

# Marines Pulverize NVA Battalion

KHE SANH (USMC) — A battalion-size North Vietnamese Army force tried to overrun a U.S. Marine company recently and was soundly defeated.

Marines of Company F, 2nd Battalion, Third Marines accounted for 234 confirmed NVA dead after the devastating battle.

The company was holding a hill position when it received the first of numerous enemy probes at 2:30 a.m. The enemy had tripped ground flares and other devices outside the company's perimeter.

Twenty minutes later, "All hell broke loose," said Private First Class Harold R. Blunk. "They started to hit all around the perimeter."

"They used rocket grenades as if they were the main assault weapon," said 1st Lieutenant James L. Jones, the company commander. "They must have fired 250 of the grenades during the attack. It was unusual because the NVA didn't use their small arms as a primary weapon."

As the enemy attacked up the hill, "a solid sheet of steel" was dropped between the defenders and the attacking enemy, coordinated by the artillery observer, 2nd Lieutenant John R. Heintz, Jr.

"At one time we had nine fire missions going at the same time," commented Lieutenant Heintz. "All through the attack the artillery was great. They must have fired 4,000 rounds at the enemy."

"I could hear the NVA shouting to spread out and get up the Hill," said the company's interpreter, Private First Class John P. Pryor.

An hour after the first probe, Company F repulsed the first attack. Later during the night the enemy again tried to take the company's perimeter by regrouping at the bottom of the hill before charging the Marines.

At first light, Marine helicopter gunships and Sea Knight transport choppers appeared overhead and began spraying the enemy with machinegun fire. One pilot reported, "Enemy bodies were littered throughout the entire area."

Later in the morning Company E, 2nd Battalion made contact with their sister company and passed through the battle area exploiting the action. They searched the area and found numerous enemy bodies, weapons and equipment.

## Odd Twist In Rites

DAK TO (USA) — It was a wedding just like many others, except he was in Vietnam and she was in Bakersfield, Calif.

The bride, Miss Darlyne Smith, was in Bakersfield at the time of the ceremony. The bridegroom, Private First Class Fred Murphy, was in Dak To.

PFC Murphy's brother stood in for him at home while a Red Cross girl stood in for the bride in Dak To.

The PFC, a radio-telephone operator in the 2nd Platoon of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, celebrated his reception by participation in a combat assault on Hill 810, north of Dak To. He spent his wedding night on the hill.



Vol. 6, No. 61

Saigon, Vietnam

July 3, 1968



LAPES DROP—An Air Force C-130 Hercules makes a Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System (LAPES) drop of supplies to an Army outpost. (USAF PHOTO)

## 101st Airborne

# Airborne's Night Ambushes Foils Foe

PHUOC VINH (USA) — A company from the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade killed more than 40 enemy by body count in a week-long series of night ambushes near here recently.

"My men set up an ambush at the junction of two trails and were preparing for a long wait," said Platoon Leader Lieutenant Donald R. Leahy of Company A, 1st Battalion (airborne), 506th Infantry. "Just as it was getting dark, the enemy came down the trail."

"Their noise discipline was good and there was about five to 10 meters between men. We could only get 12 to 15 in the 'kill zone' of our claymore mines," said Sergeant David Armock.

Specialist 4 John Brow opened up and triggered the ambush. Several positions covering the kill zone blew their claymores and the surviving Viet Cong were caught in the blazing cross-fire of two M-60 machine guns.

The paratroopers began receiving RPG rocket fire from several hundred meters up the

trail, but they were dug in.

"We called artillery fire which came in right on top of the RPG flashes. It took less than three minutes for our artillery to respond," said Private First Class Jerry Gearing.

The next morning, a sweep of the area revealed six bodies from the ambush and firing

from the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 319th Artillery, as well as numerous blood trails and drag marks.

"We heard them out there all night dragging their dead and wounded off. We threw quite a few grenades at them," Specialist Brow said. "They couldn't get to the six we found because

they were only a few feet from our positions."

Among the dead was a commander of unknown rank. He had on him several documents of high intelligence value.

This was just one of many surprise night skirmishes initiated by the company in the space of a week.

# Mekong Delta VC Smashed By PF And Naval Forces

## MEKONG DELTA (USN) —

Enemy mortar positions near the Mekong Delta city of My Tho were attacked recently by U.S. Navy Seawolves. The helicopter gunships received and suppressed automatic weapons fire on their first pass over the enemy positions west of the city, some 30 miles southwest of Saigon.

The Seawolves destroyed two enemy structures and damaged five others. Enemy personnel

casualties were unknown.

Other Navy units destroyed or damaged 15 structures, six bunkers, six sampans and a junk in scattered fighting elsewhere in South Vietnam. At least eight enemy were reported killed, with no U.S. casualties.

At least one Viet Cong was killed and four bunkers and two structures were destroyed by an assault force of Navy PBRs (river patrol boats) and "Monitors" along the Bassac river, 70 miles southwest of Saigon. The Navy boats were supporting Vietnamese Popular Force units

on a sweep operation in Phong Dinh province.

Another Navy Swift boat patrolling the eastern coast of the Cau Mau peninsula, 155 miles southwest of Saigon, discovered an enemy cargo landing ramp near the mouth of the Bo De river. Mortar fire from the boat felled several trees, blocking the ramp. Nearby, two camouflaged enemy bunkers, reinforced with metal and heavy timbers, were also taken under fire. One was blown apart by a secondary explosion and the other was heavily damaged.

## Editorial

# Spirit Unchanged

Two centuries ago, when men wore powdered wigs and ladies never showed a bit of ankle, life was very different from what it is today. As a matter of fact, very little of that society has been carried over to today's way of life. We have today, however, one remnant of that society—an impressive document that is as alive and important today as it was on July 4, 1776—the Declaration of Independence.

Back in 1776, after years of discontent with the rule of England's George III, a group of colonists—members of the Continental Congress—wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence. Although little more than a sheet of paper, this document set a precedent for many of the nations of the world. The Declaration stated that when a government failed to protect the rights of its people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, "it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it." The United States became the first colony of a major power in that day to break away from colonial rule and declare independence.

Here, half a world away from home, we are helping the South Vietnamese people to solve a different, although parallel, problem. The people of this country are living under a government which they themselves elected. The people of South Vietnam are not trying to overthrow their government; they are trying to insure that their government is not overthrown by a foreign power whose idea of rule is dictatorial and tyrannical.

The spirit of '76 is still alive today. Here in Vietnam we are demonstrating to the world that we still believe freedom and liberty to be more than mere words found in the dictionary; we believe them to be precious commodities well worth fighting and dying for.

Fashions may change, but ideals do not. And while the powdered wigs have disappeared and ladies' ankles have appeared, the Declaration of Independence beats on as the heart of our nation. (MACV)

## Job Priority Added To List Of Benefits

WASHINGTON — The most recent additions to the list of veterans' benefits tendered by a grateful nation to the men who have helped defend it are the special opportunities for Vietnam veterans to obtain priority employment with the government and further their education at the same time.

These opportunities, set forth in an Executive Order, make Vietnam veterans eligible to enter federal employment in transitional appointments at the five lowest civil service levels without taking an examination.

In the words of President Johnson, "America holds some of its greatest honors for the men who have stood in its defense, and kept alive its freedoms. It shows its gratitude not only in memorials... but more meaningfully in the programs which care for him....

For those veterans who have completed less than one year of education beyond high school and who meet all other civil service standards, this program offers an incentive for them to increase their education under the GI Bill while holding a full-time job.

The individual's continued employment in a transitional

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### VA Committee Passes Widow G.I. Benefits

WASHINGTON — The House Veterans Committee has approved a GI Bill for wives of men killed or totally disabled in the service. The bill would make educational benefits available to widows of men who die from service-connected causes. It also would benefit wives of men on VA compensation rolls with 100 per cent disability. The women would draw \$130 monthly for full-time school attendance and \$95 monthly for half-time attendance. Schooling would have to be completed within eight years.

This and other committee-approved bills are slated for early House consideration. One bill could permit disabled veterans to attend institutional training under the VA's vocational rehabilitation program. Another would set up a new method of computing benefits for veterans pursuing GI Bill studies by correspondence or extension courses. A third would permit veterans to use up to 48 months of educational benefits under the combined GI Bill and War Orphans Educational Assistance programs. (NAVNEWS)

### DOD Extends Special Leave

WASHINGTON — Regulations governing special 30-day leaves for personnel who extend for six months beyond the normal 12-month Vietnam tour of duty has been extended to 1970.

The special leave has also been expanded to include personnel assigned to other parts of Southeast Asia and actively engaged in combat operations.

As the program progressed, however, it was discovered the smaller police departments were not receiving maximum benefit from the program under the off-base, off-duty restrictions.

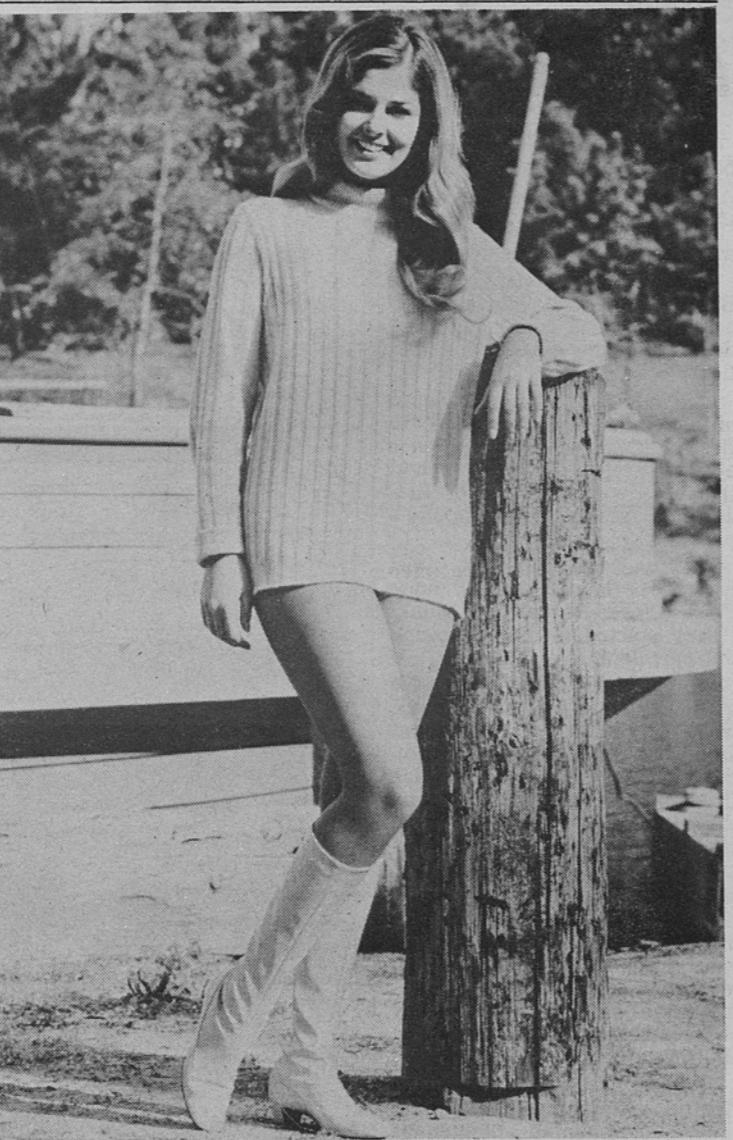
In an effort to further enhance the program's effectiveness, and "provide a larger number of police agencies the privilege of on-base contact with potential applicants," DOD revised its policy to include the new on-base, off-duty provision.

Department of Defense officials said the revision is aimed primarily at Air Force personnel stationed in Thailand who are taking part in day-to-day strikes over North and South Vietnam. (CD)

### G.I. Protected By Relief Act

WASHINGTON — Section 514 of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act protects servicemen from the possibility of paying state and local taxes in several different locations at once.

It provides that, for the purposes of taxation on income,



**RARE FERRARE**—The radiant and lovely smile of leggy Cristina Ferrare can be seen in her latest MGM venture—"The Impossible Years." (PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM)

## Defense Dept. Expands Police Recruiting Drive

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has expanded its Civilian Police Recruiting Program to include informal recruitment of military personnel on-base during off-duty hours by any authorized law enforcement agency.

Previously, on-base recruitment was confined to police departments from major metropolitan areas and was conducted under military supervision during on-duty hours. Smaller law enforcement agencies were allowed to conduct indirect off-base, off-duty recruiting.

As the program progressed, however, it was discovered the smaller police departments were not receiving maximum benefit from the program under the off-base, off-duty restrictions.

Defense officials said that police departments wishing to participate in the recruitment program under the new provision are authorized to request direct support from installation commanders in their geographical area.

Base commanders have been ordered to provide all possible assistance, including space for off-duty interviews and administrative support such as testing of the candidate and reasonable availability of the man for follow up interviews.

The most recent statistics reveal that so far the majority of the rookie police officers acquired through this program have accepted jobs in Washington, D.C. Pay ranging from \$476 monthly can be earned by servicemen to take jobs with local police departments. Average monthly paychecks for rookie policemen:

**Northeast—\$524**

**Midwest—\$518**

**South—\$476**

**Pacific—\$647**

**Southwest & Rocky Mountains—\$486**

Military personnel who are within 90 days of their release date and have received a firm offer, certified in writing from city, county, state or Federal police department, are eligible for early release under the Civilian Police Recruiting Program, and will be released no later than 10 days before the effective date of employment. See DA Circular 635-3 for details. (CD)

persons are not deemed to have lost a permanent residence in any state solely because they are absent under military orders. Also, persons are not deemed to have acquired permanent residence in some other state when they are required to be absent from their home state by military orders. (AD)

# The OBSERVER

**FIRST IN VIETNAM**  
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. C.W. Abrams, USA  
Information Officer ..... Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA  
Acting Chief, Command Information ..... Maj. D.C. Smith, USA

**NCOIC** ..... SFC. D.D. Perez, USA  
Editor ..... Sgt. C. T. Owen, USMC  
Production Manager ..... TSGT. G.C. Sterling, USAF  
Assistant Editor ..... Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA  
Feature Editor ..... Sp 4 L. Ensminger, USA  
Writer/Photographer ..... Sp 4 P. Koenigsegg, USA

# Air Cav Attack Smashes NVA

QUANG TRI (USA) — Action in the Quang Tri area yielded Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, six detainees, over 35 Communist killed and a large amount of captured equipment and arms.

Recently, the company air assaulted into the coastal village of Gia Dang just before dark. They set up their perimeter parallel to the coast between the village and the sea. A small complex of houses outside the village were being used as enemy positions.

The company was setup parallel to a group of APCs (armored personnel carriers). "We were across from the APCs," said Private First Class John Greiner. "When the enemy would fire a couple of rounds, the APCs would open up. They were firing through the village right at us. We spent a lot of that night dodging friendly tracer rounds."

"The next day we swept through the village," said the PFC. "There were a lot of NVA buried there in the sand." The company walked through the village, aiding in a pincer movement that ended in a major enemy defeat.

"Our job was to sweep behind the tanks and APCs and pull security from the rear," said Specialist 4 Richard Galvan. "The heavy fire all but leveled the village and buried dead and alive alike. They weren't fighting back too much," said PFC Greiner. "We just had so much fire-power. We pulled out a lot of dead and alive."

The NVA were trapped in bunkers built under houses in the soft sand of the area. As the company swept through the village behind the

mechanized guns, they began an intensive search of the enemy bunkers. The Skytroopers went from bunker to bunker, blowing them up with hand grenades.

"We started in the morning and got through late in the evening," said PFC Greiner. "Then we had to set up new positions. I'm glad we were in sand or we'd still be there digging."

## Allies Hit Guerrillas

SAIGON (USN) — U.S. Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Vietnamese Commando units joined forces recently to hit Viet Cong positions in the Rung Sat Special Zone, following an enemy attack on the Vietnamese merchant ship, Khanh Hoa.

At least five Viet Cong were reported killed and two bunkers and an anti-aircraft position destroyed.

The Khanh Hoa came under enemy automatic weapons and rocket fire while steaming along the Long Tau river, 10 miles southeast of Saigon. Damage to the ship was described as light.

U.S. Navy and Army helicopter gunships and Air Force fixed-wing aircraft pounded the enemy force while Navy River Patrol Boats (PBRs) set up blocking positions along possible escape routes.

Vietnamese Commandos, together with four U.S. Marine Corps advisors, were airlifted to the scene by Army helicopters and conducted two sweeps of the area.

The action began when elements of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, were inserted into a hot landing zone 15 miles north of Tan An in the Plain of Reeds.

During seven hours of fighting, 1st Brigade troops, artillery and supporting airstrikes killed 41 VC. The enemy, identified as part of the 261st Main Force Battalion, had been trapped in a 300-bunker base camp. The survivors fled south with 9th Division troops in pursuit.

A day later, the 2nd/39th hit another hot landing zone five



**COMMENCE FIRE!**—The heavy cruiser USS Newport News fires its 50,000th round in Vietnam combat. Amassed in six consecutive months of activity in the Gulf of Tonkin, the warship's gunfire record more than doubles the total of any other ship engaging in the war effort.

(USN PHOTO BY PH2 H. DOYLE)

## VC Smashed; Loses 228

CAI LAY (USA) — Units of the 9th Infantry Division inflicted major casualties on two enemy battalions during a recent action in the Mekong Delta. The encounter cost the enemy 228 dead.

The Khanh Hoa came under enemy automatic weapons and rocket fire while steaming along the Long Tau river, 10 miles southeast of Saigon. Damage to the ship was described as light.

U.S. Navy and Army helicopter gunships and Air Force fixed-wing aircraft pounded the enemy force while Navy River Patrol Boats (PBRs) set up blocking positions along possible escape routes.

Vietnamese Commandos, together with four U.S. Marine Corps advisors, were airlifted to the scene by Army helicopters and conducted two sweeps of the area.

The action began when elements of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, were inserted into a hot landing zone 15 miles north of Tan An in the Plain of Reeds.

During seven hours of fighting, 1st Brigade troops, artillery and supporting airstrikes killed 41 VC. The enemy, identified as part of the 261st Main Force Battalion, had been trapped in a 300-bunker base camp. The survivors fled south with 9th Division troops in pursuit.

A day later, the 2nd/39th hit another hot landing zone five

miles north of Cai Lay on the Kinh Tong Doc Loc canal, 16 miles south of the earlier contact. The infantrymen were hit immediately by small arms and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified positions. Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, and the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, were called in to help surround the enemy.

U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers and gunships from the 7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry, supported the ground troops.

Artillery fire continued throughout the night as U.S. troops encountered intermittent contact. The infantrymen swept the battle area the next morning, finding 187 enemy bodies.

They also captured more than 50 enemy weapons, including 10 crew-served weapons, rockets and an assortment of other ammunition and supplies.

## Pilots Kill 70

CAM RANH BAY (USAF) — Air Force F-4 Phantom crews from the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing here, recently killed 70 enemy troops caught in the open approximately 20 miles south of Tuy Hoa.

Major William B. Paul led the flight with 1st Lieutenant Orvin H. Ramlo Jr., as his pilot. Major William H. Parker commanded the wing element with 1st Lieutenant John L. Shepherd as his pilot.

The pilots scrambled from the alert pad on a request for immediate air support. They dropped their ordnance on a large cave in which the enemy troops had taken cover. Three direct hits were observed by the forward air controller (FAC) as he praised the accurate bombing of the pilots.

After the mission the FAC reported only six enemy killed and a cave destroyed but when friendly troops moved into the area to assess the battle damage, they found 70 of the enemy had been killed by the air strikes.



**SPITTING BULLETS**—A machine gunner of the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, blazes away at enemy positions during a recent fight 18 miles northwest of Saigon. A later sweep of the area indicated that the machine gun had knocked out a heavily reinforced enemy bunker.

(USA PHOTO BY SP4 DON MOUSSEAU)



**HEAVY LOAD**—Montagnard tribesmen hurry from the lowered ramp of a CH-46A Sea Knight of Marine Aircraft Group-36 at Dong Ha. The tribesmen had evacuated their homes near Khe Sanh after a North Vietnamese Army attack on their village.

(USMC PHOTO By: Cpl Joe Brand)

## Blind Teen Aided

**CAMP RANH BAY (USAF)**—A number of Americans, both at Camp Ranh Bay air base and Canton, Ohio, have made it possible for a 19-year-old blind Vietnamese girl to attend school for the first time in her life.

Air Force Master Sergeant Harry Copolos, non-commissioned officer in charge of passenger service, 14th Aerial Port Squadron, met young Nguyen Thi Chau during one of his visits to the Love of the Cross Orphanage in the village of Dong Bin. After learning she had never had the opportunity to go to school because of financial problems, Sergeant Copolos went to work.

He set up collection boxes in the squadron area and the passenger terminal for the men of the unit. But he did not stop there. He wrote to his family and friends in the Canton, Ohio area asking them for help. Several individuals sent checks and the personnel in the Star County sheriff's office took up a collection and sent the money to the sergeant.

It took several months, but recently, he was able to turn over more than 93,000 piastres to Captain Denan Morris, an Air Force chaplain, for Chau's education. Captain Morris said, "The money will be put in a

## Infantry Helps War Refugees

**SAIGON (USA)**—The 9th Infantry Division recently donated 14,000 pounds of food to assist the 100,000 refugees in Cholon, the war-razed Chinese sector of Saigon.

The distribution also included 3,000 bars of soap and 660 gallons of DDT insecticide.

To help the refugees rebuild, the division donated 5,700 board feet of lumber, 400 pounds of cement and 150 pounds of nails.

In addition, the infantrymen conducted a joint medical and dental civic action program in which 1,764 refugees were treated.

## Language Barrier Broken As RFs Learn English

**HOA CAM (USA)**—Language has been a continuing problem between U.S. and Vietnamese military personnel, but some men are determined this obstacle shall be less imposing in the future.

Among these are Marine Staff Sergeants Gerald R. Guthrie and John P. Cotter, instructors of English to selected Vietnamese Regional Force soldiers at Hoa Cam training center.

They began their assignment as language teachers with the premise that strategically located Vietnamese soldiers in the Regional Force units could be an invaluable aid to U.S. units if they had a basic knowledge of English, particularly a working military vocabulary.

To meet this objective Vietnamese students are sent to the program by nomination from each province. At the school itself, candidates are screened with the major criteria being an ability to read and write Vietnamese and a desire to learn English.

If selected, students begin a seven week, eight-hour-a-day concentrated course in English. After an introduction is presented in Vietnamese the students hear and speak only English in the classroom.

Instruction is done in a series of 11 lessons concentrating on military phrases: "Is this a booby trap? Yes this is a booby trap."

A textbook is provided which presents the phrase pictorially, in English, and in Vietnamese. Classroom drill involves reading the English phrase in response to the instructor's clear, distinct and authoritative lead. The objective of each lesson is

to achieve easy oral comprehension.

In his enthusiasm Sergeant Guthrie envisions more than a basic phrase course. "I am trying to get this school as close to professional standard as possible," he explained.

To do this he has instituted several innovations to upgrade the language proficiency of his students. He replaced the former textbook, an academic volume, with the more intensive pictorial pamphlet now in use.

He has arranged to bring his Vietnamese students together with U.S. personnel who are studying from the same book in an informal gathering designed to spread confidence through achieving a counterpart's understanding.

Another innovation now being instituted by the sergeant is the use of tape recorded lessons so students can listen and learn as they study in the evening.

Sergeants Cotter and Guthrie will rotate back to the U.S. shortly, having spent 22 months in Vietnam, but this unique language program will be continued.

Hoping to continue the success of the school achieved by these two dedicated, self-trained instructors, MACV will replace them with trained linguistic specialists.

## Cosmopolitan Effort Runs Comm Center

**DA NANG (USA)**—A cosmopolitan atmosphere exists as Vietnamese, Koreans, Filipinos and United States signalmen work side by side at Da Nang to provide communications in the I Corps area.

At the Da Nang Long Lines Detachment's modern technical control center, they work with 1st Signal Brigade soldiers in installing complex equipment and maintaining reliable communications.

A textbook is provided which presents the phrase pictorially, in English, and in Vietnamese. Classroom drill involves reading the English phrase in response to the instructor's clear, distinct and authoritative lead. The objective of each lesson is

Captain William Bradley, officer-in-charge of the detachment, explained the reason for having Vietnamese and Korean servicemen at the site.

"Vietnamese and Korean units operating in the I Corps area use our circuits and it's necessary to have people here to translate their messages."

The captain said the men have become proficient enough to insure the circuits are functioning properly.

The Korean and Filipino civilians at the site serve as technical representatives for a civilian contract communications engineering company.

## M-79 Double Trouble For 'Charlie'



M-79-A-Go-Go is the name inventor Specialist 4 Franklin Brown calls his new masterpiece.

## River Forces Clear Delta Waters

### SOUTH VIETNAM (VFS)

Until recently the Viet Cong controlled the Mekong Delta waterways, strangling the agricultural economy to near extinction. To beat the Viet Cong's game three major task forces are now operating in the Delta: Mobile Riverine Force, Game Warden and River Assault Group.

Biggest and newest is the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF). Conceived as an assault force, MRF transports infantrymen to the enemy and supports assaults.

The MRF is unique in its split-command concept. Placing Navy and Army officers of equal rank and authority in command it operates from the base ship, Benewah.

Between June 1967 and Jan. 31, 1968, the MRF got into eight major scrapes that netted more than 100 VC killed each time. During the Tet offensive and the month following, 600 VC were killed.

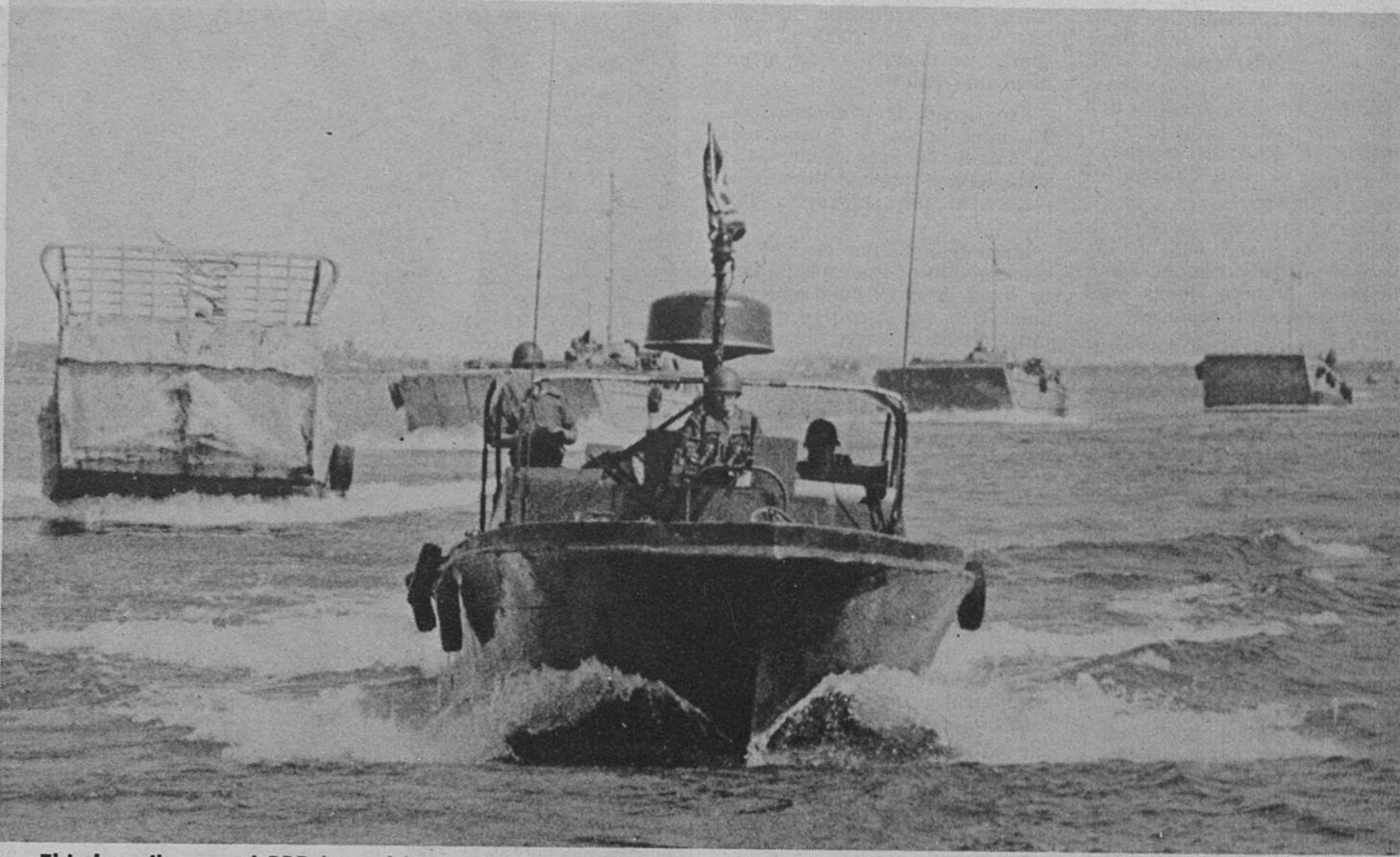
The force's tactics are based on mobility—it operates strictly from water. "Base" is an armada of five LSTs (landing ships, tanks).

The "fleet" is composed of 100 boats—all converted from the old LCM-6 (landing craft, medium). Some are fitted out as armored landing craft, some as the gunboat Monitors and some as fast little patrol boats.

The entire force—3,000 men, Army and Navy—lives on the vessels. The home base anchors in the Mekong or Bassac rivers, which are interconnected, and moves in support of operations all along the canals and streams.

### River Assault Group

The Mobile Riverine Force, new as it may be to U.S. military men, is not a novel concept in Vietnam. The RAG—the River



This heavily armed PBR (patrol boat, river) is leading a convoy shuttling supplies up one of the vast Delta waterways.

Assault Group—Task Force 116, as the U.S. Navy calls it, with its PBRs (patrol boat, river).

The PBRs do almost all of the river patrolling. They are nine meters in length and are made of fiberglass. With their speeds of more than 20 knots and shallow-draft capabilities, they can easily run to ground any VC arms transport sampans—and that is their job.

Game Warden uses 150 of the fast brown PBRs, each armed with three .50 caliber machine guns and lighter weapons. These boats comb the Bassac and Mekong rivers day and night in search of enemy movement.

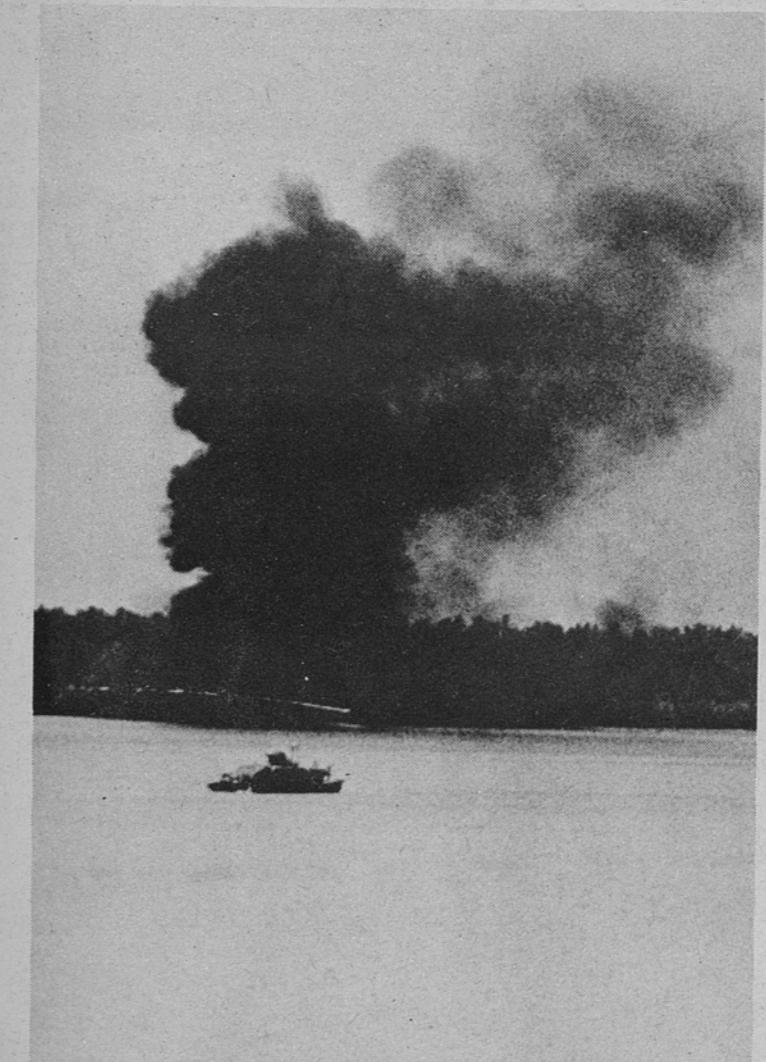
The PBR crews stop boats of all sizes for spot checks. The papers of owners, passengers, boats, cargoes and even engines are checked by a Vietnamese policeman who accompanies each patrol. People are questioned, boats are searched, and then sent on their way—usually with a packet of soap, sewing needles, tobacco and other hard-to-get items prepared with propaganda leaflets by South Vietnamese psywar experts. They inspect from 5,000 to 6,000 people a day.

**Story & Photos**  
By  
Vietnam Feature Service

Without the comprehensive control of Mekong Delta waterways provided by the Mobile Riverine Force, the River Assault Group and Game Warden, the enemy would still control the inland waters and the Delta economy. Now it is the enemy power that is on the decline not the economy.



A PBR (patrol boat, river) gunner watches the banks for VC.



Monitor boats hit VC bunkers near Dong Tam.



Soldiers attack VC positions near Ben Tre after they were landed by the River Assault Group.

# Old And New Merge In Yabuta Junks

SAIGON (USN) — While other navies concentrate on larger size and greater speed, steel hulls and even nuclear power, some of the oldest, smallest and most improbable vessels ever constructed continue to play a vital role in the defense of South Vietnam.

Made of sao wood so heavy it doesn't float, and with a top speed of only eight knots, South Vietnam's Yabuta junks still simply cannot be replaced.

The modern version, however, is the combination product of Japanese design, American innovation and Vietnamese craftsmanship.

Uniquely at home cruising up a muddy canal or standing out to sea, junks form the mainstay of the Coastal Force, Vietnamese Navy. The highly seaworthy junks sail the rough South China Sea seeking the enemy attempting to infiltrate from the north. With their shallow draft, they also pursue the enemy up some of the smallest canals and rivers, where heavy steel-hulled patrol craft can't go.

The model of Yabuta used mainly by the Vietnamese junk force is 41 feet long, has a beam of approximately 10 feet and a draft of 3½ feet.

Constructed at the Navy Shipyard in Saigon, each junk takes about two weeks to build. A second two weeks are spent

fitting the vessel with its gasoline engine, the rudder, skeg, shaft, gun mounts for its armament and painting.

Sao wood is shipped from Thailand by barge and arrives in Saigon as logs, where it is stripped and cut into timbers or planks in the shipyard's saw mill.

More than 85 per cent of the construction of the junk is done by hand. A small band saw and hand drill are used for cutting large planks to make the craft's ribs and drilling holes for nails and screws. A hand sander is used to smooth fiberglass that has been added to the craft's hull, from her waterline to her keel.

Both the U.S. and Vietnamese governments supply the junks with needed equipment. The U.S. supplies the armament and some navigation and safety gear.

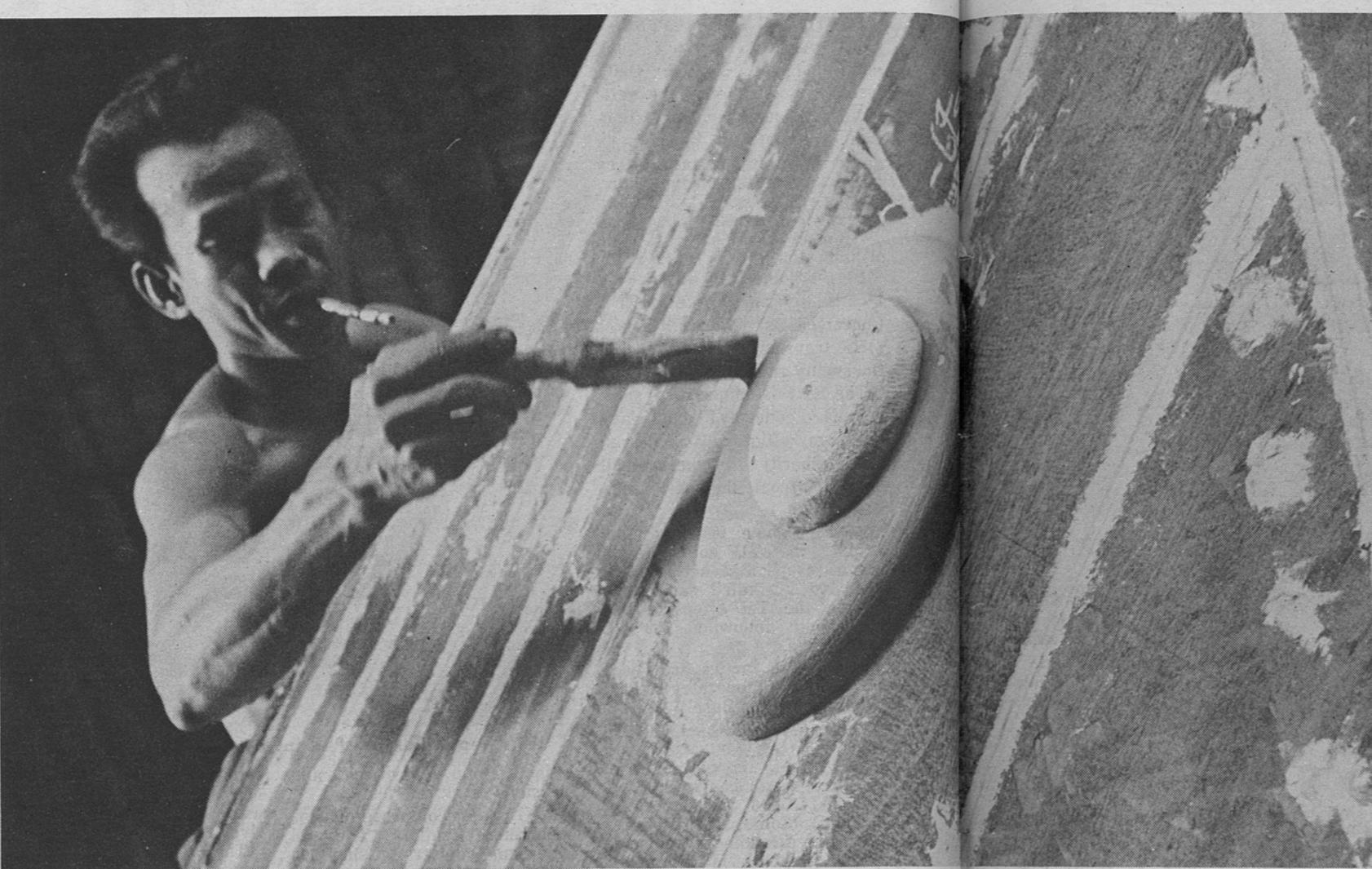
The Vietnamese government supplies lights, pumps, and the rest of the boats' standard equipment.

The junks are a true blend of the old and the new — an ancient design translated by modern machinery and technology into sturdy vessels by skilled Vietnamese hand craftsmen.

They have been here longer than anyone can remember.

And they'll still be here, still doing their job and doing it well, for possibly as long to come.

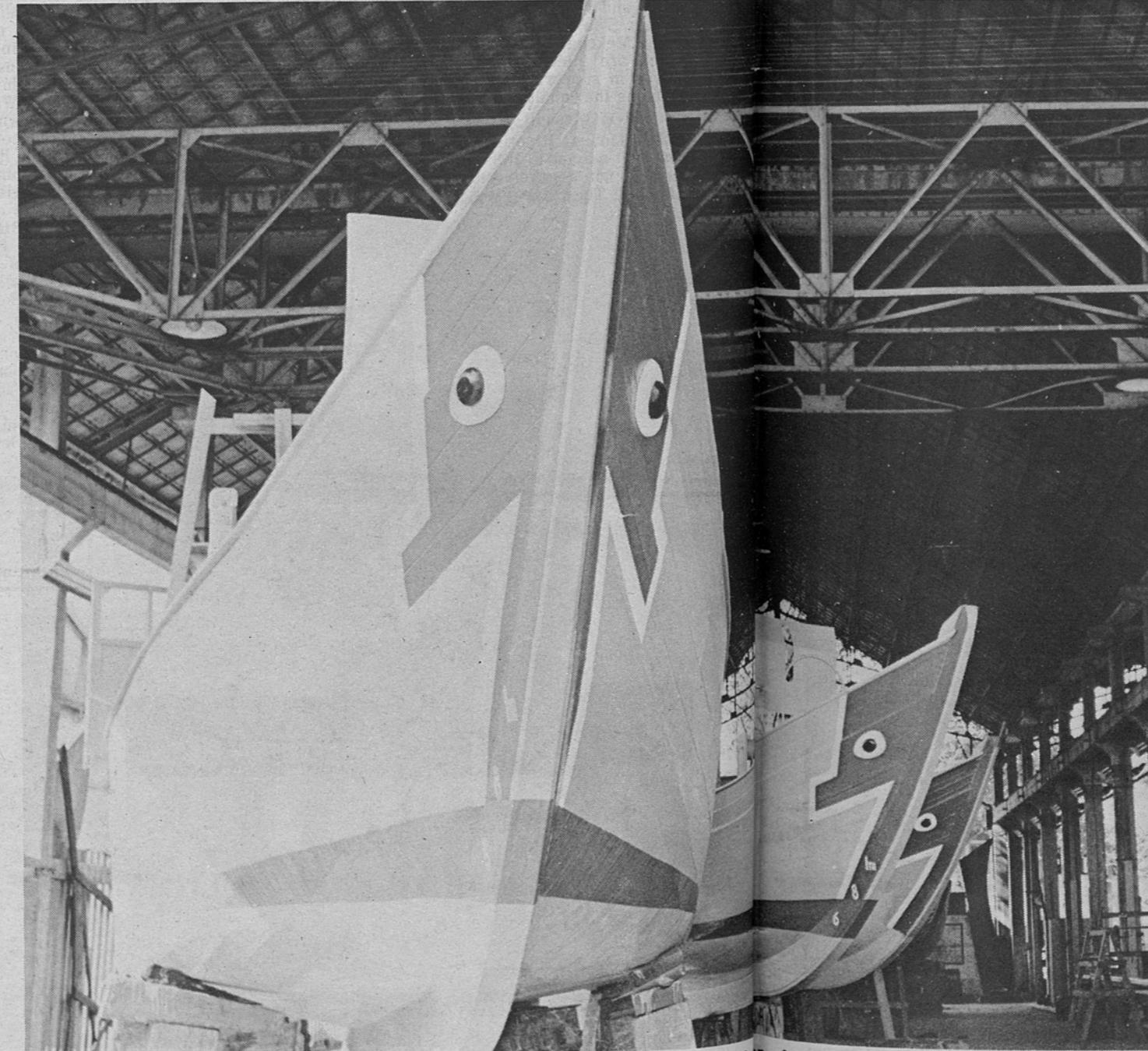
**Story & Photos by U.S. Navy**



A Vietnamese junk builder paints the "eye of a dragon" on a junk — for centuries the "eyes" provided luck and the ability to scan the horizon.



Using a cutting tool indigenous to the Orient, a craftsman planes the keel.



These new Yabuta junks await their sea trial at the Vietnamese Navy Shipyard, after which they will be transferred to a Coastal Junk Force on the coast.



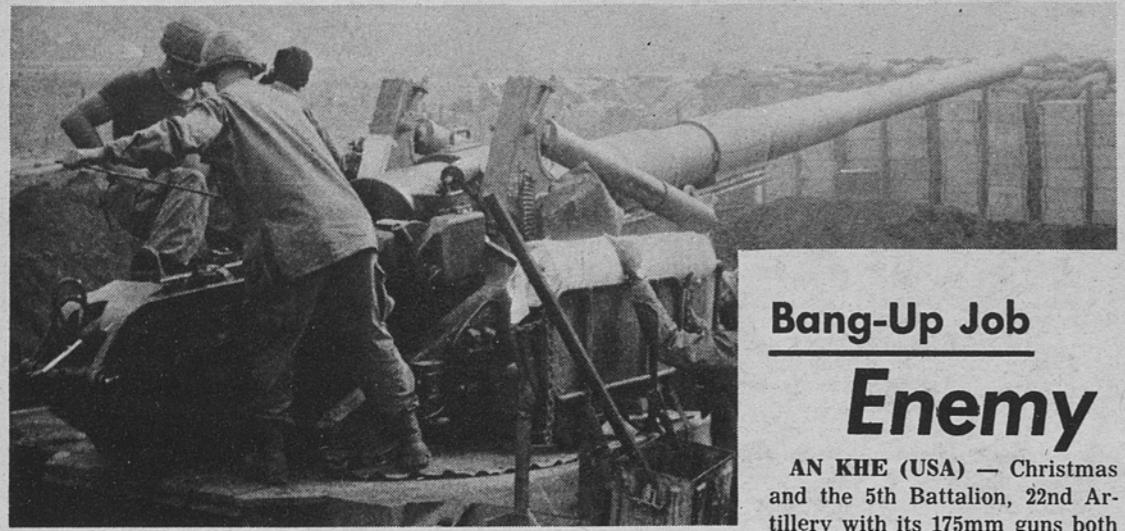
In order to make a Yabuta's deck water-tight, this craftsman pounds or caulk a sealer, between the planks.



Two Vietnamese boat builders place the first ribs of a junk into place along the keel.



Men of the 22nd Artillery place a 38-foot-long, 175mm tube on its self-propelled track.



An assistant gunner checks the bore spacing.



Having locked the breach, the crew prepares for the blast.



With a thunderous roar, two 175mm guns send another volley towards the enemy.



Within seconds of the last firing, another round is readied.

**Bang-Up Job****Enemy Feels 175's Wrath**

AN KHE (USA) — Christmas and the 5th Battalion, 22nd Artillery with its 175mm guns both arrived at the same time in Vietnam in 1967. The arrival of the 175mm guns meant added punch and flexibility to available firepower in II Corps Tactical Zone and more trouble for Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces operating within their reach.

A few weeks after arriving in Vietnam it received its baptism of fire. Elements of the battalion have supported the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) when it operated in II Corps, the 4th Infantry Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the Capital Division of the Republic of Korea Army.

Since January the 175mm guns have fired more than 30,000 rounds (more than 2,600 tons of high explosive and steel) from positions ranging from near the Cambodian border to a few miles from the coast of South Vietnam.

The weapons of the 5th Battalion, 22nd Artillery make it possible for the unit to cover

a lot of territory without moving from its fire bases. The 20-mile range of the 175mm gun allows one battery of four guns to cover more than 1,000 square miles in a circle around its position. The gun, mounted on self-propelled track chassis, can displace rapidly and move to the next firing position at better than 35-miles-per-hour. Added to this mobility and range capability is the bursting radius of the 147-pound projectile. One round, travelling faster than a bullet fired from the M-14 rifle, can cover an area within a radius of more than 50 meters with steel fragments.

**Story & Photos**  
By  
U.S. Army



The big gun recoils as it propels its heavy shell to its target.



SURE BEATS WALKING — After completing a village sweep during Operation Nevada Eagle, allied troopers get a ride to their base camp. (USA PHOTO)

**Terrified And Lost****Trio Returns From Night Of Horror**

BINH CHANH (USA) — Isolated from their company amid a Viet Cong battalion, three U.S. 9th Infantry Division soldiers survived a night of terror in which they were shot at, bombed and strafed.

The men were Privates First Class Edwin S. Carpenter, Mauricio Guerra and Clifford Byers.

They were with the 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry, recently when it became embroiled in vicious fighting with a VC battalion about five miles south of Saigon.

As the fighting waned during the early afternoon PFC Carpenter said he and five other

men volunteered for a small patrol to search a woodline for a dead buddy.

"We found the man and a machine gunner set up security for us nearby," he recalled. "We were just starting to bring him back when bullets began hitting all around us. One of our men was wounded as we dove into a ditch for cover."

Other company elements began returning fire and a heavy battle was soon underway.

"We tried to stop the man's bleeding while the fighting was going on but it was impossible," remembered PFC Carpenter. "No one knew what happened to the machine gunner;

he just disappeared. All we had were four M-16 rifles, an M-79 grenade launcher and a smoke grenade."

"One man volunteered to go to the company and tell them what our situation was. He went over the top of a dike and that was the last we ever saw of him."

After 15 minutes of airstrikes, the jets finally left.

"We decided that everything was quiet and had just started climbing out of the hole when two helicopter gunships dove in and started strafing the area," he continued. "We changed our position to the opposite side of the hole. This proved to be a lifesaving move because we had no sooner shifted than mini-guns stitched a deadly pattern across the place we had been sitting, and rockets were smacking directly behind us."

"After it had been quiet for an hour, we pulled out," he recalled.

"We walked about 400 meters when we suddenly saw the silhouettes of U.S. Armored Personnel Carrier antennae outlined against the sky," the private said excitedly. "It was out of this world, a really fabulous moment. It was like a miracle, no one could believe we had made it," he concluded.

**Tuy Hoa's 1884th Sq. Backs Up Vital Commo**

TUY HOA (USA) — Providing vital radio back-up for base communications is the job of the single side band radio section of the 1884th Communications Squadron at Tuy Hoa air base.

The four man station operates 24 hours per day and completes an average of 30 to 40 phone patches. Operating with three radios, the section provides Tuy Hoa air base personnel with communications when ordinary telephone lines are out of commission or busy.

Maintenance officials of the 31st TFW make up the biggest single users of the section as they place radio calls throughout the Southeast Asia Theater trying to locate vital aircraft maintenance parts. The efforts of side band personnel have paid off in many instances by the wing obtaining vitally needed parts for combat aircraft.

The need for this radio back-up to normal communication channels was dramatically illustrated in November 1967 when Typhoon Freda temporarily halted all long distance communications from Tuy Hoa. Operating nonstop to fill communications needs, the section was commanded by the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing commander for their outstanding service.

Calls are placed through the single side band section on a priority basis. Four classes of priorities are given — routine, priority, immediate and the highest, flash. Precedence is given to each call according to its priority.

Maintenance officials of the 31st TFW make up the biggest single users of the section as they place radio calls throughout the Southeast Asia Theater trying to locate vital aircraft maintenance parts. The efforts of side band personnel have paid off in many instances by the wing obtaining vitally needed parts for combat aircraft.

From its beginning in a tent and handling 100 calls per month, the Tuy Hoa single side band now processes more than 1,000 calls per month. The value of time in the fast changing war means much and time saved is what the 1884th communications men have to offer.

Cong, and there seemed to be no help in sight for the unfortunate woman who is employed as a cleaning woman at the Cam Ranh Bay Provost Marshal's Office.

Seven members of the 630th Military Police Company and the 97th MP Battalion received word of the woman's plight and readily volunteered their assistance.

In five days of industrious

**Refugees Get Tons Of Food**

CUA VIET (USMC) — A refugee resettlement village west of Cua Viet received 120,000 pounds of food from the South Vietnamese government in the first step of a relocation program for the village.

The 2,650 people were forced to leave their village on the Cua Viet river by the North Vietnamese Army in early January. They moved to an island in the middle of the river.

The refugees depend solely on their fishing skills for their food. The island has no land for crops or rice paddies and has very little water.

Civilian Operations for Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) representatives along with the Saigon government planned the relief operation.

Trucks from the 2nd South Vietnamese Army Regiment brought the food to the boat loading ramps at Dong Ha. The food was then loaded aboard South Vietnamese Navy river boats by Popular Forces soldiers from the resettlement village.

From this point, the boats ferried the food down river to the refugee island and anchored about 50 yards off shore. Refugees waded out to the boats or rowed out in fishing sampans to unload the precious cargo.

As the boats first neared the village, an old man stood in the water up to his chest waving a South Vietnamese flag at the approaching boats. This was his tribute to the government that is helping him and his family in their battle against Communist aggression.

**Former VC Big 'Cache'**

QUANG TRI (USA) — The 1st Air Cavalry Division's Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, was patrolling a graveyard site north of Camp Evans last week when an enemy soldier approached the men, his arms high above his head yelling, "Cheu Hoi, Cheu Hoi."

After explaining through the unit's Vietnamese interpreter that enemy soldiers were in the area, the Hoi Chanh began leading the company to a spot that he said was sheltering Viet Cong.

The Hoi Chanh knew exactly what he was talking about, as the company captured a Viet Cong mortar squad leader and an ammo bearer, plus a weapons cache in the area the Hoi Chanh indicated.

The weapons taken by the company included some 60 mortar rounds, several Chinese-made claymore mines, six B-40 rocket rounds, three SKS rifles and approximately 6,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

**MPs Build Home For Widow, Kids**

CAM RANH BAY (USA) — A once homeless Vietnamese widow and her two children now have a house to live in thanks to seven men from the 18th Military Police Brigade.

Huynh Thi Mai's house was destroyed in a fire that raged through Cam Ranh village. Her husband, who had been a doctor in the Vietnamese Army, had been killed by the Viet

labor, they erected a wood frame house with a solid wooden floor and a corrugated steel roof. The essential items of cot and blankets was supplied by the battalion.

For Huynh Thi Mai the new house is a treasured blessing. In a letter of appreciation, she thanked the MPs "from the bottom of her heart" for providing such a "nice house" to shelter her family in their time of need.



MISS NO NAME—We don't know her name, but we certainly would like to see more like her. Agreed??  
(PHOTO COURTESY PETER GOWLAND)

## PSYOPS Success

### Pacification Program Wins People

**MUI NE (USA)** — When a joint Vietnamese-American team of 50 men landed at the pier at Mui Ne one morning recently, they were greeted with furtive glances and wary eyes. When they left the hamlet on the peninsula of Hai Long in Binh Thuan province later that day, they were given gifts of bananas and coconuts.

What these men accomplished during the course of one day is typical of a pacification program being implemented throughout II Corps Tactical Zone by men of the 41st Civil Affairs Company, 8th PSYOPS Battalion and a squad of Hoi Chanh.

Their's a friend-making mission in a most peculiar sort of battlefield.

Involved in this effort were Teams 7 and 12 of the 41st Civil Affairs Company, Detachment 8 of the 8th PSYOPS Battalion

and the Armed Propaganda team — a squad of Hoi Chanh.

Arriving at the village of 5,000 inhabitants at 9 a.m. in Vietnamese Naval junks, the men divided into five groups and dispersed to various sections of the town to begin their work.

Three medical aid stations were set up in different parts of the hamlet. Throughout the day, the stations overflowed with people seeking medical treatment. More than 1,000 men, women and children were treated that day.

The men of the battalion had an entirely different way of winning the confidence of the people. They set up their operation in an old abandoned movie house which had not shown movies in years. There, through the natural curiosity of the villagers, they were able to draw hundreds into the theater to view government movies.

The Hoi Chanh went on a house-to-house, hut-to-hut canvass. They attempted to explain the advantages of living under the Republic of Vietnam. They contrasted their own experiences as Viet Cong to the better life they enjoyed now.

Most of the men in Mui Ne are farmers or fishermen. They live in the reality of today, not in the dreams of tomorrow. The 50 men who entered and left the lives of the villagers in Mui Ne recognized this. Perhaps this is why they were successful.

**ENEMY MORTARS SILENCED FOR GOOD**

**QUAN LOI (USA)** — The 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, on a patrol approximately 75 miles northeast of Saigon, recently uncovered a cache of 43 Chinese Communist 82mm mortar rounds.

Two of the platoons moved out just after dawn. Their mission was to locate and destroy an enemy mortar position.

The 1st Infantry Division men worked their way through a thick tangle of bamboo for more than 1,000 yards finally breaking

into a clearing.

"We had reached our first check point and following standard procedure I sent out cloverleafs (overlapping circular sweeps to secure all sides), to scout our flanks," explained 1st Lieutenant Robert Diganavitto, the patrol leader.

The cloverleaf teams moved out on a circular pattern to the left and right. Minutes later, Specialist 4 Daniel Shipman, the lieutenant's radioman, heard his call sign crackle.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

## Inf. Nabs 35 Tons VC Grain

**HUE (USA)** — An enemy supply depot stuffed with more than 35 tons of stolen rice, was seized near here recently by a company from the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Battalion.

Working with a platoon of Popular Force (PF) soldiers from Quang Dien, the paratroopers of Company D, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry discovered the cache while pursuing two Viet Cong who fled into a tiny riverside hamlet.

"I've seen rice caches before, but never anything like this," said the amazed commander, Captain Jackie Justice. "We walked into that village and we were literally surrounded by rice."

Searching the village with PFs, the Screaming Eagles found there was even more to the rice stockpile than originally met the eye.

One of the biggest finds was a huge, stone-walled pigpen full of rice. Concealing the vital grain was a sheet of corrugated tin and a six-inch layer of pig dung.

"Losing this much rice is really going to hurt 'Charlie,'" Captain Justice said. "This place was obviously a way station for North Vietnamese Army infiltrators."

With the Americans guarding the village, the PFs and some local citizens began digging the rice out of all the houses and underground bunkers and bagging it for shipment to the safety of a district collection point.

The mission was designed to separate the enemy from the rice crop harvested along the coast of I Corps.

## Engr. Adopt Highlanders

**NHA TRANG (USA)** — Army Engineers have adopted a Montagnard village of about 600 people near here.

Major Billy Ivey, Chaplain of the 864th Engineer Battalion, and Captain James Hattaway, 864th medical officer, have started a number of self-help programs for the Montagnards.

In addition, the men of the 864th, which is part of the 35th Engineer Group, 18th Engineer Brigade, are teaching the villagers effective construction procedures.

Captain Hattaway visits the village weekly to treat the villagers for such diseases as dysentery, malaria and dental infections. He also has set up a preventive medicine program for the improvement of sanitation and garbage facilities, and is training one of the villagers to treat minor infections and diseases.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

Sergeant Davis had spotted six VC storage bunkers and an enemy mortar emplacement. Four of the bunkers contained Chinese mortar rounds, while the remaining two served as a sleeping area for the enemy.

The enemy mortars were left in the bunkers and blown in place.

"I think we've got something here," Staff Sergeant Julius Davis reported in. "I can see bunkers to my left. I'm going in to check them out."

# One-Armed Tiger Still Growls

**RACH KIEN (USA)** — An ex-Viet Cong, whose left arm was recently blown off by his former allies, has continued to fight as a Tiger Scout with the 9th Infantry Division.

Le Van Lam, joined the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry, after rallying to the Government of

Vietnam under the Chieu Hoi Program.

He was working as a scout on a road clearing and escort mission with 18 men in five vehicles when a VC company opened fire on the small column. He was in the lead vehicle which received a direct hit with a B-40 rocket. The blast severed his arm.

Ignoring the pain, he picked up one of few intact M-16 rifles and killed three Viet Cong in the first burst, firing one-handed.

The 3d Brigade troopers and the scout continued to return a heavy volume of fire until the enemy withdrew.

Lam was evacuated to an ARVN hospital in Saigon where



Loss of his left arm doesn't stop Tiger Scout Le Van Lam from taking on another mission.

## 'Tuy Hoa' Flies 1,000 Miles

**TUY HOA (USAF)** — The City of Tuy Hoa gets around.

In fact, it moves out at the rate of about 1,000 miles per day. But every night it always returns to its roosting spot 235 miles northeast of Saigon on the coast of the South China Sea, and there it stays until the

morning, when it's off again.

Actually, in addition to being a medium-sized city of about 15,000 people, the City of Tuy Hoa is also the name of an Air Force C-130 Hercules which recently began flying an airline-style schedule between Tuy Hoa air base and four other bases in the Republic of Vietnam.

Leaving Tuy Hoa at 9 a.m. daily, the City of Tuy Hoa visits Cam Ranh Bay, Qui Nhon, Tan Son Nhut and Pleiku air bases before returning to Tuy Hoa at 7 p.m. that night.

The big plane and the men who fly her are assigned to Task Force Alpha, a C-130 airlift unit attached to the 834th Air Division, the organization which controls all U.S. airlift missions within the Republic.

"The purpose of the new run," commented Lieutenant Colonel Virgil W. Munsey, commander of the task force, "is to provide a scheduled, reliable means of transportation between Tuy Hoa and other major bases in this part of the country."

"For example," he continued, "there is a lot of traffic between here and Cam Ranh Bay — people going on R and R trips, coming in from the states, returning to the states, and so forth. Before, those people had to wait around and hope for a flight, catching what they could. Now, however, they have one flight each day on a regular schedule—one they can depend on and plan accordingly."

**Mail THE OBSERVER Home**  
★ (Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.)

From:

Place Stamp  
Here  
(12 cents 1st class)  
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

## VC Bell Tolls??

**CHU LAI (USA)** — For whom the bell tolls? It was supposed to toll for an element of American Division's 196th Infantry Brigade, according to a sign placed by the Viet Cong north-west of Tam Ky recently.

F troop, 17th Armored Cavalry was on a search and clear operation when the cavalrymen came upon a bell with a sign which read:

"Americans! Ring this bell and the VC will come and slit your throats."

After checking the bell thoroughly for booby traps, the 196th Cavalrymen accepted the challenge and rang the large bell several times. But no VC showed up.

## Tired NVAs Return

**CAMP ENARI (USA)** — Tired NVA soldiers slowly walked into U.S. installations waving their multi-colored safe conduct passes.

After initial questioning, they complained that the food, military supplies and the news from home are all resupplied sporadically.

Recently in the 4th Infantry Division's area of operations in the highlands of Vietnam, the most common complaint has been the lack of current news.

"Even their political officers are saying little," stated Captain Maurice Peerenboom, a member of the division's PSYOPS team.

To meet this need of informing the enemy on current news, the "Binh Minh" (First Light) PSYOPS newspaper was created. It uses a comprehensive system of graphics and color to accentuate the hard-news articles. Political and recent military exploits are well covered and the paper also has editorials.

In one editorial, the question of peace was raised this way: "If Hanoi is sincere in bringing about peace, they have nonetheless threatened to break-off the peace talks if the U.S. does not meet all the demands of North Vietnam. Is this a sincere effort toward peace?"

Recent enemy defections to the Government of Vietnam are highlighted in one section of the paper, while another section covers battles fought throughout Vietnam. The battle stories include statistics on enemy and friendly casualties.

The six-page newspaper is air dropped in single, numbered pages into enemy areas.

"Binh Minh" looms as more than an interesting theoretical possibility. According to the number of Hoi Chanhs who have mentioned the newspaper, it has proven to be an effective, functional tool of the division's PSYOPS operation.

## Gal Passes GIs Ammo

**DAU TIENG (USA)** — A Vietnamese woman inadvertently caught in a firefight earned her Combat Infantryman's Badge in the eyes of the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry.

The old woman, who frequently sells soft drinks to the 3rd Brigade 25th Infantry Division platoon as it sweeps the roads from Dau Tieng to Tay Ninh, was caught up in the firefight when a Viet Cong force opened up on the unit with RPG rockets.

While the battle raged, she gamely huddled on the side of the road behind one of the platoon's armored personnel carriers, reloading M-16 magazines as they were handed to her, then tossing them back to the troopers.

During the middle of the battle one G.I. jokingly asked whether he could buy a Coke.

Looking up briefly from her magazines of ammunition, the old woman coolly responded, "No sweat, G.I. Cokes free today!"



**AIR SUPPORT** — An Air Force jet streaks by troopers of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, during combat operations against a large NVA force 35 miles north of Qui Nhon.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp 4 Ralph Dixon)



FIRST IN VIETNAM

# THE OBSERVER

Vol. 6, No. 62

Saigon, Vietnam

July 10, 1968



ON THE WAY—An Army howitzer battery sends another round of deadly artillery fire on its way toward enemy positions. (USA PHOTO)

## Molten Inferno

### Four Saved From Certain Death

**CAM RANH BAY (USAF)**—Four Vietnamese civilians were saved from a fiery death recently by two Air Force sergeants from Detachment 8, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron here.

Sergeants Gary P. Bryant, and Daniel T. Nungesser, both pararescue medics, were enroute to the Army Support Facility from the air base. Halfway to their destination they saw a large civilian asphalt truck which had overturned and spread molten asphalt over the wreckage and road. The heater unit in the rear of the truck was on fire. The truck's fuel tanks had ruptured and were slowly feeding the blaze, and three Vietnamese could be seen trapped in the wreckage.

The two rescuers jumped from their vehicle and ran through the molten asphalt on three separate occasions and pulled the victims from the

wreckage.

After carrying the three men to a safe distance, the two airmen administered first aid and treated them for shock.

As the pair were attempting to clean the asphalt from the faces of the survivors, they

heard a moan from the buried portion of the truck. Running to the wreck, they found another victim trapped beneath the truck, almost submerged in the asphalt.

They pried the wreckage apart and pulled him out. They then

placed him with the others and were administering first aid when an Army truck arrived on the scene. Together with the Army personnel they loaded the four injured Vietnamese into the truck and took them to the 12th USAF Hospital for treatment.

### NVA Soldier Makes Fatal Mistake

**PHU BAI (USA)**—An NVA soldier mistook a 101st Airborne Division night ambush platoon for his own unit near here recently and failed to realize his fatal mistake until he was close enough to shake hands.

"We had reached our ambush site and were setting up positions along a canal," said Lieutenant James Britton, who leads the 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry.

"I spotted three NVA walking toward my right flank," he continued. "I was afraid to shoot for fear of injuring one of my own men."

One of the infiltrators silently walked up to a paratrooper position, bent down and started whispering in Vietnamese.

"I couldn't understand what he said but when I looked into his face I could see that he knew he had made a big mistake," recalled Private First Class John Leis.

The terrified NVA whirled

about and tried to run away but a burst from the private's machine gun sent him sprawling to the ground.

Alerted by the shots, the other two enemy soldiers fled in opposite directions. One was riddled by the paratroopers before he could escape.

A search the next morning uncovered two NVA bodies and a pair of assault rifles.

The airborne infantrymen also found a possible clue to the enemy's confusion—a map of an area miles to the north.

## Inf Units Kill 129

**RACH KIEN (USA)**—Elements of the 9th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade caught an NVA battalion just 15 miles south of Saigon and killed 129 enemy soldiers during four days of hot pursuit and heavy fighting, recently.

Ten companies of the Brigade combined for the third time to surround and seal off the enemy for the night. Air strikes and artillery were called in on the T-shaped stream junction. A sweep of the area next morning revealed 42 enemy dead and 18 captured weapons. In addition, 14 VC rallied to the Vietnamese government that day.

The companies sealed off the stream junction and woodline and air strikes and artillery pounded the enemy in the woods during the night.

"What's really significant," said Brigade Commander Colonel Henry Emerson, "is not just the body count but the Hoi Chanhs. By using intimate PSY-OPS, we managed to talk several of them right out of there."

Earlier in the evening two NVA Hoi Chanhs agreed to speak to their former comrades through the hand-held and chopper-mounted loudspeakers. The men flew well into the night appealing to the NVAs to give up. The result was 12 more Hoi Chanhs.

In the morning, the companies began to sweep the treeline. Several of the units also swept to the west of the night position.

The 42 bodies they found, in addition to the 87 body count from the two previous days, (Continued On Back Page)

## Do Not Use Enemy Arms

**SAIGON (MACV)**—In recent months several incidents have been reported to COMUSMACV concerning CHICOM AK-47s which have exploded in use. MACV Dir 381-24 prohibits use of the captured weapons and munitions. There are two very good reasons for this:

First, the degree of quality control exercised in the manufacture of Communist Bloc arms varies from excellent to poor. The allied soldier who uses a captured weapon is gambling that it will not blow up in his face, causing either serious injury or death.

Secondly, retention of these weapons by the individual deprives allied agencies of information required for technical intelligence purposes, which in turn benefits every soldier in the field.

Editorial

## Peace Of Mind

Ask yourself what you find most burdensome about your tour in Vietnam, and chances are you'll agree that it's not the weather or living conditions, as much as being far from home. For the serviceman, a tour in Vietnam means a year during which he is separated by 12,000 long miles from his family and loved ones. It's a year in which bonds which may have been formed over long periods of time are subject to great stress and tension—sometimes to break or become frayed.

A talk with any chaplain or Red Cross representative will confirm the fact that most of the men who suffer from emotional strain because of the hardships of separation suffer needlessly; many of the problems they face can easily be solved or avoided. How? By regular correspondence with those back home.

You're far away from home; the news you get may be about your brother's school, the dog's litter or your wife's driving lessons. But, whatever the news is, you're glad to get it! The letter you receive shows you that those back home are thinking about you—that they care. Over here, news from home is number one on everyone's "want list."

By the same token, your friends and relatives in the states anxiously await your letters. Whether you talk about your welfare and future plans, or just about "what's been going on," your mail home is not only wanted, but needed, so that your wife, parents or sweetheart can enjoy peace of mind. A little consideration can do a lot toward keeping those long-distance lines of understanding open.

And postage is free. (MACV)

## Viewing Vietnam

**SAIGON (MACV)** — The family is the basic unit in Vietnamese society and is of utmost importance in the life of every Vietnamese. The family includes not only the living, but those who have died and those who are yet to be born. Ancestors are given the highest respect by the Vietnamese. For example, the Vietnamese have festivals where ancestors are revered during special ceremonies. It is also a common practice to discuss the grandsons and great-grandsons who are yet to be born to carry on the family name.

Because the family is the single most important unit in Vietnamese society, an insight into the role of the Vietnamese family can help you in your associations with the Vietnamese people. This insight can make you more appreciative of Vietnamese culture and more willing to respect what you see. Remember, just as there is nothing in the world more dear to you than your family, so the same is true of the Vietnamese. Show the Vietnamese the same respect that you would have him show you, were he to come to your country and into your home.

Respect his family.

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### Weapons Role Changing Fast

**WASHINGTON** — Lead time to procure new Army equipment is two to three times as long as that required to activate and train new units. Despite 25 per cent increase since 1961 in the number of division forces for which it must buy equipment, ammunition and war reserve stocks, the Army has chalked up these gains:

Field artillery structure has been revised, and self-propelled, large-caliber artillery pieces have been introduced to step up sustained fire capabilities by 85 per cent.

In 1961, most of the Army's medium tanks had only 90mm guns, unsophisticated sighting and aiming devices, and gasoline engines with limited range. Today, the Army has several thousand M60 tanks with highly effective fire control systems, larger guns, and diesel engines, with double range over the older version. Medium and light tanks are being introduced with new Shillelagh combination gun and missile system.

Comparing the helicopters, 2,750 helicopters of which only 200 had turbine engines were on hand in 1961. Today the Army has more than 6,500 helicopters, with 4,500 of these powered by turbine engines. Helicopter lift in terms of troop miles has increased eight fold. (AD)

### 'Help Wanted' By USAREC

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Army Recruiting Command is seeking experienced non-commissioned officers for recruiting duty in the United States.

Increasing emphasis on getting the maximum number of voluntary enlistments and intensified recruiting operations throughout the country have increased the need for Army recruiters.

Recruiters are assigned to the Recruiting Command on a voluntary basis. Mature, experienced individuals with a broad knowledge of the Army and its career opportunities are needed.

Army Regulation 601-275, "United States Army Recruiting Command," describes the necessary qualifications and application procedures for recruiting duty.

The starlight scope that aided the soldiers in this successful mission is one of the latest tactical night vision devices that give U.S. fighting men a clear view of the enemy at night.

The devices, which range from hand-held starlight scopes to larger night vision sights for crew-served weapons and more



**BLOND AND BEAUTIFUL** — Everyone recognizes the beautiful Elke Sommer. The talented young actress can currently be seen in the Vietnam area in "The Wicked Dreams Of Paula Shultz." We all agree that we would like to walk into a house and find her there waiting to welcome us home.

## New Scopes Place Enemy In Spotlight

**WASHINGTON (USA)** — Working at night, U.S. infantrymen in Vietnam set up an ambush position. This night they have a special tactical advantage. Their patrol leader is carrying a small starlight scope that lets him see in the darkness.

Increasing emphasis on getting the maximum number of voluntary enlistments and intensified recruiting operations throughout the country have increased the need for Army recruiters.

Recruiters are assigned to the Recruiting Command on a voluntary basis. Mature, experienced individuals with a broad knowledge of the Army and its career opportunities are needed.

Army Regulation 601-275, "United States Army Recruiting Command," describes the necessary qualifications and application procedures for recruiting duty.

The starlight scope that aided the soldiers in this successful mission is one of the latest tactical night vision devices that give U.S. fighting men a clear view of the enemy at night.

The devices, which range from hand-held starlight scopes to larger night vision sights for crew-served weapons and more

## Leatherneck Lt Defies Grenade

**PHU BAI (USMC)** — A Marine lay spread-eagle on the ground while enemy snipers zeroed in on him. He didn't fear the enemy bullets.

The incident occurred near Phu Bai as Lieutenant Langdon led his platoon off a helicopter during a routine reconnaissance mission.

"I didn't have a long time to think about it. There was a grenade on the ground and there was nothing I could do but fall on it to protect my men." Speaking was First Lieutenant

Howard W. Langdon, Jr., commanding officer of Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

He was lying flat on a live hand grenade, waiting for the last sound he would ever hear.

"The chopper landed in an open area," the lieutenant explained. "My point man and I were the first to leave the chopper. As soon as we touched the ground, we began taking enemy small arms fire. Suddenly, a grenade landed on the ground only a few yards from the helicopter. An explosion would have injured several of my men and could have damaged the helicopter."

Lieutenant Langdon fell on the grenade, covering it with his body. He signaled his patrol to remain on the chopper and the helicopter to take off. That left the lieutenant and his point man.

"My point man thought I'd been wounded," he continued, "and ran to help me. I yelled for him to stay away from me. Rounds were coming in all the time. My point man took cover behind some rocks and an automatic burst stitched the ground only a few feet away."

He was willing to help, but was unable to see his target because it was so dark.

"There was no moon that night," declared the corporal. "Where the Seabees saw the movement was an open area surrounded by trees."

"We popped yellow smoke

grenades to designate our position and threw red smoke grenades on positions where enemy soldiers could be. We never

saw anyone."

After helicopter gunships strafed the surrounding area, another helicopter extracted the Leathernecks.

Following the Leatherneck's instructions, the Seabees kept the Marine and recoilless rifle on target.

The next morning, a patrol found 14 North Vietnamese bodies, packs and combat gear.

Although many of these devices are now in use in Vietnam, they were only recently made public by the Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Essentially, this new generation of night vision items differs from its predecessors in that older equipment depended on an infrared source to bathe a target area in low frequency imperceptible to the naked eye but viewable with goggles.

The new system uses various screens and lenses to amplify the dim glow of the moon, stars or even faint skyglow and intensifies it within the target area of the scope.

Since the soldier using it does not generate a light source, he does not risk giving away his position. (ANF)

However, applications received later will be accepted.

The State of Texas provides a special type of registration for military personnel, their spouses and dependents, who did not get a chance to register during the regular 4-month registration period preceding Feb. 1, 1968. If a Texan is stationed outside of the state and did not register during the regular registration period, his application by Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for an absentee ballot is treated as an application for registration also, and the county clerk will register him for that election if the information on the FPCA shows him to be a qualified voter.

It behooves each serviceman, regardless of his state or commonwealth, to seek out the particulars required for his application. The necessary information and an FPCA are obtained through unit voting officers.

Your franchise is your voice in freedom. See your unit voting officer today. (USN)



**THAT'LL SMART** — Starting things off with a bang, a member of an ARVN Long Range Patrol team, working with the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade LRP, hurls a hand grenade at a passing enemy patrol near Oasis.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Nick Pasdikoff)

## Abn Unit Kills 31

**BONG SON (USA)** — Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade supported by gunships from the 61st Assault Helicopter Company recently killed 31 Viet Cong in sampans near the mouth of the Song Lai river, 50 miles north of Qui Nhon.

Companies A and B of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, had been pushing east toward the South China Sea while on a reconnaissance in force mission during Operation Cochise-Green.

Captain Frederick Peters, Company A commander, stated, "We had been receiving harassing fire since beginning the operation, so we were sure we had a good-sized force on the run."

Observation aircraft spotted several sampans headed for a flotilla of fishing boats just off shore. Closer surveillance revealed that all the sampans contained young men, many of whom were trying to hide in the bottom of the boats.

Two gunships were called in and engaged the sampans, sinking one and killing 11 Viet Cong, before they intermingled with the fishing boats. Twenty more VC were killed as they tried to make it to shore.

## Night Heli Assault Works

**PHUOC VINH (USA)** — Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division caught the enemy off guard near here recently with a surprise night heliborne assault, killing four Viet Cong and detaining five suspects.

The problem of darkness was overcome, when Corporal Akin explained to the Seabees how to plot for the initial round, then adjust the fire accordingly. He fired the rounds where he was told and hoped for the best.

As far as I can determine, this was the first time this sort of thing has ever been done in Vietnam," said Major John B. Sharp, brigade operations officer, as he described the method of deployment.

Two battalions were inserted without previous artillery preparations on the landing zones (LZs) as the paratroopers began the cordon and search of a suspected Viet Cong staging

area.

The only warning the enemy had was the sudden appearance of 1 million-candle-power flares dropped by the Air Force.

Airborne infantrymen from the 1st Battalion, (airborne), 187th Infantry hit their three strategic LZs without interference. As the element of surprise faded, however, part of the 2nd Battalion (airborne), 506th Infantry was forced to land on a "hot" LZ.

Tracer bullets criss-crossed the sky as the enemy attempted to down the troop-bearing helicopters. Three "choppers" in trail were hit by enemy crossfire, but no one was injured.

Before dawn the paratroopers had completely sealed off the villages and a helicopter hovered overhead broadcasting instructions in Vietnamese to the inhabitants.

At daybreak Vietnamese National Police, aided by the Screaming Eagles, began their search. Suspects were held for questioning.

One revealed that he was a member of an NVA regiment. Another turned out to be the executive officer of an enemy medical group.

Meanwhile Cobra gunships flew overhead in support of the ground action. Six enemy sampans were blasted from a neighboring river while trying to escape the trap.

The four enemy soldiers were killed as they tried to break through the encircling paratroopers.

## Happiness Is: A Dud Mortar

**CHU LAI (USA)** — Happiness was a dud mortar round for an infantryman from Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade.

The men of Company A, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, were moving slowly up a trail to their night location.

Private First Class Freddie Rausch, a newcomer, had assumed duties as grenadier and was walking near the end of the squad when his foot struck a Viet Cong booby trap.

As he tripped it, PFC Rausch heard a pop and felt a burning sensation under his foot.

"I was really scared when I heard that detonator go off," recalled the PFC. "I didn't know what had happened, but I'll tell you, I was really relieved to know the booby trap was attached to a dud round."

When he unearthed the trap, he found that the VC had booby trapped a 60mm mortar round.

"I consider myself very lucky," smiled the infantryman, "and you might say that happiness for me was a dud mortar round."



**GET OUT QUICK!** — Recon team races from the jungle's edge to an awaiting base camp bound chopper. (USA PHOTO)

# 'Typical' GI Joins Army's Navy

**BEARCAT (USA)** — Passing beneath the "Good Luck" sign at the 9th Infantry Division's Reliable Academy marks the end of Larry Reed's combat training and the beginning of its practical use.

Larry arrived in country last month and had been on the move ever since. He is typical of many American fighting men in Vietnam, a high school graduate, 20 years old, married and soon to be a father. He calls Euless, Tex., home, has been in the Army 10 months and is a Private First Class.

Larry's first impression of Vietnam as he touched ground, after an 18-hour flight that ended at Bien Hoa air base, was unoriginal.

"This is Vietnam?" He, like

many others, expected a mad dash for safety as fighting raged all about him.

Arriving at Bearcat, the division's base camp, he was in for another surprise. In the initial processing, he was told he had been assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, Mobile Riverine Force. The first part sounded normal, but "What the hell is a Mobile Riverine Force?"

After plaguing the "short-timers" for information, Larry learned he was soon to be a part of a joint Army-Navy operation in the Mekong Delta.

"There sure is a lot I don't understand," he commented. "The Army on ships?"

The next five days were brimming with information. The Reliable Academy runs a multi-

purpose combat training course in which new recruits are given time to adjust to the heat, get familiar with the M-16 rifle and have refresher courses on a few of the finer points of combat knowledge possibly overlooked in stateside training.

"I knew a great deal more when I came out of the Academy than before I went in," Larry explained. His basic and advanced individual training, both at Ft. Polk, La., "... didn't cover everything," he concluded.

Carrying three duffel bags of gear, which "... get heavier by the minute," he headed out for the helipad at 5 a.m.

Sitting on his bags watching the sun rise over the land he will spend the next year in, Larry's thoughts became seriously personal. He thought of home and asked himself a hundred questions which can only be answered through experience. Faced with his first helicopter ride, first time on any ship and first firefight, he hoped to get to his unit quickly.

"I'm here and can't leave," he said. "I just want to find out what it is all about."

On the chopper he enjoyed the crispness of the early morning air, in great contrast with the humid heat at ground level.

Looking out over the Mekong Delta, he said with a slight Texas drawl, "I didn't know Vietnam was this flat with so much water standing on it."

In Dong Tam, he lugged himself and his equipment down to the docks to await the regularly running shuttle boat which would deliver him to the USS Colleton, his new home.

Sweaty, tired and a little scared he reported into Company B orderly room on the second level below the main deck. Within 15 minutes he had signed into the unit, received a bunk, put his gear away and met a few of the men.

With a sigh of relief, Larry wrapped it up by saying, "I'm glad I'm here, because now I don't have to worry about coming."

## Proof Positive

### Enemy Heeds Broadcast

**PLEIKU (USA)** — For the men of the Air Force psychological warfare squadrons, the day-by-day work just goes on.

Speaker and leaflet missions are flown, as directed by the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). Millions of leaflets are dropped on suspected enemy positions. Powerful speakers broadcast surrender and Chieu Hoi appeals.

Most of the junks the Point Gammon stops will have their papers in order. The number of people detained will be small. Yet without patrols by boats such as the Point Gammon, infiltration of Viet Cong men and arms could soar. "I'd estimate that we stop around 90 per cent of the infiltration just by our presence," concluded Lieutenant Morgan.

In certain patrol areas the Point Gammon must make sure that restricted waters are kept free from junk traffic. Violators have their junk log books stamped with the time and place of offense. According to Lieutenant Junior Grade James Morgan, commanding officer of the Point Gammon, junks caught a second time lose their fishing rights for 30 days.

Each fishing junk stopped by Lieutenant Morgan's boat will receive a map outlining the restricted areas. The Point Gammon also distributes information.

### Brave Radioman Saves Injured And Weapons

**LANDING ZONE JEANNE (USA)** — Specialist 4 Lyndon D. Worley, a member of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, went through an experience that he's not likely to forget for a long while.

The specialist, a radio-teletype operator with the company's 3rd Platoon, was moving down a road with his unit, when they ran into an enemy ambush. The 2nd Platoon was immediately pinned down and elements of the 3rd gradually began crawling forward, trying to suppress enemy fire and evacuate the men that were initially wounded.

Lugging his radio on his back, Specialist Worley moved into the 2nd Platoon area and began

moving the wounded and their weapons to the rear.

As enemy fire continued, the radioman called for aerial rocket artillery (ARA) support. The rockets soon filled the air.

As artillery began pounding enemy positions, the last elements of the platoon had been moved to the rear, but the specialist noticed from his position that the job was not yet complete. An M-16 rifle, grenade launcher and pistol were still in the evacuated area.

Again he crawled forward, with ARA slamming in front of him, policed up the weapons which had been left behind, and, carrying the three weapons (plus his own weapon and radio), moved to the rear to join his platoon.

The new Hoi Chanh, PFC Luu Troung Giang, said that he had heard the broadcasts from the little airplane, and frightened of the additional B-52 strikes that were promised, he looked for a place to surrender.

For the pilot of the psywar plane, Major Billy Rentz, it was a particularly satisfying mission.

That day's mission was the only one flown into the area where Giang was with his unit.

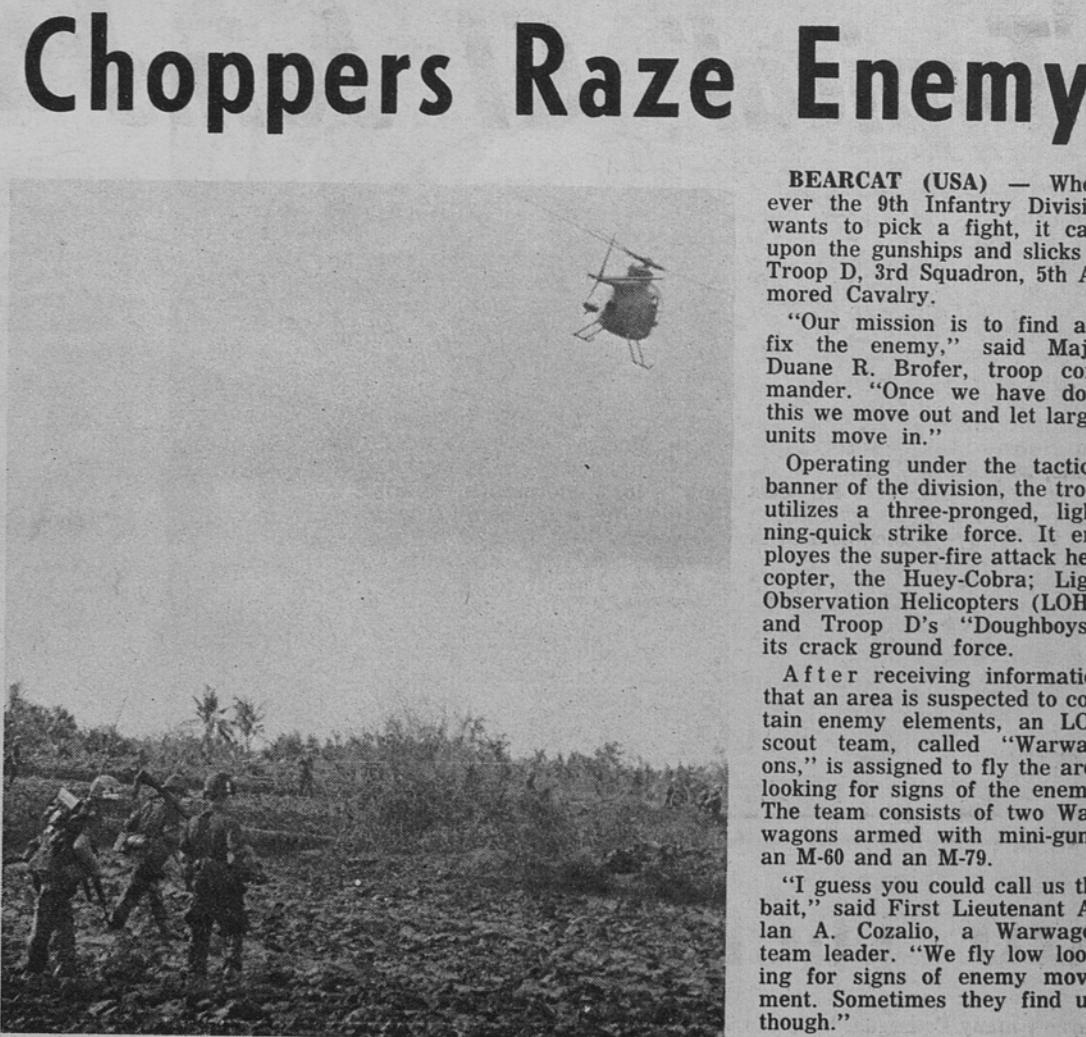
Giant speakers mounted in aircraft are used by PSYOPS teams.



Serious and ready, Larry Reed joins the Mobile Riverine Force.



Here is a birdseye view of Huey-Cobra as it lands.



This Cayuse is flying in close support of a Delta ground sweep.



The Cobra is a flying arsenal with its 38 rockets, two fixed mini-guns, turret mounted mini-gun and 40 mm grenade launcher.



A Huey-Cobra strikes in support of 9th Infantry Division ground troops under fire from entrenched enemy soldiers in the Mekong Delta.

**BEARCAT (USA)** — Whenever the 9th Infantry Division wants to pick a fight, it calls upon the gunships and slicks of Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry.

"Our mission is to find and fix the enemy," said Major Duane R. Brofer, troop commander. "Once we have done this we move out and let larger units move in."

Operating under the tactical banner of the division, the troop utilizes a three-pronged, lightning-quick strike force. It employs the super-fire attack helicopter, the Huey-Cobra; Light Observation Helicopters (LOHs) and Troop D's "Doughboys," its crack ground force.

After receiving information that an area is suspected to contain enemy elements, an LOH scout team, called "Warwagons," is assigned to fly the area looking for signs of the enemy. The team consists of two Warwagons armed with mini-guns, an M-60 and an M-79.

"I guess you could call us the bait," said First Lieutenant Allan A. Cozalio, a Warwagon team leader. "We fly low looking for signs of enemy movement. Sometimes they find us, though."

The Warwagons zip rapidly over the ground from zero to 50 feet trying to entice enemy fire. Huey-Cobras fly overhead to provide support.

"If the Warwagons receive fire we move right in," said Chief Warrant Officer Anthony M. Ziemecki, a veteran Cobra pilot. "We immediately engage the enemy with suppressive fire. And we have the firepower. The Cobra is armed with 38 rockets, two fixed mini-guns, one turret-mounted mini-gun and a turret mounted 40mm."

If the area proves highly suspect or if the Warwagons receive fire, the troop's small, elite infantry unit is inserted by Delta model slicks (UH1 Hueys).

Should they make contact, a larger force from one of the division's brigades is summoned and the smaller unit extracted. While on the ground, the Doughboys receive maximum security from the multiple weapons support of the Cobras.

Since its arrival in Vietnam, the 5th Armored Cav has participated in every major contact of the 9th Division. During the Tet offensive they were called to defend the Long Binh military complex and Bien Hoa air base.

**Story & Photos  
By  
US Army**

# Faces Tell Saga Of Cholon /Gia Dinh Fighting



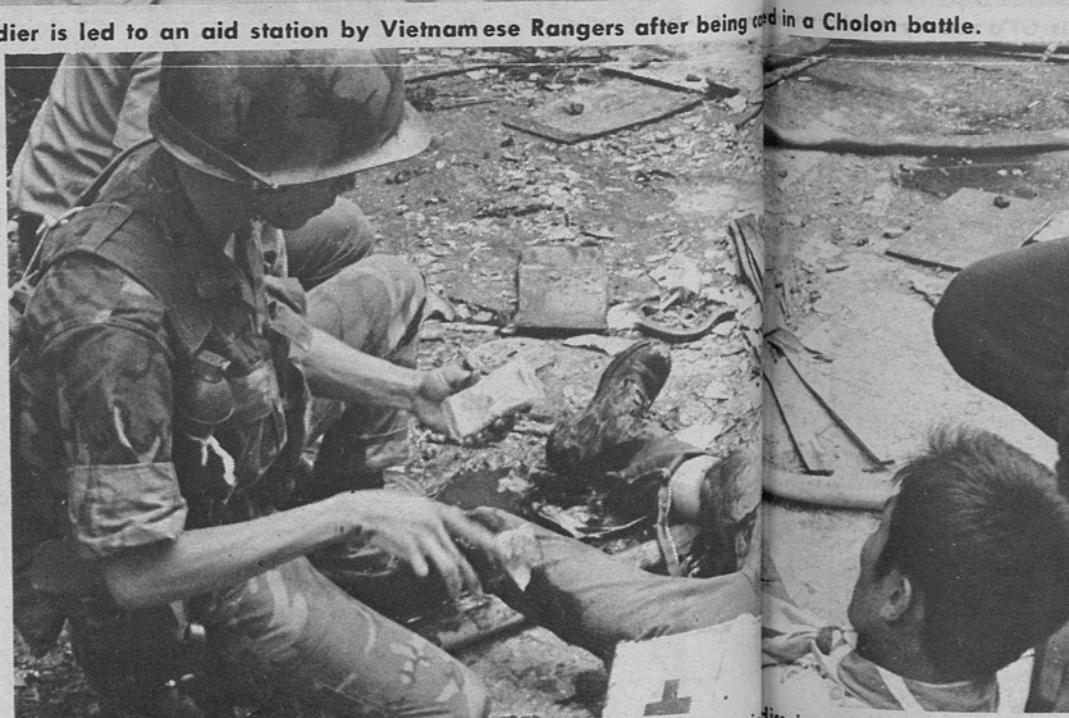
Parents carry their two children, wounded by enemy rockets, into a hospital.



Huddled near a wall in Cholon, a husband comforts his wife wounded by enemy fire.



An NVA soldier is led to an aid station by Vietnamese Rangers after being wounded in a Cholon battle.



This courageous Boy Scout, shot by the enemy while helping Marines, is treated for a leg wound.



An ARVN tank commander points out an NVA position moments before he was severely wounded by an enemy rocket.



Vietnamese Rangers gingerly carry six Chinese Communist-made B-40 rocket rounds captured during the fighting in Cholon.

Photographs  
By  
Vietnam Press Service

# New "Super Contact Team" Provides Unique Services

**CU CHI (USA)** — What do you need soldier? A shower and some new boots? Or maybe cigarettes and a bond allotment for the family back home? Or how about a haircut and some parts for your jeep? Whatever it is, the "Super Contact Team" probably has it. And they bring it all to the field.

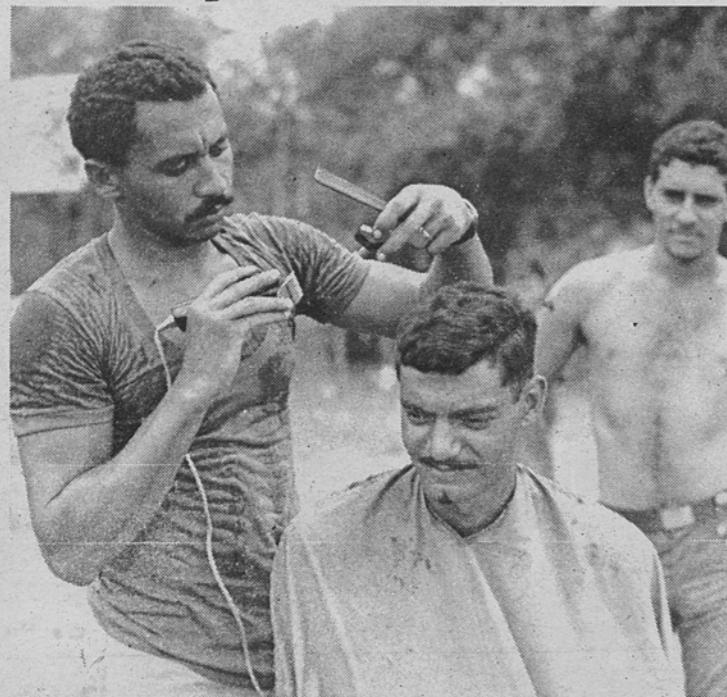
Devised by Major General F. K. Mearns, commanding general of the 25th Division, the Super Contact Team is in a sense a miniature, portable base camp.

Under the control of the Division Support Command (DIS-COM), the Super Contact Team brings the major support services normally available only in the base camp to the men in the field. Representatives from personnel, finance, the APO and even the legal office travel into the rice paddies to try and solve the soldiers' problems on the spot.

One of the main attractions is a PX provided by the 25th Supply and Transportation (S&T) Battalion. Operated out of two conex containers, the PX offers not only the essential items such as shaving cream, razor blades, soap and tooth paste, but also candy, cookies, canned fruits, potato chips, corn curls, cigarettes and a cross section of current magazines. Then there is usually up to 35 gallons of ice cream.

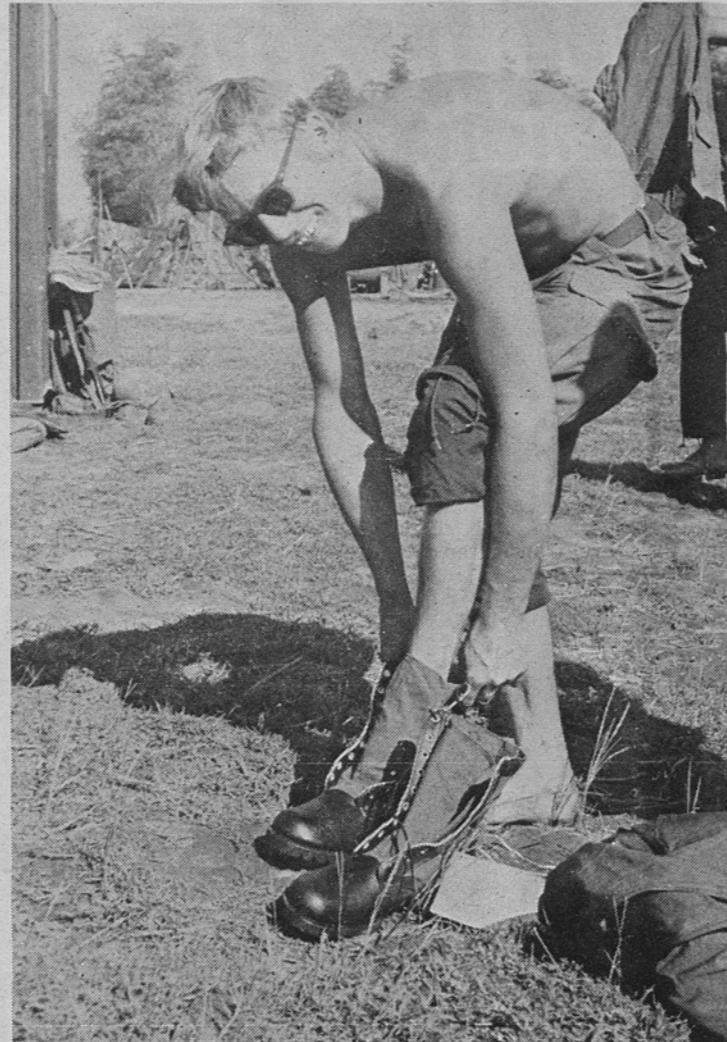
Quartermaster supply is next on the list of favorites of the men in the field. It offers all of the normal items in supply, such as fatigues, boots, socks and underclothes.

One of the most unique and appreciated features of the Super Contact Team is the portable shower point. The shower consists of a rubber tank which holds up to 10,000 gallons of water, usually pumped from lo-



Nothing like a haircut to bring Vietnam's temperatures down.

Story & Photos  
By  
US Army



By the look of it the jungle boots fit this soldier to a tee.



The APO representative, augmented to the Super Contact Team, sells this GI a money order.



A Chinook, laden with a conex of supplies, prepares to land.



Soldiers of the 9th Division enjoy using a shower point set up by the Super Contact Team.

# Signalmen Support Highland Orphans

**NHA TRANG (USA)** — War is an orphan maker. The tragic truth of the maxim is illustrated by Nha Trang's Ave Marie Orphanage. Six months ago the orphanage supported 163 children. Now 210 crowd its rooms, including 73 infants under 18-months-old, who require particularly intensive care.

The "parents" for these orphans are 12 Roman Catholic nuns, Sisters of Charity, aided by several high school girls. Even though the grade school age boys are transferred to a school in Dalat, the signs of overcrowding and overwork remain.

Helping to lessen the burden are the soldiers of the 54th Signal Battalion. During this year, the signalmen partitioned the open dormitories into private rooms. Window screens were installed to increase sanitation.

The battalion's amateur carpenters built separate nursery and sick-room facilities.

Tires for the orphanage car, a TV set for the children and

cloth for school uniforms also have been donated through voluntary contributions from the men of Company B, 54th Signal Battalion.

Medical care is another important contribution made possible by the 54th. At their request, Nha Trang area Army doctors periodically visit the orphanage.

Each child receives a government allowance of 60 piasters per month. This amount rarely allows the orphanage to buy "luxury" items such as fresh fruit and vegetables. The signalmen regularly assist by supplementing the orphan's diet with excess vegetables and other food from their own and other unit mess halls.

Fifty-four signalmen also are party makers. On Sundays, they visit the orphanage to improve the grounds and buildings. They end the day with a party for the children. Topping off one party each month is a presentation of \$150 to \$200 amassed through a payday collection.



DENTAL CHECK—A 9th Inf Div dentist checks the teeth of a Vietnamese boy. (USA PHOTO)

## Quang Tri Province

# Rice Thrashers Aid Harvest

**QUANG TRI (USMC)** — There's a new addition on the rice harvest scene in the 3rd Marines Division's area of operation.

Instead of the age-old process of using water buffaloes for threshing the rice, farmers of Mai Linh district are now utilizing rice threshing machines.

Fifty such machines were re-

ceived by the division's Civil Affairs Section and are being made available to the farmers.

The simple, drum-operated, foot-pedal threshing machines were purchased by funds donated through the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund.

"We began the program by loaning the machines to farmers in the hamlets," explained Captain Christopher F. Kinney. "At the end of the harvest season the farmers have the option to buy the threshers for \$3,500 piasters (about \$30) each, or they can just return them to us at no cost."

The captain explained that this is not a "give-a-way" program. By buying the machines

he added, the rice threshers have created a spirit of private enterprise.

"One farmer will buy a thresher and when he completes his harvesting he will loan it for a fee to a fellow farmer. The money he earns by renting his new thresher soon makes up for his initial investment."

Prior to the introduction of the machines, an experiment was conducted which showed the local farmers that the machines can accomplish the job in half the time it takes by having a water buffalo do the threshing.



ARMORED DEFENDER — Six 106 mm recoilless rifles point skyward from a U.S. Marine Corps "Ontos" position at Con Thien. The powerful defensive weapon supports Leathernecks of the 2nd Battalion, First Marine Regiment at the strategic outpost just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The powerful tracked vehicle can fire one barrel or all six barrels at once.

(USMC PHOTO By: SSGT. J.E. Carey)

# Airmen Treat Civilian Ills

**TUY HOA (USAF)** — Each morning, Vietnamese employees at Tuy Hoa air base begin arriving at the 31st U.S. Air Force Dispensary for sick call. The dispensary provides the civilian employees with a means of treatment equal to that given to military personnel. An average of 300 Vietnamese per month utilize the services.

While the treatment is equal to any received by military personnel, the methods employed are a bit different. Air Force Sergeant Walter L. Smith, NCOIC of the clinic said, "The difference in cultures require a great deal of patience and tact in helping these people."

In many cases, the Air Force medical personnel must first overcome the suspicions of people who may never have been to a doctor in their lives. To aid in the treatment, an interpreter, Miss Truong Thi Em, is a vital part of the sick call.

One particular problem is that symptoms for illness that are common to Americans have no meaning in the Vietnamese language. For example, Sergeant Smith said that he will often ask a military man a question such as, "do you have a burning sensation in your stomach?" To the Vietnamese, this means nothing as their association of burning is with fire. To overcome this, the dispensary personnel ask basic questions such as, "is there pain, where is it, how long have you had it?" From this, the doctor can begin his diagnosis.

# Viet Girls Take Up Oral Care

DA NANG (USA) — Perfectly painless dentistry may not yet be a reality, but 1st Dental Company's unique training program helps make tooth treatment for Da Nang area Leathernecks a little easier to take.

The 1st Marine Division dental unit employs six young Vietnamese girls in five clinics as dental assistant trainees. These attractive additions to the military scene, neat and professional-looking in their white uniforms, are helping the Navy dentists as they learn skills that will help their own people along the road to improved dental health.

Captain Thomas J. Pape, Navy Dental Corps, conceived an idea for the training program a year ago, when he arrived in Vietnam to assume command of the company. He explained that the plan's success is demonstrated in two major areas.

"When the girls learn to function as qualified dental assistants in the rear-area clinics," Captain Pape explained, "we can afford to send our regular Navy dental technicians to the forward areas where they're needed most."

"Later, when they return to work in their villages, our former trainees can care for their own people with the techniques they learned from us," he added.

At present, the program requires a minimum of one year of on-the-job training. Additional instruction in the form of a one-hour class each week is provided by 1st Dental Company personnel. A pictorial and written lesson plan is being compiled to help the girls understand their duties more clearly.

Communication and understanding do not present the problems that might be expected, however. To be selected for training, a girl must be able to read, write and speak English.

Captain Pape located his first prospective trainee at the 7th Engineer Battalion command post, west of Da Nang. She had been trained as a nurse and was actually working as a dental assistant at the time.

"We got her to help with our dental civic action programs," he recalled, "and it worked out very successfully. She was able to translate for our dentists and technicians as well as keep the children in line. We decided to hire more girls and start a training program."

First Dental Company approached the division's Industrial Relations Office for help in locating prospects among the local civilian population. This office co-operated with names of candidates and arrangements for interviews. The Industrial Relations Office people say that the dental training plan seem to fit in well with government self-help programs for the Vietnamese people.

## Tiny Village Receives 'Face Lift'

SAIGON (USA) — The road leading into a little village near Thu Duc was partially washed out during the rainy season. A dilapidated quonset hut, serving as the village maternity hospital, had no electrical facilities. The 1,386 children in the village had no place to play. Health and hygiene conditions were extremely poor.

This was the state in which



NAMELESS BEAUTY—This lovely young lass standing beside the seashore is indeed a sight for sore eyes. Sorry we don't know her name. (PHOTO COURTESY OF Peter Gowland)

### America Division

## Company Commander 'Mr. Lucky'

CHU LAI (USA) — No matter how short a man gets in Vietnam, the unexpected can still happen — right up to the last minute.

Captain Vernon A. Campbell found this out on his last day in the field as commanding officer

of Company A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, of the America Division's 11th Infantry Brigade.

His unit recently made a combat assault north of the Tra Khuc river five miles west of Quang Ngai city. As he and his

men moved along a jungle trail, Captain Campbell stepped on a cardboard top of a C-ration box.

Suddenly, there was a flash and bang, and the captain was knocked off his feet.

"It sounded like three blasting caps going off at once," he said. "We all froze, and when I looked around, I saw a small cloud of smoke, and then more white smoke and a sputtering sound off to one side of the trail."

The smoke and sputtering were coming from the mouth of a 4.2 inch mortar shell. Captain Campbell had stepped on the igniter of a booby trap.

"After a while, the sputtering stopped, and the shell never exploded," said the captain.

But the captain's day wasn't over yet.

## American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)  
(Guide For Week of July 10-16, 1968)

### (Saigon Area)

July 10

1930 What's Happening  
2000 Weather  
1800 News Headlines  
1900 American Sportsman  
1900 The Big Picture  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
Andy Williams  
2100 Insight  
Star Trek  
2200 Late News  
2205 What's Happening  
Sports

July 11

1730 What's Happening  
Dick Van Dyke  
1800 News Headlines  
Voyage To The Bottom  
1900 Of The Sea  
1930 Information Feature  
2000 Weather  
2100 Kraft Music Hall  
2200 Late News  
2205 What's Happening  
Red Skelton

Tuesday 16 July

2005 What's Happening  
Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde  
Wednesday 17 July

1730 What's Happening  
Bewitched  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 The Good Place  
2200 Insight  
Mission Impossible

2200 Late News  
2205 What's Happening  
Joey Bishop

July 12

1730 What's Happening  
Melody Ranch  
1800 Pro Bowler's Tour  
1400 Johnny Midnight  
1430 Sports  
1700 Spoken Vietnamese  
1800 News Headlines

The Undersea World Of Jacques Cousteau  
1900 Dragnet

July 13

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Jonathan Winters  
2200 Late News  
2205 What's Happening

July 14

1730 What's Happening  
Bell Telephone Hour  
1800 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Flying Fisherman  
2200 Late News  
2205 What's Happening  
Red Skelton

July 15

1730 What's Happening  
M.G.M. Pictures  
1800 News Headlines  
Daniel Boone

1900 G.E. College Bowl  
1930 News-Sports

2000 Weather

2100 The Good Place

2200 Insight

2200 Late News  
2205 What's Happening

Operation: Entertainment

July 16

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Pro Bowler's Tour

2200 Johnny Midnight

2230 Sports

2240 Weather

2250 Dean Martin

2260 Gouniok  
2270 Late News  
2280 What's Happening

2290 Feature Movie

1900 Dragnet

July 17

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Pro Bowler's Tour

2200 Johnny Midnight

2230 Sports

2240 Weather

2250 Dean Martin

2260 Gouniok

2270 Late News  
2280 What's Happening

2290 Feature Movie

1900 Dragnet

July 18

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Pro Bowler's Tour

2200 Johnny Midnight

2230 Sports

2240 Weather

2250 Dean Martin

2260 Gouniok

2270 Late News  
2280 What's Happening

2290 Feature Movie

1900 Dragnet

July 19

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Pro Bowler's Tour

2200 Johnny Midnight

2230 Sports

2240 Weather

2250 Dean Martin

2260 Gouniok

2270 Late News  
2280 What's Happening

2290 Feature Movie

1900 Dragnet

July 20

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Pro Bowler's Tour

2200 Johnny Midnight

2230 Sports

2240 Weather

2250 Dean Martin

2260 Gouniok

2270 Late News  
2280 What's Happening

2290 Feature Movie

1900 Dragnet

July 21

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Pro Bowler's Tour

2200 Johnny Midnight

2230 Sports

2240 Weather

2250 Dean Martin

2260 Gouniok

2270 Late News  
2280 What's Happening

2290 Feature Movie

1900 Dragnet

July 22

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Pro Bowler's Tour

2200 Johnny Midnight

2230 Sports

2240 Weather

2250 Dean Martin

2260 Gouniok

2270 Late News  
2280 What's Happening

2290 Feature Movie

1900 Dragnet

July 23

1730 What's Happening  
Music  
1800 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West

1900 Information Feature  
1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2100 Pro Bowler's Tour

2200 Johnny Midnight

2230 Sports

2240 Weather

2250 Dean Martin

2260 Gouniok

2270 Late News  
2280 What's Happening

2290 Feature Movie

1900 Dragnet

July 24



**HELPING HANDS**—An airborne trooper carries a wounded child to a secure area where he can be evacuated.  
(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Roger A. Downs)

## Camp Eagle

### Airborne Whittles Enemy's Ranks

**CAMP EAGLE (USA)** — Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 1st and 2nd Brigades killed 55 and recovered 337 enemy bodies from previous actions during a week of light and scattered contact near Hue.

The enemy kills pushed Operation Nevada Eagle's five-week toll to more than 900. More than 1,800 weapons also were captured during the same period.

In the largest recent action, airborne troops from the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry killed

27 as they engaged an estimated enemy company southwest of the Imperial City.

The infantrymen called in artillery and tactical air strikes on their well-entrenched foes. A final paratrooper assault drove them from their positions and into the dense jungle, where contact was lost.

A sweep of the battlefield found 27 enemy bodies, 20 weapons and a 122mm rocket launcher.

Psychological Operations also paid a dividend when a Viet Cong village chief rallied to the

government side because all of his soldiers had been captured by division elements.

The troopers had detained 58 suspects the day before.

Meanwhile airborne forces captured 31,000 pounds of rice in one day as they continued the

rice denial phase of the operation.

The rest of the week's action featured successful ambushes of small enemy elements northwest of the city. The enemy lost eight dead to the paratroopers surprise tactics.

### Tiger Division Awarded Highest Unit Decoration

**PHU CAT (IFF)** — Republic of Vietnam National Defense Minister, Lieutenant General Nguyen Van Vy recently presented his nation's highest unit military award to the Republic of Korea's Tiger Division at the division's headquarters.

General Vy made the presentation of the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation to Major General Soon Min Chung, commanding general of the Tiger Division during ceremonies commemorating the 19th anniversary of the division's founding.

The division is the second division-sized unit in Vietnam to receive the award. It received the citation for "contributing to the peace of Vietnam, by destroying the Communists and their terrorist activities, and for intense and effective psychological and civic activities throughout the division's tactical area of responsibility."

Six Presidential Citations, five from Korea and one from the United States, have been awarded to the division since coming to Vietnam in October 1965. The ROK has maintained, enlarged and secured its area

### Tots' Hospital Gets Donation

**DA NANG (USMC)** — The hometown of a Navy doctor in Vietnam has donated more than \$3,000 to the Children's Hospital in Da Nang.

A check for \$3,037.65 was presented the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital by Navy Lieutenant Commander James S. Phillips. The commander has been the command surgeon for the Marine Force Logistic Command (FLC) in Vietnam since last summer.

Some 5,000 citizens of Little-

ton, N.H., got together to support the hospital, the only one of its kind in the northern sector of South Vietnam, after Dr. Phillips sent a tape recording to his wife, Nancy, describing the facilities and conditions of the hospital. Mrs. Phillips took the tape to the Littleton Rotary Club, which started a fund drive.

Girl Scouts put donation boxes in stores; children sold soda bottles; churches contributed generously, and the money raised was sent to Dr. Phillips.

### Infantry Units Kill 129...

**(Continued From Page 1)** brought the brigade's four day total to 129.

Many individual and crew-served weapons, medical supplies, and much ammunition were captured during the operation. The U.S. forces also found the enemy unit's payroll, which totaled 900,000 piasters (more than \$7,600).

The enemy soldiers had evidently been supplied recently and were wearing new webbing and pith helmets and carried new ChiCom weapons, grenades, ammunition and canteens.

As night came, six companies of the division remained, tracking the enemy and giving him no chance to rest in his old Delta haunt.

## Six Hour Firefight Nets 47

**BONG SON (USA)** — Elements of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, killed 47 North Vietnamese soldiers during a recent six-hour battle 30 miles north of Qui Nhon.

The unit, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in operation Cochise-Green, was conducting a reconnaissance in force mission through a rice basin on a coastal plain when they encountered heavy enemy automatic weapon and rocket fire from three different directions.

Fighting began when the mechanized element was forced to halt their formation while an explosive ordnance disposal team disarmed a mine in their path.

The infantrymen formed two defensive wagon wheel formations and drenched the enemy positions with canister rounds and machine gun fire before maneuvering to a better defensive position. Then called in artillery and air strikes on the enemy emplacements before returning to the area of initial contact.

Sweeps through the evacuated enemy emplacements turned up 47 enemy bodies, heavy blood trails and a large amount of equipment. The battalion lost two killed during the encounter.

### VC's 122s Returned

**CAMP EAGLE (USA)** — Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division found a practical use for the manifold 122mm rocket launchers and projectiles captured near here recently.

Command Sergeant Major Leroy J. Browning, handed one of the enemy weapons to an artillery crew and told them to learn how to operate it.

The airborne artillerymen assembled the electrical firing device and began to experiment. "Even as we inserted the round into the tube, I wasn't too sure how we would fare," confessed Specialist 4 Randy J. Cox.

The paratroopers watched anxiously as the specialist tripped the ignition and sent the first of eight Chinese-made rockets streaming toward a suspected enemy base camp in the A Shau valley.

### Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

**From:**

---



---



---

Place Stamp  
Here

(12 cents 1st class)

(20 cents Airmail)

**TO:**

---



---



---

The



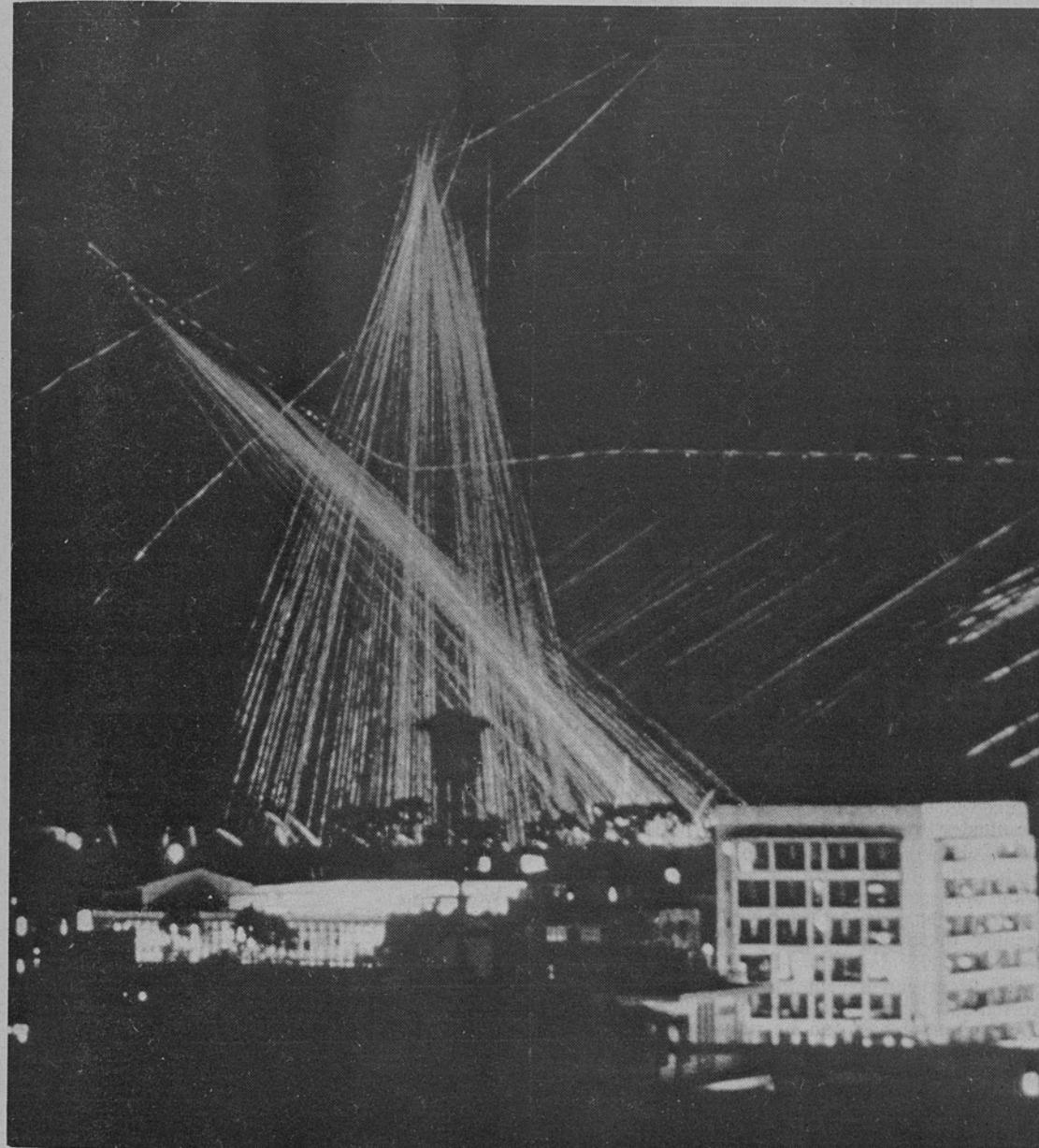
FIRST IN VIETNAM

# OBSEVER

Vol. 6, No. 63

Saigon, Vietnam

July 17, 1968



SPITTING DEATH—Air Force Dragonships spit instant death to enemy forces. (USAF PHOTO)

## Marines Kill 89

## U.S. Forces Punish Enemy

SAIGON (MACV) — A company from the 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division, recently engaged the enemy three miles northwest of Khe Sanh Village. According to official communiques on the fighting, the company came under intense small arms, automatic and mortar fire from an unknown size enemy force. The enemy force withdrew leaving 40 dead.

Shortly after the engagement, another company from the 1st Regiment killed 49 enemy a short distance from the above clash.

Supported throughout the night by artillery helicopter gunships, tactical air strikes and U.S. Air Force AC-47 gunships, the enemy ground attack was repulsed. U.S. losses were reportedly light.

In other action 11 miles east of Saigon, a U.S. Navy River Patrol Boat (PBR), supported by Navy Seawolf gunships, destroyed three enemy sampans. Three enemy were killed and two 122mm rocket launchers

were captured while there were no friendly casualties.

In the air, U.S. warplanes flew 140 missions over the North. Anti-aircraft fire was reportedly moderate.

The attacking aircrews hit enemy lines of supply and military storage areas. MACV communiqué reported the destruction or damage of 11 supply and storage areas, 30 barges and nine trucks. The crews also ignited 16 secondary explo-

sions, 20 petroleum, oil and lubricant fires and 105 other sustained fires. They also silenced 28 enemy weapons positions.

Air Force B-52 Stratofortresses, struck base camps, troop concentrations, storage complexes and truck parks in six strikes.

Army Helicopter crews reported killing 32 enemy and destroying 21 fortifications in scattered actions in the South.

## ROK Tiger Div. Kills 164

PHU CAT (I FF)—Infantrymen of the Capital (Tiger) Republic of Korea Division killed 164 enemy in an operation in the Phu Cat mountains and the Go Boi Plains, northwest of Qui Nhon.

Operation Maeng Ho 12 began last month when elements of the division's 1st Cavalry, 1st Regiment and 26th Regiment

initiated their reconnaissance-in-force mission in the Go Boi Plains.

Intermittent enemy contacts characterized the early phase of the operation. Both enemy and friendly casualties were light.

The main action came during the week of June 23-29 when the Tiger Division soldiers encircled and eventually destroyed the 18th NVA Regimen-

## AF Crew Saved By Heroic Pilot

TUY HOA (USAF) — "The only reason we're alive today is that for eight minutes, our pilot flew an unflyable aircraft."

That was the way Air Force Navigator First Lieutenant Jon R. Alexander, described his and four other crew members' escape from their C-130 Hercules which stayed in the air for eight vital, agonizing minutes, despite a disintegrating wing, an engine on fire, an inoperative hydraulic system and several shattered control surfaces.

The crew's ordeal began 3,000 feet above the jungle, three miles from the end of the landing strip at Katum, a U.S. Army Special Forces camp 60 miles northwest of Saigon. After delivering a new tire to another C-130 immobilized with a flat at Katum, the Task Force plane had just taken off and was climbing for altitude. Suddenly a burst of .50 caliber machine gun fire erupted from the

jungle below and ripped into the left wing. The left outboard engine burst into flames.

Aircraft commander First Lieutenant Fletcher A. Hatch and loadmaster Airman First Class Jerry T. Willard spotted the fire as it began spreading along the wing. Lieutenant Hatch and copilot First Lieutenant Lee B. Blaser attempted to smother the flames by shutting down the engine and discharging the fire extinguishers in the engine compartment, but to no avail.

With the hydraulic system out of commission, members of the crew moved into the cargo compartment to lower the aircraft's landing gear by hand. The plane was nearing Tay Ninh and time was running out however, and the men were forced to return to the flight deck and strap in for a crash landing with only the left landing gear locked into position.

With the fire-gutted left wing shredding and bending, the left aileron burned away and the elevators unusable, Lieutenant Hatch fought to keep the plane level as it approached the runway. (Continued On Back Page)

## Small Unit Ambush Stuns 250-man Unit

HUE/PHU BAI (USMC) — An 11-man Combined Action Platoon ambush killed 56 when a 250-man North Vietnamese Army rice supply caravan walked into a deadly small arms crossfire south of Phu Bai recently.

Marines and Popular Forces troops of Combined Action Platoon Hotel-1 sprung the ambush as the enemy attempted to carry rice from the mountains to a nearby river for transportation.

"They walked right into it," described Sergeant Steve Blackburn, the platoon sergeant, recalling the contact.

The first squad hit the NVA with a claymore mine, then raked their ranks with a machine gun and small arms crossfire.

The squad pulled back calling an artillery fire mission.

The enemy continued to be hit by small arms fire from the squad as Marine aircraft pounded the enemy positions.

Marine fire superiority was too much for the enemy as he pulled back toward the mountains leaving behind 56 dead, six individual weapons and 300 pounds of rice.

## Viets Locate Enemy Arms

DA NANG (I CORPS) — A large cache of ammunition was found by the 3rd Battalion of the ARVN 5th Infantry Regiment about 25 miles southwest of Quang Ngai city recently.

Included in the cache were: 85,000 rounds of mixed small arms ammunition; 3,300 rounds of mixed mortar ammo; 1,700 M26 hand grenades; 60 cases of .50 caliber ammunition; 60 cases of 82mm mortar fuzes; 200 rounds of 57mm recoilless ammunition; 2,816 pounds of TNT; 150 B-40 rockets and six rocket launchers.

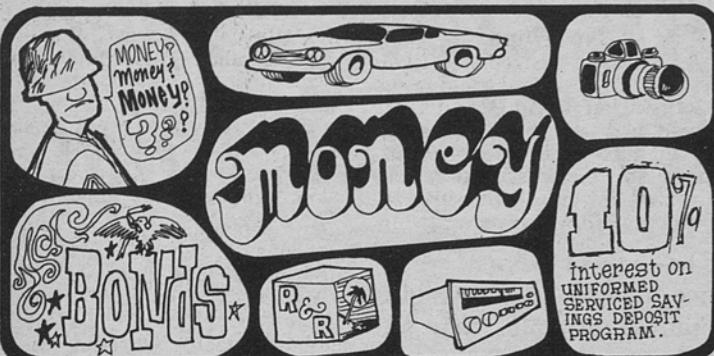
Editorial

## Wise Spending

Remember that tape recorder you were looking at in the PX last week? Or was it a stereo tuner? A brochure of the latest automobiles available to you through factory representatives? Well, whatever it was, you can be sure of one thing—it takes money to get one. And that is what this is all about. Money!

You see, the United States government is concerned about the money you spend over here for two reasons. The first is our balance of payments, or gold flow. The second is the inflationary effect our money has on the Vietnamese economy.

You say that you only spend a couple of bucks on payday, so how can that hurt the economy? Well, you're



not to be blamed, because very few people who are not economists really do understand the damage that is caused by our spending money on the local economy.

With this thought in mind, Uncle Sam has set up various ways for the serviceman both to save and spend money; ways that profit both the GI and the economies of the United States and South Vietnam. Why not look them over and see what you've been missing? Any additional information you might desire is available through your command channels.

PX—Special savings are available to you on cameras, watches, jewelry, tape recorders, TVs, tuners and amplifiers; plus a mail order service offering hundreds of hard-to-beat values.

R&R—Five days in your choice of one of eight exotic Asian capitals; or spend time in urban bustling Sydney; or meet your wife for five days in Hawaii.

UNIFORMED SERVICES SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM—10% interest on your money—highest rate anywhere!

CHECKING ACCOUNTS—Military banking facilities offer 5% interest on all accounts over \$100, and there's no charge for personalized checks or service.

SAVINGS BONDS—You can invest in your country, while earning tax-free interest.

CLASS E ALLOTMENTS—You can have your finance office make deposits to your stateside bank, or pay insurance premiums automatically.

Remember, all these plans and programs not only benefit you by providing you with the opportunity to make the most of your money, but they help our government by making its economic problems a bit easier to solve. (MACV)

*Our objective is the independence of Vietnam and its freedom from attack.*

LYNDON B. JOHNSON



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 at 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. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

COMUSMACV

Information Officer

Gen. C.W. Abrams, USA

Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA

Maj. D.C. Smith, USA

NCOIC

SFC. D.D. Perez, USA

Editor

SSgt. C.T. Owen, USMC

Production Manager

TSGt. G.C. Sterling, USAF

Assistant Editor

Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA

Feature Editor

Sp 4 L. Ensminger, USA

Staff Writer

Sp 4 P. Koenigsberg, USA

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### Korea AFEM Ok'd By JCS

WASHINGTON — The Joint Chiefs of Staff have voted to award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to troops serving in South Korea. As of press time the OBSERVER does not know what the retroactive date will be for the award.

The so-called "Cold War Medal" is already approved for troops who participated in other crisis situations including: Berlin, Lebanon, Quemoy and Matsu Islands, Cuba, two Congo support campaigns, the Dominican Republic, Laos and South Vietnam. Troops may add a service star to their ribbon for each additional campaign.

The Pentagon rejected efforts earlier this year to "reactivate" the Korean War Korea Service Medal for troops now serving in South Korea.

### Fiery Crashes Thing Of Past

WASHINGTON (NAVNEWS)—Fiery freeway crashes may be a thing of the past if foam used gasoline tanks are installed on automobiles.

The foam, developed and marketed by Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, may also bring reduced insurance rates for cars equipped with it.

In demonstrations, tanks containing the foam will not explode and seldom catch fire. Car handling is also improved because there is no sloshing of fuel.

The foam can be cut up and stuffed into existing fuel tanks, or a shaped block can be prepared before new tanks are welded together.

The foam is nothing new to Indianapolis race drivers. Foamed-filled tanks have been used there for several years. It is also being used aboard the "Jolly Green Giant" helicopters in Vietnam and is approved for use in military aircraft fuel systems.

### Priority Given To Viet Vets

WASHINGTON (NAVNEWS)—The Bureau of Naval Personnel says that men completing Vietnam duty will receive special consideration regarding their change of duty requests.

BuPers Notice 1306 states that those shore based in Vietnam, the combat forces of the Fleet Marine Force Pacific, and those who are assigned to nonrotating support ships continuously deployed in Southeast Asia, will be given special consideration on requests for reassignment.

Whenever possible these personnel will be given first choice as to shore duty (SEAVY), schools, other sea duty, and in some instances early separation for hospital corpsmen.

This has been done in view of the personal hardships and difficult working conditions imposed on those working in the Vietnam area.

For more information on this notice, contact your personnel office.



SHAPELY HIPPIE—Mod Katherine Walsh plays the part of a beautiful young "Hippie" who resides in a flower bed in American International Pictures' color and Panavision film, "The Trip." Anyone allergic to a bed of roses?

(PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PICTURES)



# Pilot Saved In Daring Rescue Effort

DA NANG (USAF)—"I thought that the best that I could get out of this deal was to be captured. I didn't see any way for a helicopter to get in there and get me out."

That is how Major Carl B. Light described his thoughts in North Vietnam after ejecting from his damaged F-105 Thunderchief recently. The fighter pilot, assigned to the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, was rescued by members of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery

squadron after spending nearly 24 hours in enemy territory.

The rescue effort was carried out in the face of heavy North Vietnamese fire and involved 58 tactical fighter strikes, five HH-3E Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopters, seven A1-E Skyraiders and one command aircraft.

Major Light was downed after making a successful fighter strike in the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam against a surface-to-air missile (SAM) site.

"I was making a rocket pass on some trucks when I felt

something hit in the aft section of the airplane. The aircraft caught on fire and I had fire warning lights immediately," the major reported.

"The next thing that I remember was lying in a rice paddy attached to my survival kit. There were 37mm and 57mm automatic weapons all around me—a lot of them," the pilot commented.

After disconnecting himself from his parachute, he started looking for a hiding place. "I got into a bush and covered up as best as I could," he said.

Then he used his survival radio to contact the forward air controller (FAC) in the area to tell him that he was on the ground and all right.

"The F-100 supersabre FAC told me that they were going to suppress the gun sites and get me out. I wasn't convinced, but the fighters in the area did come in. They were unable to knock them out so I said that I would try to move south so that I could get away from the gun sites," Major Light continued.

#### No Hope

As darkness neared, the fighters left the area and the downed pilot started moving south. He understood why no helicopter rescue had been attempted because no helicopter could have survived in that heavy-fire environment. He stopped crawling in an open, rolling terrain with low bushes.

"I thought that I was pretty well away from the guns until 5:30 in the morning. I had positioned myself inside the bush and then I saw another gun open up about 400 yards away from me," he recalled. "I think the North Vietnamese were looking for me, but not very hard. They wanted to use me for bait and possibly get another airplane."

#### Hours Later

About 9 a.m., approximately 17 hours after ejection, the major saw an F-100 fly over.

He contacted him on the radio and told him that he was still alright. The pilot again assured the major they would get him out.

Fighter strikes were then called in over the enemy gun sites. Major Light reported, "Throughout the day the fighters did a tremendous job of suppressing the guns. They put in a terrific amount of ordnance to get me out."

#### Enemy Silenced

"When they had the guns sufficiently calmed down, the helicopters and A1-Es moved in. The Jolly Green Giant then snatched me out of there," he stated. "It was a great feeling to see those guys and when they got me in the chopper, I said, 'You guys do good work.' Those choppers were running a very high risk of getting shot down themselves when they came in and picked me up."

#### Alright Now

Major Light was then taken to Da Nang air base where he was hospitalized overnight for observation. The next day he was discharged by the doctor and headed back to the 388th TFW.

After his terrifying experience in North Vietnam, how does he feel about flying above the demilitarized zone?

"I'm ready to go again," he said.

## Infantry Battalion Tops NVA Assault Killing 71

CU CHI (USA)—Infantrymen from the 25th Division beat back an estimated NVA battalion killing 71 following a predawn attack on their night position seven miles northwest of Saigon.

At 2:50 a.m., North Vietnamese soldiers attacked the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry. Charging the barbed wire emplacements, they poured in 82mm mortars and .50 caliber machine gun and RPG fire.

Fierce fighting, supported by artillery, helicopter gunships and an Air Force AC-47 continued until 5:30 a.m. when the North Vietnamese withdrew, leaving 71 dead soldiers behind. Three U.S. soldiers were killed and 32 were wounded in the battle.

In the morning, NVA soldiers' bodies were strewn all along the defensive line, mingled with unexploded hand grenades and RPG rounds. Occasional sniper fire cracked over the heads of the 2nd Battalion troopers as they searched the treeline outside their perimeter.

Besides the 71 dead soldiers, the troopers collected 29 AK-47 assault rifles, three RPG-7 rocket launchers, ten RPG-2 rocket launchers and two Chinese light machine guns.

## 'Hard-Headed' Medic Saves Two Lives In Grenade Bout

CU CHI (USA)—Being hard-headed can sometimes cause problems, but for Specialist 4 Bruce Cotta, a medic with the 1st Battalion (Mechanized) 5th Infantry, it saved his life.

The 25th Infantry Division battalion's night position 21 miles northwest of Saigon was under heavy mortar and RPG attack when the cry "medic" rang out. Crawling low, he inched his way toward the wounded man.

"Suddenly something hit me on the head, he recalled. "I felt my head to see if it was still there. It was, along with a big 'goose egg.'"

The flares dropping overhead to light the perimeter revealed a Chinese-made hand grenade in front of him—the culprit that had just struck him. The trooper picked up the grenade and heaved it yelling a warning to those around him.

He hadn't traveled far when he encountered the grenade again. This time it exploded

right Job \$

DA NANG (USA)—Fitting the right man to the right job in the Army is sometimes a problem. There was certainly no problem where Specialist 4 Stephen K. Cashdollar was concerned.

Specialist Cashdollar is a finance clerk with the 192nd Finance Section, 80th General Support Group.

His choice of duty in the Army seems natural enough!



MUD, MUD, MUD—Marine radioman Lance Corporal Thomas Richards fights the elements as he washes mud off his M-16 rifle. The 3d Division Leatherneck dove into a muddy hole during an enemy artillery barrage in action north of Dong Ha. (USMC PHOTO By: Cpl. John McCullough)

## Birth Cards Assist Vets

WASHINGTON (VA)—Veterans can get birth certificates or other proof of age—documents extremely vital when applying for state and federal benefits—from the Selective Service system.

The Selective Service people prepared registration cards on 55 million men born between April 28, 1877, and March 31, 1929. These cards are still in existence. If you need proof of age which you can't substantiate with a birth certificate or other document, you can get a free copy of your registration card from the State Director of Selective Service for the state in which you were registered in World War II.

Registration cards are available for veterans born between Sept. 12, 1873, and Sept. 12, 1900, at the General Services Administration, Federal Records Center, 1557 St. Joseph Street, East Point, Ga. 30044. A fee is charged for searching these records.

## Landlords Rap New Occupant

CHU LAI (USA)—Infantrymen of one of the battalions of the Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade returned to an old home, only to find that unwelcomed new neighbors had moved in.

Returning from Operation Delaware, north of Hue, the men of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry began to move back to their former fire base, deep in the Que Son valley. But things had changed in the old neighborhood.

It was just a few months ago that the battalion had accounted for 390 NVA kills in the same area, and now the enemy had moved back in during their absence.

The hill area was a maze of enemy trenches, bunkers and barbed wire held by a force of 200 well-armed and equipped NVA regulars. Four thousand meters from the hill, the first contact was made as the companies began intensive search and clear missions of the area.

The enemy force opened up first with a mortar barrage, recoilless rifle fire and heavy caliber machine guns. Captain Aldon Holborn called in artillery and gunships to suppress enemy fire while other battalion elements moved into the area.

Once the enemy position was established as a bell-shaped bunker complex on the hilltop, heavy air strikes were called to cover the advancing infantrymen as they began assaulting the enemy held hilltop.

As the assault continued numerous enemy mortar positions began to harass the American troops.

"We could see 12 NVA mortarmen moving about on the side of the hill," said Specialist 4 Don Pratti. "The jets were on them almost instantly and their harassment ended as quickly as it had started."

As a two-company force neared the hilltop, air controllers spotted a force of 60 armed NVA soldiers retreating down the north side of the hill. Some were carrying wounded and dead as they retreated.

After securing the hill, searching elements uncovered 40 bunkers, mostly in ruins. They also found 55 dead enemy troopers in the complex.

## Inf. Division Defies Odds Crushes VC, Killing 64

DONG TAN (USA) — Overcoming fierce rocket and mortar fire and the Mekong Delta sun, elements of the 9th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade and supporting units killed 64 Viet Cong recently.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, was inserted into an area three miles north of here to eliminate enemy mortar site spotted by aerial reconnaissance patrols of Troop D, 3d Squadron, 5th Air Cavalry. With elements of the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry, in a blocking position, the company began sweeping south.

As they neared a treeline, enemy fire erupted from a well-fortified bunker complex. Soon, the enemy began firing rockets and mortars at the pinned down 1st Brigade unit.

Companies B and C, 2nd Battalion 60th Infantry, inserted to reinforce the pinned down units, met light sniper fire upon landing. The men took cover behind



EMERGENCY AID—Medical aid is given to wounded troopers of the 2d Mechanized Battalion, 47th Infantry. (USA PHOTO)

### Cool, Calm, Courageous

## PF Officer Stymies Enemy Force

BEN CAU (IUFF)—A new Popular Force Platoon leader inspired his troops recently to overcome seemingly impossible odds in a life or death battle.

Doan Van Nhut, platoon leader of the Tay Ninh 33rd Popular Force platoon, rallied his 35 men against an attack by an estimated North Vietnamese battalion.

At approximately 1:30 a.m. the NVA's attacked the Long Giang outpost in Ben Cau, Hieu Thien district, with 82mm mortars, 75mm recoilless rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, small arms and automatic weapons fire.

The enemy followed his initial barrages with a ground attack and penetrated the west corner of the defensive perimeter. "The enemy actually occupied the bunker in the western portion of the compound before he was driven back by the PF forces. The PFs also received support from a Vietnamese artillery

battery in Ken Keo and a light fire team from Bien Hoa," according to Major Malcolm McPhaul, operations officer for the advisory staff of Tay Ninh province.

"At first the troops appeared stunned by the sudden barrage and attack, but Nhut, in his first day as platoon leader, took complete charge of his forces and directed them in a counter attack against the enemy-occupied bunker. All the enemy within the bunker were killed, but miraculously not a PF soldier died, although several were wounded," Major McPhaul stated.

A total of 16 NVA soldiers were killed during the attack while the Popular Forces had 10 men wounded. The PFs also captured two B-40 rocket launchers, 13 B-40 rounds and eight AK-47 rifles.

—

**Deadly Cobra Strikes Soldier**

LAI KHE (USA)—A 1st Infantry Division soldier will not soon forget his encounter with a non-human menace.

At dawn one recent morning, the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry's supply section began to set up in the rubber trees at the Lai Khe basecamp. Sergeant William D. Bruley began picking up metal stakes.

"I had the strangest feeling that something on my right was watching me. As I glanced in that direction and straightened up, a cold shiver of shock ran up my back. Coiled in a pile of dry leaves with its head raised and its hood inflated was a large king cobra."

"I was stiff with fear, but as it struck at my leg, just barely brushing my fatigues, I exploded into flight. I yelled to one of the men working with me, 'Cobra!'"

As Sergeant Bruley was recovering from his close call, Specialist 5 Willie O. Thomas killed the cobra with one of the metal stakes. The snake was almost four feet long.

HELPING HAND—A corpsman treats a Montagnard boy. (USMC PHOTO)

—

Going was tough for the men, but then wet feet heal quickly.

Civilian I.D.s were frequently checked by Viet policemen attached to the infantry unit.

## Constant Sweeps Keep Enemy Moving



An enemy bunker falls victim to a shape charge—it was one of many this particular day.

SAIGON (MACV) — The 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division's mission was to stop enemy infiltration into the Saigon area and to search out night rocket staging areas.

If any Viet Cong were in the area they weren't showing. The operation was in its last stages; they were out to render enemy underground networks useless.

Bravo and Charlie Companies spread and established security around known enemy bunker sights. Then they waited while men from Company D, 65th Engineers blew the bunkers.

"Fire in the hole!" There was an ignited block of C-4 explosive in a bunker and two engineers scrambling away

particular at Vietnamese civilians in Saigon.

In their 30 days in and around Hoc Mon the Wolfhounds, searching mainly for small infiltration and rocket squads, killed 35 enemy and had four detainees to their credit. They are still there.

Repeated 17 times by mid-morning this ritual left no staging area the enemy would return to and recognize.

Now the sun was out full, exacting its toll: sweat and fatigue—and there was always the underlying tension of being in enemy territory.

"Saddle up!" Captain Robert M. Thomas, Company B commander, relayed over the radio. A final look at the map and



A demolition crew readies a one-pound block of C-4 explosive.

up to a year, were not geared to any emotions but real ones.

When a roll of Life Savers went to a child, it was not solicitous.

When a Vietnamese infant was back-patted and soothed to silence by the calloused hands

of a 200-pound medic from Bravo Company, there was no need for him to mask a disdainful mien. And so it went.

Occasionally a Vietnamese National Policeman, attached to the Wolfhounds for this unique operation, would stop vil-

agers and validate their passes.

It was all in a day's work.

After many long hours the

village of Hoc Mon had been satisfactorily secured for another day and the infantrymen made the long hike back to base camp to relax and plan the next day's maneuver.

The lack of enemy activity in

and around Hoc Mon is one

measure of the Wolfhounds' success, the other is in the

hearts and eyes of the villagers of Hoc Mon.

Story & Photos By SSgt. C.T. Owen & Spec. 4 L. Ensminger

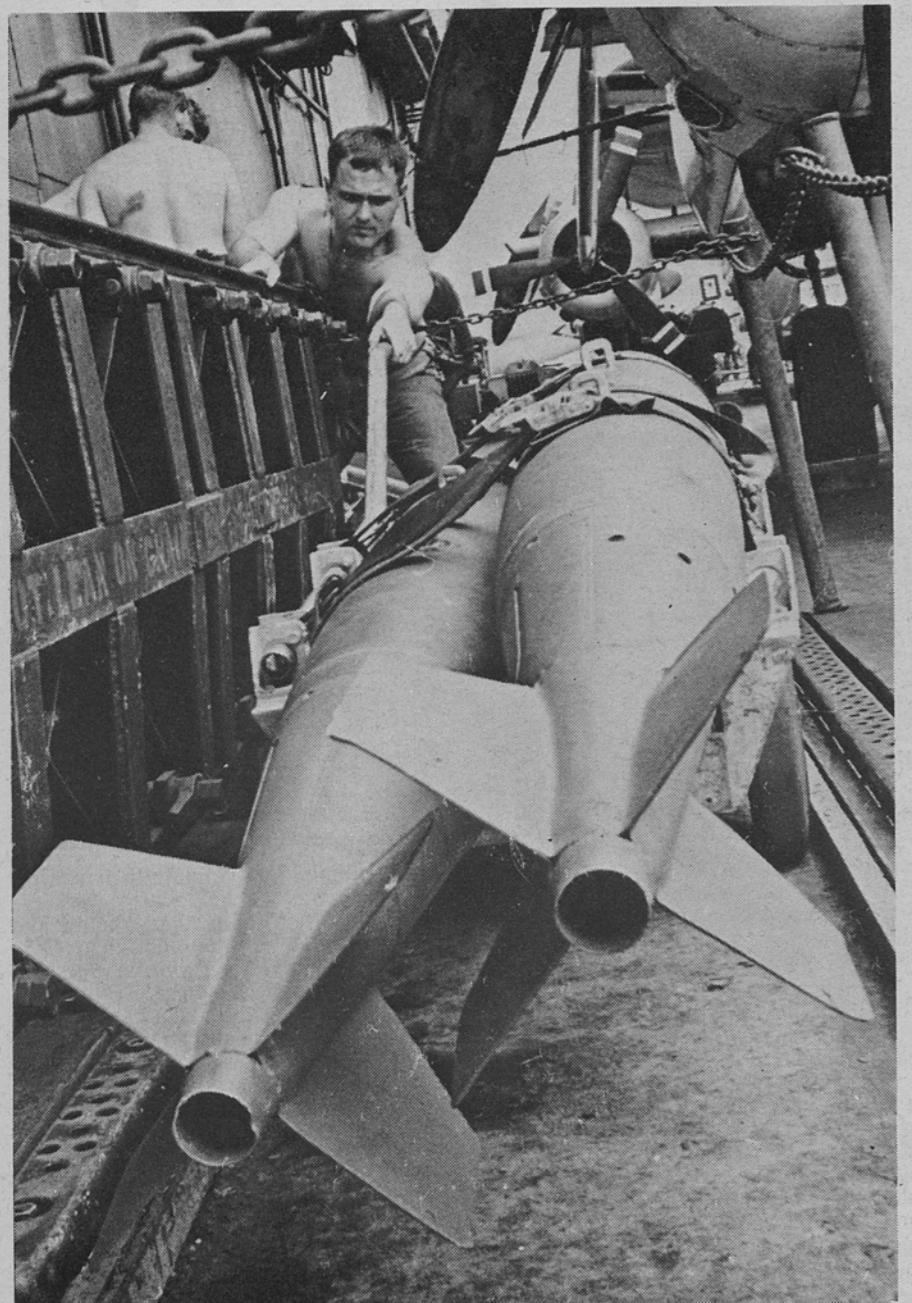


Men of the 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry head home after a daylong sweep through Hoc Mon.



Civilian I.D.s were frequently checked by Viet policemen attached to the infantry unit.

# Bon Homme Richard Launches Deadly Attack



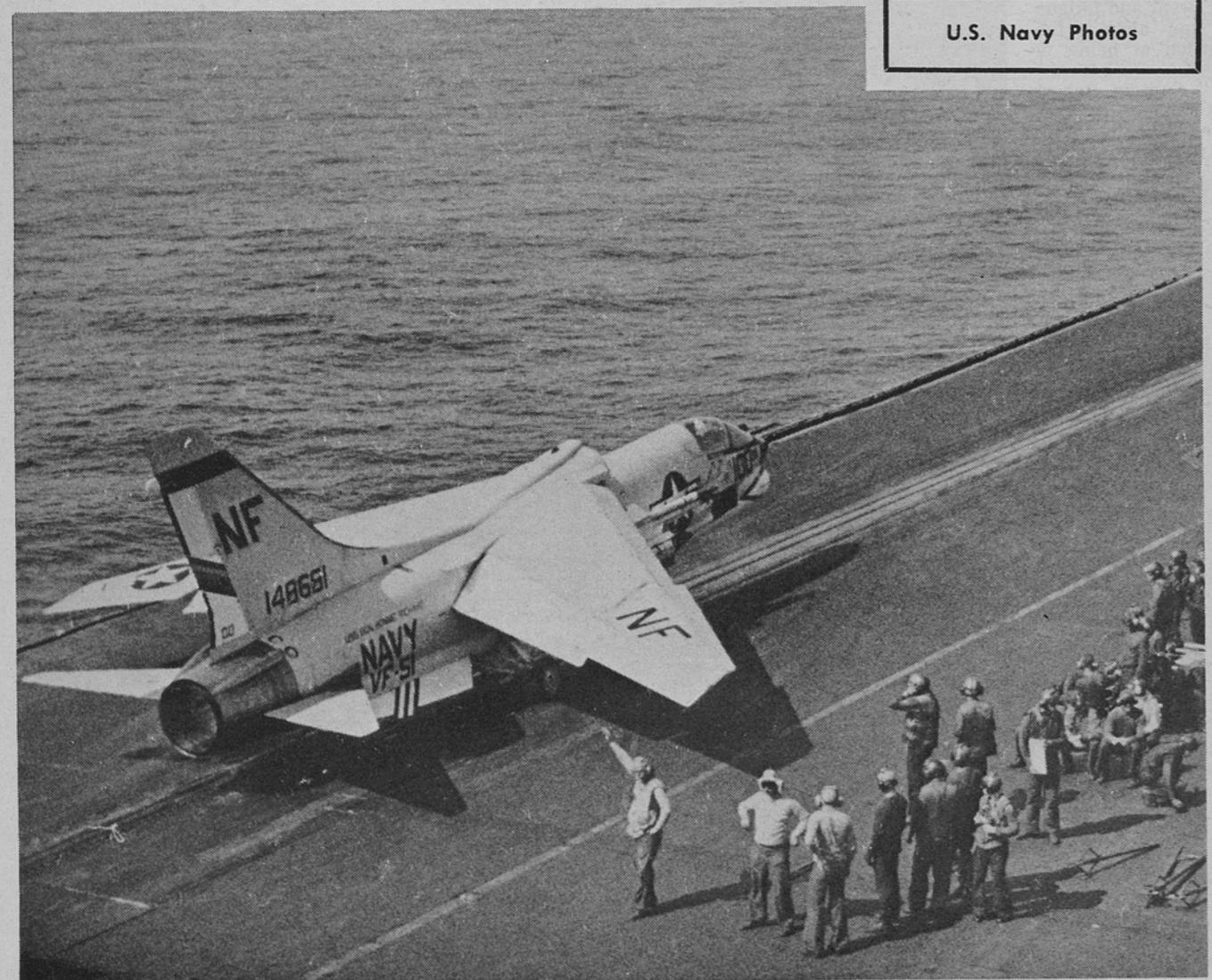
Bombs are lifted by elevator to the flight deck of the Bon Homme Richard.



A Plane Director gives commands to the pilot of an F-8 "Crusader" as the pilot approaches the catapult before being launched into attack.



Only seconds after one A-4 "Skyhawk" hurtled into space, another begins its journey down the catapult.



An F-8 "Crusader" prepares to launch from the port catapult of the giant aircraft carrier in the Gulf of Tonkin.

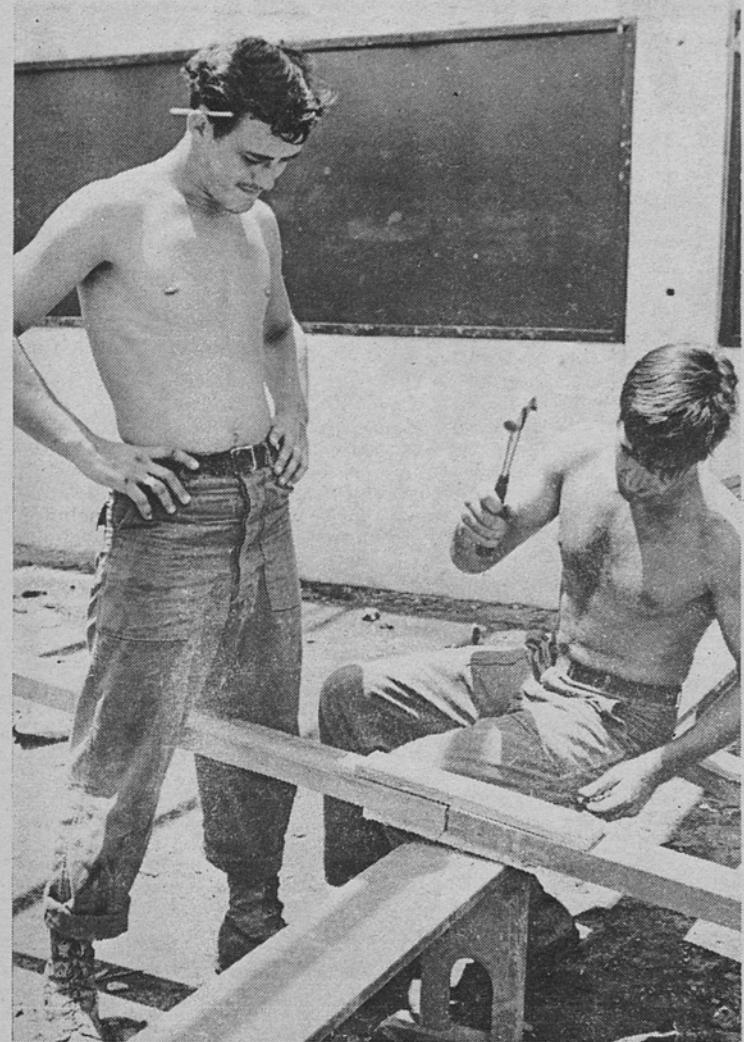


A-4F "Skyhawks" streak to the destination from the temporary base aboard the Bon Homme Richard.



Following the fighter squadron into attack, the A3 Tanker will later rendezvous with the jets for in-flight refueling.

U.S. Navy Photos



These men of the 9th Division consider their time well spent.

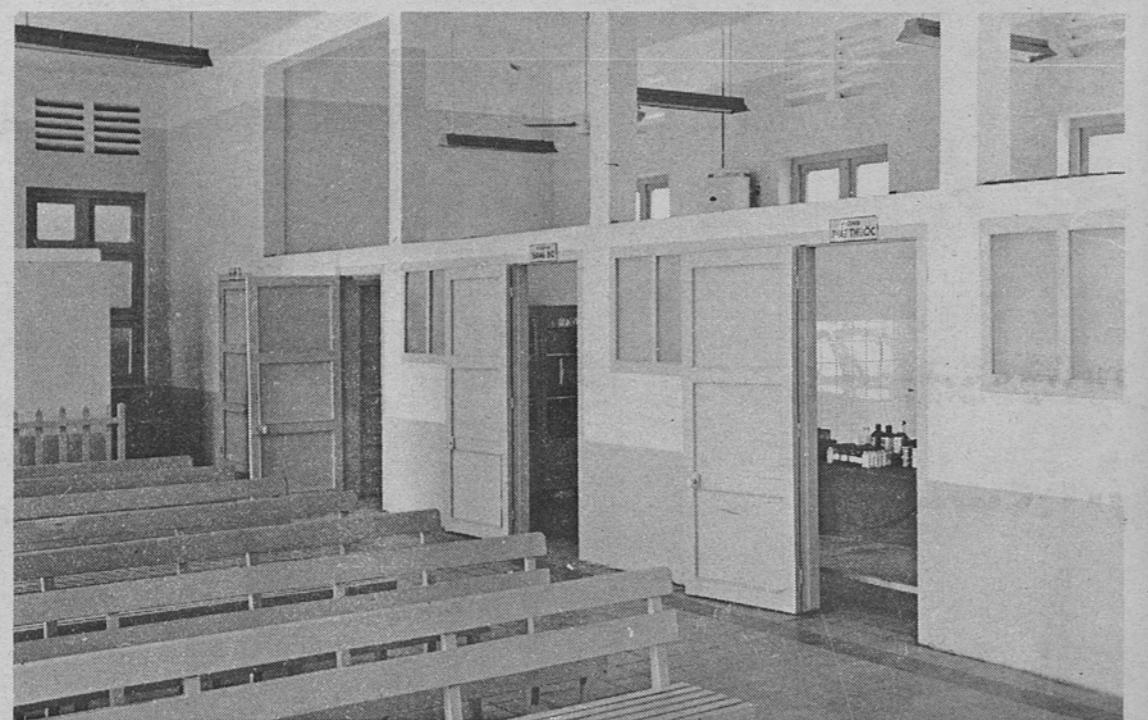


Cholon residents help put in new windows for their dispensary.



A soldier takes time out from work on the new school to amuse some curious onlookers.

## GIs Aid In Cholon



With the aid of the 9th Division, the renewed Cholon clinic takes on a professional luster.

SAIGON (USA) — The 8th District Dispensary, which was heavily damaged during the May fighting in Saigon, was officially re-opened recently.

The dispensary furnishes the district (Cholon) residents with outpatient medical services.

Major General Julian J. Ewell, 9th Infantry Division commander, spoke briefly at the ceremony.

"The 9th Infantry Division fought a great battle in this area," said General Ewell. ". . . As you can see, this district south of the Kinh Doi was heavily damaged, although one must realize that the battle here saved the main part of Saigon. Our hearts were heavy over this damage and the plight of the people. So we decided, as a gesture of friendship and goodwill, to repair this dispensary."

The man largely responsible for the program's beginning was Staff Sergeant Rick Bedells.

"The first step we took was to ask for voluntary contributions from the division," he explained. "The \$1,000 we collected was then used for material and labor."

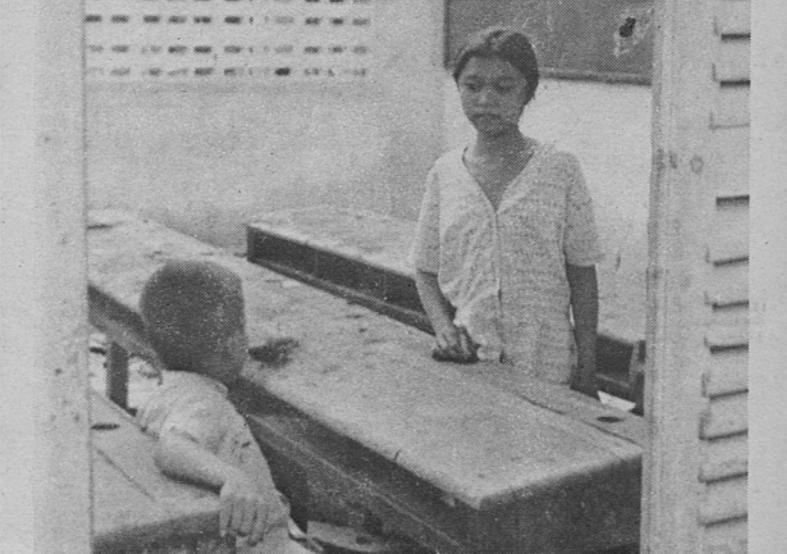
The heavily damaged clinic was completely re-wired and the walls and damaged sections rebuilt. The 9th Medical Battalion

contributed medical supplies to the dispensary. The entire renovation took 15 days.

The 8th District school is presently being reconstructed by the division's 15th Engineer Battalion. Opening of the school is scheduled as soon as work is completed.



Some Cholon residents pitch in and work on their dispensary.



Their school will open soon, thanks to the Old Reliab.

## Propaganda Teams Talk, Shoot

VINH LONG (USA) — Members of Armed Propaganda Teams (APT) don't have the safest jobs in the world as they go deep into Viet Cong territory telling the Chieu Hoi story.

Laden with weapons, supplies, leaflets and loudspeakers, APTs may venture out for as long as seven days contacting possible Hoi Chanhs. Many things happen in a week's time, some unbelievable.

One group on a seven-day mission accompanied by Dereck V. King, Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), the Vinh Long province Chieu Hoi advisor, reported about 60 Hoi Chanhs as in an abandoned pagoda.

In the firefight that ensued the APT & RF's combined to suppress the enemy fire.

The next day the team moved out, dropping 10,000 leaflets in villages and homes, had another firefight and returned to the district town where they found 13 more Hoi Chanhs had rallied from their area of operations.

The team moved into an outpost on the fringe of enemy territory on the fifth day, an area not penetrated by Government forces of any type for years. Members of the team went as far as 15 kilometers inside the area, stopping every kilometer to issue a message by loudspeaker.

That night the advisor, APT commander, and three members of the team went into a nearby village restaurant, unarmed. One of the team saw an old friend, a VC, and the APT group and five VC sat around one table all night, after which they went their own ways. The VC also were unarmed.

The experience was repeated the following night and two additional enemy were in the crowd. The advisor took the opportunity to ask the Viet Cong face-to-face to rally to the government side. They said they wanted to, but not right then as their families were not in safe areas.

The team returned to the district town the seventh day. There were now 37 Hoi Chanhs at the Chieu Hoi center, not bad for a week's work that included across-the-table conversations with the enemy.

## Message Answered

PHU BAI (USMC) — A Phu Bai Marine's plea for items needed at a nearby Vietnamese hospital has received a heart-warming response from the people of his home town of San Diego, Calif.

Master Sergeant Jimmy A. Thrasher, presently serving with Force Logistic Support Group-Alpha, wrote to Mayor Frank Curran and the San Diego City Council, appealing to his fellow citizens to lend a helping hand "to some who are far less fortunate than we are."

The letter was read on a San Diego television station by Deputy Mayor Helen Cobb who said she was "impressed by Sergeant Thrasher's sincere humanitarian request," and urged San Diego women to unite in answering the Marine's request. The letter also has appeared in several local newspapers.

Numerous individuals and organizations, among them the San Diego Naval Hospital, have already expressed a desire to help out and promised "to see how much help we can be." Sergeant Thrasher has received several boxes of much needed items and more are coming in daily.

He plans to deliver the supplies personally to the village hospital.



A member of an Armed Propaganda Team broadcasts his message to villagers informing them that medical aid is nearby.

## Enough For 1,100

## U.S. Commissary Aids Orphanage

SAIGON (USA) — With more than 1,100 meals to serve each day to her children, Sister Cecile of the Thanh Mau Catholic Orphanage in Saigon had problems.

Someone mentioned to her that the Americans might want to help her school which is supported mainly by charity. So Sister Cecile and other faculty members went to see Captain Larry R. Pania at U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command's (USAHAC) Commissary.

At first Captain Pania didn't possibly know how the commissary could help the nuns, even though it was true that they did have food by the tons. However regulations forbid giving it away. Then the captain had an idea . . . he knew that often times food manufacturers in the States sent him far more samples of their products than the commissary could possibly use.

And that is when it all started. For about seven months now, Captain Pania and his men have carefully sorted out various samples which were in over abundance and parceled them off to help feed Sister Cecile's hungry children.

But that is not all. Many of the men were touched by the conditions at the orphanage and donated their own money and time to help improve things for the children.

Sergeant First Class Frank R. Hartman, with the help of his wife in the States, started collecting clothing through civic organizations and the local community.

Sister Cecile is all smiles these days and when an American visits the class rooms the children are quick to show their respect and gratitude for all that is being done for them. "And the smiles on their faces is all the thanks you really need . . . just makes a person feel good all over," said Captain Pania.

## Army Needs Recruiters

SAIGON (MACV) — There is a growing emphasis on increasing voluntary enlistments and intensifying recruiting operations throughout the United States. This emphasis has increased the need for Army recruiters. Individuals are assigned to recruiting duties on a voluntary basis. Interested volunteers should contact their career counselor.

(MACV Personnel contact the MACV Career Counselor at the MACV Annex Building, Tan Son Nhut, or call MACV 2237 for additional information).



"Happy days are here again" . . . as children from Thanh Mau Orphanage receive gifts.

# Education Available

HOI AN (USN) — When school begins this fall in the hamlet of Chon Tam, elementary children will be entering a new school building, constructed, for the most part by the local people.

After U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB-58) arrived in-country in December, a survey was conducted in Chon Tam, one of the hamlets assigned to the battalion for civic action responsibility, and it was determined that a new school was needed.

The building at the time, consisting of only three classrooms, was inadequate and overcrowded for the approximately 180 children attending the school. With cement and roofing materials furnished by the Civic Operations Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), and lumber and tools supplied from NMCB-58, the Vietnamese set out to construct the school. Technical assistance was provided by Petty Officers C. W. Dawkins and S. C. Simmons of NMCB-58.

The actual work began in February when the battalion surveyors staked out the corners of the building. Displaying a "Can Do" spirit of their own, the Vietnamese set the forms for the concrete deck which was primarily poured by NMCB-58.

Part of the cement furnished by CORDS was exchanged for 7,700 bricks at the 7th Engineers Civil Affairs brick yard. These bricks were hand loaded onto a five-ton dump truck, hauled to the site and unloaded by hand.

A unique persuasion technique was employed in the off-loading process. Petty Officer Simmons, the battalion interpreter and one of the technical advisors, gave chewing gum to the local children who then were more than willing to help unload the bricks.

After the foundation was set, five Vietnamese builders were hired to do the masonry work. Four other workers were hired to do the carpentry work, building doors and window frames and putting up the roofing structure for the 30-by-60-foot building. These workers were paid in rice and other commodities made available by the III Marine Amphibious Force Civil Affairs Office.

Except for a few missing bricks, later found in some local gardens, there were no major problems.

Recently the building was completed. And in a short time tables and chairs will be set up for use when school opens in the fall.

This project, though technically not large in scope or quantity, has further advanced the foremost mission of the U.S. in Vietnam today—that of helping the people to help themselves.

## Kits For Care

QUI NHON (USA) — The Qui Nhon Support Command Civil Affairs office is distributing 1,000 home-care dental kits in Binh Dinh province through local hospitals, schools and orphanages.

The kits, obtained through the Gainesville, Fla., chapter of the American Red Cross, consist of a nylon toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste. The idea for their distribution was that of Specialist 5 Kenneth Newman of the Civil Affairs office.



SWIM ANYONE?—Along with this photo was an invitation to a swimming party. It's BYOB&B. Sorry, she's already mine. (PHOTO COURTESY PETER GOWLAND)

## Trooper Captures Enemy With Pen

CAMP EVANS (USA) — The pen is mightier than the sword. So says Specialist 4 William W. Griffin who captured two NVA with a ball point pen.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, set up a line of defense and dug bunkers in the wet sand surrounding the village of Gia Dang on the coast of Vietnam.

Inside the village were a large number of NVA troops, in well fortified positions.

"It was around midnight," Lieutenant David Carmedy said, "and we had constant illumination. They lined up about 50 or 60 people, and as soon as the illumination stopped for a second, they rushed us."

The specialist was in a fox hole with another man when the NVA charged.

"I picked up my rifle and fired eight rounds," Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

It had rained recently. The wet sand was creating havoc for both sides. The enemy's weapon had also jammed, so they started throwing fragmentation grenades.

"One of the NVA ran around the side of my bunker. I looked up and thought he had a weapon, so I grabbed him and pulled him

in with us," continued the specialist. "Then I told my buddy to go over to the next bunker to get a weapon. The enemy had none.

I hit him a couple of times with my free hand, and he made a movement like he was going for a weapon, a knife or something.

"I reached around and pulled a pen from the shirt pocket of the one I had in a headlock. It was the first thing my hand touched. Then I backed the other one up against the wall of the bunker with my foot and held the pen at his throat. In the moonlight it must have glinted like a knife."

Specialist Griffen began to yell for help and shortly his commanding officer came to his aid, dragging the two prisoners out of the bunker at gunpoint.

Two days after the incident, Specialist Griffen received a package from home. In it—26 ball point pens.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

"They say I could probably hold off a whole battalion with that many pens," he said with a broad smile.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Specialist 4 Frank McEntee of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st

Infantry.

Specialist McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish mud erupted under his feet.



**CHOPPERS ASSIST**—Soldiers of the 5th ARVN Division's Reconnaissance Company head for choppers and home after making a heliborne assault into the infamous "Iron Triangle," 27 miles north of Saigon. They found an enemy base camp with 17 bunkers and killed two Viet Cong. Six sampans, fifty 82mm mortar rounds and a large amount of rice also were found.

### Spine-Tingling Flight

## Pilot's Courage Saves Copter

**CAI LAY (USA)** — It was well into the night as two OH-23 "bubble" helicopters sped over Vietnam's desolate Plain of Reeds, recently, toward the night position of the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry.

The two choppers were bringing in a doctor and two medics.

After dropping off the medical people, the two choppers were airborne again when an immediate dust-off (medical evacuation) was requested. The bubbles whipped around and hurried to the landing zone.

The first to approach was the chopper flown by Warrant Officer William M. Cosgrove. He was hovering over the pad when Viet Cong fire ripped into the area. A round smashed the bubble as WO Cosgrove quickly climbed out of the landing zone.

He radioed to the other pilot, Captain William Damon, alerting him to the hostile fire. Captain Damon decided to go in anyway.

Just before he hit the land-

ing zone, the VC opened up again, hitting Captain Damon and putting 15 rounds into the ship's bubble, engine and fuel tank.

"Right after he got hit, his craft went momentarily out of control as his feet were apparently knocked off the pedals," said WO Cosgrove. "He regained control of the ship a moment later but he seemed to be in shock. As he flew in lazy circles I told him to get behind me and I would lead him back to the special forces camp we had started from."

The two helicopters headed west above the Plain of Reeds. Captain Damon's right leg was temporarily paralyzed. His instruments had been blown out and his fuel tank leaked badly. "He could have landed and let me evacuate him but he wanted to keep going and get the craft back," WO Cosgrove said.

Both ships made it over the camp but the tricky part still remained — landing without using the crucial rudder pedals,

only hand controls.

Painfully, using low RPMs, Captain Damon settled the chopper onto the pad. WO Cosgrove and his crew chief helped Captain Damon out of the cockpit, his right leg still paralyzed. He was evacuated to the 3rd Surgical Hospital at Dong Tam where doctors found a bullet lodged behind his spine. He is expected to recover fully from the wound.

"It took an outstanding pilot to make that landing," the warrant officer said. "And with the pain he must have been suffering, it also took a lot of guts.

### Viet Colonel's Heroic Action Wins American Silver Star

**LONG BINH (II FF)** — Colonel Nguyen Van Nguu, province chief of Long An province, was recently awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action by Lieutenant General Fred C. Weyand, commanding general II Field Force Vietnam.

The colonel's citation signed by General W.C. Westmoreland read in part: "For gallantry in action on Feb. 10, 1968 when the Long An capital came under attack by two battalions of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops. Colonel Nguu achieved a much needed and significant victory which occurred at a critical time. More than 150 VC/NVA soldiers were killed, large quantities of weapons captured and the remnants

of the force were driven off by well led Regional Force units."

General Weyand made the presentation in Tan An, the province capital. In his remarks following the presentation, General Weyand spoke highly of the colonel's leadership ability, courage and dedication.

### Heroic Pilot Saves Crew...

(Continued From Page 1) way. The left gear hit, then the right side of the fuselage and the nose of the aircraft dropped to the runway. Propellers snapped as the right wing struck, and the plane veered off the runway, finally sliding to a halt 3,000 feet from the approach end. As it came to a halt, the plane exploded

and was temporarily engulfed in flames which receded as the crew burst from the cockpit escape hatches and ran from the plane.

"Three things saved us — crew coordination was perfect, no one panicked, and there was an adequate runway near enough for us to reach," the aircraft commander said.

# Record 135 Enemy Surrender To GVN

**SAIGON (USA)** — The largest mass surrender of the Vietnam war was assisted recently by Vietnamese and American psychological operations teams working in Saigon's northern suburbs.

Vietnamese officials report that 135 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers, remnants of the enemy's Quyet Thang Regiment, have been classified as returnees under the Government of Vietnam's (GVN) "Open Arms" program. The regiment infiltrated Gia Dinh in late May.

#### Joint Program

Elements of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 50th Political Warfare (POLWAR) Battalion and the U.S. Army 4th Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Group have been conducting leaflet drops and aerial loudspeaker missions over enemy positions in Cholon and Gia Dinh since early June. Just after they began, the first of the enemy defectors surrendered to ARVN forces.

At one time a Viet Cong company commander and his 33 men surrendered to elements of the 38th Ranger Battalion. A few days later, a VC squad leader rallied with the dozen remaining members of his unit. He carried a "safe conduct" surrender pass air dropped by teams from the 6th Battalion of the 4th PSYOP Group the day before.

Meanwhile, the Viet Cong Quyet Thang Regiment was losing men and equipment in frequent contact with ARVN forces. The unit's commander was killed early in June.

#### Numbers Dwindling

By mid-June only 200 were still alive, less than half the regiment's original strength. Of these, 80 were wounded. The unit's deputy commander, Captain Pham Van Xuong rallied to the ARVN 5th Airborne Battalion in Gia Dinh, carrying an allied surrender leaflet.

## New Drop Policy Explained

**SAIGON (MACV)** — The Observer has received the complete DA message concerning the new 5-Month drop policy. Here it is in part:

"1. To reduce turbulence within CONUS and improve sustainment of forces in short tour areas DA is extending the provisions for early release of enlisted personnel returning from oversea short tours. Current policies governing the early release of officers remain unchanged. In general the following policy changes will insure that all enlisted personnel returning from oversea short tour area will either:

"a. Have 151 days or more to serve upon reassignment and will thus be retained to ETS or,

"b. Have 150 days or less to ETS and be released upon re-

turn to CONUS.

"Policy changes reflected herein are effective Aug. 1, 1968.

"2. ...the only substantive change (in army regulations) is to increase the current 90 day early release authority to 150 days for enlisted short tour returnees.

"3. Enlisted personnel, whose re-enlistment bonus, accrued leave pay or other bene-

fits would be affected adversely by an early release, may be retained until their normal ETS date.

"4. For the purpose of determining post-separation Reserve obligation, personnel early released under this authority will be credited with having served on active duty for two, three or four years, as appropriate, based upon their normal ETS."

**Mail THE OBSERVER Home**

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

**From:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place Stamp  
Here

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

**TO:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



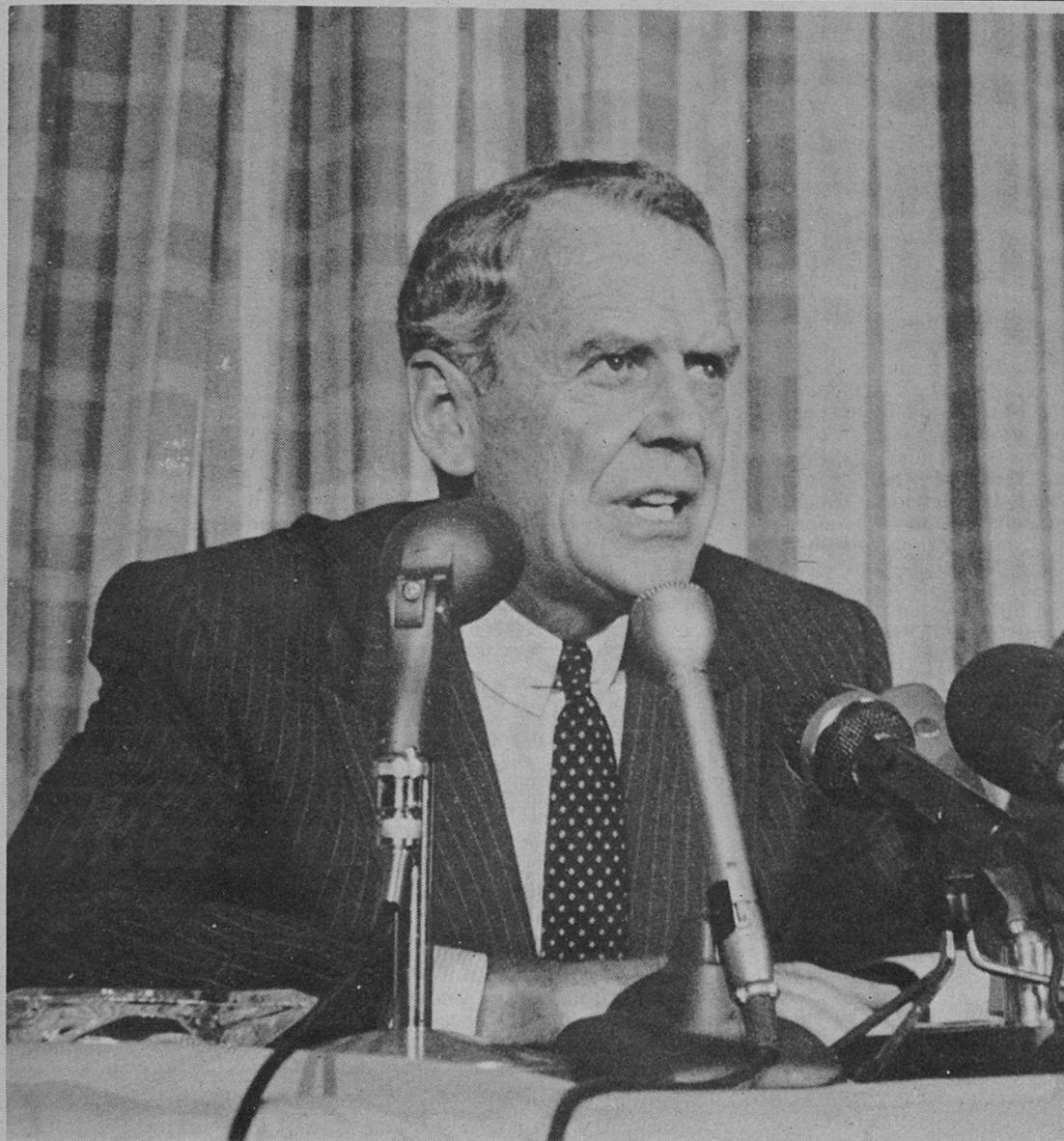
FIRST IN VIETNAM

# THE OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 12

Saigon, Vietnam

July 24, 1968



Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford holding press conference at Tan Son Nhut air base. (USAF PHOTO)

## Enemy Loses 231

## U.S. Forces Continue Attack

**SAIGON (MACV)** — Elements of the U.S. 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division recently engaged an unknown size enemy force 16 miles south-southwest of Saigon in a battle that lasted more than 12 hours.

During the fierce fighting, the infantrymen called in air and artillery support to help suppress the enemy. U.S. Army helicopter gunships and artillery, and aircraft from the U.S. Air Force's 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing supported the troopers during the majority of the engagement. According to MACV officials, 66 enemy soldiers were killed with light U.S. casualties.

### In Other Action

In another 9th Division action, elements of the 2nd Brigade, along with the Mobile Riverine Force, engaged an enemy force of undetermined size in the Delta region, 59 miles southwest of Saigon. Official communiques said that 55 enemy were killed and two suspects detained before contact was lost.

The U.S. units, part of the

Mobile Riverine Force, are participating in a coordinated operation with elements of the Army Republic of Vietnam's 9th Infantry Division.

A mile northwest of An Hoa, a 1st Marine Division reconnaissance team observed an estimated 30 enemy soldiers out in the open. Leatherneck artillery fire was called, and after a brief period of pounding, the team moved into the area and found 14 enemy bodies. There were no Marine casualties.

### Air North

In the air battle, there were 120 missions flown last week over the Panhandle of North Vietnam by U.S. aviators. Groundfire was described as light to moderate.

U.S. Air Force pilots were credited by their Forward Air Controllers (FAC) with killing 20 enemy. They also were credited with destroying or damaging 190 fortifications, igniting 18 secondary explosions and 31 sustained fires.

An Air Force F-105 was downed by enemy groundfire northwest of Dong Hoi. The pilot was recovered during an

overnight mission by a "Jolly Green" HH-3E of the 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

Lines of communication and weapons sites continue to be the primary targets of the attacking crews as they reported damaging or destroying a total

(Continued On Back Page)

**DA NANG (USA)** — "Hue Compound, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, is designated the Frank Doezeema Compound."

Thus read an Army General Order published at Hue, Thua Thien province at 11:15 a.m. on the Fourth of July 1968.

Frank Doezeema was a specialist fourth class in the Army of the United States.

Three major generals — one Army, one Marine and one Vietnamese — several colonels and many of the men who served and fought beside Specialist

## Secretary Clifford Reviews Conflict

**SAIGON (MACV)** — Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford arrived at Tan Son Nhut airport recently and held a brief press conference before departing for Saigon.

Secretary Clifford said that the reason for his coming to Vietnam was to make an on-the-spot size-up of the chiefly military aspects of the war.

The secretary noted there has been "some diminution" in the level of the fighting in recent weeks. But he said, "we must face the reality that there is a great deal of activity" by the enemy in northernmost provinces of South Vietnam near the Demilitarized Zone and also around Saigon.

### Possible Offensive

"I believe we must anticipate the possibility of an offensive in July or August," Secretary Clifford said at a recent Washington press conference.

Also at that Washington press conference, Secretary Clifford said, "I am unable to predict at this time the possibility of withdrawing American troops in 1969 in the absence of some agreement at the Paris talks with North Vietnamese representatives.

"The beginnings of any withdrawal would be contingent on the South Vietnamese Army being built to close to one million men and modernized in arms and equipment. Then being able to replace U.S. forces in the major battle effort.

### More M-16's

"The United States has increased production of the light weight M-16 rifles," he said, "and they will be distributed to the ARVN units as fast as possible.

"It is a cardinal point of U.S. policy to get the South Vietnamese in shape to do this as soon as possible," stated the secretary.

However, Secretary Clifford

**Hue Memorial Erected, Honors Valorous G.I.**

Doezeema stood at attention in his honor.

The 19-year-old Shelbyville, Mich. soldier was described as "a soft spoken, good humored country boy," by Lieutenant Colonel Darwin Harbin of the provincial advisory staff and as a "gallant soldier" by the citation awarding him a posthumous Distinguished Service Cross.

Specialist Doezeema was due to finish his year in Vietnam — and go home to Michigan — on March 8th. January 31st the Viet Cong and their North Viet-

(Continued On Back Page)

would not go beyond saying he hopes the South Vietnamese forces ultimately will develop to that point.

Later the secretary, when asked about a cease fire in Vietnam, said that he rejected any immediate cease fire. He said North Vietnam is redoubling its war effort rather than showing any reciprocal restraint to geographical restrictions on U.S. bombing North Vietnam.

## Viet PUC Given To Inf. Unit

**BEARCAT (USA)** — The Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to units of the 9th Infantry Division recently by Lieutenant General Le Nguyen Khang, commandant, Vietnamese Marine Corps.

The award was presented during the units celebration of its 50th anniversary. The citation reads in part:

The 9th Infantry Division is cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam from December 1966 through June 1968. Operating primarily in III Corps and northern IV Corps Tactical Zones, elements of the division have fought gallantly and with distinction from the Demilitarized Zone in the north to the city of Can Tho in the Mekong Delta.

The 9th Infantry Division had demonstrated great versatility by engaging and defeating the enemy in the jungles, rice paddies, mountains, and cities. During this period, the 9th Infantry Division killed more than 11,000 Viet Cong insurgents and North Vietnamese intruders.

Deserving equal recognition with its combat successes is the unit's outstanding Civic Action Program. Since its arrival in country, the division's MEDCAP teams have treated more than 348,000 patients. In addition, some 34 hospitals and dispensaries, and 26 schools have been constructed or repaired throughout the division's area of responsibility. The victories and accomplishments of the 9th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam, the outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism of its members under the most hazardous and adverse conditions reflect great credit upon themselves, the United States Army, and the nation which it represents.

## Editorial

## Freedom's Ballot

WASHINGTON—"On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1968, America will elect a President. A nation and a people will exercise freedom's most precious privilege, the right to vote.

"It happens, and has happened every four years in the United States since 1789. No other nation on earth has a history of free elections that is as old and as continuous as the voting for President in America.

"Through the years the election of a President has become, symbolically, the single most important election in the United States. For it is an election in which all of the people take part. The preservation and perpetuation of this democratic heritage has depended every four years on Americans who cherished and exercised their right of free choice.

"In elections where tens of millions of votes are cast, there is a tendency to minimize the importance of a single vote or a handful of votes. Yet, the history of American Presidential elections is filled with examples of close, hard-fought contests in which a tiny percentage of the total vote has determined the winner.

"In addition to a President, Americans in 1968 will elect all members of the House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate, state governors, and thousands of other state, city and local officials.

"The men and women in the service, wherever they are, will have a voice in these elections. They will vote at regular polling places throughout the United States and their absentee ballots will provide them with the opportunity to exercise the right to vote, the privilege of freedom that they are serving around the world to protect. They will have the opportunity to renew the faith of our founding fathers and it must be exercised.

"The ultimate decision to preserve and pass on our heritage rests as it must, and should, with the individual American, the individual man and woman in service. This will come to pass on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November." (NA)

## Mobile VRE Units Serve In Saigon Security Area

SAIGON (VRE) — Mobile units of the Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE) now serve U.S. troops in the battle-scarred areas on the outskirts of Saigon.

The service is offered to supply health and comfort items to men who provide security in the areas.

The mobile service was started shortly after the second VC attack on Saigon in May. One truck, loaded with such basic items as shaving gear, combs, mirrors, snacks and candies, stopped at a parking lot near a fishnet factory and served men of the 199th Infantry Brigade.

A few days later, in another part of Saigon near the "Y" Bridge, an Exchange mobile snack truck served officers and men of the 5th Battalion, 60th Mechanized Infantry, 9th Division and its supporting units. Until the snack truck showed up, the troops had subsisted mostly on C-rations as they patrolled the area.

From the "Y" bridge site, the snack truck proceeded up a five-mile stretch patrolled by the U.S. troops. It stopped to serve such units as a "search-and-clear" patrol and two armored personnel carrier teams.

"In this mobile operation we are more interested in the service to the troops than in the sales," remarked Harleth H. Hill, chief, VRE Food Section.

"After all, that is the primary reason for the Exchange setup."

## Clothing Cash Cut For Some

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The monthly cash clothing maintenance allowance for some enlisted men and women will decrease July 1 because of a reduction in clothing expenses.

Department of the Army Message 866872 states that the standard maintenance allowance, which is paid to enlisted personnel with more than three years service, will decrease from \$7.80 to \$6.90 for men. The standard allowance for women will drop from \$8.70 to \$8.40. There will be no change in the \$4.80 basic clothing allowance.

The principal consideration one must make in seeking to understand the Vietnamese language is that it is a tonal language. English is not. In South Vietnam there are six tones: high rising, high broken, mid level, low broken, low rising and low falling. Until the American learns to distinguish these tones, he will find the language difficult. However once he masters these tones, he will learn the language quickly.

If you learn the language you will experience a strong sense of accomplishment and will win a great deal of respect for yourself and your country during your tour in Vietnam.

## More Three-Day Holidays Due in 1971

WASHINGTON (CD) — Beginning in 1971, four commemorative holidays will be observed on Monday under a bill recently signed by President Johnson.

Three of the present national holidays will be celebrated on Monday:

Washington's Birthday on the third Monday of February.

Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

Veterans Day on the fourth Monday in October.

The bill also establishes Columbus Day as a Federal Holiday — to be celebrated on the

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 here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset 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. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

COMUSMACV  
Information Officer  
Gen. C.W. Abrams, USA  
Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA

Lt. Col. R.B. Solomon, USA

Officer in Charge  
NCOIC  
Editor  
Production Manager

Gen. C.W. Abrams, USA  
Brig. Gen. W. Siddle, USA  
Lt. Col. R.B. Solomon, USA

Maj. D.C. Smith, USA  
SFC. D.D. Perez, USA  
SSgt. C. T. Owen, USMC

Tsgt. G.C. Sterling, USAF  
Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA  
Sp 4 L. Ensminger, USA  
Sp 4 P. Koenigsberg, USA

"This nation was forged in a furnace of faith: a faith that free men would prevail no matter what the struggle."

THE HONORABLE CLARK M. CLIFFORD  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

## Care To Make A Call Home?

LONG BINH (USA) — Commercial telephone calls to the United States, widely publicized in the past month, are possible only from the Saigon area and a few widely separated telephones in other locations. Calls may not be received from the U.S.

For most soldiers in Vietnam, the best bet is still a MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) call.

Using MARS, the caller in Vietnam is linked with state-side MARS station by radio relay. The conversation is one way. Radio procedures must be followed, including saying "over" to let the other person know it's his turn to talk.

MARS calls may be placed through any of the 30 MARS stations in Vietnam. The cost is computed by commercial long distance rates from the receiving MARS station in the U.S. to the party being called.

The other system, using commercial facilities, is more costly and the call is of better quality. This system is limited primarily because of the difference in commercial four-wire telephone lines and military two-wire lines.

Commercial calls are billed at \$4 per minute plus 10 per cent federal excise tax from Saigon to the point of reception. The charge is the same for station-to-station and person-to-person. Calls are limited to five minutes.

Major Blair McLeod, U.S. Army Vietnam "Call Home" officer, said the expansion of this system is being supervised by the 1st Signal Brigade under the technical direction of Captain R.M. Weiss of Terminal Division, Operations Directorate.

From the "Y" bridge site, the snack truck proceeded up a five-mile stretch patrolled by the U.S. troops. It stopped to serve such units as a "search-and-clear" patrol and two armored personnel carrier teams.

"In this mobile operation we are more interested in the service to the troops than in the sales," remarked Harleth H. Hill, chief, VRE Food Section.

"After all, that is the primary reason for the Exchange setup."



SENTA FROM HEAVEN—Yes gentlemen, if luscious Senta Berger, was sent from heaven I'm sure most of us would be angels just so we could find the source of such a celestial creature. The exotic European beauty can be seen in one of her latest flicks, "Cast a Long Shadow."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES)

## viewing vietnam

Language is something many of us take for granted. We almost feel as if we were born speaking our native tongue. Little do we remember the many hours and efforts spent by our parents who taught us how to speak English. So indifferent are we to language it rarely crosses our mind that the rest of the nations of the world speak different languages . . . languages that many of us do not understand. And so hearing Vietnamese for the first time can be a most unusual experience.

Vietnamese is a very ancient language, and was spoken by the Viets of the Red River Delta area before Christianity. During the more than 1,000 years of Chinese rule, the Vietnamese vocabulary expanded considerably, especially in the literary and philosophical areas. The Chinese also gave the Viets a written language by putting Vietnamese into characters. In the early 1600s the Jesuits devised a system for writing the Vietnamese language in the Latin alphabet. Chinese characters, however, continued in use through the early part of this century. In 1920 Latin script officially replaced the Chinese characters.

The principal consideration one must make in seeking to understand the Vietnamese language is that it is a tonal language. English is not. In South Vietnam there are six tones: high rising, high broken, mid level, low broken, low rising and low falling. Until the American learns to distinguish these tones, he will find the language difficult. However once he masters these tones, he will learn the language quickly.

If you learn the language you will experience a strong sense of accomplishment and will win a great deal of respect for yourself and your country during your tour in Vietnam.

## More Three-Day Holidays Due in 1971

At the signing, President Johnson said the bill will help Americans to enjoy more fully the country that is their magnificent heritage.

He added, "It will also aid the work of Government and bring new efficiency to our economy."

Washington's Birthday on the third Monday of February.

Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

Veterans Day on the fourth Monday in October.

The bill also establishes Columbus Day as a Federal Holiday — to be celebrated on the

second Monday in October.

Provisions of the bill insure a minimum of five regularly recurring three-day weekends (Labor Day already falls on a Monday) each year for Federal employees. The cost will be offset to an important degree by avoiding disruptions of Government business through Monday observance of holidays.

Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

Veterans Day on the fourth Monday in October.

The bill also establishes Columbus Day as a Federal Holiday — to be celebrated on the

## Tug Ends In Fight

HUE-PHU BAI (USA)—A tug-of-war exploded suddenly into a fire fight when two Viet Cong officers tangled with 101st Air Cavalry paratroopers recently near Landing Zone Sally.

The Viet Cong, a captain and a lieutenant, had sealed themselves in a spider-hole bunker at the edge of a hamlet being swept by the 2nd Brigade's Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry.

The bunker's tiny trap door, ingeniously concealed in a clump of brush and bamboo, would have gone unnoticed were it not for a Vietnamese intelligence chief. He methodically raked the area with a bamboo pole until he got the sound he wanted.

When the paratroopers began to lift the door, it was immediately slammed shut from the inside. No matter how hard they tugged, they could not pull the Viet Cong, who were in the best leverage position.

Realizing that a hand grenade dropped in the hole would probably come right out at them, the airborne soldiers decided to use some strategy.

The battalion's intelligence non-commissioned officer, Staff Sergeant George M. Statler, knew the bunker had to have at least one ventilation hole.

He suggested that they pry open the door just far enough

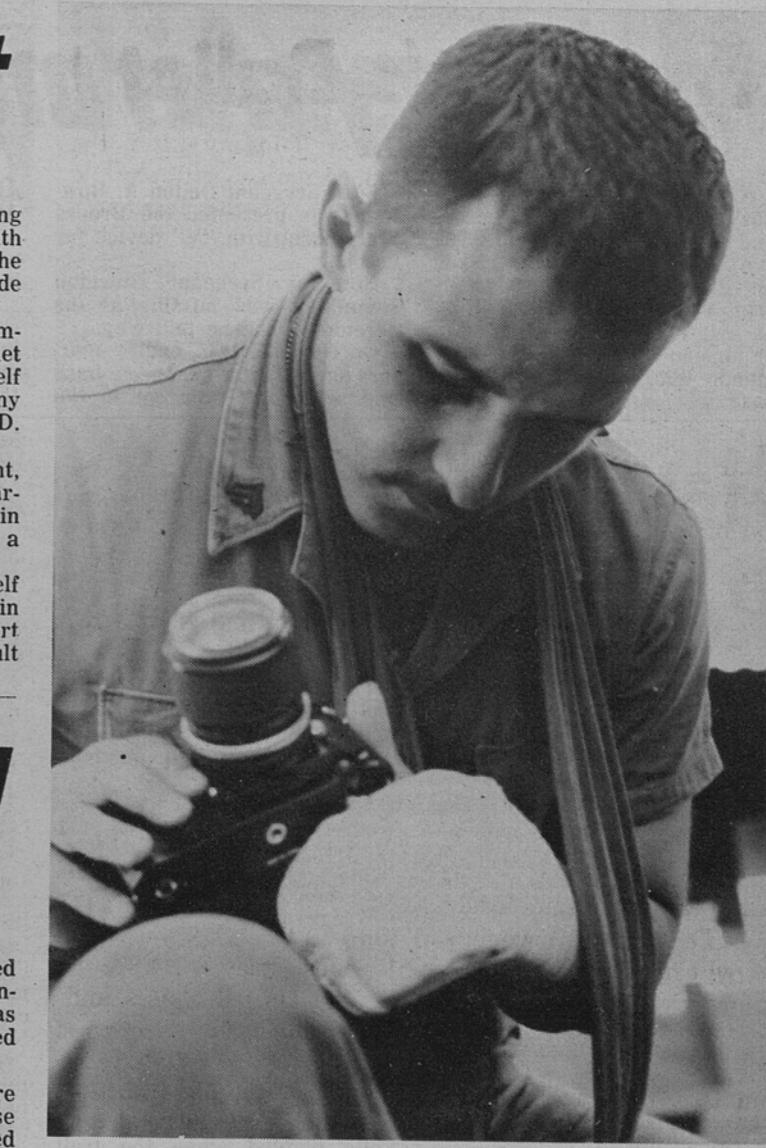
to drop in a smoke grenade and then throw fragmentation grenades down the holes where the smoke comes out.

"It seemed like a good plan," said Sergeant Statler, "but the grenade got stuck in the doorway. Pretty soon there was red smoke all over the place."

Suddenly the trap-door sprang open and the Viet Cong captain popped up like a jack-in-the-box, tossed a grenade at the sergeant and began to sprint away carrying a Chiicom automatic pistol. The lieutenant also jumped out and ran off in a different direction.

"We stood for a moment, about ten yards apart, just staring at each other," the captain said. "I wanted to give him a chance to surrender."

But the Viet Cong set himself on the run again, and Captain Hughes killed him with a short burst from his stubby assault rifle.



Corporal Robert Del Vecchio finds combat photography risky.

## 'Dragonship' Crew Receives Honor

PHAN RANG (USA)—The crew of an AC-47 Dragonship assigned to Flight B, 3rd Air Commando Squadron, Phan Rang air base, recently was honored for assisting a Free World military force in close contact with the enemy.

The Dragonship, commanded by Major Boyd D. Williamson, was scrambled to assist the friendly force, a Vietnamese provincial unit, Ninh Thuan province.

The force was in heavy contact with elements of the North Vietnamese Army. When the Dragonship arrived, the friendly forces marked their position.

DA NANG (USMC) — "When it's a dark night with heavy fog and the enemy is within 50 meters of your lines, it's hard to tell the bad guys from the good ones. And when the bad guys start talking English, that really blows your mind!"

First Lieutenant Henry S. Daniels, the pilot, put the AC-47 into a circular bank around the friendly position.

Flares were dropped to illuminate the ground positions as the Dragonship gunners prepared the three mini-guns for firing.

Intense illumination and the heavy fire from the 7.62mm mini-guns broke the enemy attack.

Meanwhile survivors from the enemy unit made a hasty re-

treat. The friendly forces moved throughout the area and confirmed that the Dragonship was responsible for 13 confirmed killed by air.

In appreciation for the fire support, the grateful Vietnamese unit later presented a captured rifle to the AC-47 crew.

## Joins Action

## Photographer Keeps Shootin'

DA NANG (USMC)—A Marine photographer had some bad luck during Operation Allen Brook.

Corporal Robert J. Del Vecchio was photographing the action with the Seventh Marines in an area Marines call Go Noi island, south of Da Nang.

"I was so pre-occupied with shooting 'flicks' that I didn't hear the tank roaring up behind me. Before I realized what was happening, the heavy fire from the 7.62mm mini-guns broke the enemy attack.

"We made heavy contact as we approached a treeline," the leatherneck recalled. "A guy next to me was hit right away, so I pulled him into a nearby bomb crater and started to patch

him up."

When a Navy corpsman ran to the crater to treat the wounded Marine, Corporal Del Vecchio crawled up to the crater's rim and began taking more pictures.

"I was so pre-occupied with shooting 'flicks' that I didn't hear the tank roaring up behind me. Before I realized what was happening, the heavy fire from the 7.62mm mini-guns broke the enemy attack.

"We made heavy contact as we approached a treeline," the leatherneck recalled. "A guy next to me was hit right away, so I pulled him into a nearby bomb crater and started to patch

him up."

His unit was advancing slowly against heavy North Vietnamese Army resistance. By crawling and hopping, Corporal Del Vecchio was able to keep up with the company and continue photographing the assault.

"I finished shooting one roll of film and jumped into another crater to put in a fresh roll," noted the photographer. "When I got the camera reloaded I put my head up about 18 inches above the ground and started snapping more pictures."

"Halfway through the roll I raised the camera to my face to take another shot when a .45 caliber round went right through my hand and imbedded in the camera," he said.

Corporal Del Vecchio is recovering at the 1st Hospital Company in Da Nang. His left hand has been operated on. The foot is still sore, but X-rays reveal no broken bones, just a bad bruise.

There is no hope for the camera. The \$500 Nikon F with a zoom lens was completely destroyed by the bullet.

Anxious to see the pictures he took, the corporal remarked, "I know I got some good ones."



DEADLY DUO—A machine gunner and

# Mystery Airman Deserves Award

**NHA TRANG (USA)** — War has a way of making heroes and also of hiding them. The story of an airman who risked his life to save a combat aircraft recently came to light at an awards ceremony for another airman of the 14th Air Commando Wing at Nha Trang air base.

Staff Sergeant Delton A. Bowman was presented the Bronze Star medal with "V" device for heroism. But for Sergeant Bowman something was missing at the ceremony, and he told why.

On Nov. 26, 1967, enemy mortars shelled Nha Trang air base and set a fire adjacent to the

AC-47 Dragonships of the 4th Air Commando Squadron (ACS).

Sergeant Bowman was on night duty as a flight chief for his squadron. When the fire started to endanger the Dragonships, he left the safety of his bunker and ran through the fire and smoke to do what he could to move the aircraft.

He took it upon himself to taxi the endangered aircraft away from the area. It was a new experience for him, especially realizable that there were also a number of "dud" mortars lying around the area.

He started the aircraft's engines and turned on the lights but could see nothing but

smoke. Then, looking down he saw an unidentified airman motioning him to start moving.

The airman guided the aircraft into a turn, but Sergeant Bowman lost sight of him because of the heavy smoke from another burning aircraft. Seconds later, the airman reappeared, having taken off his fatigue shirt so that the sergeant could see his white tee shirt. It worked, and they started down the crowded flight line with little room to spare; the ground, awash with raw fuel, could ignite at any time.

They safely moved the aircraft to a taxiway and out of danger.

With the rush to do everything possible to save lives and property, the flight chief forgot about the airman, who guided him. When everything had calmed down, he looked around to thank him for his help. He never found him.

For months Sergeant Bowman has been trying to find the helpful airman, but to no avail.

Armed with M-60 machine guns, M-79 grenade launchers and M-16 rifles, the waterborne MPs support the battalion's mission of providing security for USARV Headquarters and Long Binh post and locating and destroying VC and NVA forces in the 22 square mile area.

Operating 24 hours a day, the

River Rats keep a close watch

on the rivers' floating traffic.

They check the identification of sampan passengers and carefully search sampans and barges for enemy supplies and contraband.

Because roads are scarce in

much of the area patrolled by the River Rats, the MPs operate what one of them calls "our own free taxi service." In addition to transporting the 720th's ambushing and reconnaissance patrols to areas hard to reach by land, they periodically carry a MEDCAP team to an isolated riverside hamlet. During cordon

and search operations, some of the boats are used as a blocking force while others double as supply boats.

In the eight month history of the river patrol, the "sailor

MPs" have had some lively and varied activities. They have

been involved in firefights, uncovered VC supplies, applied first aid to children wounded by a VC booby trap and transported an expectant mother to a waiting ambulance.

Despite the Viet Cong's attempts to eliminate their sturdy

that record. But the River Rats willingly give part of the credit to "Lady Luck."

"They shot off our radio antenna once," said Staff Sergeant Lonnie I. O'Bryan, NCOIC of the boat crews. "That's coming pretty close."

## Handler Risks Life, Rescues Scout Dog

**CAMP EVANS (USA)** — When enemy rockets touched off explosions at the 1st Air Cavalry Division's ammunition dump here recently, most men raced for their bunkers. But not Specialist 4 Ronald H. Ellison. He had a debt to pay.

A dog handler with the 34th Scout Dog Platoon, the Specialist saw where the rockets were landing. "My dog is over there," he told a friend with him. "There's no hope for him," his friend replied. But Specialist Ellison, remembering that his dog, Rusty, had saved a lot of lives in the field, was determined to rescue him.

The dog handler and his friend, Private First Class Langulin, tried to reach the area by truck, but were turned back by the MPs because of the danger. "So," related the Cavalryman, "we ran across the air strip." Finally they reached the area where the dog was trapped. "He was real frightened," the Specialist explained. "But as soon as he saw me, he stood up and started wagging his tail. He knew it was me."

While still across the air strip, the specialist was hit with shrapnel. But they were minor wounds, and did not hinder the rescue.



**TRACKER TEAM** — Teams such as this one combine man and man's best friend into an unbeatable weapon against VC and NVA enemy troops. Canines sniff out booby-traps as well as the enemy and have saved many troopers' lives.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Ben Coxton)

## Boy Saves Four Lives In Thanks

**KONTUM (USA)** — One can of ham and lima beans was not much to give a small Vietnamese boy, but what he gave in return was priceless—an AK-47 assault rifle and possibly the lives of 4th Infantry Division soldiers.

The incident occurred while Company D, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry was on a sweep in the dense jungle northwest of here.

With a large area to cover, the 3rd Brigade unit split up, with each platoon traveling in different directions. After going their separate ways, Sergeant Harry Campbell led the 1st platoon into a village. The infantrymen took a break and began eating their C-rations. A small Vietnamese boy wandered up to the platoon.

"I felt ashamed eating in front of him," said Specialist 4 Vincent Ferullo, "so I gave the boy a can of ham and lima beans."

The men started to leave after eating. As they were walking away the boy tried to tell them something. No one understood him. Finally the boy pointed to one of their rifles and to the woodline. Sergeant Campbell decided the boy was trying to show them where a rifle was hidden.

The soldiers slowly and cautiously followed the boy into the woods. He stopped after about

15 minutes of walking. Ahead of them was an AK47 rifle lying on the ground.

Specialists 4 William Brown and Richard Russel started toward the rifle, but the Vietnamese boy began waving his arms and protesting frantically.

"We didn't know what to

think, until the boy went up to the rifle and waved for us to come there," said Specialist Brown. When the troopers investigated the weapon, they saw why he had stopped them. Under the rifle was a hand grenade ready to explode when some unsuspecting soldier

picked it up.

The men disarmed the treacherous booby-trap and took the rifle.

Not only did the soldiers gain an enemy rifle and possibly two lives, but also the friendship of a Vietnamese boy—perhaps the greatest gain of all.



**FIGHT FOR LIFE** — Paratroopers of the 101st Air Cavalry Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, fight the intense jungle heat north of Phu Bai to carry a wounded buddy on a make shift stretcher to a carved out helicopter landing zone.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp5 Richard McLaughlin)

An enemy agent, who was killed near the village of Dau Tieng, was carrying documents which showed how the Viet Cong extort money from local businesses and from workers in the vast Michelin rubber plantation.

Among businesses being harassed by the tax collector was

the contract laundry in the village, which washes clothes for GIs of the 3rd Brigade.

The dead tax agent harbored a book of tax receipts giving the names of 117 area residents forced to pay tribute to the Viet Cong. The book revealed 34 of them to be residents of Dau Tieng village.

He also carried a list of 127

villagers who were classified as

"rich" by the Viet Cong.

The tax collector was killed during a reconnaissance-in-force by Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry. He attempted to escape on a bicycle, started shooting at the infantrymen, and was cut down in a hail of fire.

He was bearing official orders from the enemy "shadow government" which appointed him as tax collector for the local district.

With the tax agent were 36 letters demanding taxes from local citizens. Also found on the dead VC were a book of regulations for local Communist party operations.

Plans on the agent's body told of a target goal of 63,000 piasters monthly to be collected from workers of the plantation.

"These records will prove to be some of the most valuable counter-insurgency documents captured in our area," predicted Captain Lansing Hewitt, assistant intelligence officer of the brigade.

# Unusual 'Beat' Faces Jeepless MPs

**LONG BINH (USA)** — Fifteen Military Policemen from the 18th Military Police Brigade patrol an unusual "beat" 17 miles northeast of Saigon. Instead of making their rounds in the familiar Army jeep, these MPs use six swift-moving fiberglass boats powered by 85 horsepower outboard engines.

The "River Rats" from Company B, 720th Military Police Battalion, use 17-foot Boston Whalers to patrol approximately 50 miles of rivers and streams south of Long Binh post.

They began patrolling the Dong Nai river and its tributaries in October of 1967 when the 720th Military Police Battalion became the first MP unit in the history of the Army to assume a tactical area of responsibility.

Armed with M-60 machine guns, M-79 grenade launchers and M-16 rifles, the waterborne MPs support the battalion's mission of providing security for USARV Headquarters and Long Binh post and locating and destroying VC and NVA forces in the 22 square mile area.

Operating 24 hours a day, the

River Rats keep a close watch

on the rivers' floating traffic.

They check the identification of sampan passengers and carefully search sampans and barges for enemy supplies and contraband.

Because roads are scarce in

much of the area patrolled by the River Rats, the MPs operate what one of them calls "our own free taxi service." In addition to transporting the 720th's ambushing and reconnaissance patrols to areas hard to reach by land, they periodically carry a MEDCAP team to an isolated riverside hamlet. During cordon

and search operations, some of the boats are used as a blocking force while others double as supply boats.

In the eight month history of the river patrol, the "sailor

MPs" have had some lively and varied activities. They have

been involved in firefights, uncovered VC supplies, applied first aid to children wounded by a VC booby trap and transported an expectant mother to a waiting ambulance.

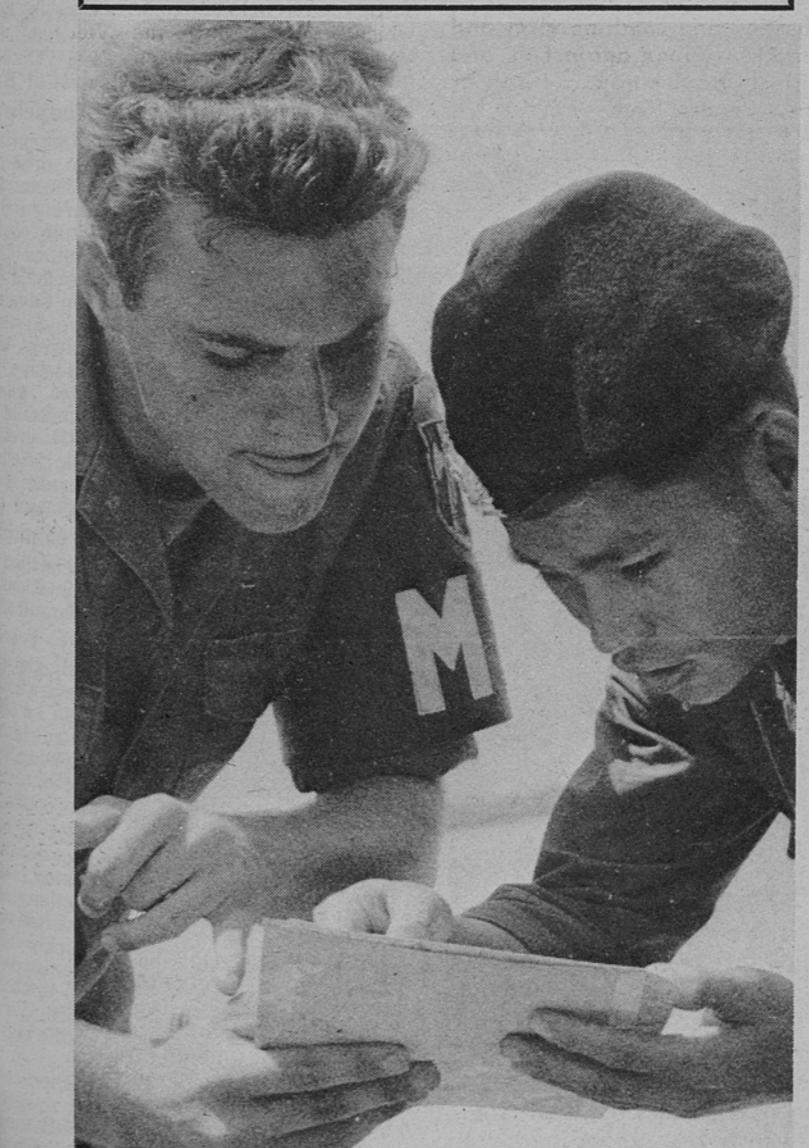
Despite the Viet Cong's attempts to eliminate their sturdy

that record. But the River Rats willingly give part of the credit to "Lady Luck."

"They shot off our radio antenna once," said Staff Sergeant Lonnie I. O'Bryan, NCOIC of the boat crews. "That's coming pretty close."



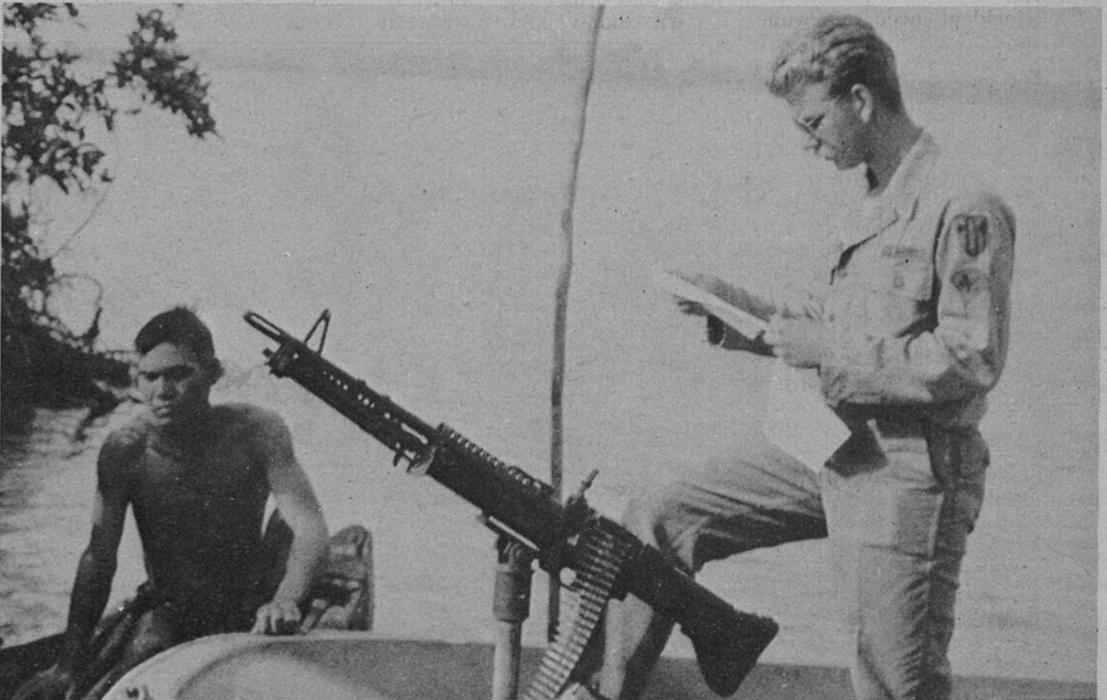
720th Military Police Battalion's River Patrol boards and prepares to search one of the many cargo boats on the Dong Nai river.



National Policeman aids an MP in pinpointing VC activity.



A member of the River Rats seems to have lost his head while searching for contraband.



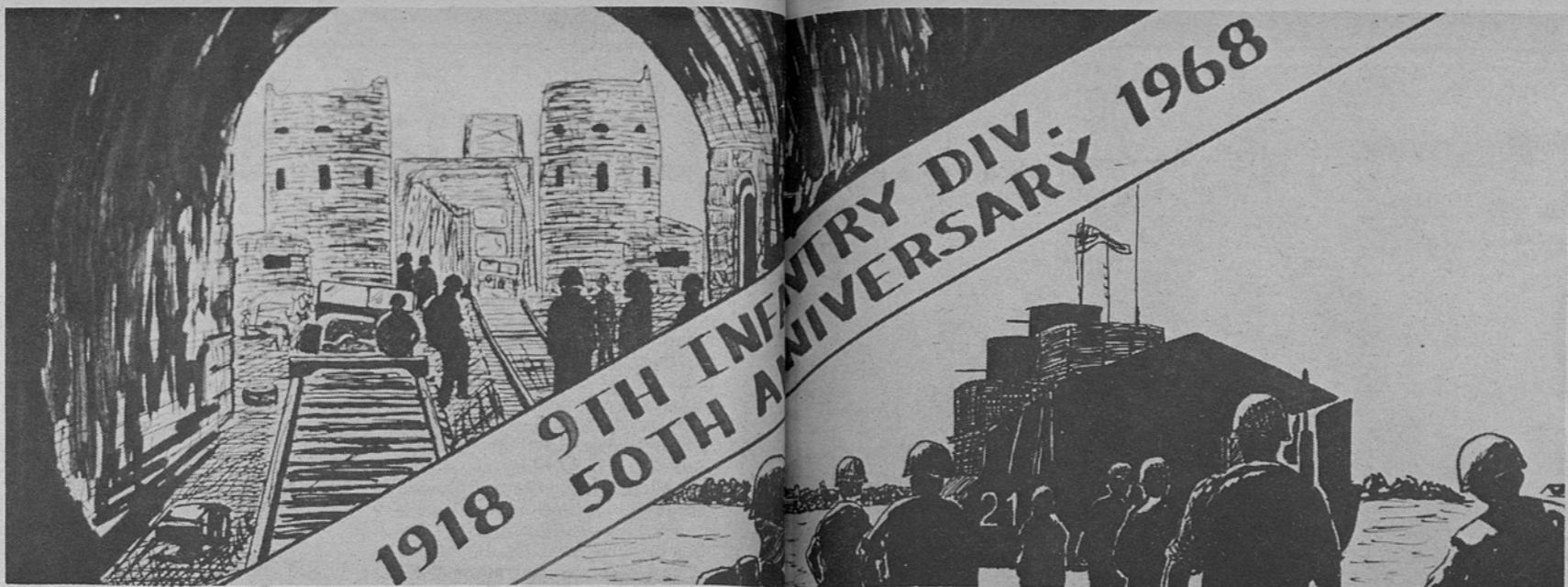
Checking out I.D. papers of sampan owners and riders is routine work for the River Rats.



An airmobile assault is made into the water-soaked Delta by men of the Old Reliabiles.



Here, soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division scramble through a rice paddy for waiting Hueys following a recon-in-force mission in Dinh Tuong province.



## Five Decades for 9th Division

**BEARCAT (USA)** — The 9th Infantry Division recently celebrated five decades of distinguished service to the United States in three major wars.

From the cities of Europe to the deserts of North Africa and the paddies of Vietnam, combat regiments of the 9th Division are identified with the most memorable Allied offensives. In World War I, the three regiments which would later comprise the division made their mark at Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel. During World War II, the names were Normandy, Remagen and "the Bulge." In Vietnam, the Old Reliabiles have renewed their fame at Bau Bang, Long Binh, Bien Hoa and Saigon.

### Old Reliabiles in Vietnam

In 1966 at Ft. Riley, Kan., the 9th began preparing for a new

kind of war — jungles, swamps and rice paddies — in South Vietnam.

During October of that year, the 15th Engineer Battalion preceded the division into Vietnam and began developing a base camp, Bearcat, near Long Thanh, about 20 miles east of Saigon.

The official entry of the division to South Vietnam took place in December.

Combat action was scattered the first few months in country until March 1967, when elements of the division joined the multi-division operation, Junction City. In one battle with the enemy near Bau Bang, 34 miles north of Saigon, a furious six-hour firefight by an Old Reliabiles unit left 230 enemy dead, while friendly losses amounted to four killed and 67 wounded.

Operating on two fronts — the jungles around Bearcat and the marshes of the Mekong Delta — the Old Reliabiles continued to

score impressive victories over guerrilla forces.

**Mitformed**  
The Delta bat emphasized the need for flexible strike force capable navigating the meandering rivers. In June the solution with the formation of second Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) in U.S. history. Ban concepts and strategy used during the Mississippi campaign of the Civil War the MRF has proved to be logical and effective means pursuing the elusive Viet Cong.

Armored carriers (ATCs) of Assault Flotilla 1 transported to areas of action. ATCs with Monitor gunboats remain nearby to provide support and act as a big force.

Support artillery is close at hand, this another tactical innovation floating artillery barges.

In its significant contact in June, the MRF netted 256 VC killed near Nui canal, west of Raem.

### Tunnels More Tunnels

One of the greatest events in the division's Vietnam campaign came October, 1967, during Opn Akron III. While clearing 13 miles southeast of Saigon, units of the 1st and 2nd brigades of the 5th Cavalry up a massive system of tunnels and bunkers. Two weeks of extensive sifting yielded 1,140 weapons, almost 95,000 rounds of arms, 3,634 grenades, 273 recoilless rifle shells, 452 mortar rounds. It was largest arms cache of the war.

### Communist Offensives

The last of major confrontations the enemy has followed the famous Tet offensive, February, 1968.

By the end of February, after the initial offensive, more than 1,625 men had been killed in action with the 9th Division from Hoa in the north to the Tho area in the south.

Early in the year, the long-awaited second wave of enemy attacked on the southern edge of Saigon. The Old Reliabiles on the scene quickly to back repeated enemy invasions and kill almost Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces in the eight days of sharp fighting.

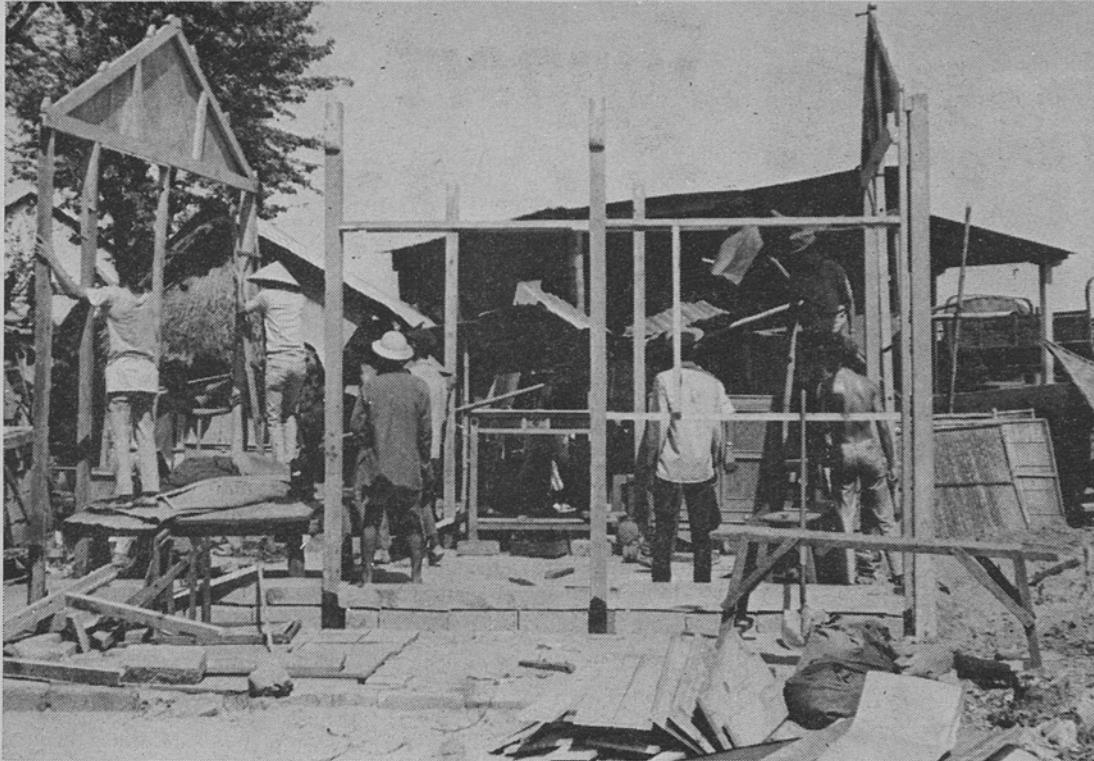
The second of the enemy's aggressive campaign had failed and Old Reliabiles continue to the battle to the enemy in the Mekong Delta.



Like an angry serpent coiled before the strike, a winding Mekong Delta river waits ominously for another airmobile assault by anxious infantrymen.



The infantryman's job is the same, firing, deadly task it was when this division swept through Europe in two other wars — only the enemy has changed.



Villagers tear down old homes as land is cleared for a Vietnamese Government project.

## Villagers Relocate For GVN

DA NANG (USN) — Before the war most Vietnamese families lived their entire lives in the house in which they were born. Very seldom did they move from it or the village where they and their ancestors were reared.

For many, war was the prime reason for relocating. But in Da Nang, there are 118 families in Ha Khe village that are relocating because their government is taking on a special building project which will be located in the center of their village.

By cooperating with their government, the villagers will be assisted in their move by the government troops. Their new village site will provide them with better sanitary conditions and better security.

Helping and directing the moving of these 118 families and their homes is the Naval Support Activity's civic action section in Da Nang.

These men work full time with the Vietnamese, helping to develop this second largest city in South Vietnam.

Much of the work is being done by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). Although civic action is supervising the work, the ARVNs are providing the trucks and manpower to do the job. One other military group, Vietnamese Popular Forces, also are helping.

These families were more fortunate than most who had to

leave their homes. Some homes have been leveled by enemy rockets. But they hope that this will be their last move for many many years to come.

**Story & Photos By  
Journalist Brian Jerden**



Battered sail marks the end of Ha Khe village.

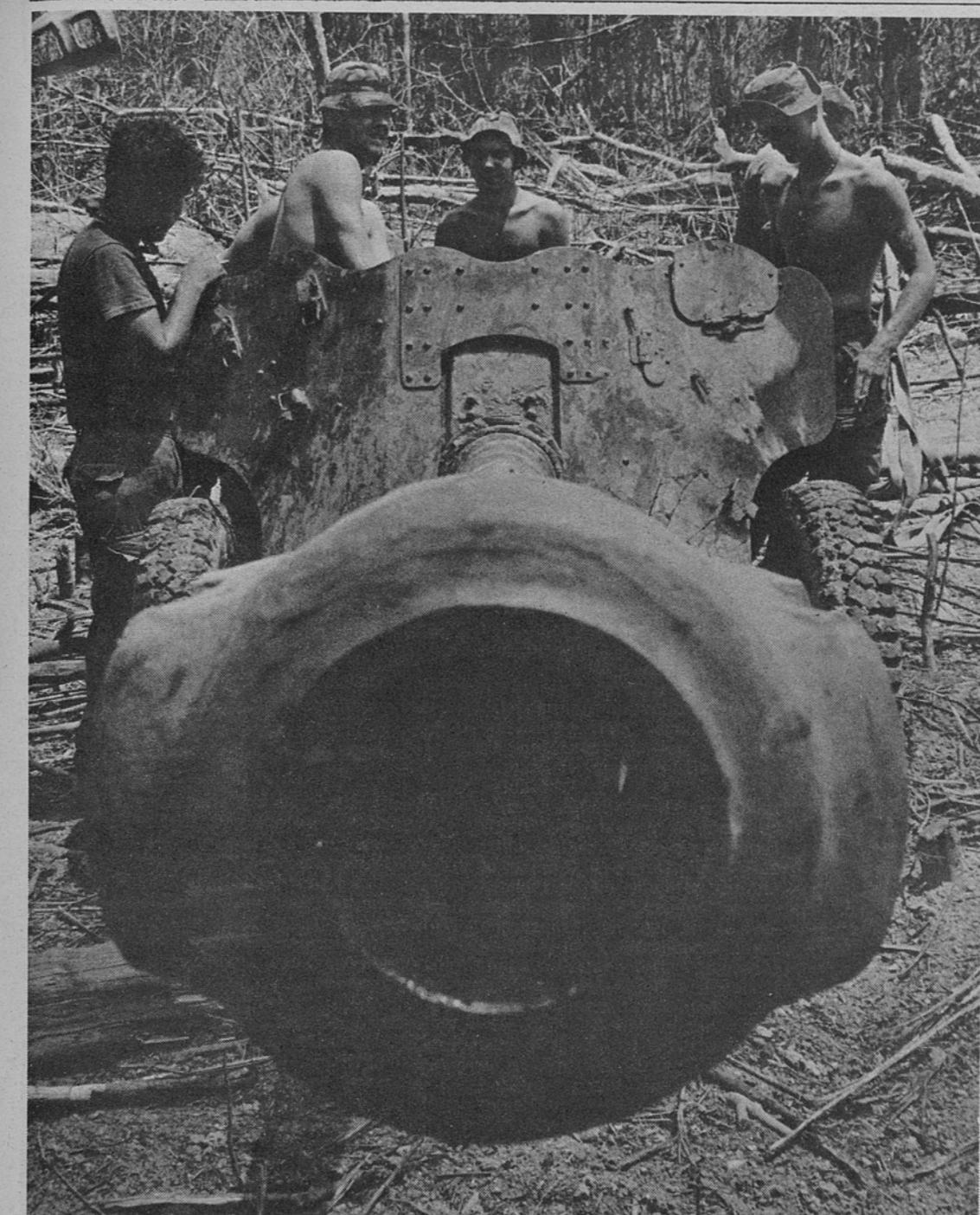


A villager loads his priceless used bricks and carries them away for later use.



Wood is scarce in Vietnam and the villagers take it with them.

Even trees are up-rooted and carried away to the new village site to be used for firewood.



**SORRY CHARLIE**—This captured enemy 85mm howitzer will do the enemy little good now. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Terry McCauley)

## Support Trooper Risks Life Daily

CHU LAI (USA) — Specialist 4 Reed E. Nichols climbed to a precarious perch atop the water trailer in the middle of a helicopter pad, tensely awaiting the incoming Chinook as it circled and descended.

He was about to start his job for the day as a support soldier, tucked "safely" several thousand meters from the "field." Yet, 20 times during the day, he would risk his life for those "field" troops in the American Division area.

Down came the 60-foot monster and with it the small hurricane which hurls dirt and gravel at anyone standing nearby. The trooper braced himself for the winds, but when the chopper came close the air churned so violently he was forced to bend down and grab the trailer top to reaffirm his balance.

The Chinook jockeyed back and forth, trying to get within hooking position, narrowly missing the specialist's head with

its gigantic wheels. When it finally hovered in a good position, he reached out and shoved the hooking apparatus into place.

Jumping from the trailer he signaled thumbs up to the chopper pilot. The helicopter climbed and the water trailer swung easily into the air.

"Good hook, Reed," a fellow 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry supply man standing nearby said.

"Thanks," Specialist Nichols replied, pulling off his goggles and running a dirty hand through his hair.

"We have to do that about 20 times a day," he said. "It gets a little dangerous sometimes, but I like it."

The specialist was a company clerk with the 188th Infantry Brigade unit before volunteering to take charge of the resupply helicopter pad. "This work gives me a real sense of accomplishment," he said. "I feel I'm really doing something for the men in the field."

## Soldier Bags Deer, Opens Own Season

QUANG TRI (USA) — Specialist 4 Lloyd Warnke thought he was going to miss out on deer season this year, but he opened his own season recently, bagging an extremely large deer with a 12-gauge shotgun.

The specialist was out on patrol with Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, when he heard a movement in the

bushes. "I thought it was a battalion of VC coming through," he said. As the doe came running through the brush, he lifted his weapon and blasted away with a load of buckshot felling the doe in her tracks.

The carcass was flown back to the battalion area in style, slung from the battalion command and control chopper. Shortly after the quarry was bagged, Specialist Warnke was to be seen skinning the animal next to the battalion mess tent.

"This is about as large a deer as I've ever shot," he said.

The battalion will not have to worry about fresh meat as the unit's cooks plan to roast it, fry it and barbecue it to feed the entire outfit. There will definitely be no 'C' rations for Delta Company when they get around to serving up the venison.

"And I thought I was going to miss out on hunting season this year," remarked the specialist with a grin as he pried his skinning knife with a practiced hand.

## Airborne Marine Snipers Stop Enemy

PHU BAI (USMC) — As deadly as Marine riflemen are on the ground, imagine them sniping from a helicopter several hundred feet in the air!

There is no need to imagine, for proof of their airborne sniping ability is Second Lieutenant Jack Imlah and Private First Class Paul Drury, who killed two enemy soldiers and detained one on a small island in

the Cong Quan river southeast of Phu Bai.

"We were set up along the river at our platoon patrol base," recalled Lieutenant Imlah, platoon commander for the 3rd Platoon, "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment.

A Huey helicopter sat

down in a rice paddy near us and the pilot told us he had spotted three enemy soldiers

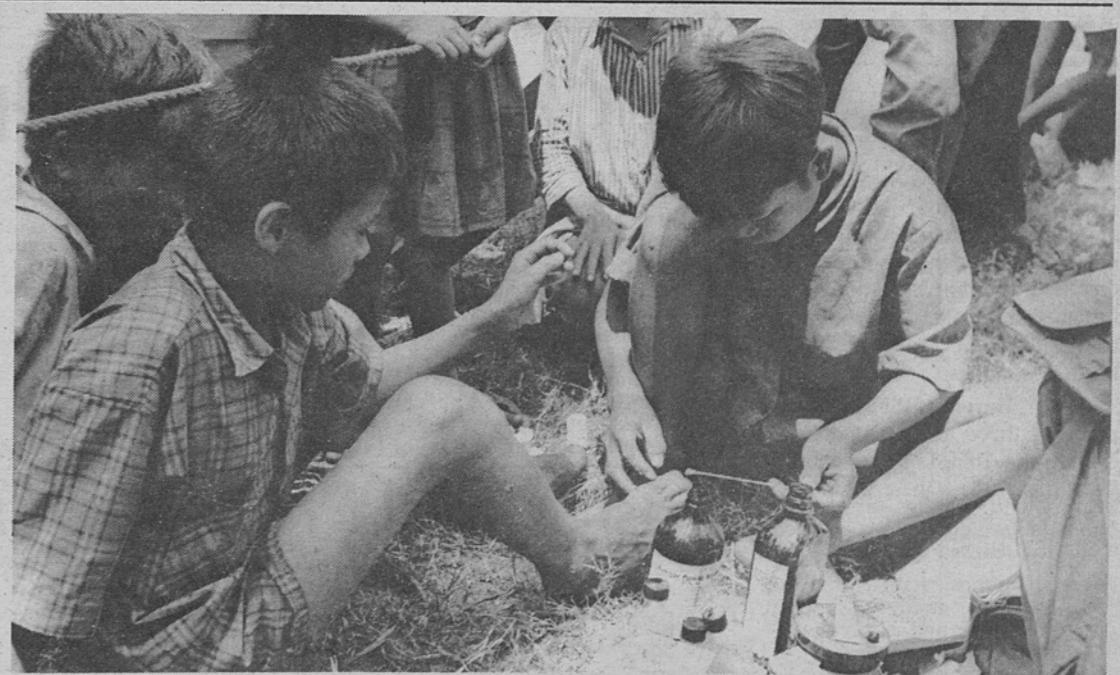
sitting on a small island with several bags of rice."

After several passes over the island, two Communist soldiers

were dead and another had thrown up his arms in surrender.

"The pilot maneuvered the chopper down," the lieutenant related "and we hauled the detainee on board with two weapons and several large bags of rice."

The Marines returned to the patrol base to continue their ground-fighting tactics, knowing that they are pretty good in the air, too!



**SELF HELP**—A Montagnard boy applies first aid he learned from a U.S. corpsman to his friend. (USMC PHOTO)

## MPs Rescue Buried Viet

CAM RANH BAY (USA) — A Vietnamese civilian buried in a well was rescued by members of the 18th Military Police Brigade in Cam Ranh village. Staff Sergeant Francis J. Reick and Private First Class John M. Kennaston arrived on the scene and found the victim buried at the bottom of an eight-foot well.

A large crowd of villagers was cleared away to eliminate the possibility of additional cave-ins, while PFC Kennaston entered the hole and began removing sand from the victim's mouth and nose. Sergeant Reick pulled the loose dirt back with a hoe.

After the dirt was cleared and the well's walls were reinforced, the PFC tied a rope lowered to him around the freed shoulders of the Vietnamese civilian who was then lifted to safety.

# Bien Hoa Airmen Aid Viets

LONG BINH (IHF) — U.S. Air Force officials at Bien Hoa air base are determined to help the U.S. Army in its civil affairs projects.

A recent move to demonstrate to nearby villages that they, too, are concerned over the plight of the Vietnamese civilians, they have agreed to donate \$25,000 for some worthwhile civic action project.

U.S. advisors have learned from past experience that self help projects are more fruitful in the long run than American built projects. The Vietnamese identify more readily with a structure that they have built themselves.

Everyone agreed that the money should go to provide construction materials so the villagers could rebuild their damaged homes. Since bricks are vitally necessary in rebuilding war torn homes, it was agreed that bricks should be a priority item.

The proposed project was approved by province officials and the order was placed for approximately half a million bricks of all sizes. This move had the added feature of stimulating the local economy to the tune of \$25,000. Lumber also was added to the list of materials, since it is so scarce and is very important in home construction. There has been a great number of refugees from outlying provinces come into Bien Hoa to live because of the presence and protection of the huge Bien Hoa Long Binh military complex.

The original agreement specified that the lumber and bricks would be delivered to the chief towns of the three districts surrounding the huge complex, itself nearly the size of a district. District officials then had the responsibility of breaking down the supplies and distributing them.

Approximately 15 former Viet Cong who have voluntarily returned to the Government of Vietnam control, helped to load the bricks onto waiting trucks at the air base.

## Highlanders Happy Now

AN LOC (USA) — Ap Bom Leva was once a thriving Montagnard community about 60 miles north of Saigon. Like many other communities in Vietnam, however, the little town was subjected to Viet Cong harassment almost daily in the form of taxes and unwanted trespassing.

One day the villagers decided to do something about their problem—their decision being to move everything they owned to another location, where popular forces units could supply needed security. The 1st Infantry Division was called in to assist.

Captain Douglass Kauffman, a civil affairs officer, recalled, "We supplied 200 Montagnards with five 2½-ton trucks to assist them in moving."

Vietnamese Army units also supplied four trucks, and in two trips the move was completed. Attempted VC attacks on both convoys were totally ineffectual due to quick ARVN reaction.

The convoys completed, the villagers climbed down from the trucks, pulled off their dismantled homes and assorted possessions to begin life anew at the village of Ap Be Moi.



LONG HAIR BEAUTY—This lovely lass is certainly a treat for sore eyes. Sorry fellas again no name.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

## Much Needed Supplies

## Stateside Children Support Viet Tots

PHU LOI (USA) — The orphans at the Cong-Giao Orphanage in Lai Thieu district were very grateful when soldiers of the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion visited them recently to bring them a load of badly needed supplies.

Major Harold Hill and his party of three and an interpreter left the Phu Loi base camp in a ¾ ton truck that was heaped with supplies for the orphanage which were shipped from the United States.

Vietnamese Army units also supplied four trucks, and in two trips the move was completed. Attempted VC attacks on both convoys were totally ineffectual due to quick ARVN reaction.

The convoys completed, the villagers climbed down from the trucks, pulled off their dismantled homes and assorted possessions to begin life anew at the village of Ap Be Moi.

Middle School, Lakeland, N.Y. The 6th grade students planned the project for a long time. They earned the money to purchase the supplies by mowing lawns and washing cars in their after school time.

The orphanage itself is settled in the heart of a populated area in the Lai Thieu district several miles from the Phu Loi camp. The large buildings house nearly 3,000 children, many of whom are afflicted in some way. Most of the children are deaf-mutes.

As the truck entered through the main gate, the children came running into the courtyard to greet the GIs. The soldiers gave the little ones candy and gum that they had in their pockets. The children were very happy to have the attention of the troopers for the afternoon.

When the Headmistress was asked what she needed most at the home, she replied, "We can use anything you can spare, especially school materials."

LAI KHE (USA) — A letter from the White House gave a 1st Infantry Division soldier an extra lift recently.

Private First Class Charles Norris picked up his special letter in the mail room of his unit

— Headquarters Battery, 6th Battalion, 15th Artillery.

The letter expressed appreciation for a portrait PFC Norris had painted of President Lyndon B. Johnson several weeks earlier. Friends in soldier's unit had praised the portrait so highly that he had decided to send it to the White House.

"I never thought that I would get such a quick response," commented the GI artist. "I will always look at this as one of the most memorable events of my life."

## Presidential Praise Given To Soldier

## American Forces Vietnam

### Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)  
(Guide For The Week of July 24-30, 1968)

#### (Saigon Area)

July 24

1930 Channel 11 News  
2000 Weather  
2000 Roman And Martin  
2100 G.I. Squad  
2100 The Lucy Show  
2200 Late News  
2205 Academy Award Feature Movie

Wednesday

1730 What's Happening  
The Monkees

1800 News Headlines

American Sportsman

1900 Big Picture

1930 Channel 11 News

2000 Weather

Andy Williams

2100 Insight

Star Trek

2200 Late News

What's Happening

Sports

Thursday

1730 What's Happening

Dick Van Dyke

1800 News Headlines

Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea

1900 Information Feature

1930 Channel 11 News

2000 Weather

Kraft Music Hall

2100 Insight

Perry Mason

2200 Late News

What's Happening

Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde

Friday

1730 What's Happening

Bewitched

1800 News Headlines

Wild Wild West

1900 Penfogon Forum

1930 Channel 11 News

2000 Weather

Jonathan Winters

2100 Insight

Combat

2200 Late News

What's Happening

Joey Bishop

Saturday

1730 What's Happening

My Three Sons

1800 News Headlines

Daniel Boone

1900 G.I. College Bowl

1930 Newsports

2000 Weather

Hollywood Palace

2100 Insight

Mission Impossible

2200 Late News

What's Happening

Operation: Entertainment

July 26

1730 What's Happening

Love On A Rooftop

1800 News Headlines

Big Valley

1900 Information Feature

1930 Johnny Midnight

2000 Sports

2100 Weather

Dean Martin

2100 Insight

Gunsuke

2200 Late News

What's Happening

Feature Movie

July 27

1730 What's Happening

Love On A Rooftop

1800 News Headlines

Big Valley

1900 Information Feature

1930 Weather

2000 Newsports

2100 Weather

2100 Insight

Travels With Charlie

1900 The Underside World Of Jackie Cousteau

2000 Weather

2100 Insight

Gunsuke

2200 Late News

What's Happening

Feature Movie

July 28

1730 What's Happening

The Answer

1800 Sports

1900 Big Picture

1930 Channel 11 News

2000 Weather

Andy Williams

2100 Insight

Star Trek

2200 Late News

What's Happening

Sports

July 29

1730 What's Happening

Get Smart

1800 Weather

1900 Feature Movie

1930 Lost In Space

2000 Get Smart

2100 Weather

2100 Feature Movie

2200 Late News

Red Skelton

Monday

1730 What's Happening

My Three Sons

1800 News Headlines

Wild Wild West

1900 Penfogon Forum

1930 Channel 11 News

2000 Weather

2100 Insight

Star Trek

2200 Late News

What's Happening

Sports

Tuesday

1730 What's Happening



**CONCOCTED CONVOY**—It isn't the most up-to-date or easiest way of resupplying water, but often the end justifies the means. (USA PHOTO)

### Jungle Pick Up

## His 'Routine Flight' Ends, Five Days Late

**PHU BAI (USMC)** — What started out as a routine trip for a pair of Marine Sea Knight transport helicopters turned into a rough and dangerous mission for both the crews and one crew chief in particular.

Corporal Terry L. Springer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 had no idea of the hectic days ahead when his plane took off to pick up a Marine reconnaissance patrol west of Da Nang recently.

Before the two choppers arrived over the pick up zone, they learned the Leathernecks were under attack. Orbiting over the area, they made contact by radio with the team below. The recon men reported they had been

attacked by an enemy force and had been forced to leave their position to take refuge over a jungle-covered cliff. An intensive search along the face of the cliff located part of the team under a heavy jungle canopy.

All the Marines were wounded and needed assistance. Corporal Springer was lowered by the rescue hoist to the jungle floor to assist the team in preparing for the lift out.

He sent the most seriously wounded man up first followed by two others.

When the injured men were questioned, they said they doubted that the remainder of the squad had survived the enemy attack. Radio calls, however, convinced the helicopter crews that other Marines from the patrol were alive. The search continued till dark.

The next morning the Sea Knights returned to resume their

search. To cope with the tall jungle canopy, an extra 300-foot cable was employed. This permitted the helo to hover well above the trees.

Finally, the remainder of the team was spotted and hoisted aboard.

During the rescue, enemy gunners on the cliff's edge opened fire on the chopper causing ma-

jor damage.

The damaged ship limped to a temporary landing zone and sat down for repairs. As the crew chief, Corporal Springer volunteered to remain with the plane until repairs could be finished.

Five days later, the tired crewman rode his helicopter back from the "routine" recon pick up.

## Attack Continued...

(Continued From Page 1)  
of 29 trucks, 22 supply boats and nine gun positions.

A total of seven B-52 strikes were flown with the majority of the strikes in the Tay Ninh province area. The crews, according to official communiques, reported that their arsenal of bombs set off 31 medium to large secondary explosions.

U.S. Army helicopter crews

reported killing 60 enemy in scattered actions in South Vietnam. In the Mekong Delta, Army aircraft crews flew 729 support sorties for ARVN infantry operations.

The rocket-firing ship, USS White River, from the U.S. Seventh Fleet, fired a barrage of more than 1,000 rounds causing 49 secondary explosions and 13 large fires while firing in support of Republic of Vietnam Forces and Republic of Korea Marines, in operations 10 miles southeast of Qui Nhon.

## Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place Stamp  
Here

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

TO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Promotion Seminar Findings

**SAIGON (MACV)** — A seminar was conducted recently at Vung Tau by the MACV Office of the Adjutant General to review and update the MACV promotion directive in conformity with the standardized promotion system to be adopted by the Department of the Army Aug. 1, 1968.

Colonel Sydney Gritz, Adjutant General (AG), assisted by Sergeant Major Kenneth Rielly, AG Personnel Division, organized and initiated the seminar. It included personnel sergeant majors and officers from various sections in MACV.

The MACV enlisted promotion directive will be published incorporating the approved changes resulting from the seminar and those made by the Army regulations.

Although the requirements for temporary promotion generally are unchanged, the new procedures permit computation of precise numerical scores for significant factors that are considered in the comparative evaluation of individuals for promotion. For example, scores will be computed for the following factors:

FACTOR	Max. Score
Active Federal Service	100
Time In Current Grade	100
Enlisted Evaluation Score	150
Civilian Education	75
Military Education	100
Physical Fitness	25
Enlisted Efficiency Report	250
Promotion Board Appraisal	200

The new scoring procedures will benefit individual soldiers and commanders. It will permit the soldier to accurately measure how he compares with others competing for promotion. A soldier will be better able to isolate areas in which he is weak and improve them to increase his promotion potential. Transfers between units will not negate a well qualified soldier's opportunity for promotion.

Commanders will be able to differentiate more easily between soldiers whose over-all qualifications are roughly equal. They will be better able to counsel individuals who do not qualify for promotion, and to explain what such soldiers can do to increase their potential.

Because the scores will mean roughly the same thing throughout the Army, commanders will be able to integrate newly-assigned personnel into promotion lists quickly and fairly.

### Close Scrape Reveals Four

**DA NANG (USA)** — Specialist 5 Vernon E. Gurney "literally" uncovered four Viet Cong recently.

"I couldn't believe my eyes," he said later. "Heads, arms and legs began to wiggle and pop out of the ground which I had just leveled with my bulldozer."

First Lieutenant William E. Hoskins secured and searched the two VC who were digging their way out. The other two were found buried underneath and had to be revived before being whisked away for questioning.

Lieutenant Hoskins and Specialist Gurney belong to a detachment from the 14th Engineer Battalion who were supporting the Fifth Armored Cavalry near Quang Tri.

### Valorous Soldier...

(Continued From Page 1)  
nameless allies changed all of that.

Late on that night enemy troops poured into Hue — sending the specialist and his buddies to defense positions around the university district compound which was to later be named in his honor.

Specialist Doezeema's post was a 20-foot tower commanding an otherwise protected avenue of approach for the enemy troops. He used the machine gun mounted there with telling effect.

In Colonel Harbins words, "Many of us here today are alive because of his actions that night."

An enemy rocket slammed into the roof of his shelter but he kept a steady stream of machine gun fire on the attackers. Seriously wounded, he called encouragement and ad-

vice to his buddies below on the ground.

The enemy knew they had to silence that gun. The slender Michigan farm boy behind it was hurting them — and badly.

Then another rocket hit the tower-top shelter.

"Specialist Doezeema was mortally wounded. For his gallantry he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross."

The memorial at Doezeema Compound honors all the men who have fallen while advising and assisting the Vietnamese armed forces from the Hue headquarters.

But the inscription at the top honors Army Specialist Frank Doezeema—a 19-year-old draftee—a citizen soldier—who gave his life defending fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines at Hue on the first day of the Vietnamese New Year.



FIRST IN VIETNAM

The

# THE OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 13

Saigon, Vietnam

July 31, 1968

## U.S. Air Power Punishes Enemy

**SAIGON (MACV)** — U.S. Army helicopter gunships from the Air Cavalry Squadron of the Americal Division recently engaged an undetermined size force in small scattered groups attempting to escape observation. The action took place approximately nine miles northwest of Tam Ky. According to military communiques, the gunship crews accounted for 30 enemy killed.

Immediately after the gunship strikes, infantrymen from the air cavalry unit moved into the battle area and made contact with an unknown size enemy force. As the fighting progressed, troopers from another Americal Division unit reinforced the first element.

Fierce fighting continued from early morning, when the gunships made the initial contact, until the enemy withdrew late in the evening.

The division's air-ground action resulted in 68 enemy killed and 10 individual and two crew-served weapons captured. Five U.S. soldiers were wounded with no fatalities.

Elsewhere in the south, in support of the Toan Thang Offensive, an element of the U.S. 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, tangled with an estimated company of enemy forces, approximately three miles north-northwest of Can Duoc (18 miles southwest of Saigon). As the action continued into the afternoon and evening, other elements from the 1st and 3rd Brigades were called in to reinforce the infantrymen.

As the fighting continued, the troopers called in U.S. Army helicopter gunships and artillery, along with the U.S. Air Force AC-47 gunships and tactical aircraft in support of the action which continued throughout the night.

Initial results of a sweep through the battle area, after contact was lost, revealed 23 enemy dead and five individual weapons captured. U.S. losses were four killed and seven wounded.

In the air war in the south, U.S. Army helicopter crews were credited with killing 47 enemy recently in scattered actions. The gunships also accounted for 34 demolished fortifications and sank 30 enemy sampans.

## Dunaway Becomes Army's Top NCO

**SAIGON (MACV)** — Command Sergeant Major George W. Dunaway of the 101st Air Cavalry Division here was recently selected as the Army's top non-commissioned officer to replace Command Sergeant Major William O. Wooldridge, the Army announced recently.

Sergeant Dunaway will take office on Sept. 1. Sergeant Wooldridge is scheduled for a new assignment with U.S. Army headquarters here in Vietnam.

Sergeant Dunaway, the second soldier to be nominated to the top-ranking enlisted Army position, was selected from nominations by major U.S. Army commanders throughout the world. He will be assigned to Army Chief of Staff General William C. Westmoreland's office as senior enlisted adviser and consultant on enlisted personnel; on the professional education, growth and advancement of NCOs; and on morale, pay, training, promotions and other areas concerning enlisted personnel.

In addition, the creation of the position of Sergeant Major of the Army as enlisted adviser to the Chief of Staff in 1966, provides the enlisted men all over the world with a channel

of communication which reaches all the way to Army boards, committees and the office of the Chief of Staff. Individual problems which may receive little attention, now receive expeditious command attention through the Sergeant Major of the Army.

Sergeant Major Dunaway has 26 years of military service. His personal decorations include: Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" device and three oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart, and Good Conduct with seven oak leaf clusters.

## ARVN's Grab Tools Of War

**DA NANG (USA)** — If numbers bore you, look at it this way:

The weapons captured so far this year by Vietnamese forces in I Corps would just about equip a Viet Cong division with both individual and supporting arms.

Specifically, an 8,000 man VC division would require 5,664 individual weapons and 576 crew-served pieces.

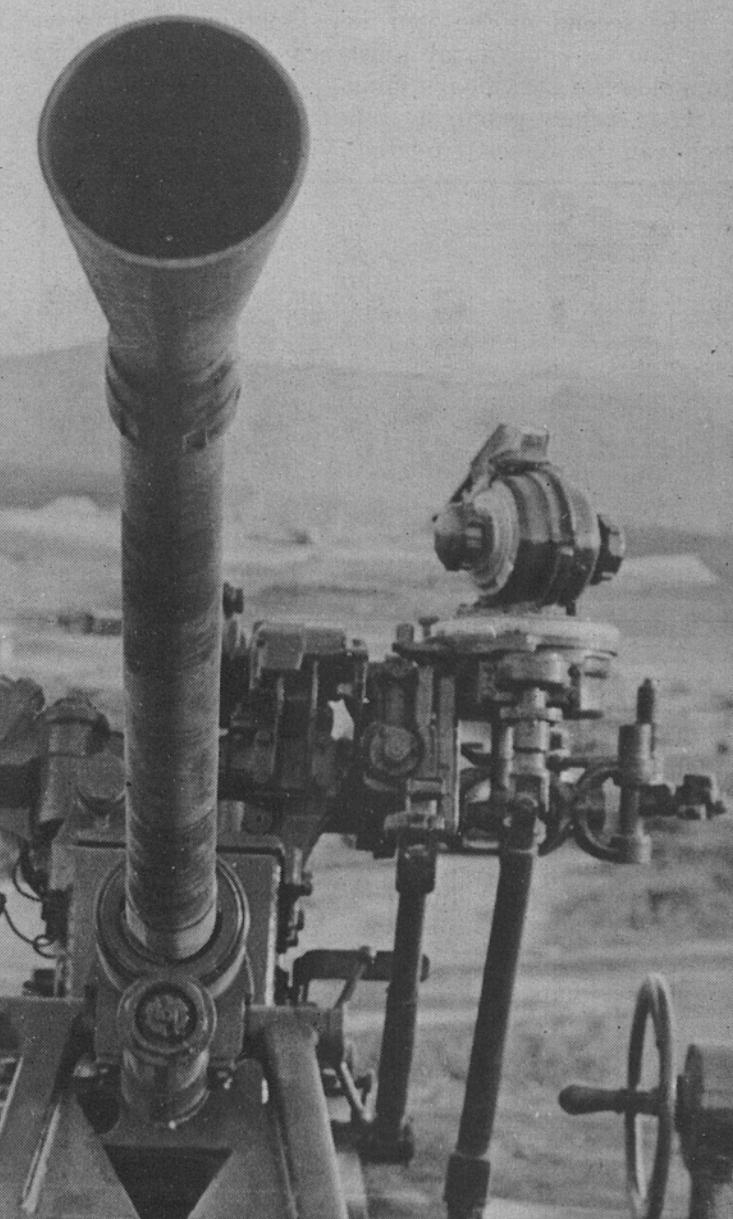
ARVN forces have cleared

4,940 individual weapons off the field in I Corps, or 724 short of the enemy requirement.

The 1,156 crew served weapons the Vietnamese have taken from the enemy could equip two divisions with a handful left over.

The amount of rice removed from enemy caches would provide a steady supply for two VC divisions for a full year. A division requires 11,835 pounds of rice every day. So far 3,946 tons of rice have been collected.

**CAMP EAGLE (USA)** — Infantrymen from the 101st Air Cavalry Division's 1st and 2nd Brigades killed 112 enemy and captured 75 tons of rice during



**ONE LESS**—This Russian-made 37mm antiaircraft gun is one less that the enemy will be able to use against Allied forces. Troopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry captured three of these weapons during sweep operations in the A Shau Valley. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Melvin Clark)

## Operation Nevada Eagle

## Air Cavalry Units Kill 1,050

the seventh and eighth weeks of Operation Nevada Eagle near Hue recently.

The kills pushed the operation's toll on the enemy to more than 1,050. Total rice captured during the period exceeded 237 tons.

Riflemen from A Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry captured 15 tons of rice while sweeping an area four miles east of the imperial city. Meanwhile Company C seized 19 tons in the same general area.

Days later Company B of the same battalion captured more than 12,500 pounds of the vital grain. In the same area of operation Company D took another 10,150 pounds of rice from the enemy.

Troopers from the 1st Battalion set up blocking positions near the village of Tru Y Nam, four miles northeast of Hue as a reconnaissance platoon conducted "Eagle" flights over the community, forcing the enemy to flee.

The infantrymen engaged the enemy and killed nine. Ninety-one suspects were detained and four weapons were captured.

Elements of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry and Popular Forces' units from Quang Dien district killed eight enemy during sweep operations nine miles northwest of Hue.

The paratroopers held blocking positions while the Vietnamese forces searched the villages of Thuy Lap and My Thanh. (Continued On Back Page)

## Editorial

**A Job For You**

Servicemen and women who have decided to return to civilian life are being offered the opportunity to increase the skills and knowledge they will need to obtain well-paying, productive jobs.

The opportunity is offered under "Project Transition" an in-service, voluntary job-oriented program designed to assist the approximately 750,000 personnel leaving the Armed Forces each year.

"Project Transition" is currently underway at 238 military installations and more will be added as the program continues to prove its worth.

First step in the program is counseling to determine future intentions regarding reenlistment, education, training and employment desires. Counseling can begin six months prior to a man's expiration of active service.

The second of the four key functions of "Project Transition" is educational assistance with the goal being to upgrade the individual's formal educational level.

Then comes practical skill training in some form which can be directly related to civilian employment



demands whenever possible. Toward this end, innumerable companies have established training courses at military bases in connection with "Project Transition."

Finally there is the job referral service where assistance and guidance are provided by informing "Project Transition" enrollees of employment opportunities available in specific fields or geographic areas that would be of special interest to the individual concerned.

If you have decided to resume civilian life "Project Transition" may be just the thing for you. It's not going to solve all of your problems and it certainly can't guarantee you'll start out as president of your company. But if you're willing to work, it can help make the road back into civilian life a little smoother. (AFPS)

**Nine Rules: Remember Them?**

1. Remember we are guests here: We make no demands and seek no special treatment.
2. Join with the people! Understand their life, use phrases from their language and honor their customs and laws.
3. Treat women with politeness and respect.
4. Make personal friends among the soldiers and common people.
5. Always give the Vietnamese the right of way.
6. Be alert to security and
7. ready to react with your military skill.
8. Don't attract attention by loud, rude or unusual behavior.
9. Avoid separating yourself from the people by a display of wealth or privilege.

**Central Board For E-8s, E-9s**

**WASHINGTON** — The selection of enlisted men for promotions to grades E-8 and E-9 will be centralized at Department of Army Headquarters.

DA Message 871517, sent to the field recently, announced that the centralized system was approved to assure the most equitable system for the selection and promotion of the best qualified individuals to the top enlisted grades in the Army.

Promotions to the grade of E-9 under the new system are scheduled to begin on or about Jan. 1, 1969. Promotions to E-8 under this plan are scheduled to begin on or about March 1.

Enlisted promotion selection boards will not be convened after July 31 for the purpose of selecting individuals for first-time inclusion on a standing promotion list to the grade of E-9. For E-8, the cutoff date will be Sept. 30.

Individuals who now have promotion list status to those grades, or who gain it before the respective cutoff dates, will retain that status and upon transfer will continue to be integrated on existing promotion lists of gaining commands until further notice.

The first zone of consideration for centralized promotions to E-8 and E-9 will be comprised of only those E-8s and E-7s who have attained promotion list status on or before the cutoff dates. (DA)

*"Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory, that if you lose the nation will be destroyed, that the very obsession of your public service must be duty, honor, country."*

Address by General of the Army Douglas MacArthur at the U.S. Military Academy, May 12, 1962.



**FIRST IN VIETNAM**  
The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. It is not an official publication of the United States Government. It is not necessarily reflected in policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset 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. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

**COMUSMACV** Gen. C.W. Abrams, USA

Information Officer ..... Brig. Gen. W. Sidle, USA  
Chief, Command Information ..... Lt. Col. R.B. Solomon, USA

Officer in Charge ..... Maj. D.C. Smith, USA  
NCOIC ..... SFC. D.D. Perez, USA  
Editor ..... SSGt. C. T. Owen, USMC  
Production Manager ..... TSGt. G.C. Sterling, USAF  
Assistant Editor ..... Sp 5 R.E. Grant, USA  
Feature Editor ..... Sp 4 L. Ensminger, USA  
Staff Writer ..... Sp 4 P. Koenigsberg, USA

**Speedy Rank For Low EM**

**LAI KHE (USA)** — The Army has developed a new program to give outstanding leaders or technical people accelerated promotions through intensified training courses.

The need for this program became evident when the Vietnam war increased the number of enlisted men of lower grades and there were not enough people of the ranks E-5 through E-9 to meet the influx.

Men who attend the courses will be taught combat leadership or valuable technical skills such as aviation maintenance, engineer construction, communications and electronics or general maintenance.

All soldiers below the grade of E-5 are eligible to participate in the program. Final selection and approval will be made by the Advanced Training commanders to fill quotas allotted by the Army. Volunteers will be given priority on final selections.



Last week we took a brief look at the history of the Vietnamese language. There are several other interesting aspects of the Vietnamese language that should be noted.

When we mention a language, such as English, French or Spanish, we think in terms of a language that we were required to take in school. Vietnamese however, does not evoke such a feeling on our part since few of us had to study Vietnamese in school. In considering the language, we see that Vietnamese just may be the school-

**Allied Elements Kill 45 VC-NVA**

**CU CHI (USA)** — Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry along with ARVN Rangers and reinforced by elements of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry and 3rd Brigade, 101st Air Cavalry Division, accounted for 45 enemy dead in two separate engagements near Trang Bang.

The first encounter occurred 29 miles northwest of Saigon during a reconnaissance-in-force sweep involving Company A and Troop C of the 3rd Squadron, and sporadic fire continued until 6:55 p.m. Artillery fire continued to pound the area into the night.

The combined force made contact in a densely wooded area about four miles north of Trang Bang. They received heavy RPG, machine gun and small arms fire from well-fortified positions, occupied by an estimated 150-200 North Vietnamese Army Regulars.

An hour earlier, the Allied force had received a few rounds of sniper fire with no friendly casualties sustained. As the force approached the heavily vegetated area about noon, Captain Malcom G. Waitt, commander of Company B, deployed his armored personnel carriers with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

According to the captain, "everything was quiet until we got about 300 meters into the treeline. Then they opened up."

Two days later and nine miles northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

northwest of the first encounter, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, came under heavy attack from two Viet Cong platoons. The enemy hurled small arms, automatic weapons, and RPG fire at the infantrymen who countered with all organic firepower calling in gunships, artillery and tactical fighters. Five hours after the initial contact, fire ceased, leaving 24 VC dead. Two suspects were detained by the Tropical Lightning soldiers who also captured two assault rifles and a Chi-Com machine gun.

Two days later and nine miles

&lt;p

# GI Defies Death, Kills 5 Strippers

**HUE (USMC)** — Although it almost twice cost him his life, Lance Corporal Carl L. Torrence killed five enemy soldiers who returned to strip their dead companions shortly after they attacked a Leatherneck outpost recently.

As enemy troops moved up the hill to reach their casualties, Corporal Torrence, a rifleman with Company E, 2nd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment opened up.

One was killed during the initial burst.

When he fired at another North Vietnamese soldier (NVA) who rushed to the latest casualty, a third enemy soldier hurled a grenade.

The corporal heard the object bounce off a sandbag near his foxhole and got down.

"I just prayed it didn't fall into the hole with me," said the

Leatherneck.

The grenade bounced on the other side of the sandbags, and though Corporal Torrence received a slight concussion from the explosion, he wasn't hit by shrapnel.

When he heard the NVA running up to his position, he looked up again.

He killed two more before he had another close call. An enemy mortar shell landed a few feet away from him.

"I heard the mortar as it whistled down, so I had enough time to hit the deck," he recalled.

After the mortar exploded, Corporal Torrence looked up just as the two remaining NVA sped within 20 meters of his position.

As the enemy started to hurl grenades, the Leatherneck shot them.

## Air, Ground Efforts Cost VC 15 Dead

**CU CHI (USA)** — Tropic Lightning troopers of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds assisted by helicopter gunship crews killed 15 Viet Cong while on a night operation near the village of Van Loc northwest of Saigon.

Captain Arthur E. Blackwood, Company C commander reported that his men "had set up at their first check point for a break when my rear security reported that a column of 15 VC was moving towards us on a course that would parallel our position."

The captain went on to say that "We immediately set up a

### 'Herc' Crew Leads Rescue

**TUY HOA (USA)** — An alert HC-130P Hercules crew, from the 39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Tuy Hoa air base, recently directed the rescue of an F-100 Supersabre crew from the South China Sea near the Demilitarized Zone.

While on orbit over the Gulf of Tonkin, the Hercules aircraft, commanded by Captain Ronald L. Richardson, picked up a distress call from an F-100 from Phu Cat air base, which had suffered battle damage during a forward air control mission over North Vietnam.

After asking for and receiving directions from the HC-130P crew, the F-100 turned toward Da Nang in an attempt to reach the base. Within minutes, however, the crippled Supersabre's engine froze. The pilot told the HC-130P crew that the man in the rear seat had just bailed out. With wind screaming through the cockpit, he could not hear the acknowledgement, and radioed, "I'm leaving, too."

A Marine helicopter spotted the pilot's parachute as it slowly descended toward the water, and made the recovery.

Spotting the second chute, the Hercules circled directly overhead, while directing an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter to make the pickup. The Jolly Green Giant dropped to the waves and pulled the backseater aboard while the Marine helicopter picked up the pilot.

All are volunteers. Most of the Hoi Chans employed by the



**COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHER**—Few people realize that the combat photos they see in the newspapers must be taken by a serviceman on the scene. Specialist 5 Gary Johnson, a photographer with the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade, moves out with Company D, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Wolfhounds on a sweep in search of action photos and news stories. (USA PHOTO By: Sgt. Ross Reessler)

## Former Enemy Now An Asset To 1st Cav.

**CAMP EVANS (USA)** — When the 1st Platoon, D Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry was inserted into a suspected enemy position on the Bong Son Plains, the platoon leader was killed instantly. Two men were seriously wounded.

Heavy automatic weapons fire pinned the rest of the platoon behind a rice paddy dike.

Without cover, in the face of hostile fire, one man raced forward to carry the wounded to safety and to administer first aid.

When a grenade landed in the midst of the platoon, he was the only one to see it. Reacting instantly, he threw it back before it exploded.

By then he was wounded himself, but it didn't prevent him from laying down a base of fire until an armored personnel carrier broke through to reinforce the platoon. Ignoring his severe wounds, he then assisted the evacuation of his buddies.

This brand of courage and self-sacrifice has been displayed many times by U.S. troops in Vietnam. The remarkable thing about this story is that the hero is a former Viet Cong.

The 1st Air Cavalry Division, like other U.S. units in Vietnam, is making use of Kit Carson Scouts—former enemy soldiers who have rallied to the government cause through the Chieu Hoi Program. These men have been selected, screened, and trained for eight weeks in English and military subjects.

All are volunteers. Most of the Hoi Chans employed by the

division come from Hue and Quang Tri Chieu Hoi centers.

At the unit, the Kit Carson Scout is provided with a supervisor who works with him according to the "buddy system". He is assigned to an area where he knows the lay of the land and can act as a guide. He also may interrogate enemy detainees.

He is an intelligent man, who often can predict enemy movement and locate caches and bunkers.

Kit Carson Scout Canh, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, came to the unit more than a year ago. He had been a Viet Cong hamlet chief. In his late twenties, the scout is quiet and unobtrusive, except the times when there is an opportunity to persuade others to Chieu Hoi.

When the company surrounded approximately 80 NVA soldiers

ensconced in caves, Scout Canh stopped making loudspeaker appeals for them to defect when he became so hoarse his voice had nearly withered away. On several occasions, he walked down inside the caves and pulled out wounded who wanted to come out and surrender but could not walk.

Captain Clayton A. Pratt, company commander at the time, called him "a fearless little man."

At Dak To, the Kit Carson working with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry came to the aid of the battalion's B Company when it was pinned down under intense enemy fire. He charged an NVA firing position on top of a hill, exposed himself, killed two of the North Vietnamese, and was wounded by a grenade.

In Hiep Duc province early this year, elements of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry were pinned down for four hours. A Kit Carson and four U.S. soldiers broke away from the engagement and circled the enemy. Several NVA charged the group, inflicting casualties. The Kit Carson, armed only with a .45 caliber pistol, exposed himself and emptied it into the enemy. He was wounded five times—three times in the leg and twice in the forearm. Not a man to let this stop him, he grabbed a wounded soldier's M-16 and drove off the enemy, killing several of them. Without assistance, he helped his comrades back to hill where the battalion had regrouped.

The performance of these men

—skillful, formidable fighters—appears to be one sign that the battle to win over the people is being won.

## Alert GI Knows 'Seeing Is Believing'

**LANDING ZONE SALLY (USA)** — An alert 101st Air Cavalry trooper who believed what he saw helped spring a night ambush on three enemy sampans north of here recently, killing 11 Viet Cong.

The 1st Air Cavalry Division, like other U.S. units in Vietnam, is making use of Kit Carson Scouts—former enemy soldiers who have rallied to the government cause through the Chieu Hoi Program. These men have been selected, screened, and trained for eight weeks in English and military subjects.

All are volunteers. Most of the Hoi Chans employed by the

river with a Starlight Scope when I spotted the first sampan," he related. The sergeant immediately notified Platoon Sergeant James Birch, who told him to keep watch and report back.

"I looked again through my scope and saw there were now two sampans," the sergeant said. "I went over to Sergeant Birch and let him look through the scope, but he didn't see anything."

"I handed the Starlight back to Sergeant Birch hoping that this time my sightings would be con-

# Special Forces Wear Many 'Berets'

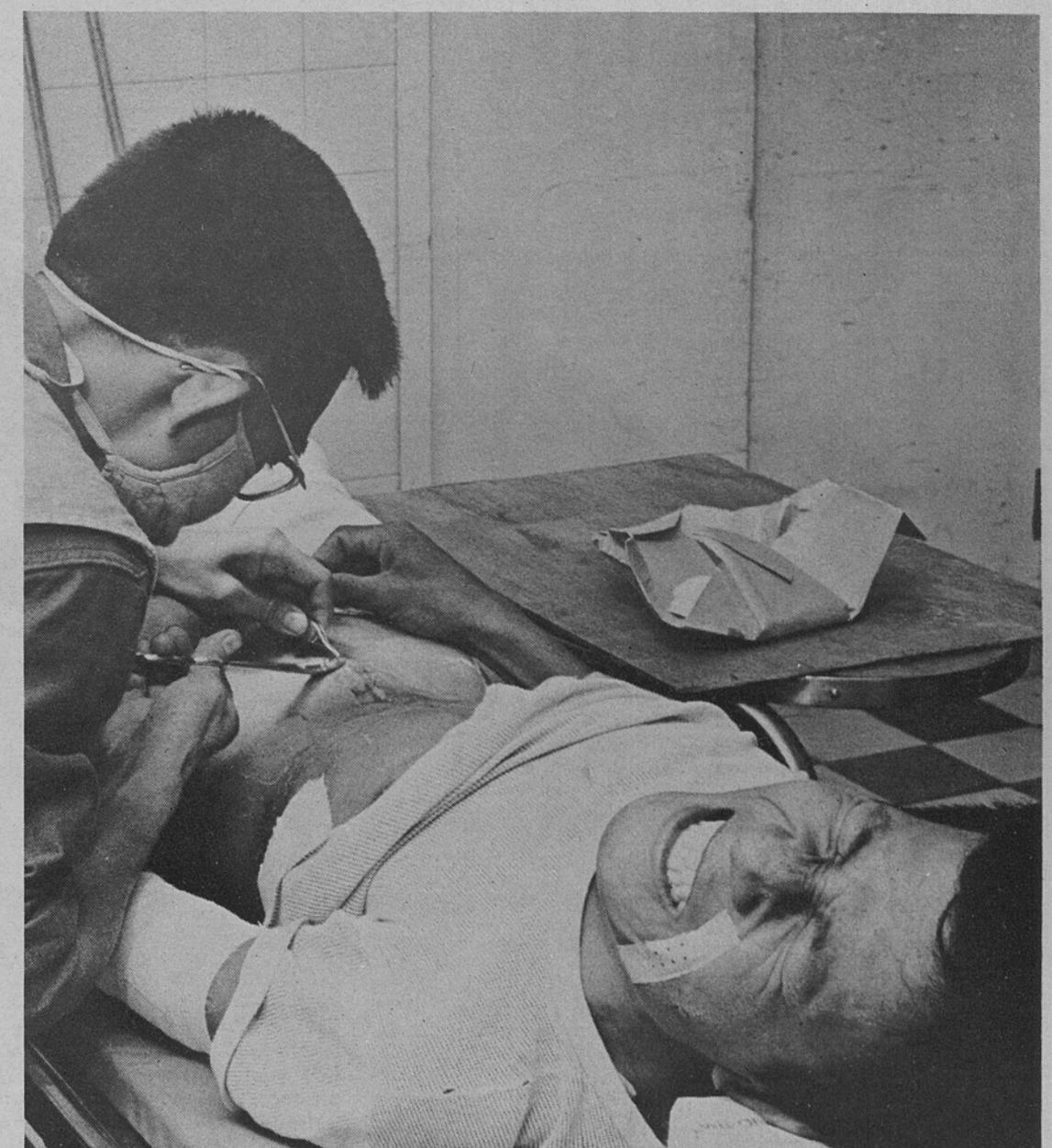
**DA NANG (USA)** — The lights don't go off, the doors stay open and there's always room for one more. That's the way Company C's Mobile Strike Force Hospital operates under the watchful eye of eight Special Forces advisors.

It began about three years ago under the direction of Captain Allen Hunter and Master Sergeant J.T. Lowe. Now, the hospital is equipped to handle 90 patients. When Kham Duc suffered heavy losses, the hospital staff had to pitch a tent for unexpected casualties.

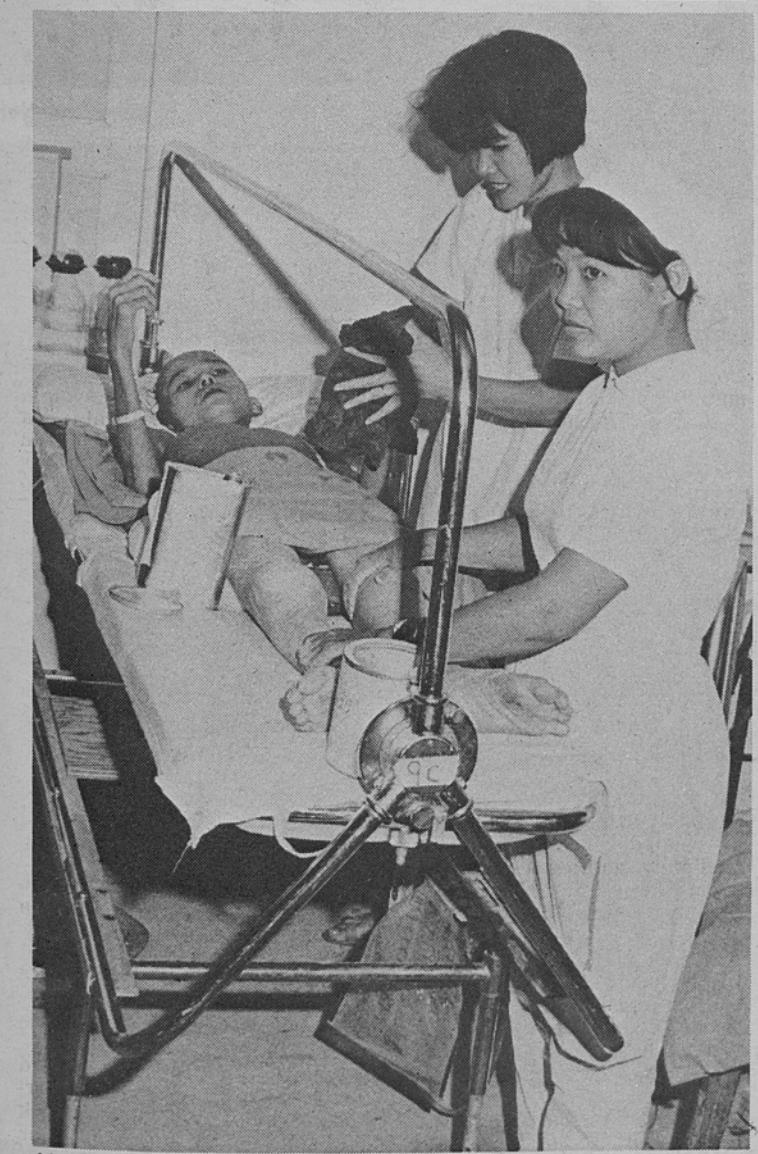
Today, the hospital also serves as a training school for nurses and medics. The Special Forces personnel not only care for patients, but work together with Vietnamese instructors for two months, teaching both men and women the fine art of suturing, debris and shrapnel removal, general and intensive medical care. An incentive for excellence is a watch, purchased by the Special Forces staff and presented to the male and female honor graduate.

Expansion goes hand-in-hand with any successful operation. This hospital has expanded twice and presently contains 10 different rooms including a lab, sterilizing facilities, operating room, intensive care ward, pharmacy and a general care room to handle preventive dentistry and sick call. The hospital has its own kitchen, which offers a selective menu each day to the patients. There's a laundry, something every hospital needs, which tends to the problem of cleaning sheets and towels.

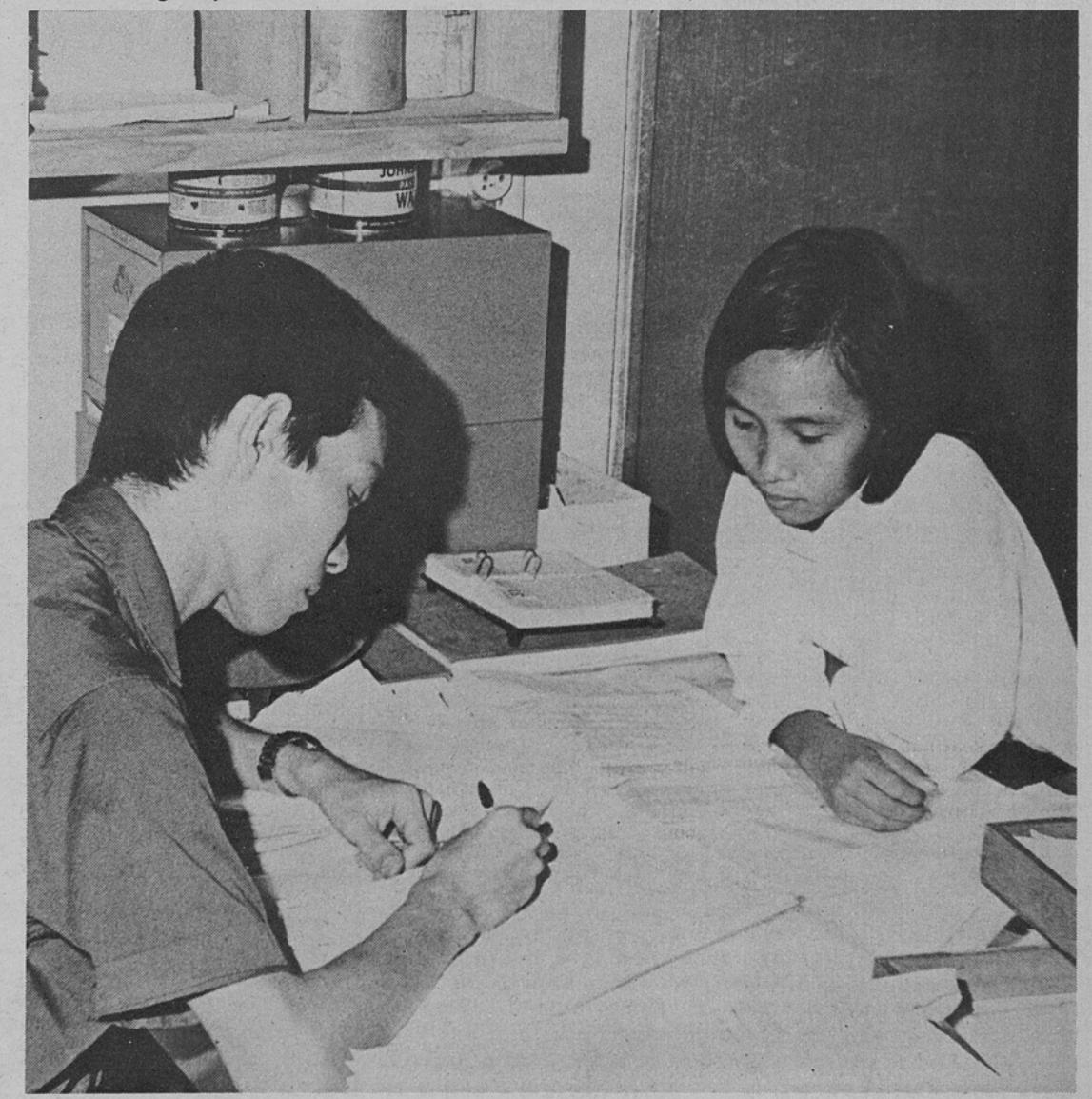
The hospital is headed by Captain Janis Kengis, who is the



Grimacing in pain a Vietnamese soldier has wire sutures removed from his abdomen.



Nurses care for a paralytic who is confined to a wheelchair.



Mr. Cu corrects a student nurse's papers and spends many hours preparing lessons.



Faces blacked for their night ambush, this ROK platoon makes last minute equipment checks before moving out.



**SAIGON (MACV)** — The history of the Republic of Korea (ROK) 9th Infantry Division began in late October 1950, four months after the Korean conflict erupted.

They received their nickname, "Baek Ma" (White Horse) from a hard-won victory on the mountain of Baek Ma located in what is now North Korea. The battle saw the mountain change hands 24 times before the 9th Division finally secured it, having killed 8,234 Communists.

**Vietnam Duty**  
Arriving in the Republic of Vietnam in October 1966, the

# White Horse Division In Vietnam

ROK 9th Division recently launched a winning assault in their Tactical Assault Reconnaissance (TAOR) operation. The division killed 366 enemy, captured 155 weapons and took five detainees. The important enemy documents captured alone made the operation a success.

If one measure of progress is to be found in compiled figures, then the ROK 9th Division has definitely made its presence known to the enemy since coming to Vietnam. As of July 1968, it has killed 4,098 enemy, taken 507 detainees, and received 594 returnees under the Chien Hoi Program and had 2,417 captured weapons to its credit.

The division kill ratio is 10.8 enemy for each friendly loss — a figure of which they are justifiably proud.

## The Night Ambush

One tactic the Koreans are most fond of is the ambush, especially the night ambush.

**Koreans In (at) Vietnam**  
In the most recent scale victory, "White Horse" conducted in the forest.

A night ambush patrol is sent out, each man armed with an M-16 and two Claymore mines.

mountains, the division killed 366 enemy, captured 155 weapons and took five detainees. The important enemy documents captured alone made the operation a success.

Their site is chosen from intelligence reports given to Vietnamese National Police by local villagers. Once in position the patrol observes absolute silence for the whole night or until contact is made.

Atmosphere in varied ways. They hold MEDCAPS throughout their TAOR, often work side by side in the paddies with local villagers, assist in rebuilding war-ravaged areas and train Popular Force platoons from the six districts under their charge, to mention a few.

The Koreans feel the people must have confidence in themselves under the Government of Vietnam, must have a genuine kinship with those lending assistance and must have a basic day-to-day security in which confidence and kinship can be nurtured.

The 9th Division effects this

**Story & Photos By:**  
SSgt. C.T. Owen & Sp4 L. Ensminger  
**Editorial Assistance Provided By:**  
LTC Lee, Sang Woo, CPT Chung, Woan Young  
& Sgt. Kim, Doo Chang

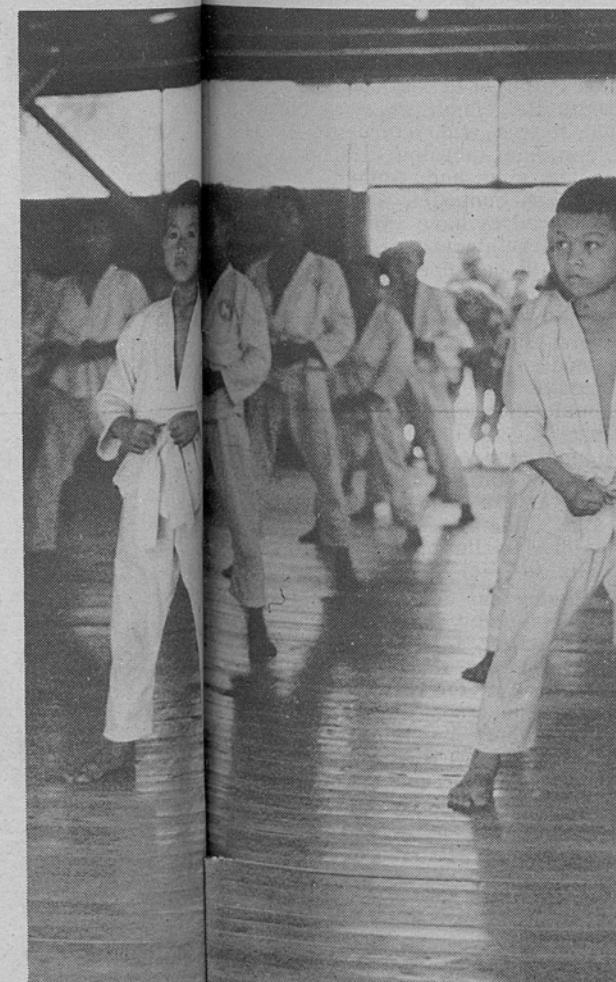


In many Vietnamese schools the famous Korean karate, Tae Kwon-do, is taught by request to the youngsters. All of these programs are conducted with the aim of establishing a base for relations that will be warmly remembered.

Whether on the battlefield or in a high school Tae Kwon-do class, the Koreans of the White Horse Division have set a precedent for freedom and democracy worthy of imitation. The enemy fears them and the local civilians respect them and are devoted to the ideals they embody.



Days the Korean is usually as tranquil as it looks here.



Korean-taught kids are always popular with the kids.



This 9th Division outpost, built just off Highway 1 on a former VC toll point, has re-opened the route to free traffic.



An immaculate squad bunker, rolled up for the day, is but a small hint of the respect for discipline permeating the 9th Div.



Saluting a hard week of training with ROK soldiers, these Popular Forces troops pay parting respects to their mentors prior to returning home.

## Korean Twist To PSYOPS



**IN MEMORIAM**—This tomb was erected by the White Horse Division for 236 Viet Cong who died in a two-day battle with the Koreans near Tuy Hoa. The Vietnamese inscription on the headstone speaks for itself: "Being forcibly grasped by the communist evil hand, you managed your precious youth in vain. And to console your souls, we prepared a grave for you here. Rest in peace."



Loaded with White Horse troops, these choppers prepare to lift them into action.



A Malteser Aid Service nurse treats an injured child at Hoi An.



The hospital ship Helgoland, berthed daily in Da Nang harbor, is a known target for the VC.

## Knights Of Malta

## Help Felt Despite Threats

SAIGON (VFS) — Twenty-seven men and 10 women from West Germany, members of the Malteser Aid Service, are continuing their humanitarian work among the Vietnamese people despite repeated Viet Cong threats to their lives.

Their first word from the Communists was received by 10 of the German medical workers in An Hoa, a besieged enclave 15 miles southwest of Da Nang totally surrounded by Viet Cong. An unsigned note pinned to the door of their billet gave warning in friendly fashion that they should stay away from the village on a certain day of this year. They heeded the warning, and so escaped the heavy mortar and grenade attacks launched by the Communists that day.

Returning to An Hoa to treat the victims of the ruthless attacks, the German medics found a second note on their door. This, signed in the name of the VC's "Liberation Army," and no longer couched in friendly terms, threatened the doctors, nurses and medical corpsmen with "annihilation" if they continued to give aid to the Vietnamese villagers.

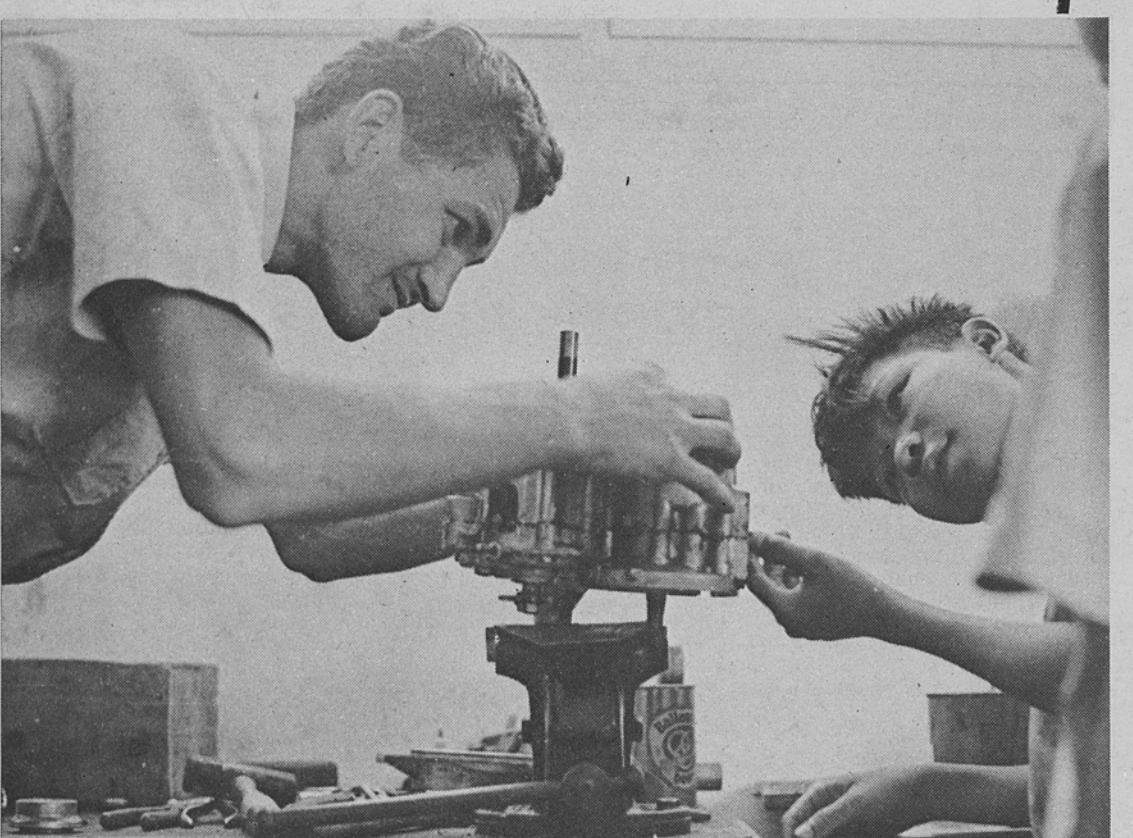
Many activities in the area remain uninterrupted, although special security measures have to be taken. Medical teams, for instance, return from the villages at night to board the sleek, white Helgoland, which steams out to sea and returns to Da Nang each morning to send its skilled men and women back into the contested areas. Viet Cong cadres have whispered in the marketplaces that the Helgoland will be mined and sunk if it does not return to its home port in Hamburg.

The Malteser Aid Service staff includes nine physicians, two dentists, 12 male nurses, 10 female nurses, a carpentry instructor, an instructor in mechanics and a two-man administrative staff. In addition to An Hoa, now a post for visitation rather than residence, their major installations are in Da Nang and Hoi An.

Moving out daily through the hamlets and villages surrounding An Hoa, Da Nang and Hoi An to set up their clinics, the workers of the Malteser Aid Service have seen many tens of thousands of Vietnamese profit from their presence, for each team cares for more than 200 patients every day.

Their hope is eventually to train enough Vietnamese so they can assume key roles and operate their own clinics.

Story & Photos  
By  
Vietnam Feature Service



After finishing his vocational course this boy will be able to pass on his skill to others.



Thanks to the deft work of Dr. O. Spiegel, this boy will have only slight scars to remind him of his bout with a mortar round.

## Corpsman, Viets Remedy Illness

DA NANG (USN) — A trip to Liem Lac village consists of a bumpy jeep ride, a trek through a crowded market, across a river in a small crowded boat and a hike along a narrow rice paddy path.

To Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class Bob Haley and two Vietnamese medical personnel it is all part of the job.

Liem Lac is one of many villages Corpsman Haley will visit in the Hoa Vang sub-sector south of Da Nang to aid Vietnamese villagers in rural areas.

The corpsman's "clinic" is set up where four narrow paths meet. A primitive table and bench are borrowed from a school and medical equipment is set out. It doesn't take long for the patients to start pouring in.

"We found that setting up shop here enabled us to get several villages at once," said the corpsman. "Now we take care of a lot more people." Vietnamese returning from the market across the river also stop by to have their ills taken care of.

From the time the medical team arrives until the time it leaves, there is always a crowd of people around their table. During their visit to Liem Lac they will see more than 230 patients and treat cases ranging from coughs to serious burns. If a case is beyond their capability, Corpsman Haley and Nghi will take the patient to larger facilities in Hoa Vang or the Vietnamese hospital in Da Nang.

## Project Information

## 'Operation Tin Tuc' III CTZ's Largest Psywar Appeal

BIEN HOA (USA) — "Operation Tin Tuc" (Project Information) currently underway presents the most intensive psychological warfare appeal in the III Corps Tactical Zone this year. Conducted by the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion "Tin Tuc" is designed to assist the Government of Vietnam (GVN) in its Chieu Hoi or "Open Arms" Program.

The project which began July 1 will continue through August.

"Although the program had been in operation previously, with numerous 'ralliers' taking advantage of it, intelligence data points out that there are numerous NVA soldiers new to the area who may not be aware of the program's details. Also civilian population centers that haven't been propaganda targets previously are being hit," added Captain Riley.

"Project Tin Tuc" consists of three operational phases.

The first phase began July 1 and ended July 28. During the first phase an attempt was made to inform the civilian population and enemy soldiers that a Chieu Hoi Program does exist, and that they have the opportunity to rally to the South Vietnamese Government.

During the first week of the operation most of the III Corps area was hit at least once by both leaflets and aerial broadcasts.

Also during the first week more than 29 million leaflets were dropped and more than 122 loudspeaker broadcasting hours had been logged.

The second phase began July 29 and will be concluded August 11. Directed toward the same audience, it will emphasize the methods and procedures for taking advantage of the "Open Arms" program. Closely following the first phase, it is designed to encourage people not only to know and support Chieu Hoi but to spread the word to friends and relatives.

The final phase, August 12 to 29, will point out the advantages of "rallying to the government's side now" with special emphasis on the current aspect of joining the government forces," according to Captain Riley.

A projected number of approximately 250 million leaflets

will be dropped and more than 800 loudspeaker broadcast hours will be logged before completion of the project. Members of the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion and the 5th Air Command Squadron are furnishing manpower for the project in addition to normal duties of psychological warfare support to combat units.



Ngo Minh Nghi prepares patient for a tooth extraction. Nghi is Corpsman Haley's assistant.

## Skytroopers Transport Bells

CAMP EVANS (USA) — Skytroopers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry gave a helping hand to a parish of Vietnamese Catholics by transporting the bells of an abandoned church to the district capitol of Huong Dien, 17 miles northwest of Huong Dien.

Months ago, enemy activity on the coastal plain had forced the villagers to leave their homes and rice crops and flee six miles south to Huong Dien.

Chaplain (Captain) James Ware of the battalion related that an old man approached him and mentioned several times "how very much the people

missed the bells."

"They were beautiful," Chaplain Ware continued. They looked European. One was French made, one was cast in Hue, and the third was a Buddhist bell of traditional pattern."

Company Commander Captain Edward M. McDonald said, "Colonel Charles H. Curtis, commanding officer of the 3rd Brigade, came down and had a look, and agreed that we should airlift the bells down to Huong Dien." He had a special helicopter sent for them.

Company B pitched in and helped the Vietnamese build more scaffolding. "We lowered the bells, loaded them and lifted them out."

Before he left, Chaplain Ware conducted a service in the village. The pews were set back in place. A throng of Vietnamese left the sea of yellowing rice, passed along the dikes between the bamboo hedgerows and filed into the vast building. They listened intently.

"I, of course, knew they were Catholic, and I'm Protestant," the chaplain said, "and I explained this to them, but it didn't make any difference to them. They wanted a service, so I gave them one. After it ended a man came to me, shook his head approvingly and said in pidgin English, 'All right service, same-same Jesus!'"



Muscles strain as bell is loaded for its flight to Huong Dien.

# Business Is Lousy

**BONG SON (USA)** — A million-dollar NVA business venture was recently closed down by paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade along the north central coast of South Vietnam.

The lucrative business belonged to a North Vietnamese paymaster until the 1st Platoon of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, uncovered his place of work.

The paymaster fled, but left behind over one-and-a-half million dollars worth of receipts, 900 blank checks and several sandbags full of valuable documents.

A Kit Carson Scout working with Bravo Company said that the paymaster had been dealing with the rice farmers in the area to procure food for local NVA and Viet Cong soldiers. Receipt ledgers found in his bunker dated back to 1964, listing names and prices for all transactions.

Led by 1st Lieutenant Rory Fausett, Bravo company came upon the paymaster's hideout while moving through thick foliage alongside a coastal mountain 10 miles west of Bong Son.

Private First Class James Gavin was the first to spy the bunker.

"We were following this tiny path," he said, "when suddenly there was this bunker just sitting there in a little clearing. It was a big surprise."

Lieutenant Fausett sent PFC Gavin into the bunker to check it out. Others combed the surrounding area and saw a single man fleeing into the rice basin.

When asked about the find the lieutenant chuckled, "If I were him I'd keep on running. He'll never be able to account for such a loss."

Other paratroopers who helped search the bunker were less cheerful.

Grumbled one trooper on his way out — "Why does everyone have to always deal in credit?"

## Sailor Gives Big Donation

**DA NANG (USN)** — A sailor's large donation to a Naval Support Activity (NSA) scholarship fund has put two Vietnamese high school students a step closer to attending the University of Hue next year.

Seaman Boyd C. Bean's \$100 kick-off contribution to the Rear Admiral Paul L. Lacy Scholarship Program may enable two deserving students to receive an education they normally could not afford.

"I wanted to help in some way and I decided if somebody could get an education from the money, it would be great," Seaman Bean said.

Before he left, Admiral Lacy, former commander of NSA, initiated the project of sponsoring one boy and one girl to attend the University of Hue for a year.

According to civic action officials, the two students will be chosen from Phan Chu Trinh High School in Da Nang on the basis of scholastic ability and financial need. It will cost about \$750 to finance the students' education for the year.

Seaman Bean has been at NSA for 11 months and works in the Household Goods Section.



FORMER BEAUTY WINNER—Miss Shirley Gonya, former Miss Northwest Florida, has what it takes to win quite a few more beauty contests.

## Routine Call?

## Signalmen Deliver Vietnamese Baby

SAIGON (USA)

— What started out as a routine trouble call for four signal maintenance men ended up in the delivery of a Vietnamese baby enroute to a hospital.

Specialist Somers helped the pregnant woman, along with one of her friends, into the rear of the jeep in which he was riding. With the expectant mother lying across his lap, the soldiers headed for the Third Field Hospital. When they reached the hospital the main

gate was closed and a guard told them the rear gate was open for emergencies.

As the jeeps rolled through the gate, the baby was born. Two nurses ran out to cut and tie the umbilical cord and administer the customary pat on the posterior.

During the excitement of the

occasion, the soldiers didn't get the mother's name. They feel sure, however, that somewhere in Vietnam there is an extremely grateful family.

"That was the most unique trouble call a maintenance man will probably ever be asked to perform," Specialist Somers commented.

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

Suddenly, another one popped very close to the first, illuminating a large sector of the flat rice paddy. The tension was relaxed when someone yelled, "It's a pig."

The flares had been set out and the men were just beginning the first shift of guard when a flare popped on one side

of the perimeter. The men trained their weapons on the vicinity of the burning flare, but nothing was spotted.

Realizing the danger to his position, Captain Robert Fuller, commander of the company, radioed, "Shoot him if he trips another."

But the pig, perhaps realizing his fate, returned safely to the sanctuary of the village.

A pig from the nearby village

had roamed too close to the perimeter and tripped the flares.

