

Leathernecks Hit NVA Near DMZ



FIRST IN VIETNAM

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'DOC' AIDED—A wounded corpsman, usually seen treating injured Marines, finds himself the victim of enemy fire.
(USMC PHOTO By: Sgt J. McCullough)

Against Impossible Odds

AF Fighters Join Jolly Green Rescue

DA NANG (USAF) — "It was the most beautiful air show that I've ever seen," commented U.S. Marine Major Curtis Lawson, after being rescued in North Vietnam by an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant rescue crew from the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

After spending more than 20 hours clinging to a mud river bank 32 miles north of the demilitarized zone, Major Lawson was picked up despite the ring of heavy antiaircraft fire that surrounded him.

"I never thought that we were going to get out of there, so we decided to go in firing and to take a lot of them with us," said Air Force Major Charles E. Wicker, aircraft commander of the rescue chopper. "I think that the reason they didn't get us is because nobody wanted to stick his head up with all that fire going into them."

The rescue operation involved air strikes from tactical jet fighters and A-1E Skyraiders. An all-day effort, the operation resulted in a well coordinated, successful rescue of the downed major.

Major Lawson and his bom-

bardier-navigator were flying a Marine A-6 Intruder from Marine Aircraft Group-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, in Chu Lai when they were downed by enemy fire over North Vietnam.

"I was chasing trucks down the road and bombing them," the major said. "I broke to the left and they nailed me. I'm pretty sure that it was a 37mm gun that got me. The aircraft caught fire and we lost all control-stick steering. Then we lost the radio and my bombardier-navigator punched out. I followed him shortly thereafter."

The bombardier-navigator is listed as missing in action.

Major Lawson landed in a river and immediately separated himself from the parachute and tried to submerge it in the water.

"I started swimming and the enemy, who were about 30 feet away, started shouting and making a lot of noise. I went to the other side of the river and got into a little overhang and hollowed out a gully for myself underneath some underbrush."

Because he was in deep water, the major had a hard time

trying to stabilize himself on the mud bank so that he could remain under cover. Later that night when the enemy eased its search activity, he eased out of the water. "After a while, I decided to run but I couldn't get out of the damn place," he said. "After 30 to 45 minutes, I decided to return to the river be-

cause there were people all over the place."

During the night, the enemy had made an extensive investigation of the area. At one time a boat came within reaching distance of the pilot but did not spot him. The pilot kept still and did not move from his

(Continued on Back Page)

ARVN Rangers Lauded By LBJ

CAN THO (USA) — The 42nd Ranger Battalion recently became the first Vietnamese battalion-size unit to be awarded two U.S. Presidential Unit Citations.

The oak leaf cluster to the first citation was formally presented by General Creighton W. Abrams, COMUSMACV, in ceremonies at Can Tho Army airfield.

The battalion was cited for extraordinary heroism in a battle against the elite Viet Cong Soc Trang Provincial Battalion in Vinh Chau (Ba Xuyen province) May 17, 1966.

The Rangers were lifted into the objective area by helicopters and, as an advance ele-

ment cleared a mangrove thicket, the Viet Cong opened fire from well-prepared defensive positions. The battalion countered the fire, deployed its elements and assaulted the positions.

The 1st and 3rd companies attacked the enemy's flank but made little headway despite intense hand-to-hand combat. At this point the commander, Major Luu Trong Kiet, deployed the 2nd company with the 4th and a coordinated battalion attack was launched.

Facing intensive fire from three staggered lines of entrenchments, the Rangers closed with the enemy and engaged him in fierce hand-to-

DA NANG (USMC) — In separate 3rd Marine Division actions in Northern I Corps recently, Leathernecks netted a total of 321 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers killed in continuing efforts to thwart the elusive enemy infiltrating south across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

These figures raise the enemy body count to more than the 3,300 mark for Operation Napoleon/Saline, a longstanding Marine campaign in this northernmost area.

Battle On The Beaches

In one major contact with the NVA, flanked by the South China Sea, Marines accounted for 230 enemy killed. The action occurred only a few miles below the DMZ.

Three battalions of Marines closed with the NVA near the village of Lai An where they encountered well entrenched enemy forces. The Leatherneck units proceeded through the area to the east along the beaches, supported by Naval gunfire, Marine jet air strikes and friendly organic artillery, to finally overpower the stubborn enemy.

This confrontation also yielded seven NVA detainees, eight crew served and 29 automatic weapons.

Imminent Attacks Quelled

In hilltop battles characterized by sporadic hand-to-hand combat, a battalion of 3rd Marine Division troopers repelled two well coordinated enemy attacks on their position southwest of Khe Sanh, killing 91 NVA.

Hill 689, the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment stronghold, was the target of two reinforced NVA companies which attacked once in the late morning and again at 10 p.m. that night.

The attacks came as no surprise — the 1st Battalion had been waiting for two days.

Elements of the battalion first moved to Hill 689 after a friendly patrol made contact with an estimated enemy platoon. Once positioned on the hill, they received intense NVA small arms and mortar fire.

Following repeated shellings the remainder of the battalion, operating on the hills overlooking Khe Sanh, was heli-lifted to the hilltop, anticipating the imminent attacks.

The attacks came. Throughout the assaults, the NVA bom—
(Continued on Back Page)

hand combat until the objective was cleared.

Major Kiet was not on hand to see his unit honored for the second time. He died of wounds suffered in the battle of Vi Thanh, Chuong Thien province, December 8 of last year.

The 42nd earned its original U.S. Presidential Unit Citation also under command of Major Kiet. It was awarded for action at Phuoc Long, near Bac Lieu city, Bac Lieu province Oct. 16, 1964.

The Rangers all but annihilated three VC main force companies in that action which was characterized by hand-to-hand combat within the enemy positions.

Editorial

Protect Yourself!

Who's the GI's biggest enemy in Vietnam? No, it's not Charlie or his big brother from up North—it's you and your buddies!

Carelessness with your weapon, disregard of safe driving practices, and ignorance of safety precautions to be taken around hazardous machinery and materials all add up to trouble and too often death!

During the first four months of 1968 there were more than 3,700 non-hostile casualties in Vietnam—and that's more than 3,700 too many! Sure, some were unavoidable, but there's certainly no excuse for the driver who passed on a curve and came head-on into a bus; or for the careless trooper who killed his buddy with an "empty" gun; or for the chopper crewman who didn't have his sleeves rolled down during refueling and was severely burned.

It is unfortunate that many servicemen—because we're in a combat zone—regard accidents as unpreventable and therefore excusable. The overcrowded and inadequate highways, the unfamiliar terrain, and the number of personnel who, of necessity, carry weapons don't make accidents inevitable—they only increase the need for all servicemen in-country to be safety conscious. Common sense and good judgment, along with compliance with existing safety regulations, can make your tour a good deal safer.

If the sign says: "MOGAS — No Smoking within 50 Meters," you may not care about the thousands of gallons of gas that might be lost, but what about you? If the sign says "Slow Down — DANGER!" you may not care about the vehicle that might be damaged and the power lines that might be knocked down, but what about you?

What price can you put on your hands, legs, eyes or life? The best insurance you can have to protect them costs very little—just a few seconds of your time to heed some common-sense precautions. (MACV)

'Little Old Minemakers' Demand Caution Of GIs

SAIGON (MACV)—The VC/NVA, after years of experience dating back to the French-Viet Minh Conflict, are efficient and cunning in the use of mines and booby traps. They use these devices to harass, slow down, inflict casualties and demoralize friendly forces.

The VC/NVA are resourceful and make maximum use of all explosive ordnance at their disposal. They police the battle area for unexploded ordnance and modify them for use as mines and booby traps, or use the explosives as a filler for locally manufactured munitions.

Grenades are commonly used as booby traps because they are light in weight, easy to carry and conceal, and readily adaptable. They frequently are put in trees, on gates, doors, barricades and fences, along trails and areas frequented by allied troops, such as landing zones and water wells.

The enemy marks his mines and booby traps with various

signs. Booby traps have been found marked by tufts of grass 10 inches apart, perpendicular to the point of the trail where the trap is located; inverted rock "V" indicators and small bits of adhesive tape scattered around the devices have been noted. Since enemy units are forced to move throughout the country, there must be some standard marking scheme. Any unusual markings or signs along a trail should be treated as a booby trap indicator.

Anti-personnel mines are used on defensive terrain nearby so that troops moving to the high ground to protect a disabled vehicle are then exposed to the AP mines and booby traps. AP mines are also used to defend entrances to enemy areas or underground hiding places and for ambushes along trails.

Watch yourself when you are participating in offensive operations; the enemy is likely to booby trap anything you may use or discard.

The enemy marks his mines and booby traps with various

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**New 'Copter' Computerized During Flights**

FORT MONMOUTH (ANF)—The AH-56A, Cheyenne, the Army's newest attack helicopter will soon hit the warpath, aided by an advanced computer-directed electronic system that promises to make this speedy new "chopper" a terror to enemy soldiers.

The Cheyenne, a heavily armed helicopter with a cruising speed of 250 miles an hour, has been undergoing flight tests conducted for the Army at several California sites.

The electronic system, using data processed by a computer, will give the weapons-equipped helicopter the capabilities of precise navigation and flight control, fire control, and built-in line checkout and in-flight failure warning.

The advanced navigation system will enable the pilot to fly unerringly from take-off to landing without referring to the ground, during darkness and bad weather as well as in clear daylight.

The built-in test equipment, providing both pre-flight and in-flight check-out, is a major design feature which helps make the Cheyenne easy to maintain and highly reliable. A fault location system uses recorded messages to give flight safety warnings.

Through use of automatic fire control, the two-man crew will be able to bring the Cheyenne's weapons into instant play for first-round hits. The copilot, who is also the gunner, may use either a periscope or direct sighting. In addition, the pilot will have a sight mounted on his helmet. Wherever he looks, a gun point.

Cashing-In Savings Notes To Be Easier

WASHINGTON (ANF)—The Department of Defense has been advised that United States Savings Notes (Freedom Shares) can be redeemed only by Federal Reserve Banks or their branches, pending enactment of Federal legislation which is expected in the near future.

Meanwhile, according to Department of the Army Message 871165, holders desiring to redeem Freedom Shares may present such shares for certification to any bank where the holder is known. The certified shares should then be forwarded to either the nearest Federal Reserve Bank or branch or to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D.C. 20220.

In overseas areas, Freedom Shares may be presented to U.S. military banking facilities or branches of U.S. banks for the required certification.

The certified shares should then be forwarded for redemption either to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, N.Y. 10045, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif. 94120, or the Treasurer of the United States.

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"We have faith that an honorable peace can be achieved in Vietnam. . . . But this should also be clear: We shall not be defeated on the battlefield while talks go on. . . ."

Lyndon B. Johnson



CURVY PLAYMATE—Curvaceous Carroll Baker is indeed a girl one would like to meet in the park. The beautiful blond actress has been seen many times on the screen in *The Carpet Baggers*, *Harlow*, and *Devil's Station* to mention just a few.

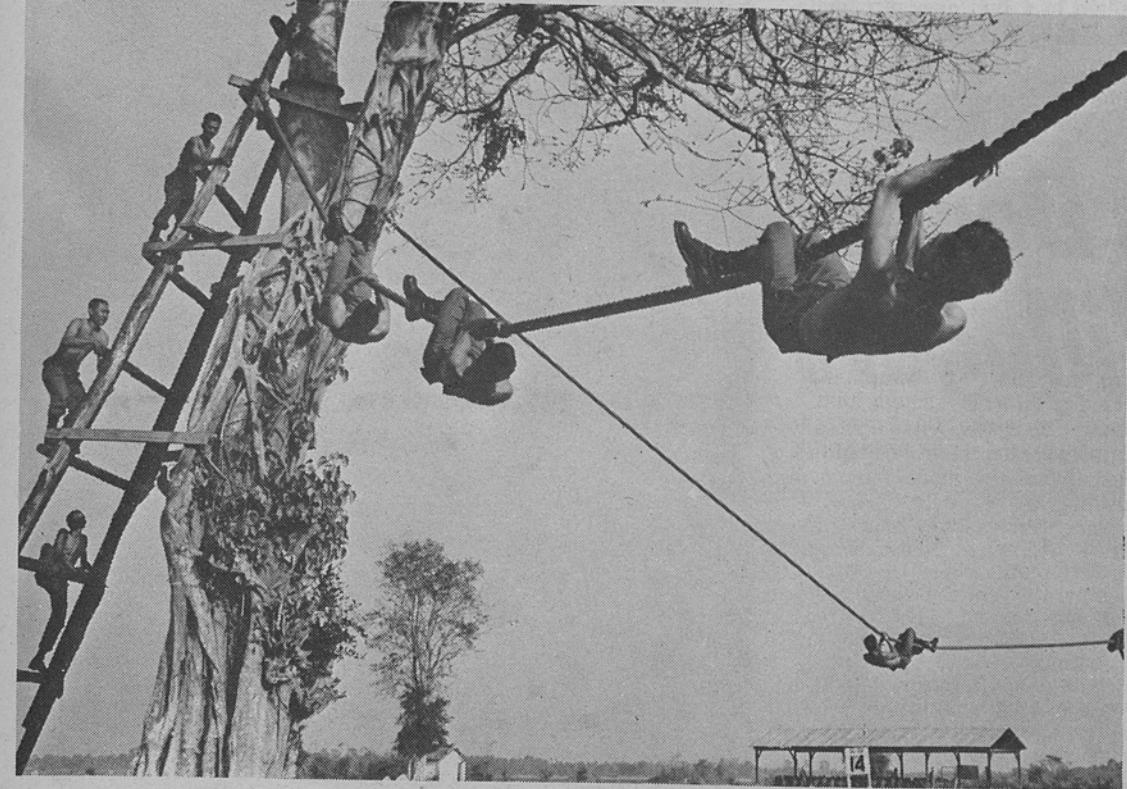


viewing vietnam
Animism, the belief that spirits exist in the world of animate and inanimate objects like rocks and trees, is part of the religion of many Vietnamese. It is predominantly the religion of the Montagnards, the highlanders. The Animist lives in a world inhabited by spirits, both good and bad, and these spirits are active in influencing the outcome of daily events.

The Animist believes that he must care for the spirits to keep from angering them or causing them to re-enter the visible world. He thinks of these spirits as capable of having human emotions, and he believes that they can be greedy, deceptive, unpredictable, bitter and even revengeful. However, the spirits of men who were good while alive do not cause problems, provided that they are properly cared for by their families. Rites have to be performed to send these souls to the world of spirits in the proper manner.

While the Animist does not want to offend spirits, he also desires to use them to his advantage. Just as members of other religions that we are familiar with pray to "go betweens" to help them ask for favors from their deity, the Animist uses spirits to help him achieve his goals in life. He engages in prayer and ritual to cause them to do his will and to placate those spirits which otherwise would harm him.

The most important man in the village of the Animist is the

I Corps ARVN Trainees**'Enlist'**

A series of exercises and obstacle courses are included in the ARVN combat training.

U.S. Silver Star**Gen Abrams Decorates Viet**

HUE (I CORPS)—Men who fought at Hue will long remember the outstanding combat record chalked up there by the Hau Bao (Black Panther) Reaction Company of the ARVN's 1st Infantry Division.

The one man most responsible for that record was recently awarded a U.S. Silver Star Medal by General Creighton B. Abrams, Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

Dui Uy (Captain) Tran Ngoc Hieu 28 year-old Hau Bao commander, was cited for saving the lives of two U.S. Marine soldiers trapped at Hue's citadel airport during the first minutes of the enemy attack on January 31.

During these two engagements Captain Hieu moved all over his company front, exhorting his men, directing their fire. He was totally heedless of his personal safety.

According to U.S. Marine Captain James J. Coolican, the cap-

tain's advisor during the Hue battle, "The Black Panthers装饰ed for 131 enemy killed during one 26 hour engagement on February 22nd and 23rd.

"On the 24th they successfully assaulted the enemy's headquarters in the old imperial palace."

"During the battle for Hue the Black Panthers killed 317 North Vietnamese while taking casualties of only 17 killed themselves," Captain Coolican continued by saying, "I attribute the company's superior performance to Captain Hieu's outstanding leadership."

"He personally led his 100-man company against superior NVA forces who were well armed, well equipped—and he inflicted a crushing defeat on them."

Company, 3rd Marine Division were 10 miles from Khe Sanh.

The Marines had finished their assigned recon mission and were on their way to a predetermined helicopter pickup point when they encountered the enemy.

"As we approached our pickup point we heard a tank and NVA movement to our front," recalls Private First Class Ken McDowell, a rifleman with the team.

The four Marines set up a perimeter and waited for the approaching enemy.

"I looked through the elephant grass and all of a sudden there were two NVA about five feet away from me," said Private First Class Rick Serianne, point man for the patrol. "I opened up with my M-16 and saw both of them go down."

The Leathernecks immediately broke contact and moved to their alternate helicopter pickup point.

With the NVA alerted and looking for the Marines, the recon team held its fire from well camouflaged positions.

"They were swimming all around us," continued PFC Serianne.

"All at once one NVA jumped up about 50 meters from us and started to shoot in the air and yell 'American, American.' We knew he wanted us to open fire so they could find us," explained PFC Serianne.

But the Marines held their fire and the NVA gave up their search.

As the enemy regrouped to leave the area, a Marine helicopter whisked the Marines to safety.

ARVN Units Show Progress; Officer Cited In Advancement

LAM SON (USA)—ARVN units operating within the 1st Infantry Division area are constantly improving. Officers like Captain Ly Siu Cong, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Regiment, 5th ARVN Division are largely responsible for the progress being made.

The Animist also believes that to mutilate or decapitate the body harms the spirit as well as the body. The VC and the NVA use this belief in their terrorism by decapitating those who will not submit to Communism or who openly oppose them.

Like many of South Vietnam's most fervent patriots, Captain Cong once lived in North Vietnam. He was a professor of administration at a college in the city of Mon Cat near Hanoi. In 1954 he came south and joined the ARVN.

Captain Cong's efforts as a battalion commander have been remarkably successful. When he assumed command, desertions and low morale were considered a serious problem in the unit. By providing quick action for his men when emergency leave was needed and allowing for recreational passes on a rotation basis, the captain eliminated desertion.



PREPARING A TRAP—Members of an ARVN Long Range Patrol (LRP) team, studying with a 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division LRP, prepare to spring a trap on unsuspecting Viet Cong during a recent operation.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Nick Pasdikoff)

Other developments add to the subtle, pervasive change in outlook. Many recruits are actually army veterans returning to service to complete their expanded military obligation. They bring with them invaluable prior experience which makes instructing and learning considerably easier.

Introduction of front line weapons training has produced a visible response in troops. The center is currently building a new rifle range to accommodate the M-16, M-79 and M-60 training. It may be a new recognition of the VC menace of their homeland.

Whatever the motivation, volunteers in southern I Corps are coming into the army so fast that drafting has not yet been necessary to fill the quota of Vietnam's new mobilization laws.

The training program at the 2nd Division camp is quick to capitalize on recruits' natural motivations. Soldiers are told what the VC are doing, and are shown what progress the legitimate government has made against its problems.

Troops attending the camp have another incentive—they will be assigned within the division area of operation—Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces, their own homes.

The results are highly motivated graduates, more effective because they know what's going on. "Deserters do not come from our recruits," claims Captain Thanh.

As he prepares to leave Vietnam, Captain Milton summarizes the division progress: "I think ARVN is beginning to sense victory, and the training administered west of Quang Ngai is a major factor."

Four Leathernecks Elude Fifty NVA

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VC Rockets Seized

LAI KHE (USA) — Two large caches of VC armaments which included 117 rockets were seized by 1st Infantry Division troops, thwarting a possible massive attack on Saigon.

More than half the rockets were found six miles northeast of the capital city; similar caches were discovered about 30 miles north of there.

The first disclosures occurred during a two-day operation southeast of Saigon. Company C, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry was conducting a reconnaissance in force when enemy fire aroused the suspicions of the company commander, Captain Norman T. Austin, who said, "We assumed the enemy was trying to protect something, so we decided to check it out."

Gunships and artillery bombarded the area ahead of the ground troops, causing a secondary explosion in the high grasses along the Rach Dia river, revealing the presence of hidden armaments. A thorough ground search uncovered the caches, the company's second find in that area in a month.

Included in the find were fuses, rocket warheads, 15 rifles, 13 Russian 122mm rockets and 44 Chinese Communist 107mm rockets. Five additional 122mm rockets were found the following day.

The rocket find came less than three weeks after the same company had found 22 smaller 107mm rockets in three different locations approximately five miles east of Saigon.

A second major find was made by the division approximately 30 miles north of Saigon, uncovering 55 rockets and more than 1,100 RPG rounds.

Accompanied by a troop from the 1st Squadron, 11th Cavalry, a company from the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry was moving into a woodland when they spotted a bunker-type mound which they hit with ground and air fire. Due to nightfall, the exploration of the hole was delayed until morning when 55 rockets (107mm) and more

than 500 RPG rounds were found.

Within 10 miles of the 28th Infantry find, tunnel complexes were discovered by a 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 2nd Infantry reconnaissance patrol. A

search of the complexes resulted in a find of approximately 120 RPG rounds and fuses, seven RPG launchers, 24 mortar rounds, an 82mm mortar tube and assorted web gear, clothing and documents.

American Dentist Treats Villagers

DA NANG (USN) — Most dentists would be content to stay in an air conditioned office and pull teeth or fill a few cavities every day. Not Doctor Charles Drew of the Naval Support Activity's Camp Tien Sha dental office.

U.S. Navy advisors attached to a Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group at Cau Hai Bay near Hue asked Lieutenant Drew to treat residents of Pho An hamlet, which adjoins their camp. He agreed.

"It gets a little tedious working seven days a week at Camp Tien Sha," he said. "This is a great way to break up the week."

Dr. Drew and Dental Technician Rod Duncan boarded a Navy Swift boat for the 35-mile ride up the coast to Coastal Group 13. They were met offshore by a junk which ferried them through the shallow waters of the bay to the Vietnamese base.

A crowd had already gathered after hearing a broadcast from the junk telling of his arrival.

For nearly five hours Dr. Drew examined patients and pulled teeth when necessary. Temperature in the small building was around 100 degrees. As the dental team worked, Lieutenant (j.g.) Dave Woldwick, another advisor, fought a running battle with the crowd trying to keep them from squeezing in too close.

When they were through, 95 residents of Pho An had been treated and 135 extractions made. "This kind of program has some advantages over a medical one," said Dr. Drew. "The people can see the results immediately."



Popular Force soldier brings daughter in for dental check-up.

Leatherneck Crushes 'Nest'

HUE/PHU BAI (USMC) — After the squad from Company H, 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, moved into the trap, Private First Class Henry L. Payne, point man for the patrol, hit the dirt as heavy enemy fire zeroed in on the casualties, the PFC crawled 50 meters through the rice paddies to flank the enemy trenches.

The enemy must have expected victory as an unsuspecting Leatherneck squad moved into their ambush site.

They didn't figure on the audacity of one Marine, armed only with a grenade, who braved the enemy fire and charged their most vital position—a well-entrenched machine gun nest.

The man behind PFC Payne was hit immediately and another Leatherneck who rushed to aid him was also wounded.

As the enemy machine gun

zeroed in on the casualties, the PFC crawled 50 meters through the rice paddies to flank the enemy trenches. "We shouted to the wounded to crawl to a dike and stay there," he recalled. "We realized we couldn't reach them safely because of the enemy machine gun, but once the casualties reached the dike and had some safety, we could concentrate on laying down a base of fire."

If the machine gun could be silenced, the Marine figured they could overpower the North Vietnamese (NVA) soldiers.

He pulled the pin on a grenade and charged the spitting gun. PFC Payne hurled the grenade and hit the deck. The explosion silenced the position.

The Leatherneck demolished the enemy nest with another grenade.

Immediately after the second explosion, the Marine started rushing enemy trenches.

He maneuvered back to the casualties as the remaining Marines charged through the enemy lines, accounting for five enemy kills.

Two other enemy soldiers were found dead near the machine gun as the remaining enemy retreated.

Rags Alive!

HUE (USA) — An apparent pile of rags surprised a paratrooper from the 101st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade by turning to life.

Specialist 4 Steven Selman of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, was searching a village when he approached a house with furniture and boxes piled on the porch.

"I lifted the lid on one of the boxes and saw what appeared to be a pile of rags in the corner," the specialist said.

As he replaced the lid the rags began to move. Suddenly an NVA lieutenant emerged with his hands in the air.



BIG GUN—This big-bore weapon was captured by 3rd Marine Division Leathernecks during an engagement with the North Vietnamese Army near Dong Ha. The "big gun" has been fashioned from a M-79 grenade launcher and is equipped with a fast-draw spring holster made from a cut down U.S. pistol holster. (USMC PHOTO By: LCpl. Bob Stetson)

NVA Dies Laughing

KONTUM (USA) — A North Vietnamese soldier recently died laughing because he picked the wrong place to do it.

The incident occurred near Landing Zone Hippie where the 4th Division's Company C, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry was set up in a night perimeter.

A loud, piercing laughter from a nearby woodland shattered the stillness of the night.

"I didn't know what to make of it," said Specialist 4 David Monroe. "It was like something from a ghost story."

Company C's perimeter was in a heavily wooded area and this, coupled with the late evening darkness, made it impossible to see where the noise came from.

First Lieutenant Joe Moorman, Company C's forward observer, called in illumination rounds.

As they burst, the men of the 3rd Brigade company spotted the NVA soldier sitting on a stump a scant 20 meters away. In plain view, he continued laughing.

Then as he got up and started running toward the woods, Specialist Monroe shot him.

Way Station Opened

Cargo Route Cut By Half

DAK TO (USA) — Another new page on logistical support was added to the 4th Infantry Division history recently when Air Force C-130 cargo aircraft parachuted ammunition, petroleum and other supplies to soldiers at the Dak Seang Special Forces camp north of Dak To.

It was the first time "Ivymen" had participated in an aerial resupply drop in Vietnam.

Dak Seang has been established as a "halfway resupply point" for helicopters flying men and material farther north to the current hot spot at Dak Pek. The aerial drop operation is a joint effort between the 4th Division Support Command (DIS-

COM) and the Air Force's 109th Air Delivery Company.

"It's been a smooth operation so far," said Colonel William C. Abernathy, DISCOM commander. "This refueling and resupplying point will also get ammunition and other needed supplies to 1st Brigade soldiers at Dak Pek a lot quicker."

Formerly, helicopter pilots flying troops and supplies from Dak To to Dak Pek had to make the whole trip from Dak To.

The small compound at Dak Seang was selected for the operation because bad conditions at Dak Pek discouraged the utilization of an aerial resupply system there.

Story & Photos
By
U.S. Army



A C-130 empties its supplies using "low altitude extraction."



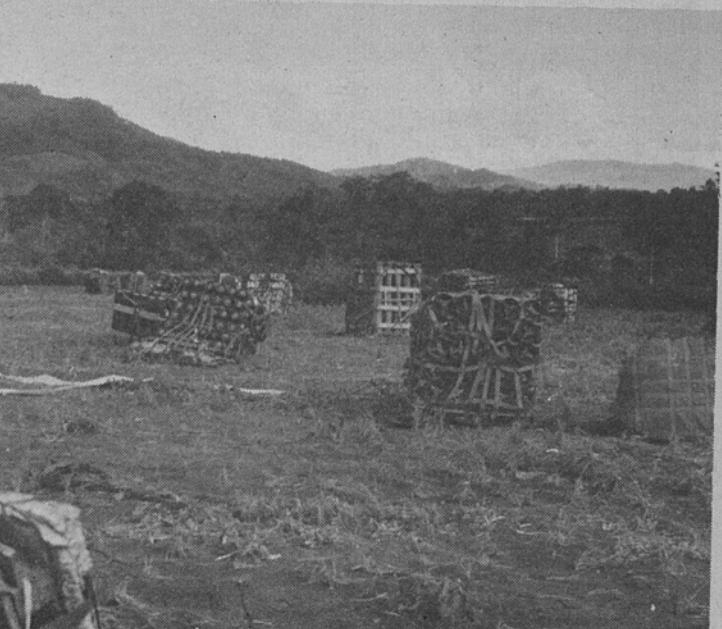
Slowed by billowing chutes, the supplies for Dak Seang flock the horizon in their descent.



Minutes after an air drop 4th Division men wrap up the chutes. Lying inert on the LZ, the food and ammo await temporary storage before making the last leg.



Their tasks complete, the cargo chutes drift lazily to earth.



Dogs, PBRs; Marriage Of Woe For VC

SAIGON (MACV) — Thanks to creative thinking by one American advisor and a willingness displayed by his Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) counterparts and the U.S. Navy, another mode of combing the Delta waterways has come into regular use.

The story began when Sergeant First Class Richard A. Tomkins, IV Corps scout dog advisor for Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), thought that there must be some way in which scout dogs could be used to maximum effectiveness during the Delta's rainy season as they are in the dry season.

Why couldn't a scout dog be attached to the Navy river patrol boats? If it was conceivable, it was possible.

Dogs Close By

Having three scout dog platoons in IV Corps under his guidance, all within close proximity of some Navy River Section, Sergeant Tomkins figured that the ARVN scout dogs could do the same job on the water with their keen sense of smell as they did on land operations.

By using a scout dog on the bow of the lead patrol boat, river (PBR), the dog might detect possible enemy ambushes and "alert" the PBRs to illegal traffic along and across the Delta rivers, which the PBRs wouldn't otherwise have picked up with their radar or Starlight scopes.

New Concept

Until November 1967, these thoughts were mere theory, based on a good deal of experience with dogs. After the liaison work necessary to any new concept, Sergeant Tomkins and the 4th Scout Dog Platoon, attached to the ARVN 9th Infantry Division, boarded their first PBR for patrol work.

Since that time the ARVN scout dog platoons have proven their worth many times over to this type of mobile water patrol.

One day in mid-July 1968,

Sergeant Tomkins and 1st Lieutenant Du Thieu Thiet, commanding officer of the 4th Scout Dog Platoon, coordinated with the newly-formed River Section 524 for deployment of the ARVN scout dogs on that night's patrol. It was the first time this section had used dogs and the first time that the new MARK II PBR was to be used with dogs.

First Patrol

With Lieutenant Thiet standing by, Sergeant Tomkins briefed the Navy crew of Boatswain's Mate First Class R. W. Schott on the metal pier just prior to loading.

There were two ARVN handlers and dogs for the patrol,

which consisted of two MARK IIs sporting fiberglass hulls and twin engines. MARK II engines are driven by water-jet pumps within the hull itself, allowing the boat to travel in much shallower water while not having to worry about fouling its props in reeds or debris.

The Alert

The PBRs headed out with the lead boat carrying the German Shepherd that would stand first watch. The time was about 5:30 p.m.

While the boat ferried out of Sa Dec and sped up the Mekong River, the dog lounged in the stern of the boat, its tongue

dangling in a lazy, rhythmic pant.

On a normal patrol the boats will skirt quickly up-river past a suspected enemy ferry point, cut the engines and drift back down in hopes of catching some movement. With the nose and ears of the ARVN scout dogs on patrol this night, the patrol's chances of picking up suspects were immeasurably greater.

The Alert

As darkness fell on the river, the dog was led to the bow deck of the PBR, just under the twin-50s—this was his place of business. The handler loosed the "choke-chain" about the dog's neck and strapped the leather

shoulder harness around his forelegs. He knew it was time to work.

The PBR's engines were shut down and it began to drift along the current. No lights were on. The dog was on his haunches, sniffing for the "cone of scent" that would alert him to the scent of metal or human beings.

The Alert

Suddenly the dog's ears were erect, rigid, and his nose was

in the action of an alert. He was a picture of frenzy, the hackle hair along the dog's spine fluffed and the handler told Sergeant Tomkins, who read the alert by stage whisper, "Port, port!"

The right scope was trained that direction and, after gauging the extent of movement, a flare was popped flooding area with light.

For a split this is the time

to show a pass and justify his presence; for the enemy it is time to run or give up. This time it was a civilian.

There were six alerts given this particular night. Three persons and eight bags of rice without a manifest were taken into Sa Dec for further investigation. It was another coup for the ARVN scout dogs, which gave the first alert in all six cases.

Study In Cooperation

Combining the skills of ARVN scout dogs and their handlers with the swift moving PBRs was one unique idea which grew into a substantial success.

The project is an example of the cooperation that exists between the ARVN and Americans. The success of this unusual teaming of dog and ship has again demonstrated the reliability of ARVN units in employing a new technique. The ARVN are glad of the opportunity to prove their worth through action.

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



Pre-float obedience is part of each patrol; the shoulder strap signals work.



Sergeant Tomkins briefs the Navy crew on the scout prior to loading.



On the way to its night patrol area, the PBR hailed many sampans to check personal IDs and contents.



Framed by twin-50s on the bow of the PBR, a fisherman makes his pass.



Relaxing before the work begins, the dog and his ARVN handler wait for dark.



Just out of the harbor the patrol boat, river (PBR) prepares to tie a junk alongside to search it.



Woman detained for questioning after a dog's alert.



Doctor R. Biviano performs a digital amputation at Hoa Khanh.



Clothes sent by the 4-H Club, are given to youngsters at the Children's Hospital.



When he came to the hospital he was completely paralyzed.

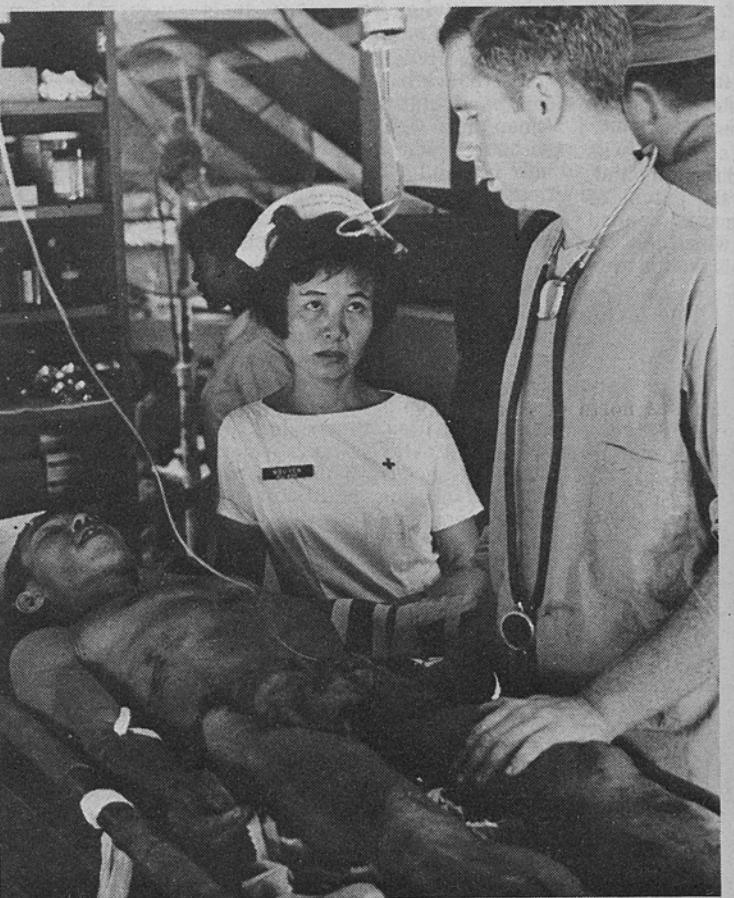
Children's Hospital**Growth By Popular Demand**

DA NANG (USMC) — "Love-Happiness-Freedom" — so reads a sign at the entrance to the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital within the Camp Books headquarters compound of Marine Force Logistic Command (FLC), nine miles northwest of Da Nang.

The hospital, a unique experiment in humanity, is dedicated to the children of Vietnam and was established by two Navy doctors during 1965. It has steadily grown from an 11-bed facility to its present structure, capable of accommodating 70 in-patients.

Staffed by FLC corpsmen and Vietnamese nurses aides with an FLC doctor conducting daily rounds, this unique medical establishment has turned a deaf ear to enemy propaganda branding the hospital a "slaughter house" and the American doctors as "killers of innocent children."

"Since September last year we've admitted and treated ap-



The head nurse reacts to news that this boy will lose his leg.

per attention, nutrition and therapeutical treatment, he has progressed to the point of feeding himself, and even renders a "smart salute and bright smile" for all visitors.

A minor irritation noted by American and Vietnamese staff personnel is what "Gwen," the head nurse, refers to as "Chinese medicine."

"A child was brought to the hospital for treatment," the port former Hanoi resident said. "He had a chicken tied around his neck. We were told that treatment would be accepted only if the child was not bathed and if the chicken was not removed from around his neck."

The building is being constructed mainly by the Vietnamese with technical assistance furnished by Marines and Seabees.

"We have made great accomplishments here and have gained more than an acceptance. There has been a noted decline in recurring chronic illness that was prevalent in this area a year ago. This," Doctor Fitzgerald added, "indicates that the people are accepting not only us personally, but our medical knowledge and free treatment. Total acceptance, perhaps, has been the key to success."

"Gwen" explained that the chicken is cut open and placed on the child's chest. It is believed that the dead chicken, a sacrifice, will keep the child's temperature down. Another form of "Chinese medicine" is a coating of animal excreta spread over infected areas of a sick person's body.

The child was completely paralyzed from the neck down when he was admitted. With pro-

ximately 1,800 patients, most of whom range in age from days to 20 years," said Navy Lieutenant Sean F. Fitzgerald, doctor-in-charge.

"We are working with this paraplegic case," said Doctor Fitzgerald, pointing to the contorted figure of a young boy huddled on a cot. "This youngster," he continued, "has been with us since last September and is doing remarkably well considering his illness."

The child was completely paralyzed from the neck down when he was admitted. With pro-

As the hospital's fame spreads, so must its capabilities expand. A new hospital is in

Story & Photos
By
USMC



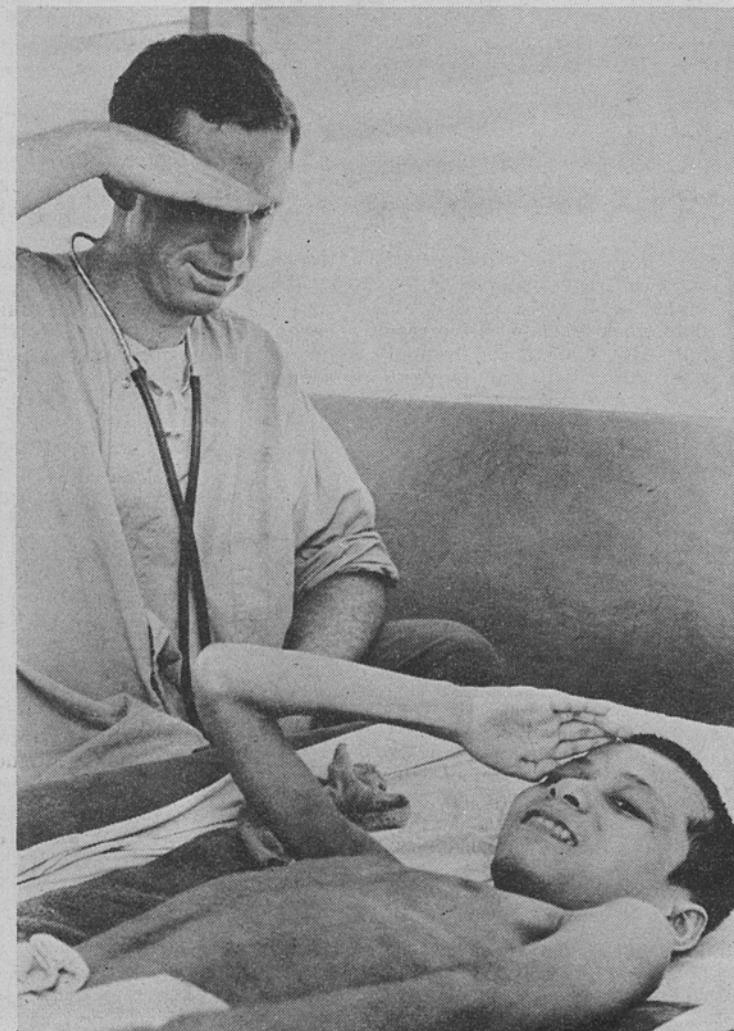
A Seabee lends technical "know-how" to Vietnamese working on the new hospital.



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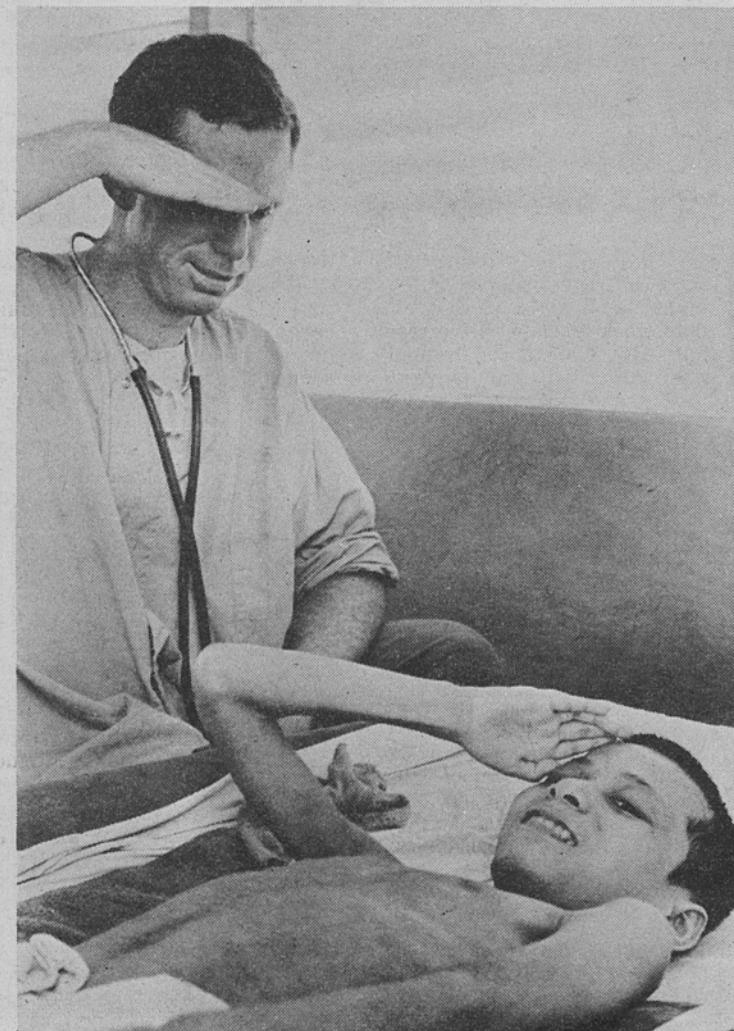
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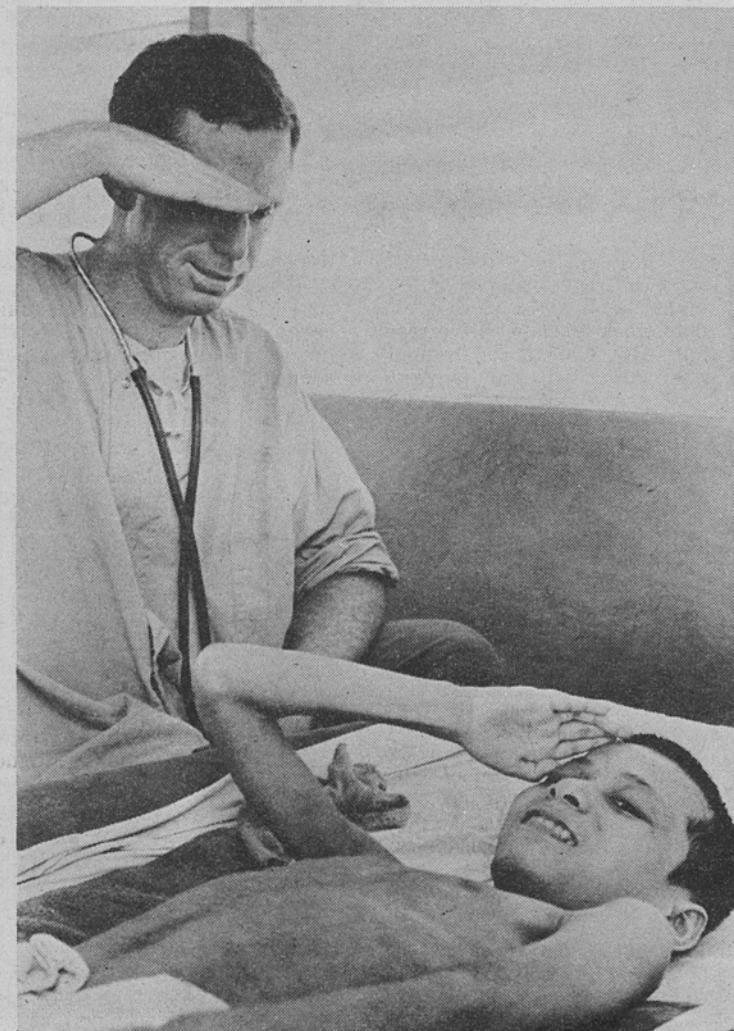
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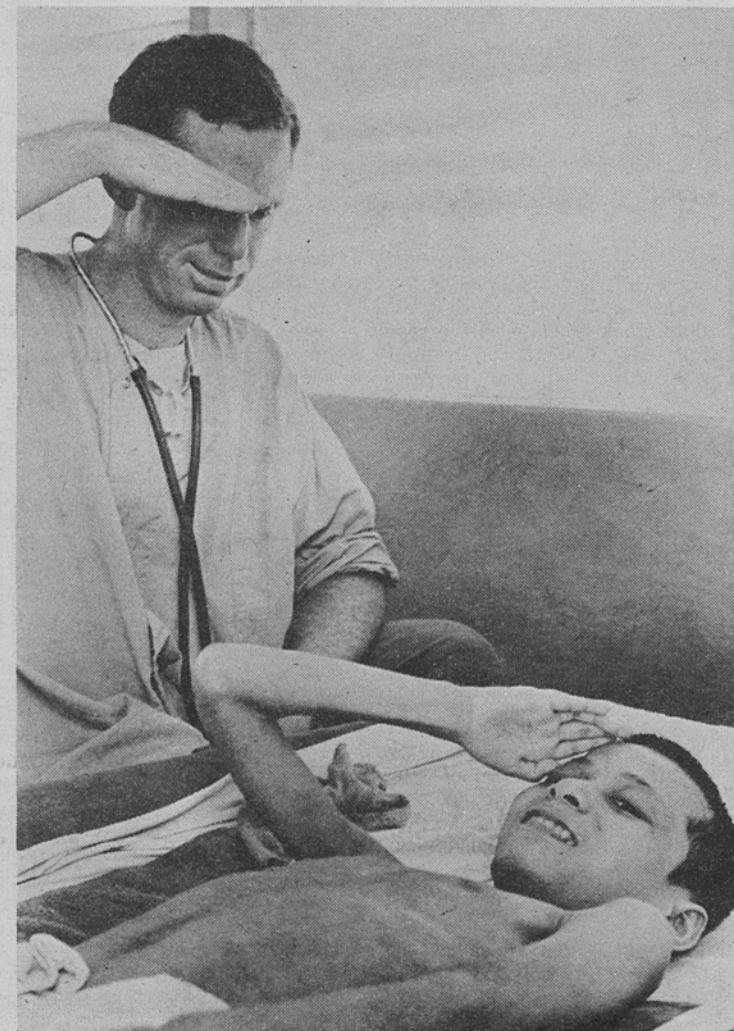
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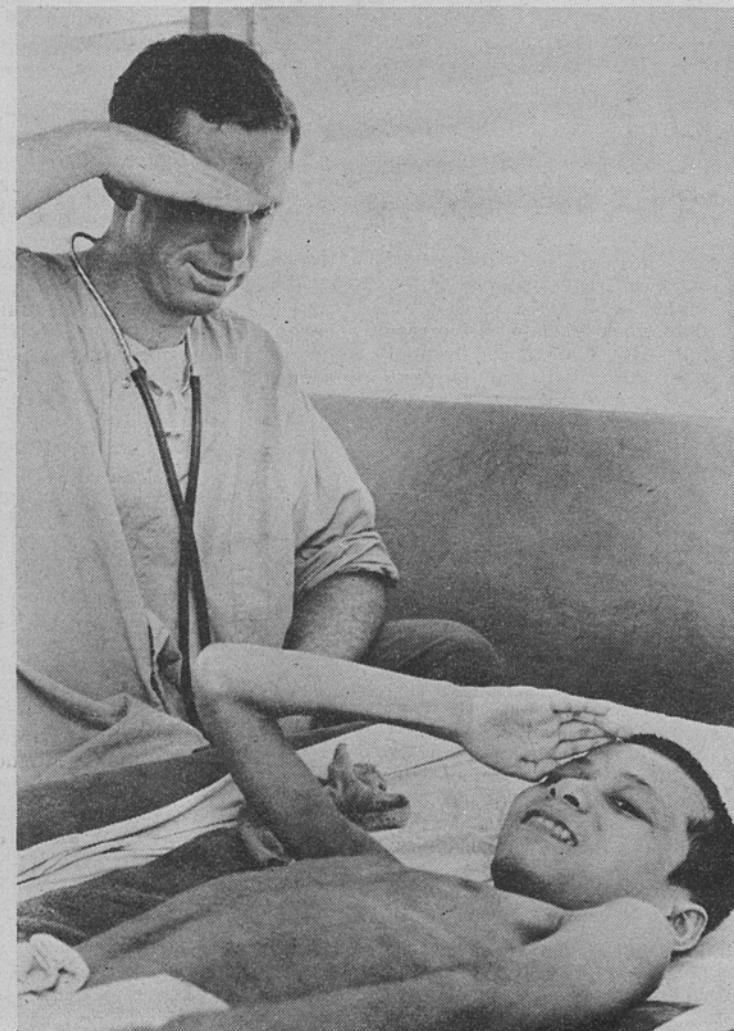
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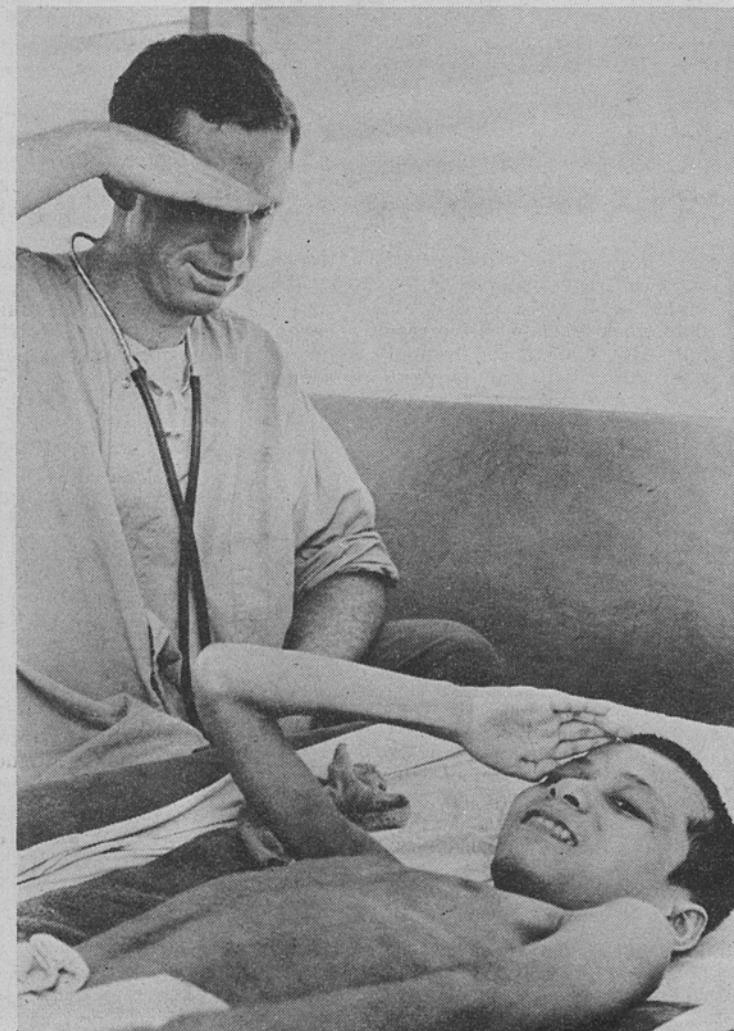
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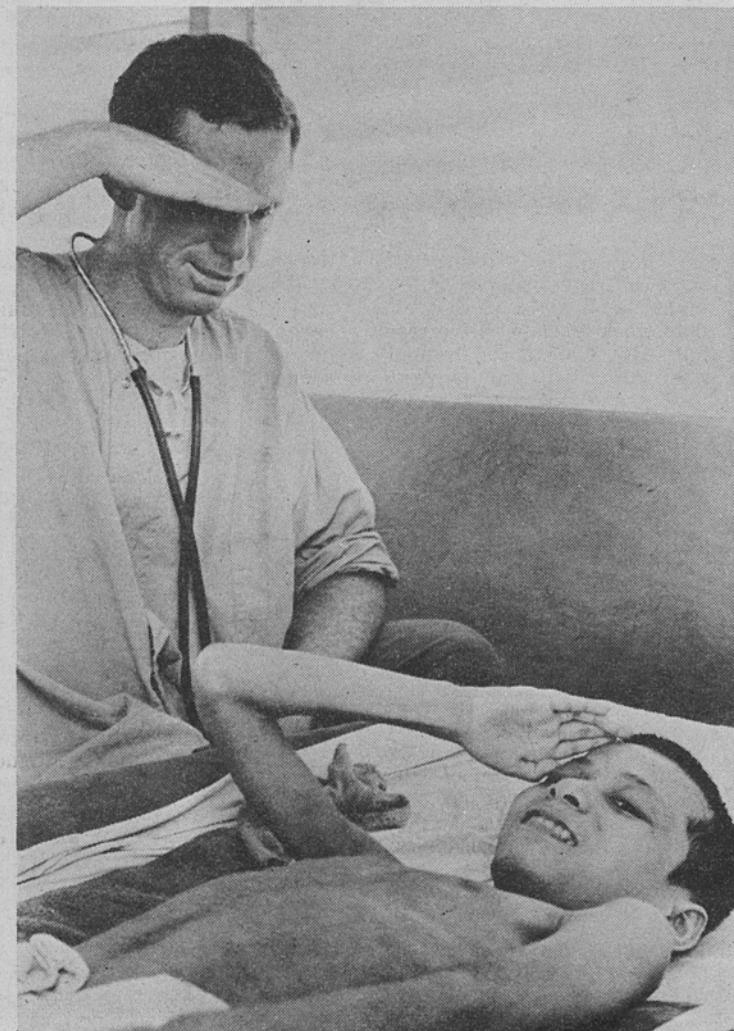
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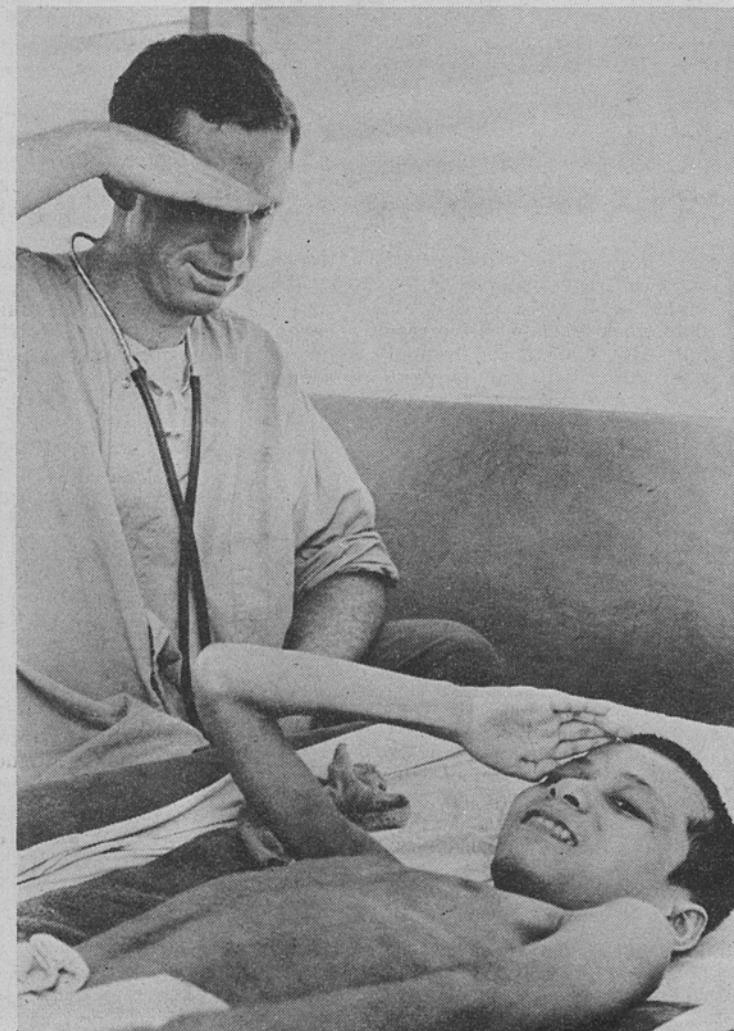
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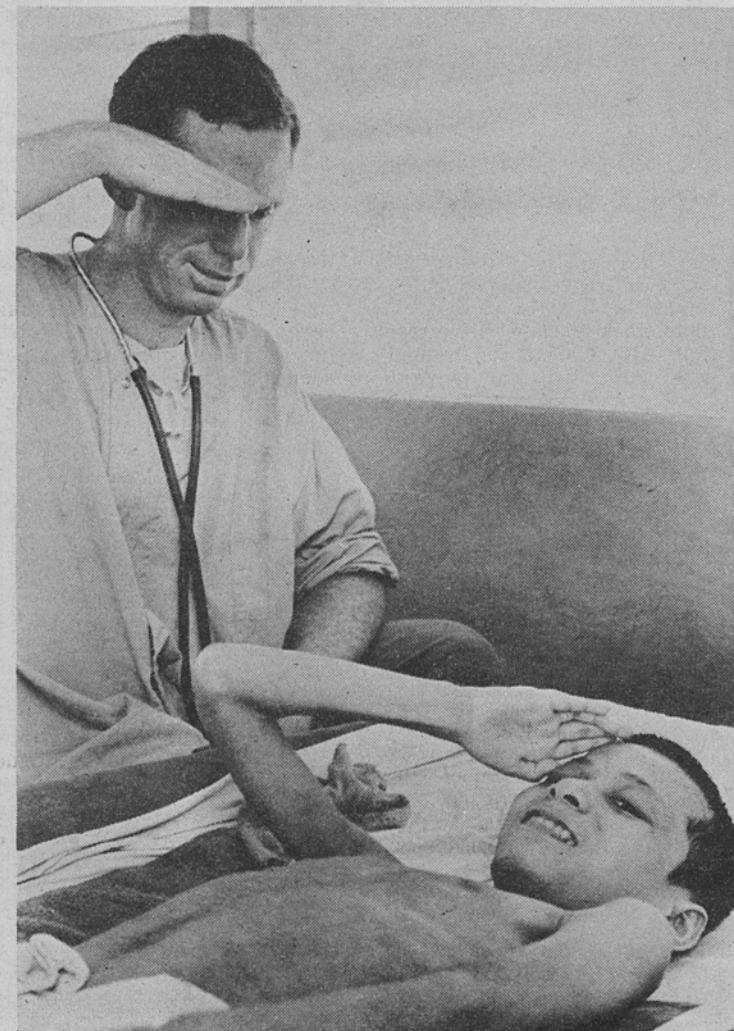
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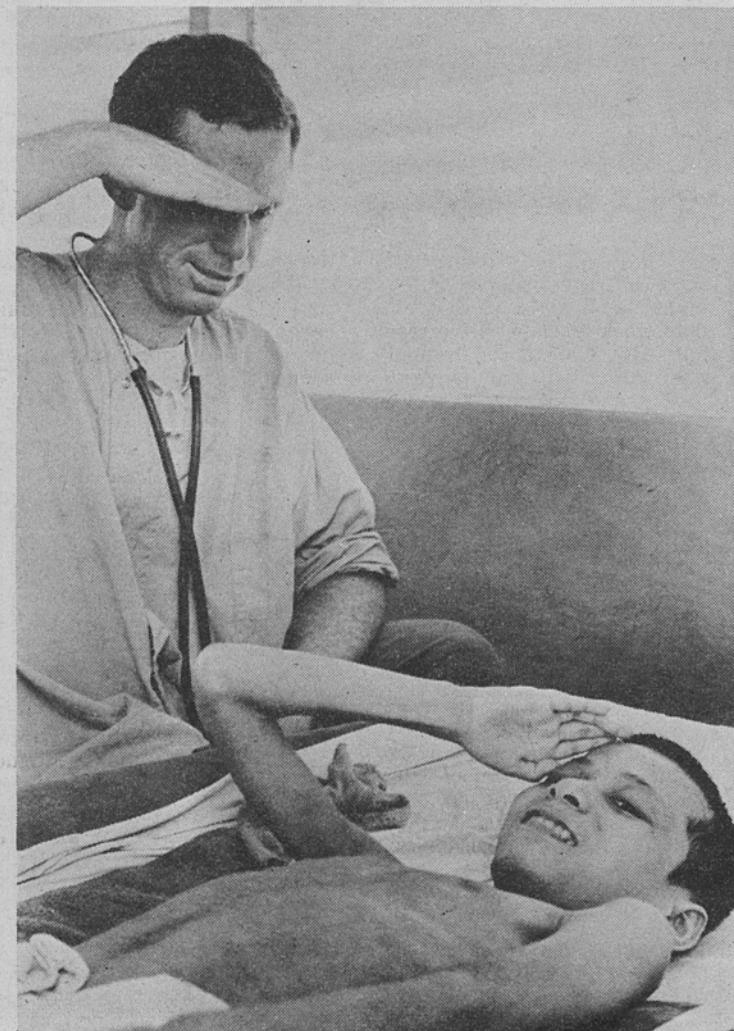
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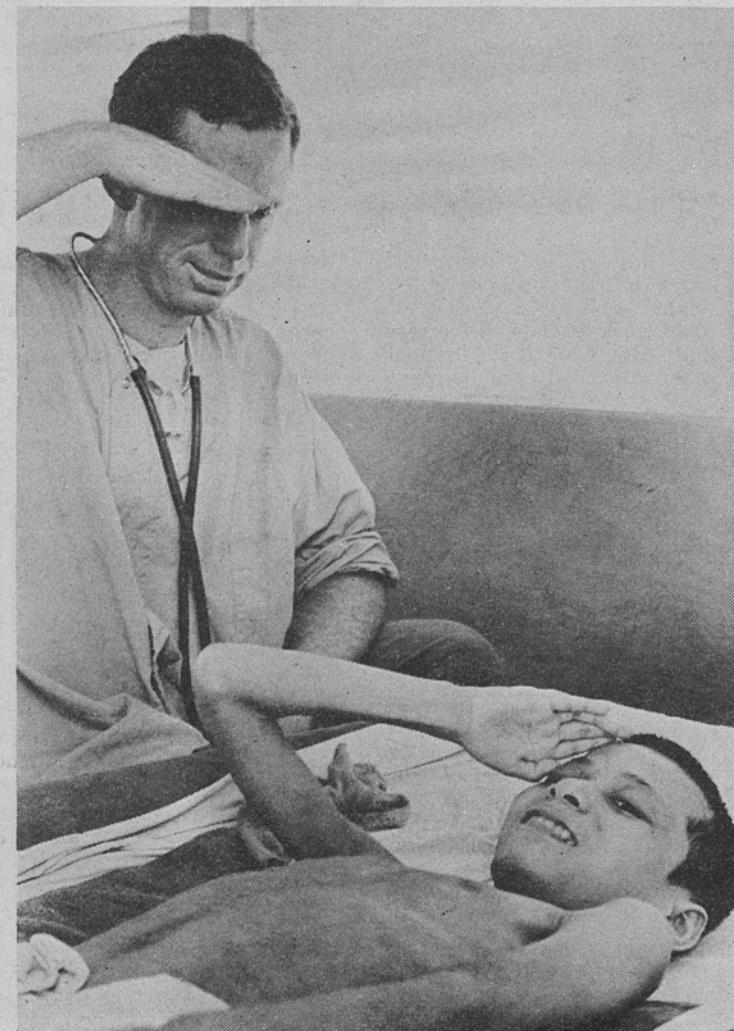
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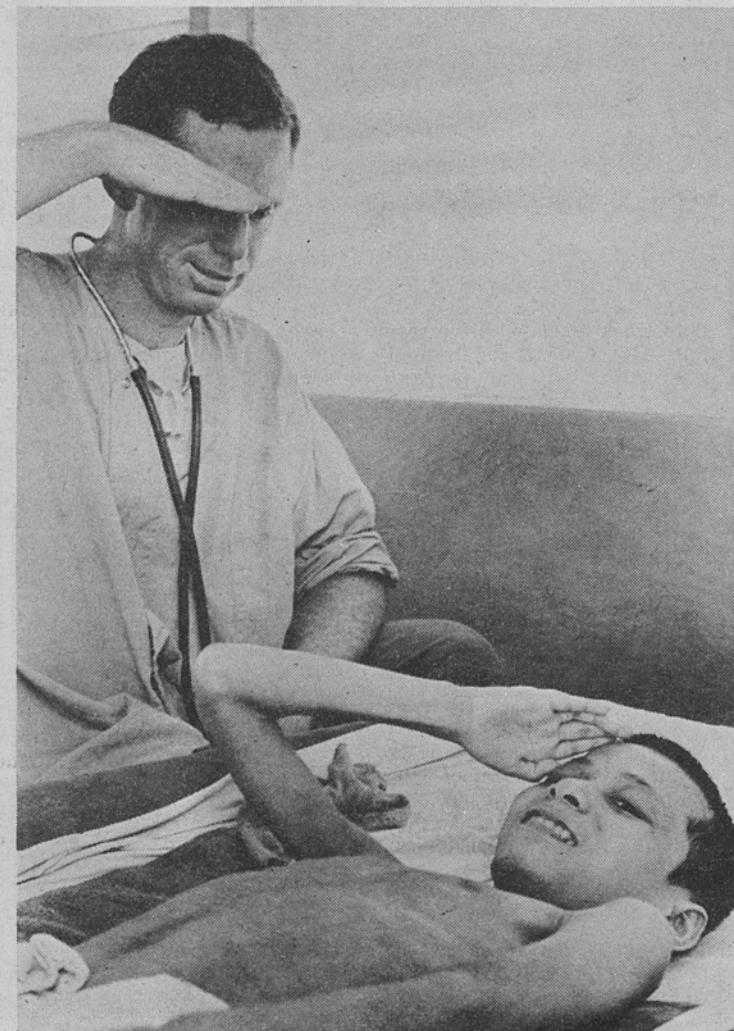
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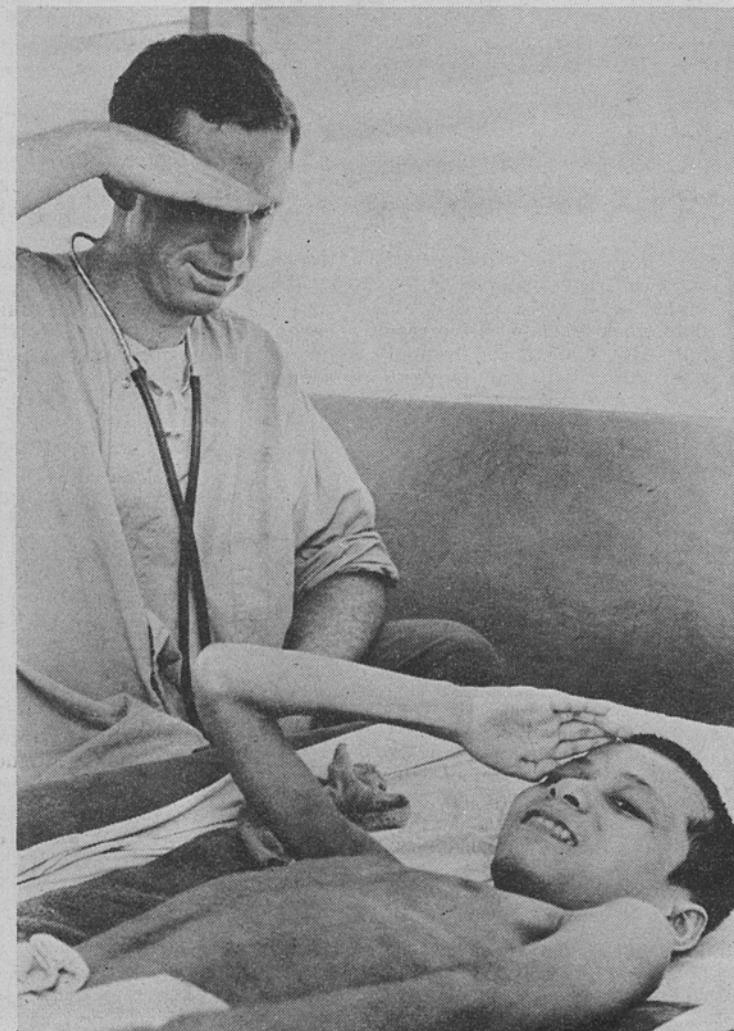
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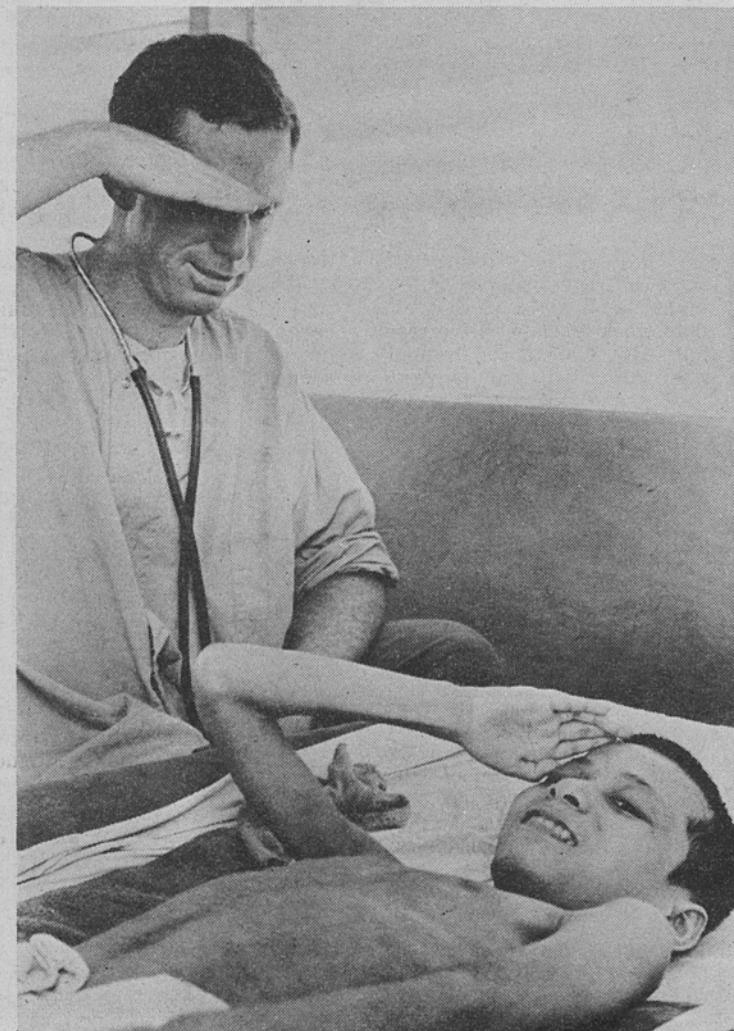
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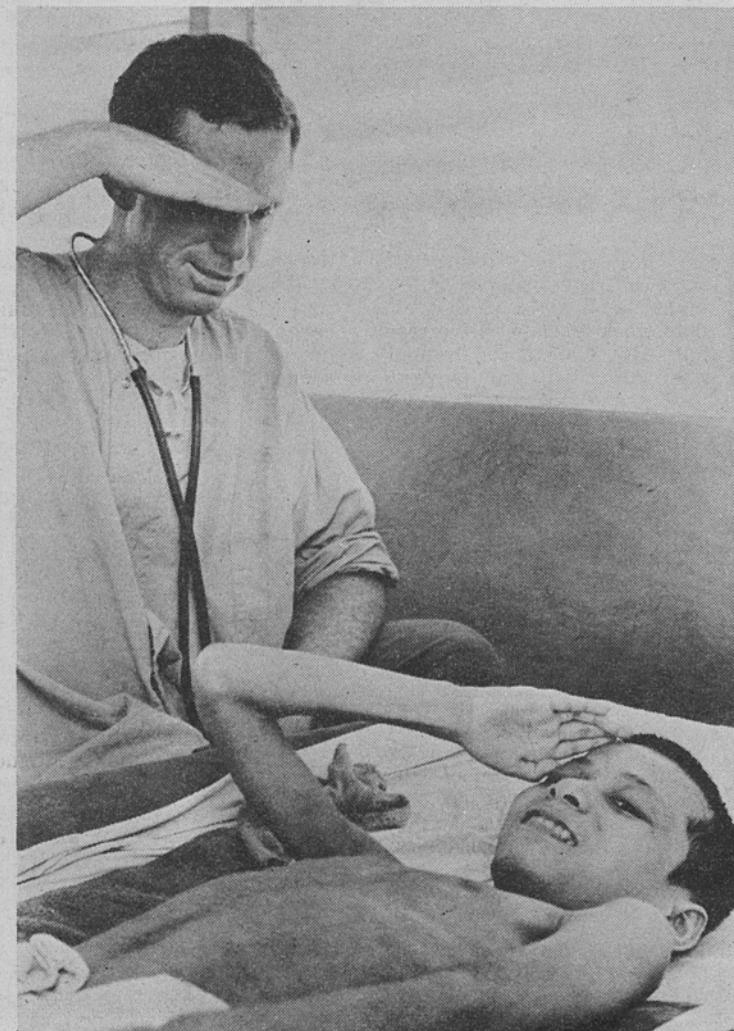
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Rigged Rice Pile Fools VC

CU CHI (USA)—Two quick-thinking infantrymen from the 101st Air Cavalry Division's A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry turned the tables on the Viet Cong during a recent reconnaissance-in-force operation near here.

"We were sweeping a small village when we found approximately 15,000 pounds of rice," said Sergeant Ken Brokaw. With nightfall rapidly approaching, however, the men were unable to extract the rice immediately.

Since Sergeant Brokaw and Specialist 4 John Hague, knew they would return to the village the next day, they decided to try one of the enemy's tricks.

The two troopers placed a fragmentation grenade in a C-ration can and rigged a booby trap across a well-used trail running up to the rice cache. The next morning A Company swept back through the village and found two AK-47 magazines, two used battle dressings and several blood trails.

"I guess Charlie didn't expect to find his own tricks being used against him," Sergeant Brokaw said.

GIs Support Fire Victims

LONG BINH (IFF) — A shipment of used clothing from the United States was given to Army of the Republic of Vietnam dependents who recently were made refugees by a fire in their Bien Hoa compound 18 miles northeast of Saigon.

The fire broke out unexpectedly in the ARVN Administrative and Logistic Compound in Bien Hoa. Spreading quickly, it raced through the dependent living area.

Hundreds of people were running, trying to salvage household possessions as the fire raged on. Secondary explosions kept all but a few away from the flaming buildings. The smoke rose nearly 1,000 feet in the air.

When the fire trucks arrived to put out the fire a great many buildings and their contents had already been destroyed.

Captain Thomas M. Saunders, civil affairs platoon commander, responded to the situation by calling his unit, the 2d Civil Affairs Company, in Long Binh. He advised Major Warren W. Buckingham, executive officer, and said he might be able to help. Major Buckingham noted: "Awhile back I wrote to my mother and told her that the Vietnamese could use some clothing and that it would be a good idea if she could send some."

As it turned out, the boxes of clothing, three in all, arrived the day of the fire. "We certainly didn't have to look very hard to find some people to give these items to. We just drove to Bien Hoa and gave it all out, together with blankets and cartons of C-rations," he added.

Major Buckingham was very pleased with the way things worked out. "We certainly responded to their needs in record time. They were still working on the fire while we were distributing the clothes," he said. He has hopes that his idea will catch on among other groups of citizens in the states.



SWIM ANYONE??—Indeed one might wish to go for a swim with this beautiful young lady.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

Paris Unit Commended

AF Controllers Assist Medical Airlift

SAIGON (USA) — When aircrews of the U.S. Army's 45th Medical Company rush to pick up battle casualties, Air Force controllers at the Paris Control and Reporting Center (CRC) at Tan Son Nhut air base play a vital role in getting the wounded to medical treatment.

"Dustoff" helicopters—UH-1s—fly at low level and sometimes call in from as far as Tay Ninh. The Paris air traffic controller must pinpoint the area where the pickup is to be made and determine whether it is under fire or in other danger.

The controller must guide the dustoff medevac around weather and artillery. Once the pickup is made, the controller records casualty information and relays the message to a second key man, the Paris operations control technician. The control tech then calls the necessary

agency and arranges for an ambulance and necessary equipment to meet the patients at the hospital.

Dustoff deliveries vary. Sometimes they return with walking patients, litter patients and intensive care patients in the same

flight. Each of these requires a different kind of handling.

In a recent letter of appreciation to CRC, officials of the 45th Medevac Company expressed "sincere thanks and appreciation to Paris for services that have helped dustoff evacuate

many wounded, often under the most trying weather and visibility conditions." The letter also commended Paris technicians for having ambulance and life-saving apparatus waiting on the ground when the dustoffs arrived.

"The children have shown high interest and desire to learn."

The battalions also furnishes writing books, pencils, pens, erasers and rulers. The men also plan to supply Vietnamese-English handbooks for school use.

"Following classes, we give them candy and fruit for their hard work," the lieutenant said.

The classes teach fundamentals," Lieutenant Lancaster said. "Short sentences are composed from a basic word list. After hearing the sentence in Vietnamese, the children speak and write it in English until they learn the words and meaning."

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"Following classes, we give them candy



F-100 Supersabre jet—the type that was used to pound the enemy anti-aircraft sites during the rescue of Major Lawson. (USAF PHOTO)

AF Fighters, Jolly Green Rescue Pilot...

(Continued From Page 1)
watery hiding place for the rest of the night.

At first light, the major spotted an Air Force F-100 Supersabre flying overhead—the first since he had gone down nine hours before.

He had a survival radio and he knew that a rescue attempt would be made.

"It was about 6:30 a.m. The F-100 pilot assessed the situation, got my position, and then left the area, after a good job of observation," the rescued pilot said. "I believe the enemy was trying to set up a trap for the rescue choppers and they would have done it if the planes had come in then."

For the next 11 hours, air strikes were called in to silence the enemy guns. "Everybody was really laying it in there and I was helping them by directing them to the target area," he commented. "I didn't know how long my radio would last, but I was talking to the fighters above and they were laying it in on me. Matter of fact, I called in a raid on a 37mm gun site that was right above me, close to the river's edge. Some of the debris from his ordnance fell in the water beside me."

Rescue helicopters attempted to go into the area on several occasions but were turned back by the heavy enemy ground fire. On each attempt, more air strikes were called into the area.

One of the Air Force Skyraiders took at least 15 hits while trying to knock out North Vietnamese gun positions. "I had marked the position of the downed pilot by flying over his area and asking for a voice signal when I was directly over-

head," stated Air Force Major Alan Hale, one of the early on-scene commanders of the rescue operation. "I was forced to withdraw when I saw that I was taking hits and losing my hydraulic pressure," Major Hale explained.

Meanwhile, overhead, Jolly Green helicopters were orbiting at high altitude awaiting a signal to descend for the rescue. In all, the choppers had to make six refueling trips to Quang Tri so that they could be prepared to make the attempt. Three unsuccessful attempts were made. As darkness began to fall over North Vietnam, the fourth—and successful—effort was made.

"It was no fault of the Jolly Greens that they didn't make it in earlier," Major Lawson said. "The enemy had three 37mm guns all set up and a big ordnance depot on the other

side of the river. These guns were about 50 meters from me."

The Jolly Green started descending from its high orbit for the fourth attempt; the aircraft commander, Major Charles E. Wicker, told the crew to start firing once they hit the 1,000 foot mark.

"The pararescue man and the flight engineer started firing the M-60 machineguns and the M-16s that we had on board. Our whole strategy was to keep firing going in, during the pick-up, and going out," Major Wicker said.

"I really didn't think that we were going to get out of there, so we decided we'd take a lot of them with us."

"I told the pilot to pop some smoke but it came too late and we overshot him by about 25 yards," Major Wicker said. "I spun around in the other direction and I was just a few feet above the water."

We then set down on the water and I saw the pilot start swimming the 15 to 20 yards for the Jolly Green from the river bank. The copilot was firing an M-16 out of the cockpit while the other crewmen continued to pour firepower into the enemy soldiers located in ditches about 30 meters away. When the pilot reached the chopper, he was pulled aboard and Major Wicker taxied the aircraft up the river on the surface of the water.

"We went about 100 yards until I was able to pick up enough speed to get out of there fast. A 37mm gun was firing behind us, but the rounds were falling short. We just kept pouring in our own firepower. I'd estimate we fired about 2,000 rounds from the time we hit the

Leathernecks

(Continued From Page 1)
barded Marine defenders with 60mm mortar and 57mm recoilless rifle fire. The Leathernecks countered with their own mortar fire and other supporting arms. Helicopter flare and gunships were on station to aid them against the attacks.

At one point during the pitched night battle the enemy, carrying satchel charges and backed by murderous mortar and recoilless rifle fire, reached the Marine lines. Hand-to-hand combat ensued with the defenders regaining control of their perimeter positions.

Losses for the enemy were costly: 91 dead, a deserted 60mm mortar and numerous automatic weapons.

Marines By-pass Ambush

DA NANG (USMC) — A 1st Marine Division company, caught in an ambush recently by a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) battalion, outflanked the enemy and sent them hustling in surprised retreat leaving 53 enemy dead behind.

For more than a week 7th Marine Regiment troops had searched the mountains southwest of Da Nang for a large Communist force.

Acting on intelligence information, the company commander, 2nd Lieutenant E. Stephen Carroll, moved his men into the lowlands.

"We were pretty sure they were somewhere in the area," said Lieutenant Carroll, "so we moved cautiously, expecting to make contact at any time."

When the lead squad came under sniper fire, they spread out making fire-team assaults across a rice paddy and toward the enemy.

"As we got in the middle of the paddy, they started hitting us with heavy automatic weapons fire," recalled Private First Class John C. Robinson. "We got pinned down behind a paddy dike and started returning fire at where we thought they were."

PFC Robinson ran back to lead another squad forward with a corpsman to treat the wounded in his own squad.

In the meantime, the Lieutenant maneuvered elements of his company around the flanks of the enemy's "U-shaped" ambush in an attempt to envelop them.

Marine firepower from small artillery and Marine jet aircraft forced the North Vietnamese troops to break contact and retreat into the jungle.

Massachusetts Offers Bonus

SAIGON (MACV) — The governor of Massachusetts recently signed into legislation a bill granting \$300 state bonuses to Vietnam veterans. A bonus of \$200 will be given to veterans who did not serve in combat zones.

The new law, which becomes effective immediately under an emergency preamble, applies to all persons who entered the armed forces after July 1, 1958. To be eligible for this bonus, a veteran must have six months state residency.

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FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 15

Saigon, Vietnam

August 14, 1968



FIREPOWER ON THE WAY—Mortarmen of the 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division fire their 81mm mortar in support of infantry units participating in Operation Allen Brook, a combat sweep south of Da Nang. The Leathernecks have killed more than 500 enemy soldiers during the operation. (USMC PHOTO By: Cpl. Dennis Fisher)

Thrice-Told Tales

VC Abduct 3; Hold In Terror

DAU TIENG (USA) — Three weary and bleeding Vietnamese surrendered to troops of the 25th Infantry Division recently telling a harrowing tale of living as Viet Cong captives for more than eight weeks.

The trio, a woman of about 30, a man 25 and a 16-year-old boy, were first spotted sneaking along an overgrown trail through the deep shade of rubber trees.

"When they saw us they threw up their hands and walked toward us. They looked pretty scared," said Sergeant Nat Taylor of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry.

"They were stark white," commented company commander, First Lieutenant Howard Renker. "Their clothing was heavily bloodstained, all three

bore numerous shrapnel wounds. Their ankles were very swollen and bruised."

The woman carried a small sack of clothes. The man offered two handwrought leg irons which, he said, had caused the injured ankles.

"VC kill! VC kill!" The boy shook as he repeated this phrase, pointing down the trail from the direction they had come.

Tale of Terror

Moments later, through an interpreter, and between gulps of hot food and puffs on American cigarettes, the Vietnamese civilians told this story.

Each of them had been taken singly from widely separated villages. "I have been imprisoned for 58 days," said the woman. "The first two weeks

I was alone, then they brought the others into the bunker."

The long weeks, with only bad rice to eat, were spent entirely underground. "Most of the time our legs were shackled together," they said, demonstrating the heavy leg irons.

"We were threatened with beatings and death and often questioned about ARVN and Americans."

Once, when their underground cell became flooded by heavy rains, the prisoners were removed and directed to another hole. "That was the only time we came out of the ground," said the boy.

Escape Told

As the medics cleaned and dressed their wounds, the three told of their escape.

(Continued on Back Page)

NVA, VC Learn Koreans' Motto

HOI AN (USMC) — The 7th Korean Marine Artillery stopped the assault forces of a combined North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong battalion south of Da Nang recently.

The artillerymen are part of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade which has the motto, "Battle is the Payoff," and they proved their ability to defend their guns and act as infantry when required.

The attack of their position came under the cover of rainy skies by two NVA/VC special assault platoons equipped with Russian weapons. The two attacking platoons had penetrated the first line of barbed wire when they were discovered by Staff Sergeant Lee Yoon Su's squad which immediately opened fire with small arms, hand grenades and claymore mines. Their fire devastated the assault wave only seven meters away.

Sergeant Lee's squad accounted for one of the enemy platoons, completely wiping them out at the barrier to their position.

Sergeant Lee called for artillery fire to block the enemy withdrawal while the battle was still in progress. Frantically, the Communist forces tried to break

off contact with the Korean Marines. Finding their escape routes blocked by the artillery fire, the attackers dug holes hoping to escape the effects of the artillery and hide from search parties.

When the Marines went out to assess the battle results, they found enemy bodies and equipment strewn throughout the barbed wire defense line. The NVA and VC survivors then made their second mistake! They opened fire on the deployed gunners, identifying their positions. The firepower brought upon them squelched all further resistance and caused the surrender of the survivors.

Interrogation revealed that the assault platoon's objective was to breach the battery's position, permitting the main force following to destroy the complete artillery battalion and thus eliminate their fire support of the entire Korean Brigade.

The artillerymen of the 7th Battery suffered no serious casualties, but the battery alone accounted for 32 dead Communists and six prisoners. The Koreans also collected 21 weapons, 1,680 rounds of ammunition, 107 hand grenades, six B-40 rocket launchers with 27 rockets, 10 Bangalore torpedoes and other equipment which the attackers were kept from using against them. The "battle was the payoff" for the trained and alert artillerymen of the 2nd Korean Marine Brigade.

Pilot Stretches Luck, No Charm 3rd Time

QUANG TRI (USA) — "It took a lot of nerve to go back a third time, especially after two ships were shot down from under him." The pilot was speaking about Warrant Officer Arthur Jacobs, who flew three hazardous medevac missions recently.

Warrant Officer Jacobs, of C Company, 15th Medical Battalion, received a call from the 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry. A man was wounded. Immediately, he and his crew prepared the ship and headed for the area.

Before the hoist could be lowered into the dense jungle, intense enemy fire ripped into the craft. The door gunner was wounded and the ship was badly damaged. WO Jacobs, the aircraft commander, guided the crippled ship back to Camp Evans. The crew hurriedly loaded the equipment on another chopper and waited for another call.

The call came from the same unit a few hours later. WO Jacobs and First Lieutenant Stephen Beals headed for the area, 22 miles southwest of Camp Evans.

The chopper lowered its hoist and lifted out the patient. Suddenly, automatic weapons fire from three positions pounded the ship, wounding the new door gunner. The crippled ship headed back to camp.

Hours later, the same ground unit called for another medevac ship. Warrant Officer Paul Huston and for the third time Mr. Jacobs volunteered to be aircraft commander.

On this run the medevac ship had no chance to rescue the wounded man. The enemy hit the third aircraft, and this time wounded WO Jacobs. The craft was so badly damaged Mr. Huston had to land in a small jungle clearing. Though wounded, Mr. (Continued on Back Page)

Editorial

Yours Is Free

"... we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

For those who don't remember, those are the concluding words of the Declaration of Independence, and they are followed by names of 56 men who signed that deed to our freedom by mortgaging their security, their wealth, and their personal integrity to pay for it. Most of them suffered the loss of either their families, homes, or earthly goods, but none of them lost his personal integrity nor dishonored that pledge.

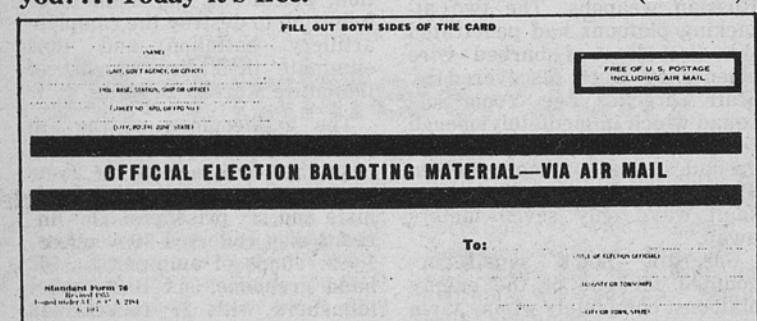
Today Americans have more freedom than any other nation in the world; in fact we're so used to being FREE, free to choose, think and do what we please, we are often encountering the attitude, "If it's free, man, why pay for it?" Freedom does seem to be free for us, doesn't it? But everything worth having costs something, and Freedom does have a price. The price is Loyalty. The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged above everything else, their loyalty to the cause of freedom.

They worked and sacrificed to establish our country, and now many of us need to be reminded of our obligation to vote. During the 1964 presidential election a little more than two-thirds of the eligible adults voted, which means that one out of every three citizen failed to fulfill his responsibility.

Your interest, your expression of choice through the ballot box is the price of admission into an informed and responsible society of free men.

Yes, freedom is free for some, because others are working to maintain it for them. You can have it free, or you can pay your own way like the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence did. Many of them lost all they had for the right to vote, but for you today, it only costs a few minutes of your time to cast a ballot. For you?... Today it's free.

(MACV)



Your application for a free ballot—get one and use it. It's free—and so are you.

Retirees' Button OK'd

WASHINGTON — A distinctive gold lapel button will soon be available for Army retirees.

The lapel button is a metal and enamel insignia consisting of the Department of Army seal, gold colored in low relief with an olive drab ring.

Inscribed on the ring are the words "United States Army Retired" in gold letters with a gold star between each word.

The Institute of Heraldry has been authorized to develop the proposed button for sale by civilian manufacturers to post exchanges and military specialty stores.

When funds become available, supplies of the buttons will be procured by the Army for free issue to retiring personnel, officials said.



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Just In Case You Have Not Heard**New PACEX Catalog Offers Wider Choice**

SAIGON — A wider selection of gift items from Asia is offered in the new 120-page Pacific Exchange System (PACEX) mail order catalog expected to be in full use this month.

Four hundred copies of the catalog have been received at Exchange headquarters in Saigon.

"We've asked PACEX to send 5,000 copies directly to the Area Exchanges in the Delta, Saigon, Bien Hoa-Long Binh, Cam Ranh Bay, Qui Nhon and Da Nang," said Ronald C. Bell, chief of Vietnam Regional Exchange Customer Services Section.

"The catalog supply will be replenished each month," explained Mr. Bell. "About this time, the Area Exchanges have already received their copies. To make doubly sure that servicemen can avail themselves of the new catalog, we're sending out copies to all our Special Order Counters and all six Area Exchanges."

The 1,200 items in the new PACEX color catalog — from ash trays to stereophonic sets — have been chosen to suit the desires of the serviceman.

See your Special Order representative in your local exchange for more information on the new catalog. (VRE)



DIMPLED AND CUDDLESOME—Pat Becker, a fast rising blonde starlet, is the property of 20th Century Fox and can be seen in Robert Wise's most recent production, "Star".

(PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX)



The last time you went through a Vietnamese cemetery you may have noticed what appeared to be a Nazi swastika on a tomb. Perhaps you were surprised — maybe even shocked — at what you saw. Well, you shouldn't have been. What you thought to be the mark of a tyrant is an ancient and sacred symbol to the Buddhist. It is the "Chu Van," or sign of enlightenment.

Again, some items may be mailed to certain areas and are prohibited in others. If you correspondents are in doubt concerning what may be mailed, they should consult their local postmaster.

Here is a list of types of articles which are generally excluded from the U.S. mails:

- Alcoholic beverages.
- Radioactive materials.

Precious metals in an unmanufactured state.

Pellet guns using compressed air or gas, and firearms.

Matches of any kind.

Lighter fluid and lighters containing lighter fluid.

Jewelry and watches having a value greater than \$10 are not excluded; however they must be sent by registered mail if destined for an APO or FPO. (AH)

Direct Distance Dialing Due RVN In 1969

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To use the tandem switch an individual will have to dial eight first for access to the tandem switch trunk line in the dial telephone exchange. The next three numbers tell which exchange is to be contacted. The last four digits determine which subscriber at that exchange is called.

When the tandem switching

"The loss of South Vietnam would set in motion a crumbling process that could, as it progressed, have grave consequences for us and for freedom."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



REAL MOUTHFUL—A Viet Cong tunnel swallows more than it can handle this time, as a trooper from the 65th Engineer Battalion fixes a load of C-4 explosive inside the earthen cavity to induce a form of "involuntary nausea". The result will be a healthy case of the "dry heaves".

(USA PHOTO BY: PFC SEYMOUR)

U.S. Silver Star**Viet Cpl. Decorated For Valor**

BA GI (II CTZ) — The Silver Star medal, highest U.S. award for valor that can be given to a Vietnamese soldier, was presented to the father of ARVN Corporal Do Van Tong in Organization Day ceremonies at the 22nd ARVN Division recently.

Corporal Tong died while saving the lives of four U.S. advisors when his unit was attacked and nearly overrun on Jan. 16, 1968.

Occupying a bunker with the Americans, the corporal saw a grenade fly into the bunker. He immediately fell upon it, covering

the lethal blast with his own body.

Other medal presentations during the division's 13th Anniversary celebration included another Silver Star awarded to Sergeant Vo Van Ngo for gallantry in action on Feb. 3, 1968 when he saved two seriously wounded U.S. advisors and then organized an attack to destroy the enemy bunker which had pinned them down.

Sergeant Ngo then shielded the wounded advisor with his own body and waited while another American managed to move the man out. Then using himself as a base of fire, he organized his men into a strike force which destroyed the enemy fortification.

Lieutenant General William R. Peers, II Corps senior advisor, accompanied by Major General Lu Mong Lan, II Corps Commander, presented the Silver Stars.

Wrong One? Guess Not!

CHU LAI (USA) — A Huey helicopter pilot supporting the Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade recently went after what was reported to be a downed American pilot, but came back with a North Vietnamese Army soldier instead.

Warrant Officer Kenneth W. Johnson was on a MEDEVAC mission for a battalion of the 196th which was in heavy contact five miles north of Dong Ha.

An ARVN outpost in the area of where an F-4 jet went down reported that they spotted the pilot wandering in a rice paddy.

"I picked up the message and since I was in the area, I went down to take a look," said the pilot of the 174th Aviation Company. "I spotted him and I also thought it was the pilot."

"We were about 100 yards from him when he suddenly threw up both hands and I realized he was an NVA," he quipped. The Huey picked up the NVA detainee and took him in.

The pilot was spotted and picked up later by another aircraft.

Rice Is For Birds

Looking for VC groceries? A flock of small birds may indicate a rice cache, and scattered rice on the ground will attract them! Check the area for "Charlie's" lunch, you may find it. He likes rice and so do the birds. WATCH THE BIRDS.

M-16s Bolster Navy's Strength

Viet sailors now command more respect with the new M-16.

Rooster, Tackle Nets Big Brass

BONG SON (USA) — A flying tackle by an ex-football player and the piercing sound of a rooster's crowing helped members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade turn up a couple of high-ranking Viet Cong leaders recently, along the north central coast of South Vietnam.

The first incident — the football tackle — occurred during a search and clear mission by "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. According to Sergeant Ronald Redmond: "It was the most important tackle I've ever made."

"We were moving in our APCs (Armored Personnel Carriers) toward an abandoned village," said Sergeant Redmond, "when I spotted someone hiding in the bushes. We chased him with the APC across some rice paddies and when we got close enough, I jumped off and tackled him."

Sergeant Redmond, a track commander with the armored company and a former high school grid star, didn't realize the prize he had caught until the VC talked and told of many other Viet Cong and North Vietnamese hiding in the abandoned village and tunnel complex behind a nearby deserted railway station.

Acting on the detainee's confession, elements of the 69th Armor and a popular force platoon moved to the village to set up a cordon and search operation around it.

Alarm Sounded

"We had humped almost five miles in the dark to set up our part of the mission," explained First Lieutenant R. W. Hess. "While we were waiting for the blocking force to set up on the

"We could still see him moving," commented Lieutenant Hess, "but I wasn't taking any chances on him shooting me up so I opened up on automatic. Before I could kill him though he pulled a hand grenade and blew himself up."

Fortunate VC

Back at the bunker Sergeant Douglas M. Cowgill was in the process of digging out the other VC.

"We threw a couple of grenades into the hole and then I fired about eight rounds in there to make sure the place wasn't booby trapped," said Sergeant Cowgill.

"I started to hand documents and some other stuff out of the bunker when the body moved," continued the sergeant. "After living through all that I figured he was torn up bad, but there wasn't a scratch on him. The captain picked him up and lifted him out of the hole."

Documents captured, tentatively identified the detainee as the local Viet Cong district chief and the dead Viet Cong as a high-ranking officer.

Lt. Wins Race

DA NANG (USMC) — A Marine lieutenant led his men in one of the most important races of his life!

Second Lieutenant William Huggett was leading elements of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, on a sweep toward "Foxtrout Ridge" when an aerial observer radioed that a group of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers was moving up the opposite side of the same hill.

His men were 150 meters from the hill when Lieutenant Huggett gave the order for them to drop their packs and rush hard for the top of the ridge.

The Marines moved in fireteam rushes along the length of the ridge, killing 31 NVA and capturing enemy AK-47 assault rifles, light machineguns, rocket-propelled grenades and carbines.

"Huggett's Heroes," as they are called, had no casualties.

Viet SEAL Units Terror To Enemy

SAIGON (USN) — The Vietnamese Navy (VNN) recently unleashed its newest unit on the Viet Cong in the delta — VNN SEALs. The newly-trained unit killed 15 Viet Cong, destroyed six sampans and damaged two.

The operation took place in Phuoc Tuy province, 30 miles southeast of Saigon.

Vietnamese Navy SEALs, with U.S. Navy SEAL advisors, were inserted into the area by Vietnamese Coastal Group 33, based at Vung Tau.

The action began after midnight, when six sampans came into the insert area and were taken under fire. Four sampans were destroyed and their occupants killed. The two other sampans retreated, and later attempted to proceed down river. The occupants were killed and the sampans destroyed by a second squad of Vietnamese SEALs.

Later, two additional sampans came into the area and were taken under fire by the SEALs. All five occupants were killed and the sampans damaged.

Prelude To Combat

Vietnamese Navy training in underwater demolition techniques, a prerequisite to SEAL training in both U.S. and Vietnamese Navies, began on a small scale in 1962. In December, 1967, a hand-picked group of Vietnamese sailors began taking instruction in an Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) school at Vung Tau. The school had been set up by U.S. Navy SEAL advisors to provide the training base for more advanced instruction in counter-insurgency and unconventional warfare operations, on land, as well as in the water.

Little more than a month after the school opened, Saigon was hit by the Communist Tet offensive. School temporarily was out and the students were assigned to the Vietnamese Navy headquarters in Saigon to help in the defense of the nation's capital.

T-shirt Target

CAMP EVANS (USA) — Apparently no one ever informed Specialist 4 Kenneth Bell that the arsenal on Light Observation Helicopters (LOH) is primarily used for defensive purposes.

A crew chief from "C" Troop, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, Specialist Bell registered six enemy kills while on a reconnaissance mission recently.

The chopper was approximately two miles south of Landing Zone (LZ) Jane when he spotted a bright green object hiding in some bushes.

"It turned out to be an NVA trooper with a bright tee-shirt," said the crew chief. He opened up with his M-60 machinegun, cutting down the soldier before he could find better cover.

Two more passes was all the crew chief needed to register the remaining five kills. "We came back for a third time and saw four of them, lying down in a trench," said the specialist. Not a shot was fired by the enemy troops as the M-60 poured round after round into the trench.

Three automatic weapons, including two U.S. carbines were collected from the dead enemy soldiers.

During the day, they made jeep patrols in Cholon, the Chinese section of the city. At night, they set up ambushes across the river from their headquarters.

When order was restored in Saigon, the UDT SEAL school resumed at Vung Tau. The Vietnamese Navy SEALs graduated from UDT school last month and immediately began their SEAL training.

If their first encounter with the enemy as VNN SEALs is indicative of their ability to confront and defeat the enemy, their training as SEALs is complete.

Joint Effort Nets 50 VC

SAIGON (USN) — Utilizing the firepower and mobile striking ability of U.S. Navy gunboats, the 5th Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps killed 50 Viet Cong and captured several enemy weapons in a unique American-Vietnamese operation in the Mekong Delta recently.

The action took place along tributaries of the Cai Long river, 34 miles east of the Gulf of Thailand and 37 miles southwest of Can Tho.

The marines cornered the enemy in a large bunker complex after a tedious search of the area. They called in fire support from Navy gunships and Monitors, which accounted for many of the enemy's casualties.

The enemy arsenal confiscated by the Vietnamese Marines included three machine-guns, 423 mortar rounds and more than 12,000 rounds of small arms ammunition. Also captured were 32 Communist Chinese rifles, a dozen semi-automatic weapons, six 30 caliber carbines, 13 claymore mines and a varied assortment of other weapons.



HELL OF A HOIST — An Army HH-54 Flying Crane airlifts a Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopter back to the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron in Da Nang, after the chopper was damaged by enemy ground fire in a rescue attempt in the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam. Three other Jolly Greens were damaged before the pilot, who remained in the jungle overnight with an injured back, was hoisted to safety.

(USA PHOTO By: SSgt. Jerry C. Motter)

Army, Navy, Air Force

Tri-Service Action Destroys VC

CHU LAI (USA) — Army infantrymen, Navy swift boats and Air Force jet bombers teamed up on an operation 30 miles southeast of Chu Lai to deliver a triple punch to the Viet Cong.

The fighting broke out when an Air Force forward air controller spotted a large group of

armed Viet Cong moving on the ground about eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai city.

Eight air strikes were called in on the position, destroying 103 enemy fortifications. Following the bombardment, the 198th Infantry Brigade's Company A, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry was heli-lifted into the seashore area shortly before dark to search for the fleeing VC.

Shortly before midnight the enemy hit the company night position with small arms and automatic weapons fire. Again gunships were called in, and with the help of flareships, drove off the enemy.

Throughout the battle, U.S. Navy swift boats blocked any enemy possibility of escaping along the South China Sea coast.

At one point the command and control helicopter of the 5/46th swooped down in the fighting to kill one escaping

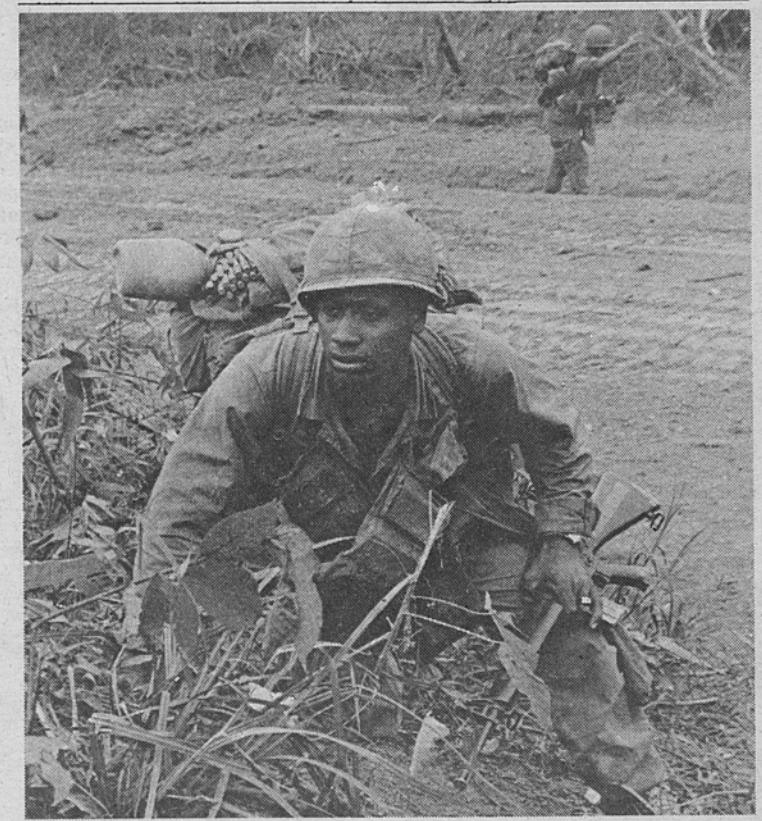
Two ARVN Officers Honored

SAIGON (MACV) — Two Bronze Stars with "V" devices were recently presented to an ARVN lieutenant colonel and captain by the U.S. Government for their display of courage under enemy fire during the month of February 1968.

Lieutenant Colonel Vu Quoc Gia, commanding officer of the 6th Armored Cavalry Squadron, personally directed a room-by-room search of the My Tho bus terminal being used as a Viet Cong command post.

Under constant enemy fire, he then persuaded the Viet Cong to surrender while encouraging the civilian populace to remain calm. His actions averted many civilian casualties and much damage to property.

Like his commanding officer, Captain Nguyen Cung Vinh was cited for his bravery under intense enemy fire.



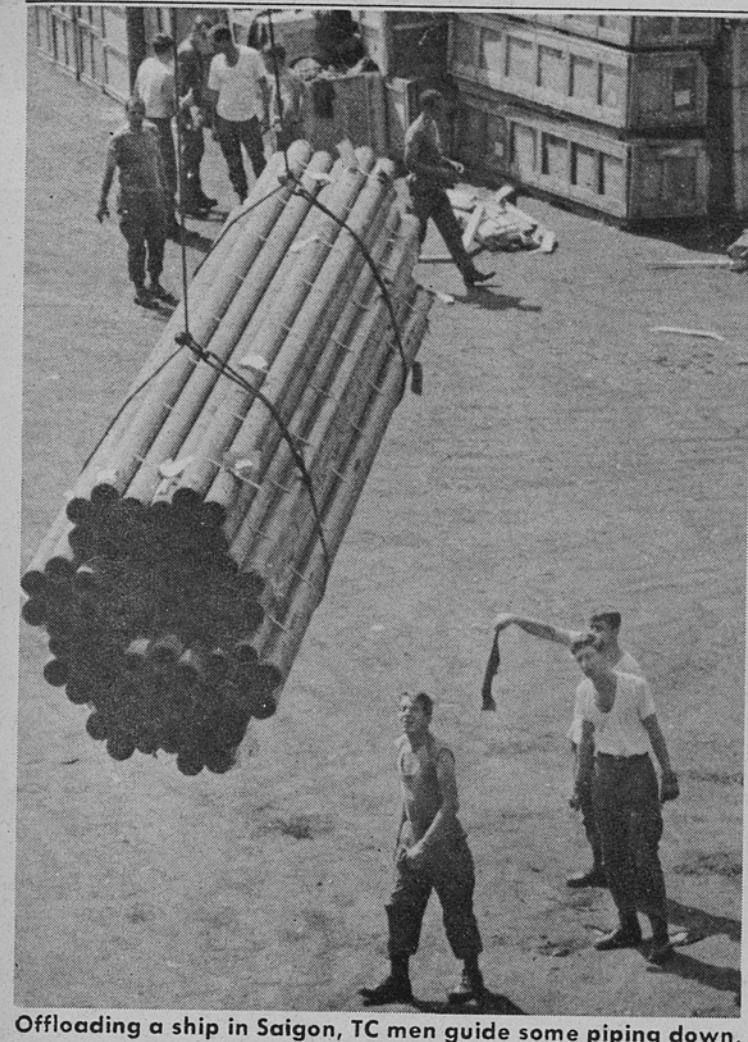
CAUTIOUS ADVANCE — A 101st Air Cav soldier raises up concentrating on where his next advance will take him. The going was tough and tedious for the Air Cav troopers as they moved along a road near Hue recently in Operation Nevada Eagle.

(USA PHOTO By: SP5 Richard McLaughlin)

Got A Ticket?

Going on Leave?

If you're planning on leave to either Taipei or Hong Kong you'd better check your money to make sure that you have enough. Some troops have been making the scene without a round trip ticket, and without money . . . well, how far can you walk on water?



Offloading a ship in Saigon, TC men guide some piping down.



Support Unit 3-Years-Young

SAIGON (USA) — If you repositioned it, chances are the 4th Transportation Command (TC) handled it.

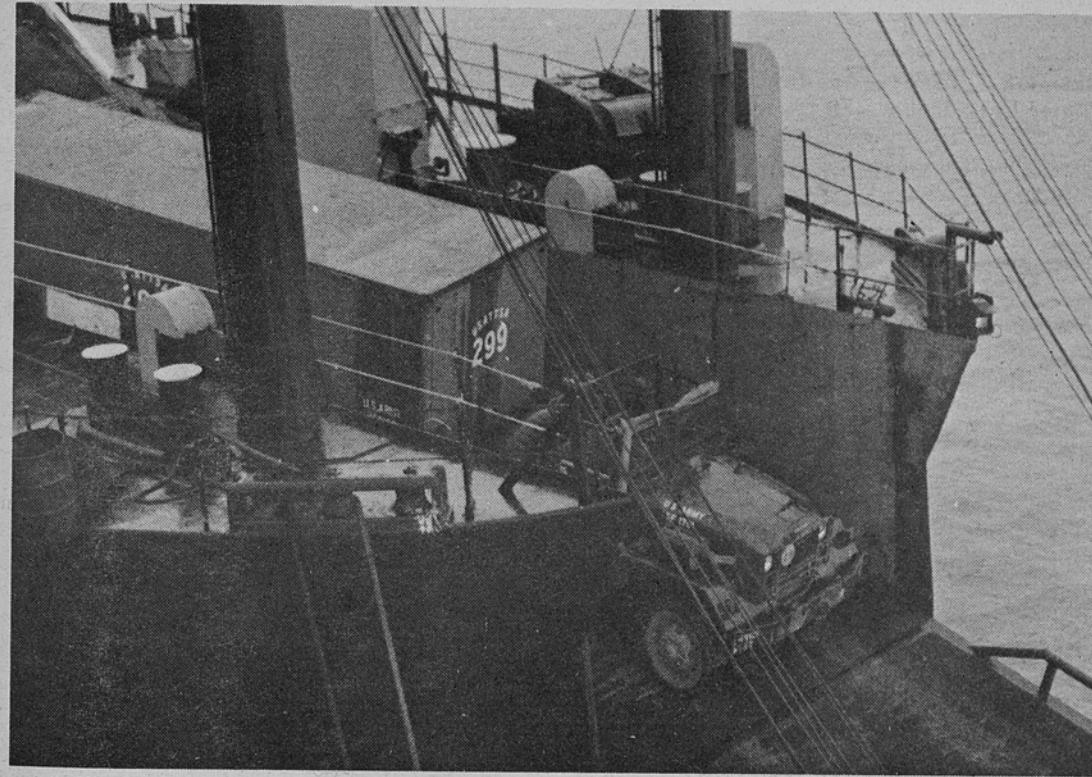
The command today handles more than 60 per cent of all supplies for Free World Forces in Vietnam through four major facilities. This month the command celebrates three years of service in Vietnam.

Since arriving in the Republic in August 1965, the 4th TC has received nearly every military unit arriving in Vietnam through one of the ports under its control. In addition to receiving massive groups of personnel the command uses a variety of equipment to insure a rapid flow of every kind of supply imaginable to the combat units. One-hundred-ton cranes, tugboats, Mechanized Landing Craft, Utility Landing Craft and barges are some of the machinery used to handle a titanic volume of supplies — well over 3½ million tons this year alone.

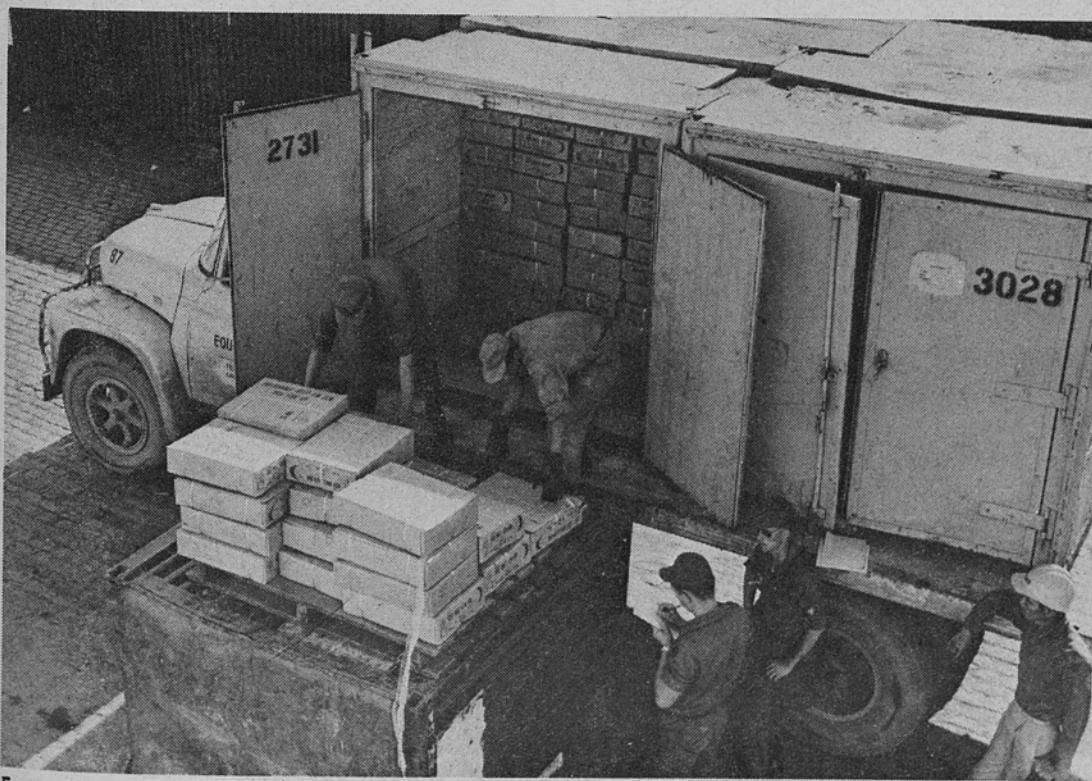
At Cat Lai the 11th Transportation Battalion operates a munitions discharge site and handles the ammunition to supply the 3rd and 4th Corp Tactical Zones.

Members of the command's 125th Transportation Command serve as advisors to officials of the Republic of Vietnam in operating the commercial port of Saigon, and as operators of the four deep-draft berths at U.S. Army Terminal in Saigon.

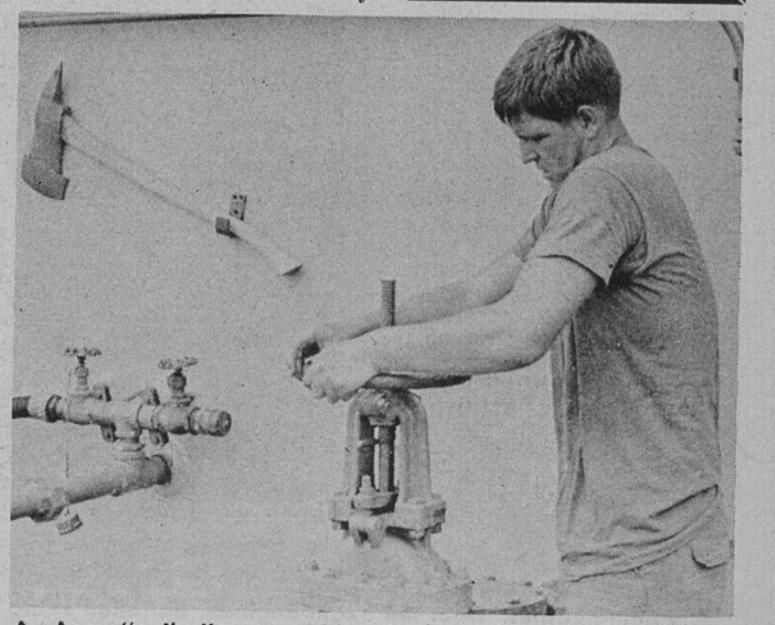
The mission of the 4th hardly



"Roll-on, roll off" ships allow quick, efficient shuttling of vehicles around the Delta.



Frozen meats bound for a mess hall are hustled into lockers for distribution around Saigon.

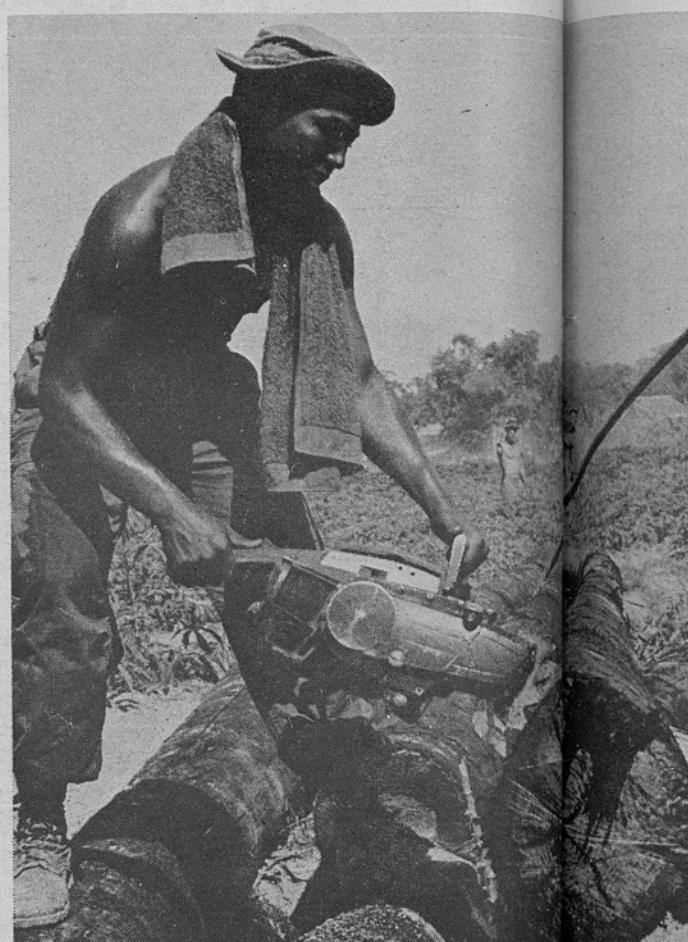


An Army "sailor" secures the valve after filling a shore tanker.

'Eagle' Engineers: Versatility Unlimited



Wasting no time a "skycrane" carries a "backhoe" tractor to where a new 101st fire support base is being built.



A combat engineer readies beams for a planned demolition tower.



When speed and power are of the essence, the engineers must call on the versatile Chinook as they do here in floating a section of pontoon bridge.

U.S. Army Photos
By
SP4 L. Mastrarrigo



Like a jack, an engineer climbs high to top trees with blocks of explosives.



"Screaming Eagles" from the 326th Engineer Battalion string barbed wire around the perimeter of a recently built fire support base east of Hue.



The backhoe, brought in by air, is put to work gouging out a command bunker.



Nguyen—with his sponsor—arrives at the clinic to be fitted for an artificial leg.

Concerned GI Helps

New Leg Means New Life

SAIGON (USA) — Not long ago Nguyen Van Thanh sat by the side of Highway 4 watching other children play while what remained of his right leg festered with gangrene.

Nguyen had been found in the Mekong Delta village of Long Dinh on busy Highway 4 where he had been run over last May by one of the large produce trucks which roar past his house each day. He was rushed to a province hospital where his right foot was amputated. But gangrene set in and more of his leg had to be removed until just a few inches remained below the knee.

"I was in Long Dinh one day and saw a large group of youngsters playing by the side of the road," said First Lieutenant James Kilcrease, PSY-OPS officer of the 9th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade. "I noticed one boy just sitting by watching. He looked out of place and as I got closer I saw

why. He was missing part of his leg. He looked miserable."

"I guess I identified with him," said the lieutenant. "I knew how I would have felt in his place. So I thought about trying to find him an artificial leg."

Lieutenant Kilcrease began inquiring about special clinics for amputees. He soon found the Prosthetic Clinic in Saigon.

"I went there and told them about the young boy from Long Dinh and how I wanted him to have a new leg," said the lieutenant. "They told me they wouldn't accept him unless he was sponsored by a man in the military. I said, 'You are looking at him.'"

"We brought Nguyen to the clinic last week," he added. "Since then they have measured the limb and built an artificial leg. After the main structure was completed, they covered it with plastic resin to make it as realistic as possible."

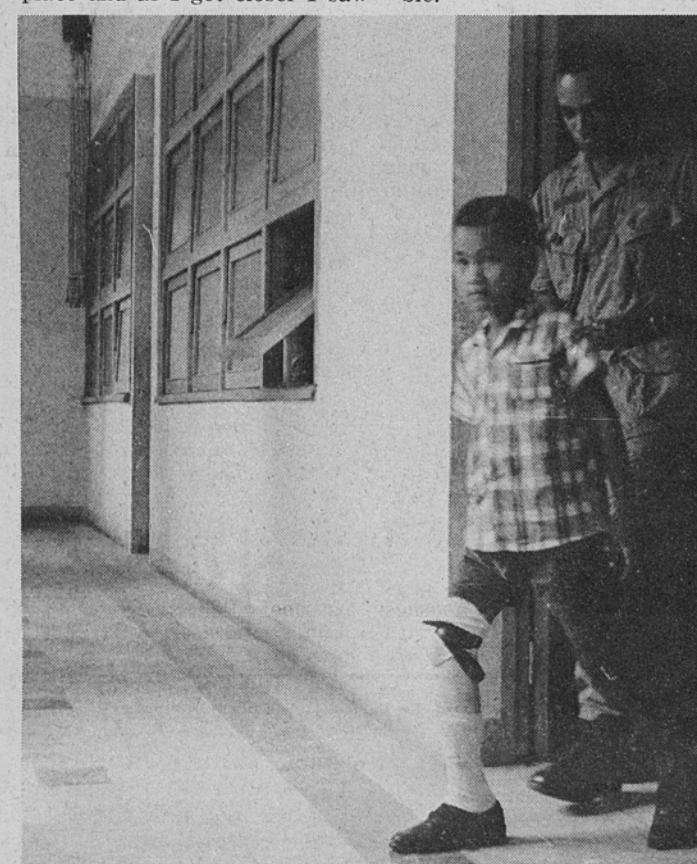
Story & Photos
By
Lt. John Lamm USA



Skilled hands shape a part of the 13-year-old's new limb.



One more notch and Nguyen will try his first steps in months.



The first steps are always a bit anxious—but such a feeling!



His crutch near but forgotten, Nguyen tests the leg upon which his new life will be built.

Daring Rescue Saves Four

PHU BAI (USMC) — An evacuation of a hard-pressed Marine reconnaissance team required both fire power and courage from the crew of a Marine transport helicopter.

An emergency evacuation mission was conducted to extract a recon team that earlier had been heli-lifted into enemy-infested jungle. The team's movement was slowed by a wounded patrol member and they were unable to find a suitable landing zone for the helicopter pickup.

As a last resort, it was decided the team would be lifted 60 feet to the hovering helicopter by means of a rescue hoist through the small clearing in the jungle canopy.

First Lieutenant James H. Merrill, the pilot, positioned the aircraft over the clearing and informed supporting helicopter gunships of the situation.

In the rear of the aircraft Corporal Benjamin P. Palmer, the crew chief, operated the electric winch. Lifted first was the wounded Marine. Hospital-

man Second Class Gary Kubalsky, the Navy corpsman, administered first aid as the rescue continued.

Fifteen minutes later the second Marine was aboard. The third was partly lifted when the Viet Cong started firing at the hovering chopper.

The big Sea Knight returned the fire, raking the area with .50 caliber machineguns forcing the enemy to take cover.

As the recon Marines reached the plane, they moved to one of the windows and opened fire with their M-16 rifles. One Marine used his M-79 grenade launcher to lay down a barrage around the small pickup zone. Even the recon Leatherneck riding the hoist was firing his rifle as he was lifted up.

Gunships of the Marine Light Helicopter Squadron-367 were now in the battle, ripping the surrounding zone with their 2.75-inch rockets and machine-guns.

Meanwhile, the pilot hovering the craft over the pickup point controlled the support of the gunships by radio. He directed the fire support by watching the enemy muzzle flashes and calling in the fire.

The last of the recon men was on the hoist finally and the Sea Knight lifted, carrying the Marines to safety.



A wounded recon Marine is hoisted to a rescue chopper.
(USMC PHOTO By: Sgt. T.E. Kingry)

Viet AF Sgts Help Quell Enemy Attack

BIEN HOA (USA) — Two Vietnamese Air Force sergeants who contacted the ground commander, played key roles in the defense of an Army of the Republic of Vietnam outpost recently while flying as observers aboard two U.S. Air Force AC-47 Dragonships of the 3rd Air Commando Squadron at Bien Hoa air base.

VNAF Sergeants Tran Van

An and Pham Van Vinh acting

as liaison between the beleaguered outpost and the dragonships, translated instructions from the ground. The result enabled the accurate pinpointing of the enemy positions and enabled the AC-47s to bring their 7.62mm mini-guns to bear on them.

Throughout the action on both nights the dragonship constantly shifted from one area of the outpost to the other as directed by the VNAF sergeants.

"Both times there was a good deal of chatter between our aircraft and the ground, and our translator told us that the ground commander was thanking us profusely for our assistance."

Air Force Major David W. Howell, Navigator aboard one of the dragonships, gave full credit for the successful defense of the outpost to the two sergeants, and described the action.

"Actually the action took place on two nights at the same outpost," he said, "so that we really saved the same outpost on two consecutive nights."

"Both times it was our Viet-

namese sergeants who contacted the ground commander, analyzed the situation, and then translated the instructions into English for me and pinpointed the action on my maps. Without them we would have literally been shooting in the dark not knowing if we were putting our firepower on the right spot," he related.

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This is not a hypothetical situation. It has happened and is happening throughout South Vietnam every day, due to the efforts of the National Police Field Force (NPFF) of civilian South Vietnamese police. American MPs act as advisors and liaison men. In the three day period from June 2 through June 5, the policemen of the field force captured two U.S. small arms, a two-inch stack of VC documents, six anti-personnel mines, 20 blasting caps, five pounds of C-4 and other supplies. In these four operations around Camp Evans, two VC were reported killed.

The main areas of operation are ones in which military forces are engaged in sweeps of enemy strongholds and assume pacification roles in areas where Viet Cong terrorists and guerillas were previously active. In supporting friendly forces the police will search and arrest, cordon off suspected strongholds and "screen" and control refugees.

Besides these techniques, the police favor the "Operation Snatch" method. This is where the NPFF and U.S. military force click together. A scout patrol informs the MP liaison officer where a large group of people are congregated. The officer informs the unit's commander of the operation and within minutes the unit is airlifted to the area, where they corral the people. At this moment the NPFF takes over and question the people. Suspected VC and NVA are arrested. This technique is used mainly during the harvest season.

The NPFF know that during this season the enemy comes down to collect a share of the crop.

Since its innovation, the NPFF has apparently met with success. The VC had a motto to support this, "To kill one National Policeman is worth killing three ARVN servicemen."

'Watch Those Anthills'

Viet Cong are using "anthills" to hide small arms, grenades and mines. Some of those anthills you see may be hollowed-out to conceal supplies for individual VC. Some of the ants you find may be "Charlie" who is making small bunkers to look like "anthills." CHECK THOSE ANTHILLS.



JUNGLE DRINKING FOUNTAIN—Sp4 Herman L. Burkhalter has found a source to quench his thirst, from a vine.

mainly responsible for defensive tactics and help repel moves aimed at regaining control.

After an area is secured the police must establish continuous day and night patrols, prevent VC activities in the area, create tight security conditions and provide a reserve force for the National Police.

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IMPORTANT VIGIL—A South Vietnamese PF soldier stands guard on the new Cam Lo reservoir. The reservoir supplies water to 25,000 refugees. (USMC PHOTO)

Classic Cavalry Action

Air-Ground Teamwork Costs Enemy 61

CHU LAI (USA) — Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry worked closely with their air cavalry counterparts recently to kill 61 North Vietnamese regulars in a close-in, 11-hour battle described by their commander as a "classic cavalry action."

Jet bombers supporting the "Dragoons" and the "Blue Ghosts" of Troop F of the 8th Cavalry accounted for another seven kills in the first significant action in the Americal Division area in several days.

The fight began when an unknown-sized force began pelting a Troop A platoon with recoilless rifle fire from a hilltop west of Tam Ky.

"We have reason to believe the force was an NVA engineer company, and I think the only reason it fired at my platoon was to scare it out of the area," said Lieutenant Colonel Richard D. Lawrence, the "Dragoon" commander.

The mobility of the ground cavalry and the quick reactions of the air unit combined to give the enemy soldiers more than they had bargained for.

"We got the remainder of Troop A on the road quickly, and hit the enemy with artillery, jet strikes and gunships while the tracks were enroute," Colonel Lawrence said.

"I don't think the enemy had planned on a sustained contact, and I think he was pretty surprised at the swiftness of it all," he added.

The remainder of the troop joined with its 2nd platoon, and, enlisting the aid of the gunships and artillery fire, ringed the enemy positions and went in after them.

"There was very little con-

tact for a while, then some of our gunships discovered movement to the south. The ground units adjusted their positions and surrounded the enemy again," said Major Harold J. Earlywood, the "Blue Ghost" commander.

This time, no one escaped the trap.

The cavalrymen dismounted, and, with the aerial-rifle platoon from the "Blue Ghost" troop, began searching bunkers and spider holes for the enemy.

"My men moved from bunker to bunker and spider hole to spider hole and mopped them up. We killed several with grenades thrown in the holes, and

several by simply going in after them," said Captain George Kaczer, A Troop commander.

The captain said he and the men on his vehicles used more than 50 grenades during the battle. Colonel Lawrence said "from 45 to 50" enemy were killed in the close-in portion of fighting.

The combined cavalry force captured eight individual and three crew-served weapons in the Operation Burlington Trail action. Four Americans were wounded during the day—two in the initial attack on the cavalry position and two when a helicopter was forced down by enemy fire.

Many Extend

More than 175,000 men have volunteered to come to Vietnam in the last three years in the Army and Navy alone. In addition, more than 50,000 servicemen extended their tours six months during 1967.

(Continued From Page 1)

"Early this morning we heard many explosions, very close, and one of the VC came to the hole and said, 'Many, many GIs. Do not come out. You will be shot!' The guard left and we sat quietly for a long time."

It later became apparent to the Americans that the 'Many, many GIs' were the forces of B Company, 2-12 Infantry which had earlier made contact with VC elements along the perimeter of the enemy positions where the civilians were being held. The company had halted and called for artillery fire support in the area.

The man had finally crawled

to the exit and looked out. "A Viet Cong about 20 meters away shot at me with an AK-47," he said. "A few moments later a ChiCom grenade dropped into the tiny room and exploded. We were all wounded."

The three said they had waited about an hour before crawling out and fleeing into the rubber trees.

Were it not for the operations



Pilot's Luck . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

Jacobs guided the ship to a safe landing and directed the extraction of his men. A medevac ship from B Company, 15th Medical Battalion evacuated the men.

To anyone who asks why he went back three times to rescue wounded, the plucky pilot has a ready answer. "I would do anything for those guys. I was once a 'grunt' and had to be lifted out with wounds. I know how they have it."

Cav Unit Continues Offensive

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Contact with the enemy increased during Operation Nevada Eagle recently as Screaming Eagles from the 101st Air Cavalry Division killed 72 enemy soldiers in a week of fighting near here.

The kills pushed the ten-week toll on the enemy past the 1,100 mark.

The largest engagement occurred when a company from the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry linked up with Popular Forces' soldiers from Quang Dien province to conduct a reconnaissance operation 10 miles northwest of Hue.

During the morning, the allied forces made contact with an enemy unit which withdrew after a brief firefight. The Vietnamese and U.S. forces pursued the enemy and re-established contact which continued throughout the afternoon.

After contact was lost, the infantrymen swept the area and counted 16 enemy bodies and captured 15 weapons.

Later in the week, the same task force conducted a cordon operation around the village of Thon Bao La seven miles northwest of the Imperial City, killing 15 Viet Cong. One Hoi Chanh rallied to the government side.

A door gunner of the command and control helicopter, of the 1st Battalion reported killing five enemy three miles east of Hue. Gunship crews from Company D, 101st Aviation Battalion killed four enemy soldiers while supporting a combat assault seven miles northeast of the city.

Riflemen from the 2nd Battalion met scattered resistance during reconnaissance-in-force missions eight miles south of Hue, killing four and capturing eight individual weapons.

A reconnaissance platoon from the 1st Battalion killed three enemy, detained one suspect and captured a weapon, in brief skirmishes east of the city.

Twelve tons of stolen rice also was captured from the enemy during the week's actions.

VC Terrorism Reflected By Three . . .

of Company B and the consequent artillery fire, the three Vietnamese prisoners might still be in the grasp of their captors.

The three will not soon forget their rendezvous with terror. The Viet Cong will not soon forget it either—the story of their terrorism will surely return to plague them many times in and around Dau Tieng.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

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TO:

Recon Squad Destroys Enemy Force



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 16

Saigon, Vietnam

August 21, 1968



VARIED FIREPOWER—Marine infantrymen observe an airstrike on enemy positions while a Leatherneck tank stands by.
(USMC PHOTO By: Sgt J. McCullough)

Trapped Between Forces

Infantryman Survives Terror Filled Night

CU CHI (USA) — A wounded 101st Air Cavalry Division soldier recently spent a night of terror trapped between his own forces and a platoon of Viet Cong near here.

Darkness was setting in as the men of the 3rd Brigade's B Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry cautiously moved across an open field toward a nearby woodline.

An enemy platoon setting up a night defensive position in spider holes, suddenly opened fire.

The Air Cav troopers answered the firing and the night was ablaze with bursts of tracer rounds from automatic weapons and the flashes from the cavalrymen's M-79 grenade launchers.

"The Viet Cong threw a grenade and someone yelled 'get down,'" said Sergeant Joe Tibbs. "I dropped and found a little cover behind a well."

As he raised up and fired a long burst, he was hit in the leg and arm and found he could move neither one. A grenade landed near his position and the resulting blast shook the earth and sent white hot shrapnel into both of his feet.

The firing slowed down and the quiet of the night was disturbed only by an occasional burst of fire.

"I saw a MEDEVAC helicopter come in and the firing started all over again," the sergeant said. "It really got thick."

Again the firing stopped.

Sergeant Tibbs laid close to the ground, pain filling his body. He heard the enemy soldiers moving nearby, so close that he could clearly distinguish them speaking.

"I could hear my buddies about 75 meters behind me. They were talking loud and directing fire," he said.

Bravo Company's 4th Platoon began to move forward. The enemy fire became heavy and concentrated on the advancing Americans. They were forced to pull back.

Sergeant Tibbs tried to find more cover by pulling himself close to the well. The firing came closer to his position. He realized that it was coming from the friendly positions as they saturated the VC positions. Frightened, he yelled and the Americans shifted the fire away from him.

Gunships made passes on the entrenched enemy and, from his location he watched the mini-

ROKs Awarded PUC

DA NANG (USMC) — The U.S. Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to the 11th Company, (Rein), 3rd Battalion of Republic of Korea's "Blue Dragon" Brigade recently for extraordinary heroism in battle.

The citation was awarded for action on Feb. 15, 1967 when an enemy regiment of three battalions attacked the company's position.

Two battalions attacked from the north and the remaining battalion struck from the southeast, forcing the Koreans to fight on two fronts simultane-

ously. The initial impact of the main effort penetrated the company's position, but the enemy was repelled after fierce hand-to-hand combat with the ROK Marines using every type of weapon, including grenades, bayonets and pick axes.

Because of extensive casualties, the enemy's assault faltered. The ROK company then launched a counterattack to deny the enemy an axis of escape. After more than three hours of fighting, more than 100 enemy dead remained in the company's perimeter and another 140 dead were located adjacent to the protective wire.

DA NANG (USMC) — It was a near impossible battle — an eight man Marine reconnaissance squad against an enemy force that outnumbered them 10-to-1 — but the Leathernecks won.

They not only won the encounter, they severely mauled the NVA unit. Despite the odds, the Marines accounted for 98 confirmed enemy kills without losing one man.

The recon team was inserted by helicopter into an area 17 miles southwest of Da Nang. The first three days of the mission were fairly uneventful, but on the night of the third day enemy contact was made.

The team was set in a defensive position and everything was quiet when a large number of North Vietnamese soldiers were spotted. The enemy opened up on the unit with small arms, satchel charges and grenades. The Marines im-

PHU BAI (MACV) — Provisional Corps Vietnam has been designated as the XXIV (24th) Corps. Headquartered at Phu Bai, eight miles southeast of Hue, the XXIV Corps retains the same organization and structure and is commanded by Lieutenant General Richard G. Stilwell.

mediately countered with their own small arms and called in illumination from a nearby artillery position. Six of the enemy were killed in the initial contact.

The enemy attacked four more times during the night and a "Spooky" gunship was called in to aid the team in defending their position. As the (Continued on Back Page)

Inf Wins VC Lose

CHU LAI (USA) — A midnight grenade throwing contest in the mountains west of Tam Ky ended in a lopsided win for six 198th Infantry Brigade soldiers, as the score was 17 enemy dead to no U.S. casualties.

"We caught them in a draw beneath our bunkers," said Sergeant Phillip G. Martocci of Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, in relating how the six men furiously lobbed grenades for 15 minutes.

The close-in fight started when the Americal Division soldiers heard the enemy trying to get through the barbed wire surrounding their positions.

"Our platoon leader and sergeant rushed over with a machinegun and more grenades," Sergeant Martocci said, "but by then it was almost over. The machinegun however, got six as they tried to withdraw."

The next day a combat patrol detained a Viet Cong who said many more dead and wounded had been carried away by his group.

Questioning of local civilians verified that a large group of wounded Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers was seen retreating throughout the day.

(Continued on Back Page)

Editorial How About You?

"I regret to leave this war-torn land before the battle is over and before peace is restored."

GENERAL W.C. WESTMORELAND

Have you ever wondered why a man extends? You may have thought of all of the "bennies" which serve as incentives for the man who volunteers or extends, but think again. Most of those men won't wave a flag at you when you ask — even though they wear one on their backs. They'll usually reflect, "I'm doing more here in 'Nam' than I can anywhere else!"

More than 135,000 Army personnel have already volunteered to come over here, and almost 42,000 Navy enlisted personnel have also volunteered since 1965.

Some of them leave with regrets — like the general who spent four consecutive years here, the platoon sergeant in the 25th Division who fought the VC/NVA for three years, and the advisor on Team 96 who has been fighting and advising since 1964.

These are the men who would be here for the duration if they could. They are the full-time soldiers of this war. They are the ones who are working out — not waiting out, their tours. They know that if the so-called "Freedom Bird" flies anywhere, it's got to learn to fly by itself here in Vietnam on the Frontier of Freedom.

Some servicemen are just willing to help more than others, and some of them just don't like the idea of still having to read about the war when they get back home. How about you? (MACV)

Two Changes Extend Voting Assistance Act For Overseas Citizens

WASHINGTON — President Johnson has signed two bills designed to extend the voting franchise for overseas American citizens.

The bills, S-1581 and S-2484, are amendments to the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955. That act is a statute that encourages the states to provide absentee ballot facilities for the following four categories of voters and their spouses and dependents; members of the armed forces, members of the Merchant Marine, overseas civilian employees of the government, and members of religious or welfare groups assisting servicemen.

The provisions of the Voting Assistance Act apply to all elections, federal, state, or local. Under it, the states are encouraged to provide a simplified system of absentee registration and voting, including uniform procedures for ballot applications and adequate time for ballots to be transmitted.

To expedite the ballot applications, the Act provides for a

standard Federal Postcard Application Form, with free air mail handling. To prevent fraud, the application requires a sworn statement giving the identify and domestic address of the applicant as well as a sworn statement that the applicant is not voting elsewhere.

The first bill signed by President Johnson, S-1581, amends the Voting Assistance Act to encourage the states to allow members of the armed forces and their dependents residing on military reservations to register and vote in the state where the reservation is located. At the present time, only three of the states refuse to allow such military personnel to vote as residents of the state.

In addition, S-1581 urges the states to authorize certain overseas federal officials to administer oaths in connection with the absentee registration and voting requirements of state law. At the present time, only a narrow category of federal officials is authorized to administer such oaths under the Voting Assistance Act.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Vietnam Era Veterans Get Practical Aid

WASHINGTON — If you served on active duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era, the period beginning Aug. 5, 1964 you are eligible for some very practical, down-to-earth help in getting a civilian job, should you want to work for the Federal Government.

This is precisely what the Civil Service Commission aims to do.

First, increase advice and assistance to veterans seeking federal jobs. Sixty-five Civil Service offices in major metropolitan areas now operate a one-stop Federal Job Information Center concerning federal job opportunities.

Second, speed-up the handling of paperwork in connection with federal jobs.

Third, add something new in the federal service for veterans who did not finish high school, or completed less than one year beyond high school. If you are interested in undertaking a work and approved-study program, you can be given a transitional appointment to a federal job in the first five pay levels of the Civil Service.

More Interest!

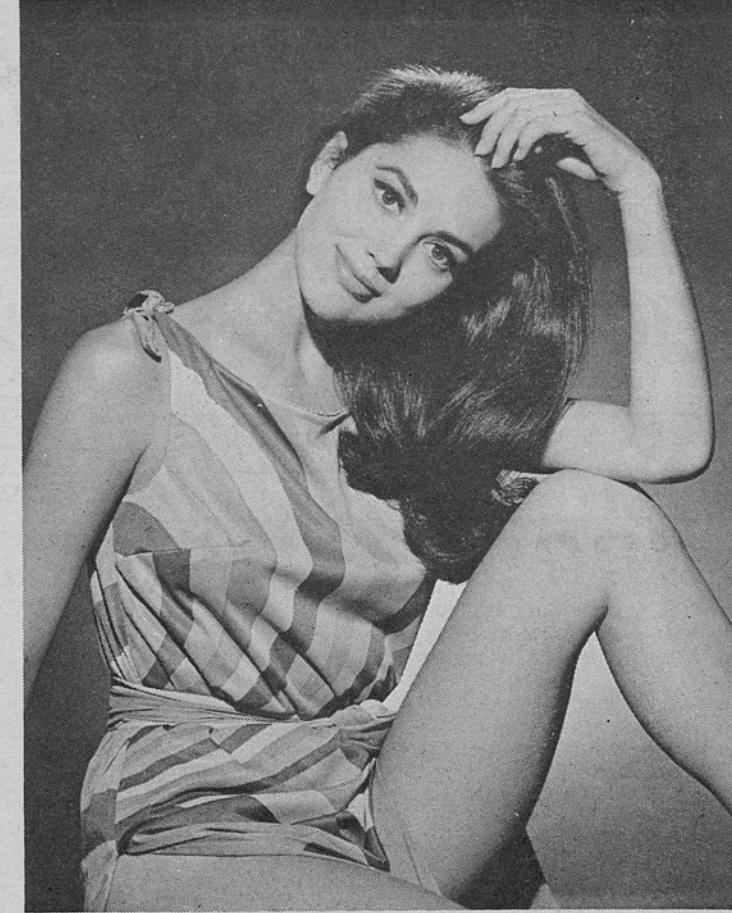
WASHINGTON — Effective June 1, 1968 the interest on Series "E" and "H" U.S. Savings Bonds was increased from 4.15 to 4.25 per cent, the maximum permitted under present law. The interest rate on Freedom Shares (U.S. Savings Notes) also was increased from 4.74 to 5 per cent, on issues dated June 1, 1968 and after.

The higher rate, however, does not apply to outstanding Freedom Shares, as the Treasury Department does not have legal authority to increase the interest rate on Freedom Shares issued between May 1, 1967 and May 31, 1968.

A fact sheet and series of questions and answers, titled "Interest Increase on U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares" may be acquired by writing to the Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.

Correspondence Courses: USAFI correspondence courses, Army Extension Courses along with college and university correspondence courses.

Testing: USAFI Achievement Tests, high school level GED tests, college comprehensive tests — general examinations, USAFI End-of-Course tests, Kuder Vocational tests and special college entrance and graduation



LOVELY, LONG-HAIRED AND LEGGY—Miss Linda Harrison is constructed to drive anyone "Ape"! The former "Miss Maryland" is currently starring in "Planet of the Apes," now making the scene in theaters around Vietnam.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF 20th Century-Fox)



Testament: Do not kill, steal, be unchaste, lie, or drink alcohol. By following the Eight-fold Path and by not violating the five prohibitions, the Buddhist is on the road to Nirvana. Almost everyone realizes that the idea of reincarnation fits into the beliefs of the Buddhist. Accordingly, the wheel is a very old and significant Buddhist symbol, representing the unending cycle of birth, life, and death. The Buddhist strives to escape this cycle by entering the state of Nirvana. To do so, he must live a life of self-denial and good deeds, as mentioned earlier.

Buddha did not teach his followers to worship any deity or any objects. Today, however, Buddhists place statues of their Founder in their homes and pagodas. But Buddha is not their god. He is their example, their guiding light, their hope that they too may one day achieve Nirvana. (Next Week: Buddhism In Vietnam)

Educational Opportunity Greatest Benefit Available To Military Serving In Vietnam

SAIGON — The opportunity to improve your education is one of the greatest benefits available to you in your military career, especially during your tour in Vietnam.

In Vietnam you will find an education center staffed by professional education advisers at each major command. These centers will provide you with educational information, classes, correspondence courses, and a testing program.

In addition, you will find branch centers offering a part of the following services:

Classes: University of Maryland classes, off-duty high school and vocational classes, on-duty preparatory instruction, language courses, (including Vietnamese) and military job related instruction.

... The United States is determined to help Vietnam preserve its independence, protect its people against Communist assassins, and build a better life through economic growth.

JOHN F. KENNEDY



FIRST IN VIETNAM
The OBSERVER

The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, for United States Forces in Vietnam. Operation of this newspaper does not necessarily reflect the views or policies 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.

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Fourth Armored Cavalry Is Best

DA NANG (I CORPS) — When you talk armor in Vietnam, talk 4th Armored Cavalry — the best armor unit in the country.

Who says so?

he added a streamer to the unit's colors at a special ceremony in Da Nang last year.

And the people of Tam Ky and Quang Ngai city who owe their safety during "Tel" attacks in large part to 4th Cav troops.

Statistics verify what these people already know: The Cav unit has a kill ratio of 26.6 to 1

this year. It claims the highest volunteer enlistment rate.

The Second Troop has been awarded two unit citations which add to the Cav's record as one of the most highly decorated outfits in the nation.

The unit was one of four original Vietnamese armor regiments, created during the war

against the Viet Minh. Many of the nation's top military figures today earned experience and reputation with the 4th Cav. Most noteworthy is the current Commanding General of ARVN's Second Division, Nguyen Van Tuan, who commanded the Armor Regiment from November 1964 until June 1966.

But it is personnel, not reputation, that keep the 4th Cavalry ARVN's best armor unit — a status they are visibly proud of.

Commanding the unit from its headquarters west of Da Nang is Colonel Phan Hoa Hiep, whom Senior U.S. Advisor Major Eric F. Reichelt calls "The very finest ARVN armor officer." Second in command, Lieutenant Colonel Phan Hoa Cua is described by an Australian advisor simply as a "bloody good man."

Major Nguyen Huu Ly, the operations officer at 4th Cav Headquarters, recorded the most favorable kill ratio in the regiment while commanding the Second Troop at Quang Ngai. His excellent performance in defense of that city during the "Tel" attacks earned him a promotion to his current position.

In the past, 4th Cav earned its reputation for iron-clad defenses around the major cities of southern I Corps. Look for this hard-nose outfit to remain one of the very best in Vietnam in the future.



Vietnam's experienced 4th Cav leaders prepare a battle plan.

ARVN Troops Scrunch Enemy

BIEN HOA (III CORPS) — In the May 5, 1968 attack against Saigon, enemy forces suffered extremely heavy losses while crossing the 25th ARVN Infantry Division's tactical area, according to documents captured recently.

American advisor suggested to a 4th Cavalry staff officer that maybe he was the "modern day Phu Dong Thien Vuong". The soldier joked off the comment, but his expression revealed the honor he felt in suggesting that he might be the savior his nation is waiting for.

The visionary child instructed the spokesman to return to the king's palace and make a steel-horse, steel rod and an armor vest for him to carry into battle.

King Hung Vuong was overwhelmed by the story of Thien Vuong. He brought the child to the imperial city, feasted him, and met his requests.

When the child was assured of the king's faith he miraculously grew to be 30 feet tall. The mystified imperial court looked on.

He grasped the steel rod, wielded it gently against the horse's shank, and mounted as the animal came to life.

The lone soldier then disappeared.

Average losses in men and

fire that its leaders began to suspect foul play. As a result two VC cadre were arrested and charged with spying for ARVN sources.

The 25th ARVN PsyWar effort also came in for indirect praise from the enemy. They complained that because of the number of leaflets dropped and the ever present voice of the loudspeaker, cadre officers had to devote considerable time to watching their men to prevent defections.

"I stared at them and one of them stared at me, but kept right on eating," the sergeant said. "They didn't act like VC because they didn't try to run away or fire at me. I knew that my company had been working with Vietnamese Popular Force soldiers the day before," he continued, "so I held my fire."

Sergeant Scott immediately passed the word back to his commander and asked if any PFCs were in the area. While waiting for an answer he observed two men vanish into the pagoda. Slowly the others started to drift inside.

In the past, the sergeant said, there were no additional friendly forces nearby. "As I received the word a VC came out of the pagoda about 10 meters in front of me, looked straight at me and ran back toward the pagoda," he related. Sergeant Scott, "but never made it." Before he could reach the sanctuary the trooper fired an M79 grenade, killing him instantly.

Loading another round in his M79, the sergeant fired into the pagoda, crumbling it around the scattering VC.

Upon searching the ruins, the troopers found seven enemy killed and numerous weapons.

F-4 Phantom Crews Detonate 12 Trucks

CAM RANH BAY (USAF) — Air Force F-4 Phantom crews, from the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, started a chain reaction of secondary explosions and fires in the southern panhandle of North Vietnam as they hit a convoy of trucks on Highway 1A. Twelve trucks were destroyed and at least 30 fires burned brightly in a one-quarter to one-half square mile area.

First Lieutenant Jack R. Forsey was the first pilot to spot the enemy convoy. He rolled in.

"I hit the convoy which had taken cover under some trees," said the lieutenant. Major Samuel E. Fields, commander of the mission, said, "By the time I rolled in, fires were igniting in a chain reaction.

"When I dropped my bombs, more fires and secondary explosions were set off. We each made another pass, causing more fires and secondary explosions which billowed smoke up to 300 feet. The smoke was black which usually indicates that they were carrying petroleum supplies. It was just a continuous chain reaction of fires," concluded Major Fields.

"We received ground fire on the first three passes," Lieutenant D. E. Salvucci said, "but on our fourth pass, no ground fire was observed. Another flight confirmed 12 trucks destroyed and at least 30 fires. It looked like the Fourth of July," he concluded.

A story related in the enemy papers proved that the coordination between ARVN intelligence collecting and evaluation personnel and the artillery was effective. The Trang Bang Regional (VC) Battalion was hit so often by accurate artillery

"Charlie" buries his guns in 55-gallon drums, usually close to canal banks and bunker complexes. At ground-level the drums have straw or other mats for lids. Beat the ground for hollow sounds. You may drum up something!

"Charlie" draws rings with booby traps! Yes, indeed. "Charlie" sometimes rings his big caches of ammo and supplies with booby traps placed in a circular pattern. The more traps he sets, the more likely you are to find a big dump of his war supplies. Use that ring of traps to catch his cache!



KIT CARSON SCOUT — A former Viet Cong, Hang Nguyen Van, now a Kit Carson Scout with the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, emerges from a VC bunker with an enemy RPG-7 round. Hang was instrumental in finding the large cache of enemy ammunition. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO By: SP4 Larry Weist)

Freedom At Last

PHAN RANG (USA) — There is one flight that Air Force Major Ray D. Shelton, a C-123 Provider pilot with the 311th Air Commando Squadron, Phan Rang air base, will never forget.

The major's C-123 was called upon to aid in the evacuation of some 700 to 1,000 people from the Special Forces camp at Kham Duc, then under heavy enemy attack. On nearing the camp, the major learned that one helicopter and one C-130 Hercules had already tried to make a pickup without success. The helicopter had been shot down and the C-130's tires had been shot out from under it by mortars. There was only 2,200 feet of usable runway.

Major Shelton brought his aircraft in to the strip under the heaviest ground fire he had ever seen. They could see people lying in the ditches on either side of the taxiway, awaiting evacuation. Mortar and rockets were landing so close, the Provider pilot said that dirt was coming in through the window and landing in their laps while they sat, engines idling, loading evacuees.

Major Shelton's right ear drum was ruptured by a near miss, but they took on 65 Americans, 10 Vietnamese adults and five children with the group including crew members from the disabled aircraft.

18-Hour Conflict

Troopers 'Hot-Land' On Enemy

CU CHI (USA) — Seven companies of troopers from the 3rd Brigade, 101st Air Cavalry Division killed 54 Viet Cong and NVA regulars during an 18-hour battle northwest of here recently.

The heavy contact began as cavalrymen from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry flew into a hot landing zone north of their base camp following reconnaissance reports of enemy activity in their area of operation.

"The Viet Cong were waiting for us in a treeline next to a rice paddy as we air assaulted into the LZ, a platoon at a time," said Captain Henry S. Matlosz, company commander.

"They opened up with a trio of heavy machineguns and several AK-47s. Their snipers also proved very hard to spot."

The soldiers soon found their entire unit under heavy fire. They scurried for any available cover and began returning the enemy's fire into the treeline.

"All hell broke loose and we didn't have much cover in the paddy," said Specialist 4 Larry D. Barry.

"Every time we popped our head up to fire, someone would take a crack at us."

Captain Matlosz's report from the trouble spot was forwarded to the brigade's tactical opera-

tions center (TOC). It prompted Colonel Lawrence L. Mowery, brigade commander, to divert units on other reconnaissance-in-force missions in the area to Company A's position.

Through foot movement and combat air assaults, he moved the battalion's B, C, and D Companies as well as A, B, and C Companies of the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry into cordon positions around the enemy's reported location.

Throughout the afternoon and into the night, artillery, "Cobra" gunships, "Snoopy" gunships and 17 tactical air strikes

were used to pound the enemy's position. As the air cavalrymen moved into night defensive positions to cover possible escape routes, the pounding continued with very little enemy resistance.

"The Viet Cong tried to sneak through our lines in groups of five and six, but we cut them down with M-60 fire and claymore mines," Captain Matlosz said.

Two days of sweeps following the major encounter revealed 54 enemy bodies and eight weapons, ranging from AK-47s to 82mm mortars.

Americal Division Med. Team 'Breathes Life' Into Viet Babe

CHU LAI (USA) — With makeshift facilities and a little prayer, a medical team from the Americal Division's 11th Brigade played midwife during the birth of a tiny Vietnamese baby and pumped air into its empty lungs.

Captain David E. Shanks, medical officer for the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, and his assistant, Specialist 6 Robert C. Grant, responded to a Vietnam-

ese woman's request that they deliver her baby.

Captain Shanks said, "When we saw her, we realized that there was no time to evacuate her to the hospital at Chu Lai." So they prepared their medical gear for delivery.

Everything went well until the baby decided it was time to make its appearance. Instead of the normal head-first delivery, a small hand emerged. Then came the head, and 3½ pounds of baby boy.

Training Project Teaches Tactics

CHU LAI (USA) — A continuing program to teach the Vietnamese people to rely on their own abilities and resources has resulted in a new training project within the 11th Infantry Brigade at Duc Pho.

Local villages lack trained people to protect their hamlets from night attacks by the Viet Cong. Although the inhabitants were willing to fight, they had little or no knowledge of military tactics.

Major Carl Smith, of the MACV Headquarters in Duc Pho, and Captain Ho Van Luyen, the district chief, met with Colonel Oran K. Henderson, commander of the Americal Division's 11th Brigade, to arrange for the use of American military facilities to help train the Combat Youth of Duc Pho.

Colonel Henderson suggested the youthful volunteers be given an opportunity to work with American forces in the field where they could observe and participate in all facets of combat operations.

The South Vietnamese government provided weapons and ammunition for the selected village defenders; the 11th Brigade's 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry further equipped them and took them under their "wing" in the field to show them how to operate against the enemy.

The 29 Combat Youth chosen in this pilot program were divided among the companies of the infantry unit. The American soldiers immediately accepted them as an addition to their fighting force and began teaching them how to set up defensive perimeters and night ambushes.

"They were scared as anyone would be the first time in a

combat situation," said Captain David O. Treadwell, Company B commander. "But as soon as they saw we could move safely in our operation area, most of them became enthusiastic and wanted to participate as much as possible. Soon they were searching tunnels that were too small to admit the larger U.S. soldiers."

"They were here to learn from us but it worked both ways," commented 1st Lieutenant Joseph E. Krohn, a platoon leader with the battalion. "We have trouble reading documents and I.D. cards since we have no interpreter and the Combat Youths have been a great help."

"Now that they know what we are doing they are showing quite a bit of initiative," Sergeant Mitchell said, near the end of the OJT soldier's week-long training. "The other day a couple of them took off on their own and rounded up five suspects."

Many of the Americans who had worked closely with the youthful combatants said they would like the Vietnamese to stay with them in the field.

At an impressive graduation ceremony held at the Duc Pho Heli-pad, Colonel Henderson congratulated the young warriors and the entire Revolutionary Development Peoples Group for the show of "determination on the part of all citizens of Duc Pho to stand up and be counted in the common struggle to destroy the Viet Cong."

U.S. Troops Find Cache

DA HOA (III CORPS) — U.S. 25th Infantry Division elements operating 20 miles Northeast of Saigon recently, were led to a 107mm rocket and 75mm recoilless rifle cache two miles Northeast of Duc Hoa in the 25th Arvn's tactical area.

Blinded men, men with arms or legs missing, men with only hours to live are part of the daily admissions to the Naval Support Activity Station Hospital at Da Nang. The casualties, most of them Marines, come by helicopter directly from the field.

There were forty-one 107mm rockets uncovered and sixteen 75mm recoilless rifle shells plus 675 quarter-pound blocks of TNT and 22 anti-tank mines taken.

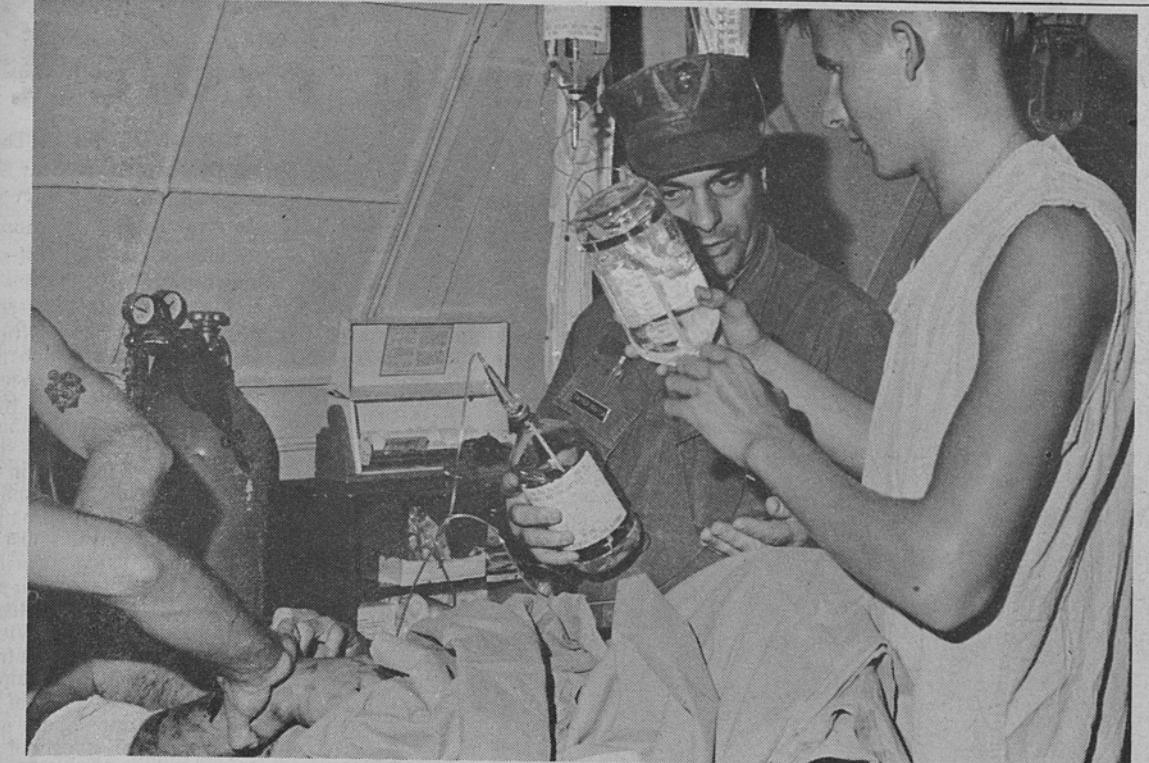
The site of this find was very near the area where the 25th ARVN Infantry Division captured 124 rockets including seventy-six 122mm rockets June 27.

This recent cache was found when Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry "Dragons," air assaulted from the Capital Military District into the Hau Nghia area and captured a prisoner. The prisoner later led them to the cache.

Two days of sweeps following the major encounter revealed 54 enemy bodies and eight weapons, ranging from AK-47s to 82mm mortars.

The biggest complication arose when they tried to get the baby to start breathing. "Perhaps the position of the arm caused the abnormal obstruction in the air passage," said Captain Shanks. "We tried for three minutes, using all the normal methods, but the baby wasn't breathing. Then, with a little prayer, we tried forcing air into his lungs with a tube. At this, the baby began breathing normally and the delivery was a success."

Everything went well until the baby decided it was time to make its appearance. Instead of the normal head-first delivery, a small hand emerged. Then came the head, and 3½ pounds of baby boy.



In Receiving I, where wounded men arrive, the task of reassurance rests with the chaplain.

Chaplain Tours Hell With Grin

DA NANG (USN) — "Please, God. Please give me back just one eye." The big Negro sergeant lay propped up in the hospital bed, bandages covering the upper half of his face. His brother, also stationed in Vietnam, sat beside him, but the sergeant could not see him. He would never see anything again.

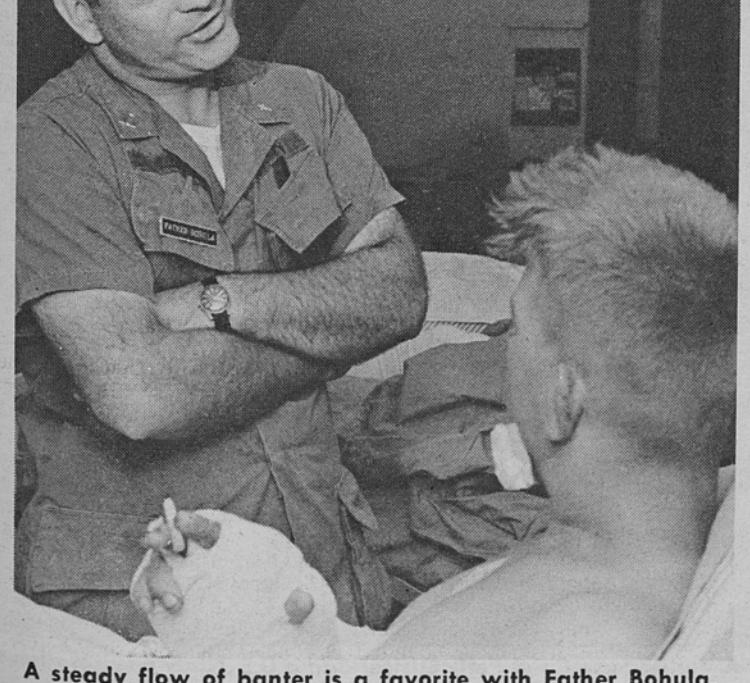
On the other side of the bed stood a Catholic chaplain, Reverend Edwin Bohula. The blind man held his hand and was squeezing it hard. "A lot of times," Father Bohula said later, "that's all you can do for them. Just hold their hands."

The sight and sound of pain are served in generous portions every day to the hospital's chaplains.

The two hospital chaplains, Father Bohula and Reverend James Beasley, make the rounds of all the hospital's wards every day, joking with the patients, taking care of needs such as cigarettes, writing paper, model kits. They hold services in the chapel, but they rarely push religion in the wards or in receiving.

"If you come up to a wounded man and begin spouting religion, you're going to turn him off," Reverend Beasley said.

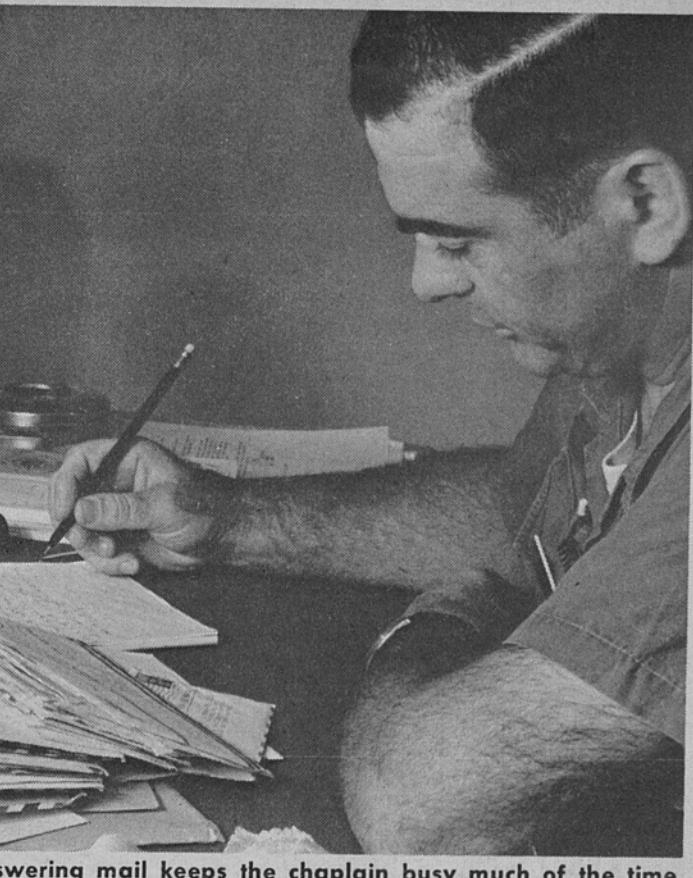
Both chaplains naturally feel the tensions attendant to their duties as they daily minister to the morale of hospitalized Marines. The job is one that must be done, but there is in fact more desire than duty involved in their individual acceptance of their roles.



A steady flow of banter is a favorite with Father Bohula.



Father Bohula hears confession from a Marine on the mend.



Answering mail keeps the chaplain busy much of the time.



Just a way of breaking the monotony—it draws plenty of snickers and perhaps some business.

YR-24 Keeps Viet Navy On Firing Line

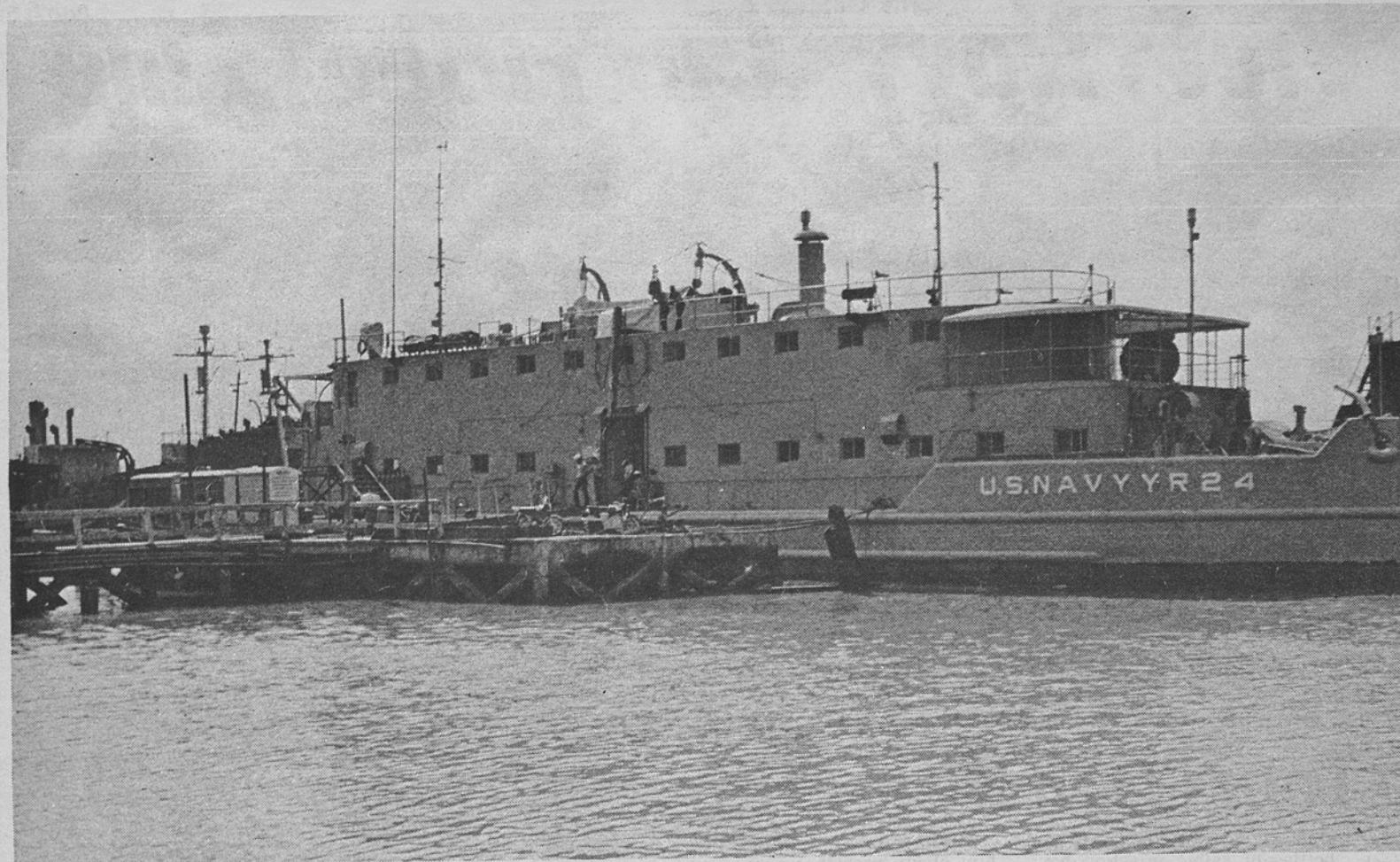
SAIGON (USN) — The YR-24, a floating repair shop, is moored in Saigon. The ship's electronics shop, repairs and calibrates radio and radar equipment installed on various Vietnamese Navy ships. In a move to improve efficiency as a self-sustaining organic unit.

YR-24 is the U.S. Navy's main deck of the YR-24. The ship's crew of two officers and 25 enlisted men which has been manufacturing and engine training some 100 Vietnamese sailors. The ship's crew has been manufacturing and engine training some 100 Vietnamese sailors. The ship's crew has been manufacturing and engine training some 100 Vietnamese sailors. The ship's crew has been manufacturing and engine training some 100 Vietnamese sailors.

The U.S. Navy's Yard Repair Facility of Vietnamese Navy ships, YR-24, is a non-propelled ship. It is used for making awnings with which vessel acting as a floating pair facility for the Vietnamese Navy. The ship's crew has been manufacturing and engine training some 100 Vietnamese sailors.

Its capabilities are enhanced by the inclusion of several different shops; among them, the electric shop where electric motors are rewound, repaired and rebuilt. This shop also has a limited gyro compass repair facility.

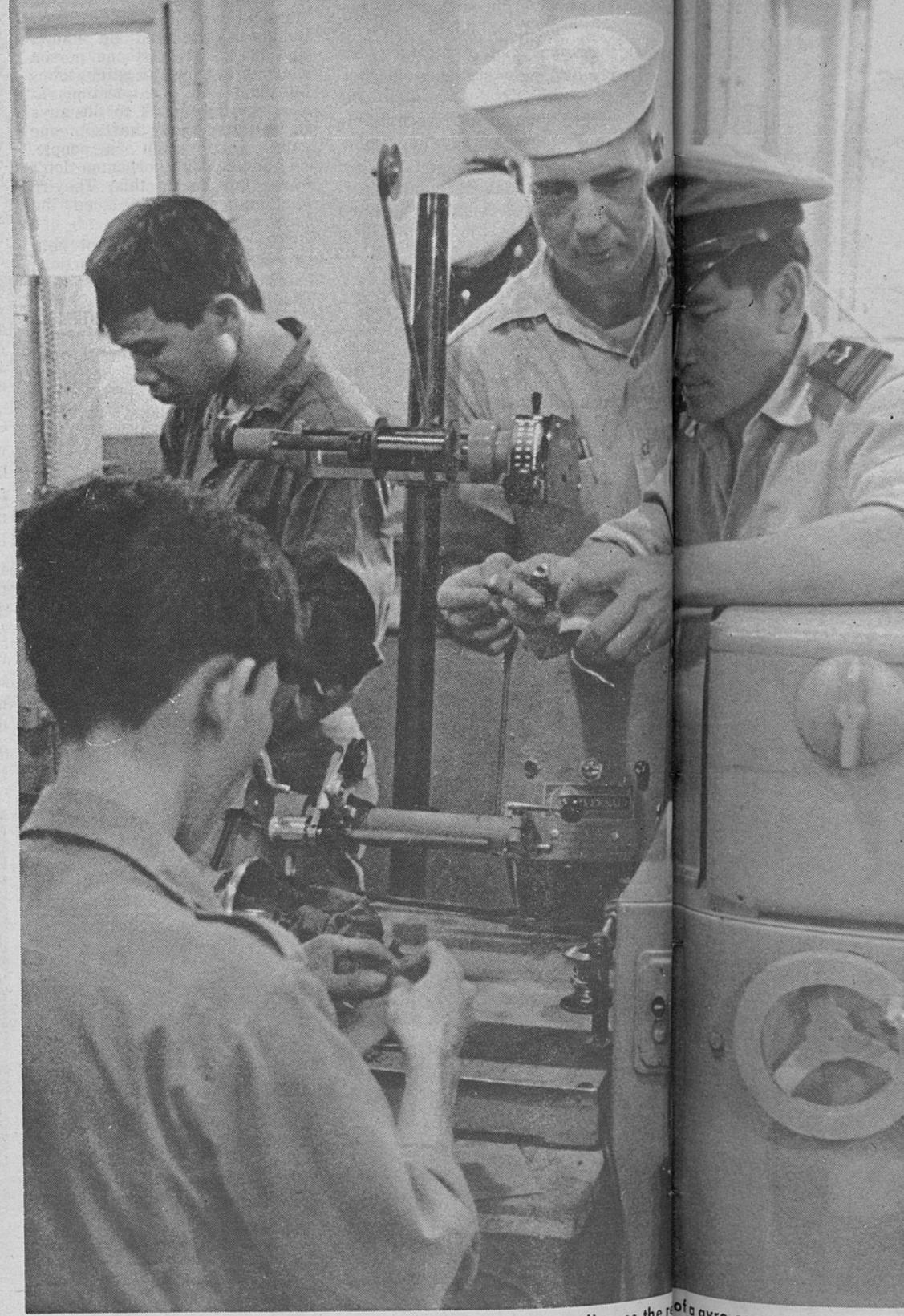
Story & Photos
By
U.S. Navy



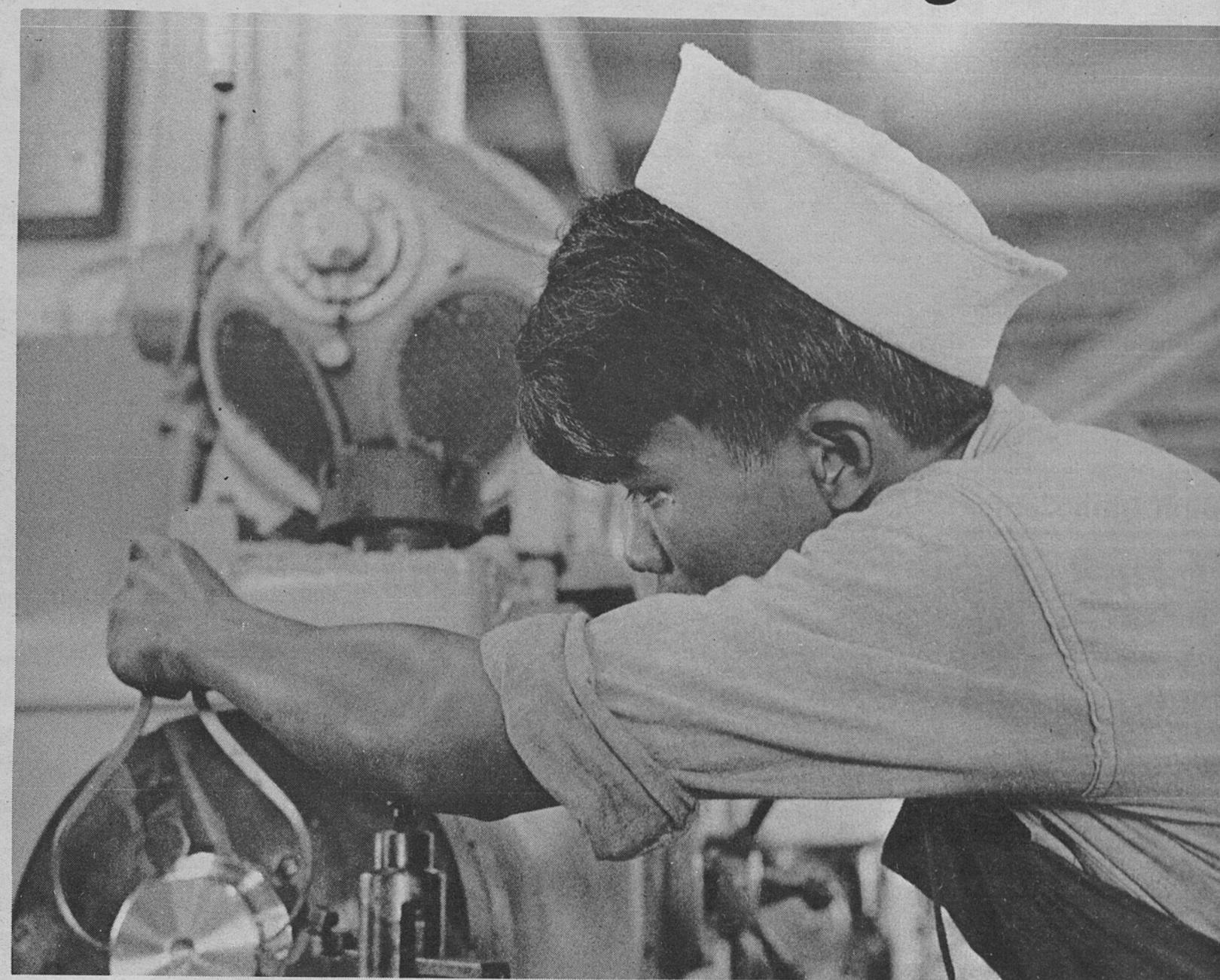
YR-24, moored on the Saigon River, acts both as a training ship for Vietnamese Navymen and as a floating repair shop.



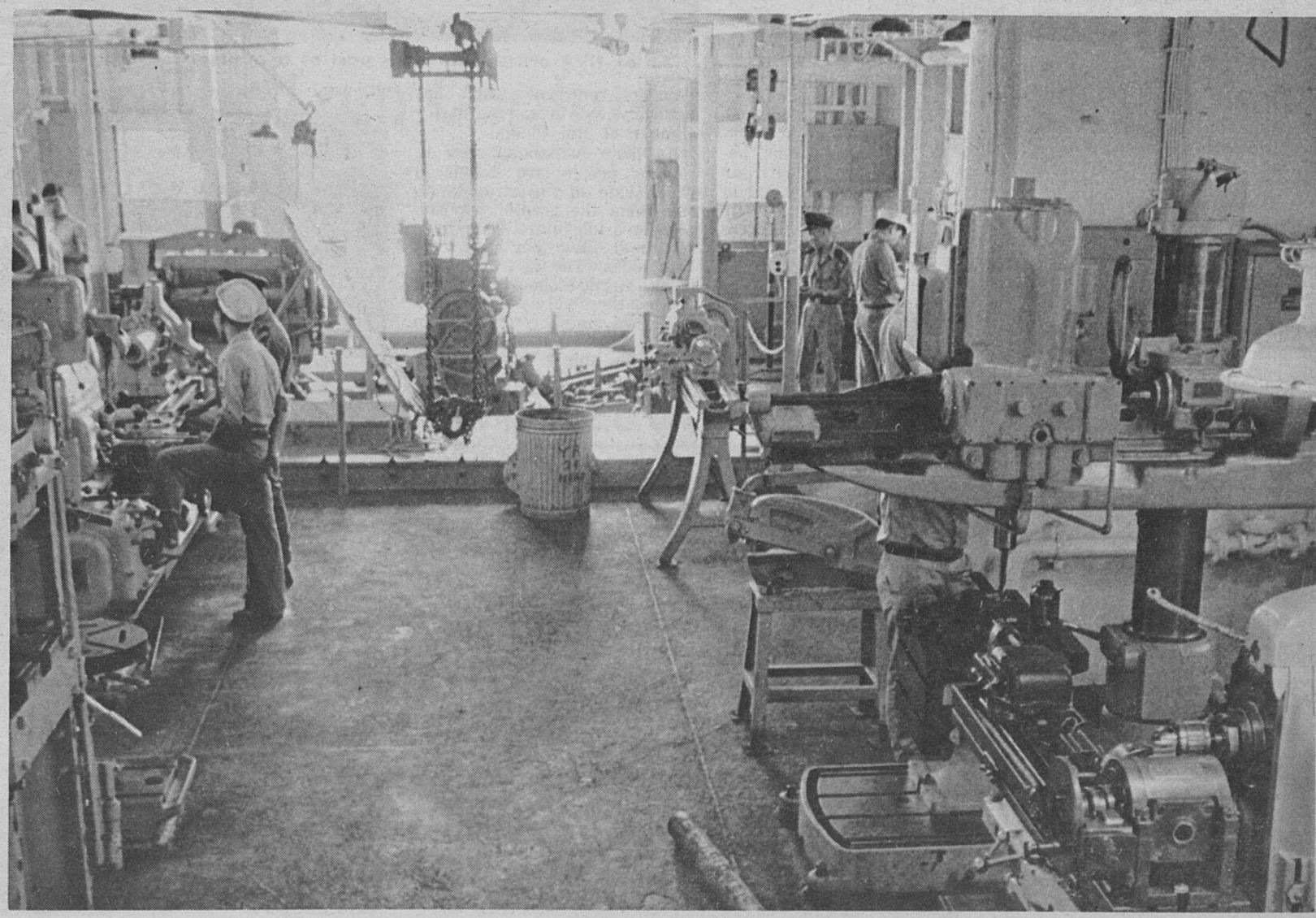
Working together, these two sailors check the circuits in an electronic component.



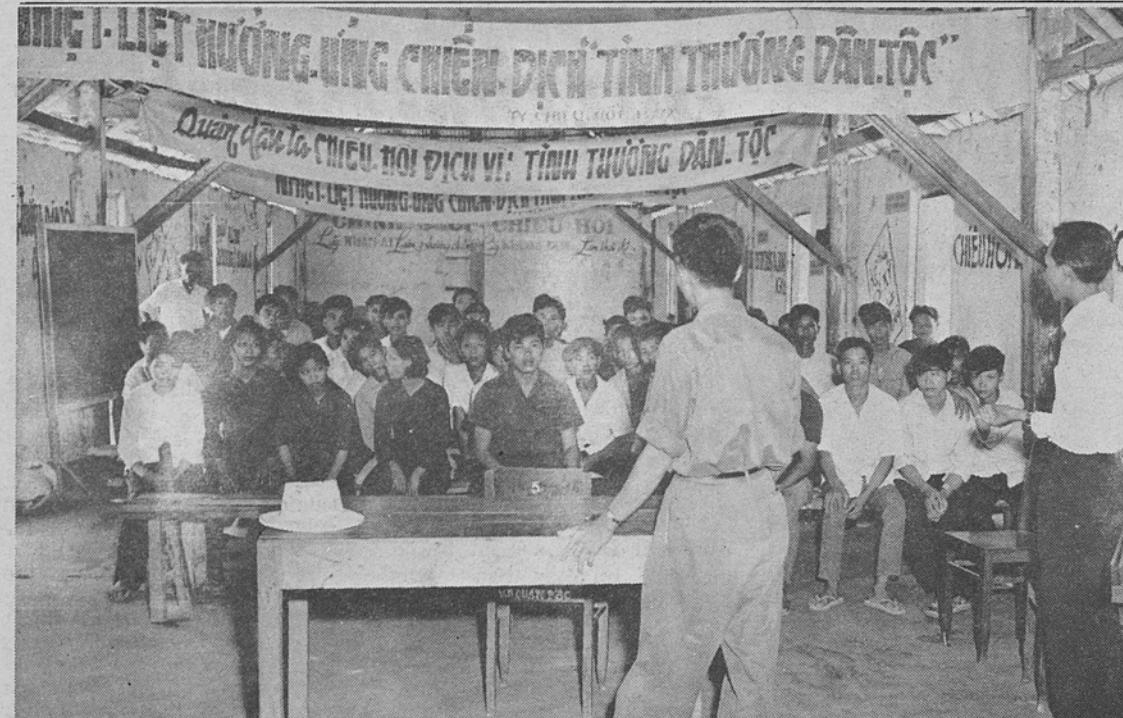
A Vietnamese Chief Petty Officer and a U.S. Navy advisor discuss the gyro compass on YR-24.



Using the skill he learned from U.S. advisors, a Vietnamese sailor checks the tolerance of a replacement part he is turning on the lathe.



The YR-24's large, well-equipped machine shop is capable of making almost any part needed to repair or overhaul a marine engine.



During political indoctrination classes a former NVA officer speaks to a group of Hoi Chanh.

Binh Dinh Center**'Chieu Hoi' Eases Repatriation**

QUI NHON (IFF) — Chieu Hoi literally means "Joyful Return," but is translated by the Vietnamese Government as "Open Arms." The phrase underlines the intentions of the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to embrace former enemy soldiers or sympathizers and consequently future South Vietnamese citizens.

These persons who take advantage of the amnesty offered under the Chieu Hoi program are termed Hoi Chanh, "returnees."

Binh Dinh Chieu Hoi Center

One of the busiest, largest and most successful Chieu Hoi centers in country is located at An Nhon in Binh Dinh province. Besides receiving the greatest number of Hoi Chanh in II Corps, it is being improved physically today to serve as the vocational training center for Hoi Chanh from the whole corps area.

A Hoi Chanh, having rallied in II Corps to the Army of the HOI CHANH, having rallied in II Corps to the Army of Vietnam (ARVN), an American unit, the National Police or a GVN center will usually spend 45 to 60 days at the Binh Dinh center. If a returnee is involved in a special vocational training program such as engine mechanics, sewing or animal husbandry, he (or she) may stay up to five months.

Before the new Hoi Chanh begins any vocational training he participates in a 72-hour political indoctrination program. Each returnee is authorized 200 piasters per month for personal spending and 30 piasters food

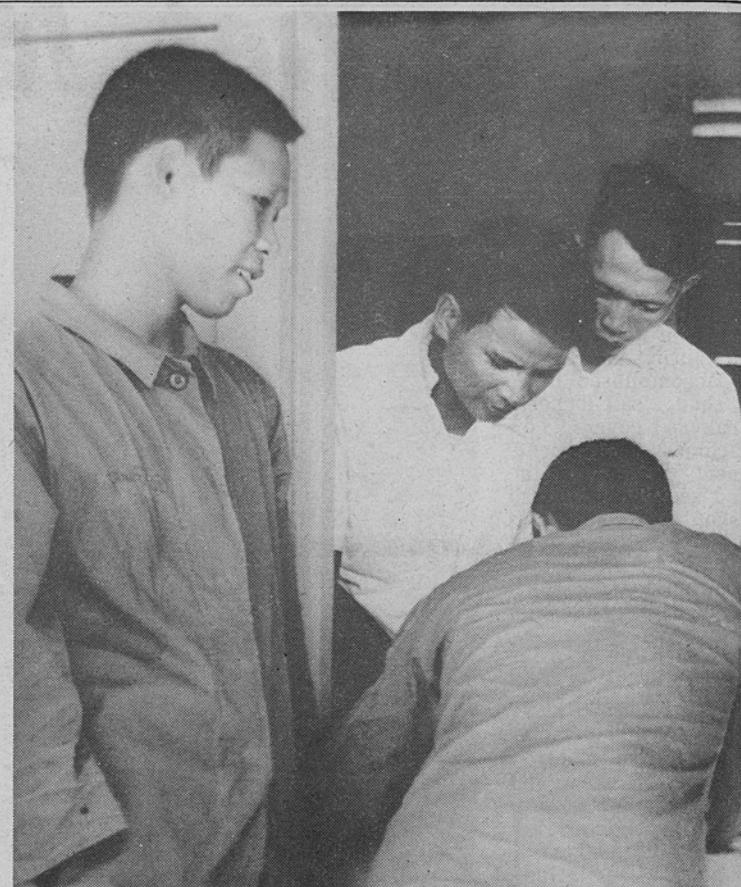
One Year Amnesty

One year from the time a Hoi Chanh comes over to the side of the GVN he becomes subject to the ARVN draft. Many returnees do not wait for the draft to call them. Some become Kit Carson Scouts or members of armed propaganda teams after finishing their training at the Binh Dinh center. About 20 per cent join the ARVN before their year of grace expires.

The Binh Dinh center has handled up to 1,700 Hoi Chanh at one time. The center's growth is directly proportionate to its success as a transition

Story & Photos By U.S. Army

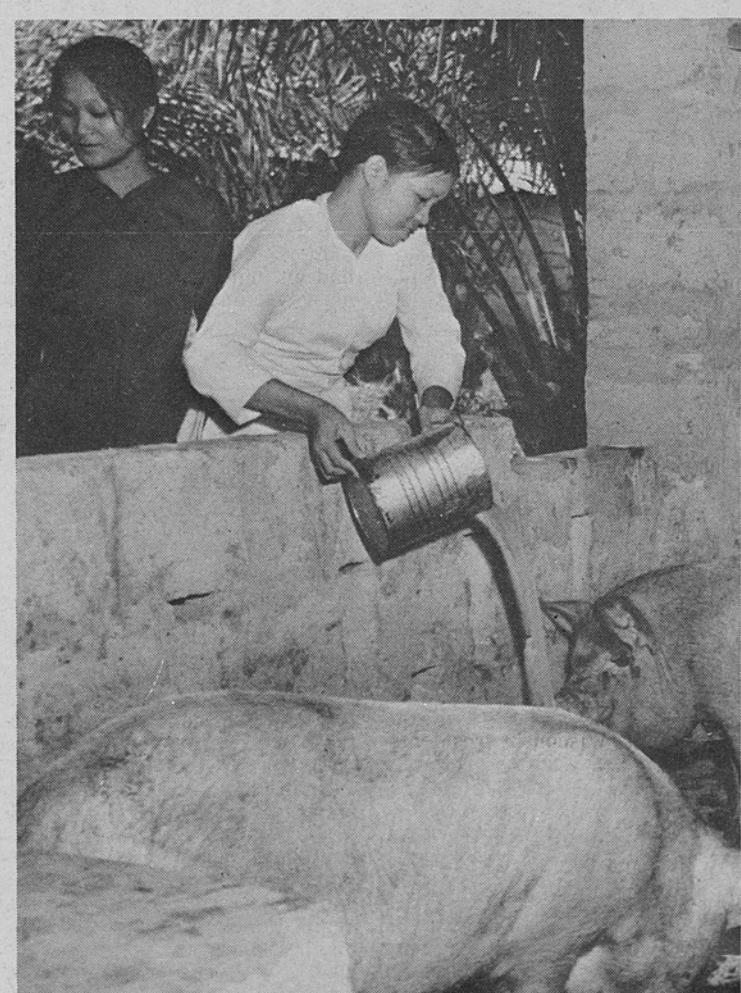
Modern hooches are but one reason the Binh Dinh center successfully reclaims former enemy.



The first week each Hoi Chanh gets a complete issue of clothes.



An ex-NVA officer relates his past as a commander to a National Police interrogator.



Two returnees learn tips in animal husbandry at the center.



MUD AND WATER — Wading through mud and water up to their waists, U.S. 9th Infantry Division Mobile Riverine troops board a riverine assault boat. The craft will take them upstream to another objective and put them ashore. Smoke in the background was popped to mark their position when the U.S. Navy Monitor beached to take them aboard.

(USN PHOTO By: PH-1 Dan Dodd)

One Eludes Troopers**Five VC On The Lam Captured**

CU CHI (USA) — A chase on foot and a face-to-face wrestling match with six panic-stricken Viet Cong tallied one enemy dead and four detainees for the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry.

Specialist 4 David H. Foss, an assistant squad leader, said: "It was difficult to chase the men with all the web gear we had on, but finally I caught one of them and wrestled him to the ground. I found papers on him and our interpreter identified him as being Viet Cong."

While on a reconnaissance-in-force mission the 25th Infantry Division platoon responded to an intelligence report that six VC were moving through a village.

Sergeant Celso Cinden was walking point when he saw three men moving on the outskirts of a village after curfew. He notified 1st Lieutenant Robert Foran of the sighting. Lieutenant Foran directed the men not to open fire.

"We called to them in Vietnamese and told them to come to us so we could check their

Are You A Voter?

SAIGON (MACV) — Did you know that Wisconsin residents in the military do not have to be registered in order to vote in the Sept. 10, 1968 primary election? That's right! So mail your FPCA now to your County, City, Town, or Village Clerk (Board of Election Commissioners, Milwaukee) and remember — in order to meet the deadline, your ballot must be returned in time to be delivered to election officials before the polls close on election day.

papers," he said. "The men turned and ran. We chased them on foot, but we could not shoot since we didn't know exactly who the three men were."

The Wolfhound squad then opened up on the other two, killing one. The third escaped into the hedgerow.

While the platoon's first squad was chasing the trio the second squad spotted three more. Not sure of their identity, the squad also pursued them on foot.

The second squad apprehended all three enemy suspects. Later questioning revealed that one of them was the leader of a local assassination platoon.

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Colonel Le Trung Tuong, deputy commander of II Corps, expressed his appreciation to

Young VC Recalls Ex-leader's Voice

DI AN (USA) — Bo Van Lam, a seventeen-year-old VC rifleman, cautiously made his way through the swampy undergrowth covering the area just northeast of Saigon where his unit was operating. He and his comrades were short of food again, and he had left on a foraging mission with instructions to bring back whatever he could find to eat.

Under his shirt, Bo carried a small piece of paper, although he knew it would get him executed if his company commander found it. On the paper was a picture of a man Bo recognized as a former leader in his battalion and with it there was a message telling of the good food, new clothing and fine treatment rallyards received under the Government of South

The young soldier moved along, thinking of this leaflet and the voice he had heard the night before from a helicopter circling overhead. He was sure the voice was that of the man whose picture he carried and he could almost hear its message resounding — "Rally now! Turn yourself over to the government forces."

Then Bo knew the chance he was looking for had come. Ahead of him he saw American troops conducting a reconnaissance patrol. With his hands in the air, he stepped out so the Americans could see him.

The American soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry turned Bo over to the 2nd Brigade civil affairs section in Di An.

There he met the man whose

Buzzing Bombers Riddle Recondos

CHU LAI (USA) — Hundreds, possibly thousands of enemy dive bombers with fixed bayonets attacked an 11th Infantry Brigade reconnaissance platoon recently 15 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

As the men were putting up a losing battle, 1st Lieutenant Donald Hopper, the platoon leader, called in a dustoff for his men.

"It was amazing the way the bees stuck us until we were dusted off," he said. "It was like they were trained for a suicide mission against us."

"The side of the hill was covered with bamboo shoots where the bees had their hives," Private First Class Robert Voss said. "They seemed to attack on command."

Some of the men in the rear used ponchos to cover themselves. Even though they had cover only two men were not stung. Four needed hospitalization.

It all happened so fast that no one could explain the attack. Specialist De Leon thought it could have been a booby trap triggered by the point men."

Specialist De Leon darted for the river at the bottom of the hill. "As soon as I jumped in the water, with all my equipment

U.S. Infantry School Trains Home Guard

AN KHE (USA) — The 173d Airborne Brigade recently graduated the first class of South Vietnamese Regional Force, Popular Force troops from its new Leadership School at An Khe.

A fresh concept in joint-training, the leadership school is the first of its kind in the II Corps tactical zone. The school is aimed at improving the knowledge of key RF/PF (home guard) personnel in the areas of weaponry, equipment maintenance, first aid, platoon offensive tactics, rappelling and a variety of other infantry skills.

First Lieutenant Tran Quoc Khai, honor graduate for the first class pointed out that "despite the difficulties of working through interpreters, we learned many useful lessons, and greatly appreciate this opportunity."

Dunedin, Fla. GIs Wanted

A committee of citizens of Dunedin, Fla., is seeking the names of servicemen in Vietnam who are natives of that city to honor them at the opening of a new football stadium.

All servicemen from the city who are serving or have served a tour in the Southeast Asia combat zone will be listed on a bronze plaque to be permanently placed on the new Dunedin Memorial Stadium at Dunedin High School.

All former students will be honored, including those who left school to join the service before graduation. Servicemen from the city are asked to send their names and the names of any other Vietnam veterans from the city to Mr. E.J. Flowers, 910 Crosley Drive, Dunedin, Fla., 33528.



WET AND WILD — Lovely Diane Webber seems to have a case of the chills. Anyone have a spare poncho liner? (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

Chaplain Paves Way

Vietnamese Dropout Studies For Degree

LONG BINH (USA) — A Vietnamese secretary who had to quit school to support her family has had a dream come true.

Miss Truong Ngoc Anh is going back to high school in Saigon and later will study to become a doctor. She had been working for the 595th Signal Company as a secretary.

Chaplain (Capt.) Herbert M. Turner of the 36th Signal Battalion took an interest in the

18-year-old girl immediately upon being introduced to her. "Her mannerisms and personality are amazing, considering the environment in which she has been raised," he said.

Miss Anh comes from a poverty-stricken family of six children that is living in substandard housing in the Saigon area.

Vietnamese custom dictates that the oldest child must work to support the family. In her case, this meant that she had to quit high school to help her family.

Chaplain Turner also has offered to help and mentioned he will continue to supervise Miss Anh's education after he returns

to the United States. Members of the 36th Signal Battalion have decided to help. A band known as the Soulful Dynamics has offered to perform in benefit appearances to help finance the girl's education.

"What impressed me most is that she doesn't want the education to help herself, but only to help others," said Chaplain Turner.

Chaplain Turner decided to investigate the girl's situation further and see if it might be possible for her to work and finish her education at the same time. He visited the Long Binh civilian personnel office and made an appointment for Miss Anh to see Cathy Meyer.

Miss Meyer, after talking to her, discovered the girl's goal of becoming a doctor. She con-

cluded that Miss Anh was sincere in her wishes, and decided to help finance both college and medical school. Miss Meyer also has offered to support the girl's family, realizing if she went to school on a full-time basis they would need assistance.

Chaplain Turner also has offered to help and mentioned he will continue to supervise Miss Anh's education after he returns

through the interpreter, the chief said that rice was hidden in a nearby graveyard.

Lieutenant Peters sent a platoon to investigate. When they arrived at the designated spot they uncovered four caches containing more than 10 tons of rice.

Throughout the day other villagers came forward with information, until a total of 100

Attention Hawaiians

SAIGON (MACV) — Hawaii residents, act now! Did you know that your absentee ballot must arrive by the day before the primary election; or no later than noon on the sixth day following a general or primary election? A primary election is scheduled for Oct. 5, 1968.

Air Cav Caches In 100 Tons Of Rice

CAMP EVANS (USA) — Company A, 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry of the 1st Air Cavalry Division was operating near the hamlet of Cai Mon, on the coastal plain about 20 miles northwest of Hue, when the hamlet chief approached Lieutenant James P. Peters, the company commander.

Throughout the day other villagers came forward with information, until a total of 100

Self-Help Villagers In Race

HUE/PHU BAI (USMC) — The 6,000 villagers of Thuy Phu, a farming village south of Phu Bai have entered themselves in a race against the weather.

In one of the most ambitious "Self-Help" projects attempted in I Corps, the villagers are pushing to complete the construction of an irrigation dam spanning the Phu Bai river. The project has to be finished before the monsoon rains start or the rains may force its abandonment.

At the present pace, however, abandonment is out of the question and the villagers will be done long before the summer monsoon rolls around.

"This is one of the most energetic and ambitious civic action minded villages that I've seen," said Captain James Marcus, telling of the village's determination to have their dam. Captain Marcus is a platoon commander with the U.S. Army's 7th Platoon, 29th Civic Affairs Company.

"In the past, they've built wells, a rice granary, a village market place and are working on a dispensary right now along with the dam," he added.

In construction of the irrigation dam, the villagers of Thuy Phu are doing all the labor. A combined effort of U.S. Army and Marine Corps civil affairs personnel working with CORDS and the South Vietnamese Government has actually made the project possible.

The Irrigation and Hydraulic Service of Hue provided building plans for the dam. A Vietnamese representative from the Irrigation Service also is working with villagers in the actual construction of the project.

Some 5,200 bags of cement, 650 cubic meters of decomposed granite, another 650 cubic meters of sand and 200 cubic meters of gravel, will be used in the dam's construction.

Construction plans call for a dam capable of irrigating close to 3,000 acres of rice land. It will have 14 floodgates controlling the water level of the Phu Bai river. The new dam will replace an earthen structure villagers had been using.

A working crew of more than 1,000 villagers, under the direction of the Thuy Phu village chief, Ngu Si Dinh, have been working at the project site each day. A week after they started, workers carved out a foundation site the size of a baseball diamond. The site had been a rice paddy before they started.

The cement and other building materials will have to be brought up the river by sampan and boat. The site is inaccessible for truck or vehicular traffic.

It's only a minor obstacle for the villagers who are determined to have their dam and determined to win their race against the monsoon.

Through the interpreter, the chief said that rice was hidden in a nearby graveyard.

Lieutenant Peters sent a platoon to investigate. When they arrived at the designated spot they uncovered four caches containing more than 10 tons of rice.

Throughout the day other villagers came forward with information, until a total of 100

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week of August 21-27, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday August 21

2000 Weather Rowan and Martin
2100 Red Skelton
2100 The Lucy Show
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening Feature Movie

2100 Andy Williams
2100 Insight
2100 Star Trek
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening Sports

2100 What's Happening
2100 News Headlines
2100 The Answer

2100 Sports
2100 Feature Movie

2100 Information Feature
2100 Get Smart

2100 News Headlines
2100 It's A Town Tonight

2100 Bell Telephone Hour

2100 Channel 11 News

2100 Weather Ed Sullivan

2100 Spoken Vietnamese

2100 Kraft Music Hall

2100 Perry Mason

2200 Late News

2205 What's Happening Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde

2100 What's Happening My Three Sons

2100 News Headlines Daniel Boone

2100 Survival

2100 News-Sports

2100 Wild Wild West

2100 Pentagon Forum

2100 Channel 11 News

2100 Weather Hollywood Palace

2100 Insight

2100 Mission Impossible

2100 Late News

2200 What's Happening Hallmark Hall of Fame

2100 What's Happening Love On A Rooftop

2100 News Headlines Let's Speak Vietnamese

2100 Peter Gunn

2100 News-Sports

2100 Weather

2100 Dean Martin

2100 Insight

2100 Gunsmoke

2200 Late News

2205 What's Happening Feature Movie

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2100 News Headlines Let's Speak Vietnamese

2100 Peter Gunn

2100 News-Sports

ARVN Unit Batters NVA Battalion

SAIGON (MACV) — Infantrymen from the 2nd Regiment, 1st ARVN Infantry Division, supported by ARVN tanks, armored personnel carriers and artillery recently engaged a North Vietnamese Army battalion located in bunkers and fortified positions in the southern DMZ area.

Two platoons of tanks from the U.S. 3rd Marine Division and U.S. artillery and tactical aircraft also supported the infantrymen. The combined U.S. ARVN force killed 165 NVA soldiers before contact was lost.

The fighting began in the morning when the Vietnamese units conducting Operation Lam Son 250 in an area two miles east of Gio Linh received a heavy barrage of artillery fire on their positions. Counterartillery fire missions were directed at the suspected enemy artillery positions as the ARVN forces pursued the withdrawing enemy into the DMZ area.

At a point approximately two miles northeast of Gio Linh the Vietnamese forces made heavy contact with the well-dug-in 1st Battalion, 138th NVA Regiment. The Marine tanks moved up to provide fire support as artillery fire and tactical air strikes were directed onto the enemy positions. During the late afternoon, the NVA soldiers fled to the north and west and contact was finally lost at 5 p.m. The combined force then withdrew from the DMZ area.

The cumulative totals for the day's fighting were 165 NVA killed and 13 individual and seven crew-served weapons captured. ARVN casualties were reported as light. There were no U.S. casualties.

A captured log book indicated the enemy battalion was to have attacked south, across the DMZ that night. The ARVN action, however, disrupted the enemy's plan.

Big Cache Pays \$\$\$

SAIGON (RVN) — The Republic of Vietnam's Chieu Hoi minister presented rewards of more than a million piasters (approximately \$8,450 U.S.) to two Hoi Chanh who recently led government troops to a Viet Cong weapons factory.

Minister Nguyen Ngoc An made the presentations in a ceremony in Bac Lieu province. Corps, province and district officials were present at the ceremony where the captured weapons were put on display.

The two former Viet Cong held important positions in Bac Lieu province before rallying to the government side. One was the officer-in-charge of the munitions factory and the other was the VC district artillery commander.

Two Regional Force companies, the 508th and the 976th, induced the two Viet Cong to rally during an operation in Gia Rai district. As Hoi Chanh they then led the troopers to the weapons factory where a huge cache of arms and ammunition was found. Included in the find were a 105mm howitzer, six 60mm mortars, 200 Chinese Communist rifles and more than 10 tons of ammunition and mines.



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Saigon, Vietnam

August 28, 1968



Vietnamese infantry troopers make contact with a well dug in enemy battalion near the Demilitarized Zone.

Night Of Anguish Ends

AF Pilot Plucked From Behind Lines

TAN SON NHUT (USAF) — Air Force Major Robert K. Hanna, of the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing, recently released his ordnance on enemy supply storage areas and a nearby bridge in the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam. Heading his F-105 Thunderchief in for a second pass, strafing gun positions, Major Hanna's aircraft was badly damaged by ground fire. Unable to maintain altitude and control, he ejected.

The major's wingman gave him cover until he ran out of ammunition and almost out of fuel. It was his wingman's radio call that started a rescue operation that eventually involved some 65 aircraft ranging from piston-driven A-1 Skyraiders to F-4 Phantom jets, several flights of F-105s and F-100 Supersabres, and HH-3E Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopters.

Major Hanna, a veteran of more than 100 combat missions over North Vietnam, was lying below a cliff on a rocky hillside

thick with green foliage. Less than 150 yards away were 37 and 57mm gun emplacements probably the very ones that shot him down.

On being interviewed, he recalled, "I had a broken ankle, a rolled up chute, a survival knife and a radio. It didn't look good. I could hear the enemy above me. They rolled rocks down the cliff and then moved on."

The major had plenty to keep him busy: direct aircraft fire on the gun emplacements, cut a branch to splint his broken ankle, tear part of the parachute to bandage his bruised leg, and stay under cover till help arrived.

Within two hours, approximately 30 F-105s and F-4s had peppered the area with rockets, bombs and machinegun fire. The Jolly Green rescue team would try and get him out before the fast-approaching night.

The rescue chopper finally came over the hill and headed

toward the downed pilot; however, intense enemy ground fire damaged the plane and it was forced to pull out. Major Hanna said, "That was the beginning of the longest night in my life."

The pilot assessed the situation this way, "Impossible unless the gun emplacements on the top of the ridge could be knocked out." He and the rescue pilot agreed that further attempts to reach him that night would probably end up in giving away his position and getting the rescue chopper shot down.

With his broken ankle and bruised leg aching, his throat sore and parched, no water and no chance for help until morning, he prepared himself for the worst. All during the night he could hear the enemy rustling through the brush looking for him. Just before daylight more rocks were rolled down the cliff, one missing him by only 10 feet. As day broke he was on the radio talking to the rescue support aircraft. "You have to get

in close to get those guns, real close." "Roger, we know," they replied.

Flight after flight came in, pounding the hill with heavy ordnance. Shell and bomb fragments were hitting all around the major.

The chopper was directed in and the major kept thinking, "This is it—it's now or never. My spirits hit bottom when the rescue chopper came over the ridge and I could still hear one antiaircraft battery firing. I didn't want the boys in the helicopter to get hit so I radioed the A-1 pilot who was in charge and said, 'Somebody has to get that gun!'"

Remembering vividly, he recalled, "I saw the chopper, heard some bomb blasts, saw the pick-up sling coming down, and then I was in the helicopter. It was all over just that quick."

Lying in his hospital bed, the rescued pilot said, "I want to add this, I want to thank every-
(Continued on Back Page)

Editorial

Tell Your Story

What is going on back there? The question is often asked by the man in uniform when he wants to know "why" something is happening in the states. One thing is evident: he does know something about events and happenings at home. He gets the news from Stars and Stripes, the radio and even the television in his area, but do the folks back home know what's going on over here?

It has always been the few which have led the opinion of the many, and those telling about the war are drawing a picture from the way they see it. They may not have the same view of the war as we do because we are the ones fighting it, not them.

Faced with a real live enemy, the guy in combat knows who he's fighting and why he's fighting him, but seldom do the newspapers show a picture of the Viet Cong. Even less often will the man in front of his TV set at home see the Army of North Vietnam in action, nor will he see the training of terrorists and the results of their work.

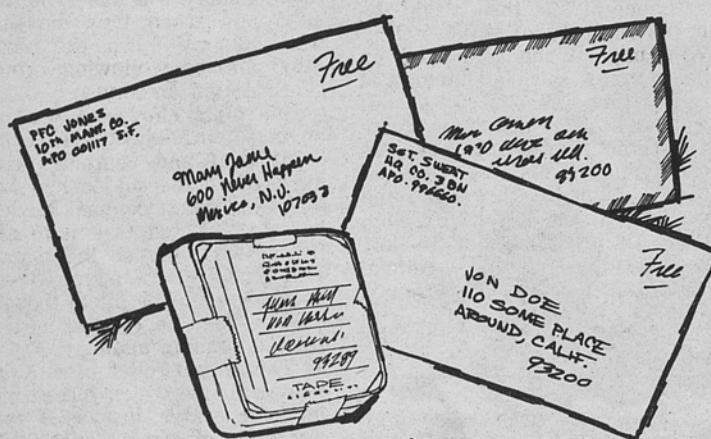
We do see it, because we're here and we're fighting it. We've got the job of telling our side of the war as we see it.

Is it worth fighting to keep South Vietnam free, to discourage the Communists from fighting this kind of war somewhere else, to deny the aggressor his victory?

You've got your own answers to questions like that, so why not tell the folks back home when you write how YOU feel. Put your ideas into the picture and fill up the blank spaces left by the news.

We are the guys who are fighting this war — let's tell it our way, too.

If we let somebody else do it all, we can't complain if they screw it up.

**Many Servicemen Have Overlooked Their Personal Affairs—Have You?**

SAIGON — Personal affairs is a subject that is often overlooked and ignored. Some servicemen who are single have the mistaken opinion that only married men with families and extensive personal property have to worry about such things.

Unfortunately, quite a few servicemen in Vietnam have neglected to put their personal affairs in order before arriving here. Some married servicemen fail to put their personal

affairs in order and keep their families informed simply because they expect to be around for a long time and want to avoid the discussion of what to do if something did happen.

Personal affairs cover a wide range of individual subject matter and involve more than letting your next of kin know where your bank book and automobile titles are located.

Personal Papers And Documents

There are a great many personal papers and documents

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**New Benefits Book Printed**

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

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

In addition to explaining these new benefits, the 1968 edition reviews all existing benefits available to America's more than 26 million living veterans — from the Spanish-American War to the Vietnam era — and to their dependents and survivors.

We are the guys who are fighting this war — let's tell it our way, too.

If we let somebody else do it all, we can't complain if they screw it up.



SENSUOUS STELLA—Soft and silky Miss Stevens is one of film-dom's busiest actresses. She is currently starring in "How To Save A Marriage—And Ruin Your Life" and "Where Angels Go—Trouble Follows."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES)



In our first article on Buddha we stated that Buddhism had been in Vietnam since the second century AD—or for more than 1,700 years! As you can imagine, something that has been around for that long is certain to have had some influence on Vietnam and her people. Nguyen Du's famous poem, "Kin Van Kien," is based on the teachings of Buddha, and many of its 3,254 verses are memorized and recited by Vietnamese children. And, just as the Christians had their morality plays, based on the teachings of Christ, so too the Buddhists have had an influence on the Vietnamese theater.

Holy Days
The Vietnamese Buddhist, because of the very nature of his religion, generally is quiet and contemplative. His pagodas and temples rarely are found in the center of cities, but usually are hidden in quiet rural areas surrounded by dense tropical vegetation, including century old trees. The Thien Mu Pagoda, for example, is situated on the quiet banks of the tranquil River of Perfumes, near Hue.

The "Middle Way"
Remember that the "Middle Way" teaches one to suppress earthly desires and to disallow ambition to govern one's actions. The Vietnamese peasant has derived great consolation from such a philosophy. He is better able to bear his lot when he believes that economic gain is not necessarily good. What is important is that he lives a life of simplicity, for, according to Buddha, excesses lead only to misery.

You owe it to your wife, your children, or to your parents to put your affairs in order today so they will know what to do and what to expect if it becomes necessary tomorrow. If necessary, your wife or parents may seek aid from the nearest Legal Assistance Officer.

If you are in need of advice, see your Legal Assistance Officer now.

"The central issue of the conflict there is the aggression by North Vietnam . . . If that aggression is stopped, the people and government of South Vietnam will be free to settle their own future..."

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

FIRST IN VIETNAM
The OBSERVER

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ANSWERING A SNIPER—An M-50 machinegun talks back. (USA PHOTO By: SP4 Ralph Dixon)

Skyraider Pilots Help Capture VC

PLEIKU (USAF) — While Allied ground forces detain enemy soldiers nearly every day, rarely is a fighter pilot directly involved in the capture of one. However, this did happen when two A-1 Skyraider pilots from the 6th Special Operation Squadron at Pleiku air base spotted an enemy soldier, in the open, on a beach eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

The pilots, Captain Gene D. McGinnis and Major William M. Constantine, were scrambled at

mid-morning when a message was received that U.S. Army helicopters had seen an estimated 20 to 30 enemy soldiers run into a group of bunkers at the location.

According to the captain, "The men in the chopper had even seen some of the troops go into a bunker and pull a log across the entrance. The choppers only had rockets and machineguns, which couldn't penetrate the bunkers, so they circled around and contained them until we could arrive with our heavier ordnance."

"After we made several passes on the target and destroyed a number of the bunkers, one of the Army chopper pilots spotted three of the troops running out of the area towards the beach," related Major Constantine. "They got two of them with their machineguns but the third one broke away and started running down the beach."

At the time the helicopters were running low on fuel, so they directed the A-1 pilots to go after him with the 20mm cannon fire. "A U.S. Navy Swift boat just off shore was observing our strike and when they saw the man running down the beach they started following him," said Captain McGinnis.

The soldier, however, was not about to turn himself in to the Swift boat and continued running. Since the major had had all of his 20mm cannons loaded, he was directed to roll in and fire a short burst at the enemy. This knocked the trooper down, but just when the pilots thought he was dead he jumped up and started running again.

"This time I rolled in with one cannon firing, which forced him into the water just as I was closing in on him," Captain McGinnis continued. "The rounds hit in the water right next to him making him run into the breakers and swim as hard as he could towards the Swift boat.

"When the Swift crew saw what he was doing, they moved in just outside the breakers, waited until he made it to them and pulled him aboard."

When the captain and the major returned to Pleiku they were informed that the soldier was captured alive.

Stiff Arm Gives Away Two 'Charlies'

LZ SALLY (USA) — A stiff left arm gave two VC away to a helicopter door gunner and a 101st Air Cavalry Division battalion commander in action near here recently.

"Something looked funny," said Colonel Hunt. "One of them was walking with a stiff left arm as if he were concealing something under his clothing."

WO Knapp banked the chopper and brought it around for a slower pass over the walking men. Suddenly the two men broke into a dead run heading for a shelter built up in one of

the rice paddies.

"The shelter was just a roof on stilts," said Mr. Knapp, "but as we circled around it the two men kept moving out of sight."

Suddenly Colonel Hunt saw the muzzle of a rifle poke out around the side of the shelter. "I opened up on them," stated the colonel.

"As we flew by the two men made a break for a nearby village a few hundred meters away."

WO Knapp skillfully guided his craft around, exposing his left door gunner's machinegun and Colonel Hunt's rifle to the two VC. The one with the 'stiff arm' was carrying an AK-47 as he ran along an irrigation ditch toward the village.

His men to proceed through the complex without further investigation.

A few minutes later, the recon patrol was heli-lifted out without an enemy shot being fired.

Helos Cover**Marines Walk Thru**

HUE/PHU BAI (USMC) — Four Marine helicopter gunships covered for a squad of Leathernecks and "walked" them safely through an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army soldiers surrounding their unit.

Shortly before a four day reconnaissance insert was to end, Lance Corporal Lester McNamee spotted two NVA soldiers walking toward them down a mountainside path.

"I shouted 'take cover' and then we opened up," recalled the corporal, who was from Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

Both NVA were killed. Two persons were detained as Viet Cong suspects. An arms cache containing an assortment of weapons, magazines and small quantities of assorted ammunition was picked up.

Figuring there were no more enemy troops in the area, the corporal organized his men and started moving down the mountain in search of a landing zone suitable for evacuation.

The Leathernecks heard enemy movement all around them so the corporal ordered his troops to set up a defense while he radioed for air support.

As the enemy shifted their forces for an assault, four helicopter gunships arrived on station.

The Marine contacted the pilots and the choppers assured the Marines they would cover for them as they walked to the base of the mountain.

A little hesitant about walking through the enemy force, Corporal McNamee hoped the enemy would be discouraged by the choppers and decide not to open fire.

Except for a little scurrying when the Marines first moved out, the NVA troops remained silent and unaggressive.

Near the base of the hill, the troops walked through a deserted enemy compound, assumed to be the one housing the nearby NVA unit.

Another VC was killed and one suspect detained by Fifth ARVN Regiment units operating near Duc Duc in Quang Nam province during a brief skirmish.

"There were newly strung booby traps everywhere," recalled the corporal, who ordered



FIRE POWER—Moving out on a mine sweep mission, the cavalrymen are always ready for the unexpected. These troopers hail from the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

(USA PHOTO By: SSG A.W. Fisher)

Faces NVA

LANDING ZONE STUD (USMC) — It took a Navy corpsman 14 months to meet the enemy.

But when he did it was face to face.

Hospitalman Second Class Ray Eldridge, a member of "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, was on perimeter watch when a North Vietnamese Army unit launched an attack.

Hearing the cry "corpsman" he rushed to the aid of a fallen Marine. While working over the wounded Leatherneck, an enemy soldier crawled up to them and tossed a Chinese Communist grenade on the injured man's chest.

"I picked up the grenade and threw it over my shoulder," the corpsman said. "When it exploded it destroyed my pack and most of my medical supplies."

He drew his .45 caliber pistol and in self defense, shot the NVA and continued to treat the wounded Marine.

Medic Risks Health Saving Others

LONG BINH (IHF)—In ward C, Bed 3 of Fort Ord Army Hospital, Calif., there is a young Vietnam war veteran who may not be one of the thousands of students flooding America's college campuses this fall.

He wanted to be there as much as anyone.

Outside his hospital window summer is in full swing along the rugged coastline near Monterey and the Big Sur country to the south. Inside he fights hours upon hours of loneliness living in an isolated room. When

he does walk into the hospital corridor his face is masked to further seal him off from the other patients.

The Army had just approved his "early-out" for college, but today Specialist 4 Forest F. Bowyer is stricken with tuberculosis.

He wanted to be there as much as anyone.

Outside his hospital window summer is in full swing along the rugged coastline near Monterey and the Big Sur country to the south. Inside he fights hours upon hours of loneliness living in an isolated room. When

fight the Viet Cong on the jungled or swampy battlefield. Day after day he performed a tedious, if not a sometimes monotonous, job of caring for thousands of Vietnamese inside a white-washed brick building at the entrance to a refugee village about 14 miles north of Saigon.

A field artillery medic during his first few months in central Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery, the specialist later fought an invisible war of germs, disease and sickness.

Inside the bouncing jeep and

ambulance the specialist and other members of the MEDCAP team rode a kilometer or so down the bumpy dirt road from the American base camp of Phu Loi to the brush country dotted with Buddhist graves of rustic stone surrounding Gadsden Refugee Village.

At the dispensary several hundred Vietnamese patients, in varying degrees of sickness and health, greeted the American medical team. For the past 18 months families living 30 miles from the clinic trickled in aboard three-wheeled Lambretta "mini-buses," bicycles, ox carts and on foot. They came from Bien Hoa, Saigon, nearby Phu Cuong and villages in the province of Gia Dinh and Binh Duong.

From inside the treatment room of the clinic Specialist Bowyer has seen the dark-skinned young and old faces expressing pain of chronic illness.

Professor Pham Thanh Tai, former Viet Cong commissioner for Bien Hoa province and editor of the National Liberation Front magazine, told reporters that he was a 1961 graduate of the University of Hanoi, and after graduation lectured there as an instructor. He described himself as a poet, but made it clear that authors in North Vietnam must write what they are told to write, always reflecting the Communist line in accounts of love and war.

When asked why he had decided to surrender, he said, "I heard the broadcasts of the South Vietnamese radio station. I said to myself, I should be living in a free democratic society. From the broadcasts I could see that the South Vietnamese had such a society."

The Pleiku station, a frequent target of enemy attacks, has been on the air since January 1968. To give better coverage, allied units have air dropped thousands of fixed frequency radios in special packing over provinces within range of the powerful transmitter. The Viet Cong promise death to any of their members found listening to the station.

'The Shadow' Comes To 'Nam

CHU LAI (USA)—The Shadow has come to Vietnam and no matter where the enemy hide they can't seem to lose him.

Working with the 18th Infantry Brigade, Shadow, a scout dog, walks point for patrols in the Americal Division's Opera-

tion Burlington Trail area.

During one patrol he and his handler, Sergeant Donald R. Dunn, were responsible for Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry soldiers killing two NVA soldiers and capturing one carbine, one pistol, 500 pounds of rice and more than 10 pounds of enemy documents.

Most of the action took place early in the day. "There was a hut on the other side of a rice paddy we were crossing," the sergeant said. "When Shadow alerted toward the hut, I decided to go out of our way to search it."

Shadow was right. Company B soldiers killed two enemy attempting to flee the hut. "One of the men was an NVA officer," the sergeant added. "In addition to their weapons, we captured documents outlining the structure of the NVA and VC units in the area."

As Company B moved out, Shadow alerted. "I couldn't see a thing, but Shadow was right again. There was a hut about 40 meters off the trail. The hut was so well camouflaged I nearly walked into it," Sergeant Dunn concluded.

Inside was a 500 pound rice cache. Because of the camouflage the VC left the hut unguarded, but they forgot to consider one factor—the Shadow's nose.

CORRECTION: In the August 7th issue of The Observer, page 5, article "Cargo Route Cut By Half" . . . "Air Force's 109th Air Delivery Company" should read, "109th Quartermaster Air Delivery Company, U.S. Army Depot, Cam Ranh Bay."

Jeopardize Lives

'The Voice' Convinces 5 NVA

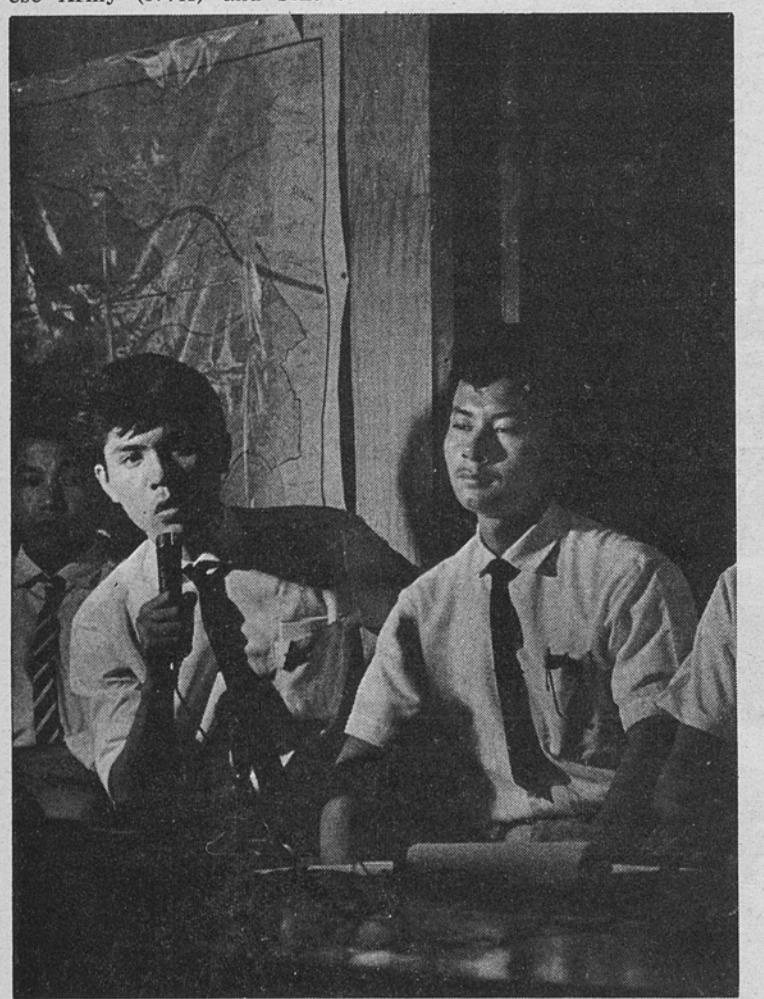
SAIGON (USA)—In tunnels and foxholes far separated from each other, five enemy soldiers listened secretly to "The Voice of the Army and People of the Republic of Vietnam," risking their lives to hear the forbidden broadcasts of music and drama that meant, to them, a freedom of culture and art in the South they had not known in the North.

Two were graduates of the Hanoi School of Stage Actors. One was the son of a noted North Vietnamese composer. Another had lectured at the University of Hanoi. All had been drafted into the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and sent to

the South where each had surrendered under the "Chieu Hoi" program.

Outside the Republic of Vietnam's Press Center in Saigon a dozen National Policemen stood careful watch. Inside the five had been brought together to describe cultural life in the North and their adventures in the South for an audience of correspondents and photographers. They sang North Vietnamese folk songs. They told of their experiences with the Viet Cong and NVA, and they talked about "the voice of freedom."

The "Voice" is a 50,000 watt radio station located near



Three former NVA soldiers discuss North Vietnamese culture.

ARVN Infantry Makes 'Cache'

DUC HOA (ARVN)—More weapons and ammunition caches were found by elements of the 25th ARVN Infantry Division two miles north of Ben Luc recently.

A helimobile reconnaissance in force with two companies each from the 1st and the 4th Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment, found an 82mm mortar tube and 12,000 rounds of AK-47 rifle ammunition along the Ben

Luc river just two miles southwest of the Gia Dinh province boundary.

The day before this find, a similar force from the 1st and the 2nd Battalions of the 50th Regiment, on a ground recon in force operation three miles southeast of Ben Luc, found another cache near Highways 224 and 228.

Included in this cache were 4,000 rounds of AK-47 rifle ammunition, more than 65 pounds

of TNT with 100 mine fuses, six AK-47 rifles, two RPG-2 rocket launchers with 15 rounds and five boosters, four M16 magazines, 20 AK-47 magazines and one Claymore mine.

Both of these Long An province caches, well within one night's walking distance of the capital city, were destined for future enemy operations.

There were no contacts or ARVN casualties in either day's operations.

Bravo Company was on a sweep and clear mission when the third platoon ran into the first signs of enemy equipment. "We saw a suitcase," said Staff Sergeant Hernan Gonzales, the platoon sergeant, "and it was very close to the trail. We didn't touch it because it might have been booby trapped. It would be very dangerous. After we checked it out and found it wasn't booby trapped, we took a closer look and saw three more cases nearby. Then we saw the huts about 50 meters down the trail, and that's when everything started."

CORRECTION: In the August 7th issue of The Observer, page 5, article "Cargo Route Cut By Half" . . . "Air Force's 109th Air Delivery Company" should read, "109th Quartermaster Air Delivery Company, U.S. Army Depot, Cam Ranh Bay."

PBR Gets Fiberglass Face Lift

SAIGON (USN)—It took less than three months for Naval Support Activity (NSA) Detachment at Binh Thuy to build a boat from the hull up.

A U.S. Navy river patrol boat (PBR) recently slipped down the launching ramp into the Bassac river at Binh Thuy in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta. For PBR-130 it was the second trip down the ways; a second chance to prove herself in combat.

Three months before, the heavily armed, fiberglass speedboat lay helpless in the water, her guns on the muddy bottom, 60 feet below the river's surface. A third of her crew had been killed and more than three-fourths of the boat destroyed by enemy recoilless rifle fire.

Attack On Chau Doc

Early in the morning of May 5th, the city of Chau Doc, on the upper Bassac river, came under attack by an enemy force of undetermined size. PBR-130 was directed to investigate reported enemy 75mm recoilless rifle positions six miles southeast of the city. As the boat approached the reported positions a 75mm round plowed into her bow, wounding the forward gunner. In the ensuing action, the PBR was pounded by recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire. Two men were killed and two wounded.

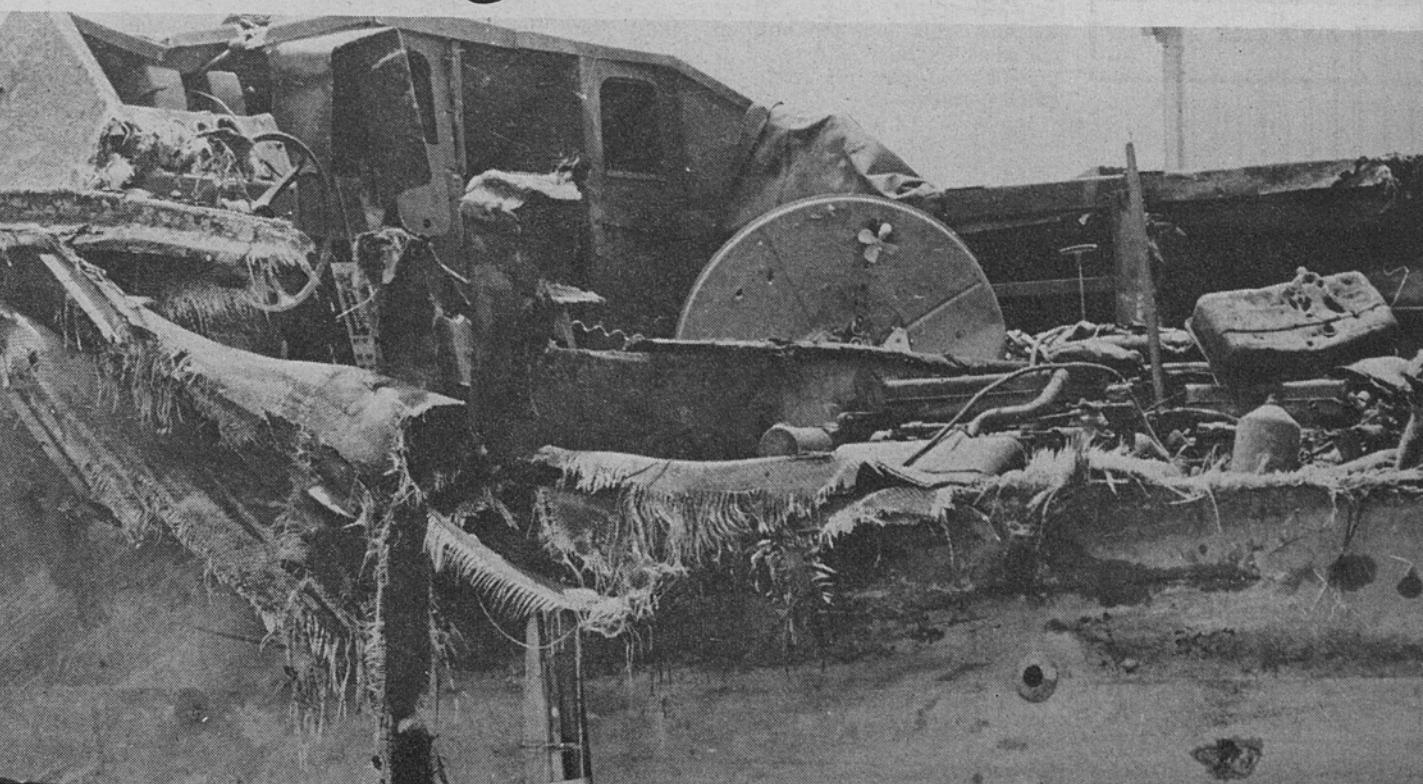
A short time later the battered and gutted vessel was towed upside down to Long Xuyen, where it was righted, and then towed to Binh Thuy.

In Memoriam

Although the boat was 80 percent destroyed the NSA detachment requested permission to restore her in tribute to the two men who lost their lives.

Since the Binh Thuy detachment has complete PBR fiberglass molds, the task of rebuilding the hull could be done locally, although many parts had to be ordered and others completely manufactured.

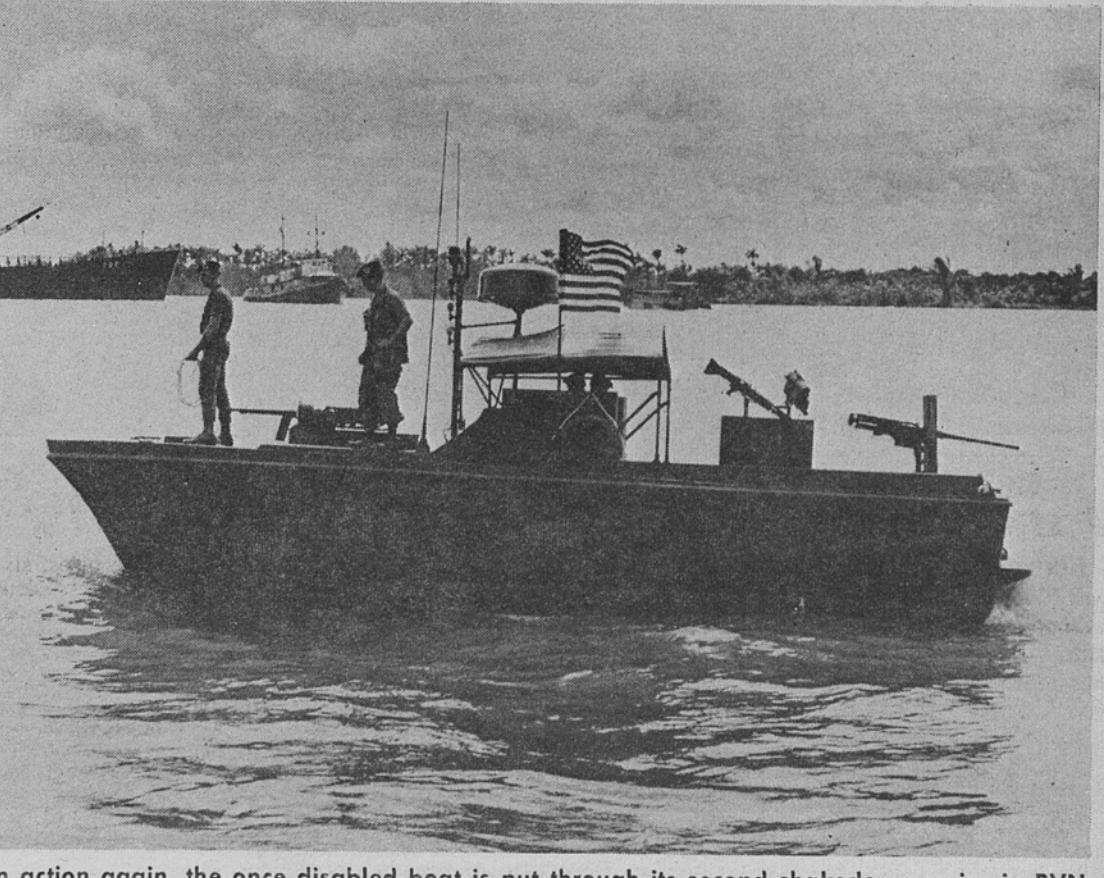
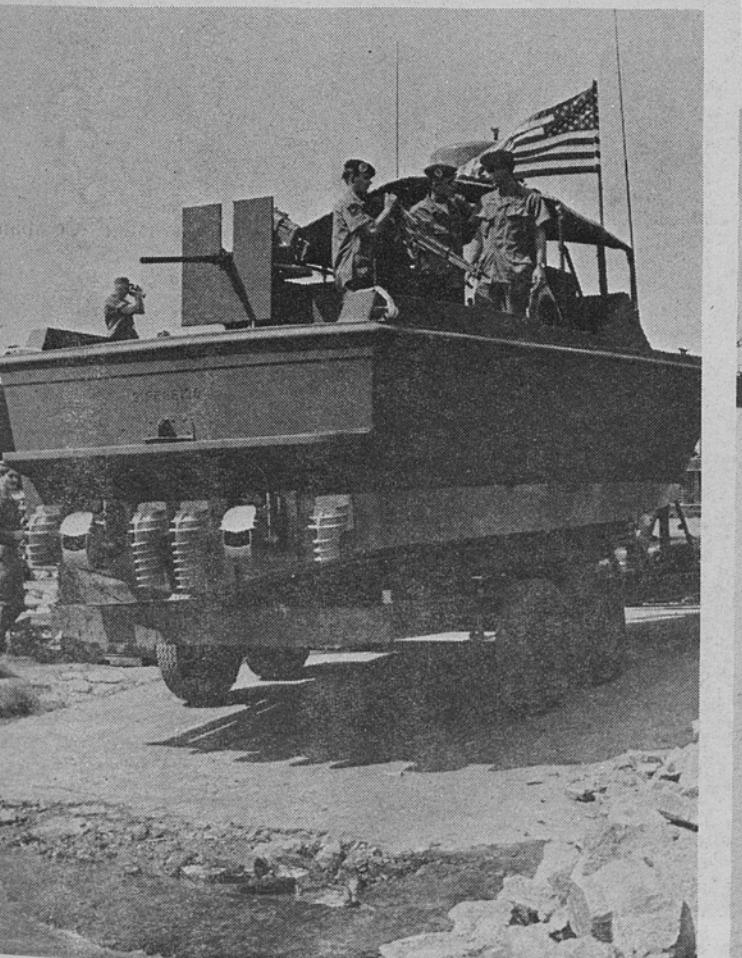
The first step was to cut away and clean the damaged sections of the hull and replace them with molded patches. The entire electrical system had to



Barely recognizable as a Navy gunboat, the remains of PBR-130 await repair at the Naval Support Activity Detachment.



Using a hull mold, heavily damaged PBRs can be patched and back on the rivers in no time.



'Eagle' Screech Echoes Over 26 Years

Photos By U.S. Army



Heavily laden with gear common to long range recon patrols, 101st troopers move out to probe suspected enemy staging areas north of Phu Bai.



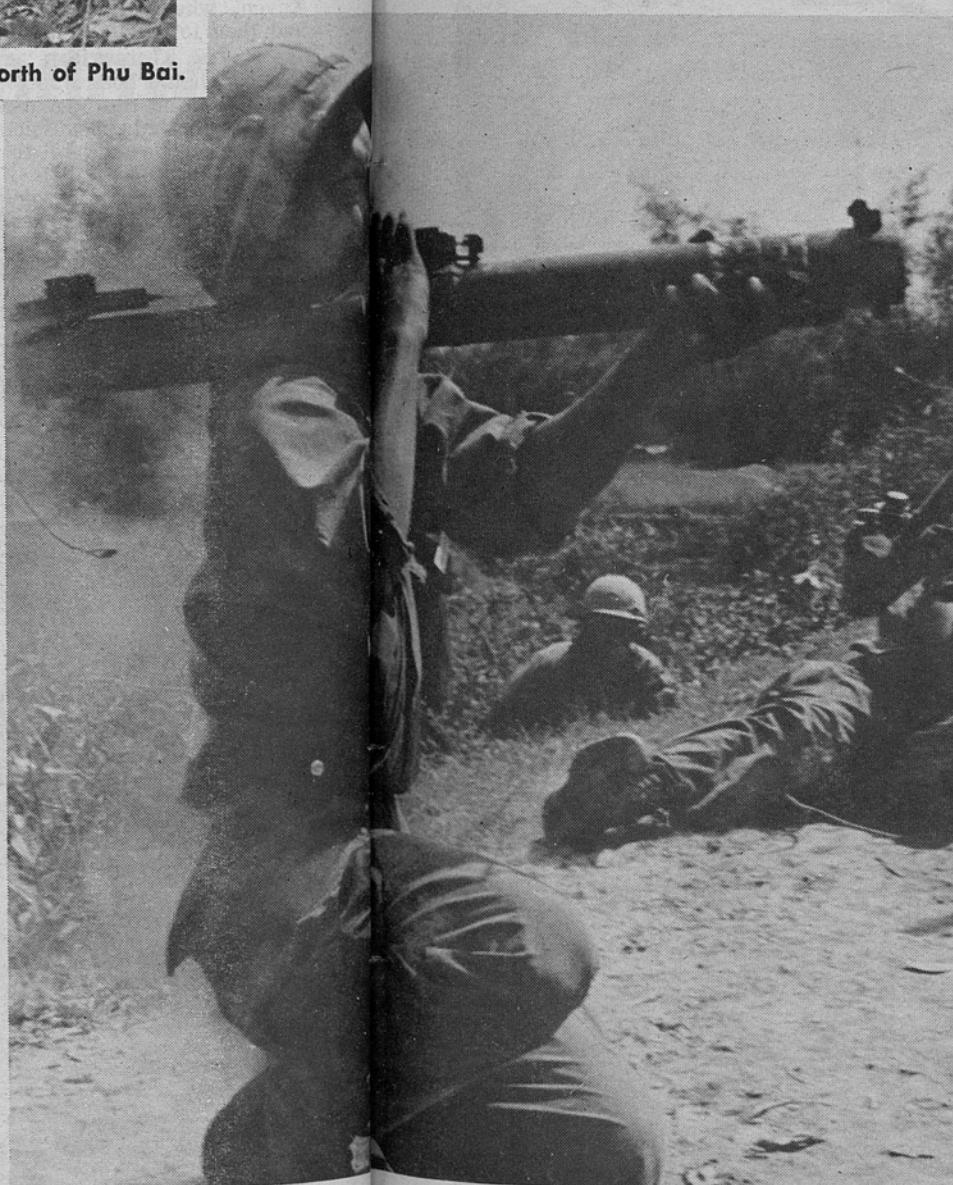
The criticals of full exposure are offset by sheer speed.



A moment of piercing silence recalls fallen comrades.



Practiced hands of a 101st artillery crew dispose of a hot cannister and prepare to chamber another shell.



Firing the M-72 anti-tank we a "Screaming Eagle" levels an enemy position.

"I know you will meet every test of the future as you met it at Bastogne."

FROM AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY GEN. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
TO "SCREAMING EAGLES" IN 1945.



Members of a reinforced 101st unit wind along a northern I Corps road in a clearing operation recently.

On-The-Spot 'Doc' For Marines



Aided by buddies, 'Doc' Osterman gives intravenous fluid to a Marine hit by shrapnel.

SAIGON (USN) — "Corpsman!" The anguished cry of a wounded man is familiar to all Marines in I Corps. Also familiar is the Navy corpsman who comes running to the aid of the injured man.

Such a man is Navy Hospitalman Leslie G. Osterman. The cry for aid brings him running with medical supplies, comfort and support.

As an enlisted corpsman on daily patrol he needs almost as much skill as a general practitioner. But even more, he must be a friend, a comforter and sometimes a chaplain. Through words and gentleness as well as medical skill he does his best to make survival possible.

Not all of Corpsman Osterman's work deals with wounds. He also has to cure simple things like sprained ankles,

turned knees and heat exhaustion. Quick action and a thorough knowledge of first aid provide the remedy for these.

The hospitalman, like other Navy corpsmen in Vietnam, is young in age but old in experience. He must befriend each of his Marines, knowing their likes and dislikes. Some may call on him to help write a letter, others ask him to join them for a beer. Still others ask for a drink of his water. He'll give it cheerfully, though knowing he may need it himself later.

Combat medicine is much beyond treating sprained ankles, broken legs or even mortal wounds. It can become a dilemma of alternatives — like who should be evacuated first and who should wait — or how far to risk his own life while saving someone else's. As a corpsman, he must decide.

He must know what to do and

then do it quickly. There is no time for long, drawn out thinking or a nervous hand. His rule of thumb, as with all people in the medical profession, is to treat the most serious first.

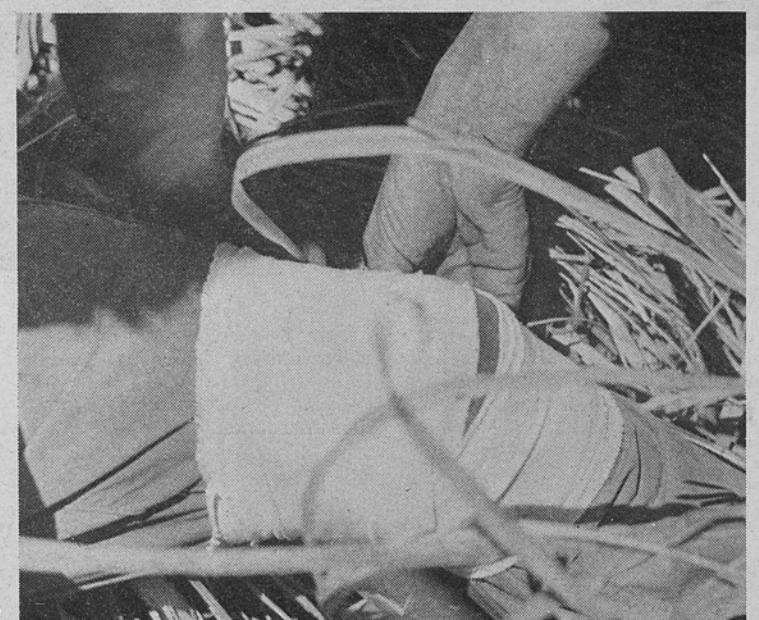
His greatest danger comes when he must treat wounds in the midst of a battle. The Marines respond by fighting their hardest, for they know that the corpsman is trying to save one of their buddies, and that "Doc" must be protected to do his job.

For months he has walked with the Marines through mud and dust, heat and rain, sharing their lives, their joys and sorrows with all the vigor and resourcefulness his youth allows.

But when they get hit, the young man grows old and comforts them — binding their wounds with all the skill and speed he has — or closing their eyes in death with compassion beyond his years.

Tomorrow and the next day and the rest of his year in Vietnam he'll do it all over again, as a Navy corpsman with Marines.

Story & Photos By USN



Quick, skilled hands play a big role in the hospitalman's work.



Unnoticed, the corpsman keeps to the rear until he is needed.



Heading for the hospital, one of the corpsman's patients is through humping for the day.



A smiling Popular Forces soldier works on the bamboo framework of a new home for a Son Tra family. (USA PHOTO By: SP5 Stephen Kopels)

Concert On Hill 689

Marines 'Sing' Out Of Trap

QUANG TRI (USMC) — During the recent battle for Hill 689, five 1st Battalion, First Regiment Leathernecks were heard singing the Marines' Hymn, while partially surrounded by the enemy.

The cut-off Leathernecks were asked to sing so their position could be located by the relief force that was trying to locate them. "We all knew the Marine Hymn, so we sang it loud and clear," commented the lieutenant.

"The NVA knew we were in the bomb crater and they tried to smoke us out," added Lieutenant Cartin.

During the fighting on Hill 689, First Lieutenant Dennis T.

Cartin and four other Marines were cut-off from friendly forces. They sought shelter in a bomb crater but were spotted and surrounded by the NVA.

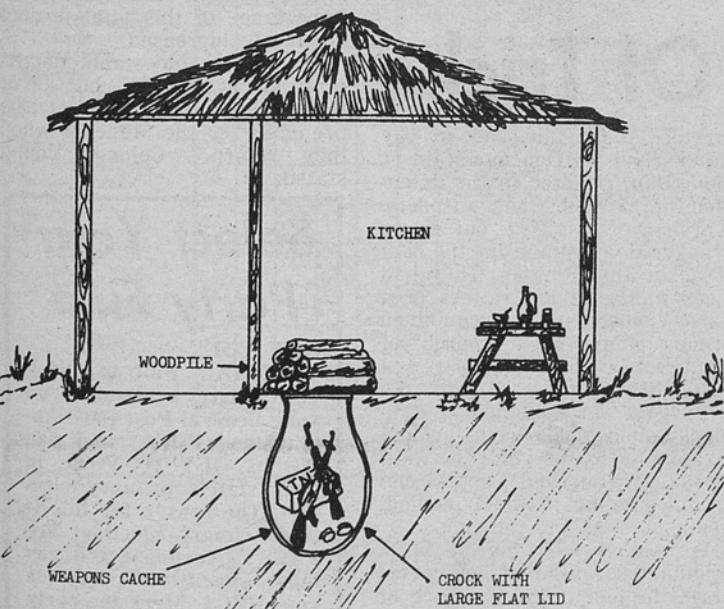
An enemy soldier in a nearby crater was throwing hand grenades and demolition charges at the trapped Marines. "There was a constant odor of TNT around us. Enemy grenades would come in, bounce off the forward edge of the crater, fly over the crater and explode on the other side," explained Lieutenant Cartin.

But the five Marines continued singing the Marines' Hymn until the relief force was able to hear their singing, fix their location, and drive off the enemy.

"We had been out there six hours and I was real happy to see Marine helmets pop-up over the crater," concluded the smiling lieutenant.

Meanwhile, the Viet Cong have not forgotten about the village. A group from Son Tra

POTTERY WEAPONS CACHE



WHERE WOULD YOU LOOK? — Being careful of booby traps, next time you are on a search and clear operation try your luck at finding a crock of . . . weapons. Here is one place where your search could start.

SAIGON (USAF) — Paddy Control — the vital aircraft communications and radar link in the Mekong Delta — has been turned over to the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) by the U.S. Air Force as part of the ever-expanding modernization of the VNAF.

In ceremonies at Binh Thuy air base, 80 miles southwest of Saigon, the gleaming new facility was officially integrated into the VNAF when Brigadier General Charles W. Carson Jr., chief of the Air Force Advisory Group, turned over the symbolic key to VNAF commander, Major General Tran Van Minh.

Paddy Control — the eyes and ears of the Delta — became the fifth in a chain of VNAF aircraft control and warning sites which provide radar coverage over the entire length of the Republic of Vietnam.

U.S. airmen will continue to share the workload with their VNAF counterparts at the new site but will increasingly assume the role of advisor.

With the turnover, Paddy Control now comes under the control of the VNAF's 74th Tactical Wing.

Hard-hit Village Rebuilds Again

LONG BINH (USA) — The process of restoring the village of Son Tra began before the fires of the Viet Cong attack had burned out. The villagers worked amidst the smoldering rubble of their former homes to salvage what was left of their household goods and food supplies.

Son Tra is a fishing village of 3,500 inhabitants located along the South China Sea in the northern province of Quang Ngai, South Vietnam. It was destroyed in a midnight raid June 28, 1968. The Viet Cong attack left 77 persons dead, 35 wounded and 454 families homeless.

Emergency relief for the villagers was furnished by civic action teams from the American Division and 198th Light Infantry Brigade. Food, clothing, tents and other supplies were brought into the village the following day.

The Government of Vietnam and Quang Ngai province moved quickly to take over the relief operations and now provide the majority of the supplies for Son Tra. More than 14 tons of supplies, including 12 tons of rice, have been brought in by the province.

The task of rebuilding the village is being organized and directed by the hamlet and district chiefs. The work operations are being performed by the villagers, who must also pursue their nominal occupations of fishing and rice farming. The rubble from the old village was cleared with the aid of three road graders and a bulldozer provided by the American Division.

Working with the villagers is a platoon from the 41st Civil Affairs Company. Led by Captain Paul M. Campbell, Sr., the platoon is maintaining a first aid station and providing guidance and assistance to enable the Vietnamese to help themselves.

Son Tra has been a government resettlement village for refugees from Viet Cong-held areas since July 1967. ARVN Colonel Ton That Khiem, province chief, cites the progress made by the village as the reason for the attack.

Meanwhile, the Viet Cong have not forgotten about the village. A group from Son Tra

gathered bamboo for the framework of the new homes was fired upon recently. The next group of bamboo-cutters was accompanied by an American security patrol and succeeded in collecting the materials.

With the construction project in progress, the Viet Cong have circulated a rumor that the village will be destroyed again if the villagers do not return to their former, VC-held hamlets. The threat has not been effective and the progress of Son Tra continues.

Mobile Dentistry

CHU LAI (USA) — A 20-year-old idea becomes medical history in a supply room in Vietnam.

On Hill 35, north of Chu Lai, Lieutenant Colonel John Carr operated the first mobile preventive dentistry facility in the country.

At their home in the field the men of the American Division's Battery B, 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery were the first patients of this unique facility. The colonel and his team of dental hygienists not only cleaned and checked the artillerymen's teeth, but also applied a special dental substance to the men's teeth to slow the rate of decay.

Colonel Carr, commanding officer of the American Division's 219th Medical Detachment at Chu Lai, claims his mobile facility has two basic advantages.

"We can act as a screening device to determine which men are in need of further dental treatment, and it reduces the time lost in traveling to a rear-area for dental treatment."

The idea of a mobile clinic first took form in the colonel's mind during World War II, while serving as an enlisted man. Since then, he has always wondered why the dentist could not come to the men in the field instead of the men wasting valuable time to go to a fixed installation in the rear for dental care.

Two decades later, the mobile dentist and his team found the answer.

The dental clinic on wheels (a mobile van) is capable of going to any unit in the field that has a passable road leading to it.

The traveling dentist would like unit commanders to take advantage of the only mobile dental clinic in Vietnam — even the units that are extremely isolated. Those interested should "contact the 219th Medical Detachment at Chu Lai, and I'll make the arrangements," concluded the colonel.

Contest: GI 'Flash' Of Year

All active duty service men with duty as photographers or information specialists are eligible to compete for "Military Photographer of the Year." The contest period is January 1 to Dec. 31, 1968. See your local Information Office for contest rules.



PX BARGAIN—The towel pictured here may be purchased in your local PX. Sorry the attachment is not included.
(PHOTO COURTESY PETER GOWLAND)

Cordon And Search Operations

Elusive Enemy Running Short Of Tricks

TAY NINH (USA) — Viet Cong do not often wear military uniforms. Nor are they always clad in the now famous black pajamas. When they travel in public or take refuge in a village, they look and act no different from their countrymen. This raises the question: "How do you tell the enemy from an innocent civilian?"

One method being employed by the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division is the cordon and search.

Many different units and staff sections working for the 1st Brigade perform their special functions to accomplish a complete cordon and thorough search of a Vietnamese village.

An infantry battalion from the brigade moves out during the early morning hours, and sets up a perimeter around the vil-

lage. The cordon in place, a helicopter with the 1st Brigade's civic action staff flies over the target area, announcing over loud speakers that the people should not attempt to leave the village.

Tracker dog teams and mine detector units sweep with the recon and police teams from one end of the village to the other. At the staging areas Vietnamese authorities check and double check the identification papers of the villagers.

A recent cordon and search

by the 1st Brigade, east of Tay Ninh's Nui Ba Den mountain at Soui Dau, resulted in the detention of 25 Viet Cong suspects.

Three were snuffed out by a tracker dog team from the 66th Tracker Dog Platoon. They had been hiding in the rafters of a farm house as the combined troops made their search of Soui Dau.

As the infantry sweeps the village a psychological operations sound truck drives around explaining to the villagers what is taking place and why. At one of the staging areas a medical team gives aid to the sick.

A cordon and search of a Vietnamese village impresses upon the people the presence of U.S. and Vietnamese troops and also serves as a warning to local VC that their long-used disguise as local merchants or farmers is not so safe as it perhaps once was.

Ambush Nets Enemy 'Stores'

DAU TIENG (USA) — Infantrymen of the 25th Infantry Division's 3d Brigade killed three Viet Cong and seized more than 13,000 pounds of enemy supplies in a night ambush two miles west of here recently.

Among the captured supplies were 3,500 pounds of rice; 2,800

Saigon Schools Reopen

SAIGON (USA) — Despite rockets, refugee problems and normal wear and tear, Saigon's schools will be in better condition than ever this year, thanks to a helping hand from the Civic Actions Office of U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command (USAHAC).

As a result of the Tet and May enemy offensives on Saigon, a large number of the city's private and public schools received damage that threatened to prevent their opening on schedule.

Now, thanks to a combination of self help and assistance from USAHAC's Civic Actions Office, Saigon residents will be able to send their children back to school on opening day.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Young, head of the Civic Actions Office, placed all other projects aside when he received an urgent request from the mayor of Saigon at the beginning of August to help repair twenty-seven damaged schools by the August opening date.

"We agreed to supply building materials, and the people have been very enthusiastic about working with them," Colonel Young stated.

Working in conjunction with local parent-teacher groups, Saigon's Sanitation and Fire Departments and the city engineers, the Civic Actions Office has bought and delivered materials costing a total of 600,000 piasters in a crash program designed to meet the deadline.

After first resettling refugees occupying the schools and instituting a cleanup program, Colonel Young and his staff toured the facilities and made estimates of the materials needed. Lumber and bricks bought on the economy with money from the Army's Pacification Fund were taken, broken down in loads and delivered throughout the city by the four-man enlisted staff of the Civic Actions Office.

In one instance where the local people were unable to organize the rebuilding, professional tradesmen were hired to expedite completion of the construction.

With an increase of 50,000 students expected in Saigon's school system this year, the importance of this vital project is greatly increased.

"Some of the small details may not be finished, but all of the facilities will definitely be prepared for the students when they return," Colonel Young stated.

HEY YOU! Fail to check your party preference on your Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and you WON'T GET TO VOTE in your state's primary election. The reason for this is that Primary Elections are PARTY elections, and you must specify a party on your FPCA. Mark the party of your choice (usually Republican or Democrat) or you probably WON'T be able to vote in your primary election.

As the infantry sweeps the village a psychological operations sound truck drives around explaining to the villagers what is taking place and why. At one of the staging areas a medical team gives aid to the sick.

A cordon and search of a Vietnamese village impresses upon the people the presence of U.S. and Vietnamese troops and also serves as a warning to local VC that their long-used disguise as local merchants or farmers is not so safe as it perhaps once was.

THESE SECRET MISSIONS ARE SPOOKY...

WHERE ARE WE? I CAN'T SEE A THING... I CAN HEAR SOMEONE BREATHING... WHERE ARE WE? WHAT'S GOING ON?

WELL, I'LL BE A BROWN-EYED BEAGLE!

American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week of August 28—September 3, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday August 28

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	The Monkees	2100	Rowan And Martin
1900	American Sportsman	2200	Red Skelton
1930	The Big Picture	2200	The Lucy Show
2000	Channel 11 News	2200	What's Happening
		2200	Late News
		2200	Demo Convention
		2200	Sports

Thursday August 29

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	Dick Cavett	2100	Red Skelton
1900	News Headlines	2200	The Lucy Show
1930	Let's Speak Vietnamese	2200	What's Happening
2000	Felony Squad	2200	Late News
2030	Channel 11 News	2200	Demo Convention
2100	Weather	2200	Sports

Friday August 30

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	Dick Cavett	2100	Red Skelton
1900	News Headlines	2200	The Lucy Show
1930	Let's Speak Vietnamese	2200	What's Happening
2000	Felony Squad	2200	Late News
2030	Channel 11 News	2200	Demo Convention
2100	Weather	2200	Sports

Saturday September 1

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	Dick Cavett	2100	Red Skelton
1900	News Headlines	2200	The Lucy Show
1930	The Answer	2200	What's Happening
2000	Sports	2200	Late News
2030	Feature Movie	2200	Demo Convention
2100	Get Smart	2200	Sports

Monday September 2

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	My Three Sons	2100	Red Skelton
1900	News Headlines	2200	The Lucy Show
1930	Dick Cavett	2200	What's Happening
2000	Survival	2200	Late News
2030	Forum	2200	Demo Convention
2100	Weather	2200	Sports

Tuesday September 3

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	My Three Sons	2100	Red Skelton
1900	News Headlines	2200	The Lucy Show
1930	Dick Cavett	2200	What's Happening
2000	Survival	2200	Late News
2030	Forum	2200	Demo Convention
2100	Weather	2200	Sports

Saturday August 31

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	My Three Sons	2100	Red Skelton
1900	News Headlines	2200	The Lucy Show
1930	Dick Cavett	2200	What's Happening
2000	Survival	2200	Late News
2030	Forum	2200	Demo Convention
2100	Weather	2200	Sports

Monday September 2

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	My Three Sons	2100	Red Skelton
1900	News Headlines	2200	The Lucy Show
1930	Dick Cavett	2200	What's Happening
2000	Survival	2200	Late News
2030	Forum	2200	Demo Convention
2100	Weather	2200	Sports

Tuesday September 3

1730	What's Happening	2000	Weather
1800	My Three Sons	2100	Red Skelton
1900	News Headlines	2200	The Lucy Show
1930	Dick Cavett	2200	What's Happening
2000	Survival	2200	Late News
2030	Forum	2200	Demo Convention
2100	Weather	2200	Sports

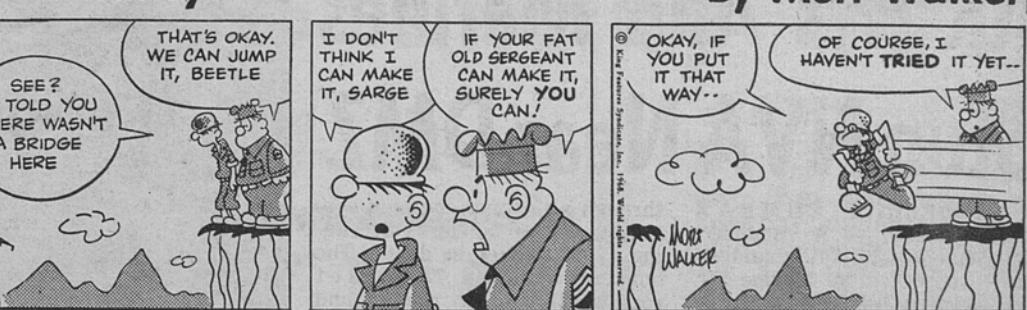
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	3-Small rug	TAMP	PROA
	4-Brother of	RILLIS	
1-Heavenly body	Jacob	DILATE	INDIAN
6-Nautical	5-Taut	ODER	PANG
term	6-Paid notice	RES	ALE
11-Gratify	7-Six (Roman	AS	TSAR
12-Restaurant	number)	PERT	CREDDO
patrons	8-Emmet	SHARE	TEAS
14-Exclamation	9-Oceans	HDLM	SA
15-Zest	10-Marine	TIRE	TEAL
17-Caudal	11-Aspect	ADS	GEN
appendage	13-Thick	IOTIONS	ALIT
18-Residue	slices	BEHIND	TALONS
20-Commonplace	16-Sea bird	SATED	ERASE
23-Music: as	19-Hostelry	LAZY	DENS
written	21-Encourage		
24-Blemish	22-Is defeated		
26-Part of arm	25-Warm		
28-River in	27-Shreds		
Siberia	30-Man's name		
29-Chemical	32-Willow		
compound	34-Chaise		
31-Injuries	36-Depressions		
33-Epic poetry			
35-Girl's			
nickname			
36-Picture			
39-Secret			
agents.			
42-Teutonic			
deity			
43-Loved ones			
45-Clan			
46-Short sleep			
48-Hindu			
peasants			
50-Greek			
letter			
51-Former			
Russian ruler			
53-Casks			
55-Conjunction			
56-Continued			
story			
59-Crown			
61-Paper			
measure			
(pl.)			
62-Part of			
fireplace (pl.)			

DOWN

1-Embraces	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
2-Faroe Islands	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
whirlwind	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64

Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 26



ARVN's And Marines Stun NVA Near DMZ

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE (USMC) — A combined American-South Vietnamese force, supported by Marine air and artillery strikes, recently killed 385 enemy, discovered more than 800 NVA bunkers, a hospital and 393 enemy rockets and mortar rounds. The find was capped by the discovery of 115 NVA graves.

The joint 3rd Marine Division and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) drive through mountainous jungles took place just south of the demilitarized zone.

Elements of the Ninth Marines made their find while two of the regiment's battalions were operating in a valley, long suspected of hiding enemy supplies. They made their find after a rapid helicopter insertion in the area.

Early in the morning the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Marines swept

through an enemy complex consisting of 200 bunkers, averaging 15 to 20 feet in depth. The bunkers contained 77 rocket rounds, 21 mortar rounds and hundreds of rounds of small arms ammunition.

Continuing the sweep, the battalion found 96 NVA graves and also located a hospital, described by one Marine spokesman as "very adequate and well equipped."

Later the same day, the regiment's 3rd Battalion found 19 more enemy grave sites, 285 NVA mortar rounds, two anti-aircraft guns and other equipment and ammunition.

Even though the multi-battalion drive unearthed large quantities of NVA ammunition and supplies, the joint Marine and ARVN force met little ground resistance and most of the enemy kills came as a result of Marine air and artillery strikes.

Joint Effort Grabs 98

SAIGON (USN) — Forty-two Viet Cong were killed and 98 enemy suspects were detained recently in a joint Army-Navy operation along the coast of Thua Thien province, four miles northeast of Hue.

Two of the suspects were found to be North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers.

The operation began when elements of the 101st Air Cavalry Division moved into Vietnamese villages on high ground surrounding mud flats near a coastal lagoon. U.S. Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) provided a blocking force to prevent an escape along the sea.

Navy air cushion vehicles (PACVs) moved into the shallow water and mud flats between the Air Cav forces and PBRs, forcing all sampans and enemy suspects back into the shoreline. There they were checked by Screaming Eagle soldiers and Vietnamese National Policemen.

Hostile forces attempting to escape were taken under fire and killed by the PACVs and PBRs.

The PACVs, uniquely able to travel over water or land at speeds up to 65 miles per hour, were credited with making the operation a success. The 39-foot air cushion vehicles ride on a

four-foot thick layer of air. They carry a crew of six and are armed with .50 caliber and M-60 machineguns, a 40mm grenade launcher and individual weapons.

The speed and maneuverability of the PACVs allowed no elusive enemy to flee from U.S. forces by taking refuge in what is normally considered inaccessible terrain.

By noon, 30 enemy had been killed and 52 suspects detained, including the two NVA soldiers.

During the afternoon, numerous enemy troops attempting to hide underwater by breathing through bamboo straws were flushed to the surface by the PACVs. An additional 12 Viet Cong were killed and 46 more suspects detained during the late afternoon hours.

The Navy PACVs and PBRs involved in this joint operation are attached to the Hue River Security Group, which patrols the Hue rivers daily.

Air Force Pilot

(Continued From Page 1) one involved in my rescue, and, to whoever got that last gun, a special vote of thanks. I still don't know how they did it. The chopper crew from the 40th Air



Acting on leads from a former VC, 25th Division soldiers uncovered many such caches.

25th Infantry Division

Hoi Chanh Fingers VC Arms

CU CHI (USA) — Information from a Chieu Hoi paid off with an unexpected bonus recently for elements of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, when they found not only a large Viet Cong munitions cache, but a recruiting officer for the National Liberation Front (NLF) as well.

The cache — including more than 25,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 86 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 22 rounds for an 82mm mortar, and a 122mm rocket warhead — was found by Companies A and C six miles north of Duc Hoa after a Chieu Hoi had given the location.

As the companies moved across the open fields, an escorting helicopter gunship spotted movement to their front. The element nearest the location was Company A, which sent a platoon to check out the area.

"I was walking down a dike when I saw a man off to one side hiding in the brush," said Specialist 4 George Timmons. "I pointed my M-16 at him and he came out with his hands up."

Through interrogation it was learned that the man had infiltrated into the area to coordinate future recruiting activities with the local leaders.

Marine Teacher Uses Lessons Taught

DA NANG (USMC) — A leatherneck of the 26th Marines practiced what he used to preach during a hand-to-hand bout to the death with a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldier recently.

Corporal David M. Sivak, chief scout with the 3rd Battalion, was on a combat sweep 20 miles southwest of Da Nang with "L" Company, when it came under intense automatic weapons fire.

"We were searching for a mortar squad that had been hitting our convoys going to the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp," explained the corporal.

He was point man on the sweep and was only 25 meters from enemy positions on top of Hill 51 when the NVA opened up. He got down quickly and emptied 12 magazines from his M-16 rifle into the Communist positions.

When it became apparent that

the enemy fighting positions would have to be knocked out in order for the company to continue its advance, the Marine picked up an M-60 machinegun and charged, firing it from his hip.

Just as he reached the NVA positions the machinegun ran out of ammunition. "I looked into the hole to my front but didn't see anyone," Corporal Sivak said. "The hole was actually the entrance to a cave, and I thought if I went back for ammo the NVA might come out and shoot me in the back."

As he was wondering what to do an NVA soldier popped up. The corporal reacted quickly and tossed the empty machinegun at him. The Communist soldier fell back, then jumped up and shoved his rifle into the Leatherneck's stomach.

Corporal Sivak, a former hand-to-hand combat instructor at Camp Pendleton, Calif., pushed the rifle away just as

the NVA pulled the trigger, grazing the Marine's leg. Jumping into the hole, the Leatherneck began wrestling with the enemy soldier.

"I wanted to take him alive, but I soon realized it was either going to be him or me, and I sure didn't want it to be me," he said. "I pulled a knife from my cartridge belt and stabbed him."

Just as the NVA died, other "L" Company Marines arrived and pulled the corporal out of the hole. "That was when I found out that he had also stabbed me with a knife while I was fighting him," Corporal Sivak said.

The Communist turned out to be a mortar squad leader and forward observer. A search of the cave revealed a 60mm mortar and ammunition.

"I sure hope I never have to go through anything like that again," the relieved Marine concluded.

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