

FIRST IN VIETNAM



THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 57

Saigon, Vietnam

June 5, 1968

Heavy Losses Hurt Enemy's Push South

SAIGON (MACV)—Allied forces killed more than 2,500 North Vietnamese soldiers in northeastern Quang Tri province in a 30-day period ending May 28.

A spokesman at MACV headquarters here said the cumulative kill figure was based only on "those significant action in which more than 50 enemy dead were counted."

U.S. officials, as of May 28, were said to believe the enemy has been unable to drive south from that northern province, largely because of heavy losses inflicted on him by ARVN and U.S. forces.

At the other end of the Republic, Communist forces once again were said to be grouping in significant numbers in provinces bordering Saigon. Enemy gunners were reportedly waging a continuous terrorist campaign against the capital and neighboring communities with sporadic rocket and mortar attacks.

But officials at MACV headquarters said none of the attacks (within the 30-day coverage period) have resulted in major damage to U.S. installations in Saigon or elsewhere, and no heavy casualties were reported among U.S. military personnel.

One of the biggest actions in the Saigon area took place near the end of the reporting period, when elements of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division killed 218 enemy six miles west of the city. The enemy force was identified by U.S. officials as a battalion from the 9th NVA/VC Division.

The enemy battalion attacked the U.S. unit's night defensive positions but was beaten off by the defenders. The attackers withdrew and contact was lost.

However, the infantrymen re-established contact during the

(Continued on Back Page)

Medic Foils Blind Ruse

ABOARD USS BENEWAH (USA) — A 9th Infantry Division medic "restored" a Viet Cong's eyesight with a can of C-rations during a recent operation in the Mekong Delta.

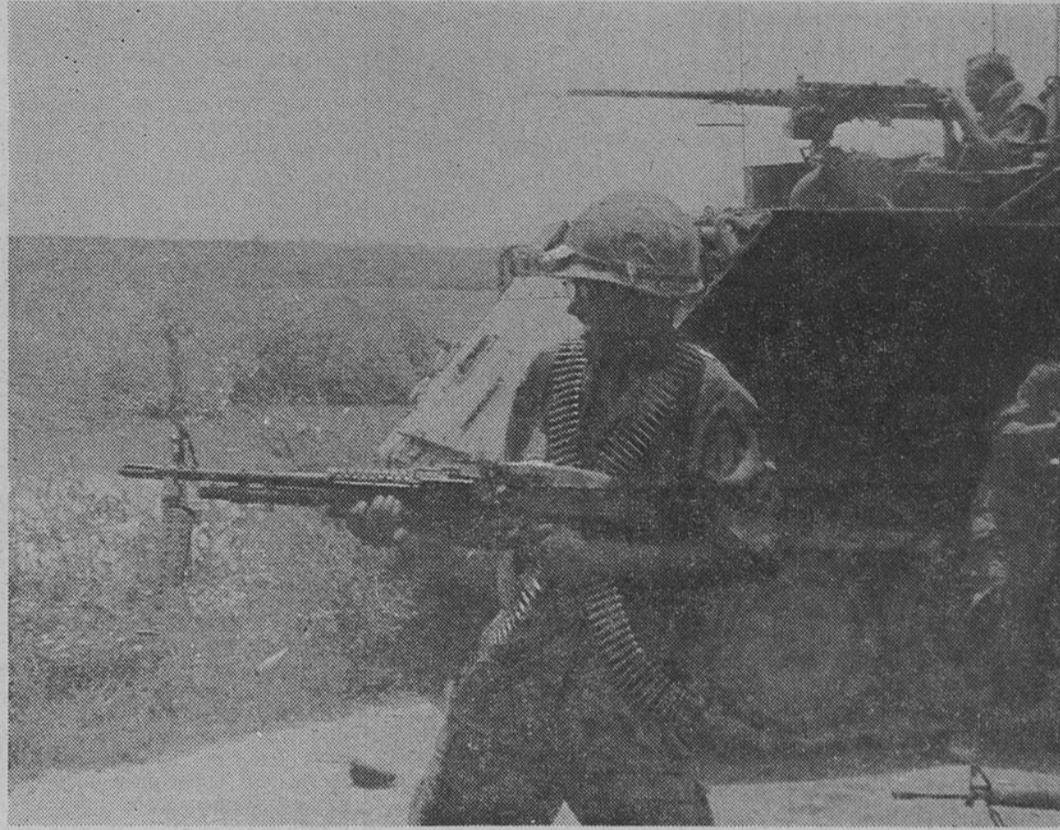
Specialist 4 Norman F. Hyatt, a medic with Company E, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, was on a reconnaissance operation when he was summoned to check the eyesight of a detainee.

The man, wearing black pajamas, just sat there with a blank look on his face while Specialist Hyatt tried every method he knew to determine if the man could, or could not see. The detainee passed all tests and appeared to be blind.

However, Specialist Hyatt came up with an impromptu test that ranked the detainee's act.

"I pulled a can of C-rations out of my pocket and held it up to the man. Without hesitation, he reached for the can. Suddenly, he jerked his hand back with a look of disgust and gave me a dirty look," explained the crafty medic.

The man was later confirmed to be a Viet Cong... one who had played his last game of Blind Man's Bluff.



POURING IT ON — A trooper from an armored unit cuts loose on enemy positions near Saigon. (USA PHOTO By: Sp 5 T. L. Farley)

Eight Against 80

Marines Win Race To Safety

DA NANG (USMC) — A running gun battle between eight reconnaissance Marines and 80 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers left a trail of Communist bodies as the enemy unsuccessfully attempted to cut off the Leathernecks' route to safety.

The 45-minute gun fight started moments after a 1st Force Reconnaissance Company team was inserted on a reconnaissance mission atop a hill south of Phu Bai.

Sergeant Robert F. Buda, who single-handedly killed 15 of the enemy, said his team was immediately surrounded by NVA after the enemy discovered their position.

The 1st Division Marines quickly moved down the hill, but were chased by more NVA. As the downhill race continued, the NVA attempted to outflank the Marines on both sides.

At the foot of the hill, the recon team formed a perimeter and took stock of the situation.

"We heard movement all around us," said Sergeant Buda. "They had us completely surrounded."

In the evening darkness an enemy soldier managed to crawl to within 15 feet of the Marines. Sergeant Buda killed him before the NVA could fire a shot.

Grenades were thrown at the Marines from the top of the hill.

"With the grenades and all the movement around us, we figured we had better fight our way back to the top of the hill,"

recalled the sergeant.

It became evident that whoever controlled the top of the hill would have the advantage. A desperate race began between the Marines and NVA.

The Marines won, but only by yards. The NVA were right behind the recon patrol when it reached the top.

When Sergeant Buda spotted 15 Communists 25 yards away he quickly set up a claymore mine he was carrying and hid behind a tree. Seconds later, as the NVA charged up the trail, he detonated the claymore.

The confusion that followed allowed the Marines time to call

for an extraction helicopter. Minutes later, a CH-46 "Sea Knight" hovered over the recon team.

Because it was impossible for the aircraft to land in the rugged terrain, the Marines were hauled up by a hoist, one man at a time. As each Marine rose through the air, the enemy concentrated heavy small arms fire on him.

Strafing runs by Marine HUE (Huey) gunships helped suppress the fire. As the Hueys raked the area with machine gun fire and rockets, the recon team members were hoisted safely aboard the helicopters.

ARVN Sgt. Gives Life To Save American Capt.

CHU LAI (USA) — Heroism and ARVN Sergeant Nguyen Bien Minh became synonymous recently when he sacrificed his life to save those of the Americans he was serving with as an interpreter.

When the American Division's 11th Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam last December, the diminutive sergeant was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry.

Sergeant Minh and the battalion intelligence officer, Captain Michael D. Haynes, were with a Viet Cong suspect who was leading them to enemy spider holes. As the suspect reached down to lift the top off one hole, Sergeant Minh yelled "booby trap" when he saw the lid had

been rigged to explode.

Without hesitation, Sergeant Minh threw himself over the hole. His body absorbed most of the blast and saved Captain Haynes from injury or possible death.

Although with the battalion only a short time, the ARVN sergeant had earned the friendship and admiration of his fellow Allied soldiers. After his death, the 3rd Battalion started a fund to provide for his wife and four sons and serve as an example of the close bond between the American and South Vietnamese Armies.

Captain Robert H. Ackley, a unit chaplain, flew to Saigon to present 176,880 piasters to Sergeant Minh's family.



ENEMY SUSPECT—A suspected member of a three man enemy mortar team is being led to a 173rd Assault Helicopter Company chopper to be taken to the rear for questioning. (USA PHOTO)

Editorial

Drugs And You

WASHINGTON — In recent months, the Armed Forces have received a great deal of adverse publicity concerning the misuse of drugs by service personnel.

The tragedy lies not in the publicity, but in the fact that within our ranks we have a few people who have so little regard for themselves and their responsibilities that they voluntarily subject themselves to the destructive effects of illicit drugs.

Regardless of the fact that only a very small number



of personnel in uniform abuse drugs, it is far too many.

It doesn't matter which drug you are talking about—all of them have a terrible destructive potential when taken for "kicks" rather than at the direction of a trained physician and under medically prescribed conditions.

You would certainly not entrust your life or safety to the irrational whims or reasoning of someone who is mentally ill. By the same token, you should not want to entrust your life or safety to a man whose judgement and responses have been dulled and deranged by the abuse of drugs of any type.

The drug abuser is a menace to himself, his fellow servicemen and his country. He has no place in the military where the lives of others and the safety of our Nation could be threatened by his irrational acts.

Our responsibility to our Country and to each other is too great to inflict the cancer of drug abuse on our bodies and minds. As thinking, intelligent, responsible human beings, we should have too much self-respect to destroy our minds and bodies voluntarily with drugs such as LSD, marijuana or heroin. (AFPS)

Medal Of Honor...

WASHINGTON (USMC)—The Medal of Honor is the highest award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States. In judging men for receipt of the medal, each service has established its own regulations. The deed must be proved by uncontested evidence of at least two eyewitnesses; it must be so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes the recipient's gallantry beyond the call of duty from lesser forms of bravery; it must involve the risk of his life; and it must be the type of deed which, if he had done it, would not subject him to any justified criticism.

The idea for the Medal of Honor was born during the Civil War as men fought gallantly and often displayed great heroism. George Washington origi-

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**Leave Time Cut By New Army Policy**

SAIGON (MACV) — Soldiers are not able to take as much leave enroute to their next duty stations as they have been under a new Army policy.

The man leaving for the states or a duty assignment on an inter-theater transfer is now authorized a maximum of 30 days leave. For other soldiers the amount of leave authorized prior to movement will vary.

1. For transfers within the same overseas command or within the Continental United States a soldier will no longer be authorized leave on his orders. Instead, the commander of the unit the soldier leaves will control the amount of leave the soldier takes.

2. Emergency leave, ordinary leave for compassionate reasons or reenlistment leave is now limited to a maximum of 30 days.

3. Basic combat trainees coming to Vietnam will only get 15 days leave before movement unless they are assigned to a state-side unit first. In which case they may take a leave of 14 days going to their unit and 15 more days leave prior to overseas movement, plus any accumulated leave if the commander authorizes it.

Army Testing New Weapon

FORT BENNING (USA) — A blank cartridge and a blank firing attachment for the 5.56mm M-16A1 rifle are being tested by the U.S. Army Infantry Board here.

The cartridge and its firing attachment have been developed to provide a more realistic training atmosphere that will be safe in simulated close combat.

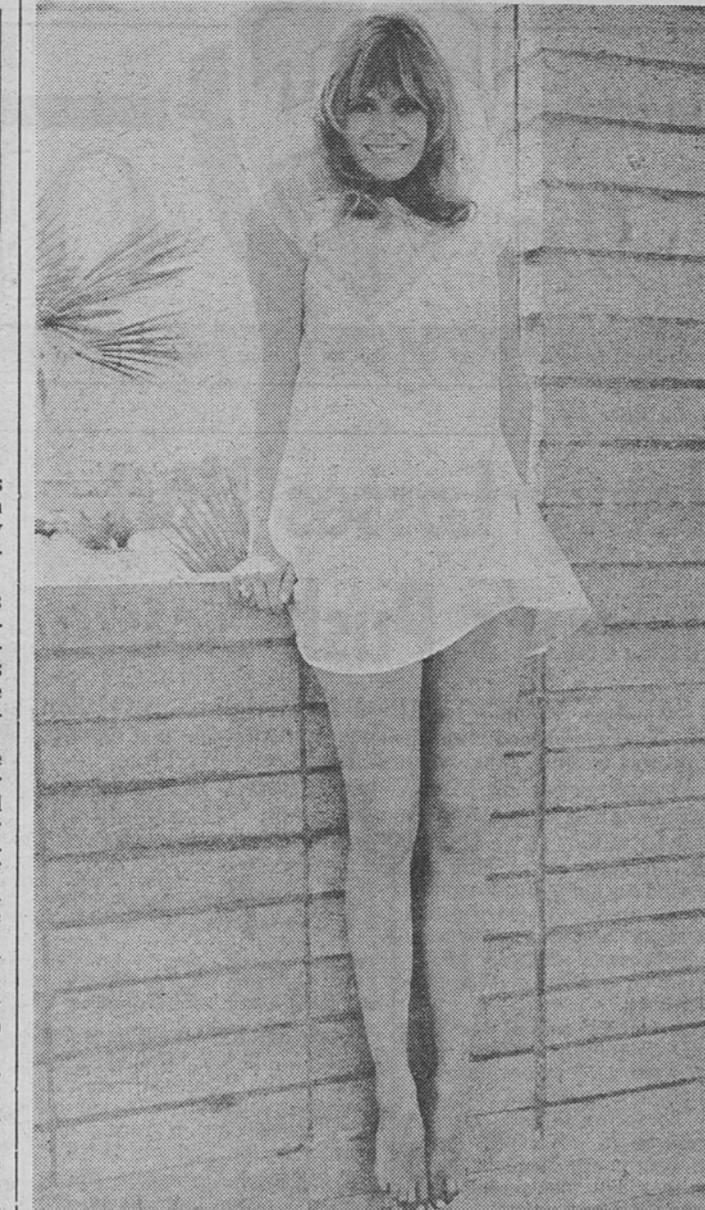
The blank firing attachment is a tube containing a tapered vent which is inserted into the muzzle of the rifle and attached with flanges. It should prevent injuries that might result from powder and flash burns or being struck by wadding in close combat training. (ANF)

MP's May Get Armored Cars

WASHINGTON — The Army appears to be edging closer to acceptance of military police requests for purchase of the command armored car.

Research chief, Lieutenant General Austin Betts says the Vietnamese have made good use of the cars, but points out the U.S. has not had armored cars (except for several on trial in Vietnam) in the inventory since World War II. If requests continue to come in for more road security equipment, the general has told Congress "we may well buy some of these for the U.S. Forces."

General Betts has also revealed that the U.S. is buying additional air cushion vehicles for use by armor forces in the Vietnam Mekong Delta areas. The flying boats are not considered aerial vehicles. (AT)



SHEER BEAUTY—Lovely Nina Wayne is indeed a beauty! (PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES)

DEROS Flight No Place For Deadly War Trophies

LAI KHE (USA) — There you are, soldier, zooming along at 30,000 feet in a 707 jet on your DROS flight from Vietnam to the United States. You've never felt better—until the guy next to you jabs you with his elbow and lets you know in a confidential tone that he really put one over on the Army.

"I'm taking home a real live Communist RPG round," he boasts. "Got it in my suitcase on the plane. No sweat in getting it past customs."

All of a sudden you're sick! Wonder how hot it is in the baggage compartment of this plane? Wonder if the safety mechanisms of that RPG round are corroded? Do you suppose some guy is shipping lighter fluid in his bag and a fire might trigger that round? Wonder what happens when an RPG round explodes in a jet at 30,000 feet? We're carrying lots of mail bags too—I saw them loaded. Wonder how many other fellows mailed hand grenades or flares home as "war trophies."

To check illegal war trophies, several detailed inspections confront the soldier leaving Vietnam. They begin with your own unit, take place again at the replacement battalion and then there will be more by customs officials. Being caught possessing prohibited articles can stop a soldier from boarding that DROS flight and make him subject to disciplinary action.

Although the military cannot check for such items if mailed first-class, they are still subject to customs inspections when placed in postal channels for U.S. delivery. Illegal items are brought to the attention of the Army Criminal Investigation Department.

This desire to take home an exciting souvenir can extend the hazards many face in Vietnam to include the flight home. Can a soldier legally take home a war trophy?

Let's play the game right and take home only what is safe and legal.

The answer is a qualified yes

of personnel in uniform abuse drugs, it is far too many.

It doesn't matter which drug you are talking about—all of them have a terrible destructive potential when taken for "kicks" rather than at the direction of a trained physician and under medically prescribed conditions.

You would certainly not entrust your life or safety to the irrational whims or reasoning of someone who is mentally ill. By the same token, you should not want to entrust your life or safety to a man whose judgement and responses have been dulled and deranged by the abuse of drugs of any type.

The drug abuser is a menace to himself, his fellow servicemen and his country. He has no place in the military where the lives of others and the safety of our Nation could be threatened by his irrational acts.

Our responsibility to our Country and to each other is too great to inflict the cancer of drug abuse on our bodies and minds. As thinking, intelligent, responsible human beings, we should have too much self-respect to destroy our minds and bodies voluntarily with drugs such as LSD, marijuana or heroin. (AFPS)

FIRST IN VIETNAM
OBSEVER

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 herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer PFC L.E. Ensminger, USA

Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are 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 Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, AFN 98222.

COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, USA
Information Officer Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NOIC JO C. W.W. Polk, USAF
Editor Ssgt C.T. Owen,



VILLAGE SEARCH—Private First Class Gordon Sellers, a rifleman with the 101st Airborne Division's C Company, 1st Battalion (Abn), 501st Infantry conducts a house to house search in a village north of Hue. The airborne troopers were flushing out the NVA around Hue.

(USA PHOTO By: Spec. 4 Roger Downs)

Airborne Unit Discovers VC Recruit Training Site

PHAN THIET (USA) — A reconnaissance-in-force mission conducted by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division northwest of here recently revealed a Viet Cong training camp. The site was destroyed by the members of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry.

The troopers discovered more than 100 bunkers and many small foxholes in the deserted area used for training Viet Cong recruits for battle.

The paratroopers destroyed the forms along with everything else at the site.

Huge caches of clothing, medical supplies, small arms and ammunition were uncovered by the paratroopers of Company A commanded by Captain Edward C. Dowdy.

They also found many training aides and documents correctly identifying different types of U.S. aircraft used in Viet-

Marines Find NVA 'Cache'

CAU VIET (USMC) — Using a series of swift thrusts, "B" Company, 1st Battalion, Third Marines captured large caches of North Vietnamese arms and equipment northwest of Dong Ha.

Sweeping north of Cua Viet river to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) "B" Company forced the North Vietnamese Army to pull out of the area without taking their stored arms and equipment.

The captured items included 975 82mm mortar rounds, 67 140mm rocket rounds, 38 RPG rocket rounds, six cases of 7.62mm small arms ammo, one case of 12.75 ammo, 20 AK-47 automatic rifles, four 82mm mortar base plates and large quantities of medical supplies and individual equipment.

"The ammunition caches were probably being stockpiled to move it to the Cua Viet supply and boat ramp," commented 1st Lieutenant George O. Norris, the company commander.



Two soldiers from the 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry, prepare to fire their M-60's against a VC Bn. (USA PHOTO)

1st Division Impact Teams Guide RF/PF Defense Units

LAI KHE (USA) — For the men of the 1st Infantry Division who work with the Vietnamese Regional Forces and Popular Forces (RF/PF), "Impact" stands for "Improvement Plus Action."

Each of the division's three brigades has an Impact Team responsible for maintaining contact with RF/PF installations in its area. Each team, consisting of an experienced infantry officer, NCO and interpreter, assists the RF/PF soldiers by training them in the use of their weapons, to call for and adjust artillery and other basic military skills. They also assist them in obtaining materials to build an effective operational base. Impact activities of this nature are receiving the Big Red One's emphasis during the current "RF/PF Outpost Month" program.

Vietnamese RFs are recruited for duty to serve in their home

hamlet or village area. They man outposts which guard the hamlet itself as well as other critical locations such as bridges and public utilities.

RFs are used throughout the province in which they are recruited. When a VC attack is imminent in a particular part of the province, the RF can be moved to provide additional troops and support.

When an Impact Team checks an RF/PF outpost, it looks for proper location of weapons to provide effective fields of fire, the proper employment of concertina wire, the effective use of overhead protection against mortar attack and the employment of claymore mines to defend the position. The unit's patrolling techniques are also critically examined and improved upon where necessary.

Upon completing this initial survey the Impact Team leader tailors his assistance program according to the needs of the outpost. Coordination is effected with the district senior advisor and supplies and materials are requested. In the event resources cannot be obtained through Vietnamese government channels the Impact Teams often will furnish limited supplies and materials from division supplies.

The Impact Team then revisits the outpost with the necessary resources and starts the ball rolling. Once the work is reasonably underway the team moves on to survey another outpost.

Should an outpost be attacked by the Viet Cong, the Impact Team visits the scene as soon as possible to survey the damage and assist in strengthening the position. The team members also analyze VC methods used in such attacks in order to advise the RF/PF defenders of other outposts more effectively.

Impact Teams also function as a link between the RF/PFs and U.S. Forces, which facilitates coordination for the conduct of small scale combined operations. The RF/PF soldier exchanges his knowledge of the local area, trails and VC techniques for tips on patrolling, ambushing and use of fire support in the conduct of these operations.

NHA TRANG (VFS)—Revolutionary Development, the pacification program in South Vietnam's countryside, is very much alive. It was set back by the Communists' Tet holiday offensive of February 1968, but it was hurt nowhere near as badly as first believed. And now the program once more is on the upswing.

"I grant you we will not be as far along at the end of 1968 as we had hoped," he said after the computers had digested reports as of March 31. "But in effect we have absorbed the Tet setback and are back on the distinct upward curve."

The RD program today aims

at improving hamlet security by committing the people to the defense of their own security.

It aims at improving the well-being of the hamlet people, not

by doing things for them, but

by showing them how to do

things for themselves — with

government's material and

technical assistance. It aims at

demonstrating that cooperation between government and people

is a two-way street, and only

through such cooperation can

South Vietnam emerge as a

viable, democratic country taking its rightful place and assuming its responsibilities in

the modern community of nations.

Story & Photos By
Vietnam Feature Service

Can bo, RD team members, learn to mend a villager's fish net.

Pacification Program Very Alive

America's support to the Vietnamese government's RD program.

Government and support the anti-Communist campaign, they will be induced or forced to help the Viet Cong. Now it is recognized that without the support of the people there can be no victory, no end to Communist aggression and no peace.

The RD program today aims

at improving hamlet security by committing the people to the defense of their own security.

It aims at improving the well-being of the hamlet people, not

by doing things for them, but

by showing them how to do

things for themselves — with

government's material and

technical assistance. It aims at

demonstrating that cooperation between government and people

is a two-way street, and only

through such cooperation can

South Vietnam emerge as a

viable, democratic country taking its rightful place and assuming its responsibilities in

the modern community of nations.



Trainees, like these Can bo, come from different villages to learn skills and defensive fighting so they can return to help their own village people.

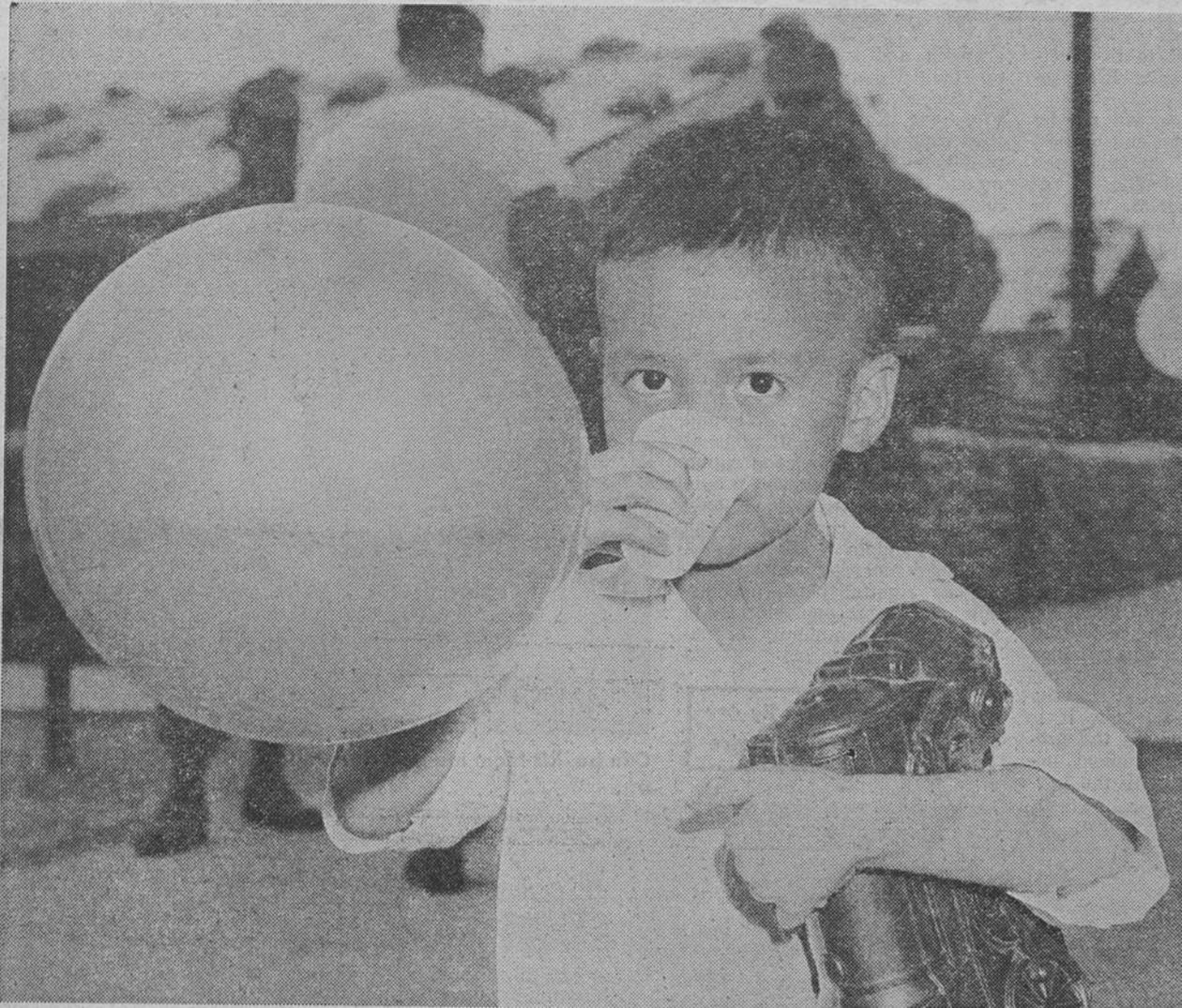


Guerrilla warfare tactics are practiced at the training center.



Students learn to work with tools so they can help hamlet residents improve their homes.

Children From This Corner Of The World



Equipped with a balloon and a locomotive, this lad from the Dong De Orphanage seems to be enjoying himself.



This Vietnamese tot solemnly unwraps a gift in the village of La Son.



Food and medical aid are given to these young children who were caught up in an enemy attack on their village.



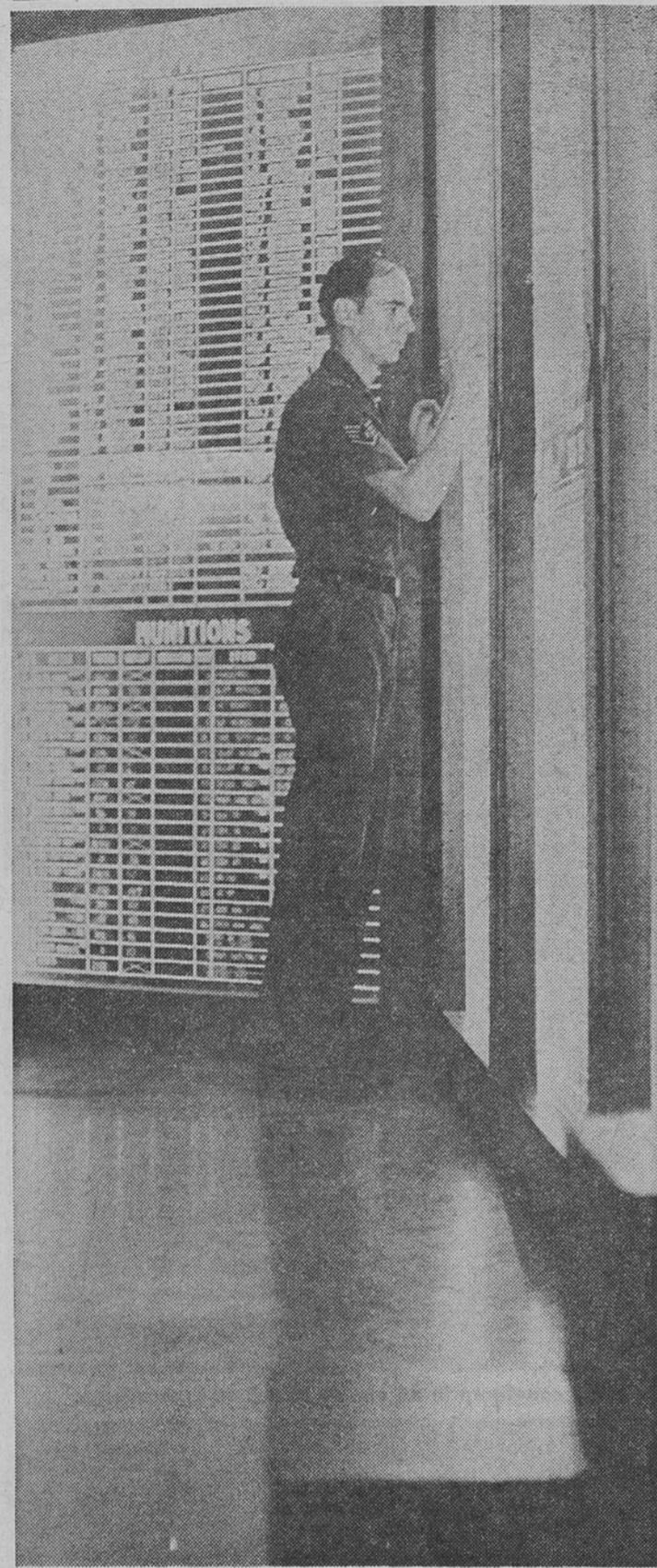
Two tots from the Lai Thieu Orphanage and School for the Deaf perform their version of a rain dance.



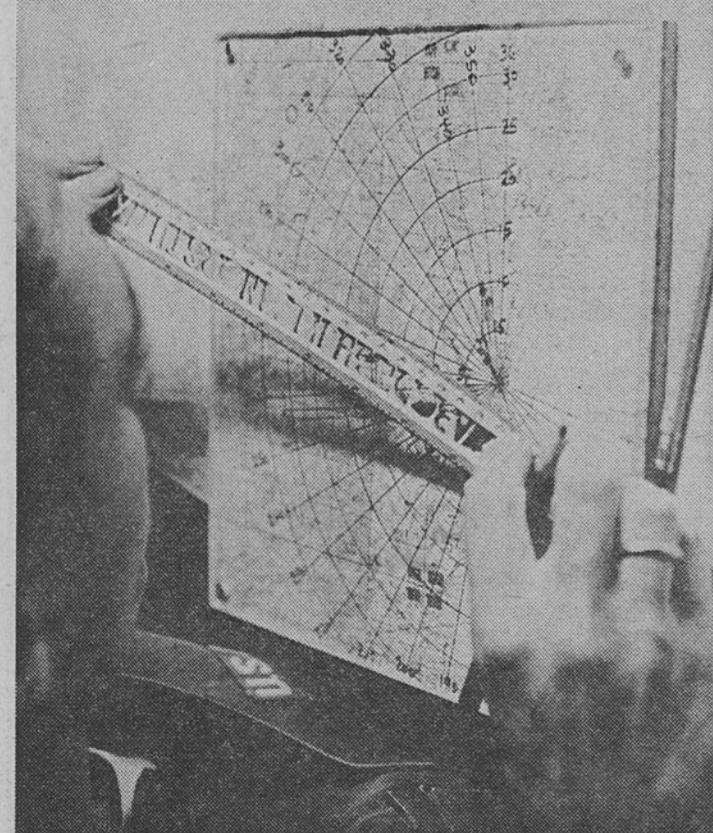
One little Montagnard child is waiting for care for him.



It's not a new singing group from England, but four small Vietnamese girls watching a MEDCAP being conducted in their village of Ly Tra.



Combat status boards allow controller instant view of airways.



Night controller charts paths of friendly fire for jet pilots.

'Nighthawk' Keeps Control; Guides AF Jets On Way

TUY HOA (USAF) — Staff Sergeant John H. Kasten's day begins at 9:30 p.m. with a shave and shower. Changing into freshly pressed fatigues and lacing his jungle boots, he thinks of the other men in his barracks—also showering and shaving but for bed instead of work.

Sergeant Kasten is a "nighthawk" at the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing command post, officially known as the Tactical Unit Operations Center (TUOC). He is on duty as senior controller providing the wing with combat operational control.

His work day begins with a detailed briefing to orient himself to a summation of the day's operations and current records.

During the long night ahead he will constantly refer to key statistics posted on status boards in a multitude of colors—red, white, yellow, green—each color serving a definite purpose.

Sergeant Kasten must check the friendly artillery plotting map. He notes that the air space through which the artillery fire will pass extends up to 14,500 feet—a good place for a jet pilot to avoid.

The heart of the command post is the telephone console with its 30 pushbuttons. Each button gives the controller instant communication with key divisions of the wing. With the touch of a finger he is in communication with maintenance control, the wing commander, the tower or even the Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) at Seventh Air Force headquarters.

The mission orders are waiting to be processed. These "frags" as they are commonly known, must be distributed to the fighter squadrons for mission planning and also to the intelligence office.

The sergeant must also post information on the combat status board which contains the mission information. The board will allow the controller on duty at any time to tell exactly

where and when every combat mission is going.

The "frags" are separated and on their way to the squadrons and the boards are posted when a button on the console winks its warning light and the muted bell grows its warning.

Listening, Sergeant Kasten hears the duty officer speak to the invisible voice on the other end of the line, then the officer tells the sergeant to scramble one of the alert aircraft.

An F-100 Supersabre is scrambled and then, in quick succession of the scramble notification, maintenance control

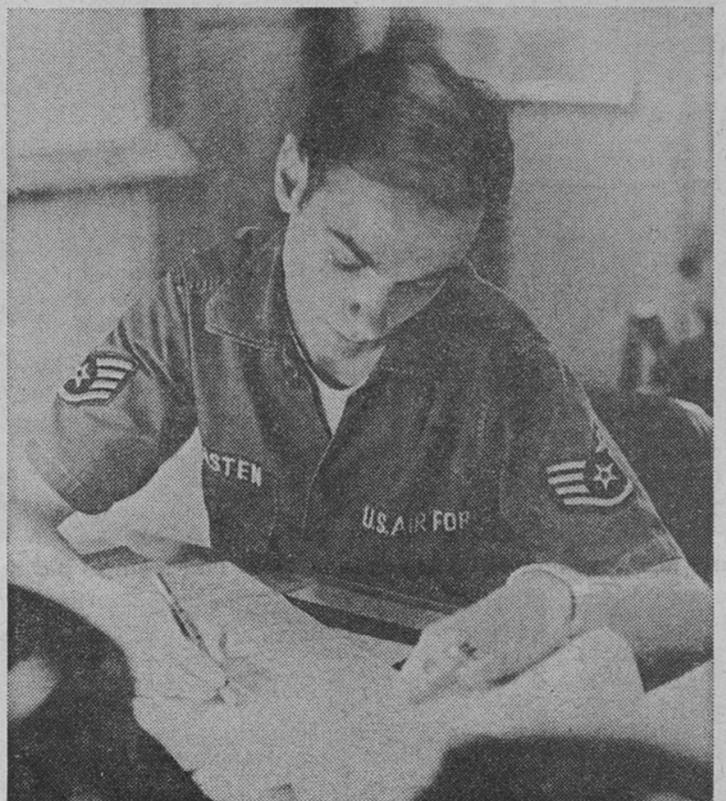
and the tower are notified. He then advises the jet pilot of target, radio frequencies and other vital information.

After the tower has notified the sergeant that the alert aircraft is airborne, he passes the information on to TACC.

The remainder of the night's routine is broken at 2 a.m. when hot food arrives from the dining hall. Between phone calls, Sergeant Kasten manages to eat his midnight breakfast.

With the meal finished, it is back to his vital job in doing his part in the war against Communism.

Story & Photos
By U.S. Air Force



Staff Sergeant Kasten plots nightly Tuy Hoa's mission orders.



Controller coordinates missions with wing divisions and 7th Air Force using phone console.

Cornmeal For 400

PHU BAI (USMC) — Though it may never be endorsed by Duncan Hines, a new recipe has been concocted by Leathernecks here to feed 400 Vietnamese in a refugee camp.

The civil affairs personnel of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division invented the new dish after it became apparent that the cornmeal they were donating to the refugees was not being used.

"Cornmeal is alien to the Vietnamese diet and they just didn't know how to prepare it," explained 2nd Lieutenant Wayman H. Dodson Jr., battalion civil affairs officer.

Consequently, the battalion civil affairs section began to experiment with a way to prepare and cook the cornmeal so that it would be a tasty meal.

What resulted was a type of "hush puppy" and pancake made from a batter of cornmeal, salt, onions and water.

"Soybean oil contains food values that we wanted the Vietnamese, especially the children, to have," noted Lieutenant Dodson.

The batter can also be shaped into pancakes and fried on makeshift grills.

Recently, the lieutenant made a trip to the camp to see how the new recipe would be accepted. The Marines demonstrated to the people how to make the "hush puppies" and pancakes, then distributed cornmeal and soybean oil. The Vietnamese were able to procure onions and salt themselves.

The first day's visit exhausted the initial supply, but the next day the Marines returned with more cornmeal and soybean oil.



AERIAL ASSAULT—Soldiers from the 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry dash from helicopters during an operation. (USA PHOTO)

3rd Dental Company

Navy Dentist Gives Girl New Start

DONG HA (USMC) — Nguyen Thi Gai is a pretty four year-old Vietnamese girl.

But she wasn't always pretty. In fact she would have become a social outcast if it had not

been for Lieutenant Commander Sam H. Hardison, (DC) USN.

Doctor Hardison, an oral surgeon with the 3rd Dental Company here, operated on little Miss Nguyen for a cleft lip.

In the past year, Doctor Hardison has performed 24 such operations but there is no evidence, the doctor pointed out, to indicate that cleft lips and palates are peculiar to Vietnam.

because they often are made fun of by others."

Corpsmen, doctors and Civil Affairs Teams traveling through the villages will tell the dentist about those who need the cosmetic surgery. Interpreters obtain the permission of parents prior to the operation.

"We also have adults walk into us asking for the operation," the doctor said. "This is our contribution toward civic action."

"The people can see what is accomplished immediately. Within one week you can take an outcast and return him to society," the doctor continued.

"For the program to materialize, it will take years," he said. "The American Dental Association, backed by the State Department, is helping train dentists in Saigon."

If the training is anything like Doctor Hardison's, it will be some time before the Vietnamese are able to help themselves in this area. It took the doctor 14 years of medical school before he was ready to perform his first operation.

Not Viet Cong; Just Dummies

CHU LAI (USA) — When is a Viet Cong not a Viet Cong?

This question recently confronted members of the 1st Armored Cavalry, of the American Division's 11th Infantry Brigade.

Personnel carriers attached to the brigade's 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry observed what they thought were 10 enemy soldiers crouching in a field and carrying weapons.

When the tracks moved in to challenge, three enemy soldiers escaped and the rest of the soldiers turned out to be mannequin dummies made from straw. The figures were destroyed.



A LONG LOOK AT WAR—Soldiers from the 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry, watch an explosion from an Allied airstrike on a Viet Cong battalion trapped as it tried to storm Saigon from the South. The unit intercepted the enemy near Kinh Doi Canal. (USA Photo By Sp5 T.L. Farley)

Airborne Kills 1,650 Enemy

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — During the first 37 days of heavy fighting in Operation Carentan II being conducted in Thua Thien province, the North Vietnamese Army lost more than 1,650 men.

This was the reported kill figure credited to paratroopers

from the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions and ARVN units under their operational control as they defended the Imperial City of Hue.

The airborne troopers also detained 140 persons for questioning, while capturing 413 individual and crew-served weapons.

Safety Is Rechecks

TUY HOA (USAF) — Making every aircraft safe to fly demands a system of checks, rechecks and inspections.

To accomplish this at Tuy Hoa air base, a small team of "detectives" daily makes the rounds to insure that every aircraft of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing that takes off on a combat mission over South Vietnam, has been double checked and maintained correctly. They are the 15 members of the quality control (QC) branch of the 31st TFW headquarters.

Always keeping in mind pilot safety, the team consists of a group of men which is familiar with every aspect of maintenance performed on the wing's F-100 Supersabre aircraft.

Daily, the QC inspectors, tour the flight line to observe refueling operations, flight line maintenance, safety practices, and make "in-progress" inspections of maintenance being performed on aircraft by specialists and crew chiefs.

But their most challenging job comes in the hangars where, after every complex maintenance job such as an engine change, they go through the aircraft bolt-by-bolt to make sure that everything is correct.

And, when they walk around picking up rocks and bolts off the ramp it is just a precaution, for the supervision of the Foreign Object Damage Program comes under their guidance.

With more than 65 years of aircraft maintenance experience among them the Quality Control inspectors are a vital part of the combat flying job at Tuy Hoa air base.

GI's Hobby Slinky 'Bit'

CAT LAI (USA) — Hypnotize a snake? It's done according to Staff Sergeant William Smith, whose hobby is catching and raising snakes.

"I became interested in snakes when I was a boy in Tennessee," said the sergeant, of the 124th Transportation Company at Cat Lai. "In fact, I still go out with my son to catch snakes. In Mississippi, where I now live, my son is keeping a couple of rattlers, about a half dozen black racers and a whip snake in our collection."

Sergeant Smith has had plenty of chances to continue his collection since arriving in Vietnam. He was a member of a long range reconnaissance patrol before being assigned as a mess steward with the 124th.

"The snakes I've captured so far in Vietnam have been the big ones—boa constrictors and pythons. Right now, I'm looking for a cobra," he said.

Sergeant Smith likes to amaze people by hypnotizing some of his pets. "A snake concentrates very intently on anything that moves," he explained. "So when I move my hand slowly back and forth in front of its face, it follows the movement until it becomes hypnotized."

When the snake is under the sergeant's power, he can pick it up and toss it around as if the reptile were dead. He revives the sleeping serpent with a sudden loud noise such as clapping his hands or shouting.

The Army still has no Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) for a snake charmer, but if the need should arise there is at least one instructor waiting in the wings.



MISS FUN IN THE SUN—Appropriately titled is Janet Haadland. She certainly would be a barrel of fun.

(PHOTO COURTESY LVNS)

Phu Cat Air Base

Airmen Keep Workhorses Up

PHU CAT (USAF) — Keeping the AC-47 Dragonship in the air to provide flare light and fire support is the job of the men of "C" Flight, 4th Air Commando Squadron at Phu Cat air base.

Keeping the famed "workhorse of the Air Force" flying can be a mountainous task in itself, considering the AC-47's age, but the men of "C" Flight have overcome this obstacle.

The responsibility of keeping the three 7.62mm mini-guns firing goes to the two aerial gunners. Their job is to keep the aircraft to the target and execute the necessary maneuvers for defending the many military installations and hamlets in the II Corps Tactical Zone.

All in all, the men of "C" Flight must work as a close knit team to provide the vital support to the Free World Forces fighting in Vietnam.

ing reloaded between flights. In addition to performing the "routine" maintenance, the men must be able to repair any malfunction that might develop. For this purpose each aircraft contains a flight mechanic. The flight mechanic must be able to diagnose possible trouble and correct it.

The responsibility of keeping the three 7.62mm mini-guns firing goes to the two aerial gunners. Their job is to keep the aircraft to the target and execute the necessary maneuvers for defending the many military installations and hamlets in the II Corps Tactical Zone.

The ground maintenance men of the 4th ACS preflight the aircraft before each take-off and perform required maintenance, much the same as an automobile mechanic at a service station keeps an automobile running. In many cases, this job entails preflighting the aircraft while the aircraft is be-

ing reloaded between flights. In addition to performing the "routine" maintenance, the men must be able to repair any malfunction that might develop. For this purpose each aircraft contains a flight mechanic. The flight mechanic must be able to diagnose possible trouble and correct it.

The responsibility of keeping the three 7.62mm mini-guns firing goes to the two aerial gunners. Their job is to keep the aircraft to the target and execute the necessary maneuvers for defending the many military installations and hamlets in the II Corps Tactical Zone.

The loadmaster is charged with loading the necessary ammunition and flares aboard the aircraft before each mission. In some cases, this is done in a

Koreans Hit VC

TUY HOA (USAF) — A hard pounding from the air and ground for more than a week has put the 5th North Vietnamese Division on the run in Phu Yen province, 200 miles northeast of Saigon.

The enemy's previously untouched sanctuary was routed by the 28th Korean Regimental Combat team and a series of deadly Air Force strikes.

Utilizing a B-52 Stratofortress raid to soften up the target, the Koreans moved into the area behind well placed close air support from F-100 Supersabre jet aircraft of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at nearby Tuy Hoa air base and several other Vietnam-based units.

Colonel Lee Fun Sik, commander of the Korean regiment, called the operation, To Kae Be 7, a big success. He said, "We were able to harass and disorganize the enemy headquarters for the first time. We also deprived them of greatly needed food and farming areas and their best radios."

Final damage totals for the operation was 102 enemy killed and four suspects detained. The Korean forces also captured 50 weapons, including six crew served weapons, 106,000 rounds of ammunition, 1,500 kilos of rice and 500 kilos of salt.

In addition, Colonel Lee stated his troops discovered one cave previously used by the NVA headquarters component that was large enough to hold a company of men.

Friendly casualties for the 19-day operation were listed as three Koreans killed and four wounded.

Air Force forward air controllers called in 21 air strikes in support of the operation in the last five days of the action.

SS Fairland Hit By Mine

SAIGON (USN) — The U.S. merchant ship SS Fairland recently reported a mine detonation beneath her stern in the Long Tau river 14 miles southeast of Saigon.

None of the ship's crew was injured and the Fairland proceeded downriver. Navy divers were to have checked for hull damage in Cam Ranh Bay, where the ship was scheduled for a late evening port call.

The incident was the first reported mine attempt on shipping in the Long Tau in more than five months.

The Fairland, under contract to the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), had just off-loaded her cargo in Saigon and was empty when the explosion occurred. Her crew reported the stern lifted about a foot.

Navy units had completed minesweep runs five hours earlier.

River patrol boat crews on the scene when the mine detonated were unable to find detonating wires.

The incident was the third time in two weeks the Fairland has been in a Viet Cong attack. She was attacked with heavy weapons May 9 while enroute to Saigon. On May 16, she was 20 minutes behind the SS Transglobe, another MSTS ship, when the Transglobe came under heavy weapons attack on the Saigon shipping channel.

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of June 5-11, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday June 5

1330 Sign On
1330 Lost In Space
1330 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Low Day Special—Melvin Belli
2030 The Monkees
2100 Andy Williams Show
2100 Sports
2200 Halftime Headlines
2300 New Headlines

A Quest For Certainly
2030 Johnny Midnight
2200 Gunsmoke
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

Sunday June 9

1230 News Headlines
1230 The Christophers
1245 Sacred Heart
1300 Prince Of Peace
1330 Sports
1330 Feature Movie
1445 Pet Bonn Special
1730 Vietnam Home Me
1800 G.E. College Bowl
1830 Danny Thomas Hour
1930 News-Sports-Business
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Information Feature
2030 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2300 Update News
2305 Dean Martin
Jerry Lewis

Monday June 10

1830 Sign On
1830 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 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Tuesday June 11

1830 Sign On
1830 News Headlines
1830 Wild Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Wednesday June 12

1830 Sign On
1830 News Headlines
1830 Sports

1500 Pro Bowler's Tour
1600 Flying Fisherman
1630 The Long, Long Christmas

1730 The Long Childhood of Timmy
1830 Lawrence Welk

2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2305 Feature Movie

Thursday June 13

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Saturday June 15

1830 Sign On
1830 News Headlines
1830 Sports

1500 Pro Bowler's Tour
1600 Flying Fisherman
1630 The Long, Long Christmas

1730 The Long Childhood of Timmy
1830 Lawrence Welk

2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2305 Feature Movie

Friday June 16

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Sunday June 17

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Monday June 18

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Tuesday June 19

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Wednesday June 20

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Thursday June 21

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Friday June 22

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Saturday June 23

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Sunday June 24

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Monday June 25

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Tuesday June 26

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
Insight

2005 Big Picture
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Get Smart
2200 Car Trek
2200 Update News
2305 Joey Bishop

Wednesday June 27

Commander Bids Troops Farewell



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSEVER

Vol. 6, No. 59

Saigon, Vietnam

June 19, 1968

Combined Offensive Hurts VC

BIEN HOA (USA) — The first phase of Operation Toan Thang, conducted by allied units from the ARVN III Corps and U.S. II Field Force, terminated recently after inflicting staggering losses on the enemy forces.

Since the combined offensive was launched on April 9, allied forces killed 11,894 and captured or detained a total of 579 enemy soldiers, most of whom were members of the North Vietnamese Army. These losses were the approximate equivalent of 35 battalions. Friendly losses for the same period totaled 1,350 killed in action.

The successes gained during phase one of the operation were cited by Lieutenant General Nguyen Khang and Lieutenant General Fred C. Weyand, commanding generals of III Corps Tactical Zone and II Field Force, respectively, in a joint congratulatory message to participating troops.

The message said in part, "Operation Toan Thang has inflicted extremely heavy losses in both men and materials upon the invaders at relatively small cost to our forces. Enemy efforts to seize the initiative have been decisively thwarted."

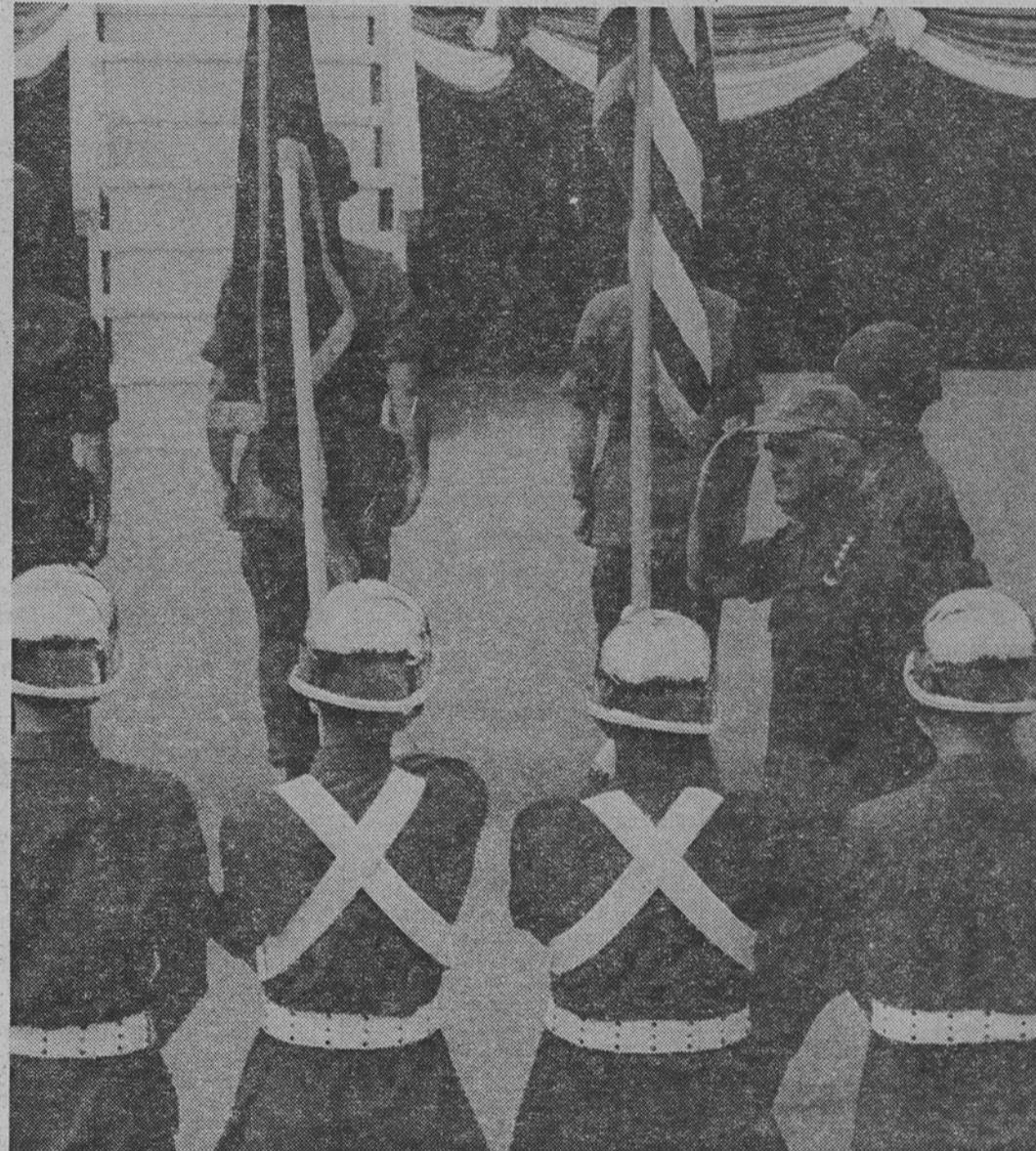
In addition to the unprecedented number of NVA prisoners and detainees taken and the high loss ratios suffered by the Communist forces in Toan Thang, heavy material losses were also inflicted. More than 202 tons of rice and 17 tons of other foodstuffs were reported captured or destroyed. This figure, Allied officials say, represented enough food to feed 25 infantry battalions for an entire month.

Large numbers of weapons and equipment were captured. Most important of these included more than 430 of the enemy's deadly 122mm rockets and 9-, 100 mortar and other high explosive rounds. Additionally, 486,780 rounds of small arms ammunition were seized.

Captured documents, ralliers and detainees describe a demoralized and badly crippled enemy who is still receiving orders to harass the greater Saigon area.

Sorry, Wrong Number...

CAMP ENARI (USA) — "I've gotten wrong numbers before but this is ridiculous." An irate Major Agnew of the 4th Aviation Battalion made this statement after attempting to place a call to Vung Tau.



General Westmoreland salutes the Colors as he troops the line during his farewell ceremony.

Army Chaplain Wins DSC For 'Exceptional Gallantry'

SAIGON (MACV) — The first Distinguished Service Cross ever presented to a chaplain in Vietnam has been awarded to Captain Angelo J. Liteky, an Army Catholic chaplain with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

The award was presented by General Creighton Abrams, deputy COMUSMACV, during a recent ceremony held at Firebase Stephanie, five miles west of Saigon.

Father Liteky was cited for "exceptional gallantry" during an action on Dec. 6, 1967, while

on a reconnaissance - in - force mission with the 4th Platoon, A Company, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry. The platoon spotted two Viet Cong and followed in pursuit, hoping the VC would lead them through the extremely thick jungle to an enemy mortar site.

However, the VC went into a well fortified Viet Cong-North Vietnamese battalion base compound with claymore mines and machine guns guarding its perimeter. The recon-platoon was only a few meters away when the VC/NVA unit released the first fusillade of fire. The first volley left very few in the platoon untouched. The reserve platoon moved up and received a similar greeting.

Father Liteky received shrapnel wounds in his feet from claymore mines as he scampered for cover. Almost immediately, he was up administering aid and recovering bodies.

"Disregarding his own safety, Chaplain Liteky fearlessly

SAIGON (MACV) — The man who for more than four years, was the American commander in Vietnam, recently bade his troops farewell.

Before his departure, 54-year-old General William Childs Westmoreland went on a whirlwind tour of subordinate commands, paying final official calls on some of his 530,000 troops. He also called on U.S. and Vietnamese government officials and other dignitaries.

Now confirmed by the Senate as the next Army chief of staff, Gen. Westmoreland leaves Vietnam at a time when the United States faces North Vietnam at the conference table in Paris.

Nominated to succeed Gen. Westmoreland is Creighton W. Abrams, his deputy commander for the past year. Replacing Gen. Abrams as deputy will be General Andrew J. Goodpaster, formerly the commandant of the Army War College at Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

Just prior to his departure, Gen. Westmoreland was honored by members of his MACV headquarters staff in a brief farewell ceremony.

The headquarters ceremony came at the conclusion of the official calls and a trip to Washington, where the Senate unanimously approved his nomination for the Army chief of staff post.

At the ceremony, U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and a host of other military and civilian high officials, heard Gen. Westmoreland add his headquarters staff to the long list of those due considerable praise, "for having served so faithfully

(Continued On Back Page)

Delta Units Pound VC

SAIGON (USN) — U.S. Navy units, both singly and with South Vietnamese Popular and Regional Force troops, continue to pound Viet Cong positions in the Mekong Delta.

In one recent action, 24 enemy suspects were detained by river patrol boat crewmen working in conjunction with Vietnamese Regional and Popular forces sweeping Cu La May island. The island is on the Bassac river, 70 miles southwest of Saigon.

Elsewhere, Navy Seawolves (helicopter gunship crews) joined with their mobile river base, the Operation Game Warden support ship USS Hunterdon County, in destroying or damaging 24 enemy structures and six bunkers in Kien Hoa province.

There were no U.S. casualties reported in either operation.

Long Wait

HUE (USA) — Reaching back through 20 years of their Army careers, General William C. Westmoreland and Sergeant Major A.B. Cannon, met at the 101st Airborne Division headquarters here recently for some unfinished business.

Sgt. Maj. Cannon, of the 2nd Brigade, had orders making him a Master Parachutist dated June 15, 1948. However, there was no signature above the general's name.

As Gen. Westmoreland signed the special order the sergeant major had kept for so long, he said, "From looking at the order, I see you were a staff sergeant in 1948 and I was a lieutenant colonel. I guess we've both come up a bit."

walked through the hail of bullets to encourage the men, aid the wounded and administer last rites to the dying . . .", his citation read in part. "The soldiers were inspired by his courageous actions and regrouped for an assault . . ."

It further stated that "Chaplain Liteky saw two wounded men pinned down in front of a Viet Cong machine gun position, and he again defied death to move to them. Upon reaching the casualties he shielded them with his body and evacuated them . . ."

"Ignoring painful wounds . . . he returned through intense fire to rescue another man. The enemy concentrated fire on Chaplain Liteky, but he refused to take cover, freed the soldier from entanglement in heavy vines and aided the man to safety. As darkness fell he continued to move among the infantrymen, administering aid and comfort to the wounded."

Father Liteky has been in Vietnam for 15 months.

Editorial

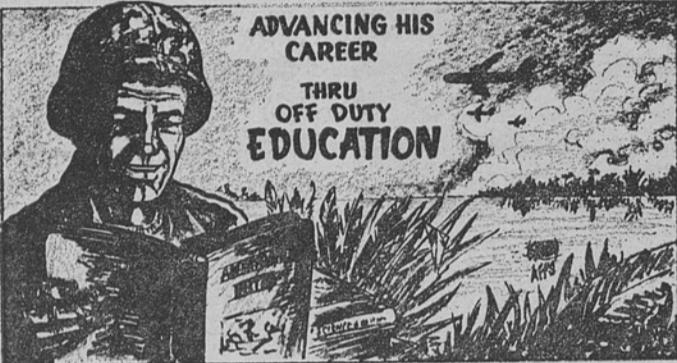
Education Helps

Several months ago, a service-oriented publication carried a story about an enlisted man who had earned a college degree and further advanced his education by way of in-service technical and academic courses.

In a later issue of the publication, a letter to the editor accused this educated enlisted man of decreasing his value to the service and wasting his time. It maintained that the man's college degree probably wouldn't help him progress through the enlisted ranks nor gain warrant or commissioned status.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

The man who devoted his off-duty hours to furthering his education demonstrated that he had the initiative, desire for self-improvement and tenacity sought and



desired in leaders whether officer or enlisted.

The viewpoint expressed by the critic of education is, fortunately, not prevalent. The majority of Armed Forces personnel realize that a good education has become a necessity in our modern military establishment.

Whether your course of study is directly related to your military assignment—such as personnel administration or management, data processing or computer programming—or is one that broadens your general knowledge and viewpoint, it will help you to be a more useful and productive member of the military establishment, the community and the country.

You gain by increasing your education and preparing yourself for more responsible and rewarding assignments. When you do not further your education and seek to improve yourself, you waste time and opportunity—rare commodities indeed. (AFPS)

TOW Passes Tests Red Tank Threat

REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALA. — TOW missiles have been fired successfully by the U.S. Army Missile Command after being subjected to severe environmental tests.

Army officials said the missiles, carrying live warheads, were fired at heavily armored plates on a test range.

Prior to firing, the missiles were exposed to conditions they might undergo in any part of

the world. They were bounced, vibrated and exposed to sand, dust, heat, rain, salt spray and fungus.

Firings were conducted by Hughes Aircraft Company, TOW prime contractor, with support from the Missile Command's Test and Reliability Evaluation Laboratory.

The weapon is being developed for the infantryman to use against tanks and field fortifications. (AFN)

All command sergeants major holding O0Z as a primary MOS will be tested, except those serving in Southeast Asia, where MOS evaluation testing is suspended.

Regular tests will be scheduled between Aug. 26 and Sept. 7. Early tests will be given Aug. 1-25 and makeup tests will be given Sept. 8-21. (AFNS)



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 Defense News Service, 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. Siddle, USA
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF

NCOIC JOC W.W. Polk, USA
Editor SSGt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer Sp 4 L. Ensminger, USA

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**'Folding Box' Speeds Mail**

SAIGON (USA) — A new mail container, designed to improve mail delivery in Vietnam, is currently being tested by the Air Force in the Republic.

Four prototype models of the container are being used by C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying mail from Tan Son Nhut to Cam Ranh Bay. The container can hold 1,600 pounds of mail on a 463L pallet which is standard equipment on Air Force transport aircraft.

Engineers at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, designed the new container in response to an operational request from Seventh Air Force officials. Major General Harry Goldsworthy, Aeronautical Systems Division commander, realizing the urgent need for better mail service and aircraft utilization, directed that the equipment be designed and built "in house" by systems command engineers and technicians.

Second Lieutenant Joseph L. Weingarten, one of the container designers, is in Vietnam to aid the testing.

"This new mail container is waterproof, collapsible and easily stored when not in use. Four of the containers can carry 6,400 pounds of mail as compared with the present maximum of 3,000 pounds," explained Lt. Weingarten.

The lieutenant added that now the containers can be filled at the postal terminals rather than at the aerial port location, thus eliminating several hours of time-consuming work. The new containers can also be fitted on any Air Force cargo aircraft, ranging from the C-7A Caribou to the new C-5A Galaxy, the world's biggest transport.

* * *

CSMs Slated For MOS Test

WASHINGTON — The first annual military occupational specialty (MOS) evaluation testing for the U.S. Army's command sergeants major will be conducted during August and September.

Awards of proficiency pay for superior performance based upon his initial evaluation of the top non-commissioned officers, who hold the MOS of O0Z, will be effective Nov. 1, 1968.

All command sergeants major holding O0Z as a primary MOS will be tested, except those serving in Southeast Asia, where MOS evaluation testing is suspended.

Regular tests will be scheduled between Aug. 26 and Sept. 7. Early tests will be given Aug. 1-25 and makeup tests will be given Sept. 8-21. (AFNS)

Post Card Salute

WASHINGTON — A five-cent post card commemorating the silver anniversary of the Women Marines has been authorized by the Post Office Department with the first day of issue scheduled for July 26.

The 25th anniversary of the Lady Leathernecks was Feb. 13, but two other prominent dates



"I JUST LOVE LEOPARDS!!!"—And we just love Linda Harrison who is starring in the 20th Century-Fox flick, "Planet Of The Apes." We chose to run Linda's picture because our editor said that it is a good example of beauty contrasted with beast (?). Well, that's what he said!

(PHOTO COURTESY 20th CENTURY-FOX)

Instant Death Traps Come In Varieties

(HQ PACAF) — Although there are many varieties of instant death in Vietnam, one of the most lethal hazards U.S. troops face is booby traps.

Ingenuity displayed by Communist terrorists in the construction and placement of the traps would do credit to the twisted mind of a mad scientist. But the danger of booby traps is being negated through indoctrination of newly assigned servicemen.

Following the Gulf of Tonkin crisis in 1964, when U.S. materials and troops were rushed into Southeast Asia, terrorist booby traps were not as sophisticated or as many as today. They were effective when encountered however.

Mainstays of the early periods of the war were the punji stakes, razor-sharp pieces of bamboo with the cutting and piercing power of a stiletto. The uniqueness of the punji is its simplicity.

Bamboo abounds in Vietnam. The stakes are made by cutting the bamboo to form a sharp, slanted edge. They are then placed in rice paddies or tall grass. Communist guerrillas also smear the cutting edge with animal or human waste to hasten infection of any wound received from the stake.

At times servicemen must contend with walking booby traps. Many attempts to smuggle explosives into secure areas have failed because of alert security guards making thorough inspections of persons entering the area. At an air base, a trusted employee attempted to sneak a bomb into a billet. Her parents were held captive by Viet Cong. They were to be put to death if the bomb was not placed on base.

A remote Air Force weather station near An Khe in the central highlands had daily visits from children who sold fruit and Vietnamese souvenirs. The airmen enjoyed the visits — until the day a seven-year-old boy tossed a grenade at them.

Fortunately, the boy was new at terrorism and forgot to pull the arming pin. He too was acting under fear for his family's safety.

Although the average airman, unlike the infantryman, is not on the field of combat, there have never been definitive lines of combat drawn in Vietnam.

In such a situation, a person can not be too careful; Communist terrorists are limited only by their imagination.

Chieu Hoi Site Scene Of Battle

in the future.

This last gift was perhaps the most welcome to the Hoi Chanh at Tay Ninh. With the security of the center assured, they could now return to the job they've been trained for — spreading news of the Chieu Hoi policy among the Viet Cong.

As a former Cao Dai major,

he knew the sounds of war well,

and alerted the residents of the

center to take defensive positions.

For the next 30 minutes, the

men of the Chieu Hoi

center at Tay Ninh

are members of Armed Propaganda

Teams (APT).

They travel to

villages in the province

contacting the families of VC,

giving lectures,

distributing leaflets,

trying to convince their own

friends among the VC that the

government is sincere in its

promise to take care of VC who

wish to defect.

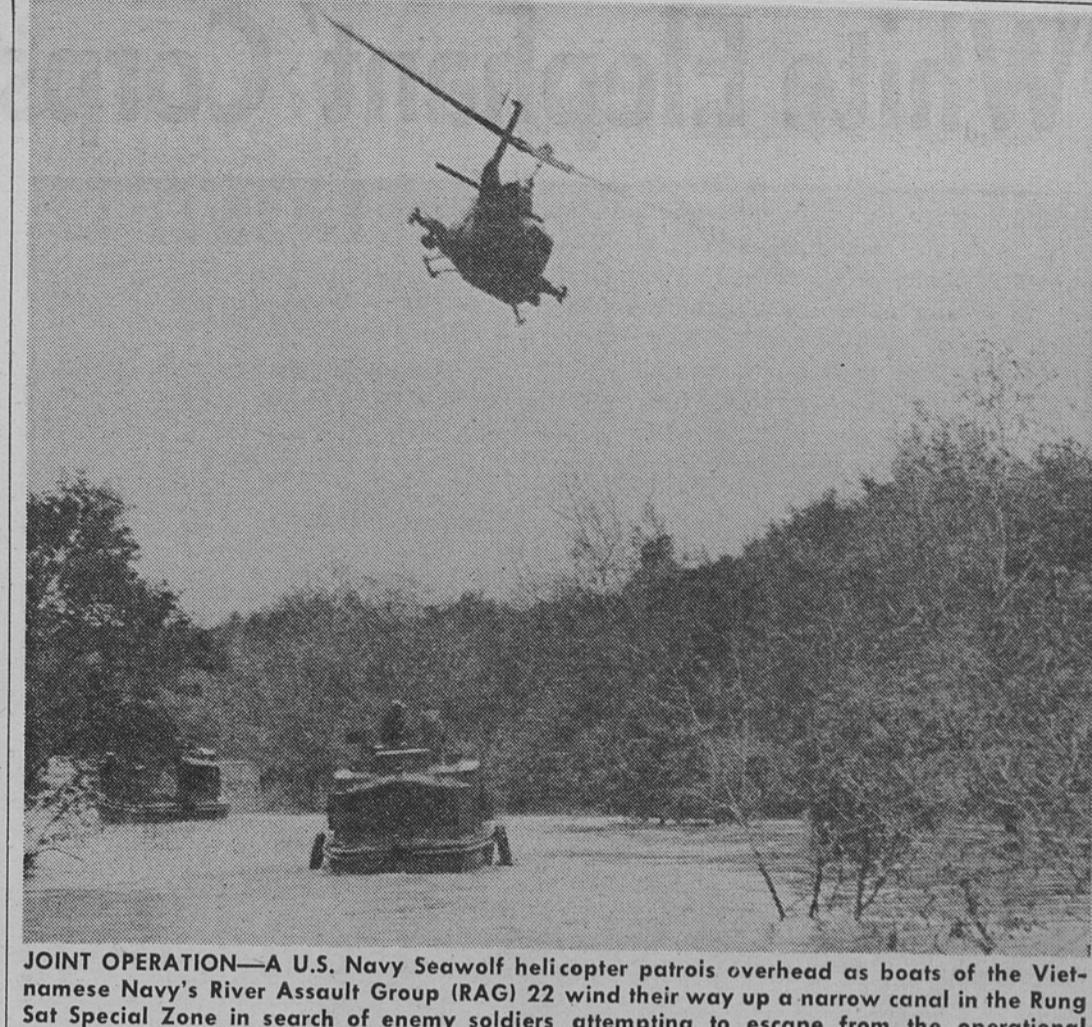
VC Interested In 101st News

PHUOC VINH (USA) — The 101st Airborne Division's "Screaming Eagle" newspaper was discovered to have extended beyond its normal circulation near here recently.

Paratroopers from Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry were searching a hastily abandoned Viet Cong bunker complex when they came upon a dug in structure resembling a day room. On one of the tables were several copies of the airborne division's newspaper.

Also on the day following the attack, a contractor had begun making an estimate on repairs to the center's damaged buildings, most of which the Hoi Chanh had painstakingly built by hand. Repairs to the buildings, riddled by more than 40 B-40 rockets, were estimated at 200,000 piasters (about \$2,000).

Lieutenant Colonel Ho Duc Trung, Tay Ninh's Province Chief, promised to supply Regional Force (RF) platoons to provide security for the center



JOINT OPERATION — A U.S. Navy Seawolf helicopter patrols overhead as boats of the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group (RAG) 22 wind their way up a narrow canal in the Rung Sat Special Zone in search of enemy soldiers attempting to escape from the operational area of Dong Tam VI. Vietnamese, U.S. Navy and Army units participated in the operation 18 miles southeast of Saigon. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY: PH1 C. Williams)

oil system was severely damaged.

The pilot headed the disabled craft back to Dong Ha where he made a safe landing and obtained immediate medical aid for the wounded passengers.

The lieutenant is currently assigned to the 213th VNAF Helicopter Squadron at Da Nang air base.



QUICK EXIT — Covered by helicopter machine gun fire, paratroopers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, (Airborne), 501st Infantry assault a Communist stronghold west of Hue recently. The 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade paratroopers fought alongside troopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division during the I Corps operation. (USA PHOTO BY: Sp4 Charles Bailey)

'White Elephant' Corpsmen: Prepared



White Elephant Dispensary in Da Nang is the scene of this minor stitch-removing operation.

A Mighty Powerful Job

DA NANG (USAF) — The varied line-up of aircraft at Da Nang air base, and the many types of armament required to make them effective, creates a demanding job for the men of the 366th Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS).

Working from one end of the base to the other, MMS men receive, inspect, store and issue many types of armament test

ing from flares to guided air-to-ground missiles.

Perhaps the most difficult weapons to handle are the missiles. Their sensitive guidance systems must be carefully protected from dust, moisture and severe shock.

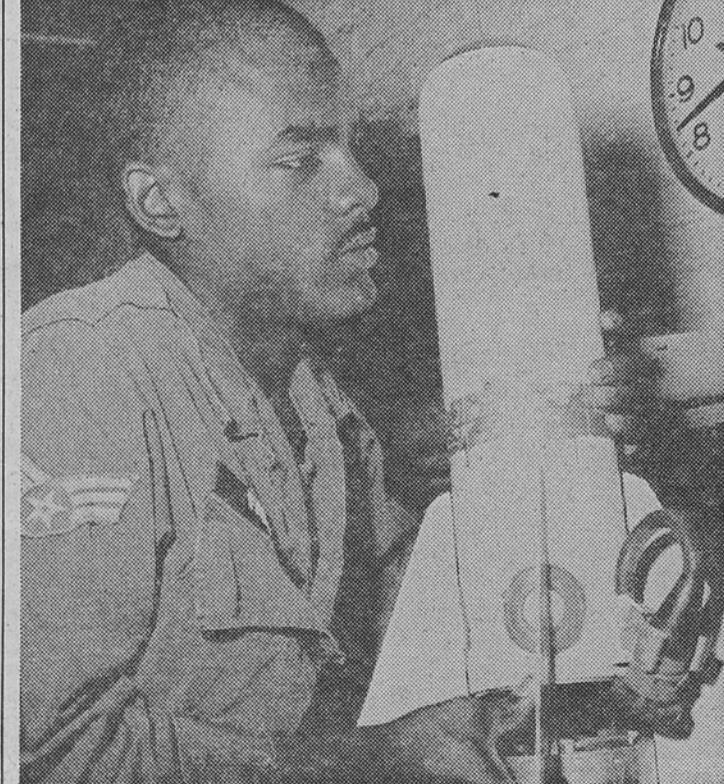
The missiles arrive at Da Nang packed in sealed aluminum cases. They are taken immediately to the clean test

room. This room is specially equipped with electronic equipment specifically designed to check guidance systems.

After a missile has the stamp of approval from the clean test room, it is returned to its container, resealed and stored until it is needed. When that time arrives the missile is ready. . . .

"We make the majority of our runs in answer to traffic ac-

traints. He also advised us of danger areas, enemy areas, possible enemy sniper positions, as well as helping us feel more confident in our efforts," praised 1st Lieutenant Robert E. Popken, commander of C Company.



Sidewinder missile is carefully unpacked for inspection.

Paperback Saves Him

CU CHI (USA) — First Lieutenant Henry L. Wyatt may or may not be an avid reader. But in any case, he now has a good reason to appreciate books.

The lieutenant is an aviator with the 187th Assault Helicopter Company here. He recently escaped injury when an enemy round hit his helicopter and imbedded itself in a paperback edition of James A. Michener's, "The Source," beneath the pilot's seat.

Later, a maintenance damage inspection revealed the punctured best seller with the spent bullet lodged at page 923. Realizing that the thick novel had saved him from possible serious injury, the startled, but grateful lieutenant promised to write the author.

He said he had only one regret about the incident. "I wished I had turned the book over . . . now I am going to have to read around the bullet hole."

'Alfie' Was On Critical List; Now Healthy, Gaining Weight

CHU LAI (USN) — Navy corpsmen at the Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-12 dispensary have unofficially adopted a two-year-old Vietnamese girl they found recently in critical condition.

Alfie, as she had been named by the corpsmen, was found by Hospitalman Third Class Terry Shrub, a medical civic action platoon corpsman, during a visit to the orphanage in Ai Tan village near the Chu Lai air base in Quang Tin province.

"She was in pitiful condition when I brought her in," said Petty Officer Shrub. "She was suffering from an acute case of malnutrition and lung congestion."

After a complete physical, Alfie was given a bath, clean clothes, medicine and placed on a proper diet.

After her initial examination, the doctors and corpsmen knew they would have a job on their hands if their young patient was to survive. For the next few weeks each corpsman at the dispensary took turns watching and caring for her until she was removed from the critical list.

During the first two weeks at the dispensary Alfie's bassinet was a four-by-two aluminum packing box with a soft pillow for lining. After her condition improved, Petty Officer Shrub decided the box was not good enough for a young lady and made her a hammock using a Navy blanket.

She can now drain an eight ounce bottle of milk in 30 seconds and eat four "big" meals a day, the corpsmen report. Although she will eat almost anything put before her, Alfie prefers fish, and loves just plain bread and butter. The corpsmen have also taught her to drink from a glass.

"She has pretty features," said Chief Hospitalman Ramon Flemming, "and extra long eye lashes that lay on her cheeks when she closes her eyes."

Alfie has gained four pounds since Petty Officer Shrub found her. Eventually she will be returned to the orphanage where she will be given the opportunity to live a more normal life, thanks to the doctors and corpsmen of the MAG-12 dispensary.

DA NANG (USN) — In the dispensary of the headquarters building of the U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Da Nang, the phone rings. "Hello, Doc? This is the Armed Forces Police (AFP). We've got some wounded Vietnamese in a village on the old China Beach road. Could you send an ambulance right away?"

Seconds later a Navy ambulance, lights flashing and siren screaming, rushes into the dark and vacant streets of Da Nang. Minutes later, the ambulance and three hospital corpsmen were on the scene.

Meeting the AFP, they hurried into the frightened village. There they found eight wounded Vietnamese who minutes before had been hit by shrapnel during an enemy rocket attack.

Immediately the corpsmen began giving emergency first aid. Suddenly, small arms fire sprang up all around them. With people dying and wounded they had no time to think of their own safety. Running and ducking bullets, they continued.

Two more wounded remained when a rocket tore into a small Vietnamese house not more than 20 feet away from the corpsmen. The concussion of the explosion knocked them off their feet and sent them hurling into a barbed wire fence.

Luckily, they escaped with minor injuries. Picking themselves up they proceeded to load the last victim into the ambulance. With bullets still whizzing above their heads, they turned the ambulance around and headed for the NSA hospital.

This is just one of the many runs made by the nine ambulances attached to NSA.

Three men are attached to the dispensary at the headquarters building, known as the White Elephant. They are responsible primarily for making ambulance runs throughout the West Da Nang area, but in emergencies, can go anywhere.

"Each ambulance is equipped to handle four patients at a time," said Hospital Corpsman First Class Robert J. Dewald. "Although at times we've had to haul up to 20 patients during an enemy attack."

"We make the majority of our runs in answer to traffic ac-

cidents," said Hospital Corpsman First Class Mike Ostrander. After 4 p.m. one of the masters-at-arms from the White Elephant has to go along with the corpsmen and the patients.

"We try to help the patients as much as we can back at the White Elephant," said Hospital Corpsman Third Class Steve L. Norton. "The hospital has enough casualties to take care of without having to worry about traffic accident victims." But, due to the limited facilities at their dispensary, it is necessary to take serious cases to military or civilian hospitals for treatment.

Most of their runs are within a few miles of the White Elephant, but there are times when they are required to go into Vietnamese villages where there is always the possibility of VC activity.

Although the ambulance has never been hit by enemy fire, it has by careless drivers. "It's the traffic we have to fight going to and from the scene of trouble," said Corpsman Dewald.

"Some people don't always yield when they see or hear us coming," said Corpsman Ostrander. "During rush hour traffic it takes almost 30 minutes to travel a distance which would take only 20 minutes if people would move their vehicles out of the way." In Da Nang each day there are thousands of motor bikes, cars, trucks and "semis" that travel the same roads continually.

"It's important that we save as much time possible getting to the hospital," said Corpsman Dewald. "A few minutes gained on the road can mean the difference between life and death to the patients."

Besides making routine ambulance runs, the dispensary cares for an average 25 patients a day during sick call. It is open to all military personnel, U.S. Government civilians and Vietnamese civilians.

At the White Elephant, the corpsmen are always prepared. They never know when the phone may ring and that familiar voice say, "Hello Doc? — would you send an ambulance right away? There's been an accident at . . ."

They Remember Naminsky



Nam scans an open area to the front for signs of VC activity.



Pointman was Nam's position as a Kit Carson Scout.

Story & Photos

By

Sgt. Marty Caldwell



Moments before death Vo Van Nam listens to enemy fire which this time meant his death.



Vo Van Nam studies the terrain before the patrol moves out.

learned to appreciate his knowledge of enemy tactics even more," stated Specialist 4 James L. Herriage Jr. "We got tired of calling him Nam and he became so close to us that we decided to call him Naminsky," said one Company C soldier of Polish descent.

In February of this year, Nam joined Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, and the soldiers gladly received their new comrade.

It did not take them long to learn just what type of man Nam was.

"Nam couldn't speak English very well that first night we met him back at base camp, but he had the most pleasant smile I've ever seen," remarked Platoon Sergeant Marvin M. Czerwona.

"We took a quick liking to him and as days went by we

trances. He also advised us of danger areas, enemy areas, possible enemy sniper positions, as well as helping us feel more confident in our efforts," praised 1st Lieutenant Robert E. Popken, commander of C Company.

"Finding wild fruit, climbing up in the palm trees to retrieve fresh coconuts, and cooking up one of his famous campfire recipes, were a few of the many ways Nam made life more pleasant for us," said Sergeant Danny C. Hatmaker.

While this article was in preparation, Vo Van Nam was killed in action against a Viet Cong force.



A VC for two years made Nam an invaluable "tunnel rat."

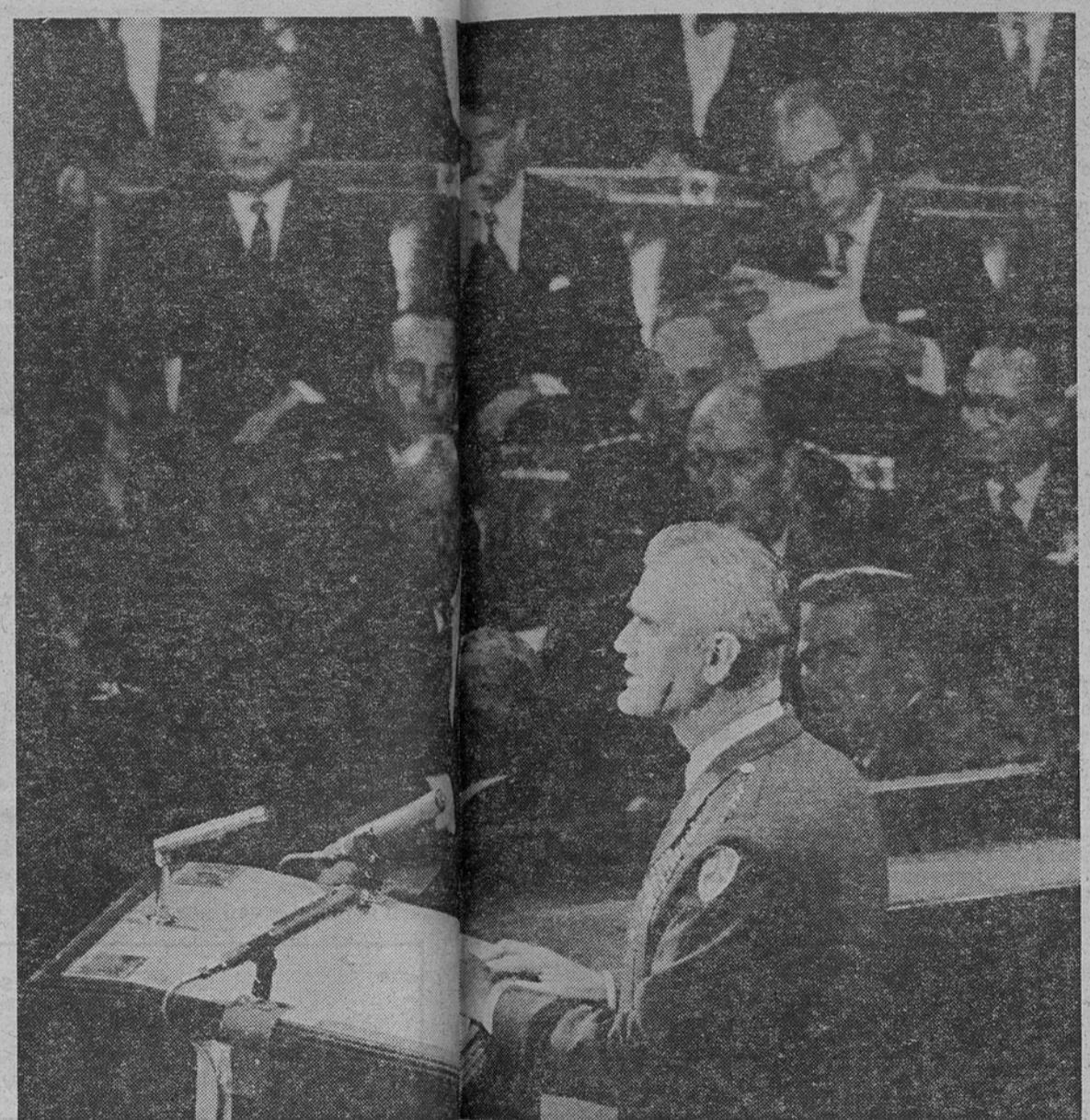


Conferring with Ambassador Ellsworth and Vice President Humphrey.



Sighting an enemy sniper rifle found in an arms cache.

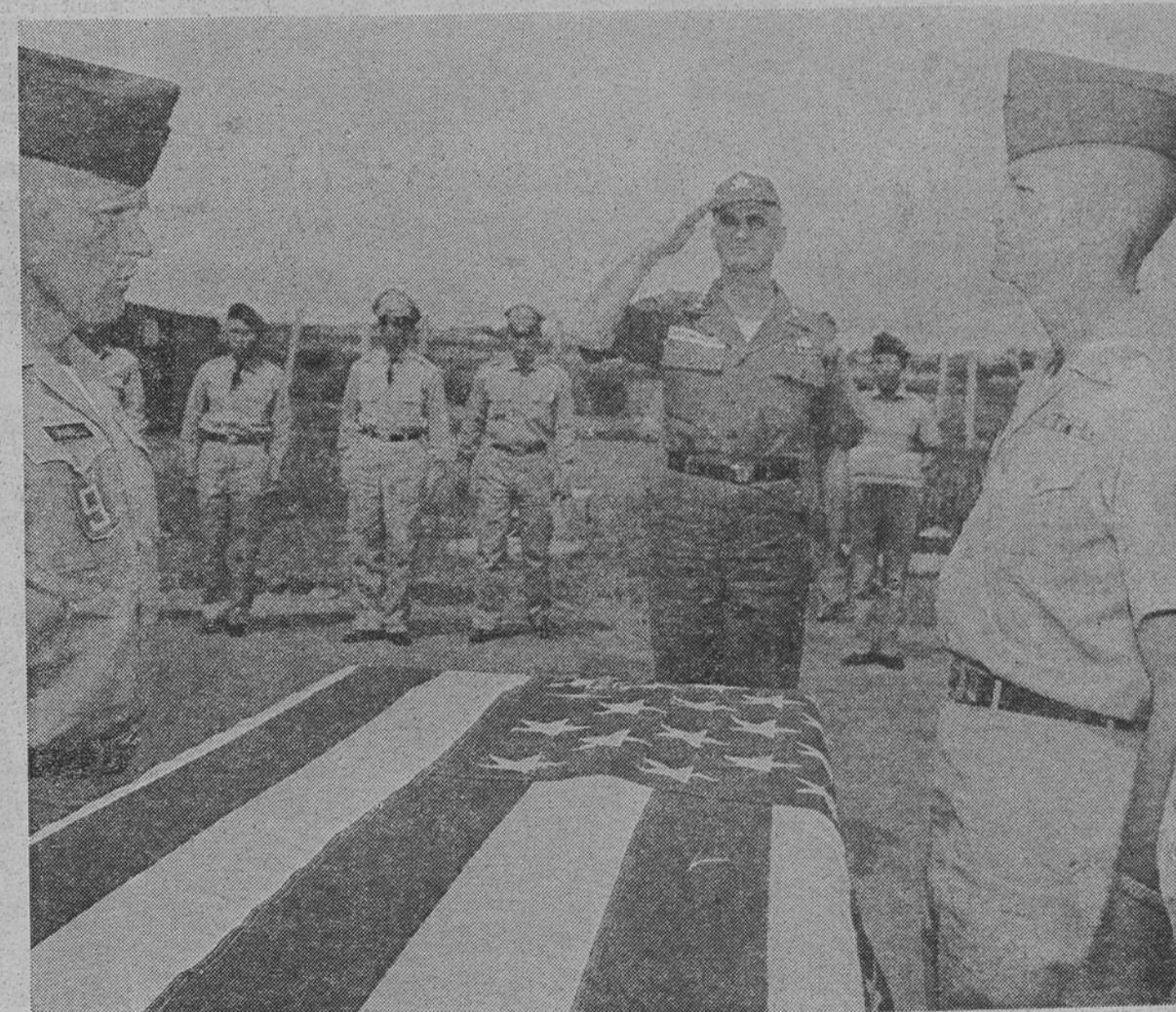
Gen. Westmoreland's Viet Tour Ends



General Westmoreland was invited to address the Congress of the United States in August 1967.



Accompanying former Defense Secretary McNamara during visit with the troops.



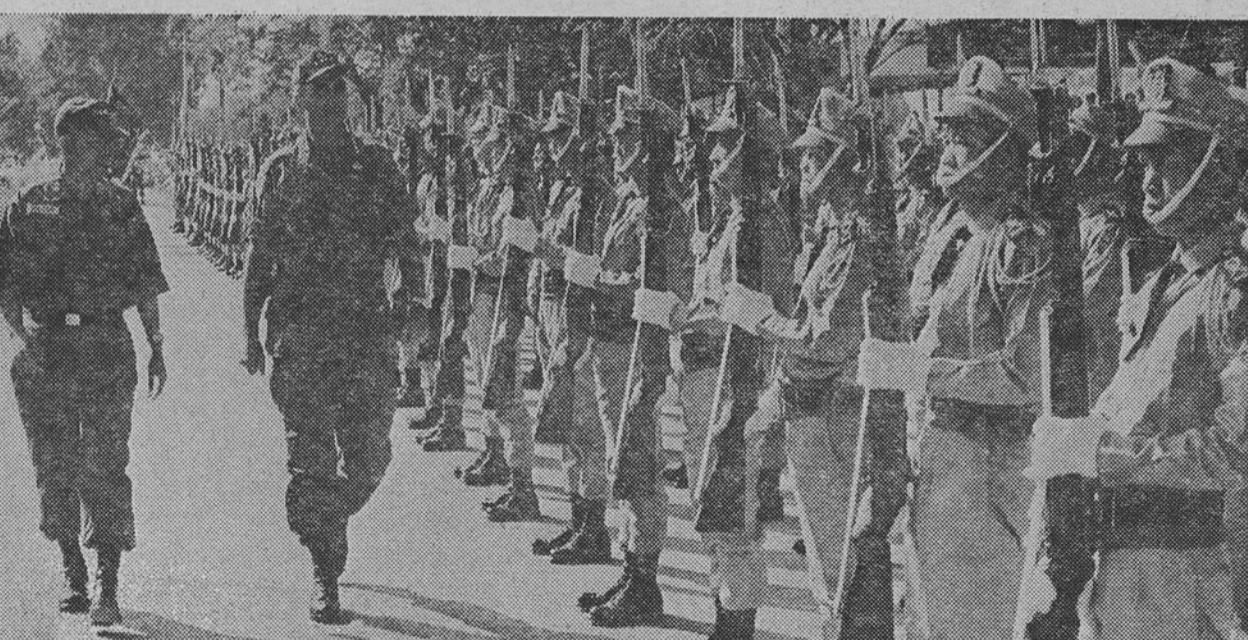
COMUSMACV salutes the flag draped casket of a soldier killed in action.



Talking with Sgt. C. Brown Jr., of the 173rd Airborne Bde.



Escorting President Johnson during a visit.



Reviewing officer candidates at the Thu Duc Infantry School, one of Vietnam's military training centers.



Signing a Joint Military Working Arrangement with General Vincent of Australia.

Queen's Cobra's Strike For Freedom

SAIGON (VFS) — Today the Thais are fighting for freedom — against Communist subversion and aggression in their own country, and against Communist encroachment on their neighbor, the Republic of Vietnam. To most Thais both campaigns are part of the same war.

Despite this Communist menace within their own border area, the Thai people have been more than willing in their contributions to the fight against the Communists seeking to topple the Saigon government. Thailand has sent elements of its own army, navy and air force to South Vietnam to help fight the Communists as a pledge of their belief in the right of a people to be free.

The Queen's Cobra Regiment of the Royal Thai Army is the largest of those volunteer units. Though stationed in South Vietnam less than a year, its men have earned an enviable reputation, particularly as night fighters.

In response to a call for volunteers, 20,000 young Thais came forward. From these the defense ministry chose 2,600 for training in the steaming jungles of Kanchinaburi province, near the historic bridge that spans the River Kwai. All were civilians with prior military service — students, government officials, Buddhist monks, men from many walks of life.

In June 1967 a 14-man advance group arrived in Vietnam to make arrangements with the 9th U.S. Infantry Division to provide administrative support to the Queen's Cobra Regiment, which was to be based at the Division's headquarters at Bearcat, 18 miles east of Saigon on



A heavily armed patrol of the Queen's Cobra Regiment departs the Thai base at Bearcat outside Saigon in search for Viet Cong.

Route 15. During the summer of 1967 the main units of the regiment poured through Newport, just north of Saigon port, and were trucked on to Bearcat.

Currently under the 9th U.S. Infantry Division's operational control, the Queen's Cobras have a degree of autonomy that will become more complete when the regiment is transformed into a division. Already the Americans of the 9th Division are moving elements of their headquarters south to the Mekong Delta so Bearcat can be turned over to the new Thai division, possibly as early as this summer. Some 12,000 new Thai volunteers are in training, preparing to move to Vietnam, although the total strength of the division will be about 10,000 men.

Since arriving in the Republic of Vietnam the Thais have come to be known as fierce foes to the Communists and genuine friends of the Vietnamese villagers in the Bearcat area.

One recent example of the Cobras' courage in battle came when a 3-vehicle convoy of 15 men was ambushed by the enemy. After the initial VC attack had subsided, there were seven Thai soldiers capable of carrying a fight to the enemy.

The officer in charge refused artillery support because, he said, "there are too many homes of friendly Vietnamese in the area." Without artillery support, without cover in the open road, and heavily outnumbered, the Thai position seemed hopeless. But the officer gave the order to fix bayonets, and led

the seven unwounded men in a charge directly into the dug-in positions of the VC platoon. Taken by surprise and panicking at the sight of naked steel, the Viet Cong broke from their positions long enough to enable the Thais to reach the cover of the treeline. There they held out until Thai reinforcements arrived from Bearcat to send the VC retreating into the forest.

Besides courage the Queen's Cobras have the local Vietnamese people on their side which adds immeasurably to their fighting prowess. Responding to the increased security the Cobras have brought to the area, the people refuse to help the Viet Cong. Instead they actively assist the Thais by informing on the VC. They tell the Thais of VC movements in the area, of the location of booby-traps, of arms and supplies cached by the enemy, and of any VC attempts to re-establish control over villagers. As a result of Thai reaction to this flow of intelligence, the roads now are safe to travel, and Revolutionary Development teams are at work in the hamlets in an atmosphere of relative safety.

Until that day comes men like the Cobras will be manning the barricades against aggression.

Story & Photos
By
Vietnam Feature Service



Lt. Manas Klaimane, a Thai officer, makes friends with villagers of the Bearcat area.



After a firefight with Viet Cong, a Thai medic treats a flesh wound of one of his comrades.



Former VC introduces a Thai soldier to a Vietnamese family.



FIRE SUPPORT—Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's First Squadron stand by as Air Force jet fighter-bombers pound entrenched enemy positions. The action recently took place 15 miles northwest of Saigon.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Glenn Van Matre)

Air Force Dentist

Teaches Dental Care In Le Hai

TUY HOA (USA) — Helping the Vietnamese people to help themselves is the true meaning of civic action. At Tuy Hoa air base, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Edward Jones has been putting this theme into action.

Base dental surgeon for the 31st U.S. Air Force Dispensary, Col. Jones has recently completed an eight-week training program designed to teach Cuc Luu Dinh, a Vietnamese health officer, to perform dental extractions.

The program began with MEDCAP visits by the Air Force officer to a Vietnamese dispensary at Le Hai, 25 miles northwest of Tuy Hoa. Col. Jones was performing dental work on

the Vietnamese and was assisted by the Vietnamese health officer. The colonel felt that for his visits to be of benefit to the Vietnamese, someone should be trained to continue on after the MEDCAP team stopped visiting that area. "Cuc Luu Dinh showed such an interest that I felt he could be trained to handle extractions," Col. Jones said.

The following eight visits to the dispensary saw Cuc slowly progress from an observer to a participant in the dental work. The first step was to teach him to anesthetize the patient to deaden the area prior to extraction. The Air Force dentist patiently explained through an

Cuc Luu Dinh has worked in the Military Assistance Com-

mand, Vietnam (MACV) dispensary since 1962. Prior to that, he was an elementary teacher in the South Vietnamese school system. In his new role, he will be the only dental advisor available to residents of a large area.

The idea of teaching someone to help his fellow man is not new, but at Tuy Hoa air base, the teaching will benefit the South Vietnamese people long after the war has ended.

After five weeks of training, the Air Force dentist assisted Cuc in performing his first extraction of a tooth. The next three weeks were spent polishing the new dentist's techniques. As Cuc's ability increased so did his confidence.

The eighth visit of the Air Force officer was his last to the Le Hai dispensary as the MEDCAP team would be visiting a new location. During this visit, Col. Jones anesthetized while Cuc did the extracting, a complete reversal of form from the first visit.

Cuc Luu Dinh has worked in the Military Assistance Com-

mand, Vietnam (MACV) dispensary since 1962. Prior to that, he was an elementary teacher in the South Vietnamese school system. In his new role, he will be the only dental advisor available to residents of a large area.

While the villagers moved out of the village, search teams of Military Police and National Police conducted a systematic search of the houses, boats, a brick factory and other buildings.

Two Marines Bust VC Trap

CHU LAI (USMC) — Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-12 civil affairs teams have worked in the villages and hamlets around Chu Lai for more than two years without any major incidents with the Viet Cong.

When trouble did arrive, it came in a grenade-throwing fire-fight with a Viet Cong ambush.

The recent incident took place three miles west of Chu Lai, when Major Richard F. Risner, MAG-12 civil affairs officer, and Staff Sergeant Richard M.

Petterson headed their jeep over the last hill entering the valley near Long Phu II village.

The VC had set up an "L" shaped ambush on the road. A burst of gunfire through the windshield missed both Marines. However, both received superficial wounds from flying glass.

Maj. Risner and Sgt. Petterson rolled out on the ground and using the jeep for cover, commenced firing at the rifle muzzle flashes in the bush which concealed the members of the Viet Cong ambush.

The volume of fire from the two .45 caliber pistols and the M-16 rifle carried by Maj. Risner and Sgt. Petterson was sufficient to discourage the Viet Cong ambushing who withdrew into the bush leaving two slightly wounded Marines who consider themselves extremely lucky to be alive.

The orphanage is staffed by eight sisters.

The school had previously been closed because at that time the area was rife with terrorist activity, and the prior instructors who could not be protected had sought employment in a more pacified area. The sisters began their work by taking in the homeless waifs who were left stranded in the area.

When the school year began, the sisters embarked on informal instruction of their charges. As the instruction continued, day students began coming to the school. Presently the school has an enrollment of 60 orphans and 150 day students.

Entire Viet Family Welcomed To Fold

CAMP EVANS (USA) — Since the war in Vietnam began there have been many Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers who have taken advantage of the South Vietnamese government's Chieu Hoi or "Open Arms" Program.

They have come singly, in twos, and threes, but a recent group that embraced the government program defies description. Four generations that included 11 persons and their belongings arrived at Camp Evans for reassignment to a refugee center.

Mr. Trieu, his wife, children, mother and grandmother, along with chickens and a pig with a litter of piglets, were met by members of the 545th Military Police unit and given temporary housing.

"Before the Viet Cong came to my village," recalled Mr. Trieu, "life was very good for my family. We farmed our land and raised our children. Then the ARVN soldiers left the village and everything changed."

In the beginning, five of the men from the village resisted when the Viet Cong said every one, no matter what their age, would help them. The Viet Cong herded all of the people into the center of the village where a large hole had been dug and had the five men kneel. After a few moments the five were beheaded and their bodies pushed into an open grave. The rest of the people were too afraid to resist. They did what they were told.

"Everyone had to make available a large portion of their rice to the VC," stated Mr. Trieu. "My family was required to give 120 cans of rice each month. This amounted to about 20 kilo (44 pounds). It left very little

for us to eat."

"When I found the safe conduct pass, dropped by the American planes, I decided to return to the government forces," related Mr. Trieu.

"Now that I am with the government again, I would like to live a peaceful and a good life," said Mr. Trieu.

Allied Units Clear Town Of Xuan

SAIGON (USA) — Eighty-five men from the 18th Military Police Brigade's 720th MP Battalion recently joined forces with 40 members of the 301st Vietnamese National Police Field Forces Company and 50 soldiers from the Duc Tu district Popular Forces to conduct a cordon and search operation four miles south of Long Binh Post.

Conducted in the isolated riverside hamlet of An Xuan, the operation began when six patrol boats manned by the battalion's B Company set up a blocking force on the two rivers bordering the village. Land Forces then moved in silently to complete the cordon of the village.

A local official accompanied by an MP officer and a National Policeman walked through the village informing the people that a cordon had been established and that they were to leave the area temporarily and go to a nearby enclosure. Here the people were given a free meal of C-rations, and a MEDCAP team was brought in by boat to give aid to those needing medical treatment.

Before being allowed to return to the village, every adult was questioned and identified. As an additional population and resources control measure, the battalion's S-2 section photographed more than 400 villagers for future identification purposes.

While the villagers moved out of the village, search teams of Military Police and National Police conducted a systematic search of the houses, boats, a brick factory and other buildings.

Airmen Act As Parents For Viet Orphan Group

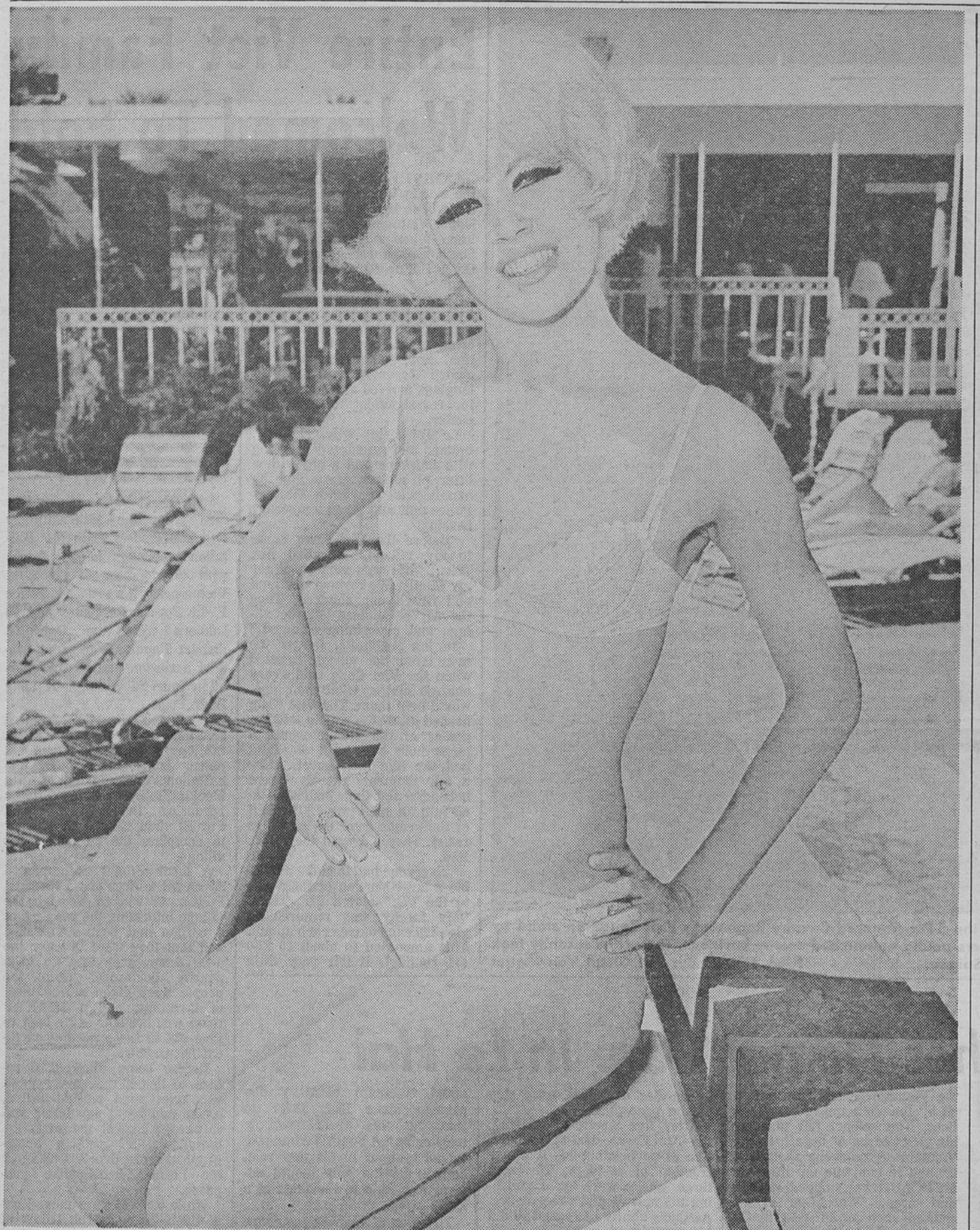
12-years-old.

The orphanage is staffed by eight sisters.

The school had previously been closed because at that time the area was rife with terrorist activity, and the prior instructors who could not be protected had sought employment in a more pacified area. The sisters began their work by taking in the homeless waifs who were left stranded in the area.

When the school year began, the sisters embarked on informal instruction of their charges.

As the instruction continued, day students began coming to the school. Presently the school has an enrollment of 60 orphans and 150 day students.



POOL-SIDE BEAUTY—Lovely Joan Jonasson is just one of many pool-side beauties in Las Vegas. (PHOTO COURTESY LVNB)

Long Binh MP

One Man Civic Action Program

LONG BINH (USA)—Specialist 4 Joseph Blakley, an 18th Military Police Brigade soldier, might be called a one-man civic action program. The specialist speaks Vietnamese fluently and acts as an interpreter for all of the MP battalions within the 89th Military Police Group.

Serving his second complete tour in Vietnam, he has gained the friendship and respect of many Vietnamese people.

Assigned to the 89th MP Group's civil affairs section at Long Binh, Specialist Blakley works with his section chief, 1st Lieutenant Clifford Brody, in establishing a proficient civic action program.

The soldier's bilingual work brings him into direct contact with a cross section of the local populace, including Vietnamese MPs and National Police, vil-

lage chiefs, school teachers and children. Those who know him say he has the unique and vitally necessary ability to converse freely with the people and to gain their confidence and trust through his winning personality.

One of his current projects is helping the 720th MP Battalion improve Vietnamese dispensaries in villages located in the battalion's tactical area of responsibility. The smooth-speaking MP, in conjunction with Captain Maurice Fitzgerald, S5 officer of the 720th, is helping to establish an administrative program for the dispensaries, and has proposed ideas pertaining to the training procedures the Vietnamese medics should follow in order to be well-versed in modern medical techniques.

Together, the two MPs also are helping the Vietnamese

create better electrical facilities in the villages, improve garbage collection systems and construct a new, modern police station.

A typical day will find Specialist Blakley acting as an interpreter between a Vietnamese village chief and an American officer. As Lt. Brody comments, "Many times Specialist Blakley has been the sole reason there has been an effective communications between U.S. soldiers and the Vietnamese people."

Each battalion in the 89th MP Group provides some support to a Quanh Canh (Vietnamese MP) Battalion. The U.S. MPs contribute money and materials to the QCs so that they may improve their living areas in their spare time. Specialist Blakley acts as a liaison man in this program, making frequent visits to find out what the Vietnamese

people need. He speaks with them as a friend, often offering suggestions or lending a helping hand.

He also has been called upon to interrogate detainees or speak to villagers in a possibly hostile area to inquire about the location of the enemy.

"Thank God it was a dud," PFC White said in relief.

At 11 p.m. one evening, the Viet Cong entered Long Tam village in Nhon Trach district for propaganda purposes. The VC gathered the young men of the village together for a demonstration on "how to use a hand grenade." While the instructors were preparing to give their lecture the grenade exploded. Results: two Viet Cong killed and one wounded.

Fireman Has Big Problem

ABOARD USS IWO JIMA (USN)—An all points message goes racing to all ships of the Seventh Fleet off Vietnam, requesting an immediate search and rescue!

The search is for a pair of size 15W shoes, to rescue a sailor aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima from going barefoot.

Navy Fireman John E. Rietzke found himself in a predicament off the coast of Vietnam, when he wore out his last pair of shoes. Finding a ship or unit which carried size 15W shoes, was almost impossible.

The marines came to the rescue with a size 14W jungle boot, but even that was too small, and tore within two weeks.

Finally, the Seventh Fleet attack carrier, USS Ranger, came through with a pair of size 14W, black leather dress shoes . . . tight, but covering his feet.

Taking no chance of Fireman Rietzke splitting these, Captain John T. Shepherd, commanding officer of the USS Iwo Jima, sent a request to Oakland Naval Supply Center, Oakland, Calif., for shoes that fit.

"I've always had trouble finding shoes my size," said the six-foot-seven, 200 pound sailor. "Even when I was in boot camp, it took them more than four weeks to find a pair for me. I was the only man wearing brown hush puppies to a personnel inspection."

Dud Round Freezes GI

CAMP EVANS (USA)—"I couldn't believe my eyes. I just froze for a second expecting it to explode," explained Private First Class Jerome White of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry in describing his reaction to a dud 60mm mortar round landing between his legs.

Alpha Company was on a search and clear mission South of Camp Evans when they discovered a number of enemy huts in the mountainous terrain. Underneath the floors of the huts, the cavalrymen found deep bunkers capable of housing from 20 to 30 men each. A further search of the area uncovered 40 rounds for a 60mm mortar.

The company moved a distance away from the cache so that it could be blown. Everyone waited tensely for the explosion. "Because we were down and a comfortable distance from the explosion, when the dud came in, we thought we must be receiving incoming mortar rounds," stated Private First Class Frank Combs, who was close to PFC White.

"Thank God it was a dud," PFC White said in relief.

At 11 p.m. one evening, the Viet Cong entered Long Tam village in Nhon Trach district for propaganda purposes. The VC gathered the young men of the village together for a demonstration on "how to use a hand grenade." While the instructors were preparing to give their lecture the grenade exploded. Results: two Viet Cong killed and one wounded.

American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week of June 19-25, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday

June 19

2030 Sign On
2030 Lost In Space
2030 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2030 Insight MPS

2005 Low Day Special—Melvin Belli
2028 The Monkees
2100 Austin Williams Show
2200 Sports
2300 Hotline Headlines
2300 New Headlines

Thursday

June 20

1830 Sign On
1830 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2030 Insight Kit Carson Scouts

2005 Information Feature
2028 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Perry Mason
2230 Feature Movie
2305 CBS Playhouse

Friday

June 21

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2030 Inside Postol

2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 Big Picture
2230 In Town Tonight
2300 Update News
2308 Joey Bishop

Saturday

June 22

1830 News Headlines
1830 Sports
1500 Pro Bowler's Tour
1600 Flying Fisherman
1630 American Sportsman
1730 South Huruk Presents
1830 Justice For All
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

Monday

June 24

1830 News Headlines
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2030 Insight AER

2005 Get Smart
2028 Science Fiction Theater
2100 Hollywood Palace
2200 Mission: Impossible
2230 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Tuesday

June 25

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2030 Inside USA

2005 Geography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

Wednesday

June 26

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Thursday

June 27

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Friday

June 28

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Saturday

June 29

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Sunday

June 30

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Monday

July 1

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Tuesday

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Wednesday

July 3

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Thursday

July 4

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Friday

July 5

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Saturday

July 6

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Sunday

July 7

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Monday

July 8

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Tuesday

July 9

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Wednesday

July 10

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Thursday

July 11

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Friday

July 12

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Saturday

July 13

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Sunday

July 14

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Monday

July 15

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Tuesday

July 16

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Wednesday

July 17

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Thursday

July 18

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Friday

July 19

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Saturday

July 20

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

Sunday

July 21

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

2030 Inside USA
2100 Missions: Impossible
2200 Magazine News
2305 Operation: Entertainment



FIRST IN VIETNAM

The

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 60

Saigon, Vietnam

June 26, 1968

Cholon Fighting Wins Defectors

LONG BINH (IIFF)—Thirty-four enemy soldiers surrendered recently to a South Vietnamese Ranger Battalion during heavy fighting in the Cholon district of Saigon.

A 16-year-old soldier captured early in the day worked with the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) psychological teams to influence several of the surrenders, according to Captain Robert A. Reitz, advisor to the 35th Ranger Battalion. A total of six broadcasts were made.

In the Saigon-Cholon area, a surgeon working with the Dong Nai Viet Cong Regiment defected to a Vietnamese Marine unit in the northern section of Saigon.

The battalion killed 88 enemy in two days of fighting, while suffering 33 killed in the house-to-house fighting.

The detainees, members of the 6th Local Force Battalion, were told before the action that they would be tortured and shot by ARVN forces if they surrendered. A Viet Cong officer, who surrendered after the house he was firing from was surrounded, said that he had believed his headquarters and was "very frightened" when he surrendered.

The officer, a VC for six years, said that morale was low in his unit because of "great ARVN firepower." He did not state any other reasons for the low morale, but reports from other prisoners have indicated a lack of food and ammunition.

Other members of his unit also were frightened, the officer continued. He said he did not know whether or not they would surrender.

Since his unit had moved into Cholon from Hau Nghia province, northeast of Saigon, "many" of them had been killed, he said, in the close fighting.

Captain Reitz described a method the enemy uses to escape the house-to-house search in the 12-square-block area ringed by the Rangers.

The buildings are often less than a foot apart and the quarried enemy knocks holes in the brick walls with iron rods. The holes, large enough to squeeze through, enable them to move up and down a block without exposing themselves.

He also noted that they have used the holes to slip behind the search lines and throw grenades or satchel charges in areas considered safe.

Ex-Viet Cong Aids GIs

CU CHI (USA)—A Kit Carson Scout, Tran Van Duc, is proving to be a key man in a 25th Infantry Division unit's efforts to stop enemy infiltration into the Saigon area.

A recent airmobile assault and reconnaissance in force four miles southwest of Tan Son Nhut air base is one of many examples of Duc's value to his unit.

"We hadn't walked 100 meters when Duc pointed out that

there were Viet Cong in the canal," said Private First Class Jim Heay. The company deployed on line, advanced into the canal and Duc was the first to fire a burst from his M-16 as he noticed a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldier poke his head out of the water. About a minute later the enemy floated to the top of the canal with three rounds in his head.

Duc then noticed a muddy (Continued On Back Page)



FILL IT PLEASE — An Air Force F-105D Thunderchief fighter-bomber nuzzles up to take on fuel from the belly of a Lockheed KC-135 Stratotanker prior to striking targets in the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. (USAF PHOTO)

Flyer Held For Ransom

Kidnappers Cool It, Return Pilot

CHU LAI (USMC) — Marine Aircraft Group-12 (MAG-12) paid an unusual ransom for the return of a Marine Attack Squadron-121 pilot forced to eject from his damaged aircraft over enemy territory near Dong Ha.

First Lieutenant Mike Aiton was scrambled from the Chu Lai "hot pad" in support of allied ground forces engaged with a force of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers north of Con Thien. Enemy gunners

opened up with .50 caliber machine gun fire as the Skyhawk bombed the target.

"I had just released my last bomb when my radio went out. Then I realized I was receiving hits," commented the lieutenant.

Lieutenant Aiton headed his damaged aircraft toward Dong Ha and ejected when the plane rolled into an uncontrolled 45-degree dive. While quietly floating down between Dong Ha and Quang Tri, he could see and hear friendly artillery firing in

the distance.

He landed less than 200 yards from an enemy machine gun position, but was not aware of this until the rescue helicopter from Marine Aircraft Group-39 arrived and was taken under fire. The Marine door-gunner aboard the rescue helicopter suppressed the fire from the enemy machine gun, enabling the successful pickup of the downed pilot.

After the helicopter carrying Lieutenant Aiton had returned

to Quang Tri, a mysterious telephone call was placed to Colonel Charles B. Armstrong, commanding officer, MAG-12, Chu Lai, the home base of the downed jet pilot, demanding the ransom.

MAG-12, most grateful for the rescue, complied with the request and placed the ransom aboard a waiting C-117D Skytrain.

Arriving at Quang Tri the exchange was made — one Marine Skyhawk pilot for 10 gallons of hard-to-get ice cream.

WHOOOPS!!

HUE (USA)—Two paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade uncovered a Viet Cong version of the Jack-in-the-Box while searching a village near here recently.

Specialist 4 Darryl Wetzler and Private First Class Martin Wheeler of Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry were probing a depression in a rice paddy when suddenly a concealed lid popped open and two hands appeared.

"I jumped back, grabbed my rifle and yelled, 'Chieu hoi,'" PFC Wheeler said. The Viet Cong, by this time resigned to his fate, slowly climbed out of his underground refuge and surrendered.

Editorial

Try Diplomacy!

If you visualize long limousines and top hats when you hear the word "ambassador," you're certainly not thinking of Vietnam. In this country the United States' ambassadors wear jungle fatigues and combat boots—all 530,000 of them! That's right, whether you're an infantryman or clerk, a pilot or cook, you're a member of the diplomatic corps of the United States.

The only way most of the people of South Vietnam can determine whether or not we're the "good guys" is to evaluate the American serviceman. What we do reflects upon the United States as a whole, and upon our motives in this country in particular.

How have we as ambassadors fared so far? By and large, quite well, although there are some thoughtless individuals among us, who by their callous and immature actions are jeopardizing the good-will generated by most of us. These careless few act as though they were trying to alienate the Vietnamese people rather than win their friendship. They demonstrate patience by raucous horn-blowing in traffic jams, modesty by boisterous talk and actions in public, thrift by spending more on a day off than the average Vietnamese earns in a week, culture and refinement by laughing at the "funny" attire of the Buddhist monks and extending obscene comments and gestures to Vietnamese women. If you've been keeping score with us on this last sentence, you'll have to agree that the United States exemplified by these few unthinking servicemen is not the same place we left a few months ago.

One way to help win this war is to convince the Vietnamese people that they have more to gain by pledging their allegiance to their government rather than the Viet Cong. We can help their government gain this allegiance by showing the people of Vietnam that their leaders did not choose a nation of inconsiderate and coarse people for an ally. Right, Mr. Ambassador? (MACV)

Specialist Status Upped, 490,000 Reap Benefits

WASHINGTON — The Army announced recently a change in the rank and precedence of its enlisted men and women that has an important bearing on the position of 490,000 specialists.

Specialists will now rank immediately below noncommissioned officers of identical pay grade and above NCOs of the next lower pay grade, the Army said. Before the change, specialists 4 through 7 ranked below a corporal (E4).

The Army also said specialists will not be used on extra duty positions subordinate to men of

lower pay grade and specialists will be granted the same privileges as NCOs of the same grade in their organization and installation.

The changes result from a special study started in 1965 to look into ways of improving personnel management in the service. Upgrading the position of specialist was one of the recommendations.

Complaints from specialists on their rank and position in relation to NCOs were aired at recent hearings of the House Armed Services Subcommittee.

(AFPS)

Questions Asked Of VA: Answers Favor Ex-GIs

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration recently answered a question for thousands of servicemen looking forward to additional schooling while working for the government after their tour of duty in the Armed Forces.

The situation was presented in question and answer form. Here it is:

Q—My son will be getting out of the service soon. He enlisted right out of high school. I have heard that there is a new program in which a veteran can work for the government and still go to school. Can you tell me anything about it?

A—A recent Presidential Executive Order permits federal agencies to give Vietnam-era veterans transitional appointments to positions at grade GS-

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**DOD Panel Aims At Grads**

A Department of Defense panel is looking into methods to insure the best placement for the estimated 140,000 to 180,000 college graduates who may be inducted into the armed services during fiscal year 1969.

Formation of the special interservice study group was ordered by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Alfred B. Fitt when questions began to arise on how maximum benefit can be obtained from this projected abundance of professional and technical talent.

Currently, the services are examining their utilization policies for college graduates. The results will be transmitted to the service secretaries for approval and then analyzed by the interservice study group. The final report on the project is due this month.

One long-range objective of the study is to place as many graduates as possible in assignments closely related to their professional background. Such an arrangement, DOD officials believe, would provide for possible military career opportunity benefits for both the inductee and services. Defense officials pointed out, however, that frequently it will be necessary to use the graduates' potential in special training projects to meet current military requirements.

MOS Freeze Discontinued

The current policy of restricting promotions in over-strength military occupational specialties (MOS) has been discontinued for eight months.

According to the Office of Personnel Operations (OPO), Department of the Army, this became effective June 1, so that data may be assembled to evaluate the need for a promotion freeze in overstrength MOS.

During this period the status of all MOS will be monitored. If it is determined that the promotion freeze is needed it will be reinstated as a control measure.

Other promotion criteria will remain the same during the test period. (AFN)

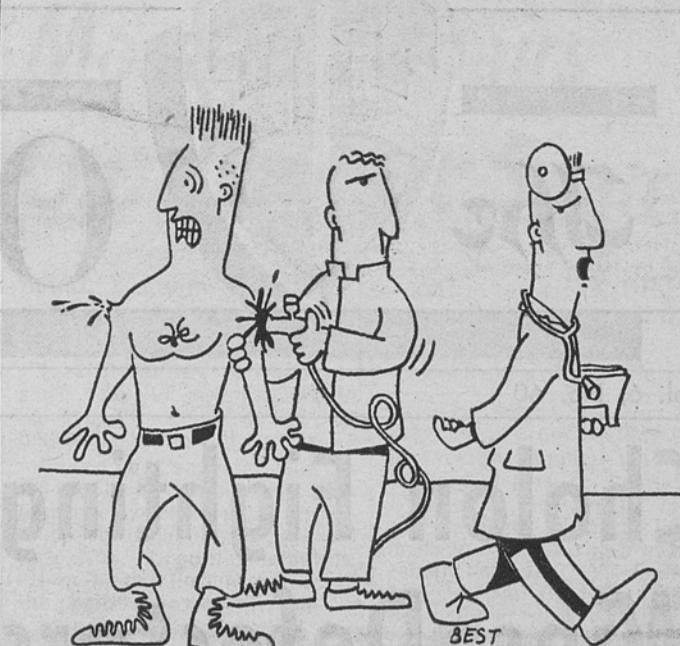
Slash Marks, Telltale Sign

SAIGON — In the villages, take note of the ankles and feet of the young men.

If they are covered with scratches, watch out. It seems that many times Viet Cong, while moving in the jungle at night, often cut their feet pretty badly in the underbrush.

(MACV)

BE BETTER THAN YOU ARE...
THRU OFF DUTY EDUCATION



"Little less pressure there, Patterson!"

Check Local Source First

Many of us in the service have known people who had the mistaken idea that the way to get rid of an irritant, get a desired assignment, or avoid going overseas was to write a Congressman.

Congressmen do not exercise authority in service matters. They do ask questions concerning complaints they receive from U.S. Armed Forces' men and women—and they do get answers—the same answers we could obtain by contacting the local inspector general. If you have a complaint, contact your unit commander. In most cases he can give you the answer or tell you someone who can. While it is your right to contact your Congressman, why waste time and effort? Go to a local source first.

(PACAF NS)

Public Relations Society Announces Info Winners

NEW YORK — Three U.S. Army organizations have won awards from the Public Relations Society of America for outstanding public information programs during 1967.

At its 24th annual awards banquet here, the society presented the silver Anvil award, its highest recognition of merit, to 25 groups representing the public relations field around the world.

The Army winners were the U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command (STRATCOM), Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; the 78th Division (Training) of the U.S. Army Reserve, and the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare (Airborne), Fort Bragg N.C.

STRATCOM received the award for its employee relations program during the command's move from Washington, D.C., to Arizona. This program included a comprehensive mass communications effort that played a key role in the successful transition to Fort Huachuca.

The 78th Division, which has headquarters at Kilmer USAF Center, Edison, N.J., won for its promotional publicity campaign to make the public aware of the importance of the Army Reserve and to instill "esprit de corps" among the division members.

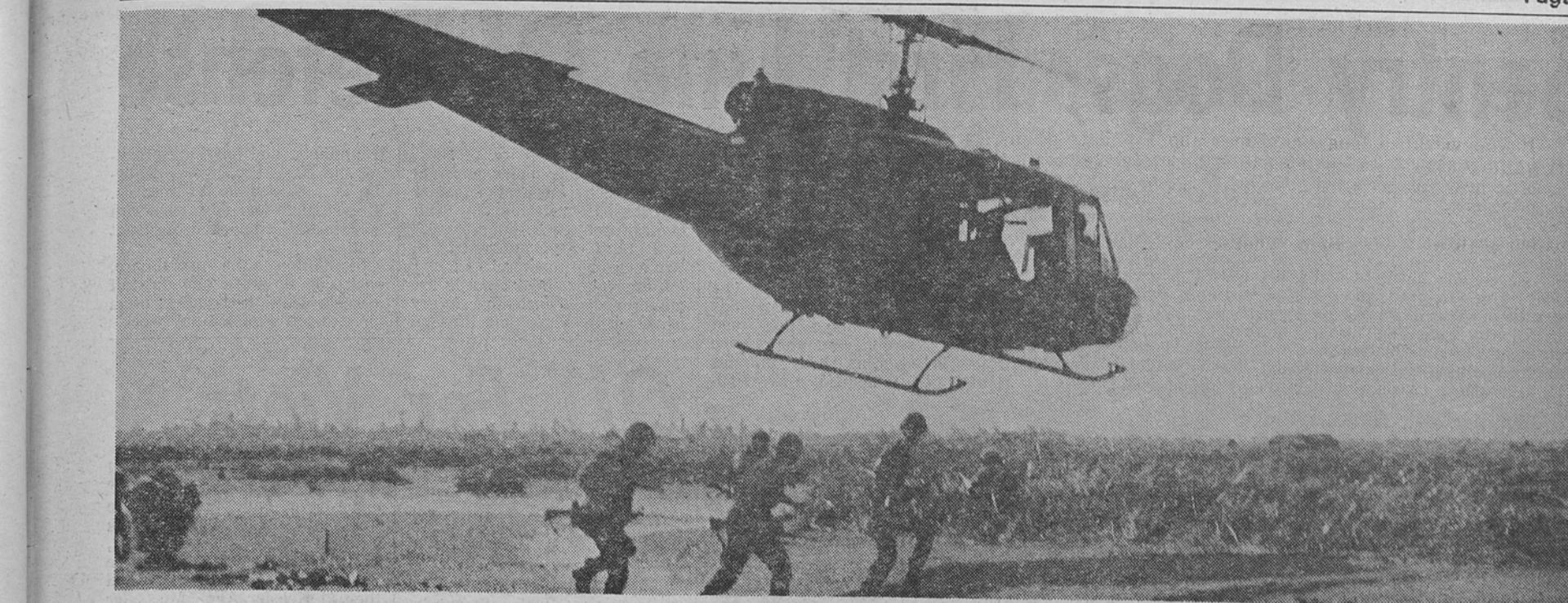
The Kennedy Center was recognized for its outstanding community relations project, which was designed to develop a more favorable public attitude toward the Special Forces. The campaign stressed the role of these soldiers as teachers, advisors, ambassadors and builders.

(ANF)

FIRST IN VIETNAM
The OBSERVER

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 Service, 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
Acting Chief, Command Information Maj. G.W. Ogles, USAF
NCOIC JOC W.W. Polk, USN
Editor SSgt C.T. Owen, USMC
Assistant Editor Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA
Staff Writer Sp 4 L. Ensminger, USA



RUNNING TO THE LZ — Men of the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry dash toward landing zone while chopper swoops in for the pick-up.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Lawrence Lee)

Vietnamese Pilots Know Tricks Of Trade

BIEN HOA (USA) — His job is to fly in combat with the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF), and U.S. Air Force Major Donald F. Crane is proud of it. A member of Air Force Advisory Team 2, the major is senior advisor to the commander of VNAF's 518th Fighter Squadron, Bien Hoa air base.

Squadron pilots fly the A-1 Skyraider, a 22-year-old fighter-bomber aircraft that is one of the top work-horses in the Vietnam conflict.

"The Vietnamese are top-notch pilots in the A-1 Skyraider," Major Crane said. "They all receive pilot training in the United States and then are thoroughly checked out in the aircraft over Vietnam.

"There's not much about flying the A-1 that these pilots

don't already know," he said. "My function as an advisor is to offer suggestions on ways of improving operational and administrative procedures within the squadron, but the Vietnamese have the final say."

On a typical combat mission the major will take-off from Bien Hoa air base with one or two other A-1s flown by VNAF pilots. "The Vietnamese pilots run the show," he said. "I'm

just along as a wingman.

"If we have a Vietnamese FAC (forward air controller) directing the air strike," he continued, "the lead pilot will

receive instructions on our target from the FAC and then translate them into English for me. All the VNAF pilots speak good English.

"There's quite a bit of personal satisfaction in working with the Vietnamese," he added.

"They are extremely friendly and polite. It's not uncommon for them to invite you to their home and go out of their way to treat you to a fine meal."

Major Crane has flown more than 100 combat missions in the A-1 Skyraider and has been in Vietnam nine months.

Tribes Flee Enemy

Communists forced the Montagnards to act as trail guides, laborers, conscripts, and slave-labor food growers.

Flying over the contested area in the O-2B Super Skymaster, crewmen of the 9th ACS carried tribal leaders who broadcast to their people, urging them to break loose from the Communist grip and resettle their families in safety.

At An Khe the Montagnards have a market for their goods, medical care, education, assistance in agriculture and security from Communist harassment.

The 41st Civil Affairs Company, Team 6, of the 173rd Infantry Brigade based at An Khe, provides the 9th ACS psy-war flyers with leaflets to drop over the tribal areas controlled by the Communists.

Old Mine Explodes ... Almost

DAK TO (USA) — A lucky 4th Infantry Division soldier now knows time has a way of melting things as he almost became the victim of another war time.

Specialist 4 James Harrison, an infantryman in Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, was participating in a short sweep of the foothills surrounding the 1st Brigade command camp at Dak To when he came upon a large ditch, which he was forced to cross.

Leaping, Specialist Harrison made an easy landing on the opposite side—almost.

"When my foot touched the other bank of the ditch," said the specialist, "I heard a quiet little 'pop'."

Specialist Harrison quickly cleared out as smoke billowed from his footprint. The men of the squad soon gathered around and started digging the object from the side of the ditch.

What the squad dug up was an old French anti-tank mine which, fortunately, was too old and too rusty to detonate.

A member of the squad remarked: "I think I know what they mean when they say 'Look before you leap'."

From his office at the head-

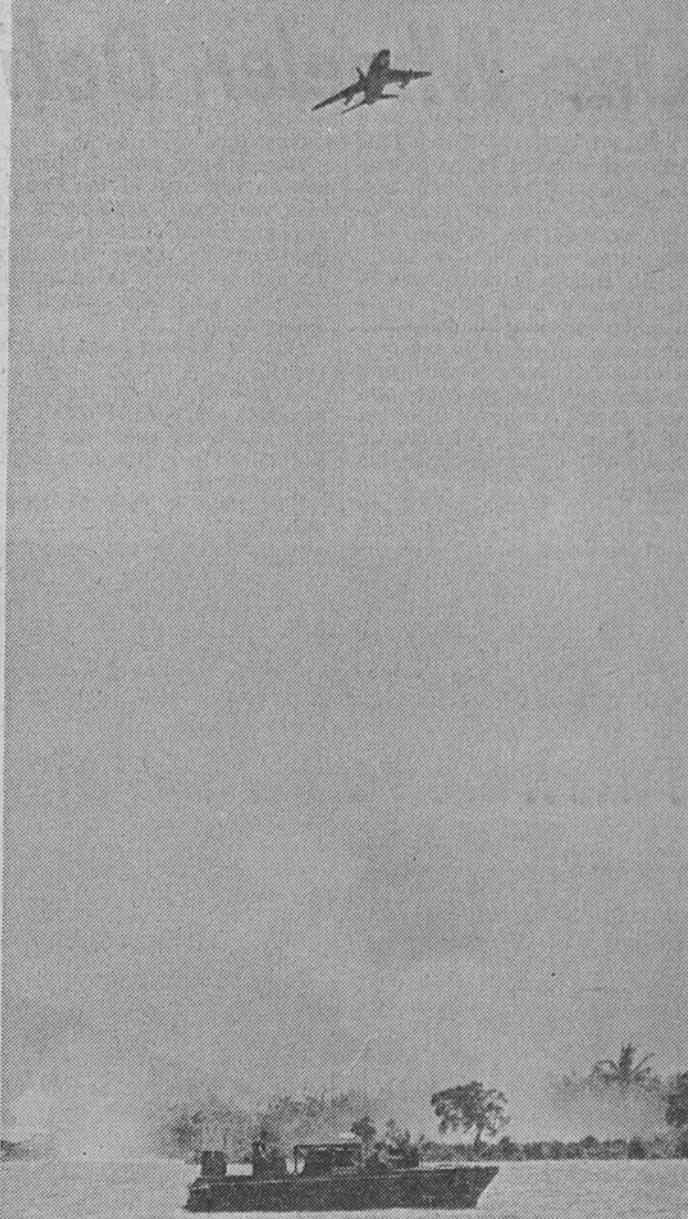
A Little Better Life; Thank You, Marine'

quarters of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam in Saigon, the sergeant started paper work for money to buy more goods.

The Naval Forces' Community Relations Fund provided funds for 40 cots which Sergeant Franzson purchased and presented to the refugees.

He was able to help his new found friends only for about 45 days before he was transferred to the Fourth Marine Corps District Headquarters at Philadelphia, Pa.

"I wasn't able to do enough," he said. "But when I get home, I'll continue to collect clothing to send to these people through the Force Chaplain's Office at the Naval headquarters."



BLOCKS ENEMY ESCAPE — A U.S. Navy river patrol boat idles in a blocking position, in an inland bay at Qui Nhon, as U.S. Air Force F-100 aircraft blast enemy positions while Republic of Korea Army troopers force the enemy to the shoreline.

(USN PHOTO By: JO1 Tom Walton)

Sentry Dogs; First Line Of Defense

DA NANG (USA) — An elite group of Security Policemen and their companions, a group of highly trained sentry dogs, are providing Da Nang's first line of defense.

Fifty-seven dog handlers and 50 dogs are assigned to the Sentry Dog Section of Da Nang's 366th Security Police Squadron. Each night 40 teams, each consisting of one man and one dog, form a complete circle around

the base. Each team is responsible for 250 yards of perimeter.

Since the sentry dogs have been patrolling Da Nang's perimeter, security has never been breached—not even during the Tet offensive.

One sentry dog handler, Sergeant John H. Worsham remarked, "I'm very satisfied with my job. I really feel that I am accomplishing something when I am on post."



Sentry dogs are given one hour of obedience training each night before going out on patrol.

One-Wheeler Defies Traffic

SAIGON (USN) — Navy Illustrator-Draftsman First Class Jim Chouinard has perhaps one of the most unusual means of transportation in Saigon. He rides a unicycle.

Petty Officer Chouinard wends his way through the city's monumental traffic jams—and turns a lot of heads in the process. Everywhere disbelieving Vietnamese spin around and stare. Some mutter "Dien cai dau (dinky dau)," a Vietnamese equivalent of "crazy in the head."

Draftsman Chouinard explained how he got into uni-

cycling this way:

"It's slow, but cheap." Unusual transportation is a hobby with Petty Officer Chouinard. He also holds a private pilot's license which he plans to convert to a commercial permit with GI Bill funds when he gets out of the Navy.

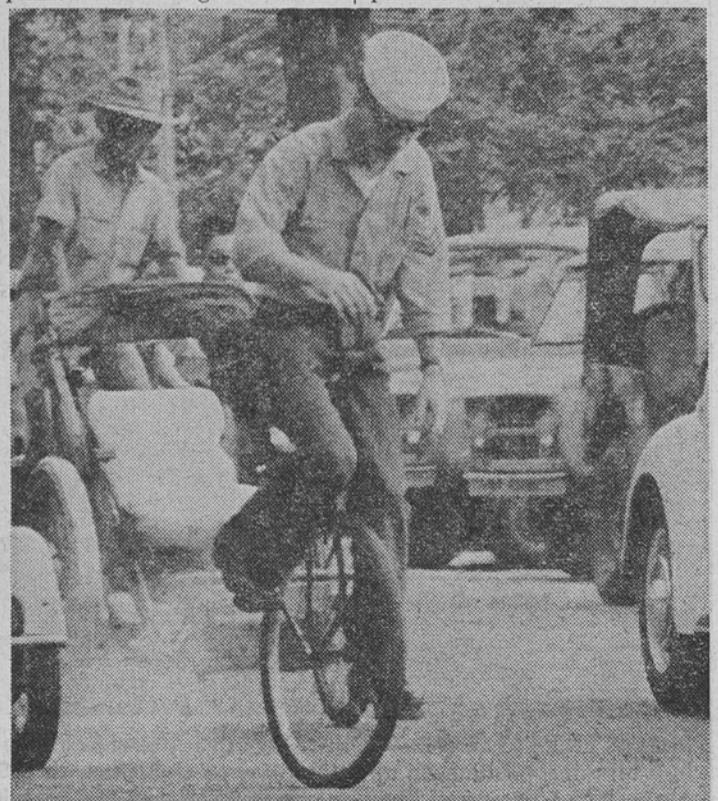
The colonel was talking about 50 tons of rice recently seized by troopers of his 51st ARVN Infantry Regiment as they swept through abandoned villages and enemy strong points on Go Noi first, but he finally built it for 2,000 piasters."

Then he had to learn how to ride it.

"I took it out on the street and just practiced. I didn't get hurt at all, but every day when I practiced there was an accident on that street."

How does it rate as trans-

portation?



Locals mumble "Dinky Dau" when this navyman passes by.

"I've always wanted to learn how to ride one of the things, so a year ago I drew up a set of plans. I took them down to a little bicycle shop. The guy down there didn't believe it at first, but he finally built it for me."

As an illustrator-draftsman at Navy headquarters in Saigon, Petty Officer Chouinard has been in Vietnam since April, 1966. He now has orders to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington.

Commenting on Colonel Thuc's

resolve to help supply Hoi An

refugee camps with the excess

enemy rice, Marine Captain Joe

Reber, an operation liaison of-

ficer said, "That's real justice

— the Charlie's are going to have

to feed the same folks they stole

the rice from in the first place."

Deep, comfortable living bunk-

ers—most under six feet or more

of earth—are protected by

thorn bush and barbed wire

fences. Fighting holes, ringed

back a concrete cover under

one hut and found a 4-meter-

square concrete lined hole full

of unhusked rice. We haven't

got enough bags to haul it all

away," Sergeant Parks con-

tinued.

Commenting on Colonel Thuc's

resolve to help supply Hoi An

refugee camps with the excess

enemy rice, Marine Captain Joe

Reber, an operation liaison of-

ficer said, "That's real justice

— the Charlie's are going to have

to feed the same folks they stole

the rice from in the first place."

The girls competed for and

won five nursing scholarships

donated by the men of Qui

Nhon Support Command's 184th

Ordnance Battalion (Ammo).

Each of the five companies in

the battalion has "adopted" one

of the nurses, according to Lieu-

tenant Stuart E. Rupp, civil af-

fairs officer for the 184th.

The nursing school is the only

institution of its kind in the

heavily populated Binh Dinh

province. Sister Therese Dion,

a Medical Mission sister who's

been working in Qui Nhon for

eight years, is the school's

founder and present directress.

The girls are taught modern

medical methods by an interna-

tional faculty of doctors and

nurses.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

ized.

The importance of the sentry dogs is reflected in the specialized attention and care given each dog.

Each dog has its own kennel or run, which is completely cleaned, scrubbed and disinfected three times a day. The dogs are fed three to four pounds of specially mixed dog food daily. Feeding containers are left in the runs thirty minutes and then removed and sterilized.

Complete medical records are maintained on each dog. Every phase of training, all medical treatments, and anything affecting the dog's health or well-being is recorded in his records. "I even have four dogs here with gold teeth," remarked Sergeant Wolfe, kennel master.

In addition to the special care, each dog is given one day off a week, while the handlers often have to settle for a 7-day week.

OJT For Viets

BINH THUY (USA) — On-the-Job Training (OJT) between the ground radio maintenance units of the U.S. Air Force's 1880th Communication Squadron and the Vietnamese Air Force's 284th Communication Squadron, at Binh Thuy air base, has resulted in a high degree of professionalism.

Expressing his feelings about the joint cooperation, VNAF Senior Master Sergeant Koksoi Bien, VNAF ground radio supervisor, said, "The fine cooperation between us comes from the sincere desire of both sides to learn from each other, not only about our jobs, but also our countries, customs and way of life."

He went on to say, "I find that explaining more technical aspects of electronics is easier than teaching simple ideas."

Enemy Rice Found

CAU LAU (USA) — "We've taken enough rice to feed my regiment for the rest of the operation—and there'll also be enough left to feed refugees for a long, long time," Lieutenant Colonel Truong Tan Thuc said.

The colonel was talking on eastern Go Noi.

"We'll have to pull the engineers in here to blow the concrete bunkers we've uncovered along the southeastern shoreline," said Sergeant First Class Thomas M. Parks, an infantry weapons advisor with the 2nd Battalion.

"One of our companies peeled back a concrete cover under one hut and found a 4-meter-square concrete lined hole full of unhusked rice. We haven't got enough bags to haul it all away," Sergeant Parks continued.

Commenting on Colonel Thuc's resolve to help supply Hoi An refugee camps with the excess enemy rice, Marine Captain Joe Reber, an operation liaison officer said, "That's real justice — the Charlie's are going to have to feed the same folks they stole the rice from in the first place."

Deep, comfortable living bunkers—most under six feet or more of earth—are protected by thorn bush and barbed wire fences. Fighting holes, ringed

back a concrete cover under

one hut and found a 4-meter-

square concrete lined hole full

of unhusked rice. We haven't

got enough bags to haul it all

away," Sergeant Parks con-

tinued.

Commenting on Colonel Thuc's

resolve to help supply Hoi An

refugee camps with the excess

enemy rice, Marine Captain Joe

Reber, an operation liaison of-

ficer said, "That's real justice

— the Charlie's are going to have

to feed the same folks they stole

the rice from in the first place."

The girls competed for and

won five nursing scholarships

donated by the men of Qui

Nhon Support Command's 184th

Ordnance Battalion (Ammo).

Each of the five companies in

the battalion has "adopted" one

of the nurses, according to Lieu-

tenant Stuart E. Rupp, civil af-

fairs officer for the 184th.

The nursing school is the only

institution of its kind in the

heavily populated Binh Dinh

province. Sister Therese Dion,

a Medical Mission sister who's

been working in Qui Nhon for

eight years, is the school's

founder and present directress.

The girls are taught modern

medical methods by an interna-

tional faculty of doctors and

nurses.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

troops seizing tons of rice.

The fighting ended with ARVN

101st Airborne Crushes Enemy Regiment



Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti, 101st commander, checks enemy's position on a map with his troops.



Whole blood is administered to an enemy soldier during a battle for a northern I Corps village.



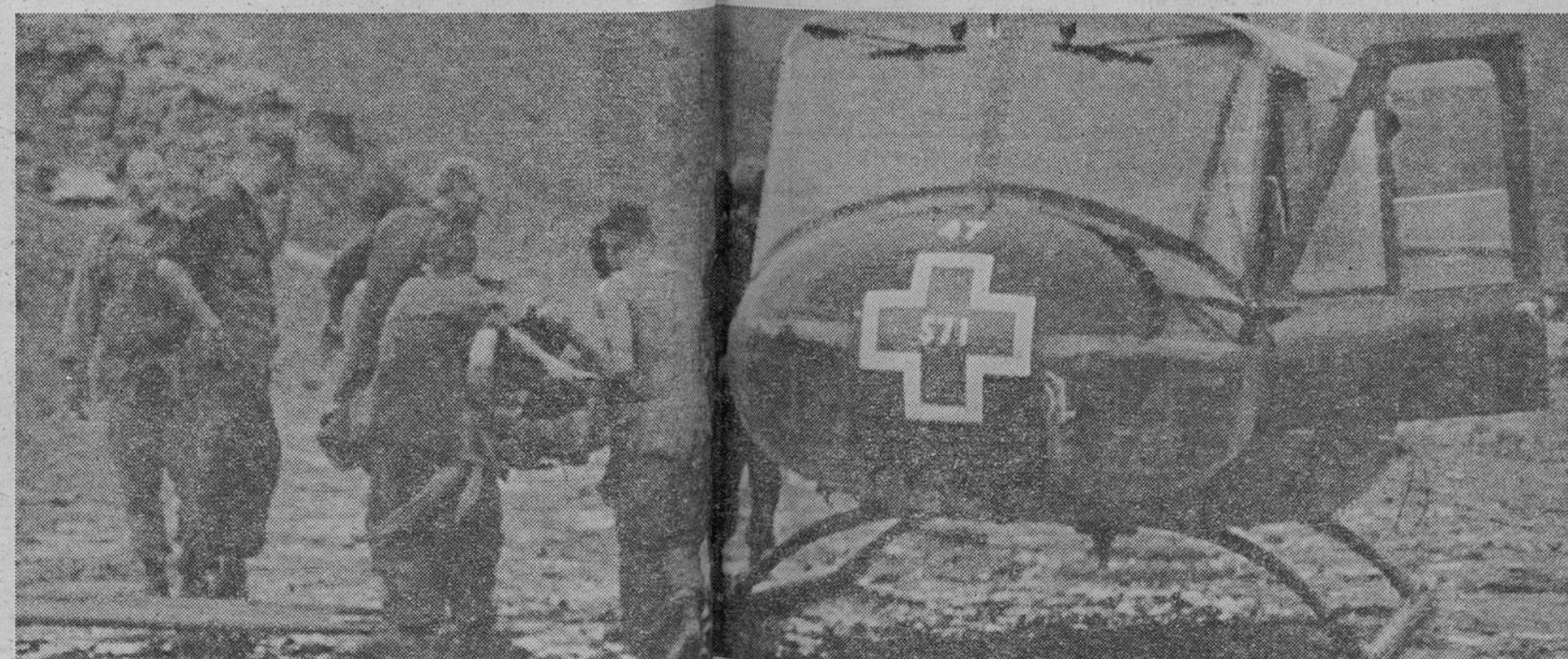
NVA regular is given a drink of water following a four-day battle that claimed 244 enemy lives.



U.S. Army Photos By
Sp4 Paul Higgs
&
Sp4 Kenneth Morrow



The word here is "keep low" as a heavy firefight ensues between NVA and U.S. troops.



A wounded paratrooper from the 101st Airborne Division's 1st bde is rushed to a MEDEVAC helicopter which will take him to a nearby hospital.

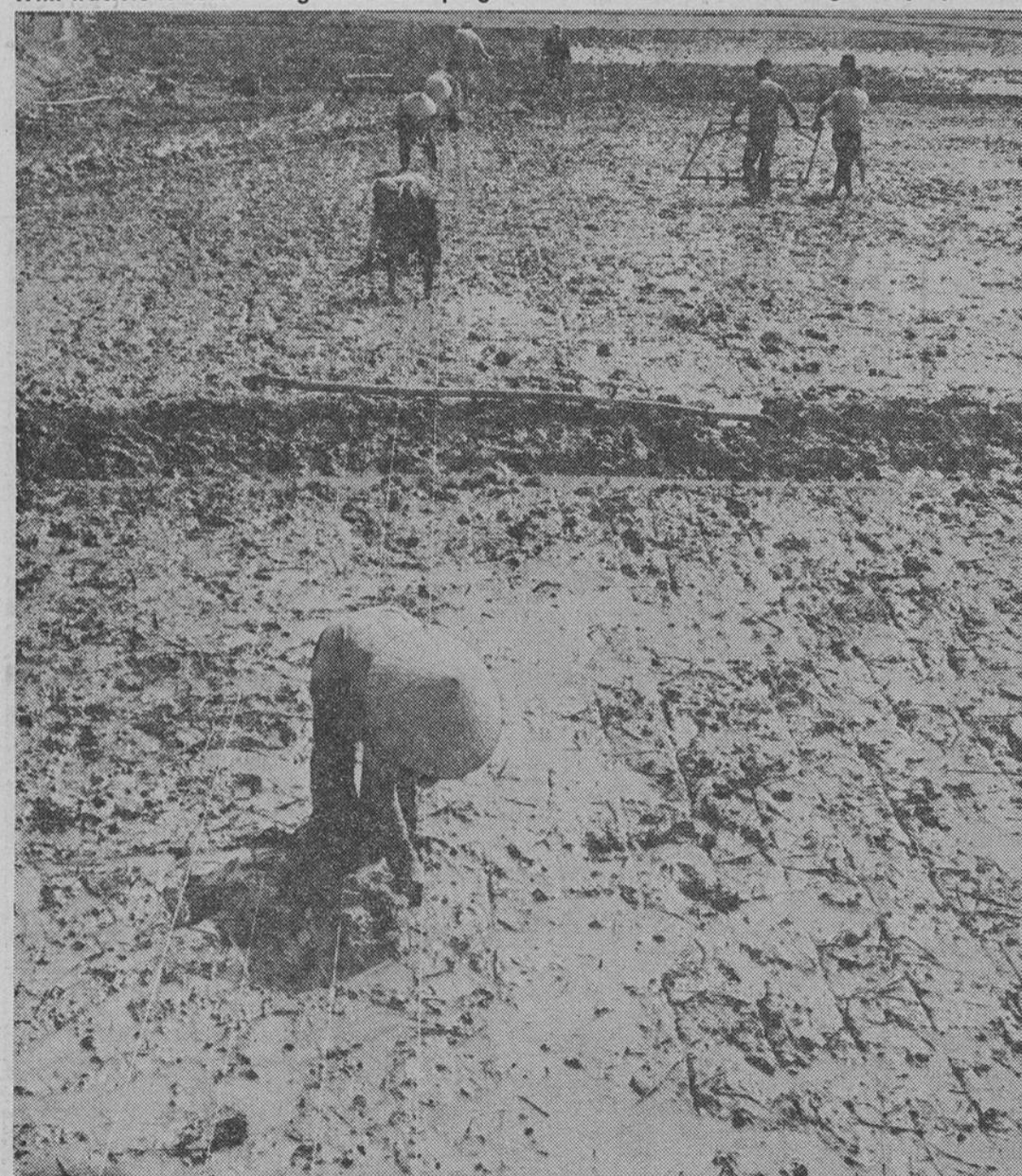
Detained platoon sergeant pleads to his surrounded comrades to stop firing.



Modern breeding techniques have showed this farmer that chickens can be profitable.



With tractors loaned through the credit program this field is leveled for irrigation purposes. This allows for double-cropping.



Delta farmers are drawing lines to assure the new Filipino rice seedlings ample spacing.

Giant Farm Credit Program Succeeds In Delta Province

SAIGON (VFS) — An experiment launched in one district two years ago to give low-cost credit to 203 Vietnamese peasants — small landowners or sharecroppers of Thot Not district with neither capital nor collateral — has succeeded so well that the program now covers all four of An Giang's districts. What the program needed were ambitious men willing to gamble on new crops and methods.

This year more than 4,000 farmers have volunteered to grow crops previously foreign to this pacified province of the Mekong Delta.

The credit scheme, coupled with the introduction of field

The crop-diversification program has allowed An Giang farmers to "double-crop" for the first time in the history of Mekong Delta farming. That is, by irrigating the land in the dry season they can grow rice or vegetables on land which had previously lain fallow.

It takes extra labor at the outset to irrigate the land but the dividends have been worth the effort to those farmers who have espoused the program.

An Giang farmers now grow such crops as soybeans, onions, garlic, watermelons, corn (maize), cabbage, cauliflower and "yard-long" Chinese beans.

Crop rotation is helping to decrease the overdependence by the farmers of this province on a single crop — floating rice — that is subject to the dangers of river flooding and rat infestation.

The new Filipino "miracle" rice requires irrigation for its growth, but the yield is five to 10 times greater than the old floating rice which is planted when the fields are flooded. Instead of the 1,500 kilos per hectare averaged with floating rice, those experimenting with the new rice averaged 4,000 to 5,000 kilos.

Some farmers have given up farming altogether in favor of raising and breeding livestock.

Two brothers who have done this, funded by the low interest credit plan, now sell 500 eggs daily in the Saigon market. In addition they have sold more than 1,000 cross-bred pigs since obtaining 30 local pigs and 100 Yorkshire pigs in 1967.

This year the farmers of An Giang province will be taking the first step in the transition from subsistence farmers to commercial farmers. Says a CORDS agricultural scientist in Long Xuyen:

"Until the nation's farms are producing a surplus that can be marketed commercially in the cities and abroad, economic progress in South Vietnam will lag behind its potential. Commercial farming would enable Vietnam to produce its proper share of the world's food supply, create the wealth and foreign exchange needed by a growing national economy and, by increasing productivity of the individual farmer, would free underemployed farmhands to take jobs in an expanding industrial economy."

This supervision, along with guarantees of an assured market for experimental crops, cuts credit risks so much that participating farmers need pay only one percent interest per month. With such expert guidance available to them, the farmers are reaping harvests so rich that repayment of loans is averaging well over 90 per cent.

Story & Photos By
Vietnam Feature Service



Farmers prepare their ground for Guatemala corn.



RETURN FIRE — Remnants of a battered Viet Cong Battalion put up resistance as soldiers from the 9th Infantry Division (USA PHOTO) return the fire.

Man With Black Bag Troubleshoots

SAIGON (USCG) — With black bag in hand, Coast Guard Electrician's Mate First Class Candido Rosado brings first aid to

some of his 78 "patients" in Vietnam.

Petty Officer Rosado is an aids to navigation advisor with the U.S. Coast Guard. The 78 "patients" is a reference to that number of navigational sea aids to mariners using the coastal waters and major rivers

of Vietnam.

The electrician's mate and Lieutenant Commander David H. Freeborn make up a two man team which not only coordinates the operations of Coast Guard cutters here, but also is responsible for navigational aids. The two men are attached to the staff of Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam, located in the Saigon headquarters compound of the Naval Forces, Vietnam commander.

But long stays at headquarters are not too frequent for Petty Officer Rosado. He is a repairman for navigational aids and maintenance work keeps him on the move.

Often referred to as the "Phantom Ghost of the Vietnam Coast" by his colleagues,

he sometimes logs nearly 5,000 miles a month visiting "sick patients."

His beat stretches from the mouth of the Cua Viet river just below the Demilitarized Zone to the Bassac river in the Delta, and all major ports in between.

Coast Guard officials say the importance of keeping navigational aids functioning cannot be stressed too much, since hundreds of Allied ships, military craft and Vietnamese junks depend on them. When one breaks down, it's Petty Officer Rosado's responsibility to get it repaired.

The Coast Guard electrician says buoys are his biggest headache. He cited battery failure, inoperative sensors which

operate buoy lights and trigger happy sharpshooters who use buoy lights for targets, as three of the primary causes of his "patients" difficulties.

These and a score of other problems must be reckoned with by the sea service electrician until a buoy tender arrives to start another repair and replenishment cycle which usually lasts for about six months.

Besides the 70 offshore buoys, Petty Officer Rosado also must care for four sets of range lights strategically placed along the Vietnam coastline. Range lights are two permanently constructed towers . . . one in the water and one ashore . . . to guide vessels into rivers.



RECON PATROL — A 101st Airborne Division paratrooper, Specialist 4 Kenneth Combs, encounters an obstacle that he can't remove with his machete or rifle — water — while conducting a reconnaissance-in-force operation south of Phouc Vinh. (USA PHOTO By: Sgt. Michael J. Sugar)

Children's Plight Guided By 4th Infantry Division

DAK TO (USA) — For the child orphaned by war, there are no politics or peace treaties, no truces or pauses. There is only an empty loneliness and more often than not . . . poverty and hunger.

This might have been the plight of 48 orphan girls here had it not been for the compassionate efforts of four Catholic nuns and the civic action team from the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

The units were the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 1st Royal Australian Regiment, both veterans of combined operations with U.S. forces in Vietnam. The 1st Battalion arrived in Vietnam last April to begin its second tour in the Republic, having served previously on a number of operations with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. The 3rd Battalion has been in country since last December, operating in III Corps with U.S. forces.

When he learned of the problems at the orphanage, Major William Risse, the 1st Battalion's executive officer, contacted the nuns to see what could be done to help.

He then coordinated a plan of action with the battalion's Civil Affairs Section.

A civil affairs team was dispatched to the orphanage with medical supplies and foodstuffs.

"The Americans have been our greatest providers," remarked Sister Suzanne Agnes, one of the nuns, who serve as teachers, doctors and foster mothers for the girls. "Without this (American) help, I'm afraid things would be much more difficult for the children."

The St. Paul de Chartres Orphanage is now a daily stop on the rounds made by the civic action team in the Dak To area.

Rock Not The 'Sole' Problem . . .

CU CHI (USA) — The fighting was heavy and bullets seemed to be flying everywhere, but all Specialist 4 Michael J. Brassil could think about was the rock in his boot.

Then he realized how hot the fighting had been: the "rock"

was an AK-47 round that had ripped through the sole of his boot but was too spent to harm his foot.

"That's about as close as I ever want them to come," said the astonished infantryman.

Big Span Open To All Traffic

LONG BINH (II FF) — What will be one of South Vietnam's largest bridges is nearing completion at Phu Cuong, about 14 miles north of Saigon.

The 1,002-foot span across the Saigon river will open a new supply route between Cu Chi, headquarters of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division, and the huge American compound at Long Binh, plus offering civilian commerce another route.

At present, this supply lane is routed further south through the city of Saigon.

The bridge was slated to be ready for traffic last week with final completion listed for September of this year.

First Lieutenant Bruce C. Adams, is the officer-in-charge at the job site. "We have had some difficulties, but there was nothing we couldn't handle—for instance, the pilings went deeper than we expected," he said.

Indeed they did. Original estimates figured that the concrete and steel pilings would hold at 100 feet. Some, however, went twice that far. "One piling," said the lieutenant, "went down 277 feet before it held."

There were other difficulties too. During the Tet offensive, a reinforced Viet Cong battalion attacked the ARVN Engineer School which is only a few hundred meters from the bridge construction site.

Approximately one company of Viet Cong forced their way inside the ARVN school. Lieutenant Adams organized the engineers of the 41st Port Construction Company and led a counter-attack that forced the enemy out of the compound.

Two American engineers were killed in the counter-attack, and the men of the port company hope the new bridge will bear their names—the Pickett-Johnson Memorial Bridge.

ROK Div. Praises Infantry

BONG SON (USA) — A mechanized infantry company of the 173rd Airborne Brigade may now wear the patch of the highly touted ROK (Republic of Korea) Tiger Division.

Company A, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 59th Infantry received the honor after joining with South Koreans in Operation Vulture, which resulted in 200 enemy dead and only one friendly.

The week-long operation took place near Phuoc, three miles north of Qui Nhon along South Vietnam's central coast.

Twenty-five ROK companies kicked off the operation by air assaulting into the area and forming a huge cordon covering 35 grid squares. Then, supported by the firepower of Alpha Company's armored personnel carriers, the tanks of another U.S. unit, artillery, air strikes and U.S. patrol boats, the Koreans slowly tightened the cordon.

In addition to the kills, 79 suspects were detained and 96 individual and 14 crew-served weapons were seized.

After the operation, the Tiger Division held a parade and awards ceremony in honor of the officers and men of Alpha Company. They were presented plaques, engraved cigarette lighters and official permission to wear the Tiger patch.

Assistance For Ho Nai

UFF (USA) — Military units around Long Binh are cooperating to help refugees in Ho Nai village build homes.

It all started when Captain Jerry K. Wall, platoon commander of the 15th Civil Affairs Platoon, found out that there was a shortage of building materials, and the refugees were unable to build houses.

The refugees originally lived in Long Khanh province, but they emigrated to Bien Hoa province and Long Binh village for more security. There are now more than 400 refugee families living in Ho Nai village, according to Captain Wall.

"We went into Ho Nai to see if we could do anything for them. Through our interpreter we found out that they needed lumber, but it is pretty scarce here," he said. This started a chain reaction which ultimately involved cargo handlers at the Bien Hoa air base and units of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade stationed here.

Bien Hoa personnel supplied lumber from shipping crates, and units of the 199th transported this to the villages at Ho Nai.

CARE woodworking kits were provided by the 2d Civil Affairs Company so the villagers could build houses from the lumber. These kits contain hammers, chisels and saws.

Captain Wall coordinated with the Region Three Public Health officials, and they sent a team out to Ho Nai village armed with DDT sprayers in an effort to control flies and mosquitoes.

"I hope to get a MEDCAP (Medical Civil Action Program) out here in the near future to look after these people," said the captain. "There's a lot more we can do here."



BEACHED BAT GIRL — Lovely Yvonne Craig is enjoying a little free time on the beach. She is currently starring as Bat Girl in a stateside TV series. Miss Craig was on the Johnny Grant radio program recently and offered free photographs of herself. She offered and we took her up on it. Her vital statistics speak for themselves, 35½-21-34½. Anyone here care to go for a swim?

Cam Ranh Navman

Turns Sand Pit Into Green Oasis

CAM RANH BAY (USN) — "My job is to turn this sand pit into a green oasis!"

That was Chief Machinery Repairman James Dalton's statement as he looked across the vast expanse of sand that dominates every corner of the U.S. Naval Air Facility here.

As a stopgap measure, a chemical called "Coherex" is sprayed regularly, forming a film to keep the sand down. But for the long term, an erosion control and beautification program was begun in November 1967.

The inspiration for "Weeds and Seeds", as the project is dubbed, came from several individual efforts around the base. Members of the line crew

from 1965 through 1967, the period of intensive military building.

Now it has become a big problem. The flying sand severely increases the maintenance required on machinery, and make for unhealthy living conditions.

As a stopgap measure, a chemical called "Coherex" is sprayed regularly, forming a film to keep the sand down. But for the long term, an erosion control and beautification program was begun in November 1967.

The inspiration for "Weeds and Seeds", as the project is dubbed, came from several individual efforts around the base. Members of the line crew

(flight line crewmen) kicked it off, and today a miniature park thrives between the hangar and wash ramp.

Weapons Department members have a lush, fence-lined yard, and the ordnancemen even have orchids growing in the shade of the magazine storerooms.

Chief Dalton has come up with an irrigation system to get the plants growing. Water will be pumped from a sinkhole through six, four and two-inch pipes onto the planted areas.

Chief Dalton is rough with the men who won't "keep off the grass", but mostly he gets cooperation. A quick tour of the NAF is proof. The master plan is working, and catching on, too. Every department is in the act, with projects ranging from flower boxes to a hidden melon patch.

American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of June 26-July 2, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday

1830 Sign On
1920 Lost in Space
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Insight MPS
2005 The Monkees
2100 Andy Williams Show
2100 Sports
2130 Halftime Headlines
2300 New Headlines

Thursday

1830 Sign On
1830 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1930 Weather-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Insight Kit Carson Scouts
2005 Information Feature
2030 Dick Van Dyke
2100 Perry Mason
2200 Feature Movie
2300 CBS Playhouse

Friday

1830 Sign On
1830 Wild Wild West
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Combat Postal
2100 Bewitched
2130 The Lucy Show
2200 In Town Tonight
2230 Update News
2235 Joey Bishop

Saturday

1830 News Headlines
1830 Sports
1500 Pro Bowler's Tour
1600 Flying Fisherman
1630 American Sportsman
1730 The Actor
1830 Justice For All
2000 Channel 11 Billboard

June 26

June 30

1830 Sign On
1830 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1930 Weather-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Insight AER
2005 Get Smart
2030 Science Fiction Theater
2100 Hollywood Police
2200 Mission Impossible
2300 Update News
2305 Operation: Entertainment

June 27

1830 News Headlines
1830 Don't Be Boorne
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Get Smart
2030 Mission Impossible
2100 Update News
2130 Joey Bishop

June 28

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

June 29

June 29

July 1

1830 News Headlines
1830 Don't Be Boorne
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Get Smart
2030 Mission Impossible
2100 Update News
2130 Joey Bishop

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Star Trek
2300 Update News
2305 Feature Movie

July 2

1830 News Headlines
1830 Big Valley
1930 News-Sports-Weather
2000 Channel 11 Billboard
2005 Help! USO
2005 Biography
2030 What's My Line
2100 Red Skelton
220

Koreans Kill 305

KHANH HOA (I FF) — Operation Baek Ma 6 (White Horse 6), a 9th ROK Infantry Division reconnaissance in force mission in Khanh Hoa province, ended recently with a total of 305 enemy killed.

The 9th ROK (White Horse) Division suffered only six killed in action throughout the two phases of the operation. They captured 128 small arms, seven crew served weapons and detained five suspects.

The operation, which involved the relocation and repatriation of more than 100 Montagnard villagers forced to work for the enemy, took place 20 to 30 miles northwest of Nha Trang.

Long aware of the 18B North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment's approximate position, the Koreans were restrained from previous attacks due to inaccessibility of the terrain around the enemy's position.

Phase I

Phase I of the two-phase operation began in Hon Ba, 15 miles southwest of Ninh Hoa. It was directed primarily against the Khanh Hoa VC province committee and its supporting infrastructure.

A long-range reconnaissance patrol of the White Horse Division's 29th Regiment detected a cave harboring members of the Khanh Hoa province committee. Among the 25 killed was the VC province chief, Hai Xiao, as well as other important committee members. Documents containing information about VC intelligence, operations and logistics were captured.

According to Korean Liaison Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert R. Gilbert, "the operation, if measured only by the amount of intelligence gathered, was an unqualified success."

Phase II

Phase II, was directed against the headquarters of the 18B NVA Regiment in the mountainous jungle located 24 miles northwest of Nha Trang.

The 48th Helicopter Assault Company (U.S.) helilifted 3,000 men from 20 companies into the predetermined landing zones. There, with the help of Montagnard villagers, they encircled the camp, located its main armories and caves and routed the enemy from the area.

The 9th ROK Division employed elements of both the 29th Regiment, commanded by Colonel Chang Jun Lee, and the 30th Regiment, commanded by Colonel Keun Hwan Chang.

Ninth ROK Division Artillery, commanded by Colonel Tae Il Han, supported the infantrymen throughout the operation. U.S. air strikes and the U.S. 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery also supported the Korean operation.

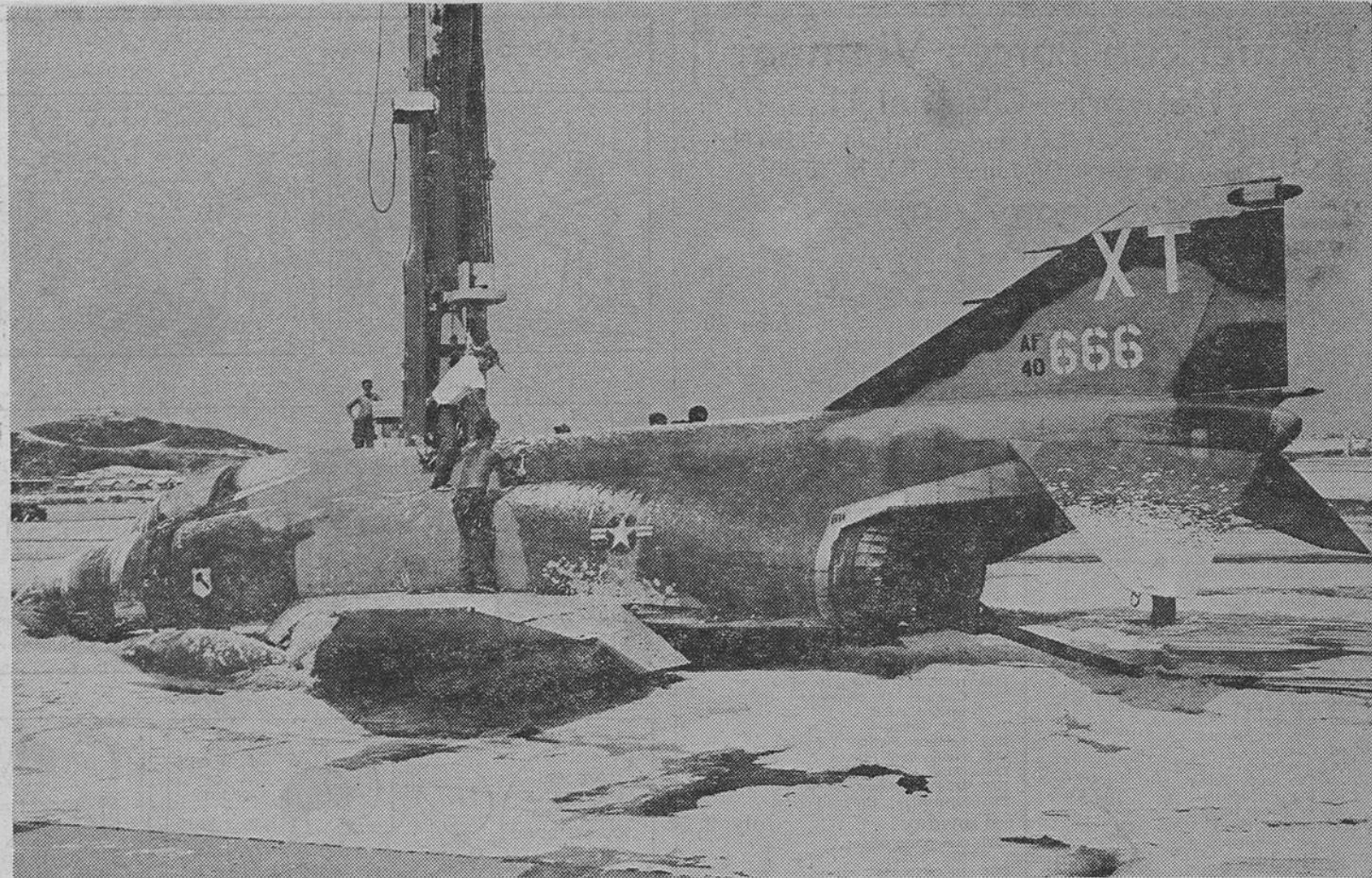
Ex-Viet Cong Aids GIs...

(Continued From Page 1) trail through the canal and a recon of the area produced four more enemy bodies in a brief engagement.

In a continuing sweep, Duc pointed out still another enemy position. Again he was right and a brief firefight ensued, killing one enemy.

The day's yield was six NVA soldiers killed, one AK-47, one AK-50 and two 9mm pistols. There were no friendly casualties.

Tran Van Duc, now serving with the 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry, rallied to



Minutes after this F-4 Phantom was belly-landed by Major R. Russ and Lieutenant D. Melson, the ground crew clears the runway. (USAF PHOTO)

Cam Ranh Bay

Pilots Land F-4 On Sea Of Suds

CAM RANH BAY (USAF) — A multi-million dollar F-4 Phantom of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing was saved from serious damage recently through the professional skill of the aircrew and the rapid reaction of ground personnel.

Because of a landing gear malfunction, Major Robert D. Russ, aircraft commander, and 1st Lieutenant Douglas M. Melson, pilot, had to make a wheels-up landing.

"We orbited for about an hour to get rid of our excess fuel," said Lieutenant Melson. "Meanwhile, we radioed our emergency situation to the base and the ground crews foamed the runway.

"A belly landing in an F-4 just isn't covered in the books; it's a time when common sense and aerial skill are the governing factors.

"We made a low pass over the base to check our sink rate," Lieutenant Melson continued, "and to see the exact location of the foam and to make sure our speed calculations were correct.

"Major Russ was cool, he wasn't even breathing hard. He told me to remind him of things like the ejection guard handle, the tail hook and to stopcock (turn off) the throttles.

"Our final pattern was very wide, about five miles from the field. This allowed us to get lined up with the centerline of the runway about three miles out. We came in low at 144 knots on our final approach. The tail hook caught the arresting barrier, and we slid down the slick runway until the barrier stopped us. It was the softest landing I've ever had in an F-4. The wing tanks cushioned the landing and everything

worked out fine with minimum damage to the plane. We stopped, got our canopies up and left the aircraft," concluded the lieutenant.

Major Russ said, "My main concern was the aircraft, we need them badly here, and I didn't want to lose it. I've flown a lot of fighters and this one is best."

"Lieutenant Melson really did an outstanding job," he added, "he reminded me of the things I asked him to, at just the right

time. We went over the checklist for the landing and worked together."

Major Russ concluded, "I'd like to pat the ground crew on the back. They did a terrific job of foaming the runway in minimum time and they were right there when we stopped to handle the situation."

Damage to the two million dollar aircraft was confined to the two wing tanks and the radome on the nose. Cost of the three items, \$2,808.

Monkeyshines No Joke

KONTUM (USA) — Four nonchalant monkeys recently gave battle-hardened 4th Infantry Division soldiers the business.

The men were from the 3rd Brigade's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry and the monkeys were bent on trying out their perimeter security.

As night wore on, the men began the cycle of two men pulling guard while the others got some sleep.

Specialist 4 Richard Russel and Specialist 4 Vincent Ferullo had just gone on guard.

"We heard movement out front," said Specialist Ferullo.

"At first we thought it was the wind, but then we heard it again. All of a sudden a trip flare went off and we could see small bodies by the flare."

The 3rd Brigade soldiers fired a few rounds in the direction of the flare. By this time the perimeter was lit up by illumination rounds from the 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery.

The two infantrymen then spotted the four monkeys sitting by the trip flare — calm as could be.

"Someone yelled at us and asked what was going on," said Specialist Russel. "I told them we're monkeying around."

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

(12 cents 1st class)

(20 cents Airmail)

TO: