying distribution of types of weapons, four is a more realistic estimate.

Although an exact breakdown by type of weapon is not available, well over 50 percent of the total were specified as AK assault, SKS carbines, RPD light machine guns, and RPG grenade launchers — all frontline, first-class Communist weapons. Many of these were still in packing grease and had never been fired.

Many of the arms were captured in caches and had been painstakingly infiltrated and carefully stored for future use. Hoi Chanh have been particularly helpful to Allied units in this effort, pointing out caves, tunnels and other hiding places which would be difficult to discover if the locations were not specified.

Bn. Trains In Snow For Vietnam Duty

LONG THANH (USA) — One of the newest combat units assigned to Vietnam is the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry.

It arrived at the Bearcat camp April 8, and has been assigned to the 9th Infantry Division. The newly formed unit will be the 10th maneuver battalion in the division.

Reactivated on Nov. 1, 1967 after a 17 year lull, the battalion was organized and trained this past winter at Fort Lewis, Wash. It was flown to Vietnam with much of its basic combat equipment. The entire airlift, including men and equipment took eight days.

"We were training in the snow," stated the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Schmalhorst. "During the day the temperature was around 30 to 40 degrees and at night it fell close to zero. Watching the men search a mock-up Vietnamese village in the snow was a strange sight."

Most of the company com-

manders, now with the battalion, are Vietnam veterans with combat experience.

Prior to deployment from Fort Lewis, squad leaders underwent a special course taught by Vietnam returnees. The course stressed map reading, demolition and patrolling skills. Another course tested the reaction of each squad leader as he directed his men through a fire exercise which ended with an assault on a designated objective.

The unit is currently undergoing refresher training at the division's academy where it is studying patrol tactics, dust-off procedures, terrain familiarization, booby traps and other phases of combat operations used in the Mekong Delta area.

Originally organized in 1917 with the primary mission of helping with the construction of the Siberian Railroad in Russia, the 31st Infantry Regiment has seen action in every major war the U.S. has been engaged in.

Viet Reports Arms Cache

HOC MON (III CTZ)—A large cache of enemy ammunition and medical supplies was uncovered here recently after a civilian reported its location to the local district chief.

The district chief responded quickly to the information and sent a military patrol to the reported location of the cache.

A search of that area yielded 250 B-40 and B-41 rocket projectiles, 116 mortar rounds, 246 RPG charges, 1 radio and a large quantity of medical supplies.

It was the third big enemy supply point to be captured in the Hoc Mon area in recent weeks. One of the largest finds of the war was taken in the same vicinity in March.

Editorial

A Letter Will Do

You can earn an extra \$50, \$100 or \$1,000 this year for just an hour or so of your time. All it takes is a letter to Freedoms Foundation that might well be one of the cash winners in the 1968 Letter Awards Program.

You don't have to be a budding Hemingway to enter or win one of the awards. The letters aren't judged on literary excellence, but rather on sincerity and understanding of the American way of life. And after all, who has a better understanding of the American way of life than the people who wear their country's uniform and have sworn to defend their Nation against all enemies.

The topic for the 1968 Letter Awards Program is "A Free Ballot—A Free Country" and is open to all active duty personnel and, for the first time, members of the Reserve components, National Guard and R.O.T.C.

The top award in both the active duty and Reserve categories is \$1,000. In the active duty category, there will be 50 awards of \$100 and 50 awards of \$50 as well as Honor Medals and Honor Certificates. For entries from the Reserve components, there will be up to 50 awards of \$100 and 50 awards of \$50 in addition to Honor Medals and Honor Certificates.

The top active duty winner from each military service will be invited to attend the Presidential Inauguration in 1969 and will have their awards presented while they are in Washington. The next five active duty winners and the top winner in each of the Reserve components will be invited to Valley Forge, Pa., to receive their awards on Washington's Birthday.

Letters must be printed or typed and no more than 500 words in length. Each letter must include the writer's full name, rank, serial number, complete military address, service or Reserve component and full home address.

Entries must be submitted to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481, by Nov. 1, 1968.

This can be your opportunity to speak out for freedom and to let your opinions and feelings be known by thousands of other Americans. (AFPS)

Know Your Code



2nd Code of Conduct

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

'New Jersey' Almost Ready For Viet Duty

WASHINGTON — The battleship USS New Jersey will soon join the fleet for the third time in the past 25 years. The 45,000-ton battleship was recommissioned early in April this year at the Philadelphia Naval Base and has been undergoing sea trials and shakedown crew training.

Carrying a crew of nearly 1,500 officers and men, the New Jersey mounts nine 16-inch guns capable of delivering a 2,700-pound projectile on a target 23 miles away. The projectiles can penetrate more than 30 feet of reinforced concrete and can be fired 50 per cent farther than any other gun afloat at this time.

The range and accuracy of the New Jersey's guns will allow her to take under fire targets now available only to bombing from the air. The big guns of the battleship are restricted by neither weather nor darkness and may help reduce sharply the cost of destroying enemy installations.

Originally commissioned in 1943, the USS New Jersey earned nine battle stars during World War II in the Pacific before being mothballed. Recommissioned in 1950 for the Korean War, she added four more battle stars to her record before being decommissioned a second time in August 1957.

The USS New Jersey will be the only ship of its kind in active service in the world today. (AFPS)

Latest Booklet About Benefits

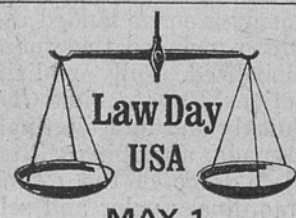
WASHINGTON — The 1968 edition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" is now available from the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C.

Published by the Veterans Administration, the new booklet reflects new legislation changes including the Veterans' Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967.

Among other legislative changes, this Act gives Vietnam veterans the same benefits available to other wartime veterans.

The booklet also gives the addresses and phone numbers of more than 170 VA installations throughout the 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone and the Philippine Islands.

Single copies may be obtained for 20 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



Only a lawful society can build a better society



DELECTABLE D'ARCY—Brown-eyed blonde, Yutta D'Arcy portrays the "Vestal Virgin" in Robert Wise's 20th Century-Fox production of "Star!" She also can be seen in "A Guide For the Married Man." (PHOTO COURTESY 20th Century Fox)

Local Language Tips

SAIGON (MACV)—Many Americans living in a foreign country have found that a little knowledge of that country's language makes their stay there much easier. For this reason, the OBSERVER is printing its third series of local language tips.

VIETNAMESE	PHONETIC	AMERICAN
Chu-Luc Quan	Chew Luke kwun	Regular Forces
Dia-Phuong Quan	Dia foong kwun	Regional Forces
Nghia Quan	Neeuh Kwun	Popular Forces
Luc-Quan	Luke kwun	Army
Hai-Quan	Hi kwun	Navy
Khong-Quan	Come kwun	Air Force
Thuy-Quan Luc-Chien	Tooy kwun luke Cheeng	Marine Corps
Sung luc	Shoom luke	Pistol
Sung truong	Shoom troong	
Trung lien	Troong leeuahn	Rifle
Cac-bin	Cookbin	Automatic Rifle
Sung coi	Shoom coy	Carbine
Dai-bac	Die bak	Mortar
Sung lien-thanh	Shoom leeng tahn	Gun, cannon
		Machine gun



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, 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, printed at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material 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.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA
Chief, Command Information Lt. Col. T. A. Costello, USA
NCOIC JOC W.W. Polk, USN
Editor SSgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA



NEW CHEVRONS—General W.C. Westmoreland congratulates Command Sergeant Major Lewis W. Coleman, after presenting him with his new chevrons. The new chevrons designating a Command Sergeant Major have a gold laurel wreath surrounding the star. Of the nearly 1,500 command sergeant major positions in the Army, 192 of combat brigade level and higher have been filled. SGM Coleman is the MACV Sergeant Major. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 M.M. Hubbard)

1,200 Given Inoculations

PHUOC VINH (USA) — More than 1,200 persons recently received inoculations here in a three day period as part of the initial phase of a massive U.S. and Vietnamese offensive against the dreaded Bubonic Plague.

"In this important first phase, we began with the easiest people to get to—the civilian workers here on post and children in the elementary and high schools in the village," said Major James S. Brewer, supervisor of the civil affairs section of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade.

However, he emphasized that the program itself was being administered by Vietnamese medical technicians employed by the South Vietnamese government. They are assisted by medical personnel from the Phuoc Vinh MACV staff and C Company paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 326th Medical Battalion.

Penna. Moose Donates Gifts

LONG BINH (USA)—The efforts and generosity of the Levittown, Pa. Chapter of Moose International has helped an orphanage in Saigon extend service to 36 homeless Vietnamese children during the past year.

In coordination with representatives of the 1st Logistical Command, the Levittown Moose have sent hundreds of cartoons containing clothing, toys and food stuffs for the children.

The project was initiated when the two nuns that operate the Hoa Binh Orphanage contacted the command in January 1967. They asked for aid in finding an American sponsor for the home. Word was passed around and, after being contacted, the Levittown Moose decided to adopt the orphanage.

Since the Moose began sending supplies to the home, its number of children has risen from 10 to 36, and its educational and social facilities have been greatly improved.

Besides the 1st Logistical Command, the 22nd Personnel Service Company, the 44th Medical Brigade and the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion have supported the orphanage along with the Levittown Moose.

His Pilot Wounded Sgt. Lands Chopper

LAI KHE (USA)—An Army sergeant who has never been trained as an aviator, recently took the controls of a helicopter from its wounded pilot and made a safe landing here.

He is Sergeant Harold Nolan, 1st Platoon Sergeant of A Troop, 7/1st Air Cavalry Squadron, 1st Aviation Brigade.

The action took place northwest of Lai Khe, while he was serving as an observer in an OH-6A "Cayuse" helicopter on a reconnaissance mission for an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Suddenly, an enemy ambush was spotted and AH-6A "Huey Cobra" gunships were called in to hit the ambush. While directing the gunships, Sergeant Nolan and his pilot came under heavy enemy fire. The pilot was severely wounded, and the craft went into a dive.

Although he was untrained as an aviator, the sergeant managed to right the ship and climb to a safe altitude.

With directions and assistance from the wounded pilot, he was able to land at Lai Khe.

309th Commando Unit Gives Gifts to Hamlet

PHAN RANG (USAF) — Six Air Force officers and enlisted men assigned to the 309th Air Commando Squadron from Phan Rang air base distributed rice, canned food, clothing and toys recently in the Highland hamlet of Cat Gia, 12 miles from Phan Rang.

The Civic Action mission was led by Major James K. Moyer, a C-123 Provider transport pilot. An Army helicopter took the airmen into the hamlet, where they stayed for several hours.

Since last November, members of the squadron have made five trips to Cat Gia to provide aid for the villagers.

Major Moyer said that several thousand pounds of rice, 400 gift packages and salad oil were presented to the villagers. The gift packages contained candy, clothing and toys.

The squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel Conrad Kreps, joined in the mission. "I sincerely think this program at Cat Gia is making the U.S. a great many friends," he commented.

Through an interpreter, the hamlet chief expressed the happiness of his people over the gifts.

Besides raising \$600 to provide food and supplies for the villagers, squadron personnel wrote to their folks in the U.S. about the hamlet, and many packages of food and clothing were donated for the project.

It's A Dud... Marine Lives

PHU BAI (USMC) — A high explosive mortar round is constructed to detonate on impact. But Marine PFC John A. Winkel is glad the enemy occasionally has defective rounds.

An enemy mortar round hit him in the back, ricocheted off his shoulder and landed about 30 feet away without exploding. PFC Winkel, a machine gunner with the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, was manning an observation post near Hue.

He was treated later for severe back and shoulder bruises.



SERIOUS BUSINESS—A Navy Hospital Corpsman with a Marine unit gives a wounded Marine medical treatment. (USMC PHOTO)

Medic Falls 140ft. In Rescue Mission

PHUOC VINH (USA) — A senior medic from the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade recently made a dramatic 150-foot rope descent to reach wounded paratroopers in thick jungles near Bien Hoa.

After C Company of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, made heavy contact with a crack NVA unit, the call came from the battlefield for more medics. All of that unit's medics had been wounded.

"I knew I had to get out there in a hurry," said senior medic Staff Sergeant Harold Miller.

The battle took place under a thick jungle canopy with towering trees more than 90 feet tall, a factor that made it impossible to land a helicopter in the immediate area.

Quickly sizing up the situation, Sergeant Miller decided there was only one way down to the embattled company. He asked to be lowered 150 feet on a rope from the hovering chopper.

per. It was a request that almost proved fatal for the determined medic.

"As he was being lowered to the jungle floor," a crewman explained later, "I saw the rope slip and Miller plummeted downward, still clinging to the rope."

He and another crewman struggled to grab and slow down the unwinding rope to stop Sergeant Miller's too rapid descent.

"I was finally able to wedge a knot in the rope between my hand and an M-60 machine gun mount," the first crewman continued. We both got rope burns on our hands and arms, but we stopped Miller's fall."

The sergeant was suspended only 10 feet from the ground when his fall was stopped. The helicopter crewmen said he was able to descend the last 10 feet in about the same amount of time it took him to drop 140 feet.

Army Unit Helps Handicapped Kids

DI AN (USA) — In the village of Lai Thieu, there is a strange world of silence. It is the world of 83 Vietnamese children who will never be able to hear or speak for the rest of their lives, for they are deaf-mutes.

These children live in the orphanage of Lai Thieu, and when you see their smiling faces, their want for love and affection, you are more happy than sad.

Recently, a gift of \$200 was presented to the orphanage by Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd J. Faul, commanding officer of the First Infantry Division's 701st

Maintenance Battalion.

The money was sent to Colonel Faul from Major Chris Patte, former member of the 701st, who is now attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Assisted by First Lieutenant Harold D. Graves, battalion S-3, the colonel also presented the orphanage with five boxes of clothing for the children.

Sister Barnard De Jesus, mother superior of the orphanage, accepted the money and clothing on behalf of the children.



MUCH CONCERN—A Vietnamese mother shows as much concern for her baby as Captain Louis E. Daugherty, battalion surgeon for the 2nd Mechanized Battalion, 47th Infantry shows for his work. He examined the sick child during a recent MEDCAP visit to Lo Tra village near Long Thanh. The MEDCAP visits are another way the U.S. soldier is helping the Vietnamese help themselves. (USA PHOTO By Sp4 Claude Walker)

Switchboard Has Int'l Key

BINH THUY (USAF) — Cooperation in communications is the foundation of Binh Thuy air base's "international" switchboard.

Located in the Vietnamese Air Force's 297th Communications Squadron building here, the manual switchboard is manned by three members of the Vietnamese Women's Armed Forces and three Air Force specialists from the U.S.

1880th Communications Squadron.

Because the switchboard must handle between 1,800 to 2,000 calls a day in two languages, the board is divided into six double positions. Each operator's position has two selector switches — one for Vietnamese calls and the other for calls placed in English.

The switchboard is the nerve center for all local telephone communications at the base, in

addition to processing all incoming and outgoing long distance calls.

"The cooperation between the Vietnamese girls and their co-workers is very good," says Air Force Captain Stephen I. Hopfe, senior communications advisor with Air Force Advisory Team 7. "Nearly all of the girls speak English and they pass calls back and forth quite well."

Captain Hopfe says the Vietnamese operators go through three months of basic military training in Saigon and three months of switchboard studies at a Saigon technical school. There are 120 Vietnamese Air Force personnel in the 297th Communications Squadron, many of whom have attended technical schools in the U.S.

M-79 Round Stuns Marine

DA NANG (USMC) — Not many people could get hit in the head with an M-79 grenade round and live to tell about it. But Marine Private First Class Tommy J. Taylor did, and afterwards he described how it felt.

"When I came to, my head felt like it had been hit with a sledge hammer," he said.

PFC Taylor was part of a reaction force from "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment that was moving to the aid of a group of Marines under heavy attack.

As he dashed across a rice paddy, a 40mm M-79 round slammed into the right side of his helmet, but failed to detonate.

Although he was knocked unconscious and received a fractured skull from the blow, the 19-year-old Leatherneck said he still had something to be happy about.

"I'm happy to be still alive and I'm glad that round was a dud," he said.

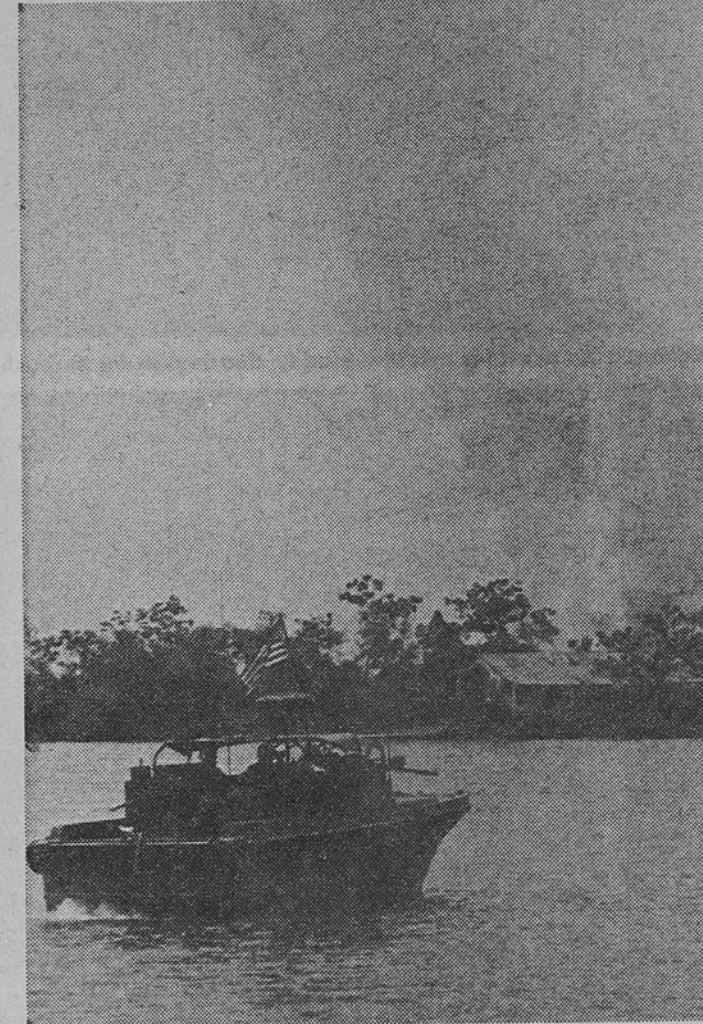
NVA Nightmare

Joint Force Stops Harassment



With the crew ready to fire, a Navy PBR races along an enemy-infested shoreline near Hue.

Story By
JO3 Steve Wolf
USN Photos By
Phan Chris Stattan



A PBR moves in to provide screening fire for "friendlies".



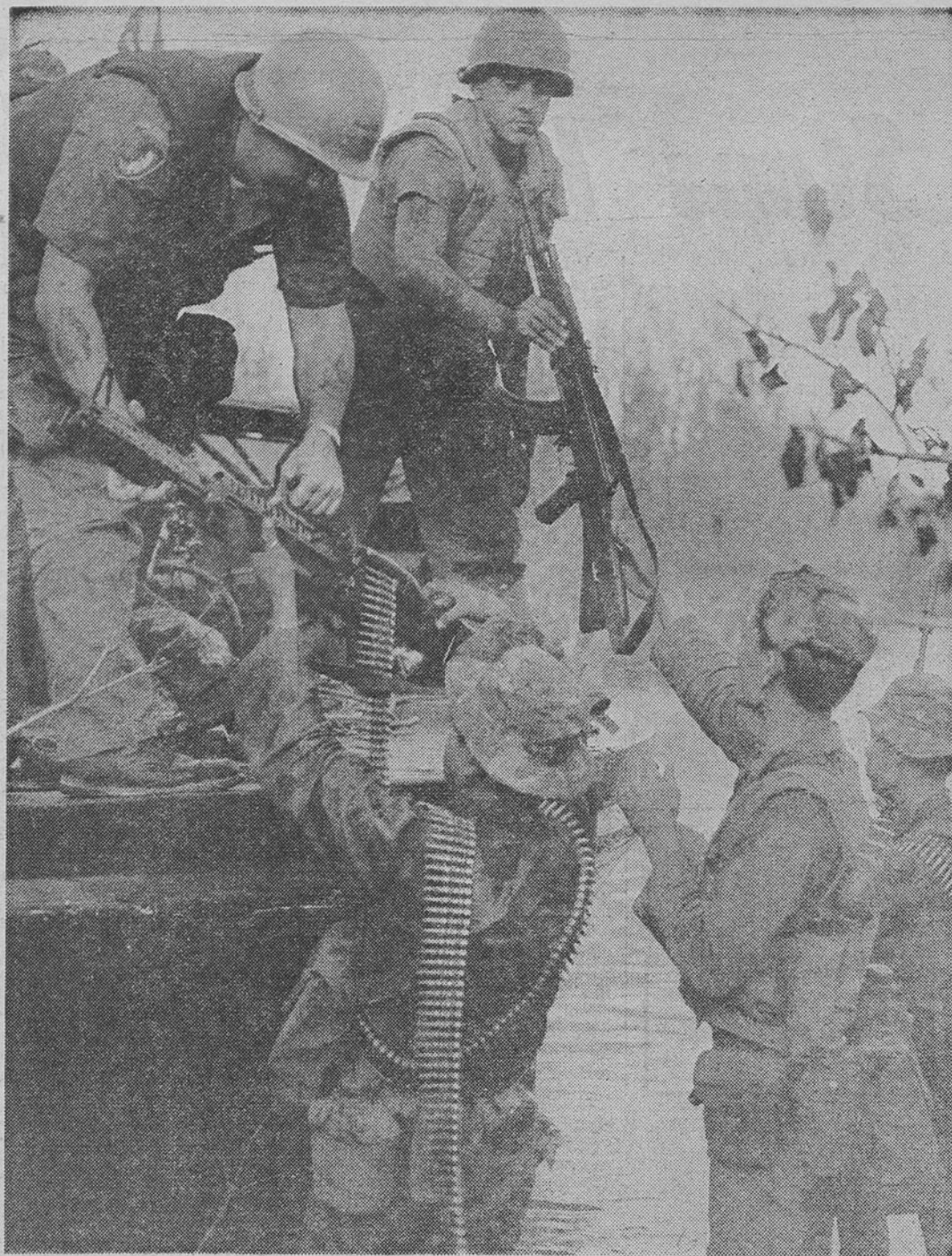
In this joint effort, PBRs block river as Army choppers fly in airborne troops for a sweep.



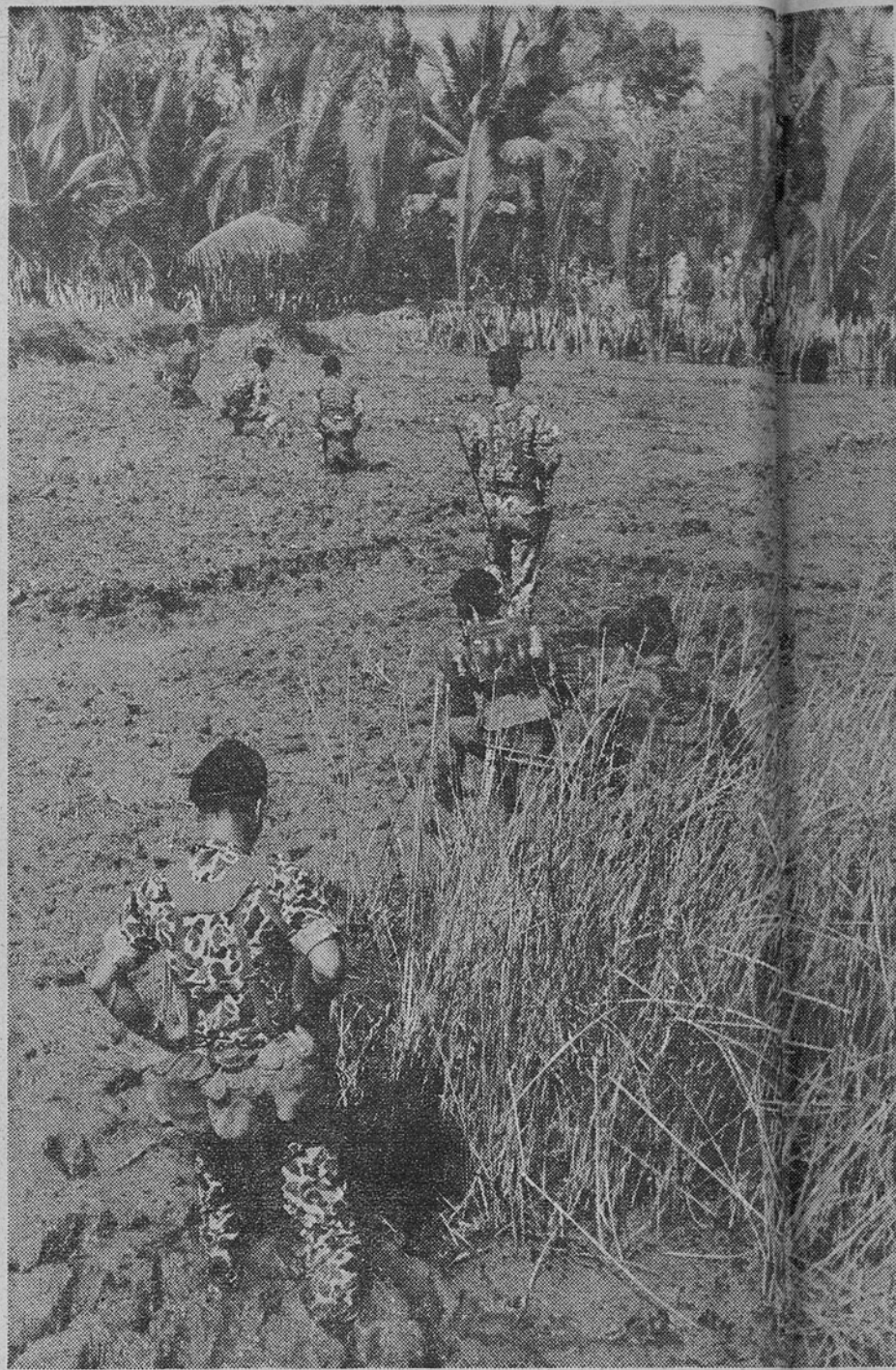
While a Navy PBR stands a safe distance away, artillery is brought in on Toan Thuan Hoa village near Hue which 100 North Vietnamese had taken over.



BATTLE LINE—Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, engage entrenched NVA regulars. (US ARMY PHOTO BY Sp5 Richard McLaughlin)



Three members of the commandos return from a search and clear mission in the Delta.



Commandos advance across a muddy clearing on an ambush operation in the Delta.



Marine Staff Sergeant Samuel M. Garland discusses operational plans with Lieutenant Kham prior to boarding U.S. Navy river patrol boats.



A commando platoon leader briefs his troops in front of their headquarters.



First Lieutenant Vinh Kham explains the operation of the lensatic compass to the men of his unit.

Rung Sat Zone Commandos

NHA BE (USN) — Throughout South Vietnam's Rung Sat Zone a new name is being heard with increasing frequency—Xung Kich! To the South Vietnamese it means "commando"; to the Viet Cong it means disaster.

In the short period this elite reaction force has been in existence its members have proved themselves a highly effective, exciting and enthusiastic group — young, determined and energetic.

Senior Advisor

The senior infantry advisor to the Rung Sat commander puts it more simply. Says Marine Captain Clifford Dunning, "We started with the best men, gave them some of the best training and now we have one of the best forces around."

The commandos were designed to meet a specific need — a ready reaction force — in a specific area — the Rung Sat. This is South Vietnam's legendary Forest of Assassins. Over 450 square miles of swampland, overgrown by palm and jungle fern, cobwebbed with streams and surrounding the Long Tau shipping channel, main artery to Saigon's supply docks.

It was in June, 1967, that Vietnamese Navy Lieutenant Commander Nguyen An, commander of the Rung Sat, recognized the need for a ready reaction force to counter ambush attacks on Free World shipping, threading its way from the South China Sea to the Saigon River, and then to the port.

Advisors Advice

With the advice of Captain Dunning, then, as now, Lieutenant Commander An's senior infantry advisor, it was decided to create this unit out of existing military forces in the area, the 13 Regional Force companies which comprise part of the Vietnam home guard.

Two men were selected from each company to make a platoon-sized unit, First Lieutenant Vinh Kham, a Regional Force officer for four years, was selected as the unit's commanding officer.

To assist him in his task of training the new unit Captain Dunning assigned his assistant infantry advisor, Marine Staff Sergeant Samuel M. Garland.

The outstanding young troops selected for the commandos brought with them a variety of

previous military training in Vietnamese Airborne, Ranger, Marine and Special Forces units.

Encounter Minor Problems

Training was slow and patient to begin with. Minor problems, such as lack of equipment, and undeveloped supply system and limited transportation were encountered and either solved or circumvented.

The commando's first chance to prove themselves came in Mid-November when a merchant ship was hit by an estimated company-size Viet Cong unit. Fifteen commandos, eight other Regional Force troops and two American advisors were airlifted by helicopter behind the enemy lines, where they killed 23 of the enemy in a combined effort with air strikes by fixed wing aircraft and armed helicopters.

From then on the reputation of the tiger stripe-clad commandos was set. Within a few short months after their organization their progress was so rapid that they now are ready to assume additional responsibilities. They are adding an offensive capability to their reaction mission.

Venture Spurs Bonus Crop, Jobs



Rice straw is delivered to the Cogido Paper Mill, Bien Hoa, awaiting conversion to pulp.

LONG BINH (II FF) — "The Rice Straw Man" was well on his way to riches through a successful meeting of East and West, until the Communist Tet offensive temporarily stalled his operations.

"The Rice Straw Man" is 34-year old Nguyen Ngoc Cuong.

Mr. Cuong collects rice straw for conversion into paper pulp, an enterprise started last fall with the help of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Industry Division. His business, new to Vietnam, provides a "bonus crop" for more than 6,000 farmers in III and IV Corps area. Formerly more than 80 per cent of the straw was burned after the rice harvest with 18 per cent used for cattle feed and another 2 per cent used to cover mushroom plantings.

With Mr. Cuong buying the rice straw, a farmer can earn an additional 10,000 piasters (\$84.50) for each hectare (2.5 acres) of rice paddy he owns.

Mr. Cuong's enterprise also provides employment for the more than 100 Vietnamese who work for him, and indirectly for the 700 employees of the Cogido



Mr. Cuong (right) inspects rice straw with a fellow worker.

Paper Mill in Bien Hoa. The mill, established in 1961, is the larger of two such mills in Vietnam.

Another national benefit of "Operation Rice Straw" is its effect on national imports. Now that the Cogido Mill began

mixing rice straw pulp with other pulp products, Vietnam can reduce its imports of other pulps by a value of more than \$1 million annually.

The Cogido Mill can produce 8,500 metric tons of pulp from 25,000 metric tons of rice straw.



One of the "Rice Straw Man's" employees runs a baler.

Story & Photos
By
II Field Force

Mr. Cuong has delivered 13,500 tons of rice straw to the mill and was preparing to furnish another 17,000 tons before the February actions.

An animated businessman whose hands thresh like one of the 36 balers he uses in his business, Mr. Cuong exemplifies the new breed of middle class businessman CORDS is trying to assist.

Going to USAID and CORDS authorities for help, Mr. Cuong received advice on how to establish his business and assistance in contacting military commanders to explain the

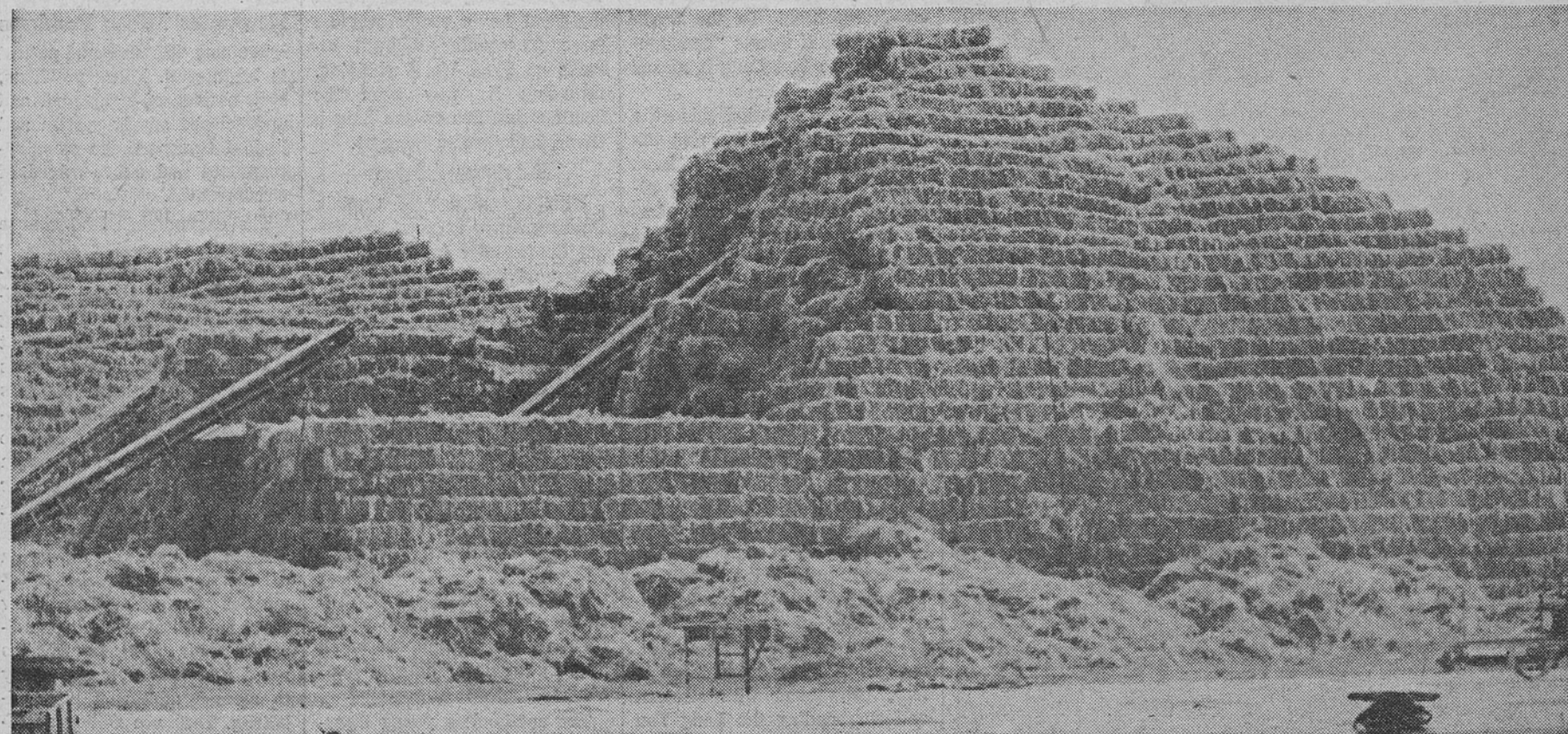
farmer's problem. Although the

project had never been attempted before, everyone was extremely cooperative, he says.

During the Tet offensive a small Communist unit used the mill and river area as one of their assembly areas for the fighting in and around Bien Hoa. The resulting military action destroyed most of the straw Mr. Cuong had already sold to the mill and did serious damage to Cogido.

The young businessman also faced personal dangers which resulted from the Communist attacks.

He was captured with other civilians by enemy raiders and spent three nights and two days as a prisoner. After being released, he headed back for Cogido to inspect the damage and to begin planning reconstruction and reorganization.



This straw pyramid will be converted into paper pulp, freeing South Vietnam of the necessity of importing a million dollars worth of pulp products annually.

It's No Sea Story Sgt Kills Long Foe

CA LU (USMC) — A Marine platoon commander killed an unusual enemy during Operation Pegasus east of Khe Sanh — a python.

As Leathernecks of the First Marine Regiment moved along Route 9, providing security for Marine engineers who were clearing and repairing the road, they apparently disturbed the 15-foot reptile in his home under an abandoned bridge.

"We had set in for the night," explained Sergeant C.V. Thompson, a platoon sergeant, "when we heard movement and unusual noises on our perimeter."

The Marine squinted through the darkness, but could see nothing. "It was weird," Sergeant Thompson said. "We could hear something, but we couldn't see anything at all."

The Marines fired under the bridge that had been previously destroyed by the enemy and by

passed by the engineers. "We decided that if we opened up we'd flush them out," he explained.

The Marines threw hand grenades and fired M-79 rounds under the bridge, but the movement continued. Finally, Sergeant Thompson moved cautiously under the bridge, while his platoon waited, ready to fire.

"At first I couldn't believe it," he said. "This big, long thing was slithering around under the bridge. I was fascinated, then scared, and finally mad because I realized I had been worrying about a snake."

He then drew his .45 cal. pistol and fired three times into the snake's head, killing the huge reptile.

"I'm just glad I killed the thing," he concluded. "Otherwise, everyone would have thought I was just telling a sea story."

Tri-language Tapes Help Solve Problem

LAI KHE (USA) — A new technique has been developed by the 1st Infantry Division psychological operations personnel to solve a language problem.

The technique involves tri-language tapes for communicating with villagers in the Quan Loi area, and contains a seal and assembly message which is broadcast in Vietnamese, Cambodian and the Steing dialect of Montagnard. The tri-language broadcasts increase understanding of directions given to villagers by 1st soldiers who must seal off villages in search of VC.

The tapes were developed by First Lieutenant Dale Drage and Staff Sergeant Russell Davis of 6th Psychological Operations (Psyops) Battalion in coordination with Binh Long Province representatives.

"This tape satisfies a need for better communications with the

diversified population which lives in the colorful rubber country surrounding the 1st Brigade's base camp," said Sergeant Davis, commenting on the tape's effectiveness. "Better communications will help inform the Montagnards and Cambodian speaking Vietnamese of the objectives of the South Vietnamese government."

The tapes are for use by all units in III Corps Tactical Zone. There is one tape which informs the people of rewards for information leading to the Viet Cong and that the allied soldiers intend to help them.

Another tells primitive villagers not to be afraid of airplanes defoliating trees in the area. It explains that defoliation is necessary to expose VC hiding places.

The final tape appeals to the Montagnards to help the allies.

Multi-service Teamwork Makes Psywar Click

BINH THUY (USAF) — Psychological warfare in the IV Corps area of the Mekong Delta is a big business and involves close coordination between all U.S. services and the Vietnamese Air Force, Army and Navy.

In this case, the U.S. Air Force is the coordinating agency. "C" Flight of the 5th Air Commando Squadron stationed at Binh Thuy Air Base, flies daily psywar missions dropping millions of leaflets and playing tape recorded messages programmed by "customer" services.

"C" Flight uses the single-engine U-10 Courier and the C-47 Skytrain, both equipped with leaflet chutes and high powered amplification speaker units.

Units of each service develop their own psywar leaflets and record their own tapes to fit the needs of psywar activities in a particular area.

The Army may program a mission to harass enemy ground forces in contact with friendly forces, and the Navy might have a mission aimed at warning waterway travelers of restricted or hazardous areas.

However, the mission most often flown by "C" Flight and the program most extensively used by all the services is the "Chieu Hoi" or "Open Arms" program. This is a program designed to prod the enemy to defect and rally to the side of the Republic of Vietnam government.

Defectors, or Hoi Chanhs as they are called, numbered nearly 9,000 in the IV Corps area in 1967.

"C" Flight also supports MACV advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts as well as Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support agency.

Fighter Squadron Sets Record

BIEN HOA (USAF) — The Vietnamese Air Force's (VNAF) 522nd Fighter Squadron here recently became the first Allied air force unit to log 700 flying hours in the F-5 Freedom Fighter in one month.

Flying the 700th hour were Captain Nguyen Quoc Hung, 522nd Squadron commander, and Captain Dam Thuong Vu,



Two Marines examine the 15-foot python killed by "F" Company, 1st Marine Regiment. (USMC PHOTO)

Unique Appointment For Priest

Chaplain Has Viet Parish

DA NANG (USMC) — A Navy chaplain serving with the Marines has been appointed priest of a Vietnamese parish.

Lieutenant Louis J. Nichols, chaplain of the 3rd Military Police Battalion, Force Logistic Command, has been given parochial jurisdiction of Thach Nham hamlet by Bishop Chi of the Da Nang Diocese. It is believed to be the only such appointment ever made.

When the 34-year-old chaplain took over during November 1967, he became the first priest

to visit the hamlet on a regular basis in almost three years.

Now, while still serving Marine units in the Da Nang area, he says mass in the hamlet's tiny chapel each Sunday. He also visits it during the week to baptize the newborn and to care for the religious needs of the villagers.

"So far I haven't performed a wedding, but that will come in time," Father Nichols said.

Each Sunday afternoon with the help of Private First Class

Rene Roman, chaplain's assistant, Chaplain Nichols loads his jeep with his religious articles for the five mile journey to Thach Nham. He also takes a supply of candy to be given to the village children after the service.

Walking with Father Nichols to the church is like following the Pied Piper. Children meet him at the road and escort him the last few hundred yards to where the villagers have gathered waiting for services to begin.

VNAF Helo-lifts 'Bird Dogs'

DA NANG (USAF) — In the past, maintenance crews of the Vietnamese Air Force's (VNAF) 41st Tactical Wing looked to the U.S. Marines for helicopter support when they had to airlift damaged aircraft back to Da Nang for repair. Now the 41st Wing has mastered

the art of helo-lifting aircraft themselves, thanks to the help from U.S. Air Force Advisory Team Five (AFAT-5).

This significant "first" for the 41st Wing was recently achieved by crews from the 213th Helicopter Squadron at Da Nang Air Base. Using their own H-34 Choctaw helicopters, the VNAF airmen successfully recovered several damaged O-1 Bird Dog aircraft from Hue, airlifting them 45 miles back to their own base.

After carefully examining the damaged aircraft, Major Nguyen Binh Tru, commander of the VNAF 41st Technical Group, and Air Force Major Farrell E. Stalcup, of AFAT-5, decided that the O-1s could be repaired and made to fly again. Major

Stalcup suggested a recovery plan using VNAF H-34s from the 213th Squadron to lift the Bird Dogs back to Da Nang where they could be repaired.

For two days, Air Force Major Edward J. Johnson, AFAT-5 operations advisor to the 213th, worked with VNAF helicopter pilots and ground crews advising them on hookup and flight techniques. At Hue, VNAF maintenance crews prepared the Bird Dogs for the trip back to Da Nang by removing the wings, propellers and locking the flight controls.

As for the four O-1 aircraft, after about 10 days in the VNAF maintenance shops at Da Nang, the O-1's will be back in the air again helping VNAF forward air controllers.

English Session Boosts MEDCAP

PHUOC VINH (USA) — A recent MEDCAP operation to a hamlet west of here proved a success only after 101st Airborne Division paratroopers started giving English lessons.

Arriving in Le Thang hamlet, airborne medics from the 3rd Brigade's 1st Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry, were greeted only by a handful of children.

Captain Dennis W. Brewer, battalion civil affairs officer, told the hamlet chief he brought a doctor with assistants to help the sick.

However, no one came. The troopers became tense as all local security was tightened.

Reenlistee Puts Bonus In Savings

DA NANG — A Force Logistic Command Marine has deposited a \$10,000 reenlistment bonus in the Savings Deposit Program.

Staff Sergeant M.D. Deichert, a radar technician at Electronics Maintenance Company, received and deposited the money in one transaction. It will earn him 10 per cent interest while invested in the program.

A "Variable Reenlistment Bonus" (VRB) is paid to Marines with critical military occupational specialties (MOS). Sergeant Deichert has a very critical MOS, so he got the regular bonus and a VRB bonus of four times the regular bonus. Including the settlement of unused leave, the sergeant received slightly more than \$10,000.

"I decided that all that money might as well be put to work so I put it where it'll do the most," he said.

The Savings Deposit Program works this way. Regular pay, reenlistment bonus, travel allowance for unused accrued leave may be deposited in the program by cash deposit or monthly allotment installments.

Withdrawals from the program may be made in emergency situations or when taking 30-day special leave. When a man returns to the States, his account is closed and paid off within 90 days of his return.

NVA Pennant Foils No One

LANDING ZONE JANE (USA) — A North Vietnamese flag looked suspicious to 5th Cavalry soldiers as they watched it unfurl in the middle of an open field near a village south of Quang Tri.

Because of their suspicions, they resisted the temptation to yank it down for a souvenir.

Instead, they radioed for an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team (EOD). An investigation by Specialist 6 James D. Phipps of the 25th Ordnance Detachment, turned up a 175mm artillery round dug into the ground and connected to the flagpole by a pull-friction fuse.

"It would have exploded instantly in the hands of an eager souvenir hunter," Specialist Phipps observed.

The booby trap posed a lesser threat to the specialist, who has spent four of his 11 years in the Army as an EOD man.

'Ruff-Puffs' Appreciated

Villagers Reward Troops

LONG BINH (II FF) — Almost 200,000 piasters (\$1,690) have been contributed by the grateful inhabitants of Co Dau Hau to their Regional and Popular Force defenders.

More than 300 civilians in the district capital of Hieu Thien in Tay Ninh province contributed money which will help compensate the RF and PF troops who saved the city last month but lost their own homes and personal belongings.

The Viet Cong fired more than 600 mortar and rocket rounds into the RF and PF guarded city about 3 a.m. March 25. Members of the 162d and 766th RF companies and two PF platoons raced to their bunkers as the shells were falling and engaged the enemy until about 6:15 a.m., when the VC broke contact.

"A search of the area revealed more than 60 Viet Cong killed while the RF and PF units only suffered three killed," stated

First Lieutenant Ben D. Ferrari, assistant senior U.S. advisor in the capital.

"Housing and personal belongings of more than 100 of the RF and PF soldiers had been completely destroyed," said the lieutenant.

The villagers, realizing the local forces had saved their city from falling under VC control, wanted to help the "Ruff-Puffs," the nickname for the RF and PF troops.

Huynh Van Dieu, provincial representative, called a mass meeting of the villagers and asked for contributions and suggestions. "The forces (RF and PF) gave us good protection. They have displayed much bravery in keeping the Viet Cong away. We, of this village, want to reward them," said Mr. Dieu.

"The people want security and are willing to reward our forces for it, rather than live under VC

terrorism," stated Mr. Dieu. "Our people would make contributions again today if it would be necessary."

"The meeting was a giant fund raising drive. First one person stood and pledged 10,000 piasters. Then another and another. When it was all over 197,000 piasters had been raised and not one person pledged less than 1,000 piasters," Lieutenant Ferrari said.

After collecting the money, it was divided among the families of the wounded and killed, the RF and PF troops and the 10th ARVN Armored Cavalry Regiment which had been ambushed on its way to support the "Ruff-Puffs."

Lieutenant Ferrari said the RF and PF forces were overwhelmed by the gift from the citizens and "their morale went sky high." Many of the defenders expressed strong wishes that the Viet Cong would try and return again so they could take them on in battle once more.

Viets Help Clear Area

CHU LAI (USA) — "It's one thing to clear a stretch of road of mines and booby traps, but it's another to get local people to chip in and help find them," said a civil affairs officer from American Division's 196th Infantry Brigade.

Captain George Hamm was obviously proud of the progress being made since he teamed up with a psychological operations team to clear the roads.

The plan was simple enough. Through leaflets, loudspeakers and informal discussions, the word was spread that dud rounds, enemy mines or booby traps and weapons are worth money to the villagers.

"At first it all seemed useless since it was once a heavily VC controlled area," said the captain. "Then one day, a little boy led us to two camouflaged mortar rounds."

One local farmer collected 65,000 piasters for leading the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry to 53 new enemy rifles.

"Mostly we get hidden mortar and artillery rounds," concluded Captain Hamm, "but everyone we get is one less that can blow up a truck, armored personnel carrier or some of our troops."

Saigon Depot Claims Record

SAIGON (USA) — The 506th Field Depot in Saigon lays claim to the title of "The World's Largest Depot." And, it has official facts and figures to back up this claim.

During the past quarter (January, February and March) the unit received 373 thousand tons of equipment and issued out more than 356 thousands tons. The amount received was more than one-third of all Stateside depots' total tonnage while its supplies issued was more than one-fourth of the entire Stateside issue.

Not satisfied with being the world's biggest depot (10.3 million square feet), the 506th is striving to be the world's best, according to its commander, Colonel J.P. Alexander Jr.



American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)

(Guide For Week of May 1-7, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday, May 1

1830 News Headlines
1930 Last In Space
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Insight—Low Day
2005 Low Day Special—Melvin Belli
2030 Addams Family
2100 Carol Burnett
2200 Sports
2200 Halftime Headlines
2300 New Headlines

Thursday, May 2

1830 News Headlines
1930 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Seabers in Vietnam
2005 Information Feature
2030 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Update News
2305 Jerry Lewis

Friday, May 3

1830 News Headlines
1930 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Insight
2005 Big Picture
2030 Bewitched
2100 The Lucy Show
2130 Get Smart
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Saturday, May 4

1230 News Headlines
1330 The World of Horrors
1330 Pro Bowler's Tour
1500 Sports
1700 Sportsman's Holiday
1730 First Annual Academy of Professional Sports Awards
2000 In Concert: Herman's Hermits

Monday, May 6

1830 News Headlines
1930 Daniel Boone
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Insight
2005 In Town Tonight
2030 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Dean Martin

Tuesday, May 7

1830 News Headlines
1930 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2000 Insight
2005 Biography
2030 Green Acres
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Combat
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



DOTS AND SPOTS—Her name is Leslie McRae, what else need we say. (PHOTO Courtesy of Johnny Grant)



Medic 'Jumps In' Swims To Wounded

BIEN HOA (USA) — During a firefight north of here recently, Specialist 4 Frank Gentile, a medic with 2nd Battalion (airborne), 501st Infantry, became a hero for the third time.

Specialist Gentile, already a two-time Silver Star winner, swam 120 feet across a river to a wounded man who was stranded on the other side while a firefight raged from bank-to-bank.

He held his aid kit and deflated air-mattress above his head as he swam, making himself as small a target as possible.

"When I got to the other side, I had to pull myself out of the water onto the other bank. I didn't think I could do it. I was so tired," the daring medic recalled later.

But he made it onto the side of the river, and in a low-crouching run made his way to the wounded paratrooper.

Specialist Gentile dressed his wounds and inflated the air-mattress. After dragging the man's limp body to the river bank, he lowered the mattress

down onto the water.

"After I put the fellow on top of it, I began swimming downstream pushing him ahead of me," he said.

The medic swam 400 yards down the swiftly-moving river, trying to get out of the firefight to a safe area so a MEDEVAC helicopter could land and extract the wounded trooper.

"While I was in the water, he stopped breathing five times," the 20-year-old medic said. "Each time I pulled myself up onto the mattress, I gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation or massaged his heart until he resumed breathing."

Finally the wiry little medic succeeded in pushing the raft out of danger and found a place where a MEDEVAC chopper could set down. A few seconds later, a chopper landed and was airborne again with the wounded man on board.

Later, checking on the man's condition, Specialist Gentile was pleased to find out his work was not in vain. The man would live.

Smallpox Averted By Alert Medics

DAK TO (USA) — Prompt action by the civil affairs team of the 4th Division, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, recently averted a possible smallpox epidemic in two Montagnard villages near here.

The 1st Brigade's civil affairs officer was a key figure in the humanitarian effort.

Evidence of a possible smallpox epidemic came to light during a visit to the Montagnard village of Dak Tomboe by the 6th Battalion civil affairs team. The team found a small girl who was suffering from the disease.

The girl and her mother, who also showed symptoms of smallpox, were rushed to the 4th Medical Battalion aid station at the 1st Brigade command camp for treatment. Later, they were transferred to a hospital in Kontum for more advanced care.

Brigade civil affairs officer, First Lieutenant Walter Chun, was then notified of the possible epidemic. He quickly came up with a plan for inoculating the village residents and also the people of nearby Dak Robie.

"I knew where I could get

smallpox vaccine," explained the lieutenant, "so I got enough to inoculate the two villages and went out to Dak Tomboe the next day with Captain Rafael Rivera and Staff Sergeant Jim Hurst of the artillery's medical team."

Upon their arrival, they advised the village chief of their plans and he explained to his people. About 150 Montagnards were inoculated that day.

Later, the chief told the Army men that there were about 15 villagers in the fields working who would not return in time to be inoculated.

"We told the chief that we were going to be at Dak Robie the next morning," said Lieutenant Chun, "so while we were inoculating the 200 Montagnards of Dak Robie the next morning, the Dak Tomboe chief marched in his 15 field workers for shots."

The civil affairs officer said it was necessary to inoculate both villages to prevent smallpox from spreading because of people going back and forth to both locations.



TO SAVE A LIFE—Medics and comrades in arms from the 101st Airborne Division work frantically to save the life of a fellow paratrooper. The soldier was wounded during a heavy firefight just south of Phuoc Vinh. They are all members of the 3rd Brigade's 3rd Battalion (Abn.), 187th Infantry. (USA PHOTO By: SSgt. Earl VanAlstine)

Enemy Ambush Site Cleared

FIRE SUPPORT BASE JAEGER (USA) — Ambush Alley is no more. In its place stands a brand new 9th Division fire base — Support Base Lambert.

Ambush Alley was the name given to a section of high ground near the village of Duong Diem on Route 4. The area was one of the worst of many places the Viet Cong launched violent terror campaigns aimed at cutting the route, long considered Saigon's lifeline to the Mekong Delta.

To counter this threat, the 9th Division initiated Operation People's Road to clear the route of Viet Cong harassment. The

task was not easy, according to reports from that operation.

"Everytime I sent my men into that area, they were soon engaged in heavy fighting by waiting Viet Cong," said Lieutenant Colonel Eric F. Antila, commander of the 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry. "And each time I flew over there (Ambush Alley), my chopper would be machinegunned," he added.

After a series of vicious battles, however, the 5/60th Infantry pushed the VC out of the area and returned Duong Diem to government control.

Division engineers immediately began clearing the land and

building the new fire base which now sits on the site of three major battles.

Now that the VC are gone, the infantrymen have taken on another task — rebuilding the village of Duong Diem and bolstering the people's confidence in the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

"Schools are being rebuilt and reopened," Colonel Antila explained, "schools that were closed when the village was under Communist control."

"Ambush Alley was also located in the center of a major VC infiltration route, where men, food and munitions once flowed with much frequency."

Jets Support ARVN Bns.

Tac Air Kills 100 Enemy

TUY HOA (USAF)—Air power supplied by Air Force F-100 Supersabre jets of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing here has been credited with killing 100 enemy troops in support of two ARVN battalions.

The two battalions were from the 47th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Regiment, and the air support helped them towards one of their biggest victories of the year against the enemy in Phu Yen Province.

The action took place near My Hoa Village, located 5 miles west of the provincial capital at Tuy Hoa City.

The ARVN liaison officer and

forward air controllers for the unit, said seven flights of F-100 jets almost wiped out two companies and part of a third, of a well dug in enemy force, believed to be the 1st Battalion of the 306th North Vietnamese Army Regiment.

When repeated assaults by ARVN forces were beaten back, tactical air support was called in to hit the enemy positions. The pilots laid down a barrage of bombs and 20mm cannon fire throughout the day. The attack was broken off by air units just before dark. Fourteen flights had hit the area during the day. This also included F-100 aircraft

from Phan Rang air base and F-4C Phantom jets from Cam Ranh Bay air base.

When it was all over, one American liaison officer with the 47th Regiment said, "We couldn't have taken this place without tactical air support. They were dug in to stay, and the only thing that got them out was the tac air."

Commenting on the performance of the ARVN force he added, "The troops I helped train and direct, the 1st Battalion, fought one of the finest battles I have seen in Vietnam in my 11 months of duty here."

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp Here

(12 cents 1st class)
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

PF's Fire Covers Evacuation

CHU LAI (USMC) — Vietnamese Popular Force Private Phan Xuan quickly became a prized member of Combined Action Platoon (CAP) India-4 after standing off a Viet Cong attack to cover the evacuation of a wounded U.S. Marine.

Private Phan's two-gun rampage occurred the third night after the CAP unit's formation. With only limited barbed wire and bunker defenses installed, an attack was expected from

the Viet Cong whose local main line of supply across Highway 1 had been cut by the new CAP just north of Tam Ky.

A listening post manned by two Marines and two PFs was posted to give warning of VC attack. Just before midnight the attack came. Five Viet Cong moved out of the woods on the listening post's right flank.

Three VC were shot before a blast of rifle and automatic

weapons fire from the front and both flanks forced the outpost defenders back toward the CAP compound's barbed wire.

One injured Marine, Private First Class Harvey L. Ames, assisted another wounded Marine to cover across the road where a PF was holding back the onrushing VC. The Marines and PFs within the compound covered him with rifle and machine gun fire but were blocked from

firing at most of the VC by the position of the returning Marines.

The VC lost their chance to attack when Private Phan moved quickly to cover the Marines with accurate rifle fire. Firing his carbine and rifle he raced back and forth between the wounded Marines and an estimated Viet Cong platoon until the injured men crossed the road to safety.

"I could see his weapons flash as he ran up and down the field," said Private Ames, "He sure kept them off our backs."

The wounded Marine is now back in the U.S. and Private Ames is back to duty with India-4. Along with the other Marines of his outfit, he feels that their unit's Popular Force soldiers are the best. Still, no one can blame him for thinking of Private Phan Xuan as "My PF."

Joint Effort Kills 236

PLEIKU (USAF) — Heavy tolls were inflicted on the enemy by pilots and crews directed to a target four miles southwest of Tuy Hoa by controllers at the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) here.

A ground sweep of the area after the air strikes revealed 236 enemy soldiers killed. The Republic of Korea Capital Division conducted the sweep.

The Koreans and an ARVN unit had been in heavy contact with the hostile force when U.S. and Vietnamese air units arrived to pound enemy positions.

Officials at DASC said the aircraft were U.S. Air Force F-100 Supersabre and F-4C Phantom jets and Vietnamese A-1 Sky-raidors.

The strikes also destroyed 41 enemy fortifications and damaged 28 more, knocked out three bunkers and caused two secondary explosions.

Allied ground troops reportedly took 85 individual weapons, seven B-40 rocket launchers; two Chinese Communist machine guns, three automatic rifles, two 75mm mortar launchers, and 70 rounds of 82mm mortar ammunition.

Twenty-four enemy soldiers were detained.

Allied Units Zap Enemy

TUY HOA (USAF) — Air Force F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing Tuy Hoa Air Base, struck within sight of their base recently as they supported U.S., South Vietnamese and South Korean units in a victory over a heavily-armed enemy battalion.

Enemy mortar and rocket units opened up on the MACV compound near Tuy Hoa City in the early morning hours causing slight damage and light casualties.

The enemy forces, estimated at battalion size, were quickly trapped in two small areas north of the city and pounded by the fighter-bomber pilots, the 47th South Vietnamese Army Regiment, units of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and 9th ROK Division.

When it was over, allied ground units counted 227 enemy dead, detained more than 40 suspects and confiscated nearly 100 weapons.

Tuy Hoa Air Base, 4 miles south of the city, where the 31st TFW operates, did not receive enemy fire.

Gunships and flareships from Phu Cat and Nha Trang air bases aided the friendly units with night suppression fire and illumination.



The

FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 53

Saigon, Vietnam

May 8, 1968



FORE—An unidentified trooper with the 4th Marines, throws a hand grenade toward an NVA position.

(USMC PHOTO)

Delta Offensive Underway

Named After Historical Viet Hero

CAN THO (USA)—The Mekong Delta-wide offensive now in progress in the IV Corps Tactical Zone is named in honor of a famous Vietnamese military hero—Truong Cong Dinh.

Although Truong Cong Dinh's fame goes back to the mid-1800's, he and his exploits are well known to the populace of the Delta and are well noted in history books.

The man is remembered primarily for his stubborn opposition to the French even after the Royal Vietnamese Army and the French had signed an agreement in 1862.

All ARVN units, as well as an element of the U.S. 9th Division, are participating in the offensive throughout the IV Corps' four tactical areas—the 44th Special Zone, Upper Delta Division Tactical Area (DTA) under the control of the 7th ARVN Division, 41st DTA under control of the 9th ARVN Division and 42nd DTA under control of the 21st ARVN Division.

Truong Cong Dinh was born in Duang Ngai Province

in the central highlands of North Vietnam and moved to the south in 1815 when his father, Truong Cam Voc, was assigned work in Gia Dinh Province.

It was there the son was married to Miss Le Thi Thuong of Tan An.

The legendary hero was one of countless Vietnamese who took part in a movement to recruit men and manufacture weapons to fight the French aggression in 1860. Truong Cong Dinh became commander of Ky Hoa Camp headquarters of the Royal Army, in Go Cong Province.

On Feb. 24, 1861, the French sent 4,000 soldiers against the camp which held out for 24 hours before finally being overrun. However, Truong Cong Dinh withdrew his troops to Go Cong City and continued to recruit bringing his strength up to 10,000.

He inflicted many casualties among his enemies before being captured on Aug. 20, 1864 in Kien Phuoc, where he was later executed.

Editorial

Stand And Fight

WASHINGTON—How many times in our lives have we backed away from a good fight—not just a passing fracas, but one that directly affects us by its outcome? It doesn't sound logical, does it? When we've got something at stake, we're going to fight for it tooth and nail.

Well, if past statistics hold true, about half of us are going to turn our back on one of these fights this year. We're going to pass it by without a second glance and then, when it's all over, we're going to sit around and cry about the outcome.

We're not talking about the shooting war in Vietnam—or a shooting war anywhere else for that matter. We're talking about the battle that's going on right here at home this year—the 1968 elections.

This is our chance to fight with something other than bullets—our ballot.

Now don't start mouthing all the worn-out reasons why our vote isn't important or we can't vote. Ninety-nine per cent of the reasons just don't hold water.

Our vote is important and, strange as it might seem, could be the deciding vote in our state's election.

Another worn-out excuse for not voting is, "I'm so far away from home I can't get back there to vote."

What about an absentee ballot? Have we taken the time to learn how to get one so we can vote no matter where we are when election time rolls around?

There is a little card called the Federal Post Card Application for Absentee Ballot (FPCA) available to all commands. It's the key to absentee voting. Once we fill it out and send it to our home state, we've started the ball rolling.

Sometimes, just the FPCA is enough to get us registered and get our ballot. In other cases, it gets us the particular state forms we must fill out and return to be eligible to vote. This varies from state to state, but the FPCA is the first step.

Our absentee ballot is our weapon and knowledge is our ammunition. Use them and use them effectively in the battle of the 1968 elections. (AFPS)

Know Your Code



CODE OF CONDUCT

III

If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Thayer Award To Bob Hope For Dedication

WASHINGTON — Bob Hope, who has devoted much of his time over the last quarter-century to entertaining servicemen around the world, will receive the 11th Annual Sylvanus Thayer Award from the U.S. Military Academy's Association of Graduates, the organization announced.

The award is presented annually by the association to an outstanding citizen of the United States whose service in the national interest exemplifies personal devotion to the ideals expressed in the motto of the Military Academy, "Duty, Honor, Country."

Presentation ceremonies, highlighted by a review by the Corps of Cadets in Hope's honor, will be May 13.

Mr. Hope, a veteran of more than 1,000 radio and 225 television shows and 50 motion pictures, made his first appearance before a military audience in March 1941, at March Field, Calif.

Since his initial appearance, he has traveled more than a million miles entertaining more than five million troops in every corner of the globe.

His latest award is named in honor of Sylvanus Thayer, an 1808 graduate of the Military Academy, who nine years later became its fifth Superintendent. (AFPS)

New Platform For Delta War

WASHINGTON — The Limited War Laboratory is developing a 900-pound platform for use in swamp-like delta regions. The platform will be used for off-loading troops from helicopters in rice paddies, swamps and shallow water.

The hexagonal platform is made of 22 feet of aluminum tubing with a walking surface of aluminum chain link fencing and six 20-foot-long legs attached to a steel wire net to serve as a base for the entire structure.

It is designed to be positioned by a helicopter, the delta platform — with modifications — could be used as a weapons platform, command post, troop shelter, first aid station or helicopter landing pad. (AD)

La. Veterans To Get Bonus

WASHINGTON — Louisiana can now be added to the list of states offering a Vietnam bonus.

A \$250 bonus for its servicemen and veterans with military duty in the Vietnam combat area anytime between July 1, 1958, and the end of Vietnam hostilities is eligible.

Applicants must have served honorably and been a citizen of Louisiana at the time of entry into service.

The bonus will not be paid until after the end of the Vietnam conflict.

For information write: Louisiana Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Vietnam Bonus Division, Old State Capitol, Baton Rouge, La., 70801.



ROYALTY—Can this luscious blonde-haired young lady of 22 be a German Baroness in real life? Slender Renata Holt was 36-22-38 statistics has to acknowledge that it is so. She is starring in "Those Fantastic Flying Fools".

(PHOTO COURTESY AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL Pictures)

Vietnam No Kid's Game 'Good Guys' Get Killed

BIEN HOA (III Corps)—Most of us remember playing cowboys and Indians when we were children and thinking of playing war when we grew up.

Now that we are grown (??) we are involved in a war, but a lot of fellas are forgetting to play the game right. They forget who is the bad guy, and end up shooting their buddy, or themselves.

Betcha didn't know that during a recent four-month period, nearly a platoon of men were thoughtlessly killed by "friendly weapons" in familiar surroundings by their "buddies."

The weapon most frequently to be the troops, the M16, seems to be what is involved in most of the accidents — like 27 per cent. Pardon that M16 was built to kill and it doesn't have a conscience. It is deadlier than a rattlesnake and can strike twice as fast!

"Quick-draw McGraw" is what some guys favor themselves as being. They discard the issue holster for the .45 caliber automatic, and buy one of those low slung, hip huggin' fast draw getups with a belt for all the cartridges.

Man, did you ever try to slap leather with an Army issue .45? 'Bout the only thing you're gonna do is shoot yourself in the leg. Whew, that smarts! Ask any of the 20 per cent accidental victims involved with this weapon (if they are still around).

Then there is the M14 which does its part. Ten per cent of the accidental pluggin's are done with this shootin' iron. The M79 grenade launcher and all other grenades do about 15 per cent of the damage. And 17 per cent of the injuries fall into the "miscellaneous" category.

Now you say who are these dudes who don't know how to handle their shootin' irons? Well, the 19-, 20-, and 21-year-old private first class pulls between 40 and 50 per cent of the stunts. E-4s were involved in 25 per cent of the accidents while E-5s through E-8s drew 12 per cent.

Officers and warrant officers totalled two per cent — which goes to show you —nobody is perfect.

Make sure to play the role of a man! Stay alive and keep your buddy alive too!



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, 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, printed at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material 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.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA
Chief, Command Information Lt. Col. T. A. Costello, USA

NCOIC JOC W.W. Polk, USN
Editor SSgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA

Sgt. Butch Logs 5,000 Combat Flying Hours

PHAN RANG (USAF) — Sparking the esprit de corps of the Air Force C-123 Provider transport crews of the 309th Air Commando Squadron at Phan Rang air base is a four-legged veteran of 5,000 combat flying hours called Sergeant Butch.

At first glance, this small brown and white animal does not look any different than other dogs adopted as unit mascots. However, Sergeant Butch has the distinction of more exposure to combat and danger than any other member of the air commando squadron.

Known and loved by every member of the squadron, he has flown to almost every air base and air strip in South Vietnam aboard C-123s delivering vital cargo to Free World Forces throughout the country.

A scar on Sergeant Butch's

right side testifies to a wound he received three years ago when the C-123 on which he was a passenger was hit by .50 caliber machine gun fire.

A medic at the Army Special Forces camp where the aircraft landed saved the dog's life. The C-123 crew members were very sad that day, be-

cause the dog was in great pain. Before long, the plucky canine was flying again and had learned an important lesson. Now whenever a Provider goes in for a landing, he always sits up front, on a chain box below the cockpit, because the chain box is sure to stop any bullet coming up through the aircraft.



Sgt. Butch joins his friend in cockpit of a C-123.

Airborne Bn's 3-Day Assault Routs Enemy

HUE (USA) — 101st Airborne troopers recently killed 174 enemy during a three-day assault northwest of here.

The paratroopers discovered written orders on the third day of action which directed Viet Cong and NVA regulars to stay in their fortified positions and fight at all costs. But when the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry finally were able to sweep the battle area, they encountered only a few snipers.

Supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, tactical air and naval guns, a company of paratroopers charged in from surrounding rice paddies to breach the Communist perimeter three times in the first two days of fighting.

Each time, they met fierce resistance from enemy machine guns, mortars, automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades.

"They had good fortifications, modern weapons and plenty of ammunition," said company commander, Captain Terrance N. Spiegelberg. "Their bunkers were arranged so that each could protect the other."

On the third morning, fighting subsided and troopers, fighting their sweep of the area to assess enemy casualties. They counted 174 enemy dead.



This Frogman hits the water from a fast moving boat near Da Nang. (USN PHOTO)

The squadron maintains a complete personnel file on Sergeant Butch, and his flight time is carefully recorded from day to day.

Bought in a Saigon pet shop more than five years ago, Butch started his flying career as a pup, a small bundle of fur tucked in someone's flight jacket. He has earned the respect due any combat veteran, in the course of hundreds of combat sorties during which he has been looked after by five different masters.

The latest is Sergeant John P. Shockley Jr., a loadmaster. When Sergeant Butch returns from a combat mission, he files into the squadron operations building along with the sergeant and other crew members of the flight, and waits quietly until the proper debriefing forms are filled out.

Then, trotting alongside his master, he heads for the enlisted men's barracks which

has been his home since the squadron came to Phan Rang from Tan Son Nhut Air Base last summer.

Sergeant Shockley has been Sergeant Butch's master and flying buddy for six months.

Perhaps it has not been easy for the dog to witness the successive departures of his previous masters as they finished their one-year tours in Vietnam. But each time he has bounced back and sought out a new flying buddy.

In return, Butch has always had devoted friends in the squadron who keep his drinking bowl filled with water and share their sandwiches with him.

During those periods when he is between masters, the pooch can be found alone on the flightline, watching the C-123s taking off early in the morning. Before long he accepts the friendly yoke of a new master. After all, a dog has got to be a friend to someone.

Mobile Riverine Troops Kill 78 Enemy In Delta

DONG TAM (USA) — Mobile Riverine soldiers from the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade killed 78 enemy soldiers recently during two days of intense fighting in the Ap Bac area 25 miles west-southwest of Saigon in Kien Tuong province.

Elements of the 3d and 4th Battalions, 47th Infantry, were sweeping south toward Cai Lay in the Mekong Delta April 17 when they became embroiled in heavy contact with an enemy force of unknown size. The 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry, was airlifted south of the action as a blocking force.

As the infantry closed in, howitzers from the 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery, pounded the area from floating artillery barges.

Later, when contact was lost,

U.S. soldiers found 78 enemy dead and detained three suspects. In addition, 90 bunkers were destroyed and three individual weapons, six tons of rice and enough clothing to outfit a VC battalion were captured.

Documents found on some VC revealed they were from the 514th Local Force Battalion and elements of the 261-B Main Force Battalion.

U.S. casualties for the day were four killed and 33 wounded.

Elements of the U.S. battalions returned to Ap Bac the next day encountering sporadic to heavy contact as they swept south. The 2d Brigade infantrymen captured 11 Chi Com carbines and an additional seven tons of rice.

Navy Frogmen Gather Vital Information

QUANG TRI (USN) — Underwater Demolition Teams in Vietnam are the first uninvited callers to hostile shores. As part of the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force, the primary mission of these Navy Frogmen is to survey the target area for an am-

phibious landing of Marines by fast striking Amphibious Ready Groups.

"But the most important mission of frogmen in Vietnam is obtaining hydrographic intelligence," said Ensign Peter Thompson, a member of the se-

lect Navy group.

The vast use of rivers in Vietnam has given the UDT men a new type of reconnaissance mission. In Vietnam, one of their greatest problems is sandbars, and thus surveys of river bottoms have become almost a prerequisite step in planning river operations deep in enemy territory.

For example, on one recent operation an allied force had to make a trip up river through enemy territory to Quang Tri.

Before the trip could be even considered, swimmers, from UDT-12 Detachment "C" at Da Nang were called in for a "sneak and peek" survey of the dangerous waters.

In the Vietnam war, frogmen perform a variety of other duties unrelated to commando operations. They have used their demolition skills to clear ruins of bridges partially destroyed by enemy mortar attacks, and boat coxswains rely on them to search the bottom of their craft for planted mines and to clear fouled screws.

Frogmen also act as life guards for Marines riding in waterborne assault craft, and, on occasion, have searched for downed helos off the Vietnamese coast.

But whatever his mission, the Navy frogman knows the success of the riverine operations and amphibious assaults very often depend on him and his fellow swimmers.

BOOM!—UDT at work.



IT DOESN'T HURT—Sp5 Charles P. Russell, a senior medic with Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade treats a small Vietnamese boy's infected hands. (USA PHOTO By: PFC Ronald Cole)

Antenna Triggers Trap; Soldier Stands 'Petrified'

CHU LAI (USA) — "I don't think I ever stood as still in my life as when someone yelled that my antenna had hit a booby trap wire," said a radio operator with Americal Division's 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Private First Class Neil Amalfitano, of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, was speaking of the petrifying experience he had when his radio antenna got caught up in a trip wire while on a sweep during a recent operation.

"We were moving through some pretty thick brush when I saw Neil's antenna catch the high trip wire," said Specialist 4 Earl Thorn, who was walking behind the PFC.

"The wire went forward, but didn't snap," said the specialist. "So I yelled for him to freeze. While the antenna continued to hold the wire taut, two other Company C members began carefully tracing the wire."

U.S. Air Power Slams Enemy

PLEIKU (USAF)—Air Force pilots recently dealt a devastating blow to enemy forces throughout the central highlands and along the coast of South Vietnam in a 31-day period. They were directed to their targets by controllers of the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) at Pleiku air base.

Reports received after the strikes revealed 904 enemy fortifications were destroyed or damaged, 307 enemy soldiers killed, 252 bunkers destroyed, 61 secondary explosions and 88 sustained fires and 114 enemy foxholes destroyed.

The strikes also accounted for the destruction of four automatic weapons positions, two radio stations, three active mortar positions, one rocket launching position, and two defensive positions. Eighty-five weapons were captured during ground sweeps of the areas after the air strikes.

Unit Flies Lower, Slower; 'Shows Up' Hidden Enemy

BIEN HOA (USAF) — Today, when the aim of aircraft designers is to go higher and faster, the Air Force's 12th Air Commando Squadron (12th ACS) at Bien Hoa air base, seeks to go lower and slower.

The reason is its mission — defoliation.

Using modified C-123 Provider transport aircraft with a 1,000 gallon tank in the cargo compartment and spray nozzles under the bottom of the wings and fuselage, the crews spread plant killer over carefully selected target areas in South Vietnam.

Their objective is to remove the dense jungle canopy that hides enemy supply routes,

ambush sites and base camps. By stripping the cover of the jungle from the enemy it is possible to keep him under surveillance, force him to take more difficult routes and keep him on the move.

The defoliant used is a liquid chemical similar to weed killers used by home gardeners. To properly spread the defoliant it is necessary for the pilots of the 12th ACS to fly at treetop height, approximately 150 feet off the ground, at less than 150 miles per hour.

Flying in formations of three or more aircraft staggered one behind the other, they must fly the terrain, following the lay of the land up hill and down

valley, keeping the delivery altitude and speed constant to insure proper coverage of the target area.

The spray, settling on the trees, takes from three to four days to kill plant life. At the same time, it poses no threat to either human or animal life. The weed killer is effective for about three to four months, at which time the plant growth resumes.

Skimming over the trees at slow speed, the UC-123 planes are a prime target for the enemy. During the past year 12th ACS aircraft have been hit more than 1,000 times. Despite the large number of hits, morale of the unit is high.

Airmen Bring Help To Citadel

Mercy Flight Big Success

DA NANG (USAF)—Men of the U.S. and Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) recently joined together in a mercy airlift to Hue. They carried food, clothing and toilet articles for citizens suffering from enemy attacks. The airlift was one of seven flown to Hue Citadel.

Men of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 111th Light Transportation Company in Hue supplied trucks to meet the USAF and VNAF aircraft, and transport the foodstuffs and other items to distribution points.

Captain Nguyen Thien Gia, 41st Vietnamese Air Wing representative, provided several VNAF CH-34 Choctaw helicopters to transport USAF and VNAF personnel who volunteered to help distribute the items. A joint medical team was also formed to provide the people of Hue with medical and dental

service.

Transportation for the six tons of food and clothing was provided by USAF Caribou C-7A aircraft and crews assigned to the 483rd Tactical Airlift Squadron.

Project officials distributed the goods to war victims of the Hue Citadel area who had decided to stand by their homes and were not living in the refugee camps. Enemy activity brought many civilian casualties, destroyed several public and private buildings and seriously damaged commerce. Many people were left with no way to earn money to buy needed staples and basic necessities.

Much of the airlifted food was obtained from Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). The VNAF 41st Wing Control and Reporting Center, under the direction of Major Tran Van Minh, took up

a collection among their personnel to buy food. The USAF 620th Tactical Control Center personnel also contributed funds.

More than 400 pounds of clothing, donated by people in the U.S., was distributed.

Food was divided into family-sized bundles and clothes were sorted into family-size lots. Forty-first VNAF Wing personnel handled this job.

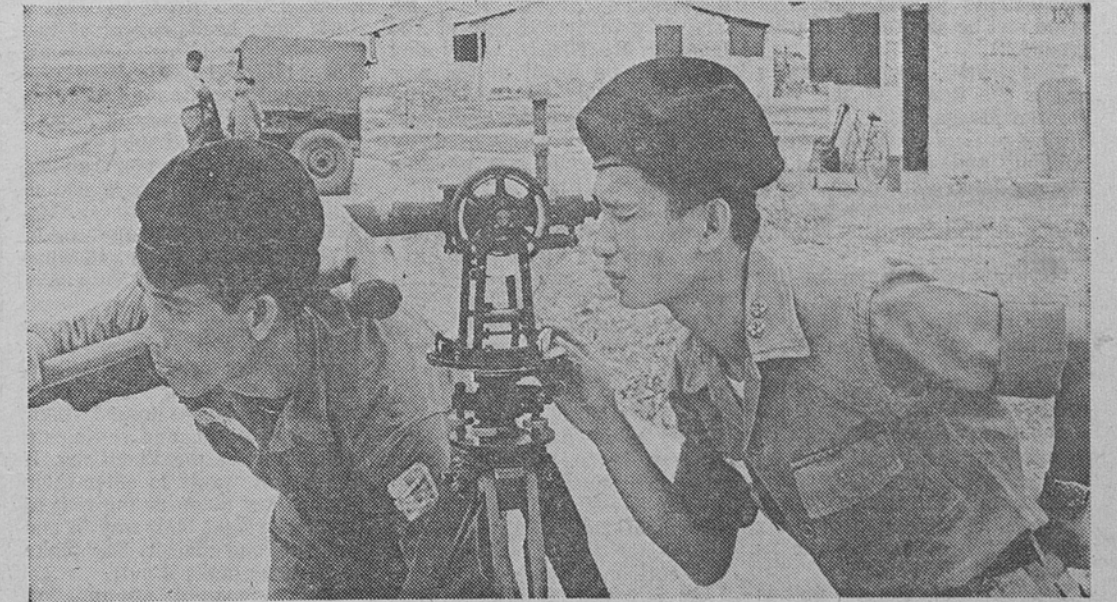
The project was under the direction of Captain Paul R. Stankiewicz, 366th Tactical Fighter Wing civic action officer. Assisting him was Staff Sergeant David Sylva, 366th TFW civic action NCOIC.

Captain Stankiewicz said, "The project was very successful. It was an honor for me and for every man that worked on the project to be able to help these people. I am happy to add that the city of Hue appears to be well on the way to recovery."



AIRBORNE ASSAULT—Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade assault an NVA bunker with grenades and machine gun fire. (USA PHOTO)

'New Village' Self-Made Thoroughly Vietnamese



Viet soldiers from the Engineer School of Phu Cuong City survey ground for new refugees.

PHU LOI (USA)—Ask a person who lives there about Gadsden Refugee Village and you'll get a puzzled look for an answer. Though the village of 850 former refugees has an American name which comes from its financial benefactors, the citizens of Gadsden, Ala., Vietnamese call it Lang Moi, meaning "new village".

The "New Village" has grown from an idea to a self-governed, self-made community between Phu Loi Base Camp and the Binh Duong Province capital of Phu Cuong. The folks of Gadsden, Ala., say the project has surpassed their fondest dreams. The proof is that Lang Moi is thoroughly Vietnamese. Amid land of brush, trees and the aging stone, marking the sacred resting place of their Buddhist ancestors, Vietnamese refugees families built the New Village brick by brick.

Story By
Sp5 M.E. Marcellino
USA Photos

A young villager is prepared for another day's classes.



Intent on becoming self-supporting, these Gadsden men dig the village's seventh well.



This teacher instructs some of Gadsden's 250 students.

These families left the rubber plantations and rice paddies of the South Vietnamese provinces of Binh Duong, Tay Ninh and Binh Long. Some of them, the people from Ben Suc in Binh Duong Province, had lived in a village controlled by underground Communist base camps.

When heavy fighting erupted between the Allies and Reds during Allied Operation Cedar Falls in January 1967, many left a place where farmers have but a small voice. Those villagers who were evacuated to safety by the allies were registered on lists for placement in new homes. Some refugees wait for two years at temporary refugee camps which provide food and shelter. The citizenry of Gadsden are 141 of these former homeless families.

The life that the new refugee family gets at Gadsden is an example of a helping hand that doesn't dictate and has no strings attached. The project works by self-help. Given the materials that will make a house, the whole family pitches in to build it. While working

they earn a small wage and food. The means to start come from USAID and from more than \$20,000 in donations from Gadsden, Ala. citizens.

A handful of American soldiers for two years have seen inert materials become a village and according to the latest in the line of Civic Action workers from the 23rd Artillery Group, Gadsden is 90 per cent self-sufficient and soon will be economically independent.

The people of independent Gadsden are industrious and self-governing. There are four restaurants (plus five snack bars), and the people have elected a village chief and a six-man town council. These representatives were chosen at a town meeting.

Gadsden residents are becoming independent because they work. The wide variety of occupations also includes: five laundries, two barbers, a watch and clock repairman, five construction men and 20 pottery workers.

Two-hundred and fifty school children fill Gadsden Village classrooms.

Advisors Teach Viet Marines

THU DUC (USN) — "Thao Truong Mo Hoi Do, Chien Truong Mau Bot Roi." In English, those Vietnamese words mean, "If your sweat falls on the training ground, then less blood will be shed on the battle ground."

That expression appears across the facade of the Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC) Training Center headquarters building and is attributed to Major Hoang-Van Nam, commanding officer of the training center at Thu Duc, just outside Saigon.

"Every recruit reporting for his 12 weeks of training at this center sees it, and all of them soon understand it," says Major Nam.

This breed of well-trained fighters are advised and assisted by members of the United States Marine Corps. Known as the Marine Advisory Unit of the U.S. Naval Advisory Group in Vietnam, 28 officers and six enlisted Leathernecks serve as advisors to the VNMC.

Heading the advisory unit is Colonel Richard L. Michael Jr., senior advisor. He, and his personnel are helping to chart the future growth of the VNMC, as well as advising how the present Corps of more than 7,500 men can be improved.

"U.S. Marines have been advising the VNMC since it was organized in October 1954," Colonel Michael said. "Due to the successful efforts of Marine advisors during the past 14 years, the VNMC has been well indoctrinated professionally and is a real fine fighting force."

Ever striving to find ways that the VNMC can be improved, the U.S. Leathernecks are continually making tactical and logistical assessments of the different units. In turn, they then file weekly and monthly reports on their findings and opinions to the senior advisor, who then studies them and makes any

needed suggestions and recommendations to the Commandant of the VNMC.

Advising Major Nam in the training of new recruits is Captain Harry J. Shane. He is assisted by Gunnery Sergeant Ado Mobley Jr. Nearly every day they can be found at the new training center into which the Vietnamese Training Command recently moved where as many as 2,000 recruits can undergo training at a time.

One example of what fierce fighters the Vietnamese Marines are, and the reputation they have gained for themselves, is the nickname earned by one VNMC infantry battalion.

During a major engagement with the Viet Cong in the northern I Corps area early in 1965, the VNMC 2nd Battalion inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Later, friendly troops captured some Viet Cong documents, one of which states that the VNMC 2nd Battalion "fought like crazy water buffaloes" in the earlier battle.

As a result of this, the battalion was awarded the official nickname, "Trau Dien," meaning "crazy water buffalo" and every trooper in the unit wears the "Trau Dien" patch on his uniform.

Senior advisor to the battalion, Captain Donald Bonsper said: "The individual VNMC trooper is as good a Marine as there is, considering his lack of technological knowledge and general education. His desire to carry out assigned tasks, as well as his ability to sustain himself in the field and his pride in being a Marine, makes him so."

"With proper leadership, and with proper application of available support, I don't think he can be beat," Captain Bonsper concluded.

The U.S. advisors offer suggestions for improvements to the battalion commander in all areas of planning, tactical em-

ployment and staff functioning. They also serve as liaison with U.S. units in joint operations.

Task force advisors are direct representatives of the senior advisor when deployed with a task force headquarters of two or more infantry battalions. They offer suggestions and recommendations to the task force commanders in areas of organization, tactics and support.

Sometimes during operations, and most of the time when the battalions are idle, the VNMC plans and executes a number of civic action programs. Perhaps the most successful to date have been the MEDCAPs.

When not on an operation or holding a MEDCAP or other civic action project, the battalions spend their "idle" time running patrols around their command posts, and setting up ambushes for the Viet Cong. If the enemy wants to enter their areas, they do so at the risk of having to fight their way in and out, said one advisor. Few make it in—none make it out.

Expressions of appreciation for the work that the Marine advisors are doing is shown in the numerous awards and citations given to them by the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

But the real feeling the Vietnamese Marines have for the help the advisors provide, was best summed up by VNMC Major Nam when he said: "The thing that pleases us most is the amount of work the U.S. advisors are willing to do just to help us get the job done right."

Story By:

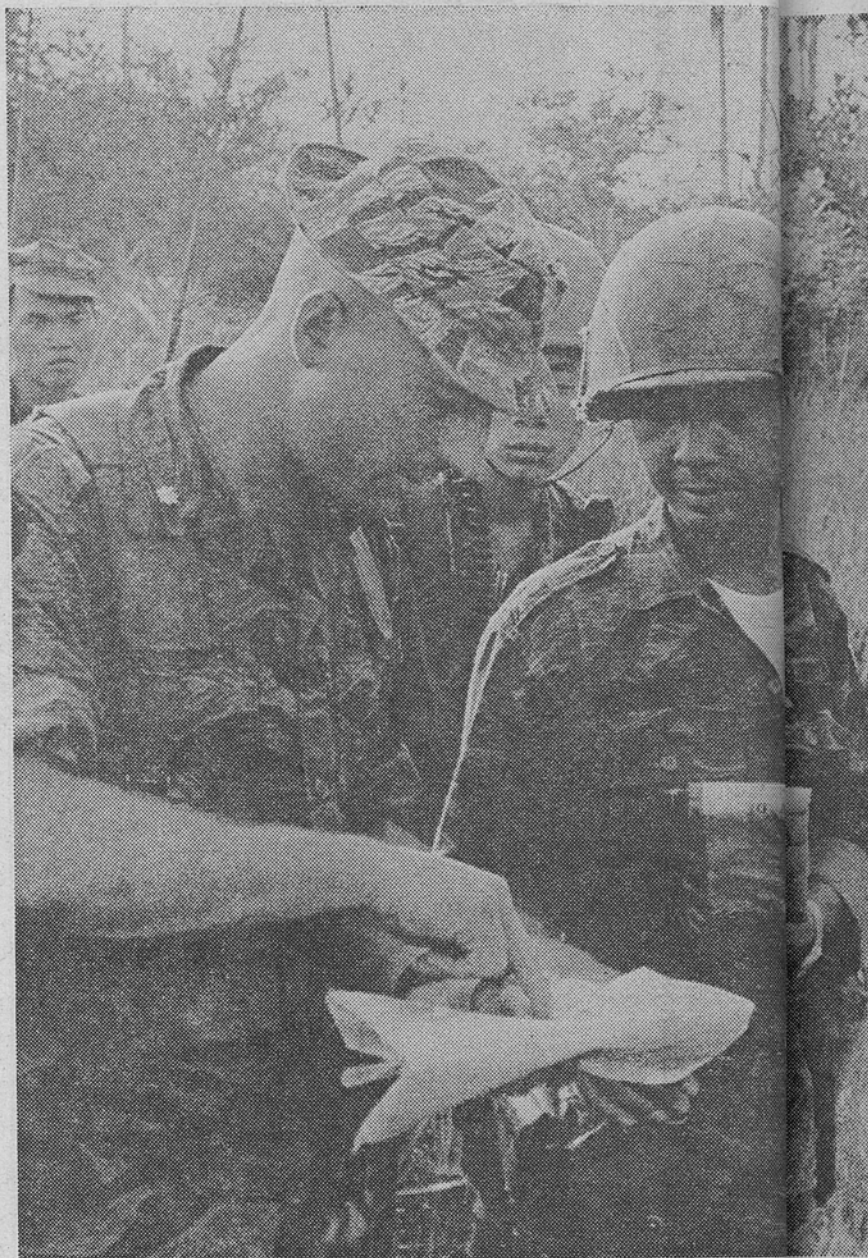
JO1 Tom Tompkins

Photos By:

JO1 Tom Tompkins

&

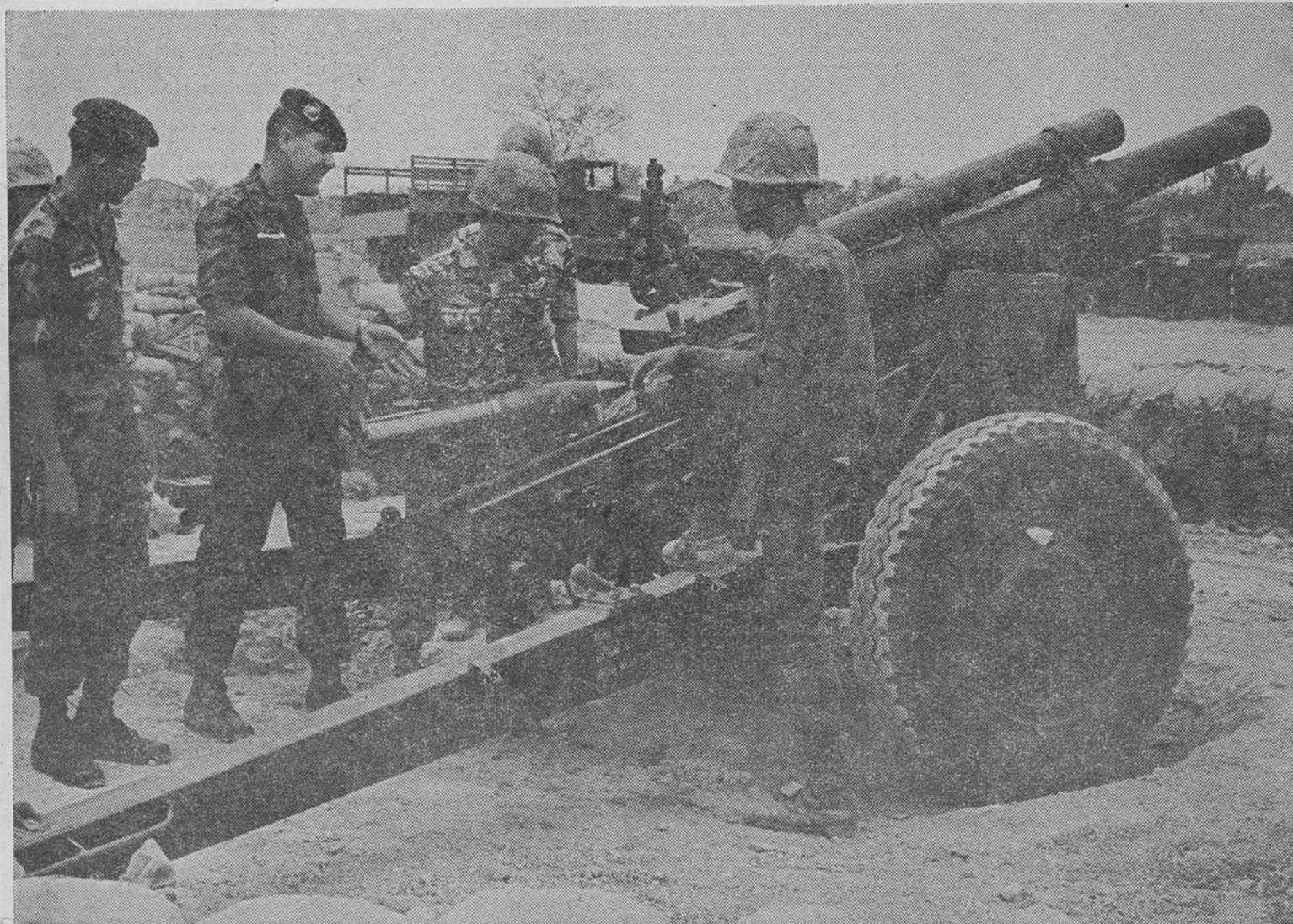
PH3 J.W. Griffiths



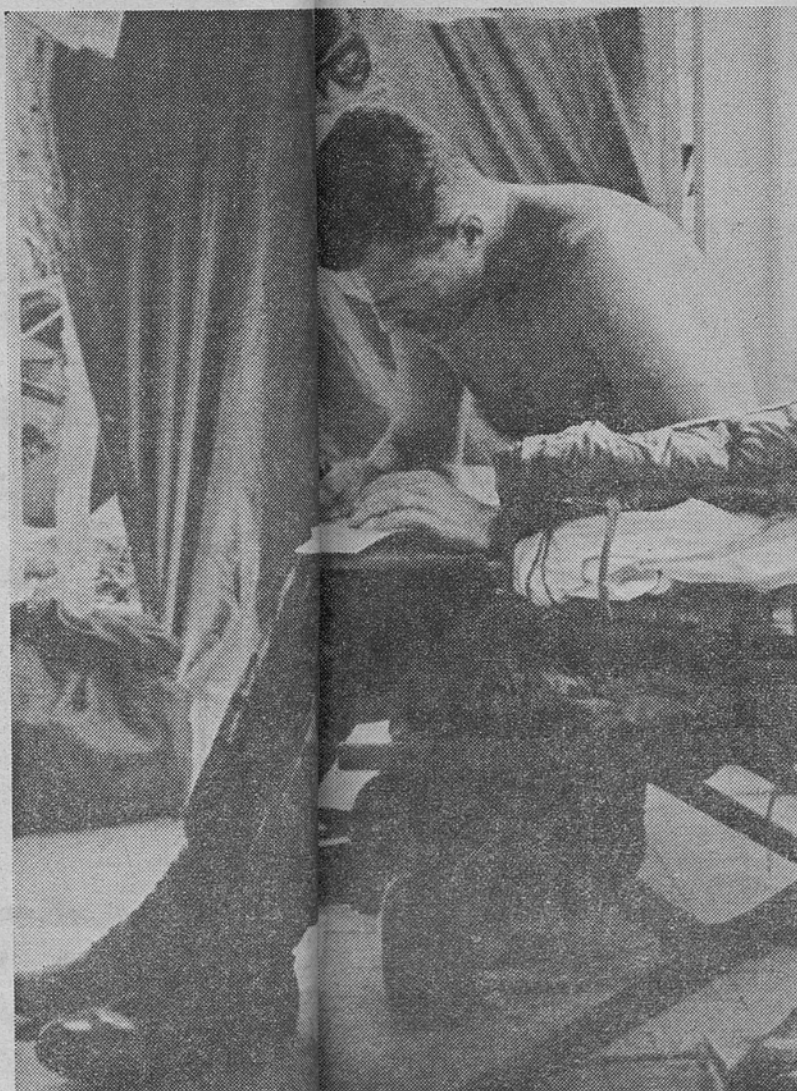
Marine Major William P. Eshelman checks operations map with herpart.



U.S. Marine Captain Harry J. Shane inspects Vietnamese Marine recruits with Major Hoang-Van Nam, commanding officer of the training center.



Warrant Officer Travis E. Martin advises Vietnamese Artillery gunners during practice firing. He advises the battery.



At day's end Lieutenant Fox takes time to write a letter home.



Both the American advisor and his Vietnamese friend seem to be enjoying their meal.

60th Infantry 'Caches' Charlie

BO BO CANAL (USA)—When the fighting has ended and the gunships have returned to their bases, it is time for a sweep of the battle area to procure a damage assessment report and pick up any enemy gear or supplies.

Such a search turned out to

be quite profitable for the men of the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry recently.

Infantry troopers confiscated four 7.62 mm heavy anti-aircraft machine guns, 579 B-40 rocket rounds, 450 mortar rounds, 29

recoilless rifle rounds and over 200,000 rounds of 7.62 rifle ammunition.

Source of the weapons cache was an enemy convoy of 100 sampans headed down the Bo Bo Canal to resupply enemy troops in the Saigon area.

Using searchlights, U.S. gunships discovered the floating convoy and called in air strikes. The Air Force answered the call and destroyed 93 of the enemy sampans.

With the destruction of 93 per cent of the enemy vessels and

the Infantry soldiers confiscating large quantities of the weapons and supplies, the mission was completed.

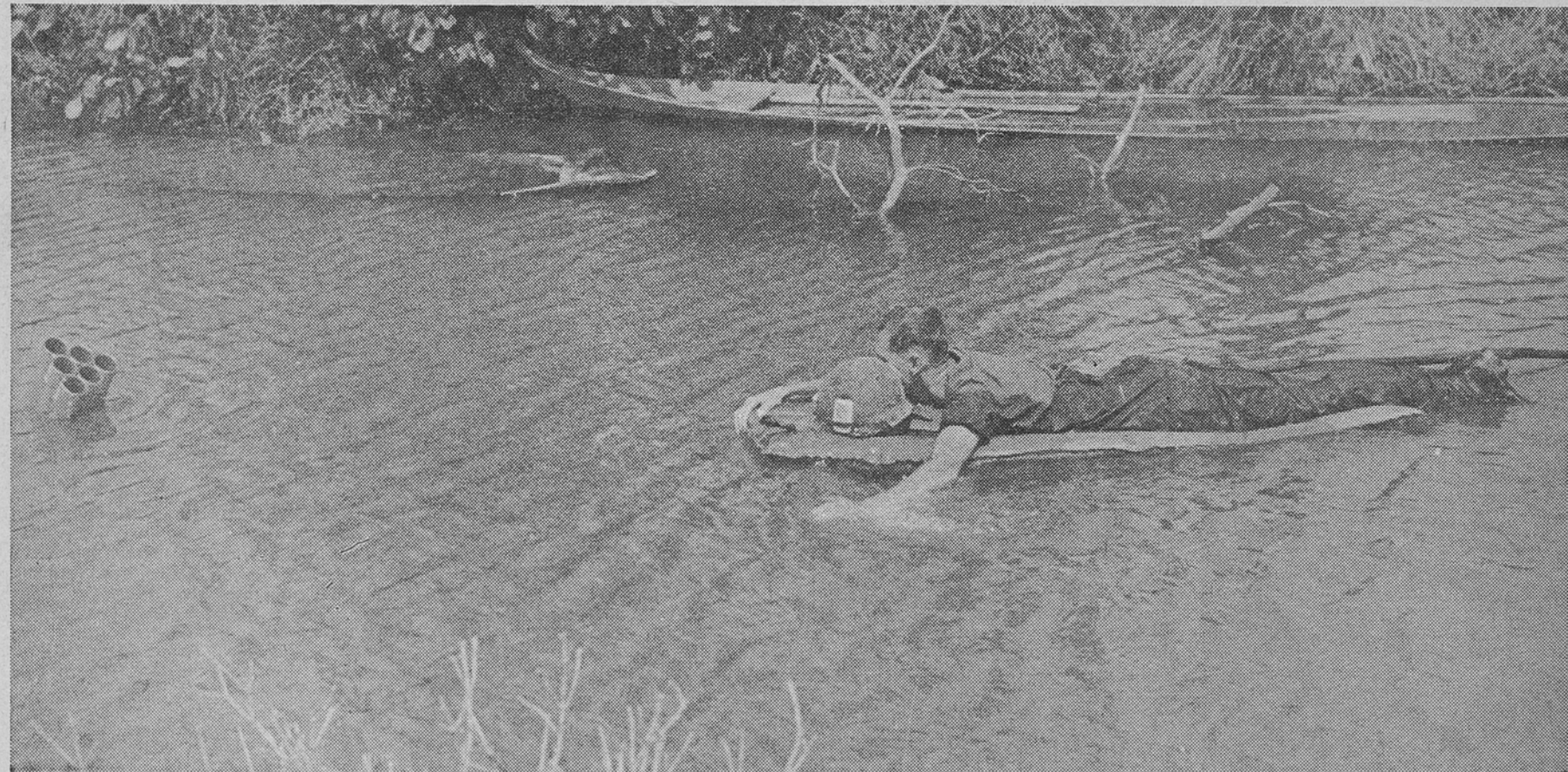
Story & Photos
By
PFC Stuart Kovacs



9th Infantry Division soldiers seek out the enemy in the Mekong Delta's Bo Bo Canal region.



An infantryman watches for any remaining enemy activity after an air strike in this area.



Up a lazy river to recover shell casings, part of the Bo Bo Canal weapons cache, found during mop-up operations after air strikes sunk 93 sampans.



Over the wall to make a damage assessment after the battle.

Actor-Soldier In Humanitarian Effort

SAIGON (USA)—A former actor assigned to 4th Psychological Operations Group headquarters here, recently wrote to friends in the Midwest describing conditions at Saigon area refugee centers and orphanages.

To date he has received more than 90 packages containing clothing, non-perishable food items, as well as \$700 in cash.

Specialist 4 Roger M. Steffens' letters were printed in the Racine (Wisconsin) Journal-Times, supplemented with editorials urging readers to send contributions for the homeless in South Vietnam in the soldier's name.

Racine Mayor William Beyer proclaimed a "Roger Steffens Week" and set up collection points at the city's five high schools. Dozens of packages of canned food, lightweight clothing and toilet articles began arriv-

ing in Saigon a short time later.

"The response has been wonderful," Specialist Steffens said, "the people in Racine have gone all out. High school councils held classes in wrapping and mailing packages, and the mayor arranged for a special bank account to receive contributions to cover postal costs."

Before entering the Army last year, the specialist toured universities and high schools in the Midwest presenting poetry seminars, readings and introductions to classic works.

"One of the places I spoke was Marian High School in Birmingham, Mich. The girls there held a dance, and as a result sent a \$525 check to the project."

Working with the 4th PSYOP Group's civic action committee, the soldier-actor began distributing food, milk and clothing at a refugee center in Gia Dinh, near Saigon.

"We used some of the money

1st Cav. Discovers Large Rice Cache

CAMP ENARI (USA)—A patrol from the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, recently discovered nearly a ton of rice in enemy storage sites located only a short distance from a cavalry observation post near Pleiku.

Sergeant James Cambell, leader of the patrol, and his men were sweeping an area where Viet Cong spider holes were thought to be prevalent. Suddenly, Private First Class Terry Sartin, the lead man, spotted the storage sites dug into a steep bank above a nearby stream.

Private Sartin said the storage bunkers were well camouflaged, and constructed of logs and bamboo.

As Sergeant Cambell moved in to clear the cache of possible booby traps, Private First Class Joe Clausman spotted two fast approaching Montagnard tribesmen. The pair was later identified as local villagers, and both seemed quite surprised to see the rice cache.

Their surprise was interpreted by the sergeant to mean the rice did not belong to the two Mon-

tagnards' village.

The captured rice was bagged and removed to squadron headquarters to await distribution to needy Montagnard villages around the 4th Division base camp at Camp Enari.

It is believed that the rice cache would have fed about three Viet Cong platoons for a month.

Meanwhile, in an area near Plei Mrong, a Montagnard detainee helped another patrol find an estimated half ton of freshly polished rice.

The patrol was from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, and the rice was found during a sweep of the area near a Montagnard village where the detainee was picked up.

He offered no resistance to interrogators and later agreed to lead a party to the rice cache. It was found in a well camouflaged hut.

Troopers said the rice was so well hidden that "we would never have found it without the detainee's help." This rice too, will go to needy villagers.

Loaded With Cookies; Four Tons To Be Exact

SAIGON (VRE)—If you happen to meet Mrs. Wayne Briggs, a Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE) employee in Saigon, talk to her about the weather or anything at all... but please, no mention of cookies.

She has been swamped with them these past eight weeks, four tons of them to be exact. And she now wants a cookie-less break. She has loads of cookies in the family car and in her office at the VRE headquarters. At her home in Saigon she has to clear piles of the pastry to make room for visitors.

Mrs. Briggs receives these cookies from about 200 persons in more than 20 states in the U.S. Each day she gets six to 20 boxes of the homemade snacks through the VRE mailroom. Her office mates help her haul these to her car.

She and her co-employee, Mrs. Diane Powell do their best to distribute as many of the cookies as often as possible to hospitals to fulfill the wishes of their senders to get them to wounded servicemen.

This avalanche of goodies was touched off in February by a

letter Mrs. Briggs and her husband wrote 10 hometown friends. The friends in turn contacted churches, ladies clubs and other organizations in many states.

It all started, she explained, when her husband, a magazine correspondent, suffered injuries when a medevac helicopter he was riding was shot at by VC.

While waiting to be medevaced out of Vietnam at Tan Son Nhut, Mr. Briggs learned that only one can of cookies was distributed there each day to the sick and wounded. Since there were more than 300 patients, some did not get any.

This was the situation she and his wife wrote in their letters. When the cookies came a few days later they were enough to meet the needs of the casualty staging unit and the neighboring Air Force dispensary.

Many of the cookie senders have written that they wish to continue sending the pastries on a regular basis. Mrs. Briggs and Mrs. Powell have compiled a list of hospitals throughout Vietnam so these generous people can send the baked goods directly to the hospitals.

to buy lumber so the people could construct shelters," he explained. "They were all living out in the open, and 100 babies had been born there in two weeks... there would have been no milk for many of them, but for the project."

Eventually, the refugees at the Gia Dinh camp were relocated in government facilities. At the same time, the civic action committee discovered an orphanage only a few blocks from their unit in the heart of Saigon.

Specialist Steffens told of conditions at the orphanage: "An elderly Korean couple were supporting 50 Vietnamese boys almost single-handedly. Most had no shoes, their clothes were torn and dirty and they had to work as shoe shine boys for what few things they did have."

Recently, personnel of the 4th PSYOP Group Headquarters, hosted a party for the boys, complete with Vietnamese food, American steaks and color movie cartoons.

The committee is planning a

program to teach the youngsters a trade.

"I'm afraid they can't be shoe shine boys forever," Specialist Steffens explained, "and present circumstances don't permit them to go to school, so we plan to establish an apprentice program... teach them printing or automotive mechanics... give them a chance to make a good life for themselves."

Specialist 4 Roger M. Steffens—former actor, now a soldier and humanitarian.



FAST EXIT—A heavily laden, camouflaged, 1st Air Cavalry Division soldier makes a hasty exit from a helicopter as it eases down to the landing zone. The 1st Cavalry was participating in an operation in the Quang Tri Province, one of Vietnam's most northern provinces. (USA PHOTO By: Sp5 Don Graham)

37th Aerospace Rescue Unit

Saves Downed Fighter Pilot

DA NANG (USAF)—"They're real professionals and did a great job." Air Force Colonel David W. Winn made this comment after being plucked from the South China Sea by the crew of an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter.

Minutes after ejecting from his crippled F-105 Thunderchief the colonel was picked up by a crew from the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang air base.

He was flying a combat mission over the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam when his aircraft was hit by flak.

"After I was hit, I pulled off the target and headed out to sea. When I could no longer

control the aircraft, I ejected," he told rescuers later.

The Jolly Green crew, commanded by Captain John B. McTasney, was airborne within five minutes of the alert call, while a HC-130E Hercules crew kept the downed flyer in sight and remained on the scene to coordinate rescue efforts.

"When we arrived on the scene," said Sergeant Angus C. McDaughall, a pararescueman, "I jumped out of the chopper and swam to him (Colonel Winn)."

After pulling the colonel to the helicopter, Sergeant McDaughall untangled the parachute lines and hooked the rescue hoist to the pilot's para-

chute harness. The hoist operator, Airman First Class Hoyle L. Sykes, hauled the aviator into the rescue helicopter. Once aboard, he was given first aid.

Colonel Winn was treated at Da Nang base hospital for minor cuts and bruises. The colonel is the assistant deputy commander for operations with the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Vessel Saved By Navymen

SAIGON (USN)—U.S. Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) and armed helicopters recently broke up a Viet Cong attack on the merchant ship SS Tulane Victory 16 miles southeast of here. The ship came under attack as it moved up the vital Long Tau shipping channel enroute to Saigon.

Two PBRs following 1,000 yards astern of the ship sped to its defense. Navy Seawolves in armed helicopters also joined in the fight.

The attackers were driven off, but the ship sustained four hits. It took hits on the mess deck, in the refrigerator compartment and after steering section. The fourth hit resulted in a badly damaged starboard lifeboat. However, officials said overall damage was not serious and none of the ship's crew was injured.

One of the Seawolves' helicopters was struck by small arms fire, but there were no U.S. casualties in the action.

Viet Popular Forces Homefront Heroes

XUAN LOC (USA)—In every war there are unsung heroes. The war in Vietnam is no different, for throughout South Vietnam, manning lonely, isolated outposts, are the soldiers of the Popular Forces.

The PF is composed of soldiers whose mission is to defend the village and hamlet where they live against infiltration by the Viet Cong. Outposts are established close to the village and are usually manned by 20 to 40 PF soldiers depending on the size of the village.

In some cases, the families of the PF live within the compound; however, most of the time the facilities are not sufficient and the families must live in the village.

Popular Forces troops are equipped with only weapons and ammunition and in some cases a few items of clothing. Their pay is less than the ARVN regular soldier. It ranges between 2,400 to 2,700 piasters (\$20-\$23) per month, depending on their rank.

Remote Outpost

Many times the locations of the outposts are so remote that their only communications with other military units is limited to radio or is sometimes non-existent.

The PF must usually rely on their own resources and weapons for defense of their compound. Sometimes air support is available for extreme emergencies.

Two such units, the 19th and 20th PF platoons, are located near the village of Binh Loc, 5 miles north of Xuan Loc. These small outposts are each manned by about 25 PF troops.

Bin Loc was attacked three times by the VC in less than 20 days.

Each time the PF forces were able to hold their positions and to repel the attackers. The first time the VC attempted to overrun the area they employed conventional tactics: first a mortar

barrage, then a ground attack. After two hours of heavy fighting the VC platoon withdrew into the darkness leaving behind five of their dead.

A few days later the VC made a second attempt to take the little outposts. This time they slipped into the village shortly after 6 p.m. along with returning workers and were not detected by the PF.

Shortly thereafter, they forced many of the civilians to move in front of them as shields toward the PF positions at the east end of the village. Many of the civilians were women and children and were families of the PF soldiers.

The leader of the VC demanded that the PF surrender or that the civilians would be killed. Realizing that if they did surrender they would all be killed anyway, including women and children, the PF commander answered the request for surrender with several rounds from the compound's only mortar.

Hostages Escape

As the rounds impacted, the VC were more interested in taking cover from the exploding shells and forgot momentarily about their civilian hostages. The civilians were able to escape, most of them without serious injury.

The PF then engaged the enemy with small arms and their only machine gun, continuing to direct mortar fire into the positions.

After 10 hours of battle, the VC broke contact and withdrew; however several civilians reported that the VC had stolen an oxcart and two other vehicles and loaded them with the bodies of their dead and wounded.

Although the VC force outnumbered the PF 2 to 1, they were still no match for the Popular Force that day.

Scale Model Building Helps Train Carpenters

TUY HOA (USAF) — Vietnamese employees now learn carpentry through the use of a scale-model building at Tuy Hoa Air Base. This unique method of training was devised by the carpentry shop of the 820th Civil Engineering Squadron.

Built at a scale of one inch to one foot by members of the shop, the building is complete in every respect and features every type of carpentry technique used in constructing full-scale structures. "We can show an employee exactly what we want him to do because our model has the features found in any building," said Technical Sergeant Bruce J. Fillers, shop supervisor.

The carpentry shop employs nearly 100 Vietnamese civilians as well as 26 military. The civilian employees all receive training on the model building, knowledge which they can transfer to the actual construction of structures of the base.

In addition to the carpentry training provided by the model, the military personnel in the shop have found an unexpected side advantage. By referring to a portion of the model and pronouncing the name in English, the Vietnamese civilians have been rapidly acquiring a vocabulary of English carpentry terms.

River Force Has 'Floating Hospital'

ABOARD USS COLLETON (USN)—Why not a floating hospital? Everything associated with the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), the only joint Army-Navy operation of its kind in the world, is river mobile. So why not a floating hospital to serve MRF's more than 3,000 men?

This concept is now in operation with the MRF. It is called the USS Colleton Medical Facility. It was refitted in December, 1967, at Subic Bay Naval Station in the Philippines and placed on station in early January in the Delta.

Neither a surgical hospital nor an evacuation hospital, the facility is staffed by Company D, 9th Medical Battalion, and is designed to treat the lightly wounded casualty who usually can return to the field within two weeks. Enlarged ward space allows the MRF facility to hospitalize up to 50 men, eliminating the need for sending lightly wounded out of the division area.

A large percentage of the men treated aboard Colleton return to their own ship in the Riverine Force after treatment.

A secondary mission of the facility is to provide emergency



GREETINGS—Lovely Michelle Hamilton sends her best wishes. (PHOTO By PLAYBOY)

A Glean Of Hope

Joint Fund Helps Refugees

CAN THO (USA)—Some 400 Vietnamese received aid through the Dempsey Compound Donor Deposit Fund, Can Tho airfield.

The combined efforts of units stationed at the Army airfield and Delta Airlines, have brought relief and perhaps a gleam of hope to many needy refugees and dependents of Vietnamese Forces in the Mekong Delta.

Hundreds of refugees pour into the Delta city of Can Tho daily, driven from their homes by raging battles and by fear of the VC threats. Once within the city, they receive shelter, food, clothing and medical care from agencies dedicated to that purpose. But what of the destitute Vietnamese in the outlying villages and hamlets who, for one reason or another, could not make the trip to Can Tho?

Without delay, Chaplain Wolfe took this plea before the Dempsey Compound Donor Deposit Fund Board of which he is a member. The board decided to help.

Money contributed to the Fund by employees and friends of Delta Airlines was used to purchase seven cases of soap. This was a start. Chaplain Wolfe passed along Phung Hiep's plea to his church congregation.

In response, men from all the units at the airfield brought in toilet articles and clothing, in addition to clothing that had been collected earlier for just such an emergency.

Specialist 4 Donald Colburn, a finance clerk for the 307th Combat Aviation Battalion, added a touch of special joy for the children at Phung Hiep. A collection of rag dolls, very carefully and very expertly created for him by Miss Gabrielle Zalme back in Cincinnati, was donated to the mountain of items destined for the refugees of Phung Hiep.

Lieutenant Colonel Cleatis Crain, Can Tho's airfield commander, and the chaplain airlifted the 500 pounds of gifts to grateful refugees south of the

Army post. They distributed the relief items and returned home enlightened by the experience. "Well, that cleaned out the Donor Fund," remarked Chaplain Wolfe, "but we have already begun to prepare for our next emergency call."

Meanwhile, a former Chinese school at Phung Hiep is now being used as a hospital for the refugees.

These were the words of Colonel Domenico A. Curto, vice commander of the 14th Air Commando Wing at Nha Trang air base as he spoke to hundreds of Vietnamese students, teachers and dignitaries.

The occasion was the recent presentation of scholarships to 419 needy high school and elementary grade Vietnamese students. The more than \$2,250, money for the scholarships, was donated by the men of the 14th Air Commando Wing at Nha Trang air base through their Dollars for Scholars program.

These were the words of Colonel Domenico A. Curto, vice commander of the 14th Air Commando Wing at Nha Trang air base as he spoke to hundreds of Vietnamese students, teachers and dignitaries.

The occasion was the recent presentation of scholarships to 419 needy high school and elementary grade Vietnamese students. The more than \$2,250, money for the scholarships, was donated by the men of the 14th Air Commando Wing at Nha Trang air base through their Dollars for Scholars program.

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

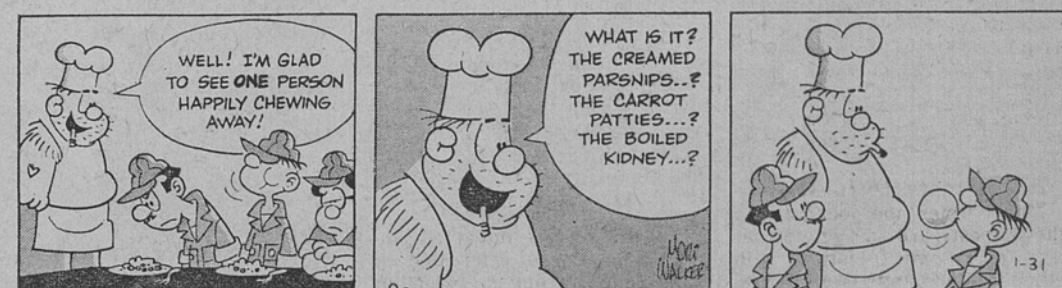
(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For the Week of May 8-14, 1968)
(Saigon Area)

Wednesday May 8		2100 Jonathan Winters Show		
1830 News Headlines	2200 GunsNskoe	2300 Update News		
1930 Lost In Space	2300 Update News	2305 Feature Movie		
2000 News-Sports-Weather	Sunday May 12			
Channel 11 Billboard	1230 News Headlines	1645 Pat Boone Special		
Insight—Low Day	1245 The Christophers	1300 Sacred Heart		
2005 Low Day Special—Melvin Bell	1300 Prince Of Peace	1330 Sports		
2030 Addams Family	1530 Feature Movie	1730 Johnny Midnight		
2100 Carol Burnett	1645 Pat Boone Special	1800 GE College Bowl		
2200 Sports	1730 Danny Thomas Hour	1830 News-Sports-Business		
Halftime Headlines	1930 News-Sports-Business	2000 Channel 11 Billboard		
2300 New Headlines	2100 Ed Sullivan	2100 Window of Vietnam		
Thursday May 9		2005 The Belle Of 14th Street		
1830 News Headlines	2200 Bonanza	2300 Update News		
Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea	2305 Dean Martin	Monday May 13		
1930 News-Sports-Weather	1830 News Headlines	1930 News-Sports-Weather	2000 Channel 11 Billboard	
2000 Channel 11 Billboard	1930 News-Sports-Weather	2000 Channel 11 Billboard	Insight	
Seabees in Vietnam	2005 In Town Tonight	2030 My Three Sons	2100 Hollywood Palace	
2005 Information Feature	2100 Mission Impossible	2200 Update News	2300 Tonight Show	
2030 Dick Van Dyke	2200 Slur Trek	Tuesday May 14		
2100 Kraft Music Hall	2300 Update News	1830 News Headlines	1930 News-Sports-Weather	
2200 Perry Mason	2305 Jerry Lewis	2000 Channel 11 Billboard	Insight	
2305 Jerry Lewis	2005 Biography			
Friday May 10		2030 Green Acres	2100 Red Skelton	
1830 News Headlines	1930 News-Sports-Weather	2200 Combat	2300 Update News	
Wild Wild West	2000 Channel 11 Billboard	2305 Feature Movie	Saturday May 11	
1930 News-Sports-Weather	2005 In Town Tonight	1230 News Headlines	1500 Pro Bowler's Tour	
2000 Channel 11 Billboard	2030 My Three Sons	1630 Flying Fisherman	1700 Roy Acuff	
Insight	2100 Hollywood Palace	1730 Saga Of Western Man	2000 A Quest For Certainty	
2005 Big Picture	2200 Mission Impossible			
2030 Bewitched	2300 Tonight Show			
2100 The Lucy Show				
2130 Get Smart				
2200 Slur Trek				
2300 Update News				
2305 Jerry Bishop				



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz





GOD'S HOUSE—This church stands alone. Its windows are broken, walls crumbling and altar torn by rifle fire, but spiritually, it is undamaged. Soldiers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division patrol pass the only surviving edifice of Thon La Vang in I Corps during a recent operation. (USA PHOTO)

Navy Aids Saigon Hospital

SAIGON (USN) — Thanks to the Naval Support Activity Civic Action Program, the Saigon Adventist Hospital will be able to continue fulfilling its mission of fighting disease and training Vietnamese registered nurses.

Doctor Jess C. Holm, an Adventist medical missionary, and his wife operate a 40-bed hospital in Saigon. They also have established a school to train Vietnamese nurses. Due to limited financial conditions, the hospital could not afford to build Nursing School facilities which it badly needed for its fourteen student nurses.

The doctor contacted Naval Support Activity Saigon's Senior Chaplain, Commander Robert Canfield, and asked for

assistance. The Chaplain along with Builder Third Class Richard Cameron, of NSA's Public Works Department, arranged a civic action donation.

NSA Saigon donated 200 bags of cement to the hospital so construction could begin on a nursing school complex which would consist of classrooms, living quarters, a library, kitchen and medical laboratory.

In addition to the cement contributed by the Public Works Department, \$200 was donated from the NSA Protestant Chapel Fund. This money will be used for the purchase of classroom materials, supplies and various teaching aids.

The Saigon Adventist Hospital was founded in 1955 by Adventist Missionaries. Pres-

ently, two American doctors operate the hospital on five year assignments and perform all medical assistance and needed surgery on the patients.

The facility treats over a thousand patients a week and is open to the general public.

Chinh—Fastest VNAF Pilot

DA NANG (USAF)—"It's a feeling you really can't describe!" An elated Captain Tran Trung Chinh made that statement here after a flight in which he became the first Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) pilot to fly at twice the speed of sound in an F-4 Phantom.

Captain Chinh, 41st VNAF Air Wing chief of safety, is an A-1 Skyraider pilot. He has 1,000 combat sorties and some 3,000 hours of flying time to his credit.

His first flight in an F-4 was last December at speeds less than Mach 2. It was made on a mission with the 359th Tactical Squadron of Da Nang's 366th Tactical Fighter Wing. He has since made several missions with that unit.

"The Mach 2 barrier was broken at 40,000 feet, though we went up 50,000 feet," said Captain Thomas E. Rowney, aircraft commander on the flight.

"Captain Rowney said Captain Chinh was 'very relaxed and handled the aircraft very easily.'"

Inf. Checks Tip; Detects Hospital

HUE (USA) — A North Vietnamese Army hospital was discovered recently by a unit of the 501st Infantry on information supplied by a local villager.

After receiving the information, paratroopers from C Company, 1st Battalion, swept through the complex located along the Song Bo river near Nho Lam village.

In the sweep, the Airborne troopers found 11 NVA regulars and a nurse. Seven of the NVA were killed prior to the troopers' entry to the hospital complex. Three other NVA were killed inside the complex when Private First Class Dominick Caputo crawled into one of the tunnels.

"As I was crawling in, I heard movement... then I saw a rifle poking out. I grabbed my rifle and sprayed the tunnel," Private Caputo said.

The nurse was discovered

when she tried to shoot Private Caputo with a pistol.

Inside the complex, the paratroopers found medical instruments, bandages, syringes and sulfa drugs.

They also uncovered a convalescent hut, a bunker used as an operating room and a storeroom containing arms and ammunition.

Craters Inspected By Team

LAI KHE (USA)—The cry of "incoming" and the whine of the siren usually sends men racing to their bunkers here, but for Sergeant First Class Charles Chapman and his crew, it means it's time to go to work.

The sergeant and his men are members of the crater analysis team here at Lai Khe, and have been responsible for locating the firing sites of more than 50 different enemy rockets and mortars.

Besides Sergeant Chapman, other members of the team are Sergeant Raymond P. Grimm and Specialist 5 David L. Woodward.

The crater analysis team gathers data for artillery strikes on enemy firing sites after their locations have been determined. Sergeant Chapman explained how it is done.

"Each incoming projectile has a distinct significance to it," he said. "After a projectile lands the firing site can be partially determined by the nose-cone position, shrapnel spray pattern and the imprint of the crater."

By making a quick analysis of this and other data, the team is able to estimate the location of firing sites closely enough to call in an artillery strike on the suspected area.



Capt. Chinh and a USAF pilot discuss his record-setting flight.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

(12 cents 1st class)
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

Allies Repel Latest Enemy Thrust



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 54

Saigon, Vietnam

May 15, 1968



ENEMY GRAVEYARD—Smoke billows from factory complex adjacent to Kinh Doi Canal in southern Saigon. The enemy in battalion strength was trapped by elements of the 9th Infantry Division's 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry, and supporting air and artillery strikes. More than 195 enemy were killed during a day-long battle with the allied forces.

(USA PHOTO BY Maj Raymond E. Funderburk)

Marine Surrounded By NVA; Rescued By 1st Air Cavalry

CAMP EVANS (USA) — Men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery (Aerial Rocket) recently extracted a wounded U.S. Marine surrounded by North Vietnamese Army soldiers near Khe Sanh.

Captain Berry M. Brown, aircraft commander of an aerial rocket artillery ship, was called in after another helicopter had tried unsuccessfully to evacuate the man, because of intense enemy ground fire.

When he saw that the Marine was surrounded by NVA soldiers, he called all possible ARA

ships into the area. Within fifteen minutes, two more sections of ARA's were on hand.

Captain Brown then formulated a plan in which he would extract the wounded man while he received continuous fire support.

The gunships circled the area, and on the given word, each swooped down firing. At the same time, the captain was directing his ship toward the Marine. Because of the steep slope and rough terrain, he had to hover his ship while his crew chief, Specialist 5 Joseph P.

Lynch, retrieved the wounded man.

While Specialist Lynch was proceeding toward the wounded Marine, Warrant Officer John P. Miller spotted two NVA soldiers moving toward the doorgunner. He opened up with machinegun fire and killed them both.

When the crew chief reached the wounded Leatherneck, he thought he was dead. Shaking him, he startled the Marine, who turned on him with his .45 pistol. Specialist Lynch knocked the pistol from his hand and helped him to the helicopter.

Currency Policy Noted

SAIGON (MACV) — Some servicemen with more than \$200 MPC to convert to U.S. dollars, are showing up at air terminals for PCS, leave, TDY and R & R movements without the commander's or supervisor's certificate now required in such transactions.

This fact was reported in a recent message from U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam headquarters here.

The message directed command-wide attention to MACV directive 376 dated April 17, 1968. Both the directive and the recent headquarters message indicate that commander's or supervisor's certificates are required after May 1, whenever a conversion of more than \$200 worth of MPC is requested, regardless of the circumstances.

Out-processing centers and finance officers were provided more detailed guidance in the message, but all indications are that the responsibility for obtaining the necessary certificate still rests with the individual desiring the conversion.

The primary criteria for certification was also included in the MACV communication. "Prior to certification, commanders or their designees and responsible direct hire U.S. citizen civilian supervisors of U.S. agencies, will satisfy themselves to a reasonable degree that the acquisition of the money was legitimate," the message read.

It concluded that the imposition of undue restrictions or denial of certification for punitive reasons was not the intent of the new currency control policy.

SAIGON (MACV) — In one three-day period of bitter fighting, more than 1,500 enemy soldiers were killed in the Saigon area alone in a dramatic demonstration of Allied alertness for the latest Communist offensive.

As of May 8, official communications on fighting throughout South Vietnam, pointed to the overall offensive being a failure.

One MACV spokesman said the failure was due primarily to effective advance intelligence information and offensive tactical operations, which pinned down the enemy, disrupted supply lines and made it difficult for him to mount large scale attacks.

None of the attacks on the more than 120 locations assaulted during the three-day period approached the magnitude of the Tet Offensive, according to official reports. In nearly all cases, enemy losses were said to be extremely heavy, while Allied losses were reportedly light.

U.S. officials credited the decreased intensity of the attacks to heavy enemy losses in the past three months, losses estimated at more than 60,000 men.

Saigon, once again the attacker's focal point, moved into the third day of the latest offensive with heavy fighting raging on the outskirts of the city.

There, ARVN and 9th Infantry Division units stopped a two-pronged attack on the Y-shaped bridge across the Kinh Doi Canal leading to downtown Saigon. Remnants of that enemy force, originally estimated at battalion strength, were trapped in a factory complex near the bridge.

In the Cholon area, ARVN Rangers, Vietnamese Marines and National Police were busy clearing out an entrenched hostile force from that predominately Chinese section of town.

The Phu Tho Race Track, scene of heavy fighting in the Tet Offensive, was again a battlefield. It was there that ARVN Rangers supported by Vietnamese fighter-bombers and U.S. helicopter gunships, were in the process of wiping out an enemy force.

Just north of the race track, ARVN airborne elements and U.S. Military Police earlier engaged an unknown number of enemy in a French cemetery on Plantation Road. A suspect detained in that action identified his unit as the 104th Battalion, 762nd Regiment (also known as the 272nd), 9th NVA/VC Division.

(Continued On Back Page)

Outnumbered Allies Repel Enemy Attack

PHU BAI (USMC) — Twelve Marines and 20 South Vietnamese soldiers recently repelled an enemy assault launched by an estimated platoon of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops against an ARVN compound near here.

Thirteen mortar rounds had hit the compound as the NVA troops maneuvered to encircle the defenders.

"There was no moon out at all and we couldn't even see them (the enemy)," said Private First Class Patrick C. Heath. "We had to wait until they opened up with small arms fire so we could direct our fire toward the muzzle flashes."

Private Heath, a rifleman with

"H" Company, 2nd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, saw flashes as one NVA assaulted the perimeter. Three rounds from his rifle caught the enemy as he hurled a satchel charge into the barbed wire in an effort to break the Marine defenses.

Two more NVA were killed as the South Vietnamese troops and the Leathernecks engaged the enemy in a fierce grenade exchange.

Continuous artillery barrages and Marine fire superiority forced the enemy to retreat.

One South Vietnamese soldier and one Marine received minor shrapnel wounds during the encounter.

Editorial

It's Your Day!

"As Commander-in-Chief, I invite every American to participate in the 1968 observance of Armed Forces Day which honors these courageous men and women of our forces for freedom."—President Lyndon B. Johnson in his Armed Forces Day message for 1968.

"Forces For Freedom" is the theme for Armed Forces Day, May 18, 1968.

No finer theme honoring today's serviceman could have been chosen. It honestly portrays his mission. It characterizes his devotion to duty, courage and stamina in trying times.

But it is appropriate that each individual serviceman to whom the day is dedicated, take a reappraising look at himself to make sure he deserves the honor. The decision should be conclusively in the affirmative.

The average serviceman is not in the habit of strutting and bragging about himself. Generally, he goes about his job quietly and conscientiously, endeavoring to live up to the respect and trust the American people have in him.

This holds true for the serviceman in Vietnam. He may be at Khe Sanh, living from day to day in the knowledge that he wouldn't be there if he wasn't needed. Or, he may be stationed in the U.S. In both places he tries to do his job.

It doesn't matter where he is; what's really important is that he's doing his assigned job in the best possible way he knows how. In short, he's working for a free, peaceful world.

In his message, President Johnson said: "The true peacekeepers are those who wear our country's uniform. In Vietnam—and around the world—they perpetuate the ideals which made and preserve us as a nation."

Wear your uniform proudly, Armed Forces Day is YOUR day. (AFPS)

Know Your Code



Code of Conduct

IV

If I become a prisoner war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of these appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Air Force Chief Sights Reason For Being Here

SAIGON (MACV) — We always hear from the losers, but seldom does anyone say that we've won anything by being here. Have we? YOU BETCHA WE'VE WON SOMETHING! Here's what the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. J.P. McConnell had to say—

"There is one vital fact that the critics of our strategy overlook. If it had not been for our military intervention and the effectiveness of the allied land, sea, and air forces, South Vietnam today would be a Communist satellite, with its neighbors and the rest of Southeast Asia under greatly increased pressures from the Communists. The fact that we have prevented this from happening represents a huge success for the entire Free World. Instead of belittling what has been accomplished, our people will, I hope, be eternally grateful to the brave men who fought and died to make this success possible."

AND THAT'S A GOOD REASON FOR BEING HERE!

Attache Posts For Army EMs

WASHINGTON — Officials of the Defense Attache System report there is still a need for U.S. Army enlisted personnel for duty in U.S. Defense Attache Offices.

Enlisted personnel in grades E-5, E-6, and E-7 with administrative, personnel, finance, or supply experience may apply for this duty providing they meet other requirements outlined in current regulations.

Attache duty is a career program, with the opportunity for appointment to warrant officer in the attache field.

The Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 71S, Attache Specialist, is awarded to qualified personnel who will be assigned to an attache office in one of 50 foreign countries. (ANF)

Single GI Kin Air Fares Cut

LONG BINH (USARV IO) — Three major airlines now offer reduced round-trip fares from the west coast of the United States to the Hawaiian Islands for the parents of unmarried servicemen on R and R in Hawaii.

Pan American and Northwest Airlines, who originated this service, were joined by United Airlines on May 3. United Airlines originally offered the service to only one parent. All three now offer the reduced fare to both parents.

Most of the major airlines providing service to the Hawaiian Islands have reduced fares for the wives of servicemen in Vietnam who take R & R there.



NEW ACTRESS—Alexandra Hay, a young actress, was recently signed by Columbia Pictures to an exclusive long-term contract. Miss Hay appears in Stanley Kramer's "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" and Irving Allen's "The Ambushers". (PHOTO COURTESY of Columbia Pictures)

Language Tips

SAIGON (MACV)—Many Americans living in a foreign country have found that a little knowledge of that country's language makes their stay there much easier. For this reason, the OBSERVER is printing its third series of local language tips.

VIETNAMESE	PHONETIC	AMERICAN
Tram cuu thuong	Trom coo thwong	Aid station
Bay no	By no	Booby trap RPT
Y-ta	Eeta	Corpsman
Bac Si	Bac shee	Doctor
Thuoc No	Twook no	Explosives
Cuu cap	Coo cup	First Aid
Hoa-Chau	Wa chow	Flare
Luu-dan	Luu don	Grenade
Quan du-kich	Kwun you kick	Guerrilla
Phi co truc-thang	Fee kuh trook tang	Helicopter
Xe dip	Say yip	Jeep
Phi-co phan-luc	Fee kuh fun luke	Jet plane
Nguoi Bac Viet	Newy bac Viet	North Vietnamese
Phi co canh quat	Fee kuh can quat	Propeller plane
Bay	By	Trap
Xe cam-nhong	Say com nyong	Truck



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, 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, printed at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material 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.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA
Chief, Command Information Lt. Col. T. A. Costello, USA
NCOIC JOC W.W. Polk, USN
Editor SSgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA

Special Fund Drive 'Raises' Hospital

DA NANG (USMC) — A special fund-raising drive for the new Khanh Hoa Children's Hospital at Camp Books has netted almost \$30,000.

The new hospital, to be built next to the present facility, will replace the antiquated building now being used. It will have a 200-bed patient capability, plus complete laboratory surgical and pharmaceutical facilities.

Original plans called for a two-wing structure but reevaluation of the needs and the expected number of patients justified another two wings. The present hospital has a normal 40-patient capacity but as many as 120 children have been inpatients during a recent plague epidemic.

Three of the new clinic's wings will be used for care and treatment of bedridden children. The fourth will be used as office space for administrative needs and classrooms.

A school for training nurses aides will be started when the hospital is completed. Students will work their way through the school by helping in the hospital. The course will last six months with scheduled examinations to monitor student's progress.

The hospital is the only one of its type in I Corps. It was conceived by two Navy doctors and built by Marine engineers and Navy Seabees.

Supported by Marine and Navy personnel, the hospital treats about 60 out-patients per day in addition to the 60 to 70 bed patients. The doctors and medical corpsmen who work there are all volunteers from the Force Logistics Command's medical department.

The ills they treat range from malnutrition and broken bones to plague and serious injuries. All treatment is free.

Commercial Service Via 69th Signal, AT&T

SAIGON (USA) — Persons in the U.S. can place commercial telephone calls to soldiers in Vietnam thanks to a joint program of the 593rd Signal Company, the 69th Signal Battalion and American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T).

Calls are booked with the operator in Oakland, Calif. The caller in the States tells the operator whom he is trying to reach and the telephone number in Vietnam at which he can be called. The Vietnam-based soldier's name, unit, location and telephone number must be given to the operator in order for the call to be made.

"Without a telephone number, it is almost impossible for us to find the soldier, although we do try," says Staff Sergeant Leon W. Cavin, NCOIC of the opera-

tion here. Cost of the call is approximately \$25.

The calls come through commercial channels to the Saigon U.S.O. where 1st Signal Brigade units have set up a switchboard in conjunction with the Vietnamese Postal, Telephone and Telegraph Company. From Saigon, the calls go via military facilities to the soldier.

It is most important that the soldier receiving the call and the Stateside caller make plans in advance to assure that the military man is available at the phone number given the operator at the time the call is to be placed.

The commercial telephone service also is available for calls to the U.S. from Nha Trang, Long Binh and Saigon.



MIGHTY LEAP—A 101st Airborne Division trooper fords a small stream north of Hue the easy way. The paratroopers were taking part in Operation Carentan II. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Paul Higgs)

Viet Cong Surprised

Enemy Commander, XO Detained

FIRE BASE MOORE (USA) — A Viet Cong company commander and executive officer from the Cai Lay district were among seven suspects detained by elements of the 9th Infantry Division during a sweep 15 miles northwest of My Tho.

The Viet Cong element was spotted in a tree line from the air by Lieutenant Colonel Wil-

liam T. Leggett, 2nd Battalion commander, 39th Infantry.

He ordered his helicopter down to flush the enemy toward 9th Division Companies A and C, which were conducting a sweep of the area.

Colonel Henry E. Emerson, brigade commander, brought in his helicopter for an aerial assault with M-60 machine gun

fire. It was then that the two men later identified as a VC company commander and executive officer, were wounded and tried to make their escape.

Company A spotted the pair crawling into a bunker. PFC Michael Chubbuck hurled a grenade in and then climbed in after the fleeing duo. He managed to pull them out and both detainees were quickly evacuated to Dong Tam for medical treatment and questioning.

The Company C scout, himself a former Viet Cong who rallied to the government side, identified the pair as the Cai

Lay VC company commander and executive officer.

Company C stopped and detained five other suspects who were attempting to escape the sweeping infantrymen.

One of the five carried what was described as "a large sum of money and some documents", the value of which was not immediately ascertained.

The 9th Infantry Division units took the seven suspects while they were engaged in an operation aimed at stopping Viet Cong harassment of rice and produce shipments on Highway 4, between Saigon and the Mekong Delta.

Big John The Python Mother Of Two Dozen?

CA MAU (USA) — It was a black day in this Delta village when Big John turned out to be a "lady". Worse still, an expectant mother at that.

Big John — now Big Joan — is a 15-foot rock python who weighs in at 180 pounds. She recently laid two dozen eggs.

"We think we have one of the largest rock pythons in Vietnam," said Master Sergeant Jack R. Mackey, chief senior enlisted advisor for U.S. Army Advisory Team 59.

ARVN troops captured Big

Joan and presented her to the team.

"Before Big John turned out to be Big Joan," Sergeant Mackey continued, "we used to take her, er, her, out of her cage and let her roam all over the area, and even around the bunks in the billets."

The sergeant said Big Joan is a docile reptile and the men find it "easy to get along with her."

What the team plans to do with the 24 baby pythons after they are hatched, remains a question mark.

Hoi Chanh Gets New Start In Life

TAM KY (USA) — To most Vietnamese the value of 1,000 piasters is directly proportionate to one's niche on the contemporary economic scale.

The niche occupied by 16-year-old Doan Tu was not very high . . . and for him 1,000 piasters was at least a start towards a new life.

Formerly a poor, hungry and unwilling Viet Cong, Tu was awarded the money at the Tam Ky Chieu Hoi center recently

for giving information which led to the detention of 14 Viet Cong suspects.

Forced into the Viet Cong organization last December, he spent three months prowling his native Ly Tin district planting mines on Highway 1, as a member of an enemy sapper unit.

The youngster said he learned of the South Vietnamese government's Chieu Hoi (Open

Arms) returnee program through air-dropped pamphlets picked up around Ky Khuong village near Tam Ky.

After several unsuccessful attempts, Tu finally escaped and became a Hoi Chanh (returnee).

Doan Tu still wants to be a soldier . . . but not for the Viet Cong. He said he is waiting for a chance to enlist in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

Cav Locates Huge Cache

NHA TRANG (USA)—Ground troops from the 7/17th Air Cavalry Squadron, 17th Aviation Group found a large cache of munitions while on a search and clear mission 10 miles south of Kontum.

Enemy forces had abandoned the munitions during air strikes of the previous day. The cache was discovered hidden in 10 spider holes, each filled with ammunition and rockets.

The total weapons cache consisted of eighty B-40 rockets, 2,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 120 mortar rounds, seven recoilless rifle projectiles and numerous hand grenades, claymore mines and assorted land mines.

Father Remembers Three Heroic Sons

KONTUM (USA) — On the fence that surrounds the small home of 68-year-old Thanh Loc-Quy, there are three helmets ... each holding a memory of a son who died for his country.

Thanh speaks quietly of these painful memories through an interpreter:

"My first son was killed in 1943 to the south of here. He died fighting the Japanese as a member of a guerrilla band in the mountains."

He continues with the obvious pride of an old man speaking of his brave fallen sons:

"My second-born stood with the French at Dien Bien Phu. He was a lieutenant and I'm told that he fought like a tiger. This is his helmet."

He touches the second steel pot softly almost as if he were caressing it, then continued his sad reminiscence:

"The third and youngest son was killed in this city (Kontum) during the Tet fighting. He wanted to be like his brothers

before him, but he was still a boy at heart.

"He and a young American lay together where the Communists had ended their lives."

For Thanh Loc-Quy and others like him, such tragic memories are still all too fresh and the pain has not yet been softened by time.

Navy Aids Hamlets

DA NANG (USMC) — Navy medical personnel are providing the only medical aid available to the Vietnamese in hamlets surrounding the Dong Ha combat base.

"Sick call" is held in the hamlets twice a week by corpsmen from the Marine's Force Logistic Support Group-Bravo. The bi-weekly civic action trips present the only medical care available to the villagers.

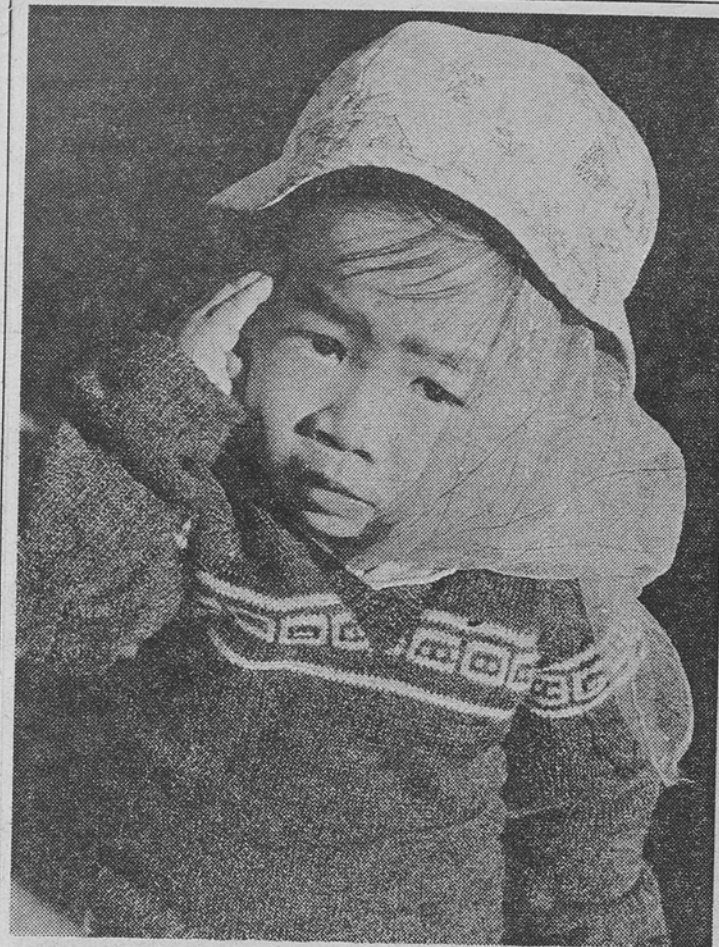
A Navy doctor, Lieutenant Michael G. Sumner, said one of the main problems encountered is that of diagnosis in the scattered visits. An additional handicap is the lack of opportunity to follow the progress of patients.

According to the doctor, treatment during the hamlet visits is limited to "penicillin, vitamin pills in all cases and bandaging cuts and bites."

The majority of patients treated are suffering from respiratory and stomach infections.

Prior to the Medical Civic Action Program, midwives were the closest form of medical aid available.

The doctor stressed that improved sanitation habits and living conditions would prevent a majority of the diseases.



REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR—Young men all over South Vietnam are showing avowed patriotism as they rush to answer their country's call to military service. No doubt reception center officials were moved by this pint-sized patriot's spirit, but still had to turn him down. (USA PHOTO)

VC Change Slogan; No Longer 'GI Go Home'

TAM QUAN (USA) — Turning from the "GI Go Home!" slogan, Viet Cong propagandists have become more subtle in their use of signs and banners in the Tam Quan area.

North of Tam Quan, near a bridge on Highway 1, a mine sweeping team from Company A, 19th Engineer Battalion, 35th Engineer Group, found two propaganda signs written in English. The first sign said, "Implement correctly the 1954 Geneva Agreements in Vietnam," while the second sign read: "Viet-

namese affairs should be settled by the Vietnamese people."

Shortly afterward, a mine sweeping team from Company C of the battalion found two more propaganda banners on the west side of Highway 1, north of the earlier site. One sign again referred to the Geneva agreements. The other read: "The Vietnamese are not enemies of the Americans."

Several weeks ago north of Duc Pho all the signs read "GI Go Home."

Soldiers Entertain Orphans

SAIGON (USA) — Sometimes it is hard to understand what makes soldiers and children hit it off so well. Recently 70 soldiers from the 64th Quartermaster Battalion and several children from the Buddhist Orphanage Center in Saigon provided a typical example of just how it is done.

It all started when the 64th, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John A. Wilkinson, donated construction material to the orphanage for a civic action project. The material was used to build a storage room, a shower and two restrooms.

The orphanage center director, Thich Nhat Thien, invited members of the battalion to Saigon to see how they used the material. On the soldiers' arrival, they joined the children in Vietnamese games. They spent the rest of the afternoon teaching the orphans American games.

According to Captain Mitchell E. Chinn, civic action project officer for the 64th, "The soldiers had as much fun as the children that afternoon, maybe even more." The orphanage director expressed his gratitude afterwards by saying, "We sincerely thank you for having joined in our effort to bind up the wounds of a nation that has been, and still is, suffering from a war that has brought much destruction to our homeland for over 20 years."

PF Kills VC Blackmailer

PHU BAI (USMC) — Local Viet Cong guerrillas will think twice about taking a certain Popular Force (PF) soldier's family.

The one time they tried it, they found themselves looking for a new tax collector. It all began when the Viet Cong told the PF's family they had better pay ... or else.

When the PF learned of the blackmail, he went to Marine Corporal Larry Boyd for help. He and Lance Corporal Joseph Hanna, both of Combined Action Platoon H-1, decided to set an ambush.

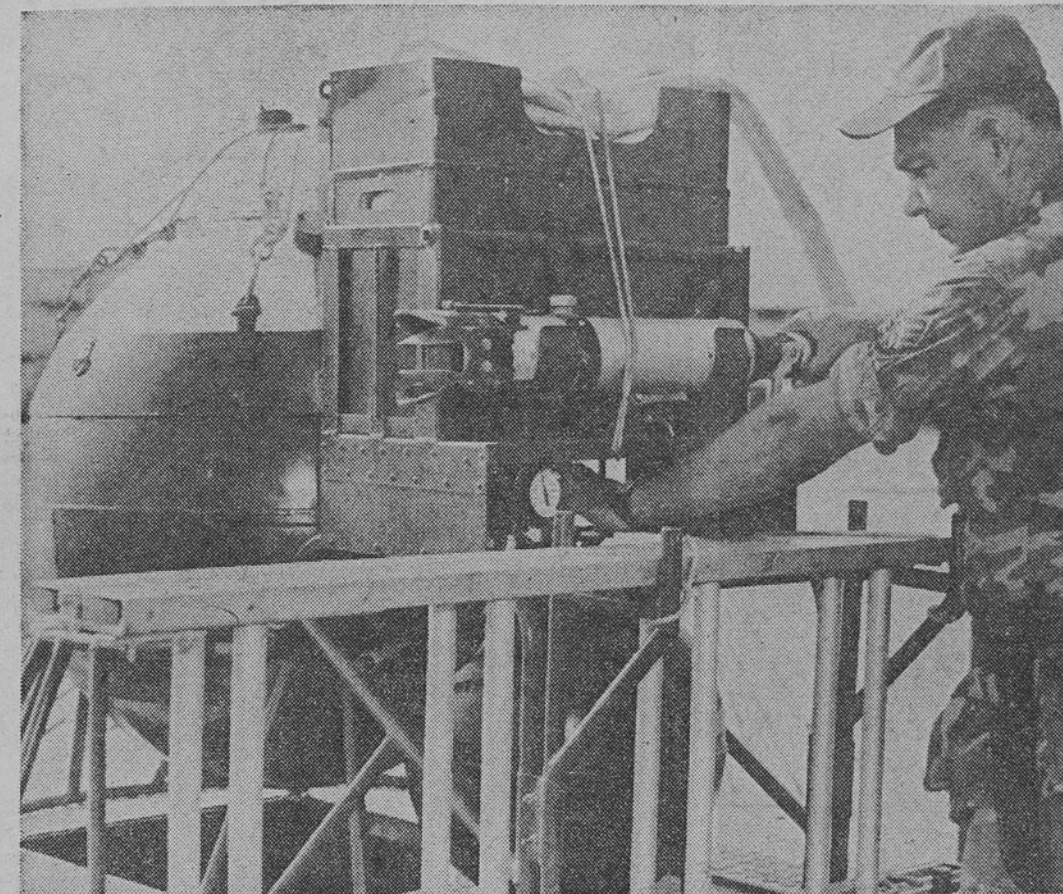
That night, about midnight, the "friendly" tax collector came by with three of his persuaders.

They never made it. Halfway to the hut, the three-man ambush opened fire. "Actually," said Corporal Boyd, "the PF killed them himself with the BAR he carried. The Viet Cong were so mad about the ambush that they put a reward on the PF's head."

For sometime now, the corporal said, the VC have been after the PF. Apparently the home guard trooper isn't too disturbed at enemy efforts to kill him. It is said that he never hesitates to walk point on ambush patrols.

Corporal Boyd said every man in the platoon has a lot of respect for the plucky little PF. "He carries 18 magazines of BAR ammunition and fires faster than anyone else in the unit," the corporal added. "Considering that a BAR weighs 20 pounds and each magazine a little less than a pound, it would seem that the VC might have reason to be a little wary of the PF."

Quick Reaction, Fire Kit Save Lives



Pressure gage on fire suppression kit undergoes a morning inspection at Binh Thuy air base.

BINH THUY (USAF) — The only Air Force quick reaction fire suppression team, designed to evacuate aircrew members from burning aircraft, stationed in the Mekong Delta is at Binh Thuy air base.

Five men from the 632nd Combat Support Group fire department, working in conjunction with Detachment 10, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, form this team.

Within three minutes after a notification of an aircraft emergency, a two man crew can have one of the only two fire

suppression kits, in the Mekong Delta, hooked to the belly of the detachment's HH-43F Huskie helicopter and be heading to the site anywhere inside a 15 mile radius of Binh Thuy.

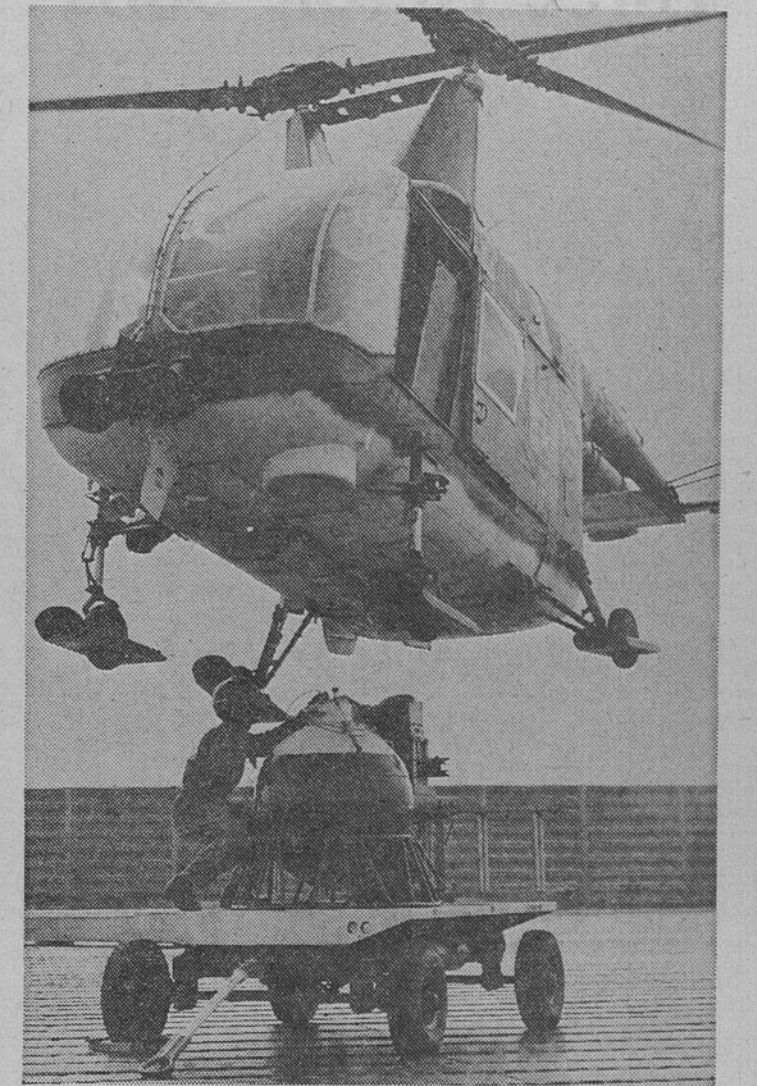
The fire suppression kit weighs 1,200 pounds and is designed for use in inaccessible terrain. The kit consists of pressurized water and foam, 150 feet of hose with an adjustable nozzle and an aluminum ladder.

Completing the fire kit is a crash access kit, which contains all necessary tools to free trapped crew members. Included

Story & Photos

By

U.S. Air Force



Airman prepares for hook-up of giant "fire extinguisher".

ed are parachute cutters, an ax, wood and metal saws and a crowbar.

Upon arrival at the crash scene, the fire suppression kit is set about 100 feet from the burning aircraft. With the fire suppression team on the ground, the helicopter hovers over the

crew compartment, blowing the smoke and fire away from the rescue men, while pushing in fresh air.

One man of the team operates the nozzle, cutting a path to the crew compartment. With a foam accessway completed, the nozzleman assists the rescue fire-

man in removing the crew. The crew safe, the fire suppressionist's job is finished.

The men on the team must keep up to date with new escape systems and review the various types of procedures used on different Air Force, Army and Navy aircraft.



Pick up point is located by "on-duty" fire suppression crew.

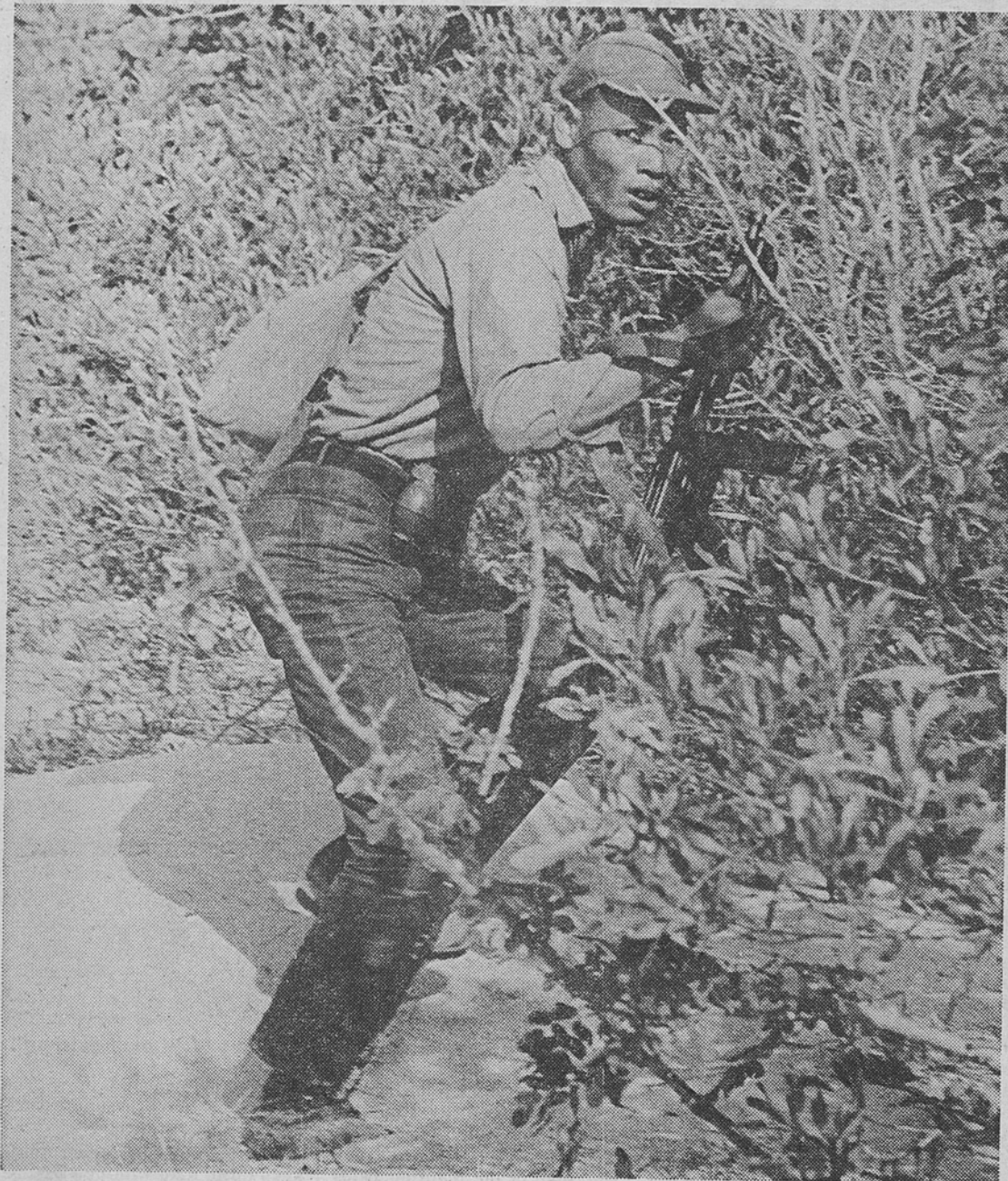


Minutes after emergency buzzer sounds, a HH-43 Huskie is airborne with its life-saving gear.

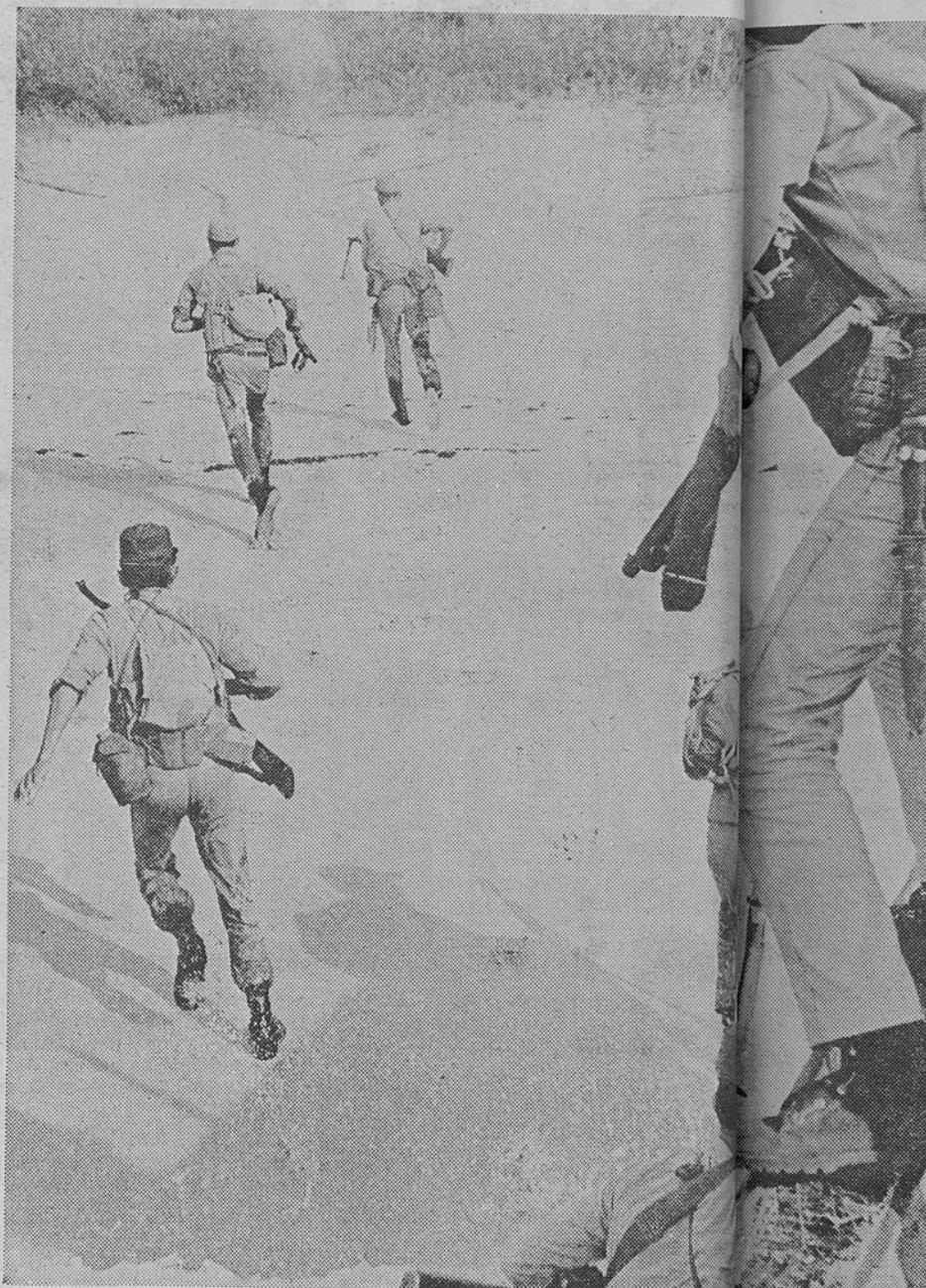


BELT FED—Two troopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade lay down a base of fire for their fellow paratroopers. (USA PHOTO)

Teamwork Key To Peninsula Operations



A Vietnamese navyman heads for cover after landing on the beach of Hon Heo Peninsula.



An assault on the beach, 10 miles north of Nha Trang, by VN sailors.

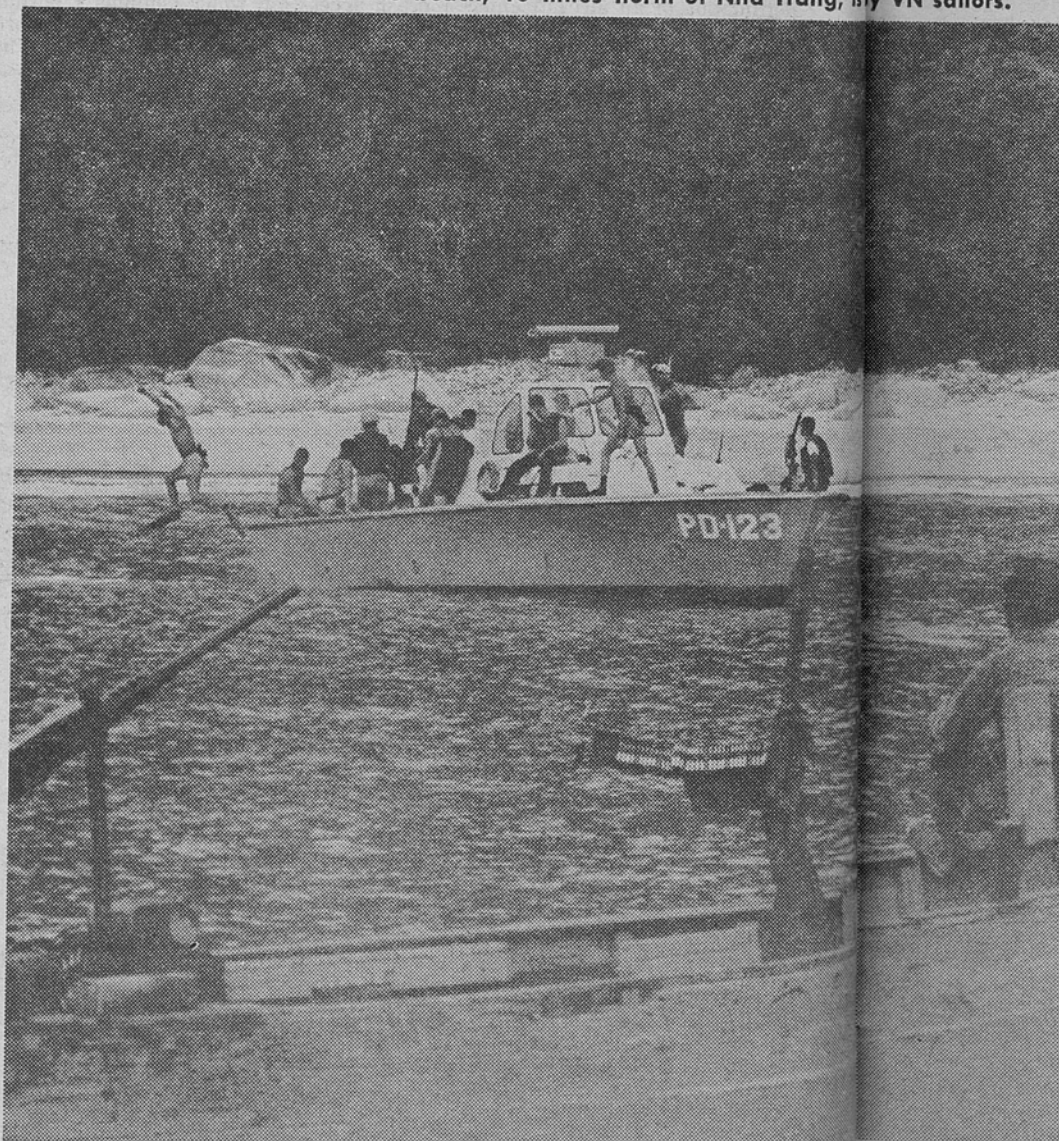


Midshipmen charge the beach during training exercise on Hon Heo Peninsula. The beach had been secured earlier by Vietnamese sailors.

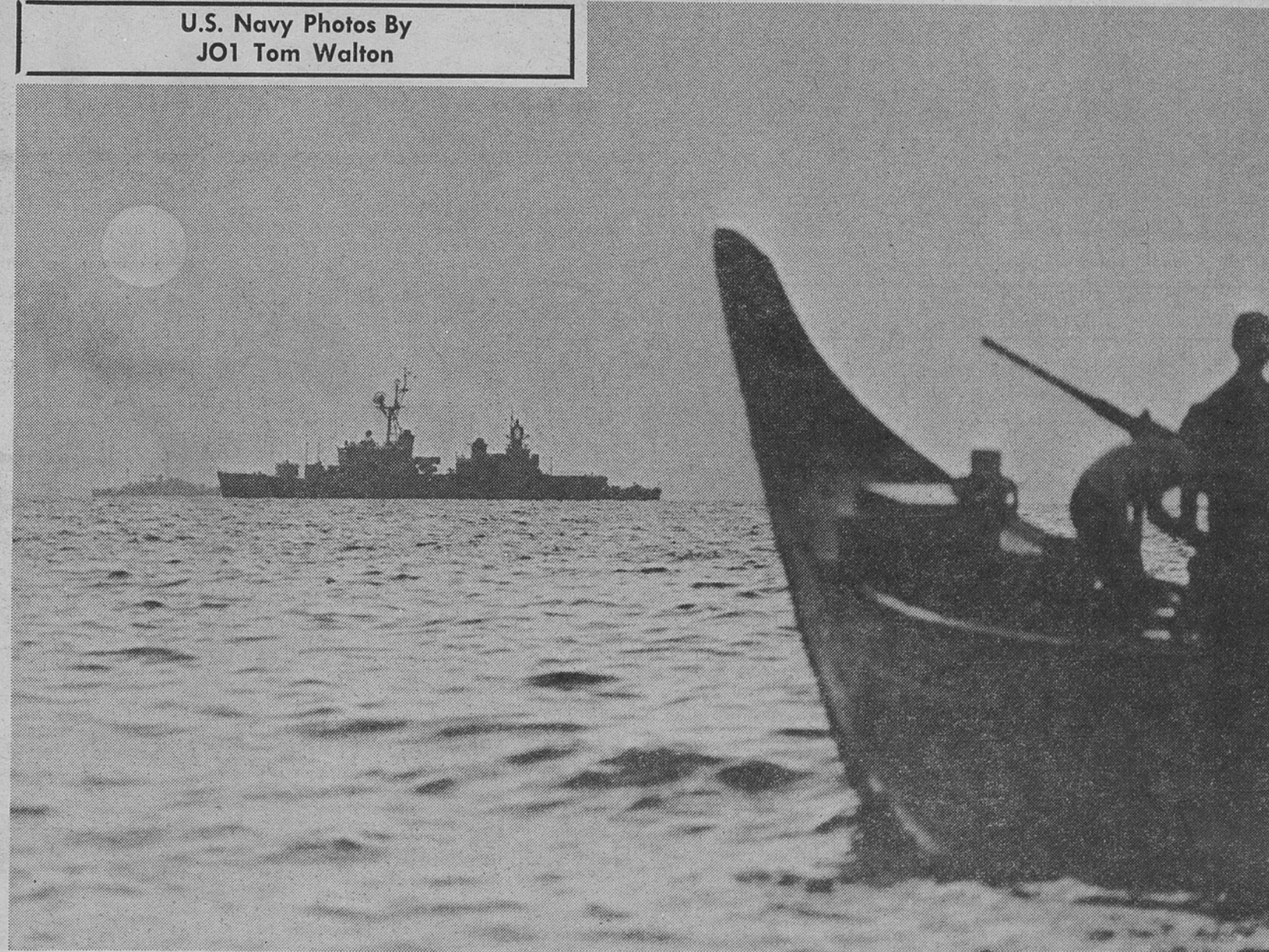
U.S. Navy Photos By
JO1 Tom Walton



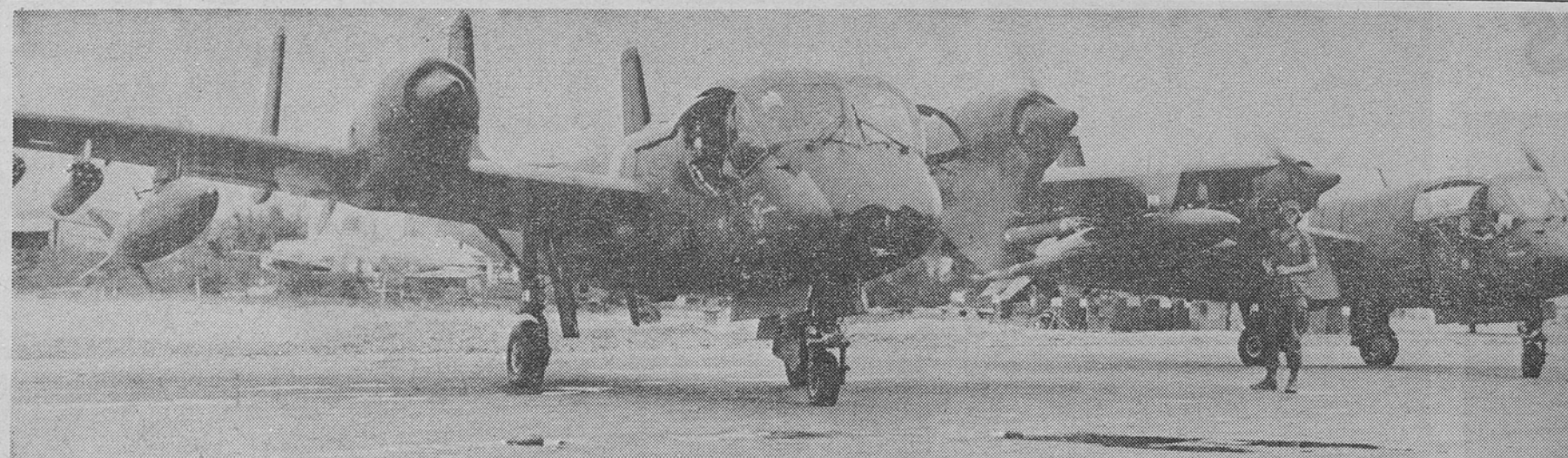
Navy men blast the beach with a 50 caliber machine gun to cover a troop withdrawal.



Frogmen deploy from landing craft to run a survey of the beach as a VN stands guard.

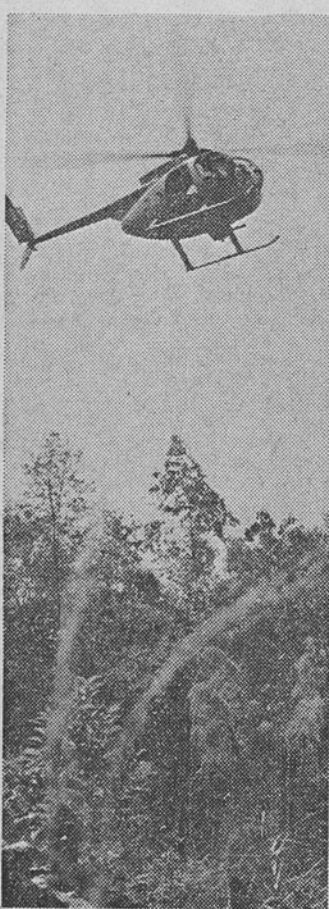


U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet destroyers are silhouetted on the horizon after providing fire support for a Navy survey team along the shore.



An OV-1 "Mohawk" warms up for take-off during one of the numerous daily missions of photo reconnaissance flown by this highly specialized aircraft.

Army Air Strikes As Combat Arm



OH-6 "Cayuse" spots enemy.

Story & Photos By
17th Aviation Group

NHA TRANG (USA) — As America's commitment in Vietnam broadens, so does the role Army Aviation is playing in support of our troops.

Colonel Bill G. Smith, commanding officer of the 17th Aviation Group, comments that "The growth of Army Aviation is growth due to need. I don't think it would be possible to fight this war without helicopters and as the war goes on we contribute an element which is more and more essential."

With headquarters in Nha Trang, the 17th represents an aviation command operating on a scale unknown to the Army just short years ago. "The Infantry must still do the fighting," states Colonel Smith, "and in the end the Infantry must still win this war, but today there are two groups responsible for the bulk of the fighting in Vietnam: First, the Infantry, and secondly the air crew."

"Aviation doesn't operate in and for itself—but to help the fellow with the rifle. Aviation is definitely a combat arm in Vietnam. We eliminate our share of the enemy and take our share of the losses."

Composed of five battalions, the Group presently has units deployed over 48 per cent of the Republic and supports ground units throughout the entire II Corps Tactical Zone (II CTZ), functioning under the



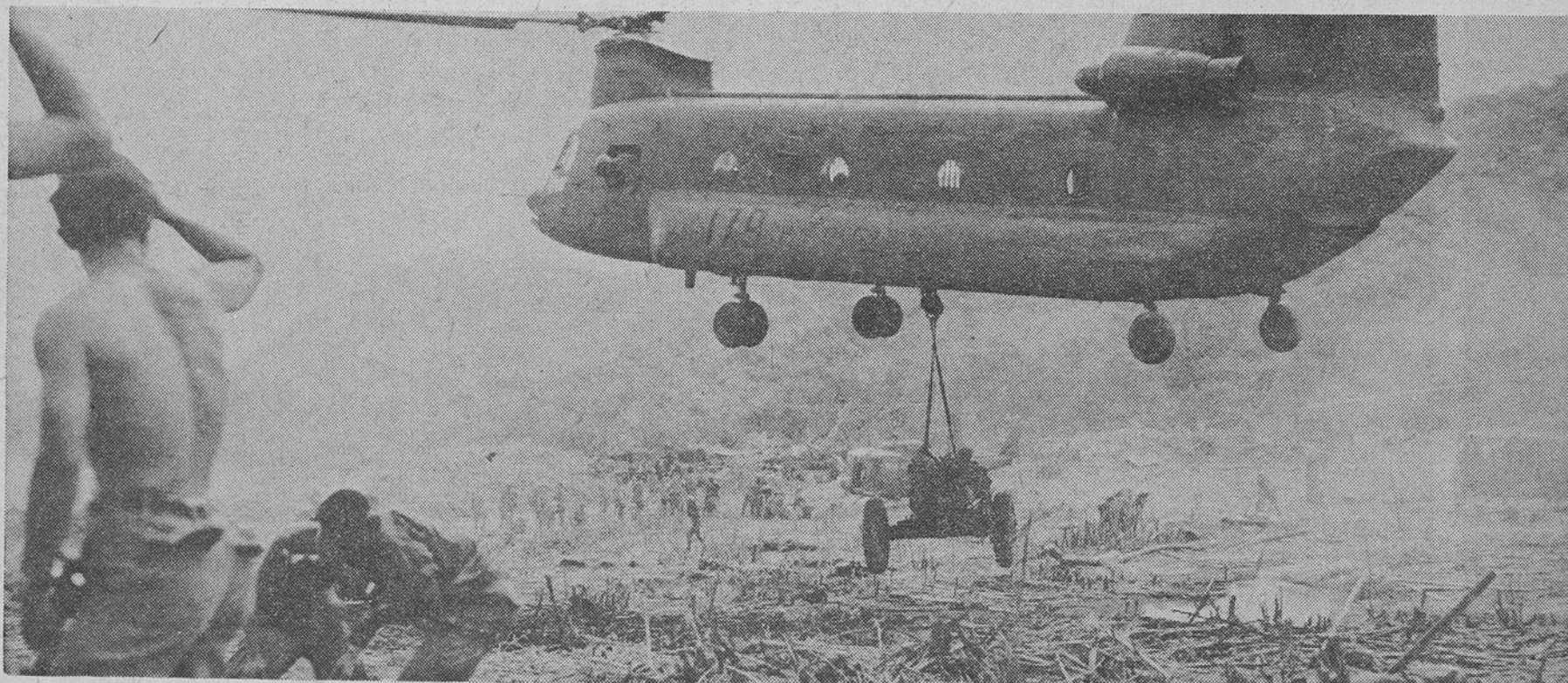
Infantrymen are dropped in by UH-1H "Huey" for a ground sweep.

operational control of I Field Force Vietnam (IFFORCEV). From the time of its inception two years ago, the 17th Combat Group has participated in every major operation in both the I and II CTZ. Since that recent formation, the aeronautical group has amassed more than one million flying hours and transported three and one half million passengers. The large

majority of both these figures represent operation under combat conditions.

Today the variety of tasks performed by the unit is as vast as the territory it covers. Intelligence gained from the Group's "Bird Dogs" and "Mohawks" provides ground units with the base to plan tactical operations. Chinooks and Huey

choppers provide transportation for these same units, into and out of the battlefield. While in the field of battle, ground troops rely on the unit for re-supply of ammunition, food, water and medical aid. Firepower from the 17th's gunships furnishes commanders with a deadly weapon, which has often proven an important factor in the success of many ground operations.



Continuing to play an all-important role in airmobile operations is the CH-47 "Chinook" as it lifts a Howitzer into a new artillery fire-base.

Rice, Vietnam's Golden Grain

NHA TRANG (IFF) — A Vietnamese farmer plants a tiny seed. A massive water buffalo treads the soil. A razor-edged scythe slashes through waving golden grain. The centuries-old cycle of rice production continues today in the Republic of Vietnam.

Months before the rice knife swings into action at harvest time, the rice seedlings are prepared. They are planted in seed beds, usually fields 30 meters long by one-and-a-half meters wide, where they receive irrigation, fertilizer and insecticide during a three-week period of growth.

While the seed is growing, the rice field is being "puddled" in preparation of planting the seed. Puddling consists of three

phases. First, water buffalo or oxen drag a plow over the field, cutting furrows into the soil and turning it over.

Next, a harrow, with its teeth-like disks, is drawn over the plowed land to level it and break up any large clods of dirt. Finally, water is let onto the field and the puddling is completed. An ideally puddled field will be as flat as possible so that the water level is the same over the entire surface.

When the arduous tasks of preparing the seed and field are completed, the backbreaking job of replanting commences. The seedlings, which have now grown to rice plants six to eight inches high, are carefully removed from the seed bed and

carried by oxen or, as is often the case, on the back of the farmer, to the field. Here they are replanted.

During the next few months of growth, there are many problems to contend with to insure a bountiful harvest. Weeds must be removed. Insects such as the leaf hopper, rice borer and army worm must be fought off and rats must be kept under control. In some areas rats are so numerous and difficult to eliminate that farmers plant a small field of rice which the rodents especially like, in hopes they will stay away from the main crop.

After months of exacting toil the pay-off comes with the harvest. In the coastal plains

of II Corps Tactical Zone (II CTZ), there are normally two major harvests a year, in January-February and September-October.

During these periods, the fields become a panorama of activity from sunrise to sunset as farmers move throughout the sea of ripened grain wielding their rice knives with speed and skill.

Once cut, the rice stalks are collected into bundles and transported to a central threshing place. The most common method of threshing, which separates the grain from the plant, is to beat the bundles against a framework of bamboo slats similar to a short ladder. Other methods include beating the bundles against the ground or a

canvas, or walking oxen or buffalo over the stalks.

The separated grain is then freed from the plant by the process of winnowing. A common practice is to put the bundles in a basket and hold this high over the head. The basket is then tilted and the contents allowed to fall to the ground. The rice kernels fall at the winnow-er's feet, but the lighter straw is caught by the wind and carried away. The straw is extremely valuable to the Vietnamese farmer who can use it for building material or feed for his animals.

The kernel is then dried for several days before it is stored. When needed by the family, it is taken to the mill and the hull is removed.

In times of peace, the harvests not only could provide abundant food for the people but serve a brisk export business as well. However, aggression by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army has made it necessary to import from Thailand and the U.S. about one-half of the rice consumed.

Situation Improving

But, the situation is improving steadily through the combined efforts of the Vietnamese Government and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), and the military and civilian personnel of the U.S. and her allies.

The main burden of harvest security is carried out by units such as the 1st Battalion, 44th Regiment, 23rd ARVN Division. Commanded by Major Phan Quang Anh, the battalion is stationed near Phan Rang.

With its advisors, Lieutenant Sam H. Writson and Staff Sergeant Donald G. Goddard, the battalion sends troops out along the perimeter of the fields and among their harvesters. Patrols are sent out at greater distances and ambush sites established along likely avenues of approach.

Security

The job of security does not end with the harvest. The 44th provides protection around hamlets where the rice is stored. Additional military protection is provided by Popular and Regional forces stationed in and around the hamlets.

There are at least 880 known varieties of rice in the Republic of Vietnam. One of the main goals of CORDS is finding the kind of rice best suited for the country. According to Noble Dean, Agriculture advisor for Khanh Hoa province, the answers may be found in a rice developed by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), at Los Banos, the Philippines.

Founded by the Rockefeller and Ford foundations, the IRRI plans, this month, to introduce into Vietnam a quick growing, short stem, high producing rice with built-in immunization against diseases. The farmer can go to a control point and pick up, on a loan basis, everything he needs — seeds, fertilizer, insecticide and instructions — on how to grow new rice.

At present, one hectare (about 2.5 acres) of land will produce about one-and-a-half tons of rice. Mr. Dean states the IRRI rice is expected to produce five to nine tons of rice per hectare.

Key To Peace

Through the efforts of many, rice production is on the upswing in II CTZ, and with it, the hopes for a productive future. For rice is more than just food for millions. It is an important key to a future of peace and stability in the Republic of Vietnam.

STEADY ADVANCE—Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division move in on North Vietnamese Army bunker positions in a village North of Hue. The airborne troopers are from Company D, 1st Battalion (Abn), 501st Infantry.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp5 Edward A. Onn)

GED Conference

First-Time Meeting Spells Success

LONG BINH (USA) — Nineteen General Educational Development (GED) program directors met recently at U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) Headquarters here in the first such Vietnam-wide conference.

Objectives of the meeting were to review the present program, establish future goals, discuss recurring problems and exchange ideas for their solution, according to Charles Dahlgren, conference chairman. Three other member directors in country were unable to attend.

Highlight of the two-day conference was an hour-long address on the University of Mary-

land college extension program by Dr. Ray Ehresberger, dean of the University College, and Dr. Joseph Mabbett, assistant director of the university's Far East Division.

An overall motivation for the GED program in Vietnam was spelled out in opening remarks by Colonel Richard A. Edwards Jr., USARV deputy chief of staff for Personnel and Administration.

Colonel Edwards, who during his last assignment at the Department of the Army handled inquiries from soldiers' parents, pointed out that parents and soldiers alike are concerned about the opportunities for the

serviceman in Vietnam to advance his education.

Often, he said, it was a recruiter's promise of such opportunities that induced a man to enlist.

While he expressed obvious optimism over the GED program, the colonel asked the directors to give every effort to devising new methods of assisting soldiers to advance their education under the trying conditions of Vietnam service.

Conference chairman Dahlgren intoned that "Soldiers in Vietnam are not only completing their high school education, but many are embarking upon

or furthering their college degree programs."

He cited figures for the quarter ending March 31 which indicated the 21 directors handled 17,628 advisements to soldiers, administered 11,525 tests, enrolled 7,031 in correspondence courses and conducted group study and University of Maryland classes for 1,988 students.

Courses included those on high school and college level as well as vocational and language courses. Tests administered included high school equivalency, one-year college equivalency and college entrance examinations.

Blind Boy's Future Assured By Marines

CHU LAI (USMC) — Eleven-year-old Phan Tu has been blind since the age of three, and until recently, his future was uncertain.

The men of Marine Aircraft Group-12's group security section have done something to change all this . . . they have arranged for him to attend a special school for the blind in Saigon.

They first met Phan Tu last December during a civil affairs mission from the Chu Lai Marine air base. On New Year's Day, the Marines brought the boy on base.

Corporal Daniel Lairon acted as spokesman for the Phan Tu civil affairs project.

"We wanted to obtain medical help for the boy so we started out by taking up a collection of \$130 New Year's Day," he explained.

Navy doctors examined the boy's eyes in hopes of finding a way to restore his sight, but their efforts were in vain. The doctors all agreed that Phan Tu would never regain his sight.

"After we found out his eyes couldn't be helped," Corporal Lairon continued, "we decided to try and help him in another way. His schooling had been limited because of blindness, so

we began looking for a good school."

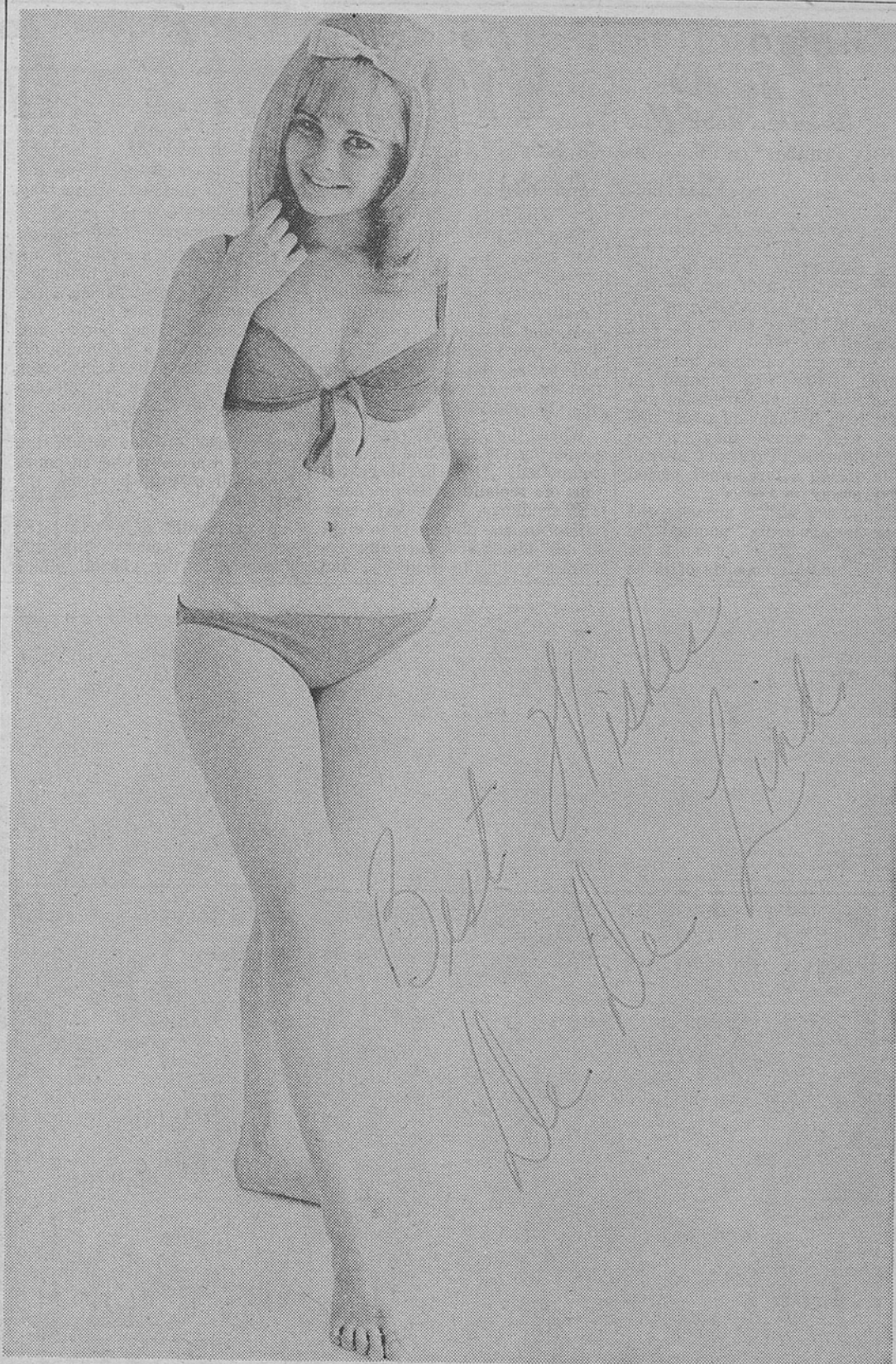
The Marines contacted the National Rehabilitation Institute in Saigon. They were informed that the institute's blind rehabilitation program was limited to treatment of war-wounded adults.

Institute officials recommended another institution, the Lasan Integrated School for the Blind. It was explained later that the term "Integrated" was a reference to Lasan's use of modern techniques which permits programming of blind children into the same learning cycle with sighted students.

"We felt that this was the right school for Phan Tu," said Corporal Lairon. "He'll be a long way from home for the first time in his life, but the training there will prepare him for a more beneficial future."

The Marines feel that Phan Tu will make the adjustment to his new environment without any trouble. But to a man, all agree that "from now on, it's up to him to apply himself to his studies."

However, they added that the group security section stands ready to render any additional assistance to their young charge.



BEST WISHES—This beautiful bikini-clad young lady sends her best wishes to all of you. Her name is De De Lind, and if she looks a little familiar to some of you, it's because she was one of Playboy Magazine's Playmates of the month. Miss August to be exact. De De is a former model and is currently seeking out interviews with various movie producers and would like to become an actress. (PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)

Artillery Support?

Unit Gives Financial Help

LAI KHE (USA)—Arithmetic problems sketched out on an Olive Drab blackboard were the order of the day as Major Bill Giallourakis and Staff Sergeant Calvin J. Moore visited the Ben Cat School.

The school is supported entirely by the 2d Battalion, 33rd Artillery. Support of the school is one of the unit's contributions to the 1st Infantry Division's civic action program. Every payday a collection for the Ben Cat School Fund takes place with contributions made on a voluntary basis. This fund is the only support the school receives.

Salaries of the nine teachers at the school and various school supplies are provided for through the fund. Much of the school's equipment comes from the unit itself. For instance, blackboards originate as U.S. Army plywood ammo casings with a few coats of black or olive drab paint added. American school books, crayons and other supplies are sometimes sent from groups of individual donors in the U.S. and are forwarded to the school through the unit. Although English is not part of the school's instruction program, the chil-

dren do receive a learning experience from the American books. They benefit from the many pictures and illustrations contained in the books. Although supervising and supplying the school are not part of Sergeant Moore's official duties, he carries out this activity with thoroughness and care. At one time he discovered that each class had only seven sheets of writing paper allotted to them each day. A quick trip to the Headquarters and Service Battery commander, Captain Peter K. Rallis, altered this situation and a new supply of paper was obtained.

Sergeant Moore's position as Liaison Sergeant between the 2nd Battalion, 33rd Artillery and the ARVN units at Ben Cat, netted him his job with the school. "I don't know how I got the job exactly," he explained, "It seems that the Liaison Sergeant always took care of the school too."

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)

(Guide For The Week Of May 15-21, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday May 15

1830 News Headlines
Lost In Space
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Legal
2005 Low Day Special—Melvin Bell
2030 The Monkees
2100 Carol Burnett
2200 Sports
2300 News Headlines

Thursday May 16

1830 News Headlines
Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Free World
2005 Information Feature
2100 Dick Van Dyke
2200 Kraft Music Hall
2300 Perry Mason
2305 Update News
2305 Jerry Lewis

Friday May 17

1830 News Headlines
Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight
2005 Big Picture
2030 Bewitched
2100 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2300 Star Trek
2305 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Saturday May 18

1230 News Headlines
Sports
1500 Pro Bowler's Tour
1600 Flying Fisherman
1630 American Sportsman
1730 Music From The Land
1830 Junior Miss Pageant
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

Sunday May 19

1230 News Headlines
The Christophers
1245 Sacred Heart
1300 Prince Of Peace
1330 Sports
1530 Feature Movie
1645 Pat Boone Special
1730 Can You Hear Me
1800 GE College Bowl
1830 Danny Thomas Hour
1930 News-Sports-Business
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Window Of Vietnam
2005 Golden Globe Awards
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Update News
2305 Dean Martin

Monday May 20

1830 News Headlines
Daniel Boone
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Mars
2005 In Town Tonight
2030 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

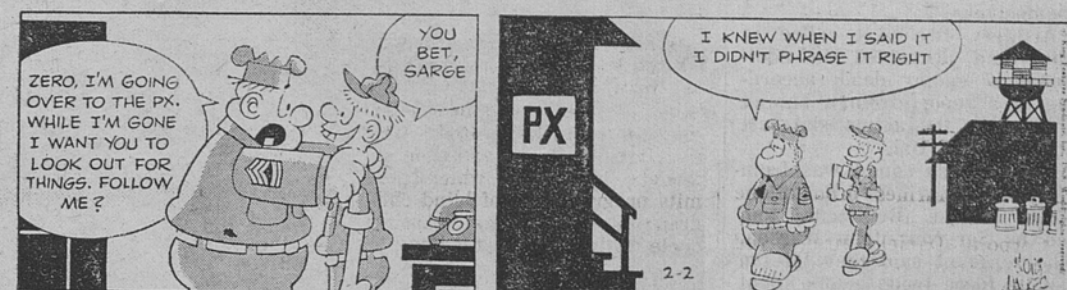
Tuesday May 21

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—R&R
2005 Biography
2030 Green Acres
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Combat
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Airmen Construct Leprosarium

PLEIKU (USAF) — The Pleiku air base Protestant Chapel, during the past year, received offerings totaling \$5,140, the major part of which has been donated for construction of a new leprosarium in Pleiku City.

More than \$3,000 has been given to the Christian and Missionary Alliance's Evangelical Mission here, for the construction of a new leprosarium," said Chaplain (Captain) R. Dale Copsey.

"The first unit of the leprosarium is completed and will serve primarily the Montagnard

tribespeople of the Pleiku area."

Construction of the leprosarium is under the direction of Reverend Charles Long, a missionary for the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Reverend Long said 15 per cent of the tribesmen in the highlands contract leprosy. "With modern facilities and proper treatment, leprosy could be eliminated in a generation," he advanced.

Another \$1,710 of the offerings were given to the Vietnam Christian Service for use in the Evangelical Clinic of Pleiku, operated the past three years by

Doctor Christopher Leuz. The clinic has inpatient facilities and handles between 60 and 80 outpatients a day. The doctor also performs surgical operations.

Chaplain Copsey feels that the personal contact with the 2,923 men who contributed the offerings and the work of the missionaries creates and awareness and concern for the missions. This, he said, will be carried back to their home churches when they return from Vietnam. The remaining \$430 of the offerings was turned over to the Air Force Chief of Chaplains,

Marines' Ambush Kills 58

PHU BAI (USMC) — Ten U.S. Marines ambushed an estimated 200 enemy soldiers near here, killing 58 without suffering a single casualty themselves.

Artillery fire was called in later and accounted an additional 17 enemy dead, according to a report from a hamlet chief near the action site just south of Phu Bai.

The ambush squad was from "C" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, and led by Sergeant John Wasson. The sergeant said they hit the hostile force twice in one night from the same position.

He said that normally, his ambush squad would have hit the point. But this time he decided to let the point pass. "I must have counted up to 150 before we hit them," Sergeant Wasson recalled.

The enemy soldiers were bunched together and some heavily laden with sacks of rice. Sergeant Wasson and his squad began their attacks by exploding two Claymore mines at each end of a pre-set kill zone.

Reports said in the first attack the enemy troops were stunned by the surprise action, and were slow to mount a defense. The sergeant and his men poured heavy fire into the troop concentration. Mass confusion reigned as the enemy tried desperately to escape.

After the first encounter, the enemy soldiers made another attempt to run the Marine ambush to deliver their valuable rice cargo. They got more of the same, but this time the Marines used pre-plotted mortar fire to launch their attack.

The hostile force routed, the sergeant checked his men. Miraculously, not a man had been wounded.

Navy's P3 'Orion' Joins Market Time

CAM RANH BAY (USN) — The U.S. Navy's newest patrol aircraft, the P3 "Orion" from the Naval Air Facility here is now patrolling the northern coastline of South Vietnam.

The planes of Patrol Squadron 50 (VP-50) arrived here and the next day were searching the South China Sea off Vietnam for enemy vessels trying to infiltrate supplies to the Viet Cong in South Vietnam.

This also marks the first time that the VP-50 crewmen have flown a land-based plane on deployment since its commissioning 18 years ago. The squadron started out flying PB5Y-5A, then switched to PBM Mariner in 1951; In 1956 it changed to the

Allies . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

The sprawling Tan Son Nhut air base, adjacent to the cemetery, took more than ten rounds of 122mm rocket fire in the pre-dawn hours of the third attack. Material damage and personnel casualties were described as light.

Mortar and rocket assaults figured prominently in the attacks on Saigon as in other parts of the Republic.



HELPING HAND — A 1st Cavalry Division soldier helps his heavily laden buddy cross a slippery stream. (USA PHOTO By Sp5 Don Graham)

Hieu Duc District

Rice-Denial Project Started

DA NANG (USMC)—A relatively dry monsoon season has cut the rice crop in this area by at least 1-3, creating a possible rice shortage until the next harvest some months away.

Aside from this, one district official said, "A smaller rice harvest could mean additional trouble from Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers who like to feel the local farmers

can always be forced to give them any amount of rice they want."

These are the kind of hard facts that prompted the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment to begin a rice-denial project in Hieu Duc district. The project is aimed at preventing the enemy from taking villagers' food supplies, the main staple of which is rice.

The project is being conducted as a joint effort between the Marines, and regular ARVN and Popular Force units in the district.

"With the small rice crop, it will be important for them (VC and NVA) to come down from their hideouts and try to collect as much rice as possible," said Major E.A. Grimm, officer-in-charge of the Battalion Combat Operations Center.

Step 1 in the rice-denial project means going into the more productive growing areas and collecting excess rice from the villagers. This is done by combined Vietnamese and Leatherneck patrols.

The Marines have no say as to where rice is picked up or

the amount taken. Vietnamese officials make those decisions while the Marines act as a security force.

Each villager puts his excess rice in burlap bags and receives a receipt after being allowed to keep a week's supply. The rice is then taken by Marine amphibian tractors to the district headquarters southwest of Da Nang. Each week the families go to the headquarters and draw a ration.

"It's like putting their rice in a bank," explained Major Grimm. "On the first day of the project, combined patrols picked up 17,000 pounds of rice."

The second phase of the project employs various checkpoints throughout the district. These are manned by combined forces, and stop all traffic at main intersections and bridges to check identification and destinations.

A third and final phase consists of patrolling a so-called "zone of apprehension" around the district to deny use of waterways and roads to anyone who may be aiding the enemy.

Extra R&R For 3-Mo Extension

SAIGON (MACV) — A second out-of-country R&R is now being offered U.S. servicemen who voluntarily extend their Vietnam tours for periods of 90 to 179 days.

The new policy was announced in a recent change to MACV directive 28-2. Here are the eligibility guidelines:

Eligibility for the second trip to established R&R centers begins after the extended tour date has been approved. The extendee automatically gains six months seniority on R & R lists. Applications for the second trip can be made anytime after an extension has been approved.

A second R & R may be taken either during or prior to the period of tour extension and will in no way jeopardize eligibility for first R & R in cases where a first R & R had not been taken.

However, eligibility for that first R & R will terminate at the start of the extended duty tour. In addition, the first and second R & R may not be taken consecutively as a single 10 day trip.

Cooing Enemy Trapped, Bumps Into U.S. Platoon

LAI KHE (USA)—Vietnamese is not the only language barrier facing the 1st Infantry Division in the field. But 2nd Lieutenant Donald Heald showed remarkable enterprise in surmounting a new language barrier which enabled U.S. forces to net four Viet Cong.

Lieutenant Heald was moving his platoon from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry to a company size ambush position east of Lai Khe. As they moved through the jungle they heard bird calls of an unusual nature. The Lieutenant stopped his men and listened for more calls. It

became evident to him that the bird calls were of a more human nature.

As no one seemed to be answering the calls, the platoon leader and his men returned them. Apparently they must have been in tune as the exchange of coo's and whistles continued for about 30 minutes.

Whatever sounds Lieutenant Heald and his platoon made must have been in the right key since the four-man Viet Cong patrol walked into the company's command post group without a care in the world. They were detained as suspects.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp Here

(12 cents 1st class)
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

101st Men Protects Harvest

HUE (USA) — Since Operation Carentan II began in northern I Corps early in April, paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division have been hitting the enemy where it hurts the most — in his stomach.

Recent intelligence reports indicate the enemy units operating north of here are concerned about their dwindling food supply.

In order to restock their supplies, the Communists must come out of their mountain hiding places and force the local villagers to hand over part or all of their rice harvest.

In past years, the North Vietnamese Army regulars made these collections in the form of taxes. If a family had a tile roof on their home, the levy would be 200 bags of rice; a tin roof, 100 bags; and a thatched roof would be taxed 40 bags. After collecting this booty, the Communists usually withdrew back into the hills, becoming a more persistent foe.

But last month, with the cooperation of all the district chiefs of Thua Thien province, the Airborne troopers began protecting the villagers during their spring rice harvest.

"After suitable hours were coordinated with the district chiefs, the villagers were told they could harvest their fields without any interference from enemy soldiers," said Captain James Sergeson, 2nd Brigade civil affairs officer.

"Anyone working in these specified rice paddies during the non-working hours stipulated by the district chiefs will be considered enemy and will be engaged by our ground troops," the captain added. District chiefs and paratroop elements have insured that the villagers are informed of this fact.

At the end of each day, the rice is taken to a secure storage area furnished by the Vietnamese government. These warehouses are being protected by a combined force of popular forces (PF's) and American personnel. Records are kept on the amount a rice farmer turns in and he can withdraw the rice as he needs it.

It is planned that this program will continue throughout the entire month of May, when the bulk of Vietnam's rice is thrashed, dried and bagged.

This year the success of the program is considered critical because of an abnormally small yield in the crop. In preceding years, the average crop harvested would be nearly 23 metric tons of grain, but this spring the yield is expected to produce a little more than 50 per cent of this total for the entire province.



TERRORIST VICTIMS—This woman's face is a twisted picture of tragedy and despair as she sits weeping pathetically in a field near My Tho. She and her two-year-old daughter have just been made homeless by rampaging Viet Cong terrorists.

(USA PHOTO BY SP5 Tom Farley)

Ring Of Fire

Fusillade 'Traps' Corpsman

PHU BAI (USMC)—A Navy corpsman dashing to the aid of a wounded Marine, found himself in the center of a ring of fire created by two enemy machine guns when a Leatherneck patrol was ambushed northeast of Hue.

Luckily for Hospitalman Stephen Peterson the ring did not close in on him.

"I had my face in the dirt, so I really didn't see anything. I just felt the dirt kicking up around me," said Hospitalman Peterson, corpsman with the 3rd Platoon, D Company, 1st

Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Sergeant James Clapper, 1st squad leader, 3rd Plt., D Co., did see something.

"The 'Doc' probably had 40 or 50 rounds running up and down around his feet and the side of his face," Sergeant Clapper estimated. "I'd say the nearest was probably inches away from him and the furthest no more than two feet.

"I know this, they were all too close for comfort," added Sergeant Clapper.

"It seemed like a long, long

time, but it probably was only about 30 seconds," said the corpsman.

"Then I got up and ran down the road to where our point man was," the 'Doc' added. "He'd been wounded."

Peterson reached the wounded Marine under fire and dragged him to safety at the side of the road.

Meanwhile, the Marine squad had opened up on the enemy, killing three of them before they retreated with their wounded.

Enemy's Thrust Crushed

SAIGON (MACV) — The main thrust of the Communist attack on Saigon which began May 5 has been crushed, and U.S. officials were reported to believe the enemy capable of mounting only isolated small attacks.

A MACV Communique dated May 13 said more than 5,200 enemy had been killed in the III Corps Tactical Zone since the latest Communist drive began. An estimated 2,500 of this total were said to have been lost in the greater Saigon area.

The remainder were lost when their units were intercepted before they neared Saigon by forces of the combined Allied Operation Toan Thang. Enemy troops encountered in that action proved to be predominantly North Vietnamese.

Allied casualties for the seven day period were placed at 210 killed, including 67 Americans, and 979 wounded, which included 333 Americans.

The Communist command had planned to throw 26 to 30 battalions into the Saigon fighting, according to Lieutenant General Fred C. Weyand, II Field Force commander. But he said only a few of these units actually made it into the capital city.

General Weyand said the enemy used a master plan for the latest attacks that was similar to the one used in the Tet Offensive. It was acknowledged that there were still some Viet Cong units around the Saigon area, but the general noted, "We've overrun a dozen of their tactical positions in the past six days (of the seven day period)."

Two days later, elements of the Royal Australian Regiment engaged an enemy force of unknown size 25 miles north-northeast of Saigon. Fifty-four enemy were killed in that action.

The enemy force was identified as being from the 141st North Vietnamese Army Regiment. The Australians, supported by artillery, helicopter gunships and tactical airstrikes, sustained light casualties.

In another encounter two miles east of that battle, a reconnaissance platoon from the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 1st Infantry Division, ran into an enemy unit of undetermined size and killed 27. Five U.S. soldiers were killed.

Further south, units of the ARVN 7th Regiment and U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment reportedly engaged an estimated enemy battalion near Cu Chi. Sixty-seven enemy soldiers were said to have died in that fighting. There were no U.S. fatalities and ARVN casualties were light.

Closer to Saigon, elements of the Vietnamese 5th Marine Battalion battled an estimated two enemy companies in an 11-hour action four miles east of the capital. Fifty-seven enemy were killed, while Marine casualties were said to be light.

Editorial

Are You A Pro?

PROFESSIONALS

HONOLULU (USAF)—A few moments reflection might give each of us a greater appreciation of just what a professional is. Today the word "professional" is used so often it seems to have lost some of its implications, some of the impact it should have.

An obvious fact when a man is called a professional is he earns his living because of his knowledge and skill at accomplishing specific tasks. He is paid for what he does and how well he does it.

A lifetime must be spent in improving the overall knowledge of a job in order to advance in the state-of-the-art, to refined specialized techniques. The professional can not afford to drop back into the pack because his value as a wage earner drops. Therefore, a professional is constantly updating his knowledge through study.

A true professional does not leave his knowledge, skill and dedication at the worksite. He is proud of the fact his is the best in his field. He respects his life's work enough to create a good impression wherever he goes, with whomever he comes in contact.

To summarize, a professional is a man who works for his living, knows his job, continuously endeavors to improve his knowledge and skill and is proud of his ability and shows it.

Know Your Code



Code Of Conduct

V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am bound to give only name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

Reflex Ear Defender Tested

WASHINGTON — An electronic device to prevent damage to hearing in tactical vehicles with electrically-fired weapons is expected by 1971.

Acoustic reflex ear defender (ARED) system injects into the vehicle's communication system a warning tone which causes

certain ear muscles to contract an instant before a weapon fires.

The reflex is expected to considerably reduce ear damage caused by sudden intense noise. Field tests at Fort Knox, Ky., demonstrated ARED to be effective. (AD)

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

VA Explains Vets Benefits To Thousands

WASHINGTON — Armed Forces personnel are receiving information on their veteran benefits before separation at the rate of 70,000 a month.

A Veterans Administration announcement said the information is reaching servicemen at 433 separation points and military hospitals in the U.S.

In President Johnson's recent message to Congress he directed the VA to extend pre-separation briefing and counseling on veteran benefits to servicemen in 176 U.S. military hospitals and 257 separation points.

The Veterans Administration said its representatives have been briefing and counseling servicemen at 150 separation points and in 110 U.S. military hospitals.

More than 40,000 hospitalized servicemen have been interviewed by the VA and vocational counselors since 1966.

In the same period nearly 21,000 applications from hospitalized servicemen for special training and disability payments were received and processed.

More than 230,000 servicemen in Vietnam have been briefed and more than 30,000 individuals interviewed, the VA reported. (AFPS)

Ladies VFW Offers Award

SAIGON (MACV) — A Defense Department message received at this headquarters stated that for the fourth consecutive year, the ladies auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will sponsor the unsung heroine award to honor an outstanding woman working overseas with the U.S. Armed Forces.

Candidates may be either military or civilian. The contribution for which they are cited may be either professionally connected or a volunteer activity.

The award is a citation and a \$500 grant. The winner will be announced in August of this year at the organization's national convention in Detroit, Michigan.

Entry blanks are being forwarded by airmail to Public Affairs Officers of each command. Deadline for submission of the blanks is June 1, 1968.

Iowa Sorority Adopts Unit

SAIGON (MACV) — The Lambda Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi has recently adopted the 137 men of Troop E, 17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep) at Bon Son.

The members of Lambda Chapter are from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The chapter will be sending letters and needed items to the men. The group is the first "Airborne" chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.



SUNNY SUSAN—Susan Strassberg catches the last rays of sun near the beach at her home in Malibu. Petite Susan on her 5 feet 1 inch frame weighs only 102 pounds dripping wet. She is currently playing in the movie "The Trip" with Peter Fonda. (PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN INT'L PICTURES)

Military Strength

WASHINGTON—Total strength of the Armed Force on March 31, 1968, based on preliminary reports, was 3,466,858. This represents an increase of 27,206 from the February 29, 1968, strength of 3,439,652.

March strength figures for each service, with month-ago and year-ago figures for comparison, are as follows:

	ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL		
	31 March 1968	29 February 1968	31 March 1967
Total DOD	3,466,858	3,439,652	3,371,100
Army	1,512,461	1,487,542	1,435,529
Navy	755,034	750,963	752,384
Marine Corps	297,305	296,848	279,866
Air Force	902,058	904,299	903,321

The figures represent full-time military personnel comprising both regulars and reserves on continuous active duty and officer candidates including cadets at the Military and Air Academies and midshipmen at the Naval Academy. (DOD)



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, 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, printed at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material 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 9622.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA
Chief, Command Information Lt. Col. T. A. Costello, USA
NCOIC JOC W.W. Polk, USMC
Editor SSgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA

Crippled Navy Jet Tries 'Helo' Landing

DA NANG (USMC) — The helicopter mechanics and crews watched curiously as the sleek Navy A7A Corsair II jet approached Quang Tri air strip for a landing. The fact that Quang Tri is a 3,800-foot aluminum strip utilized only by helicopters and assault transports was the basis for their concern. This would be the first jet to attempt a landing at Quang Tri.

The unexpected visitor was U.S. Navy Commander J.C. Hill, the commanding officer of Navy Attack Squadron-147, stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ranger, operating in the waters off Vietnam.

The Navy jet had attacked targets in the northern sector of the I Corps tactical zone northeast of Quang Tri when the pilot discovered a critical loss of engine oil pressure. An immediate landing was Commander Hill's only alternative to certain engine failure, ejection and the loss of the multi-million dollar aircraft. When he spotted the Quang Tri strip, the Navy pilot said he was aware

that it was not a jet airfield, and that it was too short to properly accommodate the A-7A. He said he had to try it anyway if he were to attempt to save the aircraft.

Immediately after touchdown, the right main landing gear tire blew, but Commander Hill kept the aircraft going straight down the narrow strip, with the Marine crash crew in hot pursuit.

He was unable to stop the Corsair II before it went off the end of the runway through a couple of hundred feet of soft sand. The aircraft received only minor damage, and with an engine change will be flown back to the carrier.

However, the Marine helicopter crews had a major problem on their hands trying to get the twenty odd thousand pound jet out of the soft sand and back on the runway.

The A-7A Corsair II is the Navy's latest operational attack plane, destined to eventually replace the carrier based A-4 Skyhawk attack bomber.

Airborne Infantryman Foils NVA Ambush

PHU BAI (USA) — An alert sentry from the 101st Airborne Division saved his squad from walking into a trap north of here recently.

The Airborne infantrymen from B Company, 2nd Battalion (Abn.), 502nd Infantry were alerted and ready to move out when Private First Class Stephen Nelson, a machine-gunner spotted several enemy soldiers in a clearing planning an ambush position.

He opened up on them, killing one and pinning the rest down while the other paratroopers in his squad moved into a fighting position.

As the battle raged on, Specialist 4 Ronald Morris saw an opportunity to reach a vantage point to the left flank of the clearing. "I knew that if I could get around to their flank I would be able to get a clear shot at them," Specialist Morris said.

Slowly and cautiously, he made his way through the underbrush to the enemy's unguarded flank. Upon reaching a well concealed position, he opened fire, killing one more of the insurgents.

Viet Cong Lose Hospital

LANDING ZONE ENGLISH (USA) — Troopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, acting on intelligence reports recently captured a Viet Cong hospital, in the thick jungle of the Tiger Mountains.

Platoon Sergeant Fred Soto, and Specialist Four Lyle Smith, of the Second Platoon, were first to spot the tunneled entrance and through quick action detained two VC.

After exploring the tunnel, Specialist Four James Brasher, detained a VC and a nurse who were hiding in a stream overgrown with thick foliage.

Several Viet Cong fled from the hospital during the brief fire fight that ensued and managed to escape through the tunnel complex, however, one VC in

A series of short bursts from his M-16 kept the NVA regulars pinned down, while the rest of the squad members assaulted and overran the enemy positions.

A sweep of the area revealed four NVA killed, two AK-47s and one SKS carbine captured. A bigger find was an NVA company commander who was trying to crawl off into the underbrush. He was discovered and detained for questioning.

DA NANG (USMC) — When legend was old in our early history, the name of Kit Carson, frontiersman and guide, stood out among the others. Renowned for his superior scouting ability, he was used for scouting by the U.S. Army during the early Indian wars.

The Marine Corps, borrowing his name, has instituted a program based upon his qualities as a scout and guide. It is called the Kit Carson Scout Program, and is in use now in Vietnam.

In the summer of 1966 the



TAKING THE HIGH GROUND—Marines from the 4th Marine Regiment move up a rugged slope as they attack North Vietnamese Regulars during an operation, two miles from the DMZ. The 3rd Division Marines are rushing the hill following a heavy artillery and mortar barrage that cleared much of the jungle from the slope. Heavy contact was made with the enemy once the Marines reached the top. (DEFENSE DEPT. PHOTO)

Vietnamese Kit Carsons Scout Enemy

need for local Vietnamese to accompany Marine units into the field to act as interpreters was grave. More often what the Marines wanted was a "scout" to seek out the Viet Cong and disclose his position—sort of a Marine Kit Carson.

November saw the first Kit Carson school ever started in I Corps by the Marines. The program itself had its beginnings from the Chieu Hoi program in which former VC and North Vietnamese Army soldiers who turn themselves in are retrained and instructed towards their new life. Once the person finishes Chieu Hoi school, he is given an opportunity to enlist in the Kit Carson school, which is strictly voluntary.

Once he volunteers, the individual is screened and checked-out for possible subversion, which is a constant threat. Once accepted, the individual is put through two weeks of vigorous "boot camp" training.

Along with other future Kit Carson scouts, the man is issued all the equipment and gear he will need while in the service of the Marine Corps as a scout. One of the main points that is emphasized is to make him feel part of the Marine Corps and instill confidence in him and what he is doing.

To achieve this, a complete record book is made up with pay record, health and dental records and other information

on his background. He is made to feel that he is actually a part of the Marine Corps and is doing a service for his country.

The school itself is organized and operated by the 1st Marine Division and is located near the 7th Marine Regiment area in Da Nang. The school is operated by Staff Sergeant John P. Johnson, chief instructor, and Sergeant Steven Allbee, assistant instructor, plus a Vietnamese interpreter.

While going to school, the future scouts are taught demolitions, mines, booby-traps, small arms fire, Marine tactics and hand-to-hand combat. One of the most important courses offered is English. He is taught some basic English so he can communicate while in the field with Leatherneck units.

As in boot camp, the scouts have regular rifle inspections, drills and conditioning exercises. Once the scouts finish the two-week course, they are ready for graduation. Finally, when they are full-fledged Kit Carson scouts, they are sent to Marine units in teams of two. Usually, they work on the battalion level with the S-2 scout section. Some scouts who show ability are sent to sniper teams.

Their object always remains . . . to seek and disclose the VC or NVA, to search for possible ambush sites and booby-traps and to act as interpreters

when the need arises. Unlike the Marine, the scout has no obligated service to fulfill, he may resign whenever he wants—so far few have. Such comments as: "I wish I had a dozen more like them," and "They are great workers!" reflect the overall confidence and ability they have shown the Marine Corps.

Inf. Squad Finds Enemy's Gun Caches

LONG BINH (II FF) — A patrol of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) captured a sizable arms cache while on operations recently. The enemy weapons were hidden in three holes in the ground.

The discovery was made 25 miles northwest of Saigon in Hau Nghia Province.

Included in the cache were seventy-two 122mm rocket motors still attached to the containers.

A second hole contained 56 rocket warheads complete with canvas carrying cases. Also uncovered was a box of fuses for the rockets.

The last hole contained sixty-three 75mm recoilless rifle rounds. Chinese Communist markings were stenciled on the rounds.

Language No Barrier For Sig. School



First Sergeant Luc-Si-Lam explains functions of Signal equipment to fellow Vietnamese.

LONG BINH (USA)—The language problem encountered by Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) personnel at the 1st Signal Brigade's Southeast Asia Signal School has been virtually eliminated.

The solution to the problem is 1st Sergeant Luc-Si-Lam, formerly a member of the ARVN 630th Signal Battalion in Saigon. Since the middle of April he has been an instructor teaching radio relay carrier operations at the school.

Sergeant Lam also acts as an interpreter, and, according to the cadre of the school, is especially helpful in explaining technical terminology to the ARVN students.

"In the practical exercise portions of the course," Sergeant Lam says, "I teach the Vietnamese students individually, explaining the operation of various types of equipment."

When the 26-year-old Vietnamese sergeant was a student at the school earlier this year, he impressed the cadre with his knowledge of signal equipment

and his proficiency in English. Usually between three and six Vietnamese students attend the 20 to 24 man classes. A significant increase in the number of Vietnamese students is anticipated.

The Vietnamese Army agreed to a U.S. request to assign 1st Sergeant Lam as an instructor. His presence is expected to provide a more effective student-instructor relationship and to improve the "buddy system" program, a cooperative effort of ARVN and U.S. signal units.

Staff Sergeant James McKenzie, an instructor at the school, says the use of qualified ARVN personnel as instructors should benefit everyone. The Vietnamese Army gains qualified instructors, more professional and confident noncommissioned officer cadre and better trained students.

The use of Vietnamese personnel eases the U.S. instructors' work load and establishes a base from which the school can expand its ARVN training program.

Colonel Makes Appeal; Children Reap Benefits

NHA TRANG (USAF)—Thousands of Vietnamese children have received much needed food, clothing, medicine, toys, and in some cases, their educations from U.S. soldiers who just could not stand to see children suffer without doing something about it.

Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Charles L. Rose belongs to this legion of benevolent servicemen. He recently initiated a civic action project aimed at helping children at the nearby Truong Dong Hamlet elementary school obtain school supplies.

The colonel directed his appeal

to grade school and Sunday school classes in Annandale and Fairfax, Va., and other interested individuals and groups in McLean and Falls Church, Va., plus several groups in Charleston and Summerville, S.C.

Colonel Rose has thus far received more than 50 individual packs of classroom accessories for the children at Truong Dong Hamlet elementary school.

"The children accepted the materials with such eagerness," the colonel said, "I plan to continue the project because more (supplies) are on the way."

MPs Help Out Farmers

VUNG DAT AM (USA) — A group of civic-minded 4th Division military policeman are cultivating rice, vegetables and friendships in the small Vietnamese village of Thanh An.

Weeks ago Specialist 4 Jerry Brumager and Elbert Roberson, Military Police with the 2nd

Platoon, 4th MP Company, were buying locally grown corn from a farmer in the village. "As we were purchasing the food, I mentioned to Specialist Roberson that, with a little help the crops could be improved. That kind of started the ball rolling," explained Specialist Brumager, an agricultural major and graduate of the University of Kentucky.

"We inspected their fields," said Specialist Roberson, himself a farmer, "and saw that, with proper irrigation and seeding methods, they held a lot of potential. We figured that they could perhaps double or even triple their output."

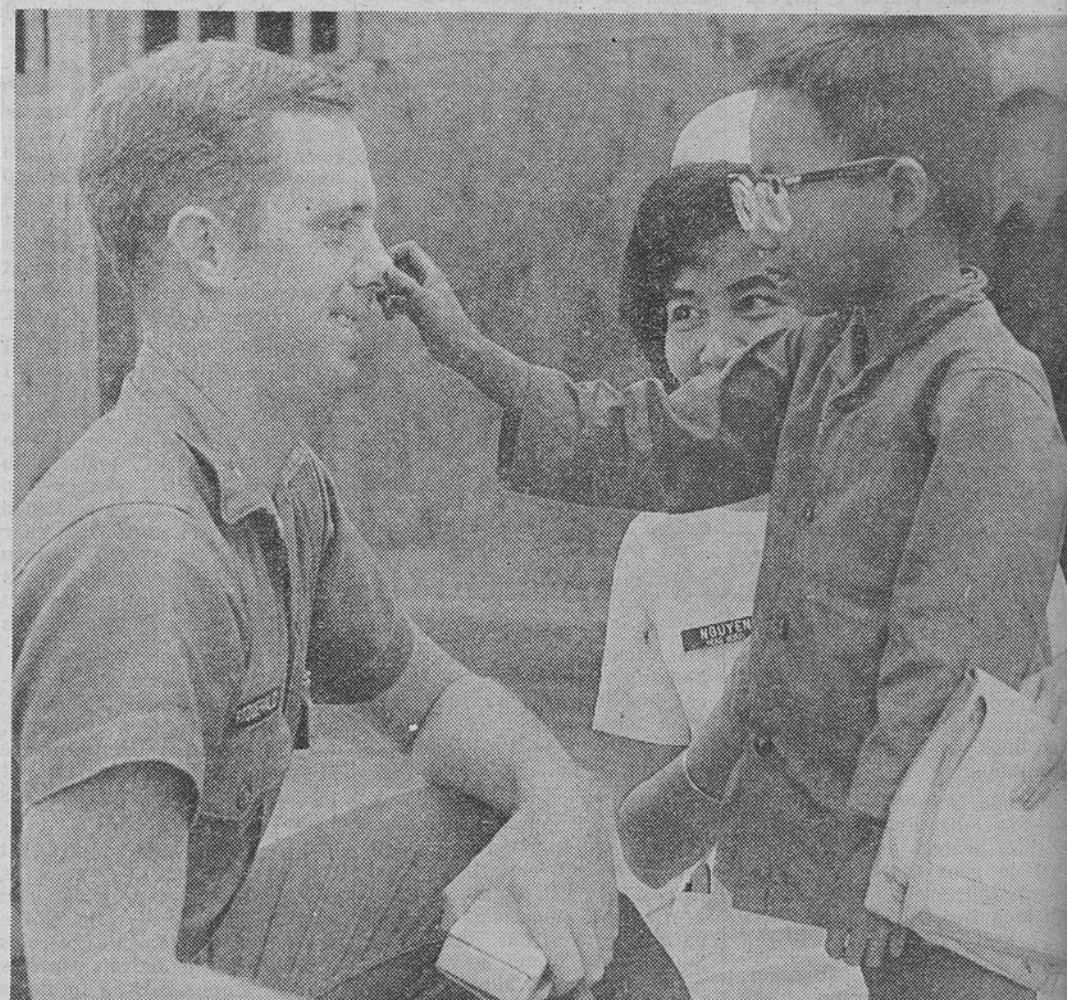
Through an interpreter, the two MPs explained their plans for improvement to the local farmers. "They were all quite enthusiastic about our ideas," added the ex-farmer.

The MPs have done quite a bit of preparing for the actual planting.

"We're waiting now for some hybrid seed to arrive from the U.S. so we can complete the project."

"We should have everything finished by the time the monsoon season arrives," the former agriculture major explained.

Chicken production was another problem. "There wasn't much we could do," explained Specialist Brumager. "The chickens have just about been bred out. What they need are some strong hybrids to improve the strain."



GIFT OF SIGHT—Dinh Viet Chi, an eight-year-old Vietnamese boy of Ap Xuan Thieu hamlet, sees the face of the man who got him special eyeglasses for a near-blind condition. Navy doctor, Lieutenant Sean Fitzgerald, took Dinh to the hospital ship SANCTUARY in December to have glasses made to correct the boy's nearsightedness and cross-eyed conditions. Now Dinh is a top student in his class. (USMC PHOTO By Sgt. A. M. Chambers)

New Footware Covers Feet, Brings Smiles

SAIGON (USMC) — Three hundred eighteen orphans are wearing new shoes thanks to the Baltimore Chapter of the American Legion and members of Marine Advisory Team 43.

Approximately 600 pairs of shoes were presented to the children of the Hoi Duc Anh Orphanage by Captain Clifford R. Dunning. He had arranged the shipment from Baltimore to the Marine Team's quarters in Nha Be, Rung Sat Special Zone headquarters.

Mrs. Thanh Kieu, president of the Association for the Protection of the Children of Hoi Duc Anh Orphanage, accepted the shoes on behalf of her charges.

Team members quickly passed out some of the shoes to the happy children.

The Hoi Duc Anh Orphanage has 141 boys and 177 girls ranging in age from one to 20.



Thong Si Nhat (First Sergeant) Cu, greets some of the 1,000 weekly recruits as they arrive at the Da Nang Recruiting and Induction Center.

Tet Offensive Spurs New Recruits

DA NANG (VPS) — Throughout South Vietnam, military induction centers are working overtime to process the huge influx of volunteers for the armed forces.

In Da Nang, capital of Quang Nam province, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Recruiting and Induction Center is processing more than 1,000 new recruits each week. Over 300 volunteers in each of the five northern provinces are waiting to enlist at Da Nang.

A feeling of bitterness against the enemy has brought on the sudden influx of volunteers.

According to South Vietnam's

mobilization chief, Colonel Bui Binh Dam, more than 20,000 new recruits have joined since Jan. 1, 1968. Of these, almost 18,000 have signed up since the Tet offensive. Statistics show this is more than three times the number of enlistments for the same period in 1967.

Colonel Dam attributes the sudden rise to "a sense of national identity that the Communist offensive has given to the people of South Vietnam."

"Before Tet," he said, "the people sometimes believed the Communist's propaganda, but

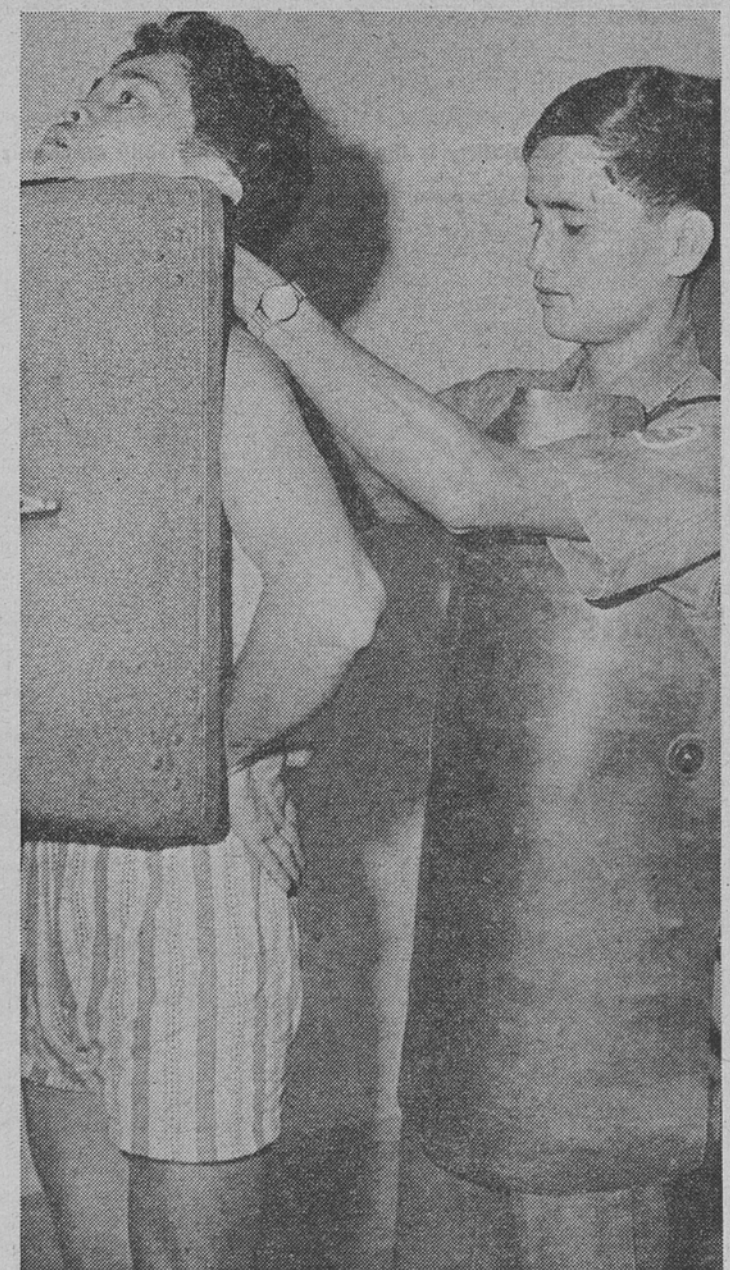
now they know that what they say and what they do are two different things. They won't soon forget what they have seen," he added.

Twenty-year-old Pham Hue Phuc, a policeman before Tet, who saw his family home destroyed and his mother and father wounded in Bien Hoa, said he felt "compelled" to join the army for vengeance, "because after what the Viet Cong did to me and my people, I wanted to do more to fight them . . . I volunteered as soon as I was able."

Story & Photos
By Vietnamese Photo Service



Initial issue is given to Pham Hue Phuc who resigned his police job to fight with the ARVN.



Part of the new recruits' physical exam is a chest X-ray.

An Giang; An Oasis Of Peace, Prosperity



SAIGON (VFS) — Refugees are welcome in the Mekong Delta province of An Giang.

An oasis of peace and prosperity surrounded by war, An Giang was one of the few, well-populated provinces in South Vietnam to emerge unscathed from the Communists' Tet offensive. Throughout the lunar new year series of attacks, its four districts remained quiet and its capital at Long Xuyen, 100 miles southwest of Saigon, took not a single mortar round. The province nevertheless has its share of refugees, including 22,000 new ones from neighboring provinces left homeless by

Story And Photos

By

Vietnam Feature Service

offensive. But in An Giang, even refugees are turned into assets, for they are helping to provide the manpower to carry out development projects that will benefit the economy of the entire region.

Such a project is creation of the largest and the only fully mechanized stone quarry in the Delta. Under a U.S. \$2,700,000 contract let by the U.S. Navy, RMK-BRJ is building the Nui Sap quarry in Hue Duc district, which will turn it over to the Vietnamese to operate. The project is being carried out by the public works department by the end of the year. The contract specifies that refugees are to be employed on the project, and currently 150 refugees are being employed in all phases of quarrying as they help to carve a new site out of the face of Nui Sap Mountain.

The quarry's first barge-crushed rock goes down the Nui Sap Canal this June, and construction throughout the Delta will be in high gear. One project will use up tons of rock. Nui Sap is the repair of a 10-mile length of the region's main trade road, Route 4, to Saigon.

Refugees also will be employed according to present plans when the province's re-education program is completed this year. An Giang is a pioneer in this form of relief and rehabilitation. It has one of the oldest and most regulated refugee projects in the Delta, not because of warfare within its borders but because traditional peaceful conditions have attracted those seeking refuge. An Giang is the most pacified province in the

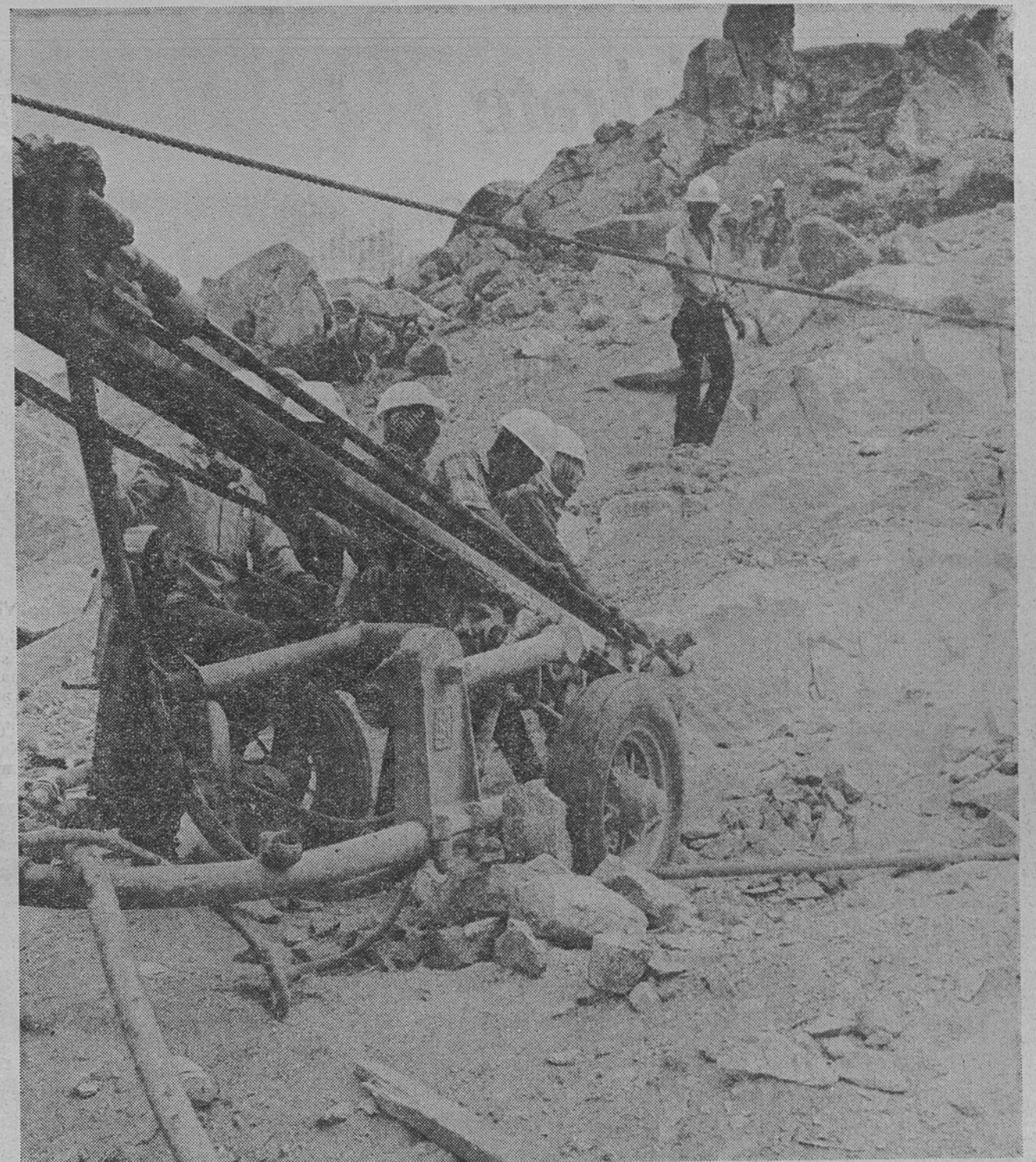
Delta. The Nui Sap quarry, R.E. Wright, RMK-BRJ's

project general superintendent, said the 150 refugees working on the site soon will be increased by another 50 as more land is bought for quarry expansion. When the quarry is in full operation and ready to be turned over to An Giang, it will be staffed by 125 workmen (80 of them refugees) and the weekly payroll will total 500,000 piasters. At present, in addition to the refugee work force, there are seven Americans of RMK-BRJ (Raymond Morrison Knudsen-Brown, Root & Jones) plus 73 non-refugee Vietnamese recruited in Saigon, Can Tho, Long Xuyen and elsewhere in the Delta.

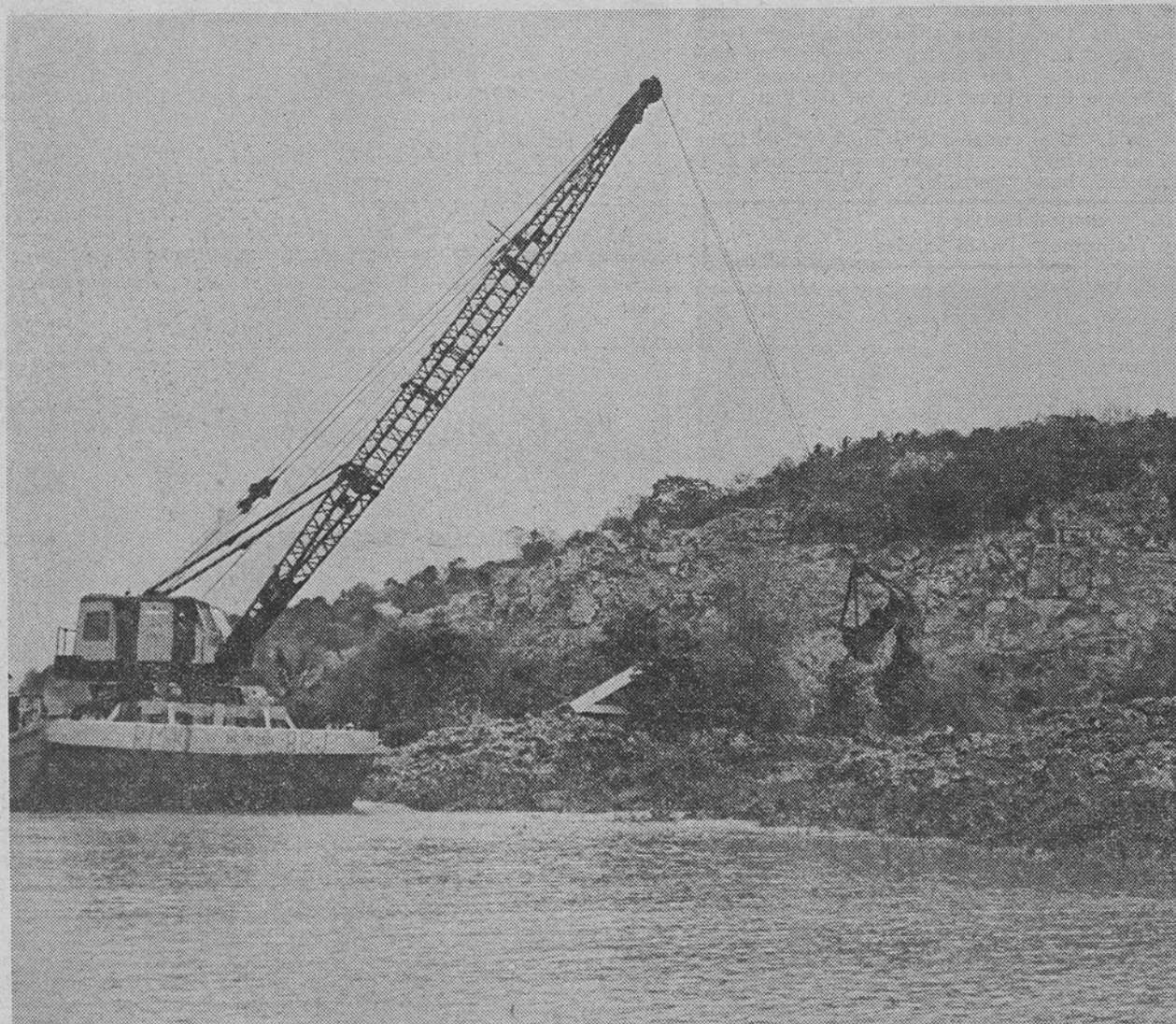
The quarry has been under construction since the end of November 1967, and already the refugees have proved their worth. Thirteen have been promoted to drillers, three to carpenters and one has been named foreman. Others are learning to operate some of the heavy equipment on the site, which includes such awesome machines as a one-and-three-quarter-yard dragline now excavating an access canal to the Nui Sap Canal, a one-and-a-quarter-yard shovel, three bulldozers, eight trucks, five compressors, six drills, six 150kw generators, a 200-ton-an-hour crusher, two payloaders, three welding machines, two jackhammers, three power units, 15 trailers, two radios and seven huge 300-ton barges. Most of the equipment came by barge from Saigon and Can Tho, but some was flown in to a 330-meter-long airstrip built by RMK-BRJ near the quarry.

"By the time we Americans pull out," says Wright, "the Vietnamese will be thoroughly capable of running this quarry on a full-production basis."

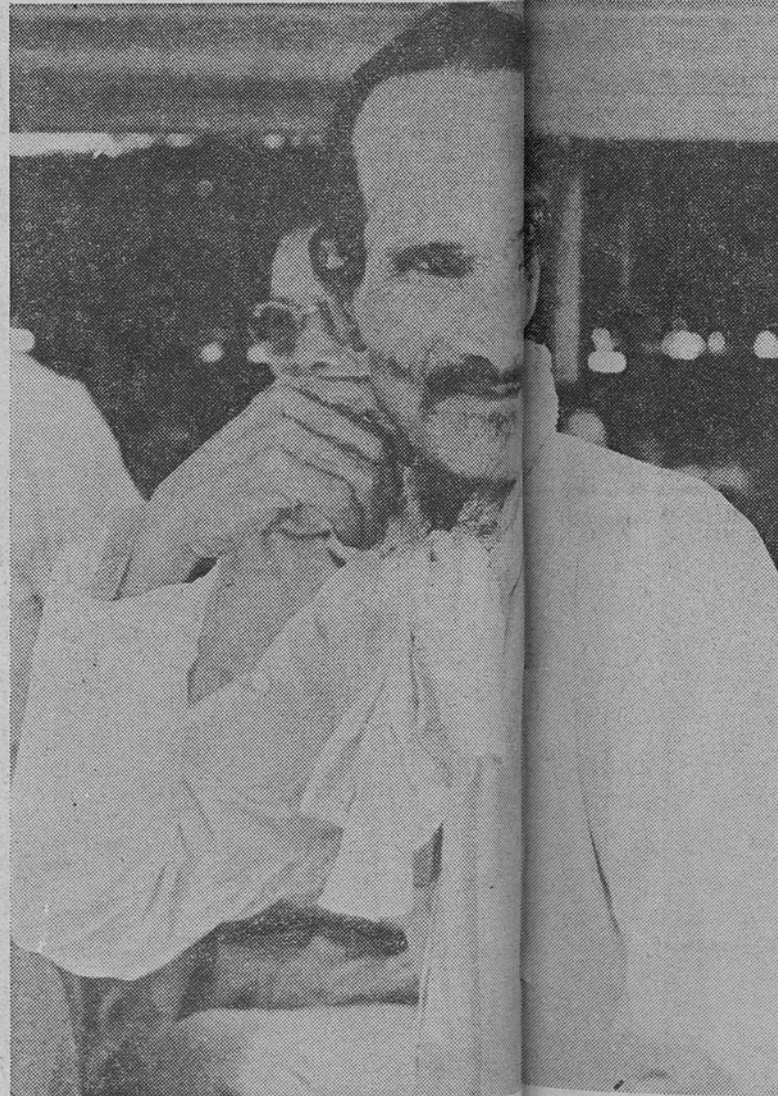
That basis would call for as much as 25,000 tons of crushed rock going down the canal every month.



Refugees from Nui Choc resettlement village operate a giant drill in preparation for blasting at Nui Sap quarry.



The Vietnamese operator of this dragline swings a bucket of mud to shore as a new canal takes shape.



Le Van Thinh was elected representative of refugees in Nui Choc.



Bulldozers, driven by Vietnamese drivers, level the site as a new stone quarry is carved out of Nui Sap Mountain, in An Giang's Hue Duc District.

Nurses Celebrate 60th Anniversary

DA NANG (USN) — Thirty nurses here celebrated the Navy Nurse Corps' 60th birthday last week in an area no other member of the Corps has ever been assigned—on shore duty in a combat zone.

The initial group of 20 nurses, all volunteers, arrived at the Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, Station Hospital in August 1967.

Ten nurses were dispatched to Da Nang in February to assist with the increased number of casualties at the outbreak of the Communist Tet offensive. More than 2,100 patients, more than twice the monthly average and most of them combat casualties, were admitted to the hospital during February.

Only minutes away by helicopter from some of the most fierce fighting in northern South Vietnam, the hospital receives battlefield casualties day and night. Along with doctors and hospital

corpsmen, the nurses work around-the-clock in three shifts to save lives.

The Nurse Corps was created by an act of Congress in 1908. From an original 20 nurses, referred to as the 'sacred twenty', the number of women in the Corps has increased to 2,300 commissioned officers currently on duty.

In the past, nurses have been stationed at naval medical facilities throughout the world, but never ashore in a combat zone. They have served aboard hospital ships in World War II, the Korean Conflict and now in Vietnam aboard the USS Repose and USS Sanctuary.

"There's a long waiting list of nurses who have volunteered for Vietnam," says Lieutenant Commander Nancy E. Sullivan, who had volunteered for duty at the hospital here a year before receiving orders.

Commander Mary F. Cannon



Bandaging a patient's leg while instructing Vietnamese nurses is Navy Nurse Nicora.

is the Senior Nurse Corps Officer at the Da Nang station hospital. Nine nurses work in the operating room, five are anesthetists and four are operating room management nurses and 20 women are charge nurses on various hospital wards.

"I planned on joining some

branch of the service when I was in nursing school," said Lieutenant Commander Shirley Thomas, as she moved across the intensive care unit ward to check a patient. "One reason I decided on the Navy was that my brother is making it a career."

The intensive care unit receives seriously wounded patients, usually immediately after surgery. The nurses, assisting the doctors and assisted by the corpsmen, used their special skills to provide constant medical attention.

"Sometimes it seems like there aren't enough hours in the day," said Lieutenant Commander Adeline Nicora, assistant Nurse Corps Officer, "but the cooperation is outstanding and the work always gets done."

"In many ways we're like a battlefield hospital," said Commander Cannon. "We get Medevac (Medical Evacuation) casualties directly from the field. Yet we have all the facilities that a stateside hospital has."

A helicopter landing pad is located in front of the hospital. As the chopper sets down, corpsmen grab stretchers and rush to the casualties. After the patient is brought into the receiving room, the staff takes over from there.

The women have brought a refreshing, feminine touch to the station hospital. Instead of wearing fatigues, normally worn by nurses of other branches of the service in a combat zone, the Navy nurses wear their white uniforms.

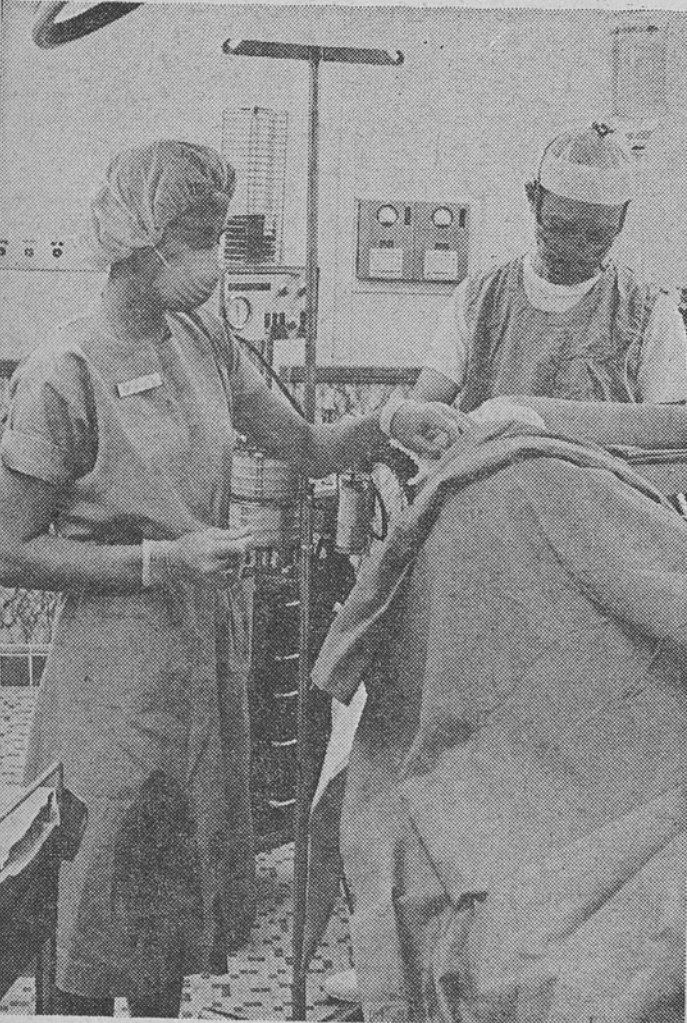
"One reason we wear dresses," explained Commander Cannon, "is that it makes the fellows feel more at home."

Story By JO3 Ed Leatherwood

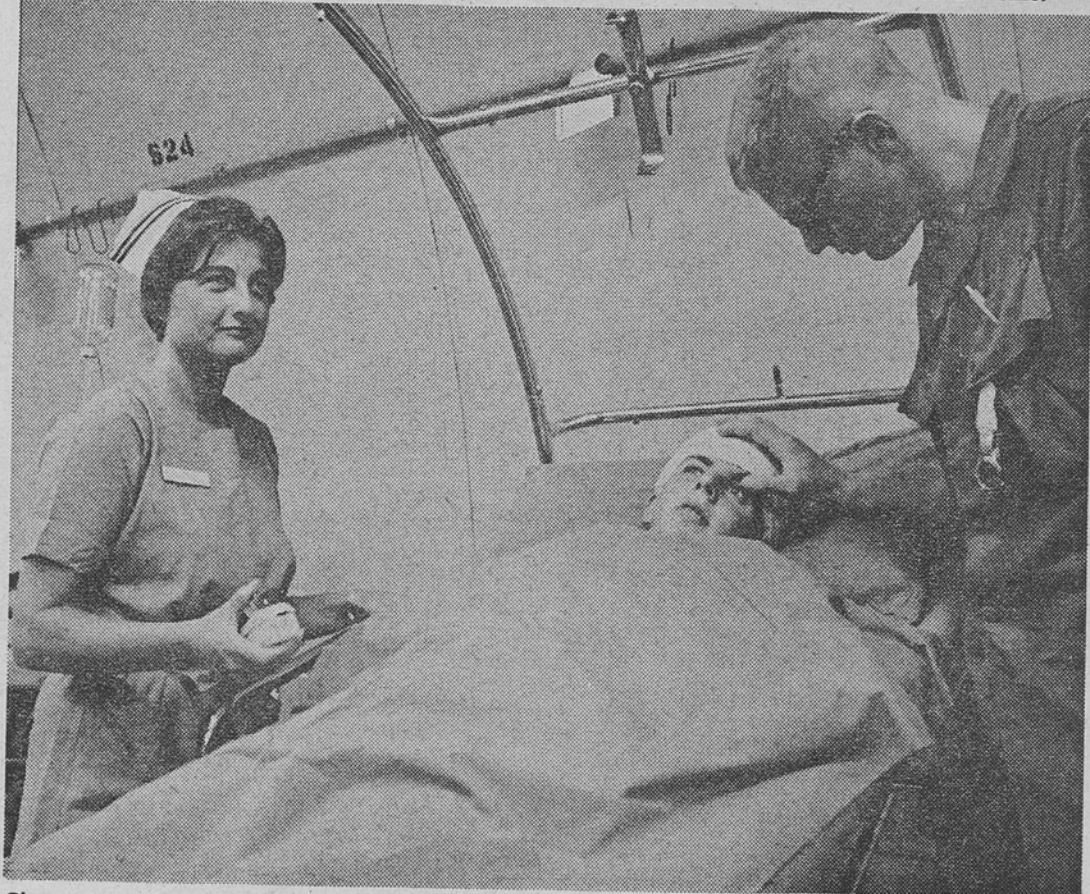
Photos By PH3 D. H. Weber



Corpsmen rush a wounded soldier from a Medevac helicopter to the station hospital's receiving room to awaiting Navy Nurses.



Navy nurses administer anesthesia to patient prior to operation.



Charge nurses, like Lieutenant Ruth Printon, work closely with corpsmen to tend patients.

Air Force Airdrops Supplies To Army

SAIGON (USAF) — Using a new air drop system for the first time, Air Force C-130 Hercules crews recently dropped 132 tons of construction material at Thanh Tri in the Mekong Delta. The material was used to build an entire Army Special Forces camp.

The new system, called the 1528 Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System (LAPES), is an improvement over the old LAPES system. With the 1528 LAPES, aircrews are able to drop 36,000 pounds of material on one pass over the drop zone—twice the capability of the previous system.

Three parachutes extract the load from the rear exit of the aircraft, from 15 feet above ground, and slow the cargo platforms to a skidding halt.

At the campsite, C-130 crews were able to place the loads almost at the exact location where the material was to be

used.

Two weeks after the initial drop, airlift crews used the new system again to supply a Special Forces camp at Cai Cai. C-130 crews dropped steel planking used to construct a raised helicopter pad.

According to Brigadier General Burl W. McLaughlin, commander of the 834th Air Division which coordinates all Vietnam airlift, the planking had to be delivered and the helipad constructed immediately. During the coming monsoon season, the camp's small airstrip will be flooded, forcing the use of helicopters to bring in supplies.

Army Lieutenant Colonel Ludwig Faistenhammer Jr., commander of Company D, 5th Special Forces Group, told the airlift division that the LAPES airdrop into Thanh Tri put the materials on location "in record time, which is essential in the opening of a new camp."

Inf. Unit Dedicates Highland Village

VUNG DAT AM (USA)—They were all there—the 4th Division commander, a division chaplain, the 2nd Brigade commander—and hundreds of Montagnard children.

The occasion was the dedication of Plei Chi Heh, a consolidated Montagnard village, and the opening of the village school.

Located a short distance from Camp Enari, Plei Chi Teh is the new home of thousands of Montagnards, who have been driven from their villages by the Viet Cong. Residents from eight hamlets now live in the newly formed settlement.

The project, under the leadership of Major Richard Mow and his 2nd Brigade civil affairs team, was officially turned over to the villagers in a ceremony, presided over by Major General Charles P. Stone, division commander.

Speaking through an interpreter, General Stone offered the villagers his congratulations and

best wishes. He offered special praise to the 62 Montagnard men who will maintain the village security and stated his pleasure at seeing the children beginning their education.

Along with "three Rs", the Montagnard instructors will offer lessons in the Vietnamese language.

After a short ceremony in which the Vietnamese flag was raised over the village, General Stone officially opened the school.

In turn, a Montagnard gong band entertained the visitors.

The festivities lasted long after the other guests left, but finally the party ended and the villagers returned to their huts. The children prepared themselves for their first day of school, and the adults settled down to the more serious business of accepting their new responsibilities as citizens of Plei Chi Ten.

U.S.-Vietnamese Medics Treat Refugees in Citadel

DA NANG (USAF)—Volunteer Air Force doctors, nurses and corpsmen are joined by a Vietnamese medical staff when they make weekly MEDCAP trips to Hue.

Personnel from the 366th Dispensary staff and the Vietnamese 41st Wing comprise the medical teams who treat injuries and illnesses, pass out vitamins and extract diseased teeth.

They fly to Hue Citadel airport in Vietnamese Air Force CH-34 Choctaw helicopters.

Upon their arrival, the teams and their equipment are transported to refugee camps in trucks provided by the ARVN 11th Light Transportation Company.

At the camps, team members set up a dental area, an inoculation center, an examination area and a portable pharmacy.

Several officers and enlisted members of the 41st Wing act as translators for the American teams.

During one recent MEDCAP to the ancient city, 1,720 persons

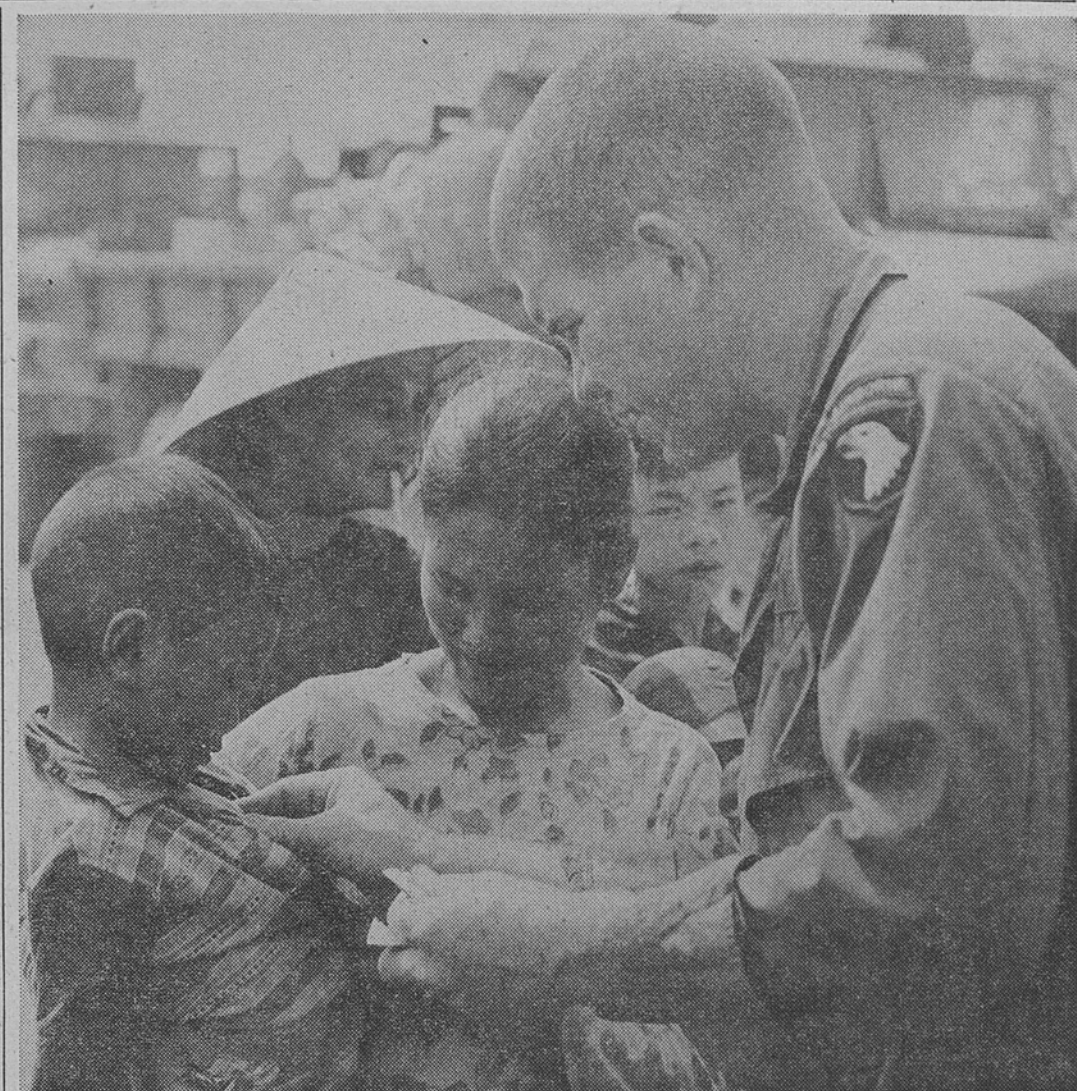
received immunizations against cholera, typhoid and bubonic plague. On the same visit, a dentist and his assistant treated 85 patients, and an Air Force physician treated more than 300 patients with ailments ranging from infections to the common cold.

GI Rewrites NVA's Letter

QUANG TRI (USA) — "We have the area pacified and there are no GIs for miles around," wrote a North Vietnamese soldier seconds before being killed by a 1st Air Cavalryman in a brief exchange of fire.

The incident took place recently about five miles west of here, when Specialist 4 Nelson Brown and two other cavalrymen surprised the enemy soldier as he penned a letter home.

They began trailing the NVA when they noticed his barefoot prints in the mud along the



HUE MEDCAP OPERATION—Captain Charles Herron, a member of the 101st Airborne Division's 326th Medical Battalion (Abn.) examines villagers near Hue during recent medical civil affairs operations. Meanwhile, other paratroopers of the division flush out North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong troops from villages in the area.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Paul Higgs)

3,000 Gallons A Minute

Marines Irrigate Paddies

DA NANG (USMC) — Marines of the 3rd Military Police Battalion Force Logistic Command have helped bring water to the rice paddies of Thach Nham hamlet after one of the driest growing seasons on record.

The Marines helped install two pumps to draw water from the Tuy Loan River to irrigate the fields as a preventive measure against future crop failure.

In the past, the villagers depended on rainfall alone for irrigation. With the rainfall light, the crops suffered.

Now, with each pump furnishing 2,500-3,000 gallons of water per minute to the hamlet's two square miles of rice paddies, their irrigation problems are greatly reduced.

The people own their own land, but the pumps were a hamlet project with each family contributing to the initial cost and upkeep.

"Without the pumps the peo-

ple wouldn't have a second crop," explained 1st Lieutenant Charles Melton, 3rd Military Police civil affairs officer. "Because of the lack of rain during the winter, they had no natural source of water, except the river, and no efficient means of getting water from the river to their paddies."

Most of the work was completed by the villagers themselves with the Marines furnishing advice and assistance when

needed. The biggest problem encountered was starting one of the pump engines. After a careful inspection by an MP mechanic, it was learned that the engine had to be completely rebuilt.

The MPs took the engine to Da Nang for an overhaul by a Vietnamese repairman.

Meanwhile, the villagers dug several miles of irrigation ditches, built sluices and later installed the pumps.

Model Chieu Hoi Camp Gets Navy's Support

DA NANG (USN)—Trai Lam Son, a camp for former Viet Cong and their families near Da Nang, is fast becoming a model for other such camps throughout Vietnam.

With the assistance of two Navy men from the Civic Action Section of the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang, the former enemy soldiers have built themselves one new dwelling for ten families and remodeled two older units.

All of the men in the camp returned to the South Vietnamese government under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program and will live in the camp permanently.

"Each of the apartments in the unit has a shower and sink," said Damage Controlman Third Class Allen Collins. He and his teammate, Machinist's Mate Second Class George Sack, will help install running water in the near future.

There are 26 families in Trai Lam Son according to Collins. The building project has been

underway since December. Petty Officers Collins and Sack provide guidance and material as well as a helping hand to the former Viet Cong.

Petty Officer Collins' praise for the Hoi Chanh is high. "These people really work hard and they're always willing to help each other," he said.

Presently, work is being done on the second housing unit for the camp. Besides this, the men of the camp plan to build a classroom, storage rooms and a dispensary which will be staffed by a Vietnamese Army medic.

Petty Officers Collins and Sack have completed other, smaller projects by themselves in their spare time. "We built swing sets and teeter-totters for the children here," said Collins. They are in almost constant use. "We had an ARVN colonel come here along with another government official from Saigon," said Collins, "and they were very impressed. They said that it was the best camp of this type they've ever seen."



HERE'S TO YOU—This autographed photo of Nancy Harwood is just to let you know she cares about you. (PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)

Advisors Primed In New School

LONG BINH (II FFV)—Mobile Advisory Teams (MATs) have increased their overall effectiveness immeasurably since the establishment of a 16-day training school in Di An, Bien Hoa Province, according to the school's director, Lieutenant Colonel Edwin R. O'Brien. The MATs school trains approximately 200 U.S. advisors in each cycle. Emphasis is placed on the Vietnamese language, tactics, weapons and culture.

Colonel O'Brien says, when the training begins, the men feel the language will be the most difficult subject to learn. "Almost to a man they feel it will be impossible to learn," he stated. "As they graduate, however, most are amazed at how much they actually have learned."

The colonel stated the primary difficulty comes in learning the various tonal patterns used by the Vietnamese.

"One word may have four or five different meanings, depending solely on how it is pronounced. For example, the word

"ban" may mean table, shoot, friend or sell," he said.

The course, because of time demands, concentrates primarily on a working knowledge of the basics. Included are items necessary for "survival" such as military language, and methods of calling in artillery and air strikes.

A study of weapons includes those that may be used by the Regional and Popular Forces at their various outposts: the M-1 rifle, M-16 rifle, carbines, Brownie Automatic Rifle, .30 caliber machine guns, 60mm mortars and the M-79-grenade launcher.

"Tactics include both the study of small unit tactics and operations unique to RF/PF Forces and tactics used by Viet Cong against RF/PF outposts," the MATs school director explained. "Methods of communication in artillery fire and air support are also included."

After completing the course, graduates form five-man advisory teams, composed of a team leader, heavy weapons specialist, light weapons specialist,

medic and radio-telephone operator. The teams are temporarily stationed at Regional and Popular Force outposts. They then live, work with and advise the RF/PFs for a minimum of four months.

Captain Clarence Holmes, team leader at the 165th Regional Force Company in Tay Ninh City, said his team was received with a great deal of enthusiasm by the RF commander, First Lieutenant Do Van Tha.

Within three days of their

arrival at Tay Ninh City, the advisors and regional forces began constructing new bunkers.

"We are working systematically, tearing down one bunker at a time. We'll use new sandbags, lumber and PSP (pierced steel planking) to fortify the bunkers and increase our defensive effectiveness," Captain Holmes said.

"From here we'll build storage areas, improve sanitation facilities and conduct regular patrols outside the outpost.

Medical Unit Treats 220

PHU CAT (USAF)—Personnel of the 37th Air Force Dispensary here recently held a medical civic action program in An Nhon. It was part of a continuing program to upgrade available medical and dental treatment there and in two neighboring districts — Phu My and Phu Cat.

Like most MEDCAPs, the visit to An Nhon was made by

off-duty dispensary personnel on a purely voluntary basis.

During the visit, patients who were discovered to have complications beyond those normally treated in the field, were sent back to the dispensary at Phu Cat for treatment.

Unit records indicated that 199 patients received medical treatment and 21 patients were treated for dental problems.

Enemy's Weapons Located

KHE SANH (USA)—Men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, recently discovered a huge cache of enemy ammunition hidden in a tunnel and cave complex near here.

The stashed North Vietnamese Army ordnance consisted of various sizes of small arms, mortar and recoilless rifle rounds, plus rockets and hand grenades. The inventory: 1,943 rounds of 82mm, 8,000 rounds of 81mm, 3,800 rounds of 60mm and 300 rounds of 4.2-inch mortar ammo; 2,553 40mm rockets; 40 120mm rockets; 50 rounds of 106mm and 1,000 rounds of 57mm recoilless rifle ammo; 80,000 rounds of .30 caliber ammo; 20,000 rounds of carbine and 75,000 rounds of AK-47 ammo; and 6,000 Chi Com hand grenades.

Company D's 1st Platoon uncovered the underground storage place.

Platoon leader Lieutenant George W. Davey described the bunker as being about seven by 10 feet and connected to the outside by an eight-foot tunnel. It had been dug into the side of a hill and was provided with several air shafts. Caches of rice and dried potatoes were also found nearby.

AF Adopts Orphans

CAM RANH BAY (USAF)—The effects of war are reflected in the eyes of the children who have been left without homes or parents. They are old beyond their years, and very often quite cynical. These children can be found roaming the streets of most cities and towns in Vietnam, living on what they can beg, borrow or steal.

Even those who are fortunate enough to find a haven in one of the many orphanages which dot the cities and villages of this country, look out at their surroundings through sad and, often times hard eyes.

The youngsters at the Love of the Cross Orphanage in the village of Dong Bin are no exception. But at regular intervals, those young-old eyes light up with happiness, and for a short time the youngsters look and act like children the world over.

What causes this transformation? A group of Air Force men from the 458th Tactical Airlift Squadron, 483rd Tactical Airlift Wing, Cam Ranh Bay air base.

These men visit the orphanage regularly bringing food, clothing, limited medical aid and most important of all, love.

Medical care for the 99 children at the orphanage, run by the Sisters of Notre Dame, is provided by a medical civic action team from the 12th USAF Hospital, but Captain Warren L. Williamson keeps tabs on the children and takes care of any urgent cases when he visits the youngsters.

Major George C. Finck, 458th TAS civic action officer, works closely with the Catholic chaplains at Cam Ranh Bay air base to take care of the orphanage.

How do the youngsters feel about being "adopted" by the men of the 458th TAS? Their squeals of happiness when the flyers visit the orphanage are ample proof of their feelings.

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
Guide For Week of May 22-28, 1968
(Saigon Area)

Wednesday May 22

1730 Armed Forces Day Special
1830 News Headlines
Lost In Space
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Legal
2005 Law Day Special—Melvin Bell
2030 The Monkees
2100 Carol Burnett
2200 Sports
Halftime Headlines
2300 News Headlines

Thursday May 23

1730 Armed Forces Day Special
1830 News Headlines
Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Free World
Information Feature
2005 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Update News
2305 Jerry Lewis

Friday May 24

1730 Armed Forces Day Special
1830 News Headlines
Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight
2005 Big Picture
2030 Bewitched
2100 The Lucy Show
2130 Get Smart
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Saturday May 25

1230 News Headlines
Sports
1500 Pro Bowler's Tour
1600 Flying Fisherman
1630 American Sportsman
1730 I Remember Illinois
1830 Lawrence Welk

2000 Channel 11 Billboard
A Quest For Certainty
2030 Johnny Midnight
2200 Gunsmoke
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

Sunday May 26

1230 News Headlines
The Christophers
Sacred Heart
1300 Prince Of Peace
1330 Sports
1530 Feature Movie
1645 Pot Boone Special
1730 Can You Hear Me
1800 G.E. College Bowl
1830 Danny Thomas Hour
1930 News-Sports-Business
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Window of Vietnam
2005 Bell Telephone Hour
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Update News
2305 Dean Martin

Monday May 27

1830 News Headlines
Daniel Boone
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Mars
2005 In Town Tonight
2030 My Three Sons
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Tuesday May 28

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—R&R
2005 Biography
2030 Green Acres
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Combat
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz





GRENADE—A 101st Airborne paratrooper fires his M-79 grenade launcher at an NVA bunker during Operation Carentan II.

(USA PHOTO)

Earthen Floors Vanish

Orphans Move Into Mobile Homes

LONG BINH (USA) — Ten days ago Bethany Orphanage was typical of the numerous war necessitated Vietnamese refugees for homeless children.

Administered by 20 Roman Catholic nuns, the orphanage was composed of a handful of frame buildings housing more than 100 children. Its biggest feature was earthen-floored bedrooms with built-in sandbag bunkers.

The picture today has not completely changed, but now the children orphaned by war have six American house trailers in which to sleep, a gift from Long Binh Post Headquarters.

The man responsible for the civic assistance project is Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Jenkinson, deputy post commander, who four months ago began making periodic visits to the orphanage located outside the village of Hoa Ni, about seven miles east of here.

During those months of unofficial visits to the orphanage,

one of his official duties was planning the utilization of many used house trailers shipped to Long Binh from other Army posts in Vietnam and the United States.

The house trailers were ticketed for use as billets on Long Binh Post. Almost all are now serving in that capacity. But six had been severely damaged in transit and were no longer militarily serviceable.

Colonel Jenkinson's offer of a gift of six trailers was quickly accepted by Sister Suzana, director of the Convent of Nazaret-operated orphanage.

Before the trailers were conveyed to the orphanage, they were stripped of all parts that could be used in future repairs to the serviceable trailers.

The Civic Affairs office of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, in whose area of operations the orphanage is located, will undertake providing foundations for the trailers and patching the shells for use as dormitories.

Soldiers assigned to the post

headquarters used wreckers and a forklift to tow the trailers on the slow, painstaking journey over narrow Vietnamese roads to the orphanage.

Four trailers were taken in the first day's convoy, with two more taken the following day. The post provost marshal's of-

fice provided Military Police escort.

An added bonus to the project, according to Colonel Jenkinson, is the freeing of building materials originally marked for donation to the orphanage. These materials can now be used for other civic action projects.

Vietnamese Youth Receives Reward For Discovering Enemy Booby Trap

TAN AN (USA) — A 14-year-old Vietnamese boy possibly saved some Allied lives and earned a reward of 400 piasters recently when he discovered a Viet Cong booby trap.

The youngster had ridden up to this 9th Infantry Division base camp, 22 miles southwest of Saigon, and talked excitedly to Corporal Marvin Stout. After accompanying the boy to a nearby lagoon, Corporal Stout quickly returned to summon men from the 9th Military Intelligence De-

tachment.

The boy had found a sandbag filled with 15 grenades. The pins were wired together in a continuous loop. A block of plastic explosive, rigged with a blasting cap and trip wire device, was set for triggering by an unsuspecting soldier.

Intelligence experts estimated the booby trap would have had

a casualty range extending almost 100 meters had it been triggered.

It was the third time in six weeks that children had turned in similar devices to the 3rd Brigade. Rewards are given in such cases through the Voluntary Informant Program.

Big Weapons Cache Found

FIRE BASE MOORE (USA) — A squad leader from the 2d Battalion, 39th Infantry, recently stumbled onto a well-concealed Viet Cong bunker complex near here and uncovered a large weapons cache.

Company C was on a 3,000-yard sweep one mile from this 9th Infantry Division fire base, 15 miles northwest of My Tho in the Mekong Delta. The second platoon was sweeping near a canal when Sergeant Edwin P. Williams tripped over a piece of cement.

"I looked down and noticed

what appeared to be a specially constructed slab," said Sergeant Williams. "I took out my rifle cleaning rod and started probing until I felt something hard. Then I hit the jackpot — a bunker full of rifles, ammunition and mines."

The bunker contained 148 Bangalore torpedoes, a 60mm mortar and 90 rounds of ammunition; eighty-four 60mm mortar fuses; twenty-eight 25-pound mines; one rocket launcher; 27 B-40 rockets; one-hundred-sixty-eight 82mm mortar rounds; 161 ignition cartridges for 82mm

mortars; 24 AK-50 rifles; 38 automatic rifles; eight AK-47 rifles; one machine gun; 36 AK-50 magazines; 21 bandoliers and 69 Chi Com grenades.

There were also 139 cases of AK-50 and AK-47 ammunition; 6,000 rounds of 12.7 ammunition; 315 blasting caps; 100 yards of detonation cord; 200 yards of electrical wiring and two cases of spare parts for weapons.

Other company elements conducted a thorough search of the area and found 17 cement bunkers, each eight feet deep and five feet square.

Helo Pilot Saves 9

QUANG TRI (USMC) — A Marine helicopter pilot recently made a daring rescue of an encircled nine-man reconnaissance team by hovering his aircraft and using the chopper's hoist to snatch the small unit from the enemy's grasp.

Captain Ronald L. Gatewood, a pilot with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262 (MM-262), based at Quang Tri, braved intense enemy fire as his crew worked frantically to pick up the Marine recon team, three of whom had been seriously wounded.

The team, which had been operating several miles north of Camp Carroll, asked to be lifted out after they had become pinned down by enemy grenades and automatic weapons fire. Captain Gatewood's CH-46 Sea Knight, accompanied by two Huey gunships of Marine Observation Squadron-6 (VMO-6), responded to the radio call.

Upon arrival over the zone it was discovered that the ground Marines were pinned down on a ridge. Any aircraft attempting a rescue would come under heavy enemy fire from two sides and from many adjoining hills.

The team below was unable to move toward a more suitable location because of their wounded.

With darkness approaching and the reconnaissance team's position becoming increasingly more dangerous, Captain Gatewood decided to attempt a hoist pickup. Meanwhile, another Huey gunship joined the pair on station and the three began blasting away to cover the pick-up.

The HMM-262 pilot brought his large chopper down to tree-top level and hovered as the nine Marines were hoisted out.

During the entire time he received fire from several directions but remained calm enough to direct the gunships for attacks on the enemy positions from which he was receiving fire.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

(12 cents 1st class)
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 56

Saigon, Vietnam

May 29, 1967



HIT 'EM HARD—A flight formation of U.S. Air Force, F-4 Phantom jets streaks home after a mission against the enemy. (USAF PHOTO)

Nha Trang Air Base

U.S. Airmen Rescue Viet Pilot

NHA TRANG (USAF)—Three Air Force men at Nha Trang Air Base were recently credited with helping save the life of a Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) student pilot who crashed in a training plane during an attempted takeoff for his first solo flight.

Here is how it happened:

Sunday morning was just beginning, and the men on the flightline were preparing their planes for the morning's missions.

In the 9th Air Commando Squadron aircraft parking area, Sergeant Donald O. Gibbons was engrossed in preparing one of the squadron's C-47 Skytrain psychological warfare planes for takeoff. A few hundred feet away, Airmen First Class Peter J. Dick and Hector J. Thibodeaux Jr. were working on the engines of a 4th Air Commando Squadron AC-47 Dragonship.

Hearing the roar of an aircraft engine coming down the runway, Sergeant Gibbons looked up

and saw a Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) U-17 taking off. Suddenly, as he watched, the VNAF plane veered to the left, wobbled into the air, and headed for a hangar directly behind him.

He spun around as the plane passed overhead and watched it bank sharply to the left in a desperate attempt to avoid the hangar. At the last moment, when it appeared as if the Viet-

namese student pilot at the controls would be able to right his aircraft, the left wingtip struck a revetment and the plane plunged to the ground.

Hearing the sound of the crash, Airmen Dick and Thibodeaux dropped their tools and sprinted toward the plane, stopping to grab a fire extinguisher on the way. Behind them, Ser-

(Continued on Back Page)

MP Unit
Decorated
For Valor

SAIGON (USA) — Saigon's 716th Military Police Battalion and 28 of its men were presented Vietnamese awards for gallantry during a formal ceremony held recently in the Vietnamese Joint General Staff compound at Tan Son Nhut.

While a colorful honor guard composed of members of the Vietnamese Army, Navy and Marines, plus representatives from all five companies of the 716th stood at rigid attention, General Cao Van Vien, chief of the Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, accompanied by General William C. Westmoreland, reviewed the men.

Later, General Vien pinned the Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry with Palm to the battalion's colors and presented battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Gordon D. Rowe with the same award.

Twenty-seven other members of the battalion also received the Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry.

The citation for the battalion read in part, "The 716th MP Battalion, under the command of Colonel Rowe, is a distinguished unit which has always demonstrated a remarkable spirit of public service to the cause of peace and liberty."

"The battalion has closely worked with the Vietnamese Military Police units in the maintaining of security, traffic control and protection of allied installations in the Saigon area against possible Viet Cong subversion and sabotage."

"During the Viet Cong general offensive against the capital during the recent TET Holidays, the battalion reacted swiftly and, in conjunction with friendly forces, put up stiff resistance to the VC pressure, blocking all enemy attempts at infiltrating facilities under its protection. They fought valiant-

(Continued on Back Page)

Large Rice Cache Earns
Returnee 4,000 Piasters

CHU LAI (USA) — A middle-aged ex-Viet Cong discovered it pays to give up VC ways recently when he was presented 4,000 piasters for leading an Americal Division element to a cache containing 14,000 pounds of enemy rice.

"We were conducting a search and clear mission when the farmer came up to me and said he wanted to give up and come over to the side of the

government," said Captain Purless Merrell, company commander of C Company, 195th Infantry Brigade.

"He then told me that he knew where the enemy had stored polished rice and that he would take us to that location," the captain said. The Hoi Chanh then led the company high in the mountain jungles above Antenna Valley northwest of Tam Ky. The rice was stored in a crude wooden hutch, enclosed on all sides and covered with a thatched roof.

The company members bagged the rice and prepared it for shipment to local refugee centers.

The Hoi Chanh was presented 2,000 piasters from the Government of Vietnam (GVN) and another 2,000 piasters from a representative of the U.S. government.

Also as part of the Chieu Hoi Program, the former enemy and his family have been given a new home at the resettlement center for his cooperation with the GVN.

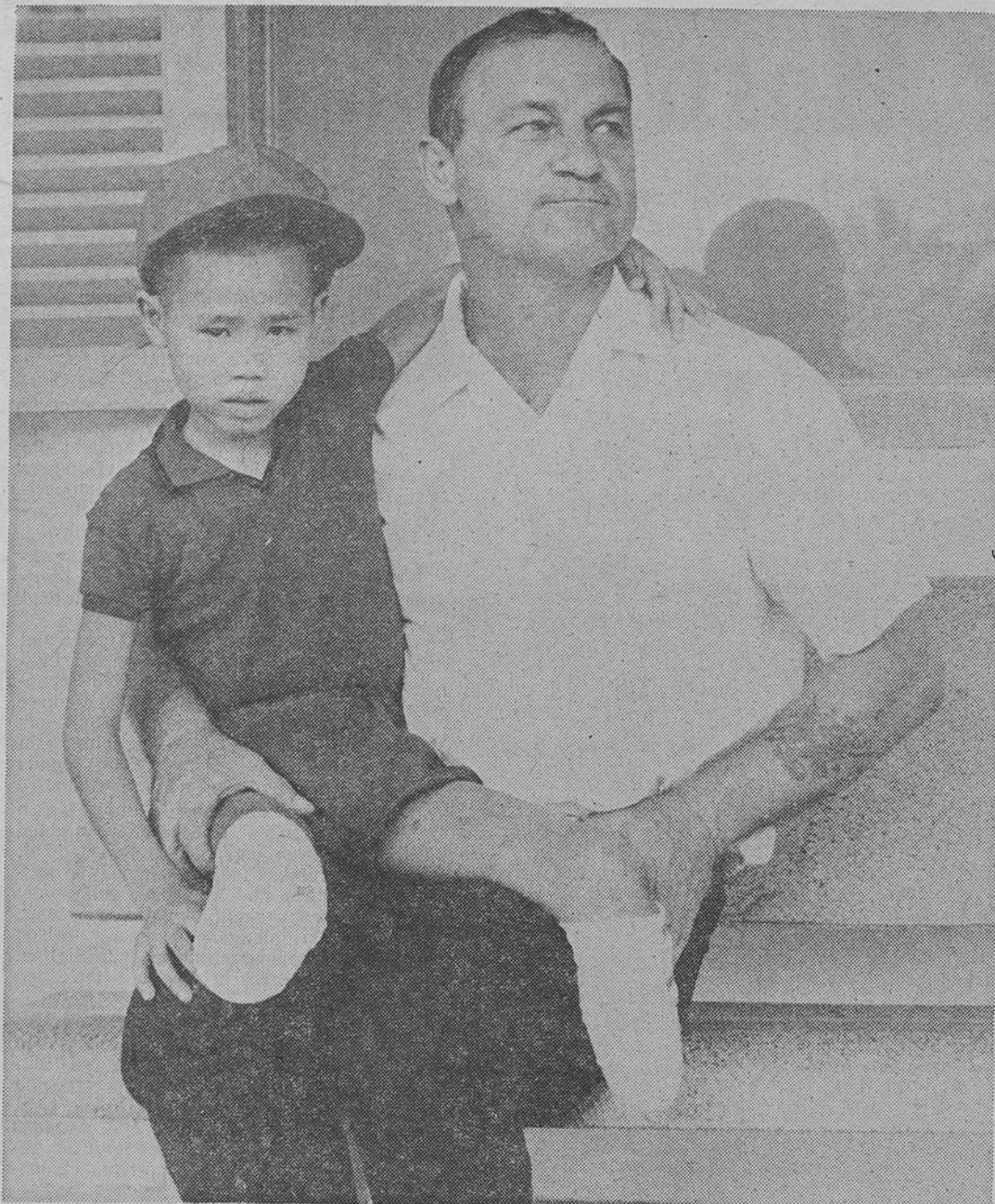
Leathernecks
Win Award?

WASHINGTON (USMC)—The Marines of "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, won their battalion's Golden Sandbag Award. The leathernecks filled and stacked more than 200,000 sandbags in less than a week. As a reward, the company was relieved of the sandbag job and assigned to field operations.



OUCH!!!—Sp5 Fred L. Havens, a medic with the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Battalion (Abn.), 327th Infantry treats a wound on the back of an elderly villager. The medical assistance took place north of Phu Bai. The Airborne troopers were participating in Operation Carentan II. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Ben Croxton)

"His AK-47 was laying off the side. He didn't have time to get a shot off and we never even saw him," said Shipley. "It was weird how we missed VC carrying a carbine and got one carrying an AK-47 instead. Our aim which we thought was a bit off," mused Shipley, "wasn't so bad after all."



CLAYMORE TAKES TOLL—Like many Vietnamese civilians, 11-year-old Troung Van Cao is a victim of Communist terror. Troung's benefactor and friend is retired Navyman Phil Ambrose, who arranged for him to obtain artificial legs through the Vietnamese government... "legs" he has learned to use since this picture was taken. Mr. Ambrose, a PA&E employee, has helped many war victims. (MACV PHOTO By PFC Dennis Nye)

Crippled Ship Gets Support

SAIGON (USN) — A U.S. merchant ship was hit by enemy rocket and automatic weapons fire recently, while transiting the Long Tau Shipping Channel 31 miles southeast of Saigon. U.S. Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) provided support for the ship until U.S. Army and Air Force air strikes could be called in.

The 469-foot SS Fairland, under contract to the Military Sea Transportation Service, was the second U.S. merchant ship hit in two consecutive days in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The other ship was the tanker Hyria Shell, which was shelled in the shipping channel, 16 miles southeast of Saigon.

Reports said the Fairland was hit on the left side by at least four rockets. Damage was reported to be very light.

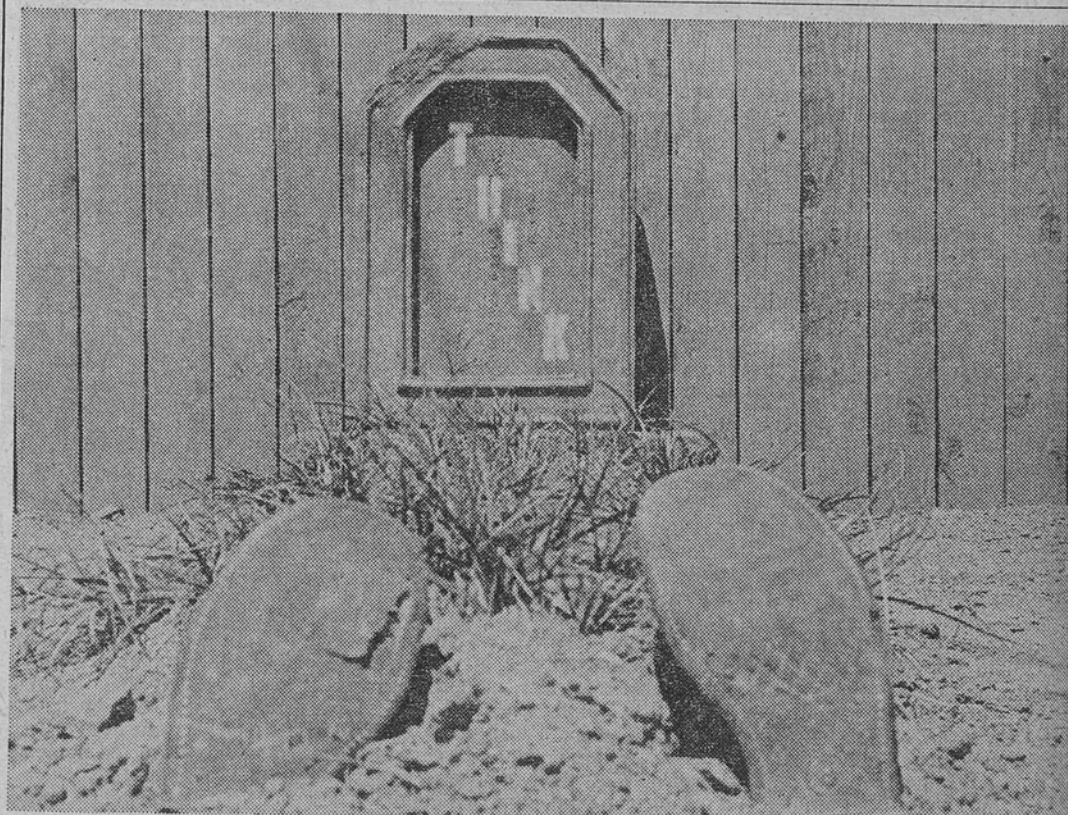
Nha Be-based PBRs reported the attack and U.S. Army and Air Force aircraft were called in for air strikes.

The Seventh Fleet destroyer USS Herbert J. Thomas (DD-833) provided gunfire support, blocking withdrawal of the enemy, while two platoons of Regional Force troops were inserted to sweep the area.

In the attack on the Hyria Shell, Navy PBRs took the ambush area under fire, suppressing the enemy fire. The PBRs received automatic weapons fire from the opposite bank of

the river, which also was suppressed.

Enemy casualties in both incidents are unknown.



THESE BOOTS WON'T DO NO WALKING—Men of Company C, 26th Engineers, are constantly reminded to "Think" before they act. This "grave" with boots is one way the unit puts across to its men what could happen to those who "go into action before putting brain into gear." Company C is attached to the Americal Division's 11th Infantry Brigade and operates in the Duc Pho area. (USA PHOTO By PFC Robert Short)

Spring Tapped Water For Crops

DA NANG (USMC) — A 21-year-old Marine has living proof of his success in working with the Vietnamese people in the Combined Action Program.

Corporal Robert Raiola, assistant squad leader of CAP (Combined Action Platoon) 1-2-2 near Tam Ky, is building a reservoir for the village of Ly Tra. But that isn't the living proof.

A week-old boy in the village has been named Bob in his honor.

The success of the CAP's civic action programs is underscored by the fact that it has been in operation less than three months.

Corporal Raiola's reservoir began when he discovered a natural spring just outside the CAP compound. It feeds into the nearby rice paddies. Since water is a high priority item in the sandy-soil area he decided to build a reservoir rather than let it seep away unused.

He contacted SeaBee friends and the bulldozing tasks began.

The corporal's military specialty is demolitions so he put his skill to work by blasting part of the reservoir.

Next he and the villagers began digging the dam.

He said the reservoir will help the villagers irrigate and plant their crops better.

Like other combined action squads Corporal Raiola's unit is integrated into a 35-man Vietnamese Popular Force unit to form the CAP. Their mission is to provide security for the village in which they live.

Each CAP squad is made up of 13 Marines and 1 Navy hospital corpsman.

They carry out civic action programs by day and patrol and man outposts at night to protect the village.

The corporal, like all Americans in the program is a volunteer. According to III MAF headquarters, some 60 per cent of CAP personnel have extended their tours in Vietnam from six months to a year.

'Say...After Me' English For Kids

CHU LAI (USA) — "Say this after me. Today is Monday—Today is Monday."

This is not repetition from a broken record, but the typical sounds heard in the small brick school house at An Drung, as a member of the civil affairs office from Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade, teaches a group of Vietnamese children to speak English.

Private First Class Ronald Porto spends three hours a week with more than 50 children ranging in ages seven to nine, who are interested in learning the "new" language.

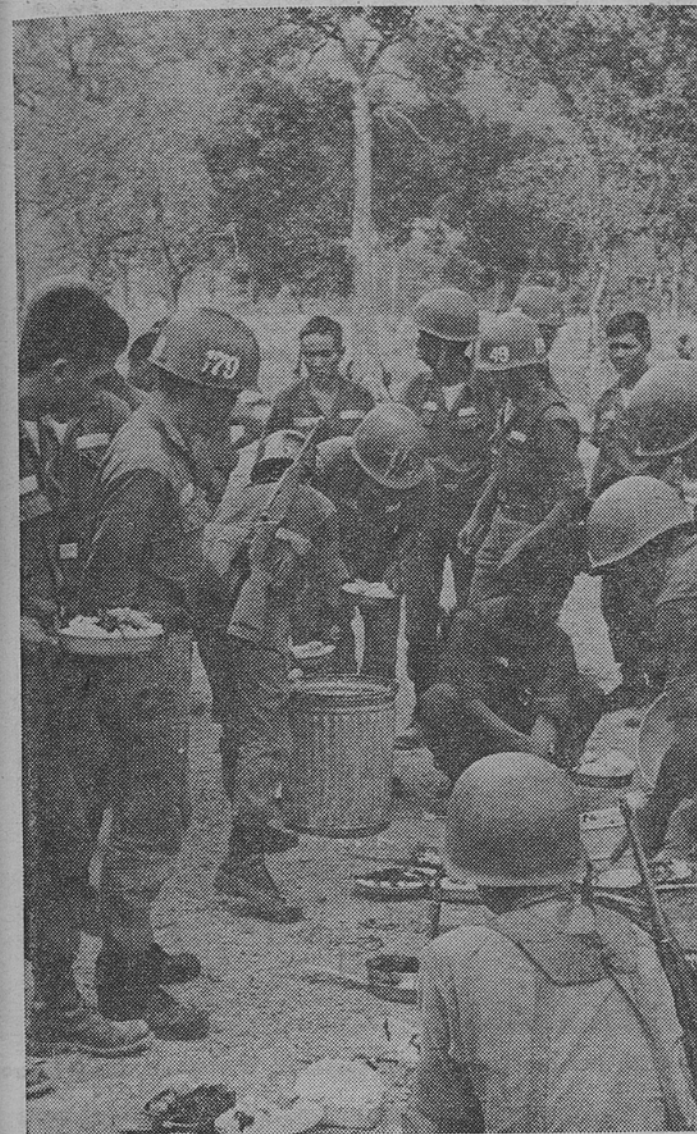
"The students come on a voluntary basis and are extremely

interested in this program," said PFC Porto, who gives the one-hour class, three times a week.

He is aided by Sergeant Phong, a Vietnamese interpreter who works with the Brigade's civil affairs office. "Sergeant Phong asks the children if they understand the lesson, and he also gives me tips on how to make myself clearer to them," the instructor said.

While previously stationed at Ft. Carson, Colo., the soldier enrolled in an after-duty course at the American Education Center where he began learning to speak Vietnamese via tape recordings and text books.

New Viet Unit Mostly Volunteers



After a hard morning workout all soldiers enjoy a chow break.

DUC MY (ARVN) — The 23rd ARVN Division will soon activate the 1st Battalion of the new 53rd Regiment which is training at this time at the Lam Son Training Area in Duc My.

Soldiers of the new battalion were recruited mostly from the 23rd Division's Tactical Area and, when activated, will be deployed against the enemy in the same area.

Out of 1,010 men in training, 900 are volunteers. Five hundred of these volunteers joined the service after the Communist Tet Offensive.

The training cycle of the battalion is sixteen weeks in duration and includes basic, advanced and unit combat training. The officers and NCOs were assigned to the new unit from other 23rd Division units and will participate in the training program.

Upon termination of the training, the battalion will be activated intact and join its sister battalions of the 23rd in fighting "Charlie".

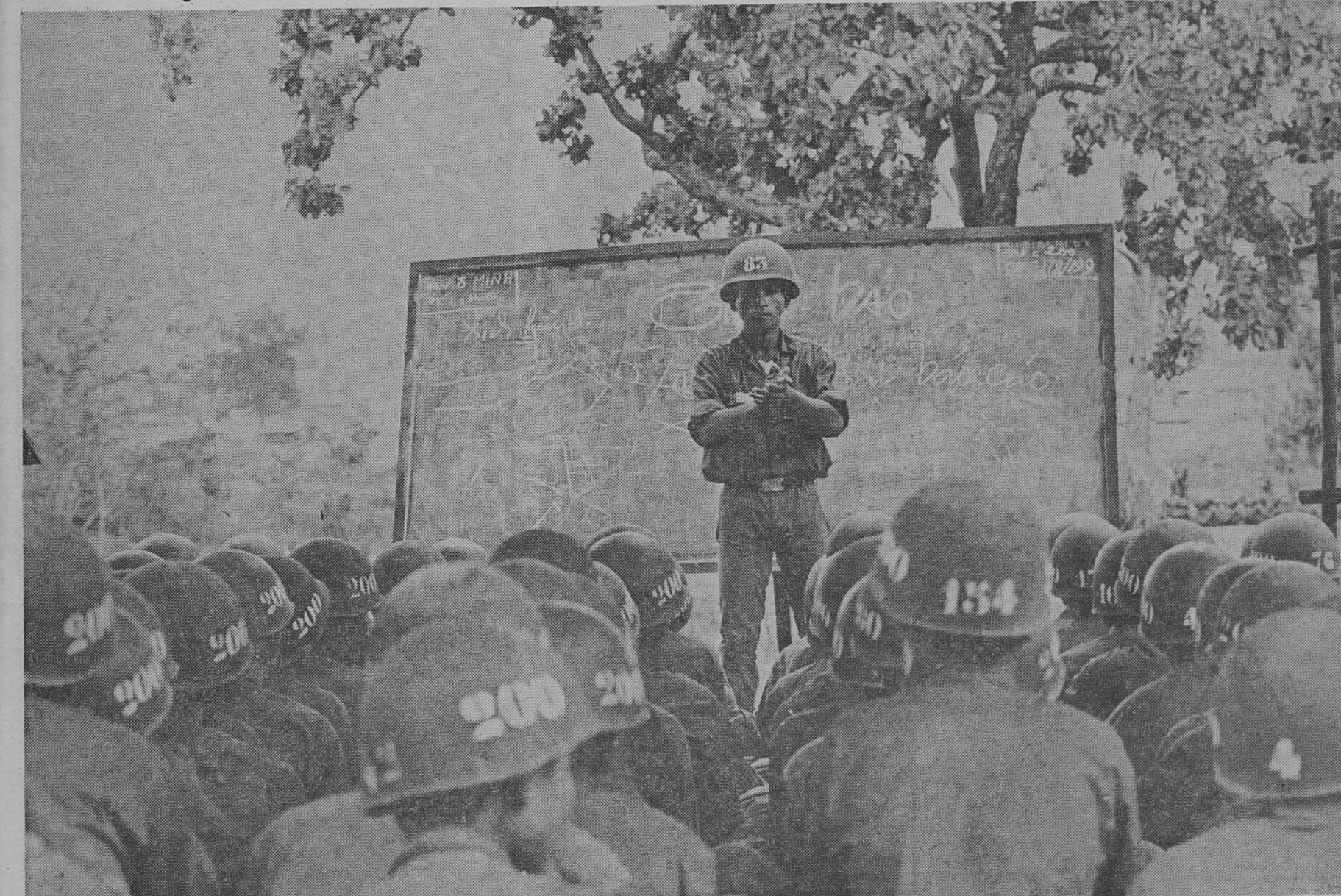
"These soldiers will have good leaders", commented Captain David Gannon, advisor to the battalion. "The CO and XO have both been to the U.S. for training."

Esprit is high as is evidenced by the alertness of the trainees and by the individual soldier's appearance. "All of my soldiers have short hair and clean uniforms", emphasized Major Thanh, Commanding Officer of the battalion.

Story By 1Lt Banta M. York
Photos Sp4 Pierre Honegger



Bayonet training is part of the basic training for new ARVNs.

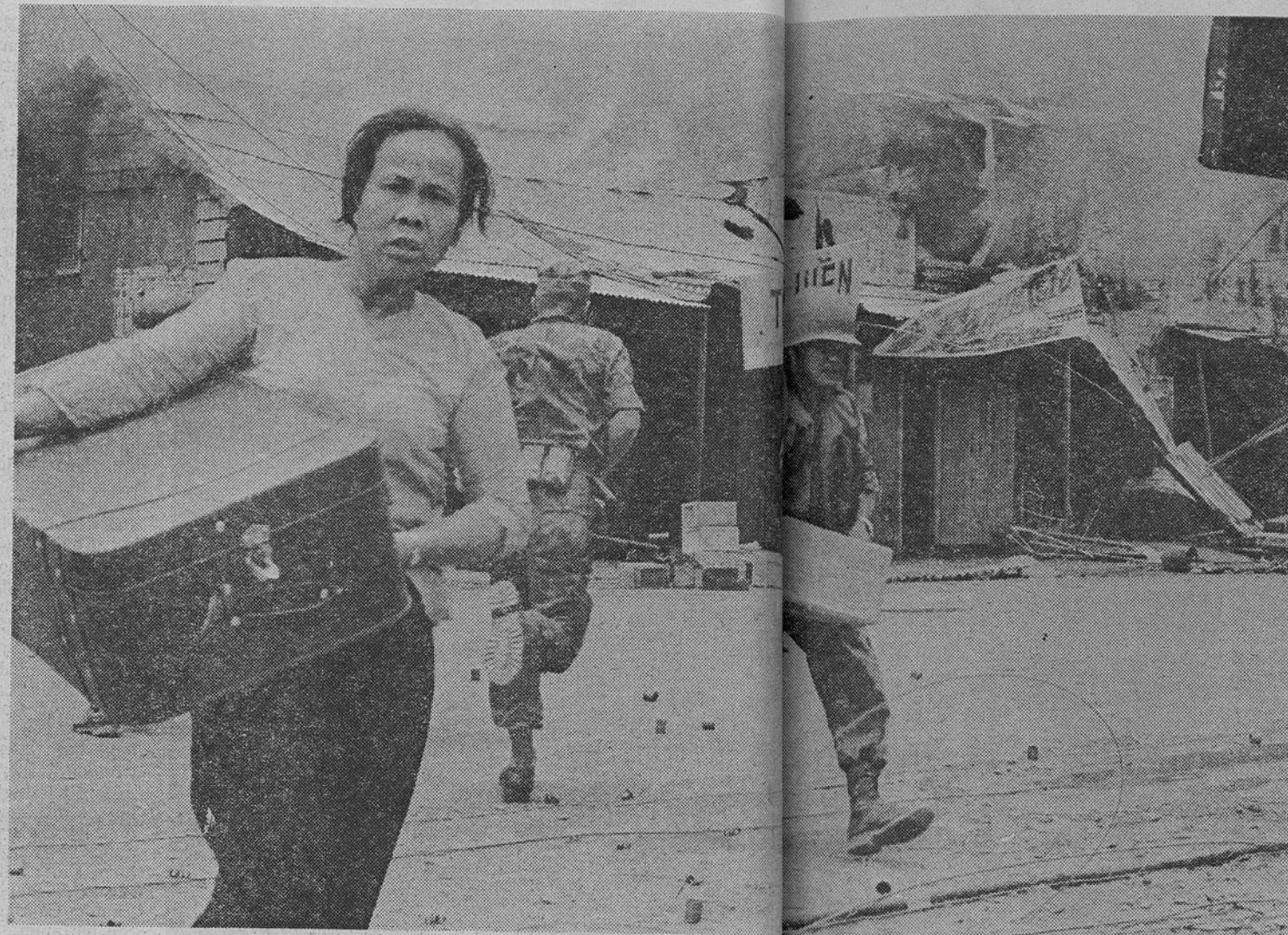


As a result of South Vietnam's troop build-up, training classes had to be set up to handle the new men. Here a chalk-talk session is held for new battalion.

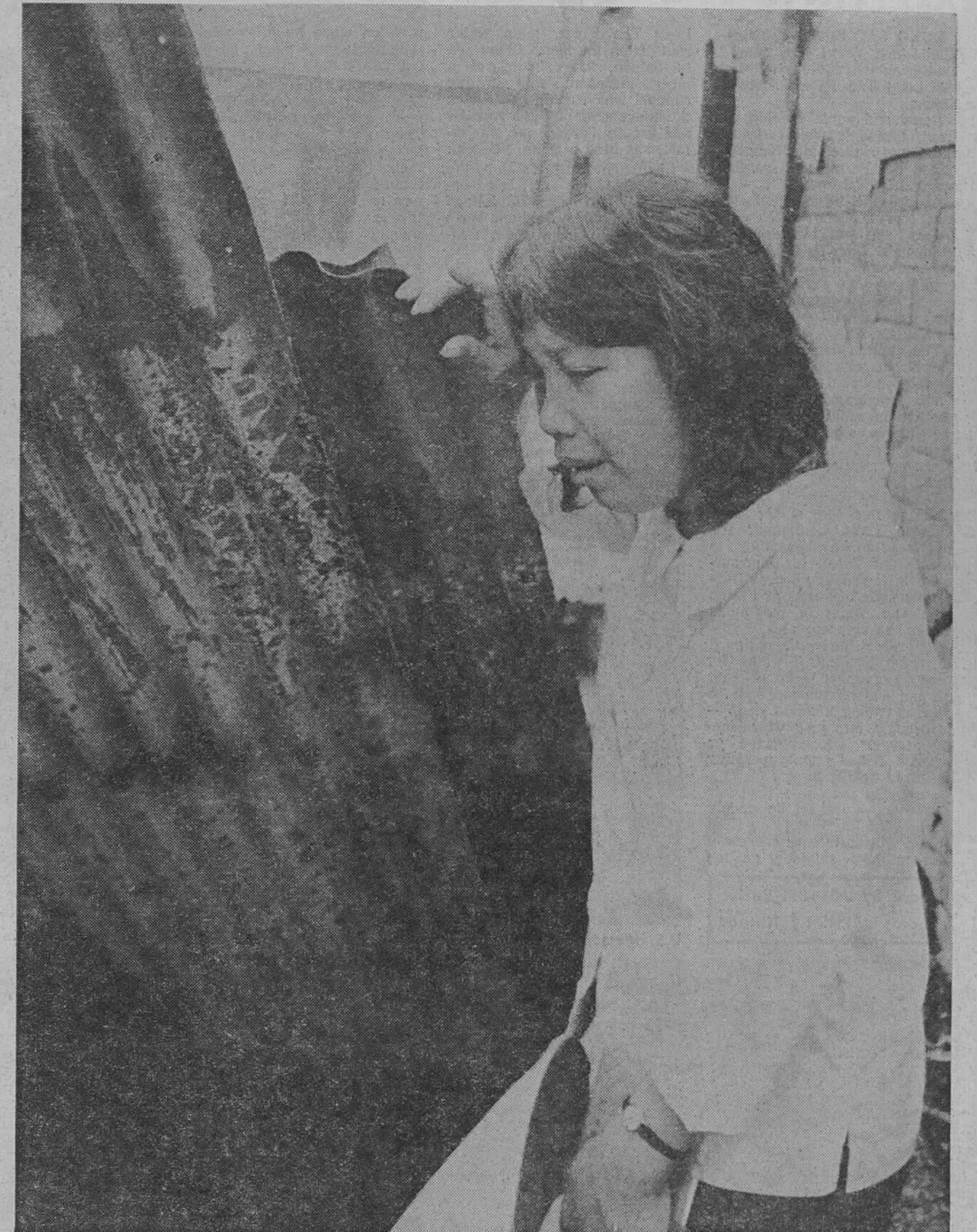
Second Offensive Brings Me Grief, Death And Refugees



Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division change from Delta to city fighting.



Carrying a suitcase with her most prized possessions, a woman dashes and is raked by Communist gunfire as ARVN's resupply.

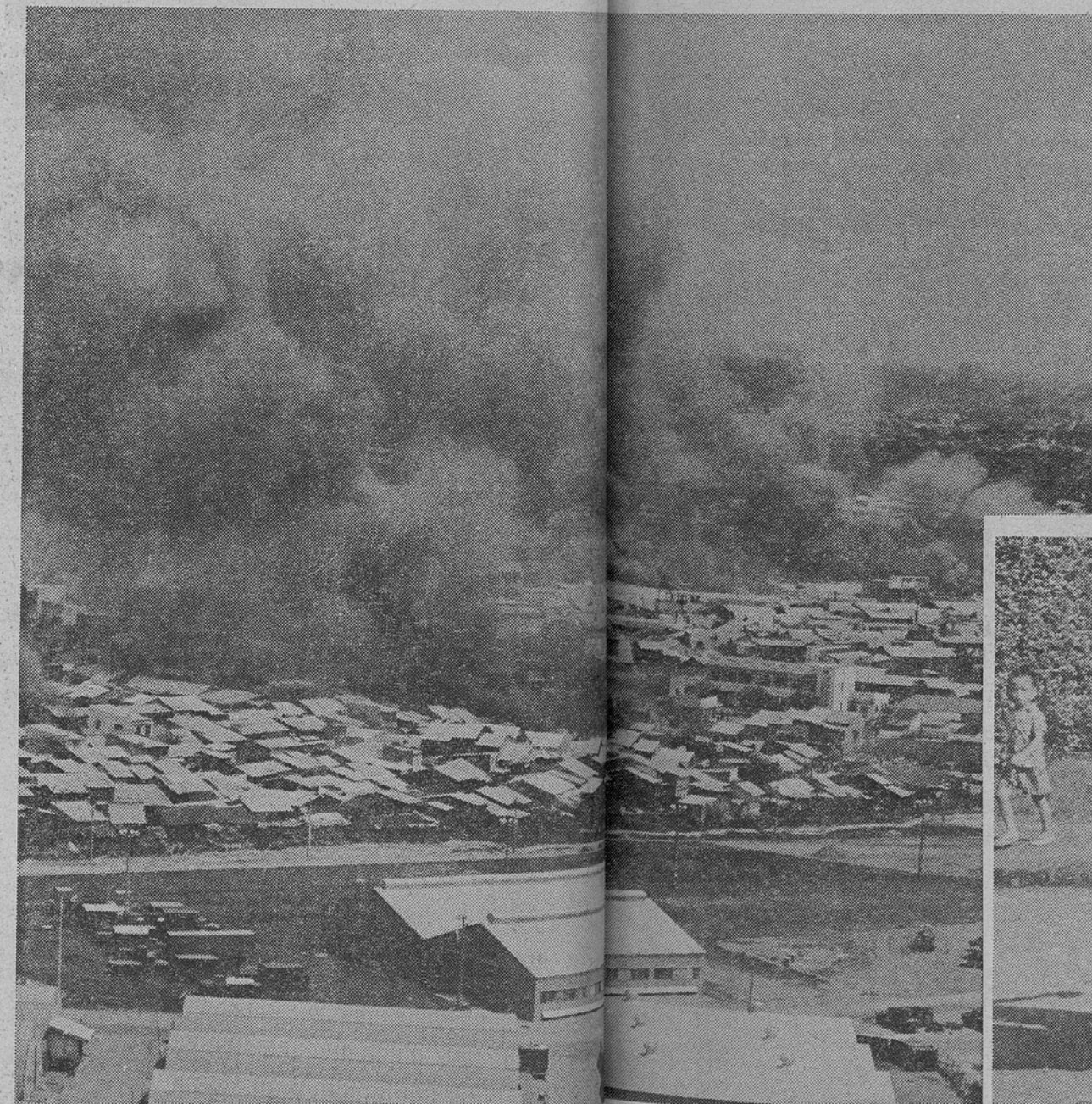


An 18-year-old high school student weeps beside her destroyed home that was set ablaze by fleeing Viet Cong.



Photos By
Vietnam Feature Service
& U.S. Army

In a futile effort to save her home, a Vietnamese resident of Gia Dinh tries dousing a blaze.



A residential section of Gia Dinh is veiled in smoke as homes are consumed by fires.



Women and children flee from their residential area—a battleground between Government and Communist forces.

War Brought To VC

RUNG SAT ZONE (USN) — The 3-inch naval gun roared, shattering the mid-day quiet on the Long Tau River, south of Saigon.

Again and again the big gun fired, throwing shells into the tangled growth of the Rung Sat, called the Forest of Assassins, a lair of Viet Cong.

Aboard the 180-foot Vietnamese Navy LSIL, which had brought the war to another of "Charlie's" hide-outs, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Robert M. Werner discussed further target coverage with his counterpart, the ship's captain, Lieutenant Nguyen Van Tuyen.

The captain decided to spray the target with 40mm gunfire; the bow-mounted 40-gun sent its shells streaking into the enemy position in rapid succession.

"This is our main mission right now," said Lieutenant Werner, "gunfire support in the Rung Sat."

Lieutenant Werner is U.S. advisor to this ship of the Vietnamese Fleet Command. His job is to make suggestions to Lieutenant Tuyen for improvement in the many phases of operations. He also acts as liaison with U.S. units in the areas where the ship operates.

At present the ship is assigned to Rung Sat patrol where its heavy armament — 3-inch gun, 20 and 40mm cannons and .30 and .50 caliber machine guns — is brought into play when enemy targets are reported or when a friendly unit operating in the area needs support.

Rung Sat patrols — land, air or water — are set up mainly to prevent the Viet Cong from successfully attacking merchant and military shipping on the

Long Tau River, main water route from the South China Sea to Saigon. The sinking of a large merchant ship in the channel which could bottle-neck the movement of vital supplies and greatly hamper the war effort, has been a prime VC goal.

Lieutenant Werner's ship, the Long-Dao (LSIL 327), is a converted World War II vintage landing ship. She's old and looks unwieldy but she's clean, well-drilled and effective.

Gunfire support and convoy escort are not the only tasks of the Long-Dao. The ship's bow doors and hull space give her a troop-lift capability. She is used to carry troops to operational areas.

Another job is searching junks and sampans. "We only search the suspicious ones," said Lieutenant Werner. "Those we see making a rapid crossing on the rivers for instance are considered possible Viet Cong."

"Lieutenant Tuyen gets right down there (in the sampans and suspected boats) and talks to the people," commented the lieutenant. "It makes an im-

pression when an officer takes time to talk to them and pass out information material."

"We tell the people," said Lieutenant Tuyen, "that they must not help the Viet Cong. They must understand not to let the enemy soldiers ride in their boats. We apologize to them for interrupting their journey or work and explain that the searches take only a few minutes and are for their own protection. If we have it, we give them rice or candy or toys for their children," the Lieutenant continued.

It's a lonely job for Lieutenant Werner, the only American aboard the ship. The patrols last a month or more and, as with many jobs in this war, it's mostly watching and waiting interrupted by a welcome call to action.

All but one of Lieutenant Werner's cruises since he arrived in Vietnam have been aboard the Long-Dao. He is due to return to the states this month. "This is my last cruise," he grins, "I'm almost home and I can hardly wait."

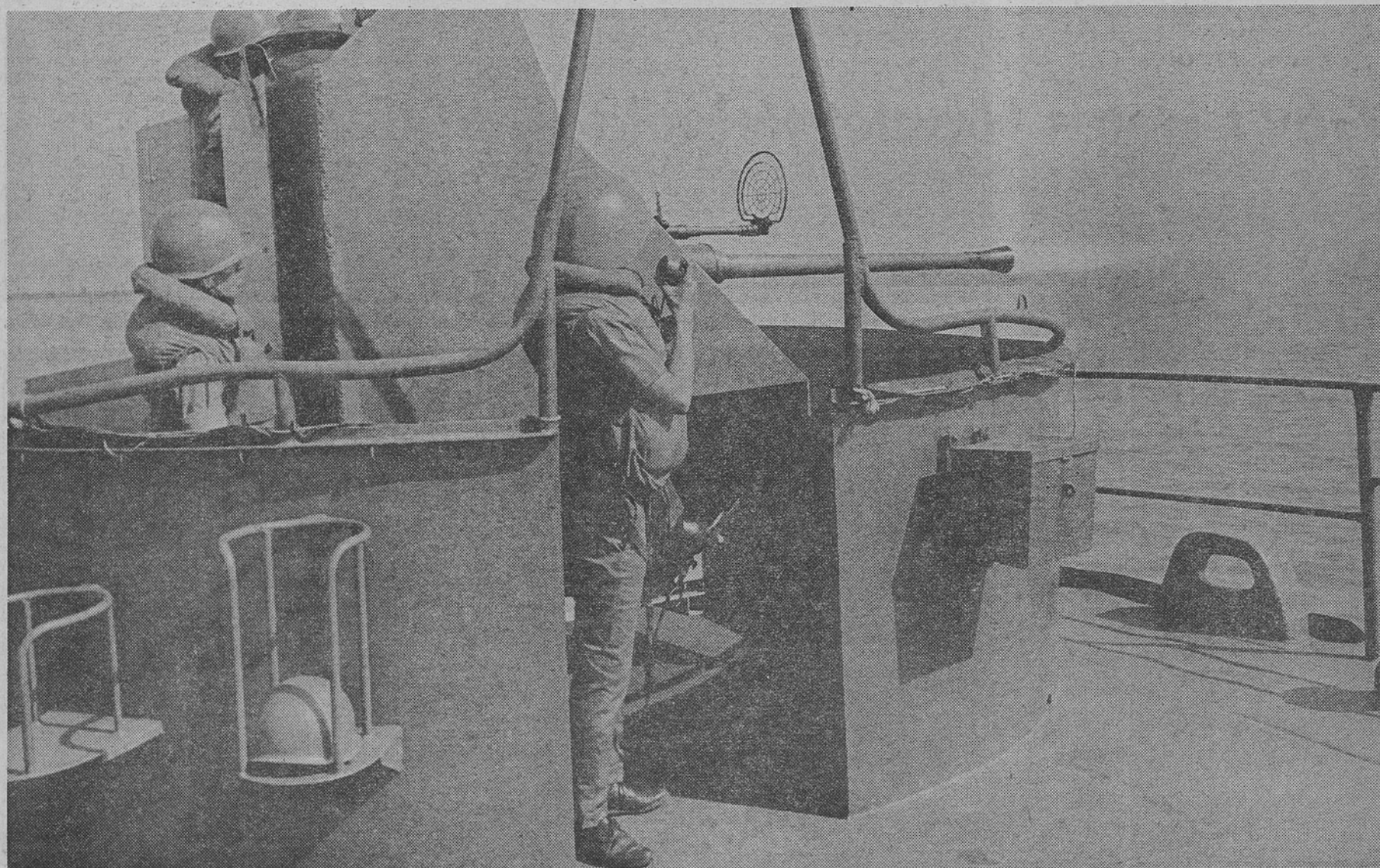


U.S. advisor and his Vietnamese counterpart discuss operation.



Fishermen, whose sampan was searched, get pamphlets.

Story By JO1 Bill Rozier
Photos by PH2 T.E. Hanson



Vietnamese crew fires a 40mm gun on the Vietnamese Navy ship Long-Dao at a VC stronghold in the Rung Sat Special Zone southeast of Saigon.

Army Paves Way For USAF Airlift

SAIGON (USAF) — U.S. Army engineers literally paved the way for the airlifting of Air Force cargo transports last week in what Army officials called "an extremely successful resupply operation" in the A Shau Valley.

The valley, long-time stronghold of the North Vietnamese Army elements, was a wide open route for transportation of enemy troops and supplies until recently, when the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) paratroopers entered the area and seized control.

Holding the valley, however, depended to some extent upon the immediate airlift of supplies and ammunition to the friendly forces.

Working around the clock, the engineer battalion of the 1st Cavalry rebuilt the A Loui airstrip in just two short days. Air Force C-123 Provider transports began rapid airlandings immediately. The airstrip is located midway in the 25-mile-long valley.

Repair of the airfield, which was hit by air strikes when the enemy was there, was directed by Army Captain James W. Dunmeyer of the Eighth Engineer Battalion of the 1st Cavalry.

Lieutenant Colonel Melvin R. Scott, mission commander of

the airlifting operation, said the resupply has been going precisely as planned.

Air Force C-130 Hercules kept the Army infantry companies supplied by paratrooping rations, equipment, and ammunition through the reconstruction phase. Then, aircraft landing with supplies quickly unloaded their cargo by rolling it out the back of the moving aircraft.

Air Force airlift officials particularly lauded the Army's riggers, who, they said, "supplied the real elbow grease for the operation." The riggers' job is to put the huge loads together at the transport's base of departure. The organization responsible for the majority of the rigging is the Army's 109th Aerial Delivery Company of the 1st Logistics Command, located at Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang air bases.

Specialist 4 Allen L. Younger Jr. and Sergeant Michael A. Otto, two of those riggers, were at A Loui during the second week of airdrop to assess impacts. Their responsibility was to see that airdrop equipment such as parachutes and cargo pallets were returned to the bases.

"The Air Force has done a really fine job of putting the loads where they should be," Sergeant Otto commented, "and that makes our job a great deal easier."

Main Street Commences Where Flight Line Begins

BIEN HOA (USAF) — As Air Force Captain Bruce C. Schaefer prepares to take off on another forward air controller (FAC) flight from Song Be, ground crewmen tell the townspeople to clear the runway — one of the village's main streets.

Captain Schaefer is assigned

to the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron, Bien Hoa air base, and is attached to Advisory Team 94 at Song Be. He pilots an unarmed O-1 Bird Dog spotter aircraft.

"Taking off and landing on city streets is not the only peculiarity in our operations here," said the captain. "When we fly at night it's just like being lost in an ink bottle. Unlike the U.S. where there are many lights and navigation aids to go by, we have nothing here. The only lights we see are artillery flashes and an occasional oil lamp or Montagnard campfire."

Pilots must radio for a flare launch to illuminate the strip when they fly at night.

"We get nearly all types of FAC situations here," said the captain. "We support aerial defoliation missions, troops in contact, visual reconnaissance of the area and we direct artillery and fighter strikes."

"We don't have time to get bored."

Captain Schaefer has flown over 150 combat missions since arriving in Vietnam in December.

"My most exciting missions had to be February 18 and 19," he said. "An estimated two battalions of North Vietnamese Army regulars tried to overrun the town of Song Be and were advancing towards our compound. Flying day and night from our insecure strip, the other pilots and I directed fighter strikes against their positions."

The captain has been shot at by enemy forces many times but has never been hit. According to him this is very surprising considering the many troops in contact situations he has supported. "I hope my good fortune continues," he said.

Hope For Future

Gov't Helps Hamlet Rebuild

LONG BINH (II FF) — Some 170 South Vietnamese refugee families recently took an important step toward becoming productive citizens of this war-torn nation, with help from the government of Vietnam.

At the new hamlet of Ap Suoi Nghe, about 40 miles southeast of Saigon, a land lottery was held to distribute more than 400 acres of farm land.

The pleased residents came forward one at a time and picked a number. Each family then was assigned a 2.5 acre square lot.

There was a festive atmosphere as music played over loudspeakers. Children played happily on a new set of swings. Many of the women wore their best Ao Dai, the traditional dress.

NEW LAND

It was a proud moment for the head of each family as he stepped up to the table to receive the title for his new land from Mr. Huynh Cong Nhut, the province land service chief, who ran the lottery.

The land was originally cleared by Royal Australian Engineers for the establishment of the new hamlet. The people were moved to their present location in September of 1967, by units of the 1st Australian Task Force located at Nui Dat.

These new land owners formerly were scattered over a 6 mile square area that the Viet Cong were using as an infiltration route.

TOP SECURITY

Because of security reasons, no one was told about the move until the night before it was scheduled. That night an Australian soldier was assigned to each of the 250 families. He stayed with the family all night and helped them prepare for the move. Army trucks were used for the 10 mile trip.

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Latchford, the Australian Civil Affairs unit commander, said, "We brought everything. In some cases we even disassembled their houses and loaded the lumber on the trucks. These people grow lots of pumpkins. We also took those, hauling thousands of them."

The move was necessary to insure the people's safety.

"Artillery strikes were going to be called into the area," the colonel pointed out, "and we had to move them. We took great pains to explain why it was necessary, and most of them understood — most of them accepted it."

When the Vietnamese got off the trucks at their new hamlet, they found houses waiting for them. The Australian Engineers had done more than just clear

the land.

100 NEW ROOFS

In fact, during a one-week period, they constructed 100 of the small wooden houses with in roofs. Each house had a plot of land set aside for gardening.

But these Vietnamese are more than just gardeners — they are farmers. And at today's land lottery, they received what, to a farmer, is his life-blood — land.

Ap Soui Nghe is still recovering from the recent Viet Cong Tet offensive. During Tet, the village chief and his deputy were executed. Now, however, a new chief has been elected and life is returning to normal.

Gen. Cuong Honored

SAIGON (USAF) — South Vietnam's Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky posthumously promoted Luu Kim Cuong, former commander of the Vietnamese Air Force's (VNAF) 33rd Air Wing at Tan Son Nhut air base, to Brigadier General and awarded him the National Order Medal of Vietnam, Third Class, his nation's third highest decoration.

Memorial services for General Cuong, who was slain in fighting near the base, were held prior to his burial at the Mac Dinh Chi cemetery in Saigon. In addition to Vice-President

MARS Cards Record Calls

TUY HOA (USAF) — The Air Force Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) station at Tuy Hoa air base completed 1,302 calls to the United States during April to break its previous record of 1,205 set during March.

Operated by the 1884th Communications Squadron, the MARS station handled a total of 1,647 calls, but 345 could not be completed because of no answer, wrong number or technical reasons.

Under ideal operating conditions, 10 to 12 calls per hour are possible.

Ky, the services were attended by General Cao Van Vien, chief of the Joint General Staff, RVN-AR; Brigadier General Tran Van Minh, acting VNAF commander; Brigadier General Louis T. Seith, chief of staff of Seventh Air Force; and Brigadier General Charles W. Carson Jr., chief of the Air Force Advisory Group.

High ranking officials representing the South Korean, Thailand and Republic of China armed forces also attended along with numerous civilian and government dignitaries.

Fear Leads NVA Youth To Freedom

SAIGON (USA) — "All I remember were loud explosions, a lot of them and then guns firing. I was scared — really scared. I wanted to run away, but I didn't know anyone. Where could I run?" said Nguyen Van Qui.

The battle intensified and Nguyen's right arm was shattered by small arms fire. Then he was carried by some of his comrades to a nearby house where they stayed until the fighting became too heated.

"They (NVA) told me to run, but I said no. I stayed in the house and they left me there. I thought I was going to lose my hand because it was so badly bleeding," he said.

This was the account of Nguyen Van Qui, 15, a chieu si (soldier) of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA), who was in a war he did not know existed, fight-

ing men he knew nothing of. It was his last battle.

When Nguyen's battalion withdrew, 9th Infantry Division soldiers began sweeping the area. They found Nguyen lying on a makeshift bed of hay, obviously in great pain. He was rushed to the 3rd Surgical Hospital facility at Dong Tam, where surgeons worked feverishly to save his arm.

By the time of his first interview, Nguyen's arm was in good — if still painful — condition. He was reserved, but more than willing to relate his recent past with its attendant fears and misgivings.

"My village — the village I come from — is small. I always thought it was big, but when I left, I found out that it was small," he said.

Nguyen lived in a village set

deep in North Vietnam, about one mile from Highway 1. Four years ago his father died and he and his mother had to make their living by raising and selling ducks, which was enough to maintain life and that was it.

When he was 14 years old, Nguyen decided he would become a carpenter, as was his right according to the customs in his village. It was not long before he was making more money as an apprentice carpenter than his mother was selling ducks.

As his apprenticeship drew to a close, some strangers, whom he knew only as chieu si, entered his village.

"They came to my house," said Nguyen, "and told my mother that I had been chosen to be one of them. They wanted me to become a chieu si. My

mother pleaded that I was too young. The chieu si said 'He is old enough. The draft age is 15 through 40.'"

Nguyen had little to say. He had to go. Where, he wasn't sure.

"I never wanted to fight. No, I never wanted to fight," he said. "My village did not know a war was going on. Oh, we saw the planes that go overhead, but we were told that if they drop bombs, we were to quickly fall on the ground, look up at the planes and laugh. We took nothing serious."

Nguyen and four companions began to take the far-off war "serious," when they were carted to a training camp in North Vietnam. There he and about 20 other young men were taught to aim and fire a weapon.

"I didn't understand what we

were doing. I did as I was told because they were older," he said.

Nguyen completed his training in six days. He was now a chieu si in the Army of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, or so he was told.

After his training, Nguyen and the others were loaded aboard trucks to begin their trip to South Vietnam.

This was the beginning of a arduous trek down the Ho Chi Minh Trail that ended for the lucky ones in South Vietnam's Delta region. Nguyen was lucky. Many of the 1,200 chieu si who started the journey died along the way of disease or malnutrition.

Once arriving in the Delta, they were joined with the 261st Viet Cong Battalion, which operated along the My Tho River. There they were issued a rice bag, two sets of fatigues, a rifle, mosquito net, two pairs of shorts and one scarf. They were expected to prize their newly acquired gear. It was all they would receive.

"We often talked of home and were always thinking of the day we would return. They (NVA) said we would be down in the south not long. But nobody believed them," Nguyen said.

Then came the battle and the hospital for Nguyen.

Nguyen Van Qui is 15 and alone and still a bit reticent following his recent experiences. His one hope is to "write to" and "hear from" his mother. For Nguyen the war is over, but not so for many of his young friends who talked of home.

Navy Builds Nurses Qtrs. In Da Nang

DA NANG (USN) — Vietnamese student nurses at the Da Nang United States Overseas Mission (USOM) Medical Hospital here, have their own dormitory for the first time.

The double dormitory, which opened recently, can house 18 female and 10 male students.

The new quarters were constructed by a five-man team attached to the Civic Action section of the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang.

The team used donated and discarded materials to complete the two-section building in four months.

"Each dormitory is equipped with a bathroom including a shower, sink and toilet," said Storekeeper Third Class Bill W. Parker Jr., a member of the civic action team.

The dormitories also have electricity and hot and cold running potable water, and the bedrooms are furnished with bunk beds, study tables, closets and drawers.

Besides building the new nurses quarters, the men have many other jobs around the hospital.

"At times we are called upon to be plumbers, carpenters, electricians, pipe fitters, doctors, or even English teachers," said Yeoman First Class Jim Morris, the team leader.

The Civic Action section of the U.S. Naval Support Activity is composed of more than 80 men — all volunteers. As Yeoman Second Class Thomas Dunn put it, "Our objective is to improve living conditions and promote a better understanding between the people, their government and the United States."



DROP ME A LINE—Edy Williams says that anyone who would like a personal picture of her should just drop her a line at 20th Century Fox, Hollywood, California. This beautiful blond actress is 5 feet, 7 inches tall and her measurements are 37-24-37. She won her television roles because of her outstanding dimensions. She was discovered one day in the studio's commissary wearing an extremely low cut dress. (PHOTO COURTESY OF 20th Century Fox)

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week of May 29—June 4, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday

1830 Sign On
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Legal
2005 Law Day Special—Melvin Bell
2100 The Monkees
2200 Andy Williams Show
2300 Sports
2330 New Headlines

Thursday

1830 Sign On
1930 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
2000 News-Sports-Weather
Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Free World
2005 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Update News
2330 Jerry Lewis

Friday

1830 Sign On
1930 Wild West
2000 News-Sports-Weather
Channel 11 Billboard
Insight
2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2200 The Lucy Show
2300 Get Smart
2330 Star Trek
2330 Update News
2330 Joey Bishop

Saturday

1230 News Headlines
1500 Pro Bowler's Tour
1600 Flying Fisherman
1630 American Sportsman
1730 John Davidson at Notre Dame
1830 Lawrence Welk
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

May 29

2030 A Quest For Certainty
2100 Johnny Midnight
2200 Gunsmoke
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

Sunday

1230 News Headlines
The Christophers
1245 Sacred Heart
1300 Prince Of Peace
1330 Sports
1530 Feature Movie
1645 Pat Boone Special
1730 Can You Hear Me
1800 G.E. College Bowl
1830 Danny Thomas Hour
1930 News-Sports-Business
Channel 11 Billboard
Window of Vietnam
2000 Monte Carlo Special
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Update News
2305 Dean Martin

Monday

1830 News Headlines
Daniel Boone
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Mars
2005 In Town Tonight
2100 My Three Sons
2200 Hollywood Palace
2300 Mission Impossible
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Tuesday

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—R&R
2005 Biography
2100 Green Acres
2200 Red Skelton
2300 Combat
2305 Feature Movie

Wednesday

1830 Sign On
1930 Wild West
2000 News-Sports-Weather
Channel 11 Billboard
Insight
2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2200 The Lucy Show
2300 Get Smart
2330 Star Trek
2330 Update News
2330 Joey Bishop

Thursday

1830 Sign On
1930 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
2000 News-Sports-Weather
Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—Free World
2005 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Update News
2330 Jerry Lewis

Friday

1830 Sign On
1930 Wild West
2000 News-Sports-Weather
Channel 11 Billboard
Insight
2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2200 The Lucy Show
2300 Get Smart
2330 Star Trek
2330 Update News
2330 Joey Bishop

Saturday

1230 News Headlines
1500 Pro Bowler's Tour
1600 Flying Fisherman
1630 American Sportsman
1730 John Davidson at Notre Dame
1830 Lawrence Welk
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

Sunday

1230 News Headlines
The Christophers
1245 Sacred Heart
1300 Prince Of Peace
1330 Sports
1530 Feature Movie
1645 Pat Boone Special
1730 Can You Hear Me
1800 G.E. College Bowl
1830 Danny Thomas Hour
1930 News-Sports-Business
Channel 11 Billboard
Window of Vietnam
2000 Monte Carlo Special
2100 Ed Sullivan
2200 Bonanza
2300 Update News
2305 Dean Martin

Monday

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—R&R
2005 Biography
2100 Green Acres
2200 Red Skelton
2300 Combat
2305 Feature Movie

Tuesday

1830 News Headlines
Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight—R&R
2005 Biography
2100 Green Acres
2200 Red Skelton
2300 Combat
2305 Feature Movie

Wednesday

1830 Sign On
1930 Wild West
2000 News-Sports-Weather
Channel 11 Billboard
Insight
2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2200 The Lucy Show
2300 Get Smart
2330 Star Trek
2330 Update News
2330 Joey Bishop

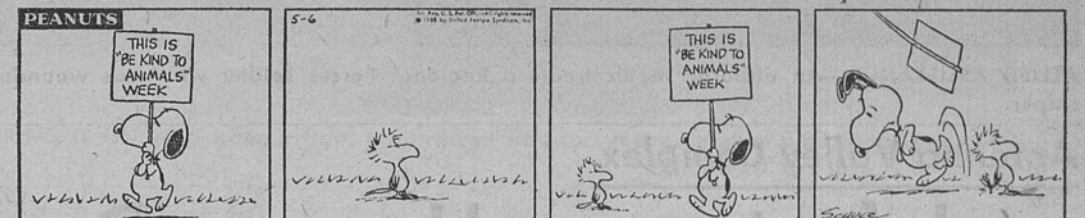
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



COME ON SAM, JUST A PEEK?



ALLIED ASSISTANCE—An airborne medic treats a Regional Forces soldier who was wounded in the chin by a Viet Cong sniper. (USA PHOTO)

Antenna Valley Complex

Infantrymen Uncover Dual Prize

CHU LAI (USA) — A former North Vietnamese soldier recently led a company of Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade to a hospital complex that turned up more than just a hospital. The coup by Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry uncovered a huge weapons cache in addition to securing the well-camouflaged hospital.

The NVA soldier who led the company to the hospital site said he had been a patient there. And after his wounds had healed, he

was assigned as a guard at the complex.

He was detained by an Americal Division element engaged in a search and clear mission along Antenna Valley, 10 miles south of An Hoa. Two days later, following routine questioning, he offered to lead the infantry unit to the hidden hospital.

"He had been told that if he was captured by the Americans, he would be tortured and killed," said Captain John R. Wolfe, battalion S-5. "When this proved

false and he was treated well, he agreed to help us locate the hospital."

The enemy hospital, located in the dense jungles above the valley, was complete with medical supplies and operating tables. Textbooks on how to be a medic were also found.

According to the detained soldier, there were about 10 nurses and a doctor to care for the wounded.

After B Company had searched the hospital complex, Captain William L. Speer, the company commander, sent out squads to check the immediate area surrounding the structures.

"I figured that if the enemy had such a complex hospital system set up here, there just had to be some weapons in the

area," Captain Speer said.

As the infantrymen scouted the area, they discovered three separate weapons caches within 50 meters of the hospital which contained 225 weapons with 28 being crew served. A large quantity of ammunition was also found.

"The weapons were found in camouflaged bunkers located approximately 5 to 10 meters apart," reported Captain Speer.

Some of the weapons captured included: 161 SKSs, one 75mm recoilless rifle, nine AK-47s, one M-79 grenade launcher, four M-16s, 10 RPDs, three RPGs and 10 machine guns.

The only trouble the Americal Division unit encountered came before the actual finds were made. The opposition — a lone NVA soldier — was quickly erased by an alert pointman with accurate marksmanship.

Allied Troops Repeal Enemy

II FFV (USA) — An estimated enemy battalion was rebuffed recently by U.S. and Australian forces during an attack on Fire Support Base Coral, about three miles northwest of Tan Uyen.

The enemy began a shower of mortars and rockets towards the support base at approximately 2:30 a.m. and attempted to follow-up with a ground attack. However, quick suppressive fire by a 155 self-propelled and 105 towed howitzer battery repulsed the enemy.

The 155 howitzers belong to Battery A 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery and the 105's belonged to the First Australian Task Force.

Fifteen enemy bodies were found later.

..... Pilot Rescued

(Continued From Page 1)
geant Gibbons also raced toward the crash site.

Seeing that both wings and the tail section of the U-17 were on fire and burning fuel was spreading across the runway, the two airmen began spraying the flames with the chemical foam from their extinguisher. As they were bringing the fire under control, the base fire department arrived. Relinquishing their extinguisher, they stepped back to watch.

Sergeant Gibbons, noticing that a wing was crumpled over the left door of the cockpit, ran to the plane, forced the wing away and attempted to open the

door and free the pilot. The door jammed in place, refused to budge. Joined by asbestos-suited firemen, he ran to the right-side door, managed to pry it open, and began cutting the pilot loose from his safety harness.

As the last strap holding the pilot dropped away, one of the aircraft's fuel tanks exploded, scattering burning fuel across the area and making the almost-extinguished fire blaze fiercely again. After they got the pilot out of the cockpit, the sergeant and one of the firemen grabbed a stretcher, loaded him on, and waded out through torrents of extinguishing foam to a waiting ambulance.

..... Police Decorated

(Continued From Page 1)
ly, scoring victories in four major confrontations with the Communists...."

Units of the battalion killed 86 Viet Cong during the first two days of fighting. The battalion suffered 27 killed in action and 45 wounded.

The citation continued, "Dur-

ing the period from 1 to 10 February 1968, units of the 716th continuously assisted Vietnamese MP units and the National Police in sweep operations conducted throughout the city. In making the above efforts, the battalion contributed greatly to the restoration of security in the Saigon area."

LBJ Cites AF Pilot's Courage

WASHINGTON (USAF)—President Lyndon B. Johnson recently presented the Medal of Honor to Air Force Captain Gerald O. Young, for heroic action while assigned as an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter rescue crew commander with the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang air base. The presentation was made in a ceremony dedicating a new "Hall of Heroes" at the Pentagon.

It marked the first presentation of the nation's highest award to a member of the Air Force for heroism while assigned to rescue forces.

Captain Young received the award for heroism displayed while participating in a Southeast Asia rescue mission on Nov. 8 and 9, 1967.

He attempted a night rescue of two wounded men after two helicopters had been shot down and another severely damaged in previous attempts.

After picking up the two men under intense hostile fire, the captain's helicopter was shot down. Disregarding serious burns, he aided one of the wounded men who was unable to travel and attempted to lead hostile forces away from his position. Captain Young refused for 17 hours to direct rescue forces to his positions when he saw hostile forces in his area. Sighting a friendly helicopter, he made his way to an area free of enemy activity and signaled the aircraft for pickup.

The captain is now assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base, Tex.

Tiger's 'Tale' One Of Whoa!

DAK TO (USA) — Specialist 4 James Kaufmann didn't exactly have the tiger by the tail, but he did bop one on the head a few times.

The specialist was pulling listening post duty for the 4th Division's 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry southwest of Dak To when other members of the listening post heard a blood-curdling scream.

"Before we knew it," said Private First Class David Long, "Specialist Kaufmann was being dragged down the side of a cliff by a tiger, frantically beating the huge animal on the head with his fists on the way down."

The head-knocking session proved too much for the tiger, and he dropped the soldier.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

		Place Stamp Here (12 cents 1st class) (20 cents Airmail)

TO:
