

Duc Lap Battle Costs Enemy 800



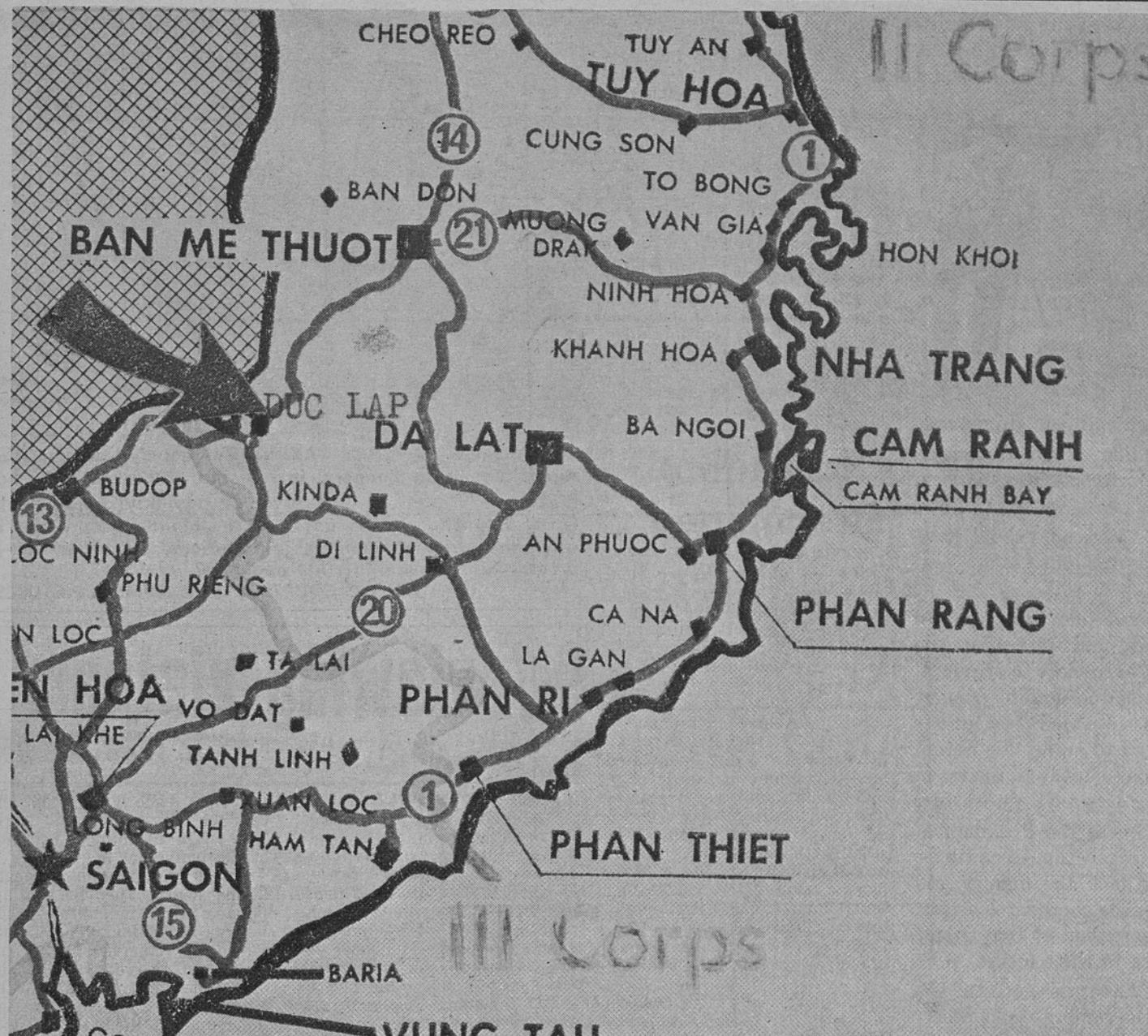
FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

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Saigon, Vietnam

September 4, 1968



Enemy Fortifications Smashed

Marine Air Ground Team Kills 200

CON THIEN (USMC)—Nearly 200 dead North Vietnamese (NVA), destroyed enemy bunkers and large ammunition caches were the booty of war for 3rd Marine Division leathernecks who smashed through a maze of enemy bunkers and trenches south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The Ninth Marine Regiment, supported by elements of the 26th Marines and 3rd Tank Battalion and aided by Marine air and artillery, destroyed 761 enemy bunkers near Con Thien. The five-day operation, designed to destroy enemy fortifications and gun emplacements, was the first large scale operation in the area in several months.

In their smash through the enemy infested area Marine infantrymen accounted for 105 confirmed enemy dead, while air and artillery were credited

with 86. The leathernecks suffered light casualties.

Their actions netted 45,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 3,623 enemy mortar rounds, 1,400 mines and anti-tank projectiles, large quantities of NVA uniforms and field equipment as well as communist documents and food supplies.

Third Battalion, Ninth Marines encountered the majority of ground resistance as it swept north from Con Thien. They killed 70 enemy.

Other Marine infantry units participating in the sweep included 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, and 2nd and 3rd battalions of Ninth Marines.

The leatherneck drive into the NVA infested area met with enemy mortar, artillery and rocket fire from across the DMZ throughout the operation. The majority of ground opposition, however, came from NVA

in fortified bunkers and trench lines.

Air and artillery were used to soften up enemy positions before Marine infantrymen, supported by three platoons of tanks, advanced on the well fortified enemy.

Once the enemy was routed, bulldozers from the 11th Engineer Battalion, leveled the maze of enemy fortifications. Marine engineers also utilized captured enemy explosives to destroy the NVA bunker complex.

ARVN Units Decorated

WASHINGTON (USA)—Three units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's 5th Infantry Division were presented the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation recently for extraordinary heroism in action against hostile forces.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 3rd Platoon of the 5th Company and the 6th Company, all of the 2d Battalion, 9th Regiment were lauded for their actions in defending a Revolutionary Development

pacification project near Tan Hung, Binh Long Province.

On July 11, 1967, the 141st North Vietnamese Army Regiment hit the ARVN position with a heavy volume of mortar fire followed by three separate human wave assaults. In each case, the enemy penetrations of the perimeter were beaten back by fierce counterattacks.

The citation read in part: "The viciousness of the close combat and the effectiveness of

(Continued on Back Page)

SAIGON (USA)—Elements of a North Vietnamese Army Division lost more than 800 men in a three day attempt to overcome the small outpost of Duc Lap last week. The camp was defended by three companies of the Vietnamese Camp Strike Force with their U.S. Special Forces advisors. Supporting fires were provided by B52s, AC47s, fighter-bombers and artillery.

The battle was joined when an estimated North Vietnamese regiment, under the cover of heavy mortar fire, launched a ground attack on the Duc Lap district headquarters and Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp near the Cambodian border approximately 130 miles northwest of Saigon.

The trapped Vietnamese and small group of U.S. Special Forces advisors braved heavy enemy small arms, mortars, rockets and human wave assaults against their small base and repeatedly beat back the attackers.

During the fighting, B52s, America's giants of the skies, dropped high-explosive 500-pound bombs less than a mile from the friendly troops, while six Vietnamese Mobile Strike Force companies and the ARVN 2nd Battalion, 45th Regiment closed in to reinforce the beleaguered positions.

On the last day of the attacks, the enemy launched more determined and fierce attacks against the small CIDG camp. Reinforcements struck the enemy's flank prior to his breaking contact late in the afternoon.

On the fourth day, the heavily contested camp was reinforced with fresh troops while other units began to pursue the fleeing enemy.

As they pursued the battered NVA force, Vietnamese government troops found more than 800 enemy dead. Friendly casualties were 59 killed and 129 wounded. Included in the count were six U.S. advisers killed.

Air Cavalry Infantryman Wins MOH

WASHINGTON (ANF)—A U.S. Army infantryman has been awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for saving the lives of several fellow soldiers during an enemy attack.

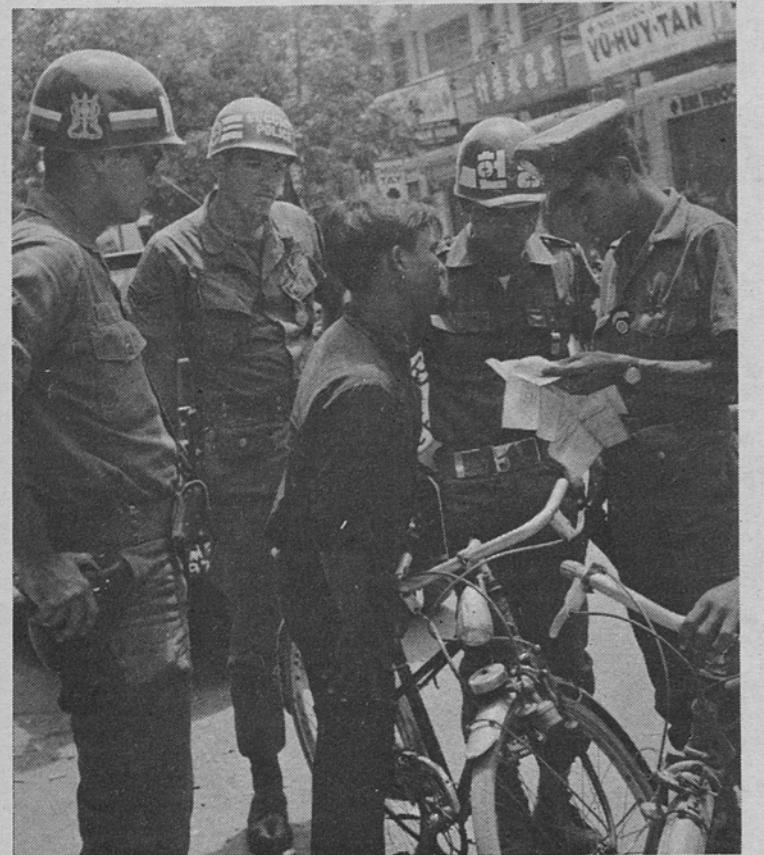
Private First Class Billy L. Lauffer received the nation's highest award for combat heroism for his action in Binh Dinh province on Sept. 21, 1966.

His parents Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Lauffer of Tucson, Arizona, accepted the medal for their son. Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor presented the award in a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Private Lauffer became the 23rd U.S. Army serviceman to receive the Medal of Honor for combat action in Vietnam. He was serving with C Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.

During combat operations against a strong enemy force, his squad was attacked at close range by intense machinegun fire from two concealed bunkers.

(Continued on Back Page)



Joint patrol members stand-by as a Canh Sat checks I.D.s.

Resolved Vietnamese Soldier Wants U.S. College Training

HUE-PHU BAI (USA) — It takes a lot of determination for a young ARVN soldier 26-years-old with a wife and infant daughter to want to travel to the U.S. and put himself through four years of college.

It takes a lot more determination when the young, ARVN Staff Sergeant Tran Minh Thieu, must do it all without the benefits of the GI Bill or American citizenship.

Thieu decided four years ago that he wanted to go to America and study to be an electrical engineer. Although committed to military service for the war's duration, the sergeant made plans to insure his time in the army would help him attain his goal.

"I decided to be an interpreter," he explained. "I studied English in high school at Hue and for two years at the law school in Saigon. My English was good enough for military purposes, but I realized that to study engineering in English I would need much higher proficiency."

"I've used the language almost daily for four years now and am starting to feel more at home speaking English than Vietnamese, he said.

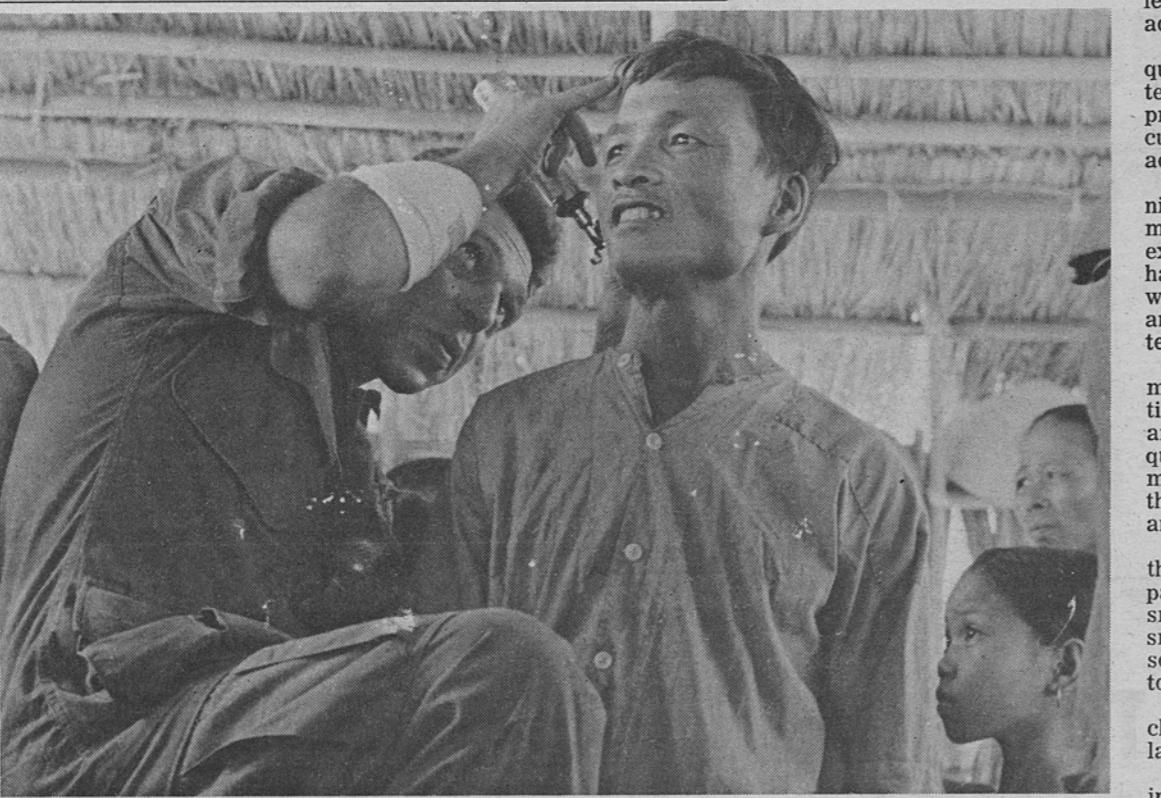
Thieu was even thinking ahead when he requested an assignment with the 1st Brigade, 101st Air Cavalry Division.

"Fighting men are usually easier to make friends with than men who work in the rear," he explained. "I wanted to learn American customs and the best way to do that is to have American friends."

During the almost three years he has worked with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, Thieu has made many friends. He now is corresponding with more than twenty former paratroopers who have gone back to the States.

His plans however, do not interfere with his effectiveness as a soldier.

James A. Rahr, a military intelligence interrogator with the "Strike Force" battalion, says: "Thieu is one of the best interpreters I've worked with. His knowledge of the language is



Captain Nicola examines a Vietnamese man's ear for possible infection.

Paratrooper 'Ankles' NVA Dr.

AN KHE (USA) — "Quick! Quick! . . . Pull me out of here. There's somebody in this hole! I've got his leg! NOW PULL ME OUT OF HERE!"

Private First Class Jimmie Richardson, a paratrooper with the 173rd Airborne Brigade had just been lowered into a spider hole in search of possible entrances to a Viet Cong cave complex along the north central coast of South Vietnam.

His plans however, do not interfere with his effectiveness as a soldier.

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Combined Jeep Patrols Keep Nha Trang Orderly

NHA TRANG (USA) — The 18th Military Police Brigade is responsible for maintaining law and order in Vietnam's fourth largest city, Nha Trang. Two combined jeep patrols play important roles in keeping Nha Trang's reputation as the "calm beach city."

One of the patrols consists of a U.S. MP, a Vietnamese Quan Canh (Military Policeman), a Vietnamese Canh Sat (National Policeman) and a Korean MP sergeant. The other includes a U.S. MP, a Vietnamese Canh Sat, a Korean MP sergeant and a U.S. Air Force Security Policeman. These patrols are especially valuable in that they have jurisdiction over any individual who commits an offense in the scenic city.

The two patrols are responsible for checking three important security posts in Nha Trang — the outside position of

the Main PX storage facility, the Duy Tan Hotel where many field grade officers reside, and the 16th MP Group Headquarters. Additionally, they patrol Beach Road and Doc Lap, the two busiest roads in Nha Trang, investigating any unusual incidents or disorderly individuals.

Quite often members of the combined patrols find themselves involved as accident investigators, rushing to the scene of a collision or overturned vehicle. They are responsible for writing out an accident report and turning it over to the Pro-

vost Marshal's office.

The patrols work together in an effort to halt illegal activities in downtown Nha Trang. Control of contraband, the black market and narcotics are areas in which they work with the CID (Criminal Investigation Division) to thwart crime.

Besides operating as combined police patrols, they function as a good human relations program. The soldiers from Korea, Vietnam and the U.S. present a good picture to Vietnamese civilians as they amiably work together.

MEDCAP's Mission Is Many Faceted

CAMP EVANS (USA) — A jeep pulls up in a small Vietnamese hamlet and the MEDCAP personnel begin serving milk to the youngsters. It is the first time the children have tasted milk. They really do not know quite what to expect and proceed very cautiously. After a few minutes of testing, the decision is unanimous. Milk is delicious!

Making Vietnamese children happy is only a small part of the mission of the Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP). The primary job is healing the sick.

Captain (Dr.) Marvin Nicola, of the 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery, is adept at both healing

and making children happy. The captain and his four-man team depart Camp Evans, the Cav's forward base camp, twice daily on their good-will mission. On an average day the team will administer medical treatment to 100 South Vietnamese.

A typical day for the team goes something like this: They leave camp about 8:30 am and drive to the village of Phong Dien and its four hamlets, Trach Ta One, Trach Ta Two, Gia Long One and Tan Nguyen with its orphanage. Upon arrival at the hamlet to be served they unload the medical supplies from the jeep ambulance. Often, before medical care begins, the team serves the hamlet's children cold Kool-Aid in addition to milk.

After all thirsts are quenched, the doctor and his team go to work. Most of the problems are routine, such as cut fingers and toes, and headaches.

But often measles, pneumonia, abscesses and child-births must be dealt with. In some extreme cases, Captain Nicola has evacuated seriously ill or wounded people to U.S. Army and Navy hospitals by helicopter.

Sometimes several hours must be spent aiding one patient in the hamlet. If vaccines are available in large enough quantities, Doctor Nicola administers immunizations to all the people of the village, young and old alike.

Next, candy is passed out to the children, who have waited patiently and expectantly. Big smiles show on nearly every small face. The adults receive soap and instructions on how to use it.

As the jeep drives away the children chase after it; yelling, laughing and waving good-bye.

The routine is repeated again in the afternoon at a different hamlet.

The job is not an easy one, as Captain Nicola states, "Our biggest problem is one of understanding. We must learn to understand their way of life and their needs. Also we try to gain their understanding of why we are visiting them in their hamlets. To do this we must become acquainted with the leaders of the people and ask their help, in educating the people about the importance of our medical aid to them. In doing this we hope to gain the people's trust and confidence."

Sun and inclement weather do not slow the doctor, for in two of the hamlets, the gratified people have built shelters for the MEDCAP team.

Navy 'Doc' Aids Viets

Remote Village Gets 'Bac-si'

SAIGON (USN) — "Xin moi Bac-si cho nay." That is "Here comes the doctor," in Vietnamese, and in this case the "doctor" is Navy Hospital Corpsman First Class P.T. Buchanan.

"Doc" Buchanan, as he is known to his shipmates, travels along the coast of Vietnam in a Navy fast patrol craft (PCF), called a "Swift" boat, to reach remote villages and hamlets where he treats patients.

"Doc's" day begins early. First stop is across the harbor from Cam Ranh at Binh Ba where Vietnamese Navy Second Class Gunner's Mate Nguyen Von Minh comes aboard. His job is acting as translator between the Swift boat crewmen and the crews of Vietnamese fishing boats, which they board and search as part of Operation

Market Time. The operation is designed to prevent the infiltration of supplies, ammunition and weapons into RVN by the Viet Cong for use against allied forces.

Seeing "Doc" Buchanan enter a village or hamlet, children and adults of all ages gather around and anxiously await treatment.

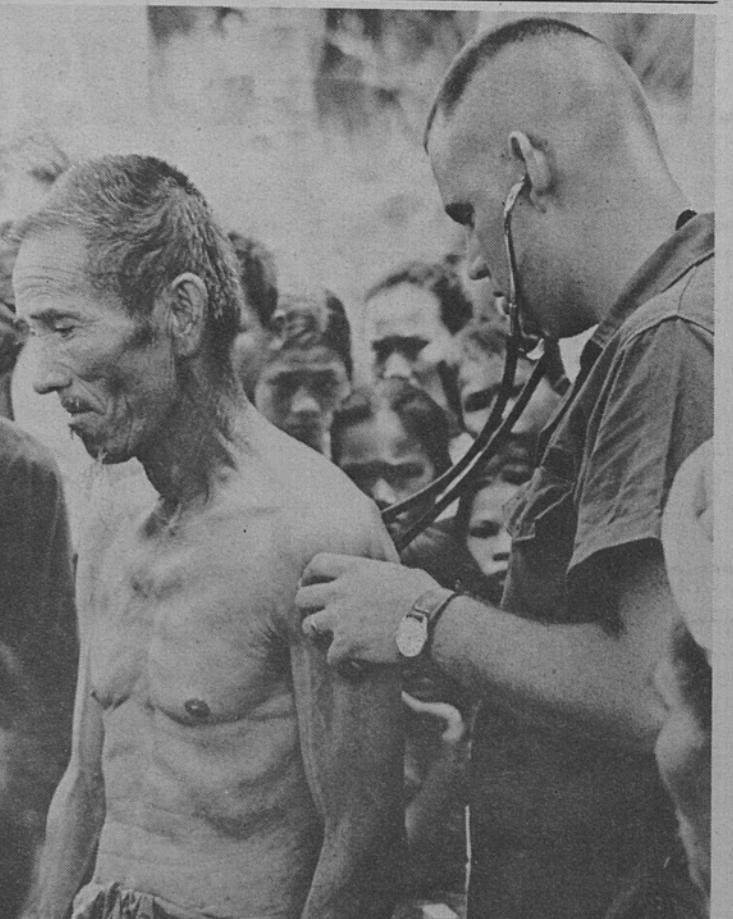
"I've seen and treated almost every medical situation that I've ever studied about." He went on to say, "Probably the most distressing situation I've run into is malnutrition, regardless of their ills, I always give each of them a bottle of vitamin pills."

Hospitalman Buchanan distributes Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) materials consisting of soap, toothpaste, gum, cigarettes, balloons and leaflets.

Story & Photos
By
JO1 R.D. Egnor, USN



Children and villagers alike look on in amazement as sick call is held in the village.



Villagers look on as "Doc" examines a Vietnamese fisherman.



Transportation to the villages is provided by Navy Swift boat.



Anxious villagers load medical supplies into a basket boat.



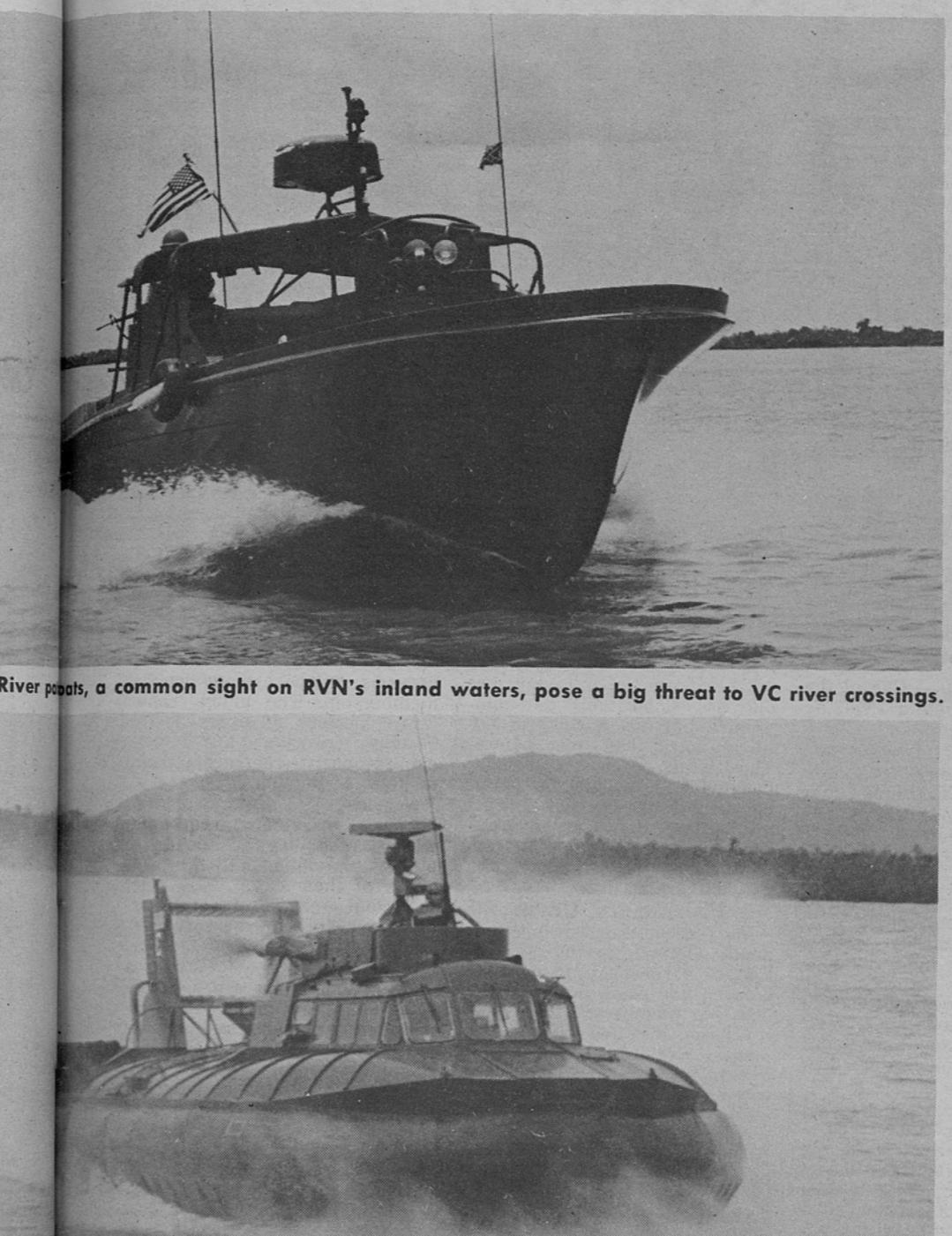
Young and old flock around "Doc Buchanan" for medical treatment, when he arrives.

Navy Boasts Flotilla Of Firepower In RVN

Photos By
U.S. Navy



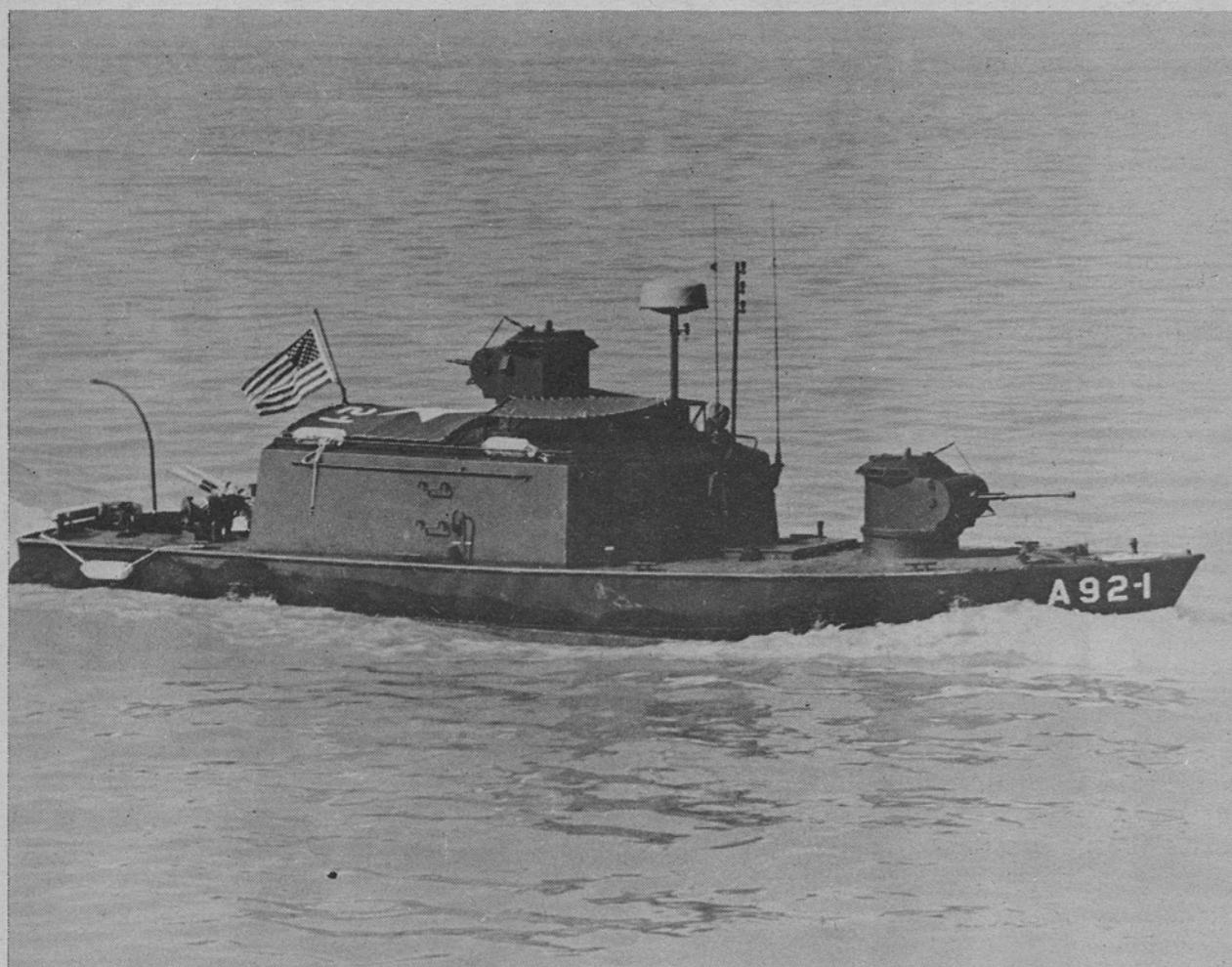
Steaming alongside the Pacific service force ship *Sacramento*, the nuclear powered attack carrier *Enterprise* prepares to resupply off Vietnam's coast.



River patrols, a common sight on RVN's inland waters, pose a big threat to VC river crossings.



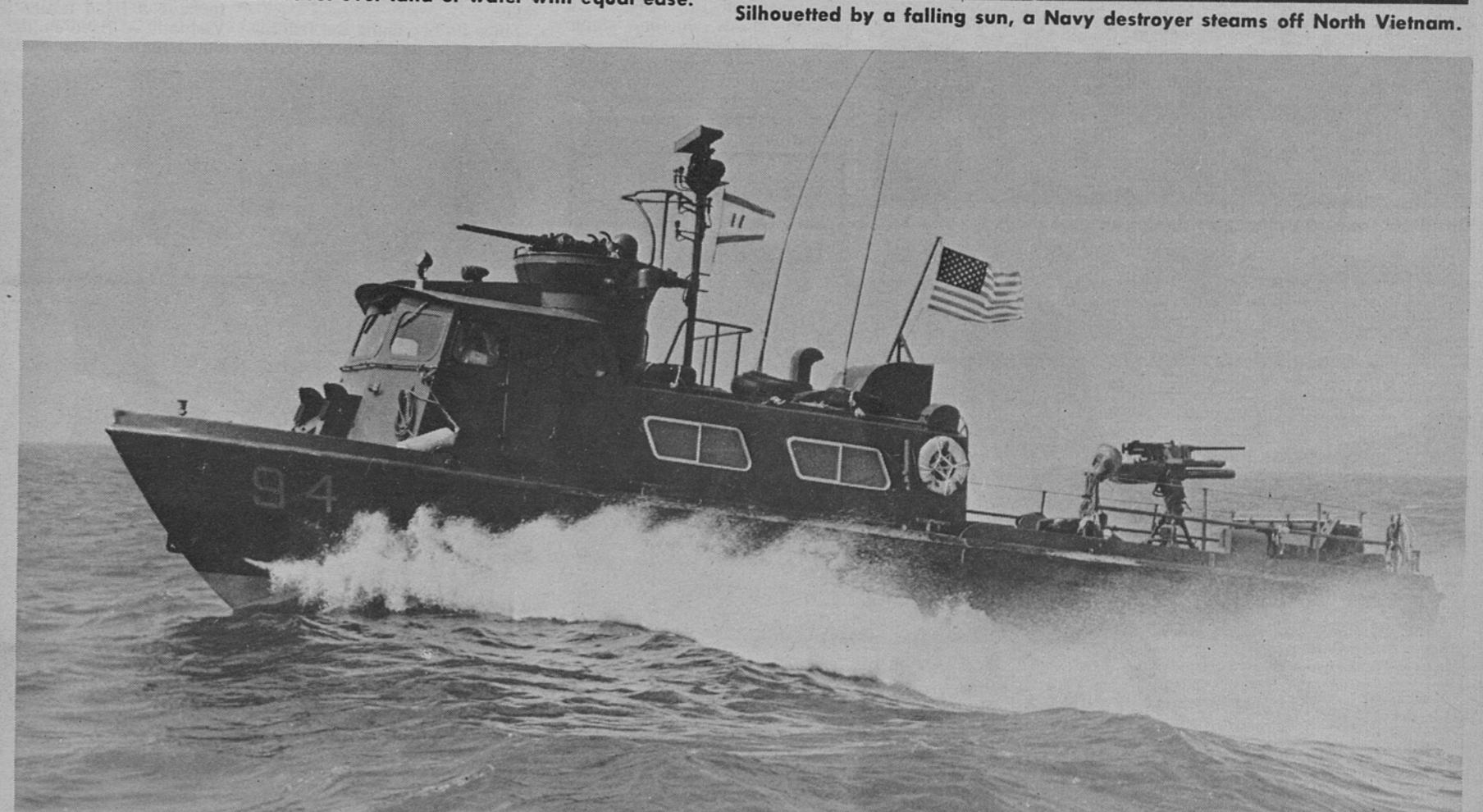
Silhouetted by a falling sun, a Navy destroyer steams off North Vietnam.



The Navy's new assault support boats (ASPBs)—fast and heavily armed—operate as river "destroyers."



Using armored troop carriers, assaults can be ferried throughout the Delta.



A 50-foot Navy swift boat cuts through the water in the Gulf of Thailand in efforts to prevent enemy infiltration and resupply by sea.



BUNKER BUNNY — This provocative young lady is our idea of new bunker wallpaper. That drab bunker interior is no longer a must.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

American Forces Vietnam

Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)

(Guide For Week of September 4-10, 1968)

(Saigon Area)

Wednesday September 4

1440 News-Sports
1445 Big Valley
1445 Dean Martin
1445 Star Trek
1730 What's Happening
1730 Petterson Forum
1800 Test In Space
1900 Dick Van Dyke
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Andy Williams
2100 Late News
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening
Sports

Thursday September 5

1430 News-Sports
1445 Big Space
Andy Williams
Gunslinger
1730 What's Happening
Felony Squad
1800 Let's Speak Vietnamese
Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
1900 Bewitched
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Kraft Music Hall
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening
Mike Douglas Show

Friday September 6

1430 News-Sports
1445 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
Ironside
1730 What's Happening
The Lucy Show
1800 Wild Wild West
1800 New York Yankees
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Dona Deluse Show
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening
Joey Bishop Show

Saturday September 7

1330 Sports
1700 Let's Speak Vietnamese
Lawrence Welk
1800 The Thin Blue Line

September 4

1900 Dragnet
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Rowan And Martin
2100 Late News
2205 What's Happening
The Tony Awards

Sunday September 8

1330 Sports
1530 Feature Movie
1700 Know Your Baseball
1730 Get Smart
1800 In Town Tonight
1830 Where The Girls Are
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Andy Williams
2100 Late News
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening
Sports

Monday September 9

1430 News-Sports
1445 Wild Wild West
Rowan And Martin
1730 What's Happening
Survival
1800 Daniel Boone
1900 My Three Sons
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Mission Impossible
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening
NBC Experiment in TV

Tuesday September 10

1430 News-Sports
1445 Daniel Boone
Hollywood Palace
1730 Mission Impossible
What's Happening
Peter Gunn
1800 Let's Speak Vietnamese
Big Valley
1900 Love On A Rooftop
2000 Weather
2100 Dean Martin
2100 Star Trek
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening
Feature Movie

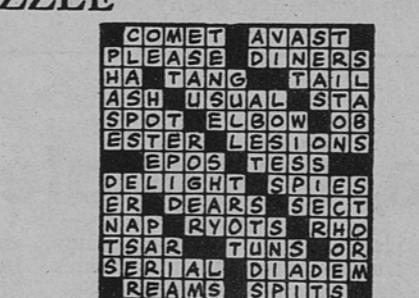
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1-Likely
4-Girl's name
8-Food program
12-Meadow
13-Spoken
14-A state
15-Organ of hearing
16-Native of the West
18-City in Illinois
20-At this place
21-Latin
conjunction
22-Weight of India
23-Masticate
27-Wager
29-Equality
30-Beef animal
31-Three-toed
sloth
32-Sheep
33-Dance step
35-Chinese
37-Conducted
38-Suffix:
adherent of
39-Fur-bearing
mammal
40-Knock
41-Conjunction
42-Tart
44-Expensive
instruments
47-Claimant to a
throne
51-Exist
52-Bacteriologist's
wire
53-Withered
54-Compass point
55-Girl's
nickname
56-Great Lake
57-Lair

DOWN

1-Toward
shelter
2-Toll
3-Goal
4-Toward the
ground
5-Native metal



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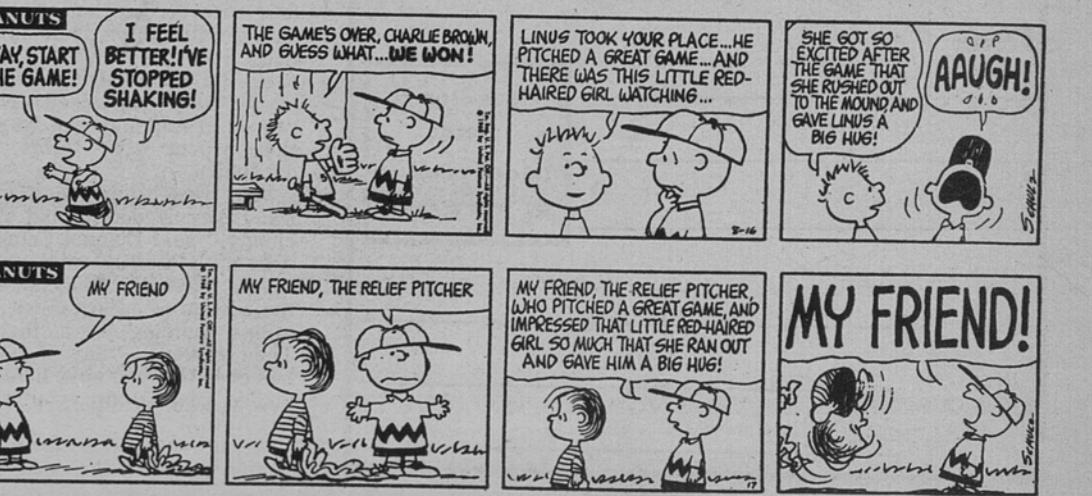
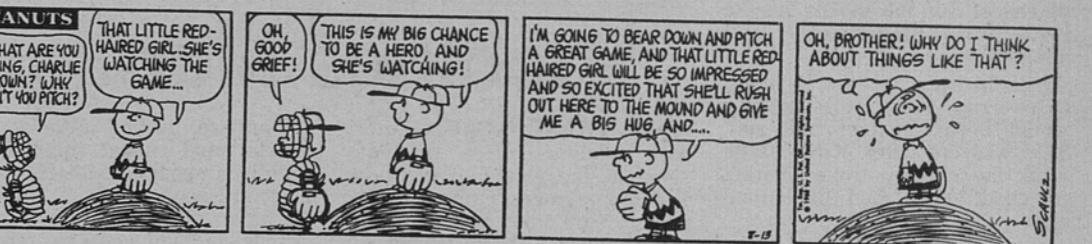
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Marines Zap Trails South; Kill 148

LANDING ZONE STUD (USMC)—The 1st Battalion, Third Marines recently killed 148 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and captured seven while zapping infiltration routes just below the demilitarized zone (DMZ) during a week-long battle southeast of Gio Linh.

Marine casualties were counted as light in the encounter with the estimated reinforced communist battalion.

The fighting began near a river that Leathernecks call "Big John", a tributary of the Cua Viet River. When the battle was over, Marines were in sight of the DMZ.

As 1st Battalion Marines moved north from "Big John" in pursuit of an NVA company they were taken under enemy automatic weapons fire and mortaring.

Utilizing their own supporting arms and Marine air strikes, the leathernecks forced the enemy to break contact and withdraw.

First Lieutenant Richard A. Andrews, commanding officer of Company A, said it appeared the NVA had left a company behind to stall the Marines. "I think when they saw the size of our force they decided to fight a stalling action so the rest of their battalion could escape.

"The NVA continually shelled us with mortars and rockets as we advanced," continued Lieutenant Andrews. "When we came upon enemy troops in well built bunkers and fighting holes we fought our way through their defenses. For the most part the NVA were well-dressed and equipped.

"Each time we were ready to overrun their positions they would break contact and run. That was the order of the battle until the enemy broke contact for good," concluded the lieutenant.

First Battalion, Third Marines had battled their way to within rifle range of the DMZ leaving 148 enemy dead in their wake.

Vietnamese Unit Lauded...

(Continued From Page 1) the defenders were fully demonstrated when more than 70 enemy bodies were found within the inner fortifications after the battle.

"Supported by air strikes and artillery fire, the valiant defenders held their position, accounted for more than 170 NVA soldiers dead, and captured



DAMN CLOSE SUPPORT!—Troopers of the Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's First Squadron watch Air Force fighters from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa Air Base soften up entrenched enemy positions 15 miles northwest of Saigon recently. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Three-Day Siege

Spookies Illuminate, Eliminate Enemy

NHA TRANG (USAF)—American survivors of a three-day siege at the Duc Lap Irregular Defense Group camp, twelve miles from the Vietnam-Cambodian border, have added the name of Spooky to their list of heroes.

Following four straight nights

of intense ground attacks and mortar and rocket shelling the small compound, with its Army Special Forces advisors, appears to have won its battle against waves of attacking enemy troops, officials said recently.

From the first hours of the three-day siege to the last ground attack, Spookies—U.S. Air Force AC-47 Dragonships — of the 14th Special Operations Wing (SOW) put on one of their biggest defensive shows of the war.

The Spookies, from the 14th's units in Nha Trang, Pleiku, Bien Hoa, Phan Rang and Phu Cat air bases, flew constant cover over the camp from dusk to dawn, providing both illumination and tactical firepower.

Armed helicopters of the 20th Special Operations Squadron at Nha Trang also flew fire-support missions and airlifted personnel in and out of the camp.

Three Deep

At times there were three or four aircraft stacked over the camp waiting for their turn to fire. Spookies flew 34 sorties over the base during the four nights and expended 714,000 rounds of 7.62 mini-gun ammunition. About 1100 flares were dropped.

"We tried to give them everything they needed to hold off the enemy," said Colonel Conrad S. Allman, 14th SOW commander.

The defenders, blockaded in the bottom of a burned-out operations building were thankful. They radioed: "Say if no one has ever told you guys before... you're just great; you're just beautiful."

When one pilot from Nha Trang asked if he was firing

close enough to the enemy troops infiltrating the camp's barb wire, a tired-sounding Special Forces radio operator answered, "Great, we can hear them coming right over our heads. Keep it up."

Gunships Draw Intense Fire

The Spookies and C-47 Moonshine aircraft received intensive ground fire the first two nights from enemy .50 caliber and 37 mm. anti-aircraft guns on the ground in close proximity to the camp.

Major Daniel J. Rehm piloted the first Spooky over the camp Thursday night.

"When we arrived, the buildings in the compound were all on fire and the men were grouped in a blockhouse below the burning operations center," he said.

"I set up a quick orbit of the area and began firing on targets about 200 to 300 meters from the

camp," he continued. "Almost immediately we began receiving intense anti-aircraft fire from four different points."

A loadmaster on another Nha Trang Dragonship, Master Sergeant T. Sinclair, described the battle as "the heaviest action I've seen since Khe Sanh. The tracers were flying past us that first night like hornets."

Final Attack Thrown Back

Colonel Fredrick L. Webster Jr., deputy commander for the operations of the 14th SOW, was piloting the Spooky that stopped the final large scale attack on the compound during the last night of fighting.

"The ground commander told us they were coming up the road to the main gate," the colonel said, "so we started to fire all around the compound about 50 meters from the fence. We got one large secondary explosion and this broke off some of the attack. Then we just kept pasting the area."

Heroic Army Infantryman...

(Continued From Page 1)

Private Lauffer, the second man in the column, saw the lead man fall and noted that the other squad members were unable to move. Two soldiers who had been wounded previously were lying helpless on litters in the zone of enemy fire.

He quickly fired at both bunkers, but the squad members were unable to maneuver under the intense enemy fire.

"Seeing this," the Medal of Honor Citation said, "Private Lauffer rose to his feet and

charged the enemy machinegun positions, firing his weapon and drawing the enemy's attention. Keeping the enemy confused and off balance, his one man assault provided the crucial moments for the wounded point man to crawl to a covered position, the squad to move the exposed litter patients to safety, and his comrades to gain more advantageous positions."

The heroic infantryman was fatally wounded in the attack, which saved the lives of several of his companions.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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TO:

Heroic Marine Officer Wins MOH



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

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Saigon, Vietnam

September 18, 1968



FIREFIGHT—Down by the stern, but not out of the fight, crew members of an assault support patrol boat return enemy fire. (USN PHOTO BY: PH-1 Dan Dodd)

Captain Downed Three Times

Courage Keeps Vietnamese Pilot Aloft

SAIGON (USAF) — Three times the Viet Cong have knocked the pins out from under Vietnamese Air Force Captain Nguyen Du, and three times the scrappy young fighter pilot has come back to plague his adversaries.

The 23-year-old, A-1 Skyraider pilot has been downed three times since he was graduated from flight training in the United States in 1963. Twice he was forced to crash land in rice paddies and once he bailed out over the South China Sea.

Captain Du is the pride of the

VNAF's 516th Fighter Squadron at Da Nang air base, not for almost getting blown out of the sky, but for his fortitude and determination to eliminate the enemy.

In his five years in the VNAF, the captain has amassed more than 1,700 operational flying hours.

Enemy gunners hit the pilot for the first time during a raid at Ben Hai when his Skyraider was hit by ground fire causing engine failure. The pilot was too low to bail out so he rode the crippled aircraft down and

skidded into a rice paddy before being brought to a jolting halt when the plane hit a road embankment. He was unconscious for only a short time and after regaining his senses, he attempted to turn off the switches despite extreme difficulty in using his hands.

Meanwhile, the remainder of

his flight flew cover for the downed pilot and within 10 minutes, a VNAF H-34 Choctaw rescue helicopter hauled the captain from the paddy and returned him to Da Nang.

Six days later, he removed his bandages and volunteered to lead a mission against a tar-

(Continued On Page 9)

Armed Forces Voters Day September 20, 1968

See Pages
2, 3, 4, 9 & 12

CU CHI (USA) — An ambush patrol of the 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry, supported by gunships and artillery, killed 56 Viet Cong in a vicious fight one mile northwest of the 25th Infantry Division's base camp at Tay Ninh. At one point the belea-

guered soldiers of Company A burned their clothes and boots to signal helicopter gunships.

The enemy dead were found the next morning, some as close as five meters from the U.S. positions.

"Everything went all right un-

WASHINGTON (USMC) — With shotgun blasting, a web belt around his leg serving as a tourniquet, and his leg jammed into the dirt to curtail the bleeding, Marine Second Lieutenant John P. Bobo fell mortally wounded while firing into the mainpoint of an enemy attack against his outnumbered force of U.S. Marines.

For his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, Lieutenant Bobo was awarded the Medal of Honor.

During ceremonies recently in Washington the parents of Lieutenant Bobo were presented the nation's highest decoration for heroism by Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius.

Lieutenant Bobo died March 30, 1967 during fighting in Quang Tri province.

His unit, "I" Company, Third Battalion, Ninth Marines, Third Marine Division, was setting in for the night when it was attacked by a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army unit.

Despite murderous enemy fire, Lieutenant Bobo organized a hasty defense, and moved from position to position encouraging his Marines.

He recovered a rocket launcher when its team was put out of action; organized a new team and directed its fire into the enemy machine-gun positions.

When an exploding enemy mortar round severed Lieutenant Bobo's right leg below the knee, he refused to be evacuated and insisted upon being placed in a firing position to cover the movement of the command group to a better location. With a web belt around his leg serving as a tourniquet and with his leg jammed into the dirt to curtail the bleeding, he remained in this position and delivered devastating fire into the ranks of the enemy attempting to overrun the Marine positions.

"I saw the lieutenant kill at least five North Vietnamese soldiers although he had been seriously wounded," said First Sergeant Raymond G. Rogers, "I" Company's senior enlisted man.

"He also killed the NVA soldier who had wounded me in the leg, and was standing over me," the first sergeant said.

"The last time I saw the lieutenant alive," concluded the first sergeant, "he was in a half sitting position firing his shotgun."

His valiant spirit inspired his men to heroic efforts, and his stand enabled the Leathernecks to gain a protective position where they repulsed the enemy attack.

Flaming Boots, Clothes Aid GIs Repulse Vicious Enemy Attack

til about 1:30 a.m. when one of our machine gun positions spotted six VC," explained Sergeant Paul R. Lambers.

They fired on what they thought were only six enemy and from that moment on the

(Continued On Page 9)

Editorial

Vote This Way

This is a major election year and the emphasis throughout the country is to "get out the vote." This is as it should be, since casting a ballot for the political candidate of our choice is not only a primary right of every citizen, but a major responsibility as well.

There are other forms of votes—U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares. They really are votes—votes of confidence in our country and its future.

And, perhaps just as important, they are positive factors in assuring your own future.

True, as investments they don't have the potential of vast and rapid returns on your money—but how many of us have the "extra" money we could afford to lose in

VOTES OF CONFIDENCE

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS
FREEDOM SHARES

speculation and so-called "easy-money" investments?

As safe, secure and guaranteed investments, U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares can't be beat. You know that your money is invested in a "going corporation" that doesn't have to worry about going out of business. You also know that the 4 1/4 per cent interest on Savings Bonds and the 5 per cent interest on Freedom Shares is guaranteed. If anything, the interest rates do rise, they cover the investment you've already made, not just new investments.

These votes of confidence in the future and security of our country deserve the same serious consideration as your vote in the Presidential Elections. When you study the U.S. Savings Bonds/Freedom Shares platform of security, there's little doubt it's a winning ticket.

Cast your vote of confidence in America through the allotment program and buy U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares. (AFPS)

Louisiana Voters, Beat the Deadline, Get Your Name On Parish List Now!

WASHINGTON — If you care to flex your constitutional muscles in the State of Louisiana on November 5, while serving in the "boonies," recommend you read the following:

The Louisiana absentee registration applies to those persons who otherwise qualify under state law as set forth in "Qualifications for Voting" who en-

tered the Armed Forces from Louisiana.

The spouses of the above members of the Armed Forces who are not present to register in person because of the military duty of the Service member, also qualify.

In order to register, just send a letter to the registrar of your parish giving the following information:

a. Date on which you attained the age of 21.

b. The length of residence in Louisiana.

c. The precinct, ward and parish in which you desire to register.

d. Enclose the names and addresses of two or more credible registered voters of your precinct who could make oath if required that you resided in your precinct at the time of your or your spouse's entry into the Military Service.

The parish registrar, upon determining by contacting the two named registered voters that you are entitled to register, will send to you the registration blank. Fill out the blank, have it attested by an officer authorized to administer oaths. On a blank sheet of paper, sign your name, then return the registration form and the sheet of paper containing your signature to the parish registrar.

To register to vote in the November general election, the completed forms and your signature on the blank sheet of paper must be returned to the registrar of the parish so that your name may be entered in the parish voters' list between the dates of September 30 and October 4.

All other persons must register in person as set forth under registration. (AFPS)

FIRST IN VIETNAM
OBSERV

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Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Did You Lose Your Right?

SAIGON — If you haven't filled out Block 2, you have lost your right.

Some Armed Forces members have lost their right to vote in early Primary Elections this year because they did not indicate a political party preference on their Federal Post Card Applications for Absentee Ballot.

This situation is steadily increasing, according to Department of Defense voting assistance officials, because State voting officials must know what an absentee voter's party preference is before the proper absentee primary ballot can be mailed to him.

In filling out absentee ballot applications for primaries, servicemen should remember to indicate their political party preference in Block 2.

If Over 21, Act Your Age

SAIGON — If you're over 21, act your age and see your voting officer.

Information on absentee voters' qualifications, registration, pre-election voting and application for and return of ballots, may be obtained from your unit voting officer.

All personnel are advised to check now, as states vary on voting qualifications and deadlines. The date for the General Election is November 5, 1968, giving absentee voters less than two months for application receipt and return of their ballots.



DREAMY—If your temperature suddenly jumped a few degrees, it's a good indication we'll be seeing more of Linda Peck in the future. The former model made her screen debut in a recently released film titled "Star."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY-FOX)



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

The family shrine in the home, the family grave in the rice paddy or even in the front yard: these are familiar sights throughout Vietnam. To many Americans these are strange sights, for few of us know a great deal about Confucianism in Vietnam.

The philosophy that we would call Confucianism has been in Vietnam since the Chinese Emperor Han Wu Ti placed Vietnam under a military governor in 111 B.C. Since that time, Confucianism has contributed immensely to the development of the cultural, moral, and political life of Vietnam.

Doctrine Of The Mean

In the cultural world, especially the world of art and drama, the Confucian Doctrine of the Mean is clearly evident. The Vietnamese artist uses "neither too much nor too little; no overcrowding of details; not too many nor too bright colors, just enough to obtain the desired effect." Vietnamese lacquerware is a classic illustration of these principles.

Known throughout the world for its simplicity as well as its sheer beauty, Vietnamese lacquer rarely portrays more than three colors, and frequently only has two: gold on black. The family shrine in the home is one of the most noticeable manifestations of Confucianism in Vietnam. It is at this shrine that the ancestors are revered by those still on earth. On certain holidays, flowers, food and liquors are placed on the shrine's altars. Long life is wished to others. And women look forward to bearing more sons, for the male is considered to be more important than the female.

With the growing influence of Western culture in the East, Confucianism is not as evident in the Vietnamese cities as it once was. However, in the villages and throughout the countryside, Confucianism is still the way of life.

Because of what you men are doing here today, you may very well prevent a greater war—a World War III.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Air Cavalrymen Overcome 22 Enemy

HUE (USA) — With their arms, hands and drawn faces cut by choking vines and underbrush, 101st Air Cavalrymen from the 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry engaged an NVA unit high in the mountains west of here recently and killed 22 of them.

A scout dog and handler moved along with the cavalrymen's point squad. Just beyond the barricades, the dog froze in position, whining softly. His handler, Private First Class Michale Booth, inched forward, his eyes fixed.

A thin, almost invisible wire stretched across a small opening in the brush in front of him.

It was attached to a 105mm high explosive shell. He cut the wire and moved on for another hundred meters.

As he stopped short, PFC Booth signalled those behind him not to move. Off to their right flank, six North Vietnamese soldiers trooped into view. The heavy underbrush and their direction of travel kept the troopers from the enemy's sight, even though the NVA soldiers were only 20 meters away.

The PFC closed the chamber on his M-79 grenade launcher and prepared to fire a shotgun, anti-personnel rounds. The enemy heard the click and cavalrymen dove for a clump of bushes.

By then the element of surprise was lost. An enemy grenade landed near Specialist 4 John Reick. A thunderous explosion was heard and hot

pieces of shrapnel knifed into the specialist's left arm.

The wound caused him to drop his rifle, but somehow he managed to pick it up again and swung around shooting.

While the initial contact was made, the remainder of Company A came on line. PFC Booth and Specialist Reick opened up on the NVA soldiers, who were now firing their AK-47s at the air cavalrymen. Bullets churned up the ground between the two forces.

As the firefight continued, the hot smoke was cooled by a heavy rain storm. The Screaming Eagle troopers from the "Geronimo" battalion tried to close in on the enemy soldiers, but they were stopped by a wall of hand grenades.

Soon, helicopter gunships were called in to give additional

fire support. Within minutes, the pilots were strafing the enemy positions with their miniguns and aerial rocket artillery. The exploding rockets hurled thousands of pieces of hot shrapnel toward the NVA soldiers, who were now backed by heavy machineguns.

The enemy soldiers tried to flank the air cavalrymen's position, but more troopers were brought up on the line to guard the flanks. As the gunships made their final passes over the battle scene, the rockets stopped the maneuvering enemy forces.

After more than two hours of bloody fighting, the enemy broke contact. The "Geronimo" troopers moved forward and found 22 enemy bodies and a myriad of spent enemy ordnance.

ARVN, 1st Cav Discover Cache

LZ MIGUEL (USA) — The largest enemy cache to be captured recently in Operation Jeb Stuart III was the result of ARVN and 1st Air Cavalry Division action.

The 3rd ARVN Regiment killed 32 North Vietnamese soldiers and seized large caches of weapons, ammunition and medicines in the mountains 48 miles west of Hue.

Two million units of penicillin were found in bottles bearing Czechoslovakian, Rumanian, North Korean, French and Japanese labels. The cache also contained Chinese medicines, bottles of Japanese blood plasma and three sets of surgical instruments.

"When we drove the NVA out," Major Lu said, "we found kitchens with fresh vegetables on the tables. Then we discovered the medicine—it was like a big drugstore. And then we found the weapons, including brand new .50 caliber anti-aircraft machineguns."

The following morning the 4th Battalion continued to explore the area. Elements probing the steep, narrow ravines killed six more NVA and captured 100 rounds of 82mm mortar shells.

The 1st Battalion discovered a separate cache southeast of LZ Miguel on the following morning. Stripping the camouflage from two deep bunkers, the ARVN uncovered 960 Chinese grenades, 500 anti-tank mines, eleven 60mm mortar rounds, twenty 82mm mortar rounds, two cases of plastic explosives an AK-47 assault rifle, and 22,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.



GUIDED IN — 9th Infantry Division soldiers from Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery, make smoke as they guide in a Chinook bringing in a mobile firing platform for a mission in the Mekong Delta. The chopper will soon bring in 105mm howitzers in a versatile manner to bolster firepower in support of the Division's Mobile Riverine Force.

(USA PHOTO BY: 2LT Thomas Ingala)

Enemy Staging Area Destroyed

DA NANG (USMC) — If the North Vietnamese are planning another offensive on Da Nang, similar to the Tet offensive, they will have to find another staging area.

Bricks are crushed into pebbles, while cement bunkers fall victim to explosive charges, and their remains crushed by huge bulldozers.

Air Force planes are spraying defoliation chemicals and when the vegetation is dry it is set on fire.

Most of the resistance against the Marines clearing the once-safe enemy soil is now from the Viet Cong.

Steady contact with small bands of VC, booby-traps and VC snipers has been experienced by infantry units providing security for the heavy equipment.

Local villagers were relocated near Da Nang as bulldozers crushed all obstructions, including the thick forests. Trees, wooden beams and other burnable objects are being bulldozed into massive piles and burned.

The initial siege of the enemy stronghold and sporadic contacts during the destruction phase have netted more than 1,000 enemy killed.

Numerous amounts of weapons and ammunition are still being found throughout the island.

Major R.E. Armstrong, of the 27th, states, "By the placement of abandoned weapons we were assured the NVA were definitely planning on coming back, but we're taking care of that problem now."

The main reason for clearing this island is its strategic value to the enemy. If it wasn't cleared, we'd have to deploy many Marines to control the area," the major concluded.

From June to July the hidden enemy has been pounded by 11,850 artillery rounds and 72 sorties of Marine air strikes called in by the 2nd Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine

More Info On Voting

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — As part of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, ballots will be delivered personally to eligible servicemen subject to hostile fire in Vietnam — just as they were delivered to men in frontline foxholes during World War II and Korea.

But a Voting Officer — on a battlefield or at a base — can only deliver the application and information. The desire to cast his vote must be with the individual serviceman. Do your part. Complete your FPCA and then, at the appropriate time between now and the November 5 General Election, return your ballot to your home state in time to be counted.



Mosquitos are trapped in this "New Jersey Light Trap" and then removed for inspection.

VC Risks Death; Rallies

DI AN (USA) — Bo Van Lam, a seventeen-year-old VC rifleman, cautiously made his way through the swampy undergrowth which covers 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, Lam carried a small piece of paper, though he knew it would get him executed if his company commander found it. On the paper was a picture of a man Lam 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 ralliers receive under the Government of South Vietnam's Chieu Hoi Program.

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 Lam 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. For Lam, days of hunger and hardship with the Viet Cong were over.

The American soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry turned Lam over to the 2nd Brigade civil affairs section in Di An. There he met the man whose voice and picture he had recognized — Le Van Ri, a former assistant platoon leader with the 4th Battalion, 1st VC Regiment.

Ri had rallied to the government side only a few days before, after four years with the Viet Cong. He became disenchanted because of the wide disparity between what his leaders told him about VC successes and what he himself observed to be true.

With the help of a Big Red One psychological operations team, Ri wrote an appeal for others to join him, which was made into a leaflet and dropped into the area where his old unit was known to be operating. Ri also made the tapes Lam had heard and even rode in the psychos' helicopter himself broadcasting to Viet Cong troops on the ground.

New Jersey

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — "Military service voter," under New Jersey provisions, means a qualified elector under Constitution and laws of this state who comes within one of the following categories:

a. Persons in military service, their spouses and dependents.

b. Patients in a veterans' hospital located in any place other than place of their residences who have been in military service in any war in which the U.S. has been engaged and have been discharged or released from such service.

c. Civilians attached to or serving with Armed Forces of U.S. without this state, their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them.

Under new provisions, spouses and dependents of military personnel are no longer required to register to vote by absentee ballot.

Falls From Chopper; Training Saves Life

CU CHI (USA) — Airborne training and instantaneous reaction were responsible for saving the life of Sergeant Franklyn S. Weisgerber when he fell out of a helicopter 50 feet in the air.

The 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, was making an air assault five miles east of the 25th Infantry Division's base camp at Cu Chi when Sergeant Weisgerber turned in his seat to face out and his foot slipped on the wet helicopter floor causing him to slide out.

"As I slid out, my head hit the machine gun barrel," he recalled. "I was speechless. All I could think of was: 'This can't be real.' When I looked up, I could see everyone smiling at me."

"As soon as I hit the ground I did a PLF," said the sergeant. (The PLF — parachute

Preventive Med. Checks Disease

CU CHI (USA) — Are you sure that the water you drink is potable? How about the water tanks — are they clean? The job of the 20th Preventive Medicine Detachment is to know the answer to these questions and many more.

This tiny unit, based at Cu Chi with a subsection at Tay Ninh, is responsible for advising the 25th Infantry Division on matters of sanitation, pest control, and water purification.

As part of its duties, the detachment collects mosquitoes! Unimportant as it sounds, this job is vital to the health of Tropic Lightning soldiers.

"In this area there are 53 different types of mosquitoes," explained Sergeant Edwin H. Wilson. "Some attack at night, some bite during the day, but all of them are potential disease carriers," he said.

"Everyone knows that the female anopheline mosquito is a carrier of malaria, but mosquitoes can also carry dengue, filariasis, yellow fever, encephalitis, falciparum and vivax," said Sergeant Wilson. "It is our job to collect mosquitoes and send them to our headquarters at Bien Hoa for study."

To accomplish this mission the unit employs a variety of traps. Perhaps the most effective and interesting of these is the "New Jersey Mosquito Trap." This aluminum trap employs a light bulb to attract mosquitoes after dark and a small fan which then forces the insects into a jar filled with sodium chloride to kill them.

Not confined to collecting mosquitoes the unit also sets and tends rat traps and acts as coordinators for field-study teams.

These teams, from such organizations as the SEATO laboratory in Saigon, and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, come to the Cu Chi area to collect bats, inoculate cattle, check the amount of chiggers (another potential disease carrier) in certain locations, and conduct various other tests.

GUNNERY SERGEANT JERRY A. CASTOR, company gunnery sergeant, said his unit was assigned the mission of finding the enemy bunkers and that is exactly what they did.

"We kicked off the sweep from our positions in the morning and searched the area, but couldn't find anything. Then, all of a sudden mortar rounds started impacting all around. We kept right on moving through the barrage. Finally the mortars stopped, but then we came under small arms fire," said Sergeant Castor.

He explained it became apparent the NVA were trying to keep the Marines away from something.

"We continued sweeping the area and sure enough, we found the bunkers. It looked like the North Vietnamese hadn't had time to take anything. The bunkers were filled with rockets, 82mm mortar shells, 60mm mortar rounds, automatic weapons and the cache of medical supplies," the sergeant continued.

"The rifles were still packed and all the medical supplies were brand-new," he said.

The medical supplies consisted of operating instruments, penicillin, bandages and pajamas for patients.

The medical supplies, rockets and mortar rounds were destroyed in place while the enemy documents uncovered were forwarded to higher headquarters.



Marines scramble up an embankment to continue their advance on the Viet Cong.



Lieutenant radios for permission to fire on enemy positions.

Pen Depicts Combat

Marines Don't Quit

LZ STUD (USMC) — A Marine company's stubborn refusal to quit when under heavy enemy mortar fire, resulted in the capture of a huge enemy bunker complex.

Company G, 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, captured 300 pounds of new medical supplies, seventeen 122mm rockets, several boxes of unopened mortar shells and numerous North Vietnamese Army (NVA) automatic weapons.

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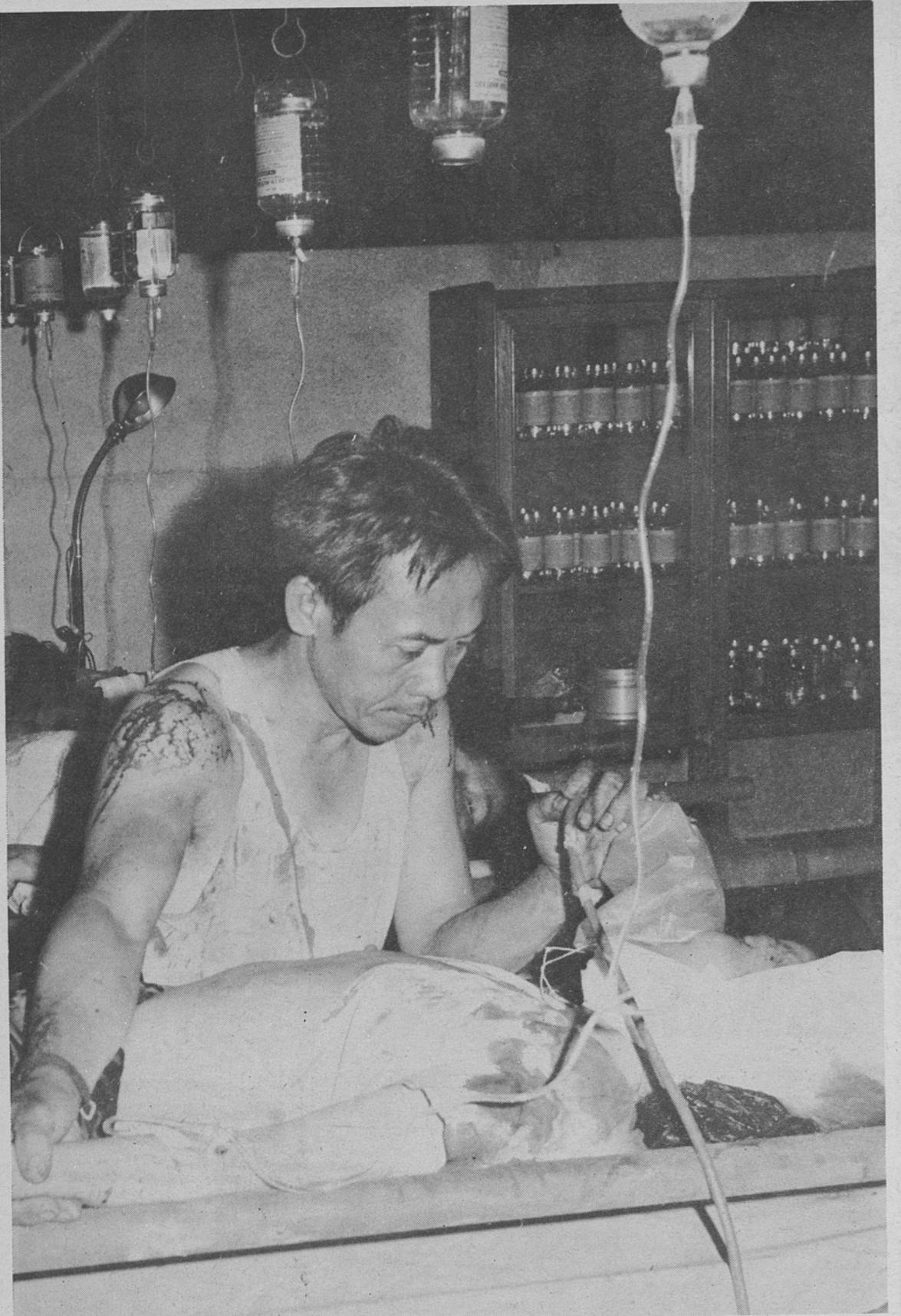
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A skimmer boat, loaded with Marines, patrols for VC.



A husband, himself wounded, tends his more grievously injured wife at a Saigon hospital.



Saigon citizens return to their fire-gutted homes after 20 enemy rockets dove them from a mile-wide area in the early morning hours recently.

VC End Two-Month Lull

Photos
By
JUSPAO



His home all but destroyed, a civilian pours water over the smoldering remains following the indiscriminate VC rocketings on August 22.



Wounded youngsters are part of what a VC broadcasted as "heavy damage on the enemy."



Houses built on stilts at the edge of a canal south of the city, housing refugees of earlier attacks, were heavily damaged by a long-range 122mm Viet Cong rocket.



The Communist rocket barrage wounded every member of this family—the message left by the Viet Cong is clearly registered on their faces.



Miss FPCA-1968

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR

BY SPS
MACCLAIN



THE DMZ IS NOT THE MASON DIXON LINE... SO STOP CALLING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE JOHNNY REBS!

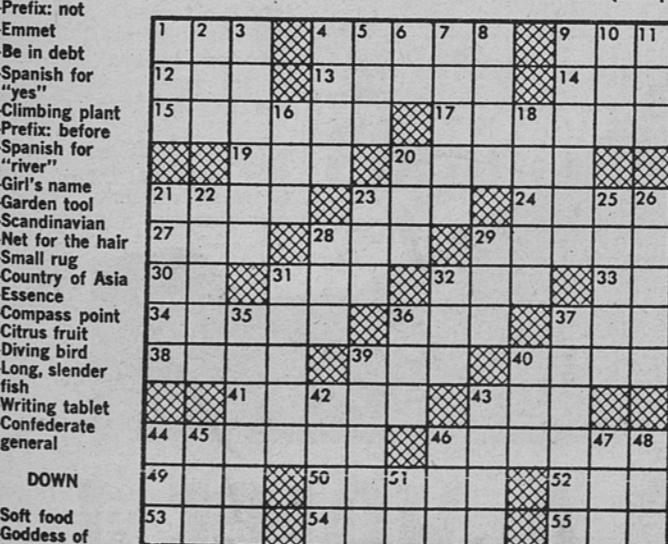
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1-Fondle
4-Dim
9-Aeriform fluid
12-Ventilate
13-Change
14-Greek letter
15-Laud
17-Excusable
19-Suffix:
adherent of
20-Part of flower
21-Serene
23-Possessive
pronoun
24-Girl's
nickname
27-Pronoun
28-Skill
29-Malicious
burning
30-Prefix: not
31-Emmet
32-Be in debt
33-Spanish for
"yes"
34-Climbing plant
36-Prefix: before
37-Spanish for
"river"
38-Girl's name
39-Garden tool
40-Scandinavian
41-Net for the hair
43-Small rug
44-Country of Asia
46-Essence
49-Compass point
50-Citrus fruit
52-Diving bird
53-Long, slender
fish
54-Writing tablet
55-Confederate
general

DOWN

1-Soft food
2-Goddess of
healing



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Flex Your
Constitutional
Muscles...
VOTE!

Beetle Bailey



By Mort Walker

Peanuts



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Vote

DOD P-53



YOUR HANDS HAVE A VOICE !

ARVN Troopers Hit Jackpot Cache

BINH LONG (ARVN)
—What is believed to be the largest enemy cache of ammunition of the war was uncovered and seized last week by Republic of Vietnam Army troopers.

An official ARVN communique reported that soldiers of the 81st Vietnamese Special Forces Battalion, searching an area some 75 miles north of the nation's capital uncovered 40 to 50 tons of ammunition and weapons which had been hidden in 10 separate storage areas.

The seizure included 306 B47 and 2,436 B40 rockets, 336 antitank grenades, 433 cases of AK47 rounds, 1,128 rounds for 60mm mortars, 573 rounds for 82mm mortars, 31 cases of mines and a ton of TNT.

The cache was eight miles northeast of the village of Quan Lai, 10 miles from Binh Long, near the Phuoc Long province border. Just two days earlier in the same area, Vietnamese Special Forces elements uncovered 10 large ammo caches.

It took three days to airlift the latest massive catch from the area. The ARVN's record seizure was near the area where a hoard of 200 tons of rice was recently uncovered by soldiers of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division.

Self-giving Marine Sgt Wins MOH

WASHINGTON (USMC)—Marine Sergeant Walter K. Singleton, who was killed in Vietnam when he single-handedly destroyed a fortified enemy position, has been awarded the Medal of Honor.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George P. Singleton of Memphis, Tenn., were presented the Nation's highest decoration by Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius in ceremonies at the Capitol's Marine Barracks.

Sergeant Singleton died during fighting in Quang Tri province March 24 last year.

As his unit, Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, neared the edge of a village they were hit by enemy rifle, machine gun and mortar fire.

The sergeant, who was the company supply sergeant with the reserve platoon, heard a call for help to evacuate the wounded.

"He ran from the rear of the company to the front of the lead platoon," said Sergeant Earle D. Johnson, who was in the midst of the fighting.

Moving into the enemy's killing zone, Sergeant Singleton made numerous trips carrying wounded Marines across open ground to a safe area.

As he was moving the casualties he noticed that a large part of the enemy's fire was coming from a hedgerow.

"Sergeant Singleton picked up a machine gun and charged forward, firing as he ran," said Sergeant Johnson. "He forced his way through the hedgerow and jumped right in the middle of a North Vietnamese Army squad, killing at least eight of them before he was mortally wounded."

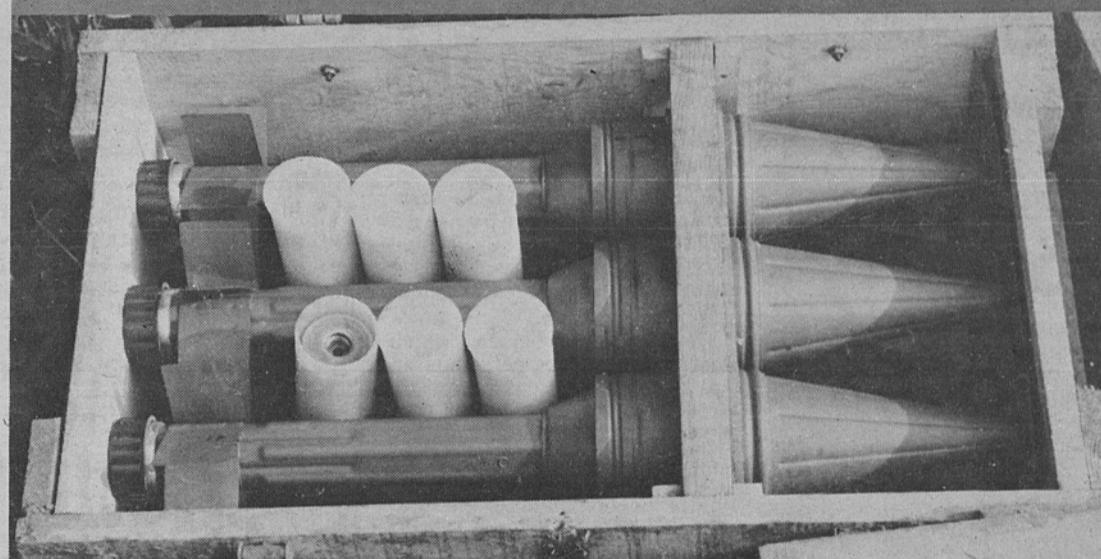


Vol. 7, No. 21

Saigon, Vietnam

September 25, 1968

101st, 82nd Troopers Kill 233



MAMMOTH CACHE—A man-made mountain of boxes containing dynamite, dozens of cases of B-40 rockets, and hundreds of cases of AK-47 ammo, has disappeared from the VC/NVA supply lines. The big dent was made by the ARVN 81st Special Forces Battalion. (ARVN PHOTOS)

Use Infantry Skills

Engineers Repulse NVA Thrust

DAK SEANG (USA)—A platoon of engineers used their infantry skills to beat back two enemy battalions which attacked an isolated Special Forces camp near here.

The engineers were repairing the camp's airfield when the enemy launched an intense mortar and rocket barrage from the surrounding hills. After the barrage had continued for about an hour, a human wave assault followed with the enemy hurling bamboo Bangalore torpedoes which blew gapping holes in the barbed wire defenses.

Engineers from Company B, 299th Engineer Battalion, 937th Group, 18th Brigade, opened up with a hail of fire that prevented the NVA soldiers from penetrating the camp's perimeter. Thirty-five enemy dead were

piled on the wire after the attack was repulsed.

The same day the engineers were hit by another mortar and rocket attack and yet another shelling the next morning. They reported no one seriously injured during the frontal assault or the

three rocket and mortar attacks.

First Lieutenant James Fineley, platoon leader from Company B, said, "Most of the men are old timers and were at Kontum during the Tet offensive, so they are pretty well seasoned."

They Call Him 'Wrong-way' Riaz

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — A funny thing happened to Specialist 4 Ismael Riaz on the way to the bunker.

Specialist Riaz and his buddies in Battery C, 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery, were sleeping around their guns at a mountain outpost manned by troops of the 101st and 82nd Airborne.

At 2 a.m. the jarring sound of "incoming" sent gun crews

scrambling for cover along the ridge.

Specialist Riaz and the men on Gun No. 1 dropped onto a parapet that bordered the south slope. Three rocket-propelled grenades from the enemy advancing up that slope impacted on Gun 1, disabling its mechanism. This was too close for the huddled gun crew and in the confusion they began to fall

back to a bunker.

"I was kind of dazed," the specialist said. "It was hard to see in the smoke and my ears were ringing. That's when I must have made the wrong turn out of the ditch and stumbled down the slope."

Three more rounds came in on the gun, but the men had pulled back to the bunker —

(Continued On Back Page)

Editorial

Study Now

Peace and quiet have returned to the American scene. The shouts of sibling rivalry and "there's nothing to do" have become a part of summer's memories.

Family budgets have been strained to the breaking point buying new clothes, books, tablets, crayons and pencil boxes. Checks have been sent off for tuition payments and the promise of thrill-packed Saturday afternoon football games is just around the corner.

School has started and through the country life has returned to the scheduled, regulated normalcy of the school year for individuals, families and communities.

Fine for kids, teenagers, teachers and parents, but what effect does it all have on you — the serviceman in Vietnam? Plenty, if you're smart.

Why not jump on the education wagon yourself? You've got some great opportunities to study almost anything you want. Service schools and correspondence offer a wide variety of courses and subjects to increase your professional and technical knowledge.

If these don't suit your purposes, you have the facilities of the U.S. Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) at your disposal. Through USAFI you can get more than 6,000 courses covering everything from astronomy to zoology.

If you prefer to get courses for your high school diploma or college degree from a civilian source rather than through USAFI, you can apply for tuition assistance or use the In-service G.I. Bill to help pay for your education.

Then of course, there are the Bootstrap and Associate Degree programs as well as various graduate study programs available through the military services.

Any way you look at it, there is an education program you can use to expand your knowledge, increase your skills and better prepare you for your chosen vocation, even while serving in Vietnam.

Join the back-to-school crowd and take advantage of the tremendous educational opportunities available to military personnel throughout the Republic of South Vietnam. You'll be glad you did. (AFPS)

It's Not Too Early

WASHINGTON — It's later than you think. Act now.

Now is the time to think about mailing Christmas packages home. Next month is the time to begin mailing them.

To insure that your packages are delivered in the States before Christmas, the APO has advised the following mailing periods:

Surface Mail — Oct. 1 through Nov. 1.

Space Available Mail — Nov. 15 through Dec. 4.

Parcel Air Lift — Nov. 15 through Dec. 4.

Airmail — Dec. 1 through Dec. 13.

In addition, the APO has advised that those in Vietnam

who would like to receive their packages before Christmas should remind their friends and families at home to mail packages according to this schedule:

Surface — Oct. 16 through Nov. 11.

Space Available Mail — Oct. 21 through Dec. 1.

Parcel Air Lift — Oct. 21 through Dec. 1.

Airmail — Dec. 1 through Dec. 11.

All mail, except surface mail, travels by air from Vietnam to San Francisco.

Watch THE OBSERVER in the immediate future for more details and tips on mailing. (ANF)

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**Ration Cards Are Getting 'Drilled'**

SAIGON — Here is the "hole" story.

Vietnam Regional Exchange cashiers now use hole punches instead of ballpoint pens to record on customers' ration cards each purchase of a rationed item.

The new procedure is being implemented to discourage misuse and abuse of exchange privileges and at the same time to give all customers a fair chance to buy short-supply merchandise.

The cashier punches a hole in the appropriate box everytime the customer makes a purchase. Unlike a pen marking, the hole cannot be erased and is a sure indication of such a purchase.

Rationed items include cameras, slide and movie projectors, radios, record players, tuners, amplifiers, tape recorders, watches, typewriters, electric fans, TVs and refrigerators, as well as beer, liquor and wine, and tobacco. (VRE)

GIs Hoard \$225 Million

WASHINGTON — U.S. servicemen overseas deposited \$225.7 million in the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program during the Fiscal Year of 1968.

The savings program, which is open to military personnel on active duty overseas, pays interest at the rate of 10 per cent a year, compounded quarterly.

As of June 30, the end of the last fiscal year, there were 197,313 participants in the program, an increase of 48,102 over the previous year.

Personnel in the Southeast Asia area accounted for \$161 million in deposits, about 45 per cent of the total, and 83,585 accounts, some 42 per cent of the total number of accounts.

What about you? (ANF)

Don't Like It? Send It Back

WASHINGTON — If you don't like it — send it back.

Suppose your mail clerk delivers a book, key ring tags or a phonograph record that you did not order, and either with it, or by later mail, comes a request for payment, do you have to take it? No!

A recipient of unordered merchandise is under no obligation to return it; to acknowledge its receipt; to pay for it, unless used; to give it particular care, or to keep it beyond a reasonable time.

However you are obligated to surrender the merchandise if called for in person by the shipper or his agent within a reasonable time.

The best solution is to write "refused" across the face of the piece of mail and return it unopened to your mail clerk. (AFNS)



THE BARE FACTS — Our intrepid reporter returned this week with a great story. It seems that the limited warfare boys in Washington have come up with some ridiculous idea like invisible clothing or something. Anyway, getting on to our picture this week — lovely Corinna Tsoupe shows off her 36-23-36 curves in a gorgeous, demure French outfit. Blue gingham ruffles combined with frothy lace provide an enticing mid-calf skirt, while a silk bodice flowers out to a peasant-cut neckline and 3/4 sleeve blouse. Invisible clothes — HA!! (PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX)

FIRST IN VIETNAM
THE OBSERVER

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"None but the well-bred man knows how to confess a fault, or acknowledge himself in an error."

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Satisfying Mission**AF Pilot Makes Rescue Possible**

TUY HOA (USA) — Ask an Air Force pilot what kind of mission is the most satisfying to fly and chances are he will tell you, "The ones in which I help the guys on the ground when they're in trouble."

"It's much more rewarding than any other kind of mission," said Captain Jerry K. Clark. "You can see the results of what you're doing, and it makes you feel good to know that you were able to help the Army out of a tight spot, perhaps save a lot of lives."

Captain Clark, a member of the 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Tuy Hoa Air Base, was on his way toward a strike mission near Da Nang recently when he heard a call for help from a forward air controller (FAC) several miles from the strike target.

"There's a wounded man down here who has to be evacuated," the FAC said. "We have a helicopter standing by to pick him up, but its fuel is running low and it can't come in because of heavy ground fire. Can you suppress the ground fire long enough for the chopper to get the man out?"

The captain and his wingman turned their F-100 Super Sabres toward the battle scene, 10 miles away in dense jungle on top of a 3,700-foot mountain. The FAC fired his smoke rockets at the enemy positions, and as Captain Clark walked his bombs down the line marked by the smoke, the helicopter whirled in.

Turning, the captain made a strafing pass as the chopper with the injured man aboard climbed back into the air and raced toward Da Nang.



OPERATION PRAIRIE III — Marines of the 1st Battalion, Ninth Marines, wade through the Cam Lo river while on Operation Prairie III, about three miles west of Cam Lo. Vietnamese children are trying to sell them cookies, canned drinks and candy. (USMC PHOTO)

Vietnamese, American Forces Kill 864 In Joint Operation

DA NANG (USA) — Vietnamese and American forces killed 864 invaders recently in Operation Hung Quang 1-60 south of Da Nang in five days of fighting.

The operation started Aug. 22 when Rangers, Armored Cavalry troops and 51st Regiment infantrymen combined to rip an enemy element west of Highway 1 just 15 kilometers south of Da Nang. Not far away, 51st Regiment's 1st Battalion killed 63 of the enemy stalking the themselves, losing one man.

Eighteen more enemy fell to 54th ARVN Regiment patrols in a 3 1/2 hour fight southeast of Hue, as Operation Lam Son 245 continued. Six individual and one crew-served weapon also were taken.

Vietnamese Rangers of Kilo Task Force blunted the enemy's thrust at the perimeter of Hoa Vang district headquarters. Rangers faced the best of the enemy could muster, said Captain Robert Squires, commander of the Marine company in Kilo.

The defenders could not move against the barrage of B-40 and .50 caliber fire, but at Hoa Vang crossroads the aborted invasion of Da Nang ended. Three APCs assigned to Kilo from the ARVN 4th Armored Cavalry took a position at the critical road junction to defy an enemy onslaught.

Major Eric Reichelt assumed command of the mixed reaction force, rolling forward. The 4th Cav's APCs, 39th Rangers and marine elements comprising the force, wedged themselves between the precious Da Nang air-strip and the intruders. It took all morning to clear the village back to the Cam Le bridge.

General Hoang Xuan Lam, who had organized Task Force Kilo Aug. 6 in cooperation with III MAF commanders, announced that 200 Communist invaders had died in this phase of the action.

Commander Lieutenant Colonel Truong Tan Thieu used his intelligence system to locate shattered Communist forces limping along a railroad bed to a deserted hamlet west of Highway 1. Then he positioned a blocking force of companies from the 59th RF Battalion and 37th Rangers behind the enemy. He unleashed his rugged 1st Battalion to slash through the area. The 51st Recon Company, 2nd Battalion Armored Cavalry Assault Troop, Foxtrot Compa-



SWAMP EAGLE — PFC John S. Beaman searches a swamp stream southwest of Phan Rang during the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne's Operation Klamath Falls. PFC Beaman is a Screaming Eagle with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry. (USA PHOTO BY: SSG Al Wilson)

Tri-Service Effort

Choppers Save Patrol

CHU LAI (USA) — A Marine recon patrol surrounded by NVA troops, 20 miles west of Tam Ky, was saved by U.S. Army, Air Force and Marine units which teamed up with a heroic helicopter pilot.

The Recon patrol was in close and intense contact with the numerically superior NVA force, and requested to be extracted. WO Schoonborn volunteered to attempt the rescue.

"While waiting for a reply to WO Schoonborn's offer," said WO Collins, "The gunships and flare ship returned to the 196th base camp to re-arm, refuel and replenish flares.

"We kept the time on the ground to a bare minimum," said WO Collins. "We returned to station to find the situation rapidly deteriorating and the authorization for extraction granted by the Marines," he added.

The gunships were 71st Aviation Company "Firebirds," led by Warrant Officer James Collins Jr., and the flare ship dispatched was from the 71st "Rattlers," commanded by Warrant Officer Loon Schoonborn.

"At the LRRP location we had a difficult time coordinating between us and 'Spooky' because of poor radio communications and the LRRP's lack

of familiarity with gunship support," said WO Collins. "We initiated a target strike when we only had 10 minutes left in the target area."

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U.S. Infantry Bde. Nets 5 Hoi Chanhs

QUANG TRI (USA) — The 1st Brigade recently netted five Hoi Chanhs within a two-day period.

The first of the five was picked up by a brigade scout ship, flying in support of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, near Quang Tri.

"We were reconning by fire and when we came back for a second pass, my door gunner said he saw a dead NVA lying on the trail," Warrant Officer William Sullivan said. "We came back lower and the guy turned over and was holding a Chieu Hoi pass."

The NVA was wounded so the scouts flew him to "A" Company, 15th Medical Battalion for treatment.

The same day two other Chieu Hoi turned themselves in to an element of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, which was on an operation east of Quang Tri City.

The next day two Chieu Hoi turned themselves in to members of the Recon platoon of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

"They stuck their hands over the ravine," said Sergeant Wolfe, "and started hollering 'Chieu Hoi.' They said there were two more further down the ravine, but when we checked it out we didn't find anything."

The two had minor wounds, apparently caused when the scouts shot up the area where the clothes were spotted.

They had been living in a spider hole along the river bank. Neither had weapons.

'Eyes' Spot Enemy's Launchers

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES (USA) — Somewhere in the dense growth outside Saigon, a small enemy team sets up a mortar or rocket launcher. When they fire they often get unexpected results — for them.

Within two minutes the enemy is pounded by American artillery.

The Viet Cong and NVA soldiers are spotted by members of Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery, 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

The "eyes" which spot the enemy belong to the AN-MPQ-4A Counter-Mortar Radar.

Manned by members of the "Redcatcher" Brigade and led by Chief Warrant Officer Bunnian Wicker, the radar is able to track incoming enemy mortar and rockets. The unit can pinpoint the launching point.

While the enemy rocket is still in the air, the "Redcatchers" plot the coordinates of its launching site and are relaying this information to the artillerymen. Within seconds the huge American guns have obtained the necessary clearance and are pouring artillery onto the hapless enemy position.

Sergeant Richard L. Eubanks, the section chief of the counter-mortar radar says, "We're on alert and operating 24 hours a day."

The radar team of the 199th, working in conjunction with radar teams of other U.S. Army units, has become increasingly instrumental in thwarting enemy attempts to terrorize the Vietnamese people in Saigon.

Like the World War II fighter pilots who marked their "kills" on the side of their cockpits, the radar team displays their kills. Neatly painted in the lower right hand corner of the revolving antenna appears "confirmed kills" of seven rocket launchers and eight mortar sites.

CUA VIET (USMC) — A Marine and his entrenching tool can be a deadly combination. This statement was proved a fact by a 19-year-old Marine from the Third Marine Regiment, during Operation Napoleon-Saline northwest of Cua Viet.

Lance Corporal Leonard W. Morris, a scout with the Third Marines, started to dig a hole about six feet from a "dead" North Vietnamese (NVA) soldier. All of a sudden the enemy

soldier rolled over with a grenade in his hand.

"I did the first thing that came into my head," said the corporal. "I jumped at him and hit him with my entrenching tool. Then I ran like hell."

A perimeter guard shot the NVA before he had a chance to throw the grenade.

The battlefield report of the incident read: "One confirmed enemy killed and one slightly bent entrenching tool."

Self Defense Forces Help Protect Villages

CHU LAI (USA) — Uniting under a banner of self-reliance 1,200 Vietnamese are providing safer lives for three villages in the Ly Tin district in the American Division area.

The 1,200 people are members of the Self Defense Forces, formed to instill pride in the villages and act as a police force against Viet Cong tax collectors and recruiters.

They were trained by Vietnamese military personnel of the district to assume full re-

sponsibility for the security and protection of the villages.

Defense Force training ended with a jamboree at district headquarters. Activities included volleyball, marksmanship and dismounted drill competitions.

"We are proud of these people's efforts," a 198th Infantry Brigade spokesman said. "They initiated the action and completed it on their own. Their desire to assume responsibility is outstanding."

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I Corps Commander Awarded Silver Star

DA NANG (USMC) — The Silver Star Medal has been awarded to Lieutenant General Hoang Xuan Lam, commanding general of I Corps. He received the medal during recent ceremonies at III Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters.

Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman Jr., III MAF commanding general, made the presentation on behalf of the President of the United States for General Lam's heroic action and outstanding leadership during a Communist attack on Da Nang during the Tet offensive.

"Moving to the Tactical Operations Center, he rapidly assessed the situation and realized that thousands of civilian refugees fleeing the area would be endangered by any immediate counter-offensive action.

"Delaying the reaction force until assured that the refugees had cleared the area, he then ordered heavy air strikes on enemy emplacements only 200 meters from his own position which dislodged the enemy who were then engaged by a reaction force, resulting in 102 North Vietnamese confirmed killed and 132 enemy captured."

Other personal decorations of General Lam include six Crosses of Gallantry with palm and one Cross of Gallantry with bronze star.

General Creighton Abrams, commander of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and all free world commanders in I Corps were present for the ceremony.

"We started in with all our guns firing," continued WO Collins. "The rescue ship quickly landed, picked up the Marines and climbed to a safe altitude while the gunships expended their firepower on the enemy positions."

The citation read, in part, "... During the early morning hours of Jan. 30, the enemy launched an attack against the I Corps Headquarters in Da Nang. When advised of the attack, General Lam rushed through the intense hostile fire to supervise the defense of the

headquarters complex and the city."

After re-arming and refueling, the choppers returned to the area. This time the LRRP reported the enemy movement had shifted to higher ground. The "Firebirds" attacked the enemy position under flare illumination.

The Marines reported the enemy closing in from all sides and WO Schoonborn decided to go in after them.

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Tropic Lightning 27 Years Young

CU CHI (USA) - October 1, another chapter in history of the 25th Infantry Division will be closed. The Tropic Lightning Division will celebrate 27th anniversary — it's like a foreign country and birth in combat.

Along the thousand miles covered by the 25th since its birth in Hawaii are fields of battlefields over which the Lightning patch is shown victoriously.

The division was little more than ten weeks old when it got first taste of combat. The Japanese sent fighter bombers soaring through Hawaii's Kole Pass on the morning of October 7, 1941.

Not until the following November, when the 25th left the Barracks for its first campaign on Guadalcanal, was division able to return favor to the Japanese. Twenty-four days after the 25th landed on vital island, the Japanese capitulation of it was over. It was un-

precedented speed with which the division waged and completed this campaign that earned it the designation "Tropic Lightning."

Battles at places such as Vella Lavella, New Georgia and the Philippines followed as the 25th headed for Japan and the end of the war. When it was over, six unit citations and six Medals of Honor were awarded to units and men of Tropic Lightning.

The Division stayed in Japan for slightly less than five years before the call to combat came again — the 25th Infantry Division was ordered to Korea.

The 25th was assigned to the Sangju sector to hold off the Communist advance. As the Division held its ground, word came that another large Com-

munist force was moving on Pusan from the west. The Division was ordered to move to the Chinju-Masan area, 150 miles from its position to meet the oncoming force. Tropic Lightning moved the distance in only one night to confront an amazed

In Vietnam, the men of the 25th have moved through many operations. There were huge operations like Junction City with 23,000 American soldiers and Attleboro plunging deep into War Zone C.

The Division has scored im-

pressive gains on the battlefield.

At Fire Support Base Gold in

March 1966, more than 600 Viet Cong died in a four-hour battle. Operation Manhattan netted more than 200,000 rounds of small arms ammunition in a month's time. In one operation in the famous Iron Triangle, seven million pounds of rice were captured.

But the 25th's successes have not been limited to the battlefield. Soldiers wearing the taro leaf patch have also won the hearts and minds of many Vietnamese people. Since arriving in Vietnam, 25th Division MEDCAP teams have treated more than 400,000 local civilians.

Since October of last year the 25th Infantry Division has continued to prove its prowess and determination.

Words like Soui Cut, Trang Bang and Tet stand out in bold type in the 27th chapter of the Tropic Lightning Division's history. Accomplishments range from the discovery of a 10,000 meter long tunnel in the Ho Bo Woods and 1,700 RPG and mortar rounds in one cache to more than 1,000 of the enemy.

Late in March in a three-day

battle near Trang Bang, almost

500 enemy were killed by the

25th Division; and in early May,

in one week in late August.

The Viet Cong planned to start 1968 off with a fantastic victory over the Allied Forces in War Zone C. Instead, when two enemy regiments charged Fire Support Base Burt on January 1, they were in for a rude awakening. Six hours later when the enemy finally retreated, they left 382 dead on the battlefield along with tons of rifles, machineguns, RPG launchers and ammunition.

Then came Tet, and the 25th Division moved to Saigon blocking infiltration routes and defending villages and hamlets.

Just hours after the first attacks started, Tropic Lightning units raced down Highway 1 to Saigon and routed the Viet Cong from the sprawling Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Other 25th units fought block by block in the Saigon area. At the end of 15 days the 25th Division had killed more than 1,000 of the enemy.

Late in March in a three-day battle near Trang Bang, almost 500 enemy were killed by the 25th Division; and in early May,

Story By
SP5 Terry Richard
Photos By
25th Div. Info. Office

nearly 300 enemy were killed in four days when Tropic Lightning soldiers pinned them against a swamp.

The third week in August, the Viet Cong attempted to overrun several fire support bases as well as more troops from War Zone C through the Tay Ninh City-Dau Tieng area. More than 900 of the enemy were killed in one week's actions including 155 killed by one infantry platoon with the help of artillery and gunships.

Since its last birthday, the 25th Infantry Division has killed more than 10,000 enemy troops, division artillery has fired more than one-million rounds weighing about 37,000 tons, MEDCAP teams have treated some 260,000 patients, and soldiers with the Lightning patch have built almost 4,400 homes for refugees of the Viet Cong attacks.

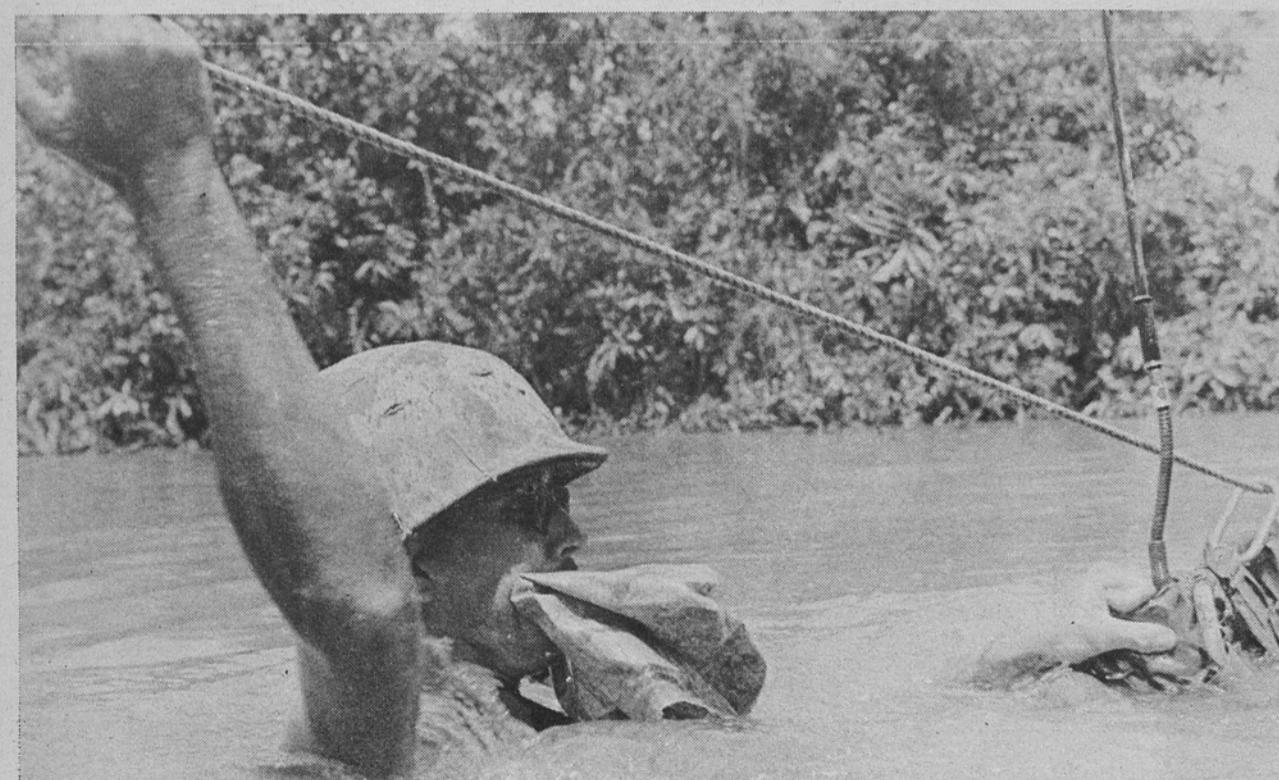
But even with these accomplishments, the Tropic Lightning Division is not looking back over the past 27 years, but forward to its 28th.



Machine gun team firepower of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, answers VC automatic weapons across the Hoc Mon canal.



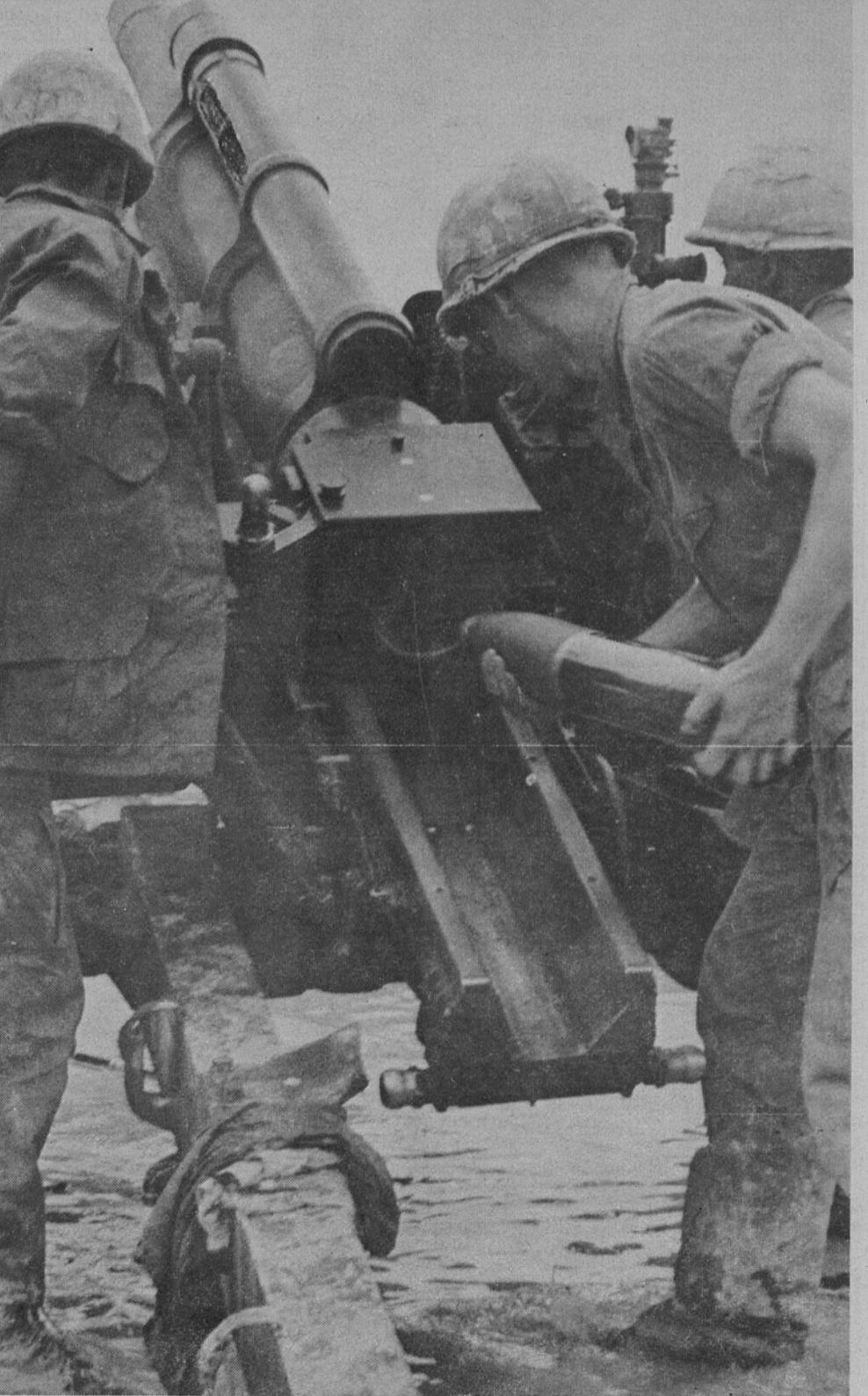
Troopers from the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, board an awaiting helicopter to return to their base camp after conducting sweep operations.



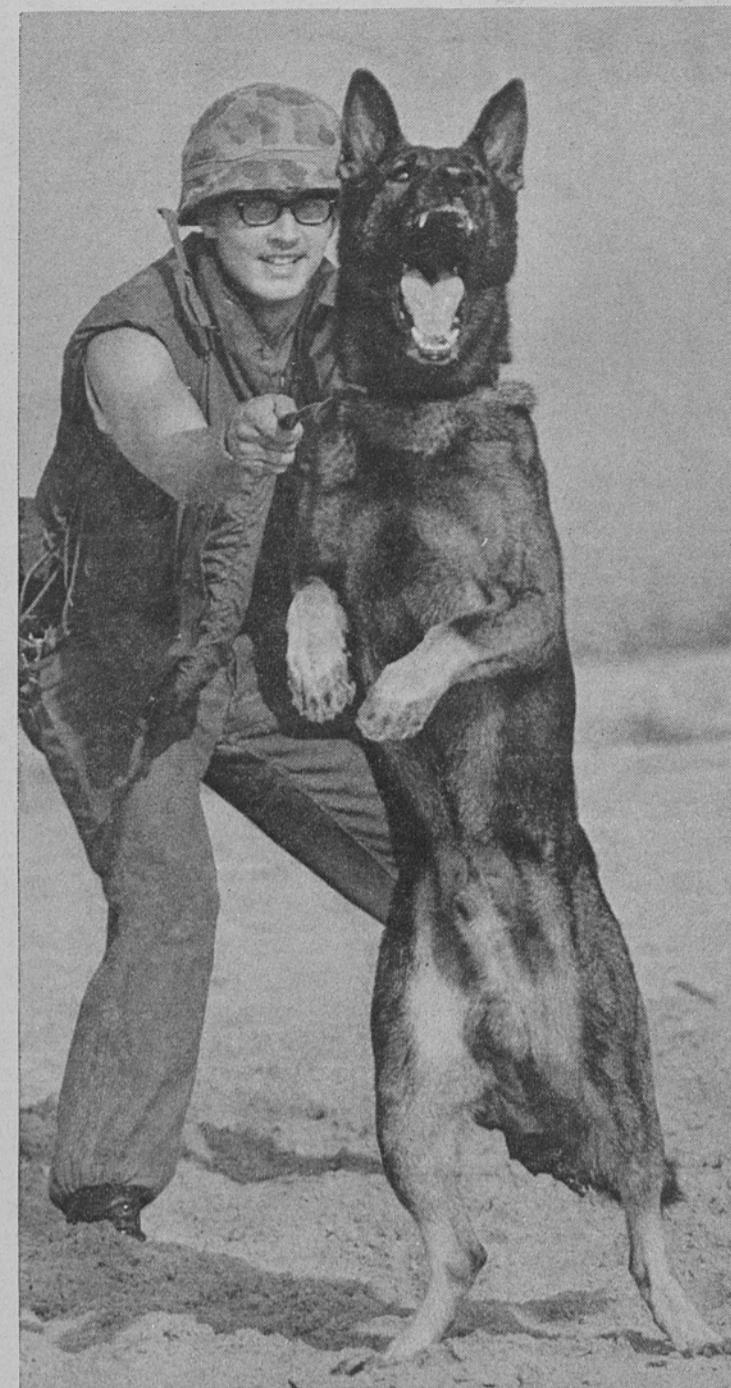
Steadying himself with one hand, a GI negotiates a deep stream.



Thick foliage doesn't stop the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, as they advance on Viet Cong positions to their front.



Cannoneers fire on VC positions from a 25th Division fire support base.



Infiltrators beware! Brandy is trained in detaining intruders.



From sunset to sunrise, the men and dogs form an integral part of the Navy's security system.

Navy Dogs On Guard

DA NANG (USN) — Silhouetted momentarily by a flare dancing under a parachute, the man and his dog wait for darkness to descend once more before moving on.

There are no quiet nights in Vietnam. Nearly always there can be heard the sounds of artillery firing—sometimes friendly, sometimes not so friendly.

An occasional chatter of a machine gun or the thump of a grenade exploding is just as common as chirping crickets in any town, U.S.A.

The only time one can be sure the noises are friendly is when the healthy sounding "whoomp" of the B-52's bombs come sifting out of the jungle. It is a reassuring sound to a man standing alone in the dark alone—that is, but for his dog.

The man and his dog are members of the U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Sentry Dog Unit in Da Nang.

Patrolling lonely outposts from sunset to sunrise, sentry dogs and their handlers guard against infiltrators who attempt to pierce the protective perimeters around various naval installations in the area.

But walking a six-hour watch in the dark of night with a dog in Vietnam involves much more than picking up "Bowser's" leash back home and taking the family pooch for a quick constitutional around the block.

The sentry dog, as well as the handler, must do three things: train, train and train.

Prior to arriving in Vietnam, the handlers (all volunteers) attend an eight-week school at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex. There they are

trained in all phases of handling and working with dogs.

The dogs, on the other hand, have been carefully screened and selected for alertness, obedience, health, spirit and willingness to work with a handler.

All this training and exercise expends a good deal of energy, so the dogs must be fed adequate rations daily. Every dog is given a three-pound mixture of meal and horsemeat early in the morning as the last shift returns from their watches.

Parasites and disease can easily get out of hand in the humid tropical climate of Vietnam, so constant attention must be devoted by the handlers to cleanliness of the dogs and their runs.

Every time a dog is taken from his cage, the cage is hosed down with water and all wastes removed. Twice weekly a strong disinfectant is used.

Handlers must also groom, bathe and dip their dogs when necessary. Dipping is occasionally required if ticks are detected.

Each day an Army veterinarian visits the kennels to give routine examinations, administer inoculations and treat ailing dogs.

As with humans, no two dogs are alike. Likewise, no two dogs will alert to danger in the same exact fashion, thus the importance of knowing just how the dog will react during various situations.

Sentry dogs are used primarily to detect intruders by sight or sound and to alert their handlers so an alarm can be given to all posts on the perimeter.

In addition as a result of rigorous training, a dog provides the handler with a veritable weapon capable of subduing an adversary in short time if necessary.

Every day the dogs are put through their training paces. Periods of agitation are given to keep the animal lively and aggressive.

Hours are spent teaching the dog to attack on command. And

equally important is the learning of general obedience—the ability to execute such commands as sit, stay and heel.

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The bell can be heard throughout this sprawling base camp as it signals the beginning of worship services in the inter-denominational chapel. It was donated by Dr. Paul H. Bell of Ridgewood, N.J.

The need for a bell was learned

through a request to Mrs. Barr Averill, also of Ridgewood, from her son, Sergeant Herbert E. Olson, a paratrooper serving in the famed "Screaming Eagles."

"The chaplain needs one that can be heard for a half-mile radius," the sergeant had written.

He pointed out that with long working hours, seven days a week, it was difficult to remember which day was Sunday.

The request was printed in the Ridgewood Sunday News. Dr. Bell saw the story and decided there could be no better future

for the bell he owned.

The bell has a history dating back to 1898. It was an indispensable fixture of a schoolhouse in the small town of Layman, in Washington Township, Ohio.

Dr. Bell purchased the bell from the school after it was shut down in the small community where he grew up. This was about 12 years ago. For several years the bell was used for calling his own children back to their house.

At Bien Hoa, division paratroopers quickly constructed a tower to protect the bell from the monsoon rains.

The assistant division chaplain, Major John E. Green, said "Our attendance has greatly improved since we have used this bell. The men hear it and are instantly reminded that it is Sunday. The chapel has been full for nearly every service."

In a letter to Chaplain Green, Dr. Bell wrote, "We hope that the conflict will soon be over and when that day arrives, I would suggest that somehow the bell be left as a symbol of our interest in the Vietnamese People, and perhaps it can serve a continuing use as a chapel bell for them also."

The ARVN medic, Sergeant To Va Luong, and his nurse, Huynh Thi Quy, were threatened by the local Viet Cong before the paratroopers arrived. They were told not to help the villagers or they would be harmed.

"At first the villagers seemed a little afraid and hung back, waiting for a few others to take their shots," said the medics' supervisor, Staff Sergeant John S. Koop. "Then, when they saw that it didn't really hurt for too long, they started coming in a little faster."

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"We then went to the village and found there was a small medical aid station already established by the Vietnamese government," the captain said. "It was staffed by an ARVN medical specialist, who had been there for six years, and a nurse, who had been there for 10 months. They knew that the shots were needed for everyone and gave us their aid station as a base of operations."

Captain Holland ordered the vaccine and arranged for the

medics to give the inoculations to the villagers.

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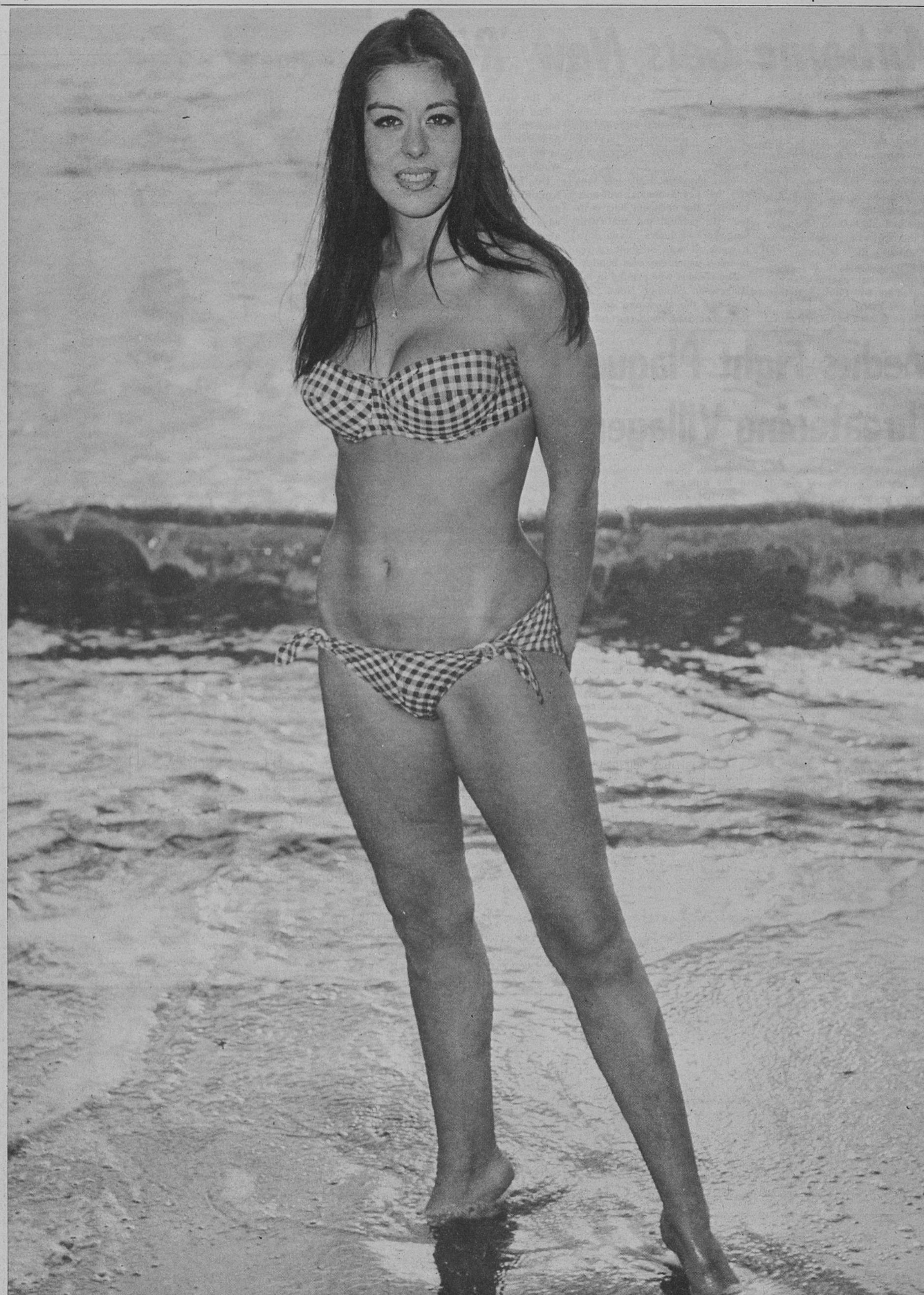
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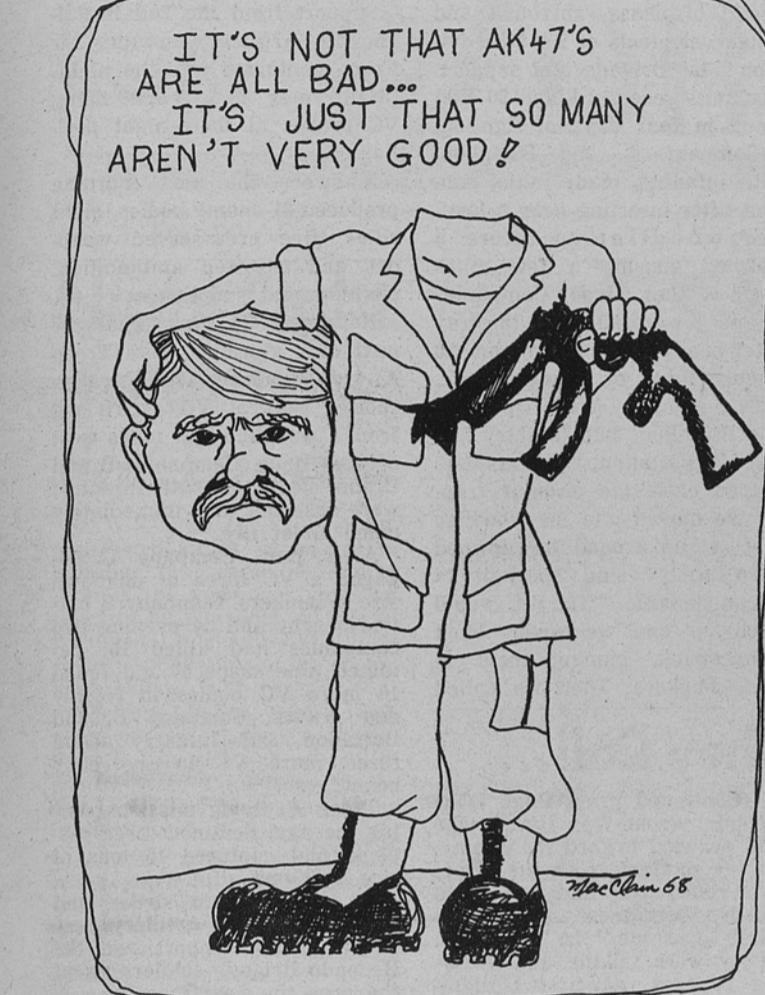
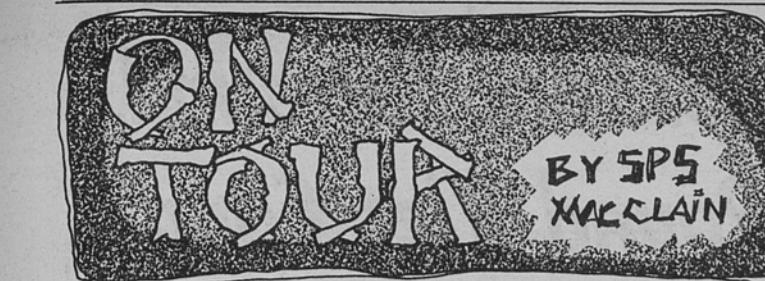
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BUNKER BUNNY—The person who designed the gingham plaid bikini certainly had our beauty of the week in mind. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Dance step
- 4-Barracuda
- 8-Insect
- 11-Clean
- 12-Scene of first miracle
- 13-Fish eggs
- 14-Printer's measure
- 15-Period of time
- 17-Fragments
- 19-Stitch
- 21-High mountain
- 23-Scottish cap
- 24-Fomer Russian ruler
- 26-Prefix: before
- 28-Pinochle term
- 31-Tear
- 33-Native metal
- 35-Ocean
- 36-Saint (abbr.)
- 38-Climb down
- 41-Hebrew month
- 42-Stroke
- 44-Golf mound
- 45-Plunge
- 47-Word of sorrow
- 49-Man's nickname
- 51-Bird's home
- 54-Small rug
- 56-Obstruct
- 58-Beverage
- 59-Platforms
- 62-Soak
- 64-Spanish article
- 65-Lubricate
- 66-Sleender
- 68-American ostrich
- 70-Confederate general
- 71-Part of camera
- 72-Still

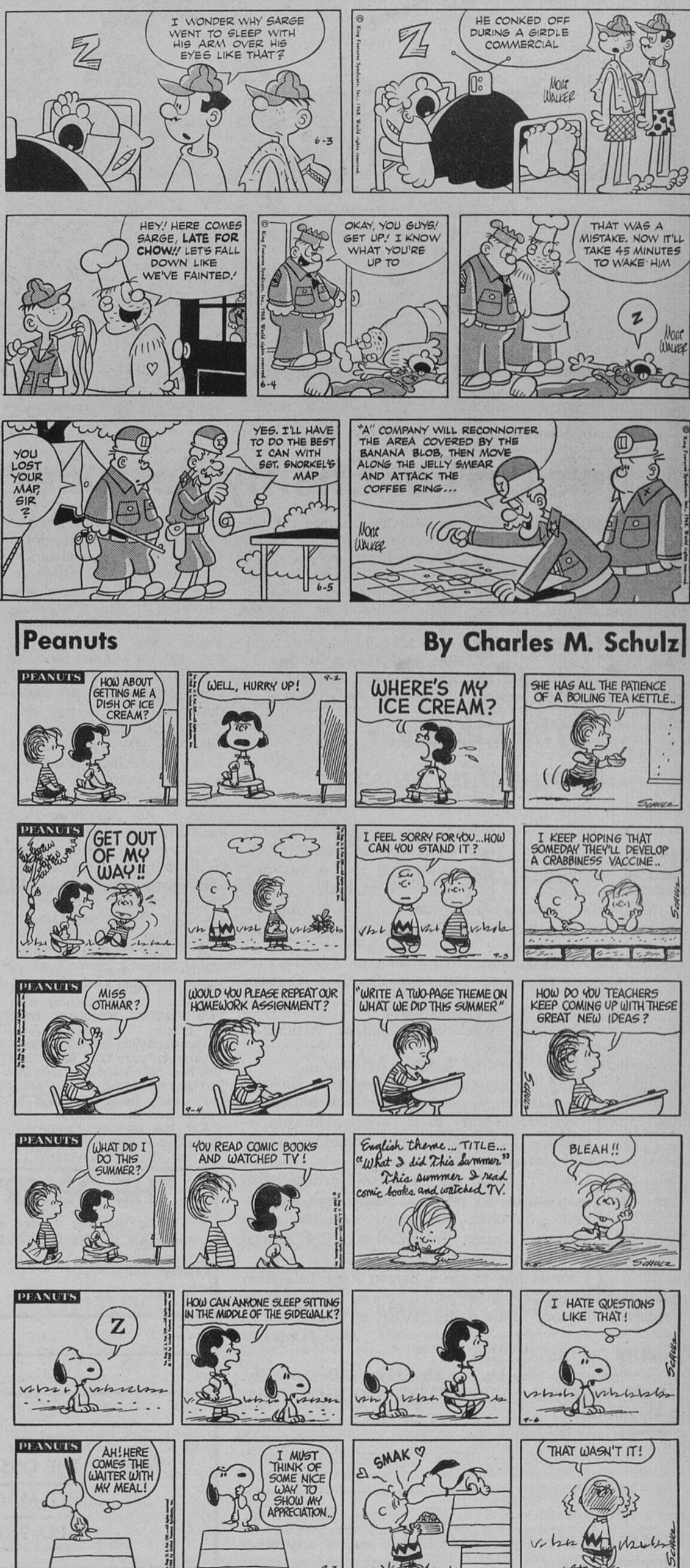
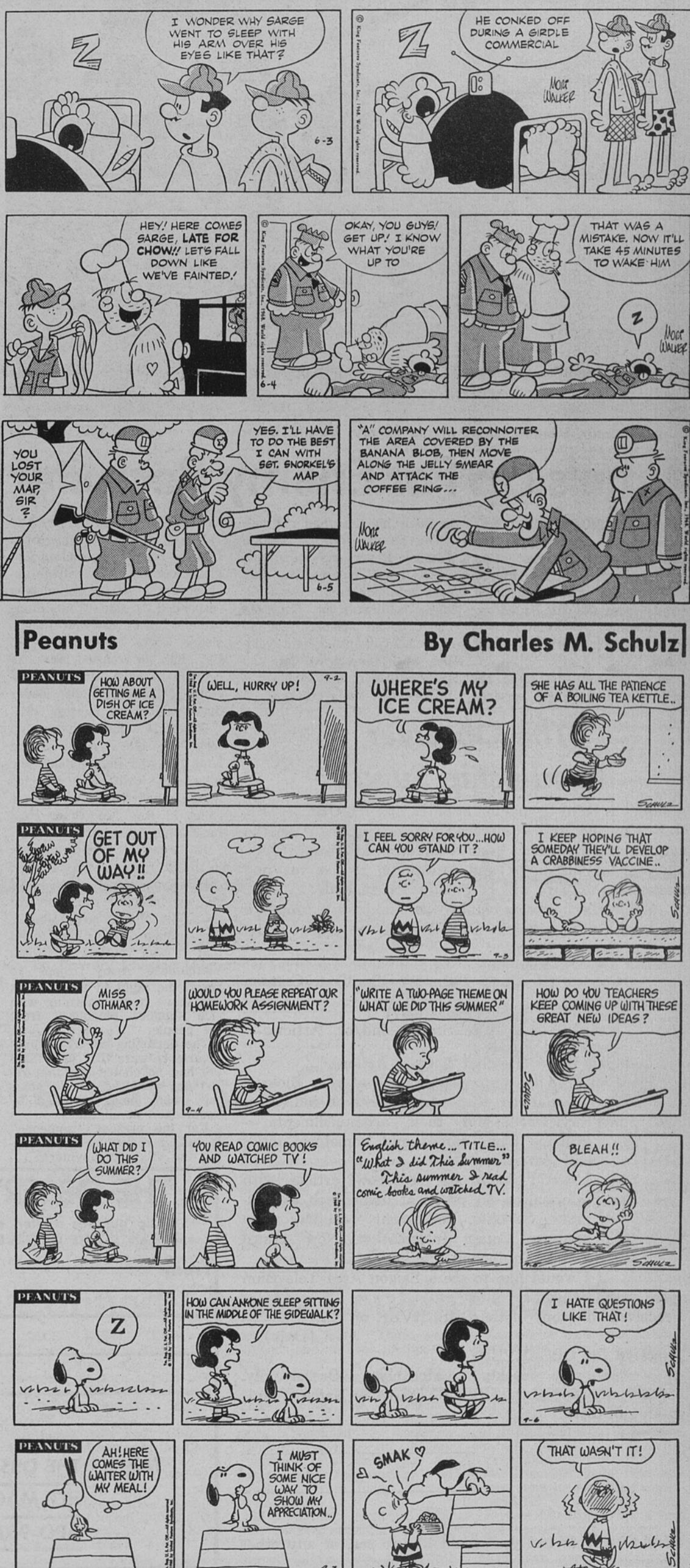
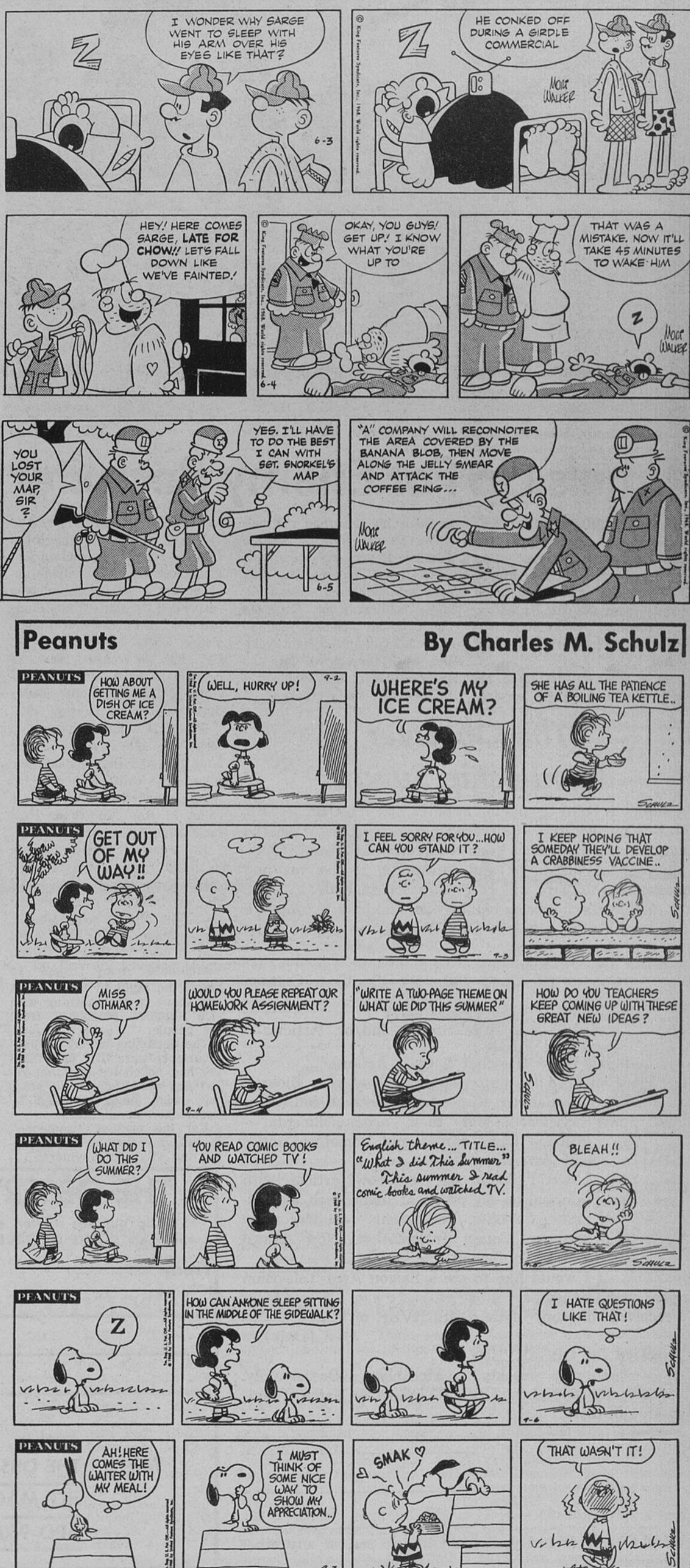
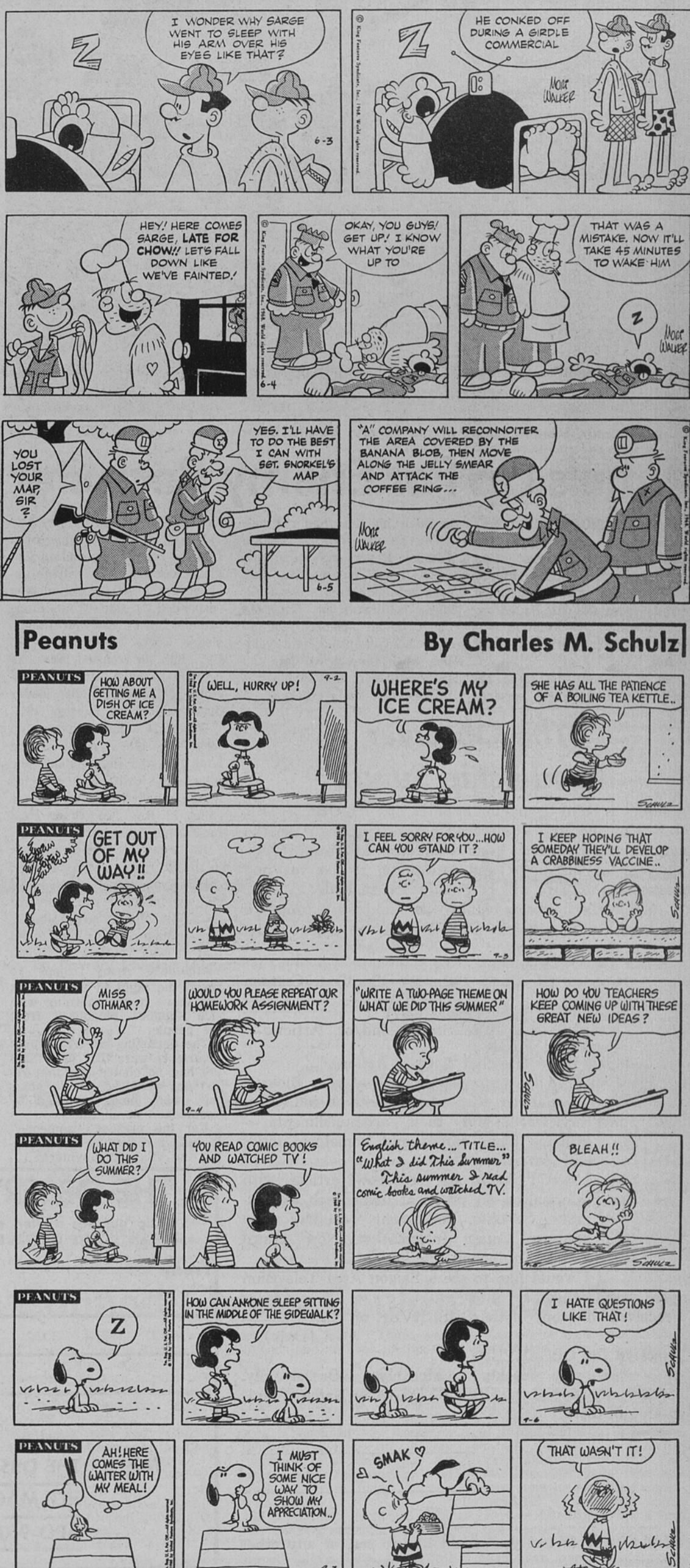
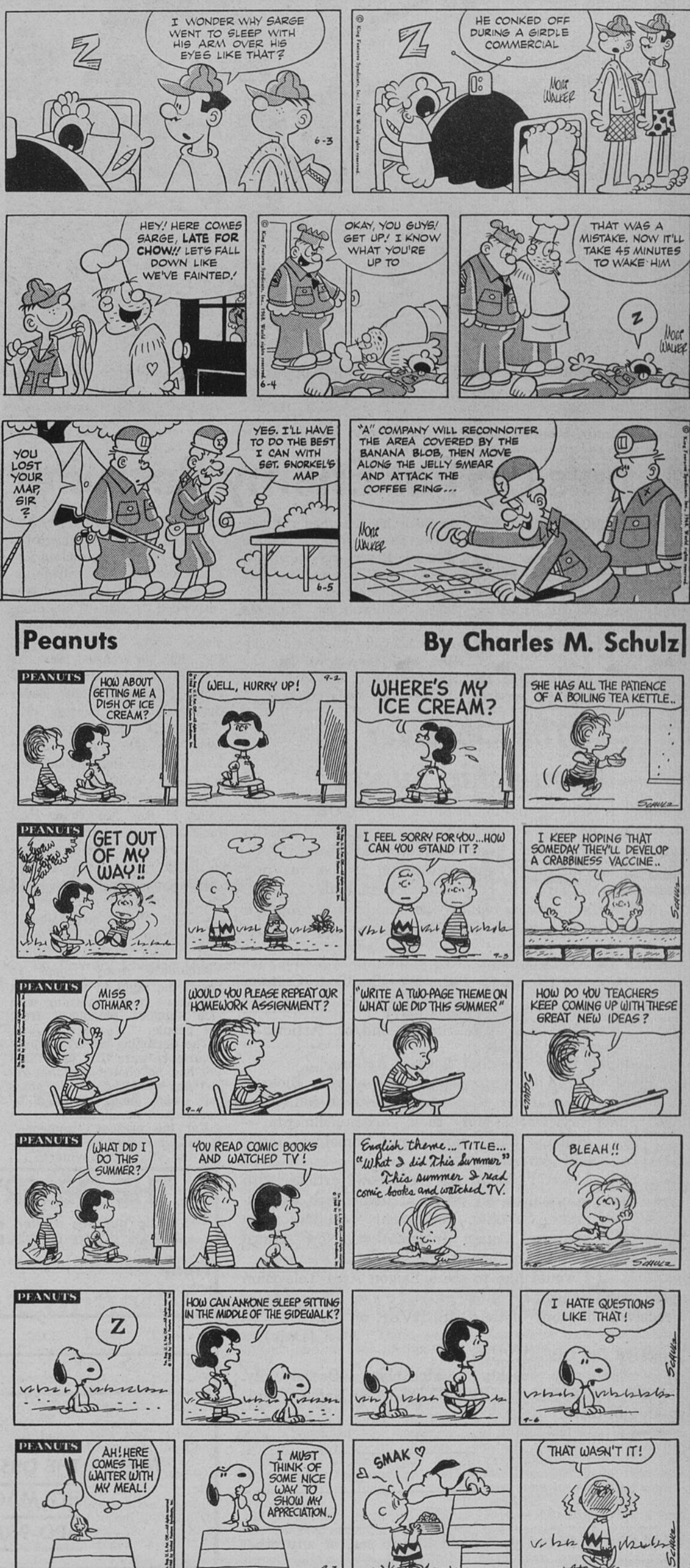
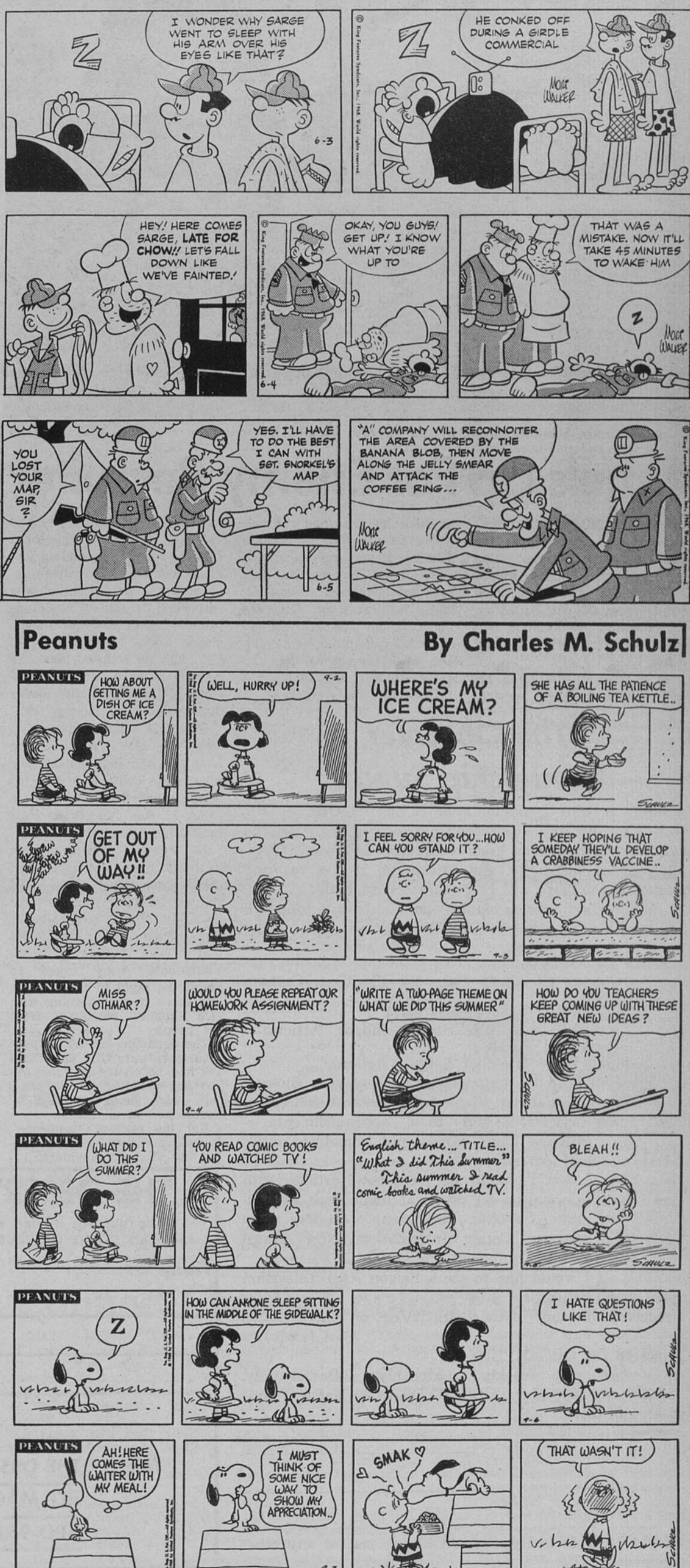
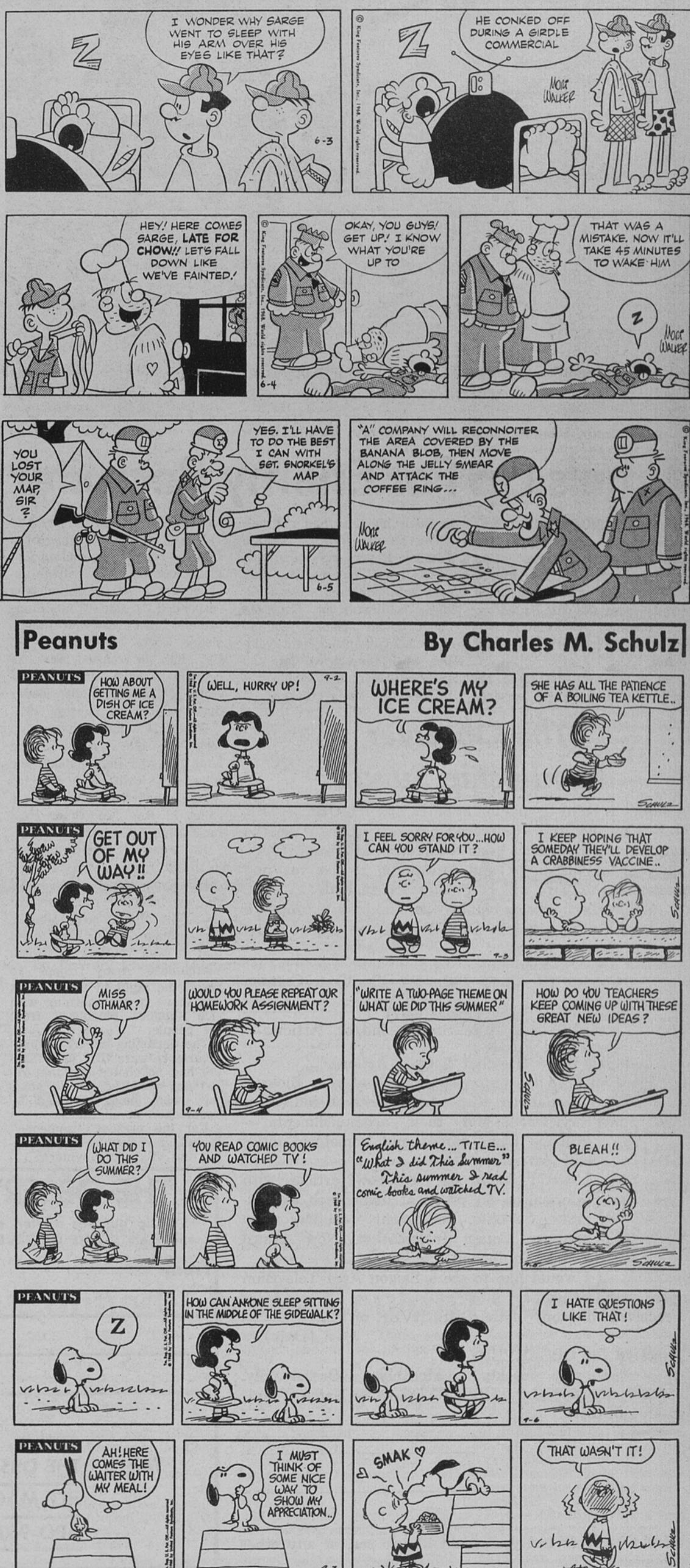
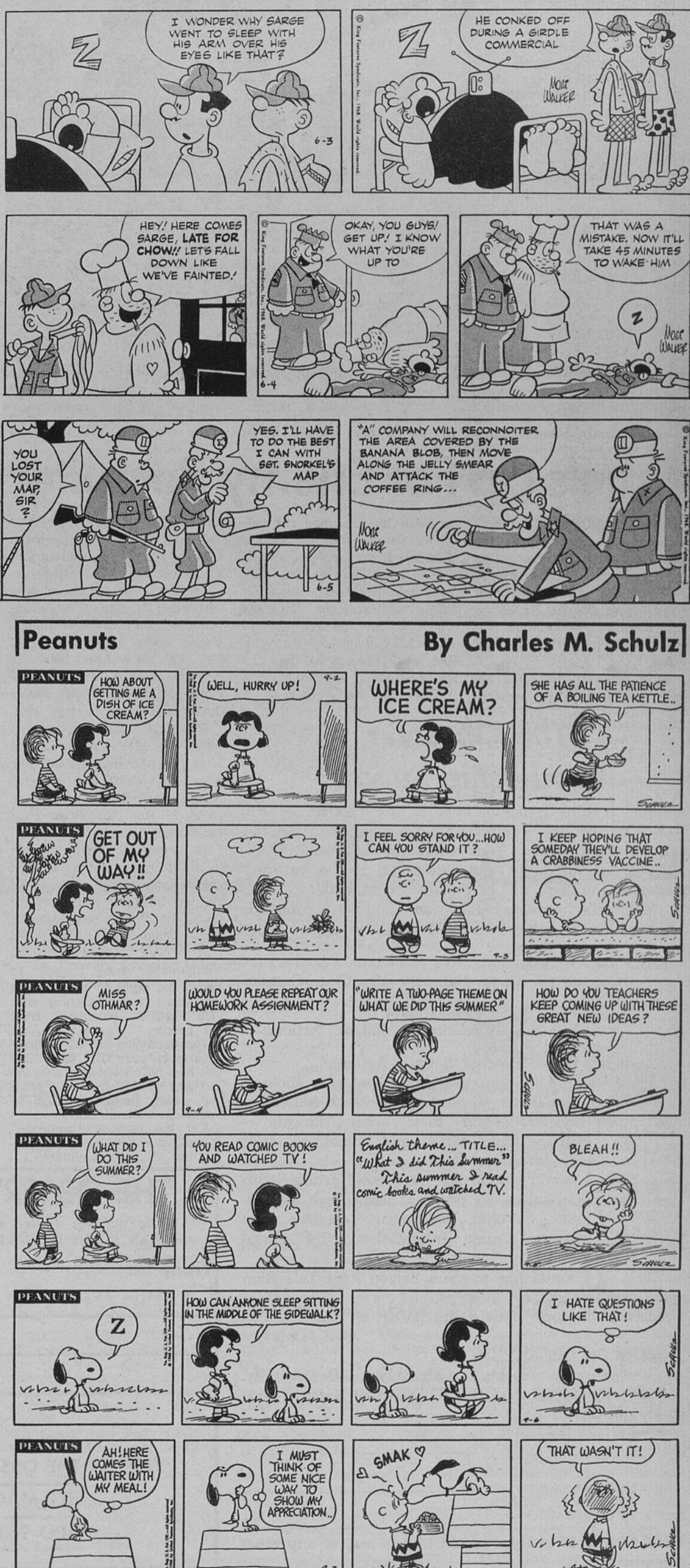
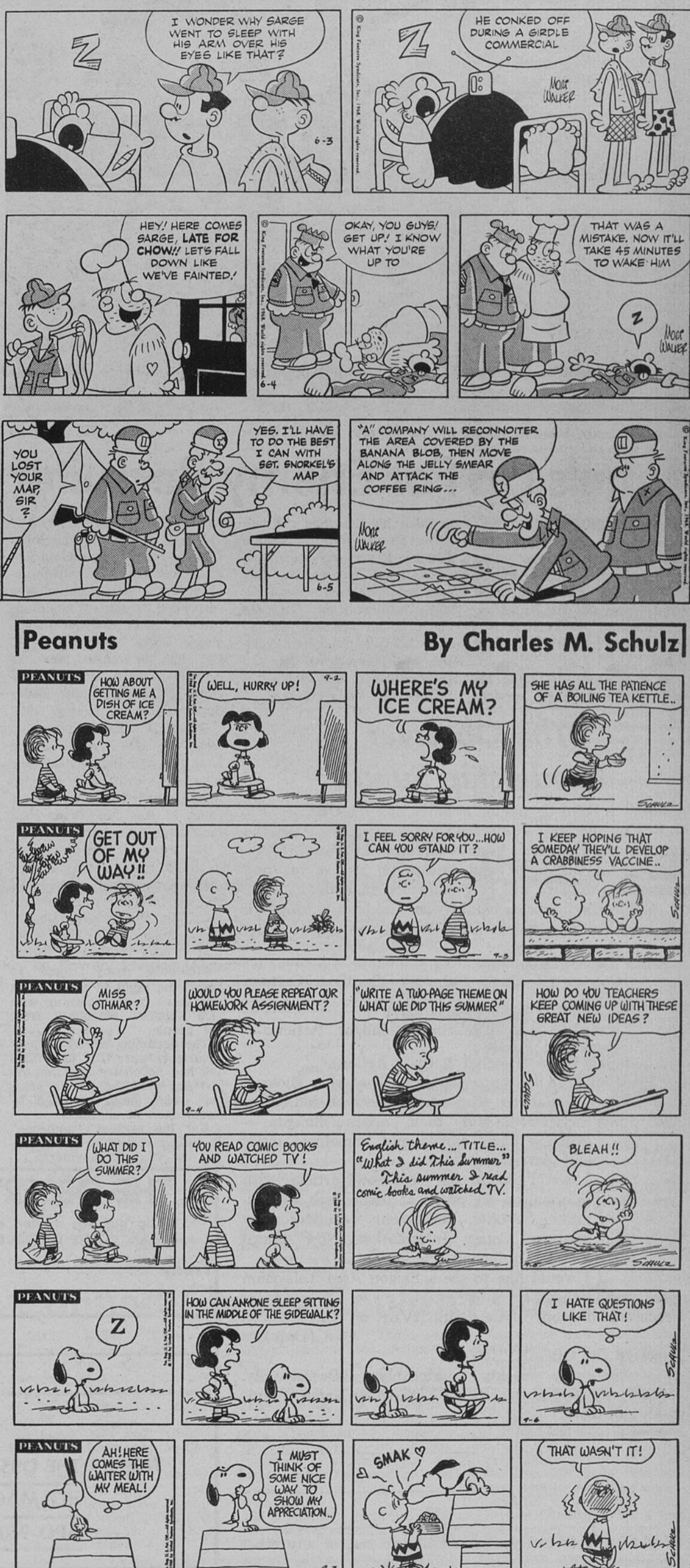
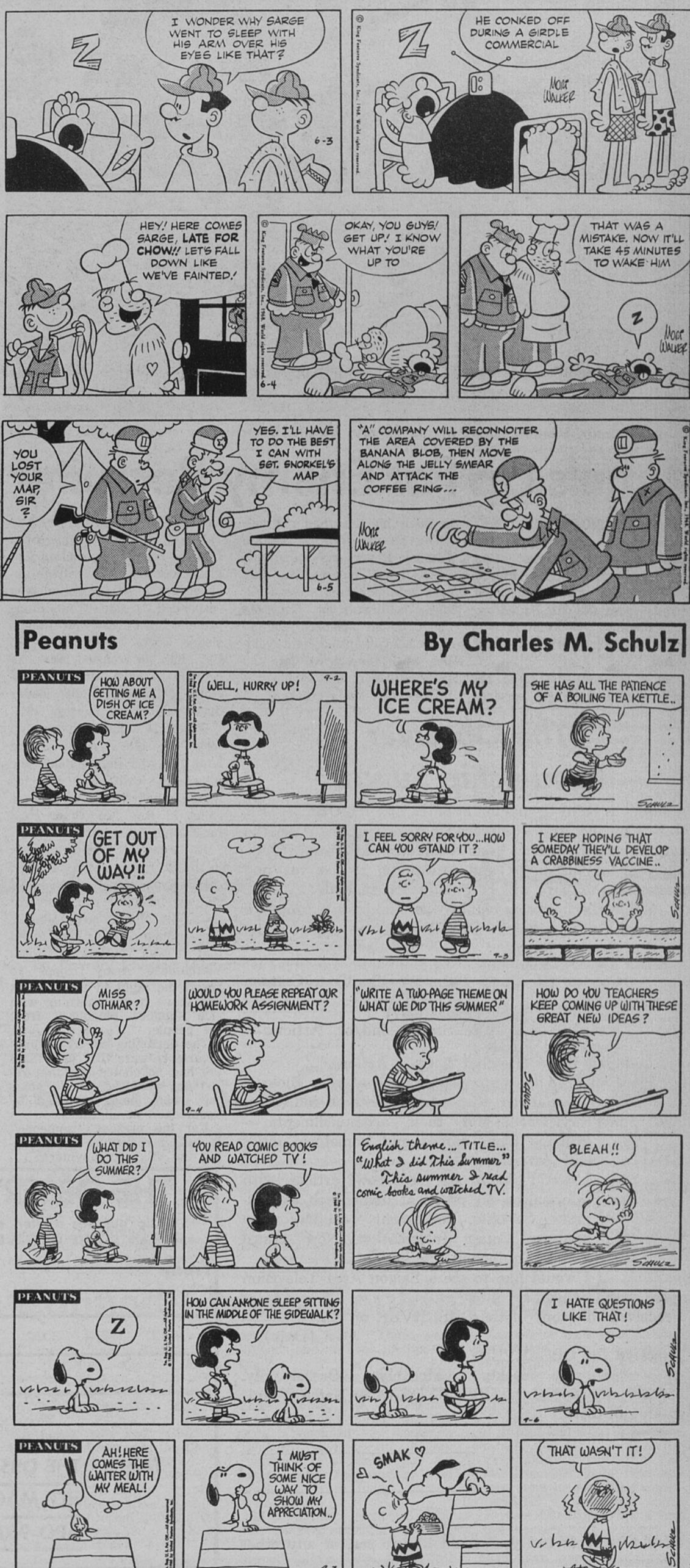
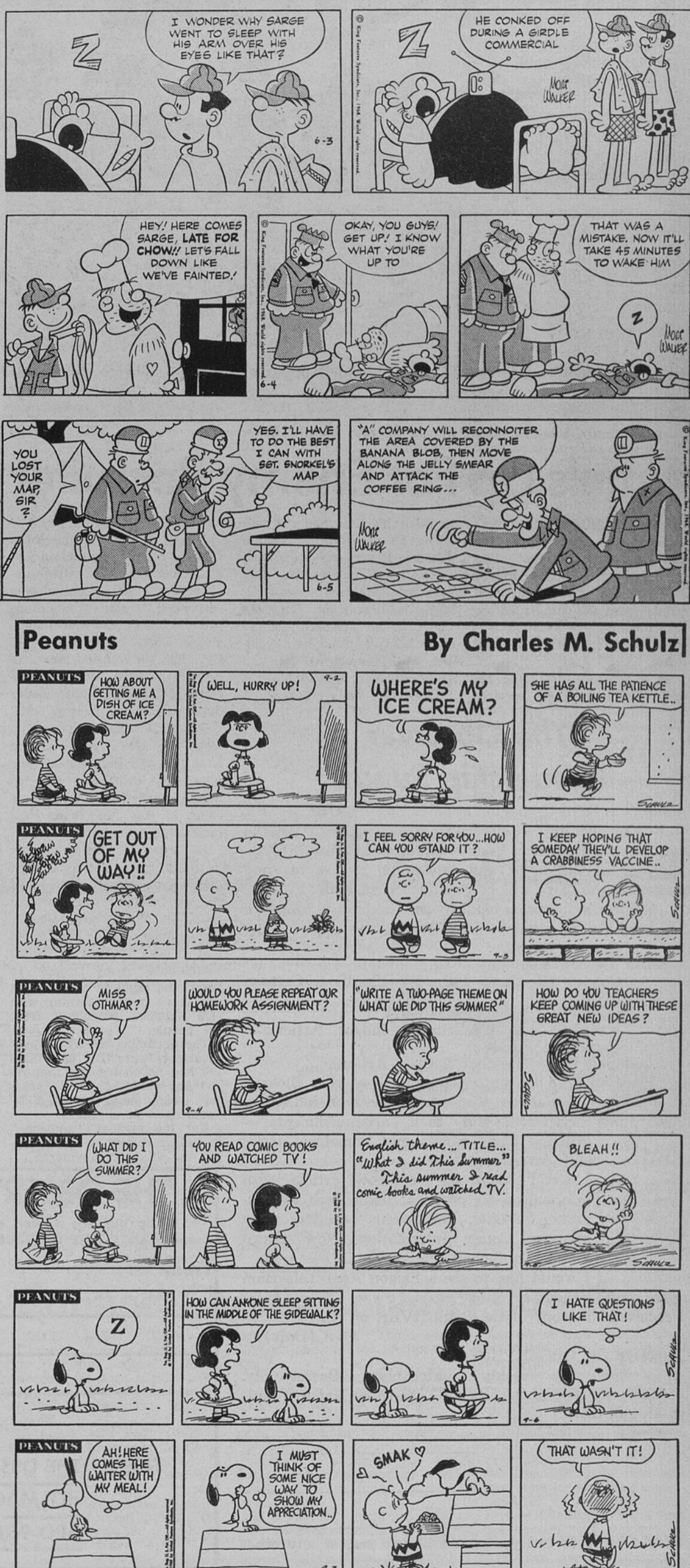
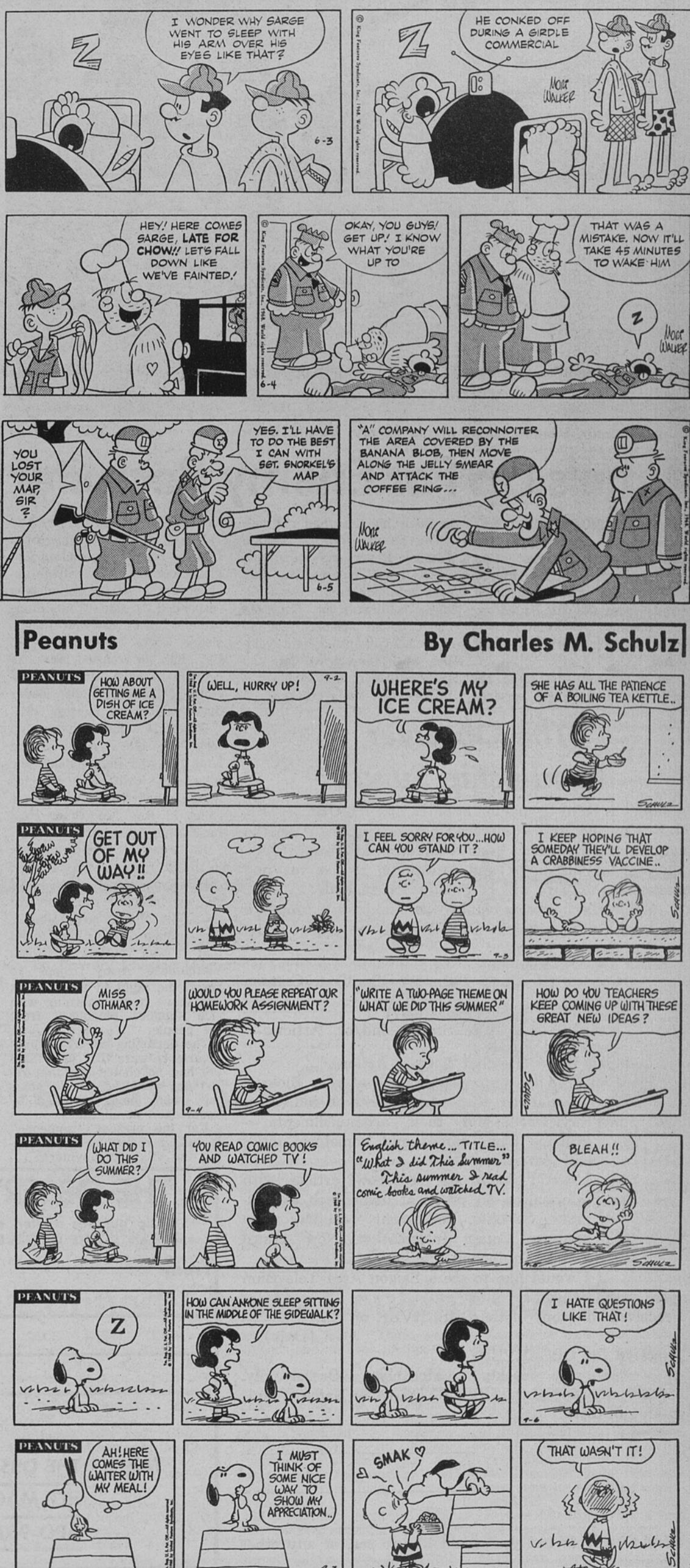
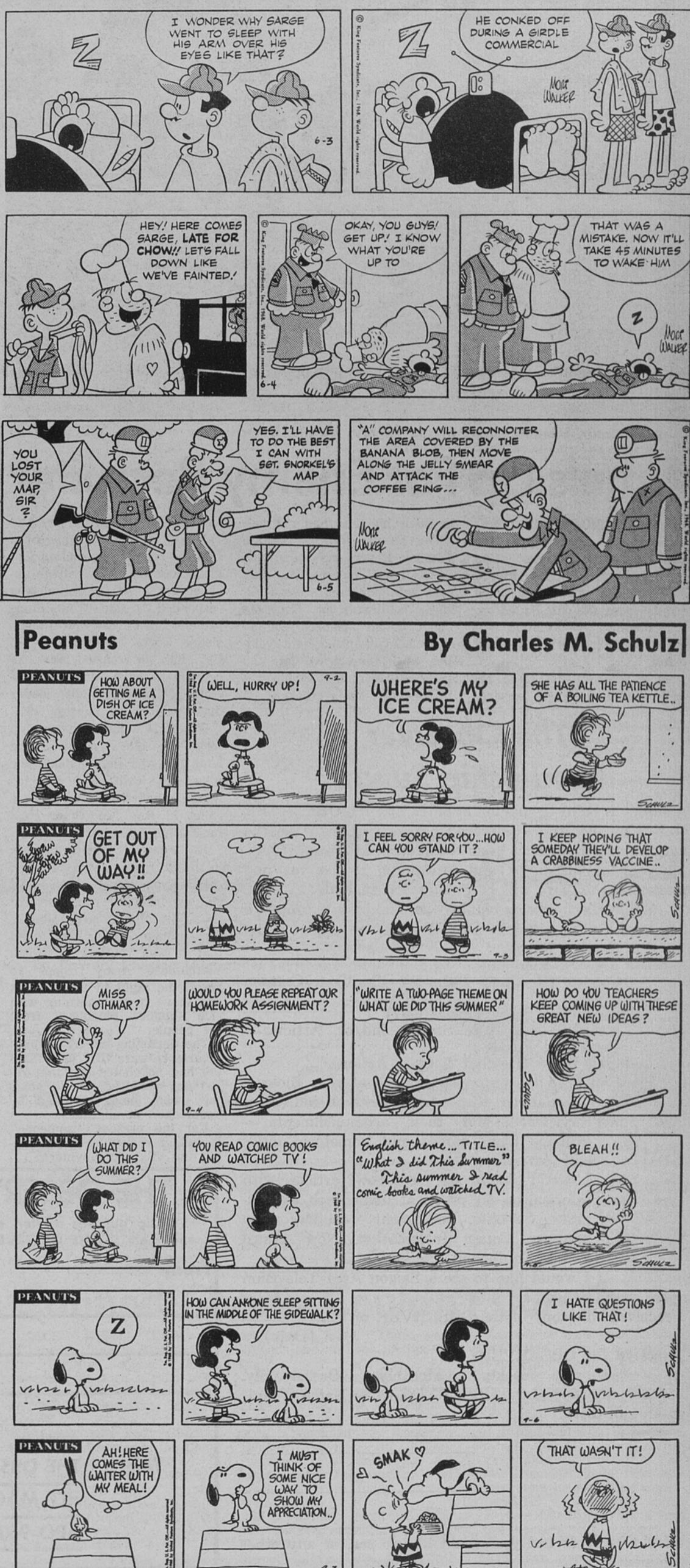
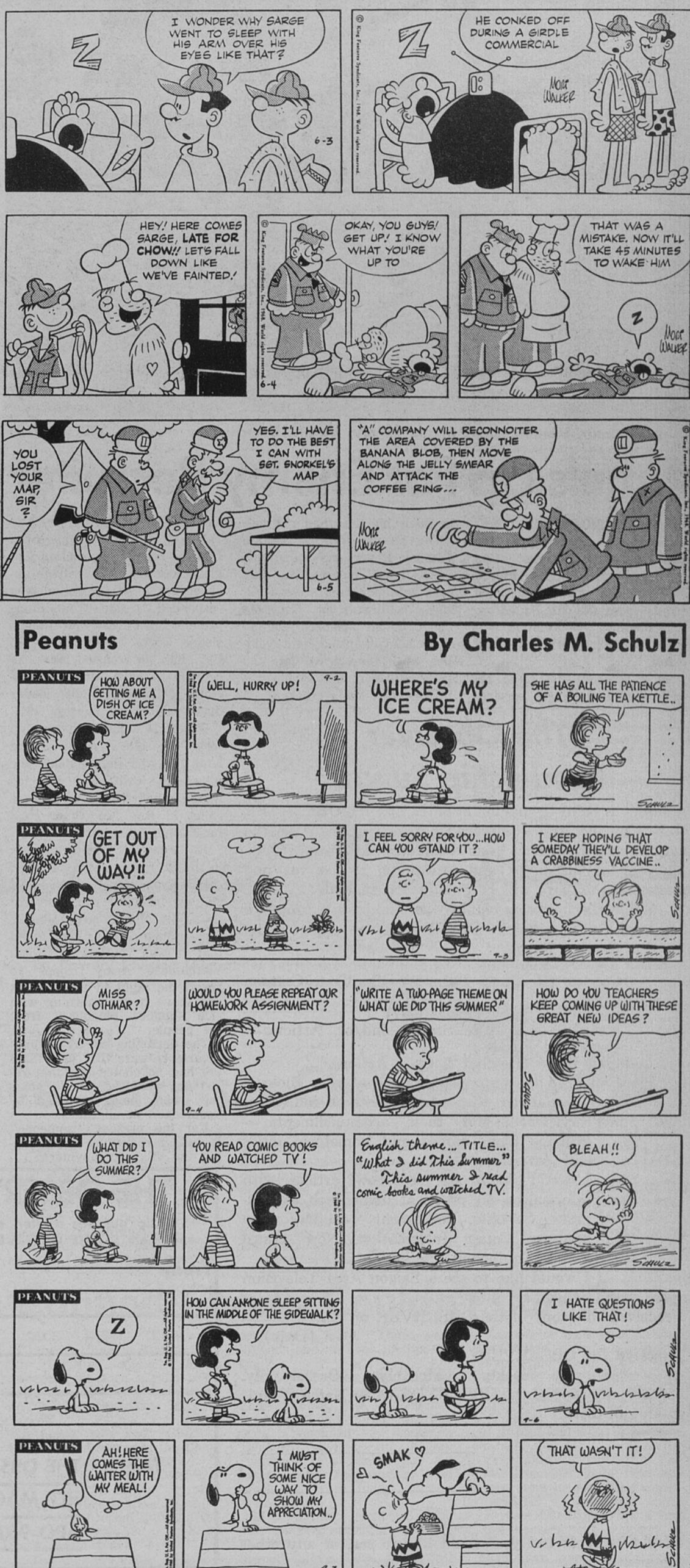
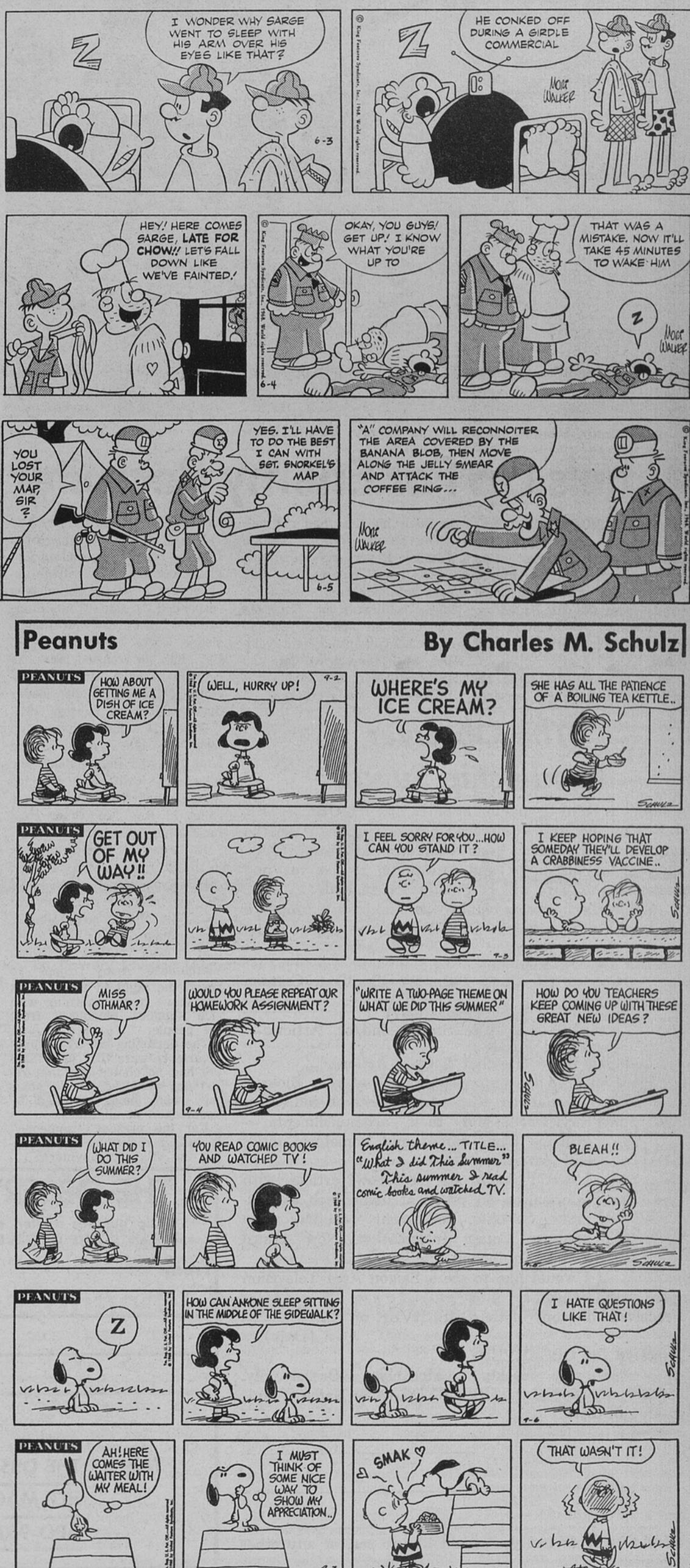
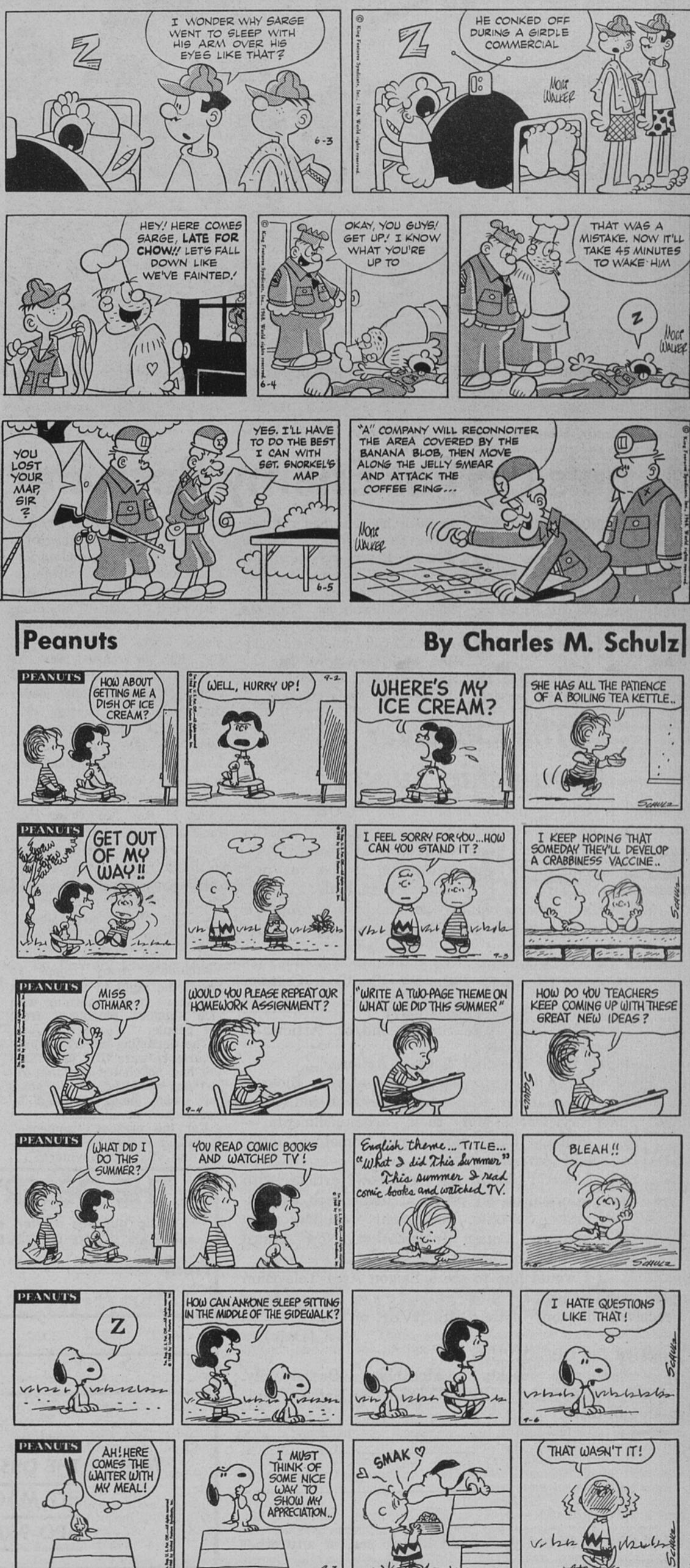
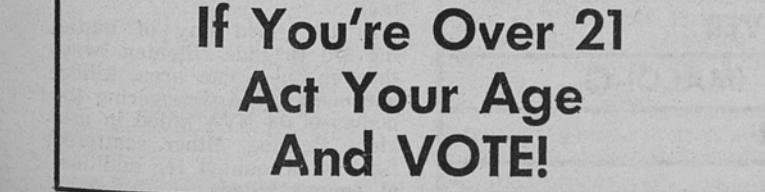
PET	F	A	I	N	T	G	A	R	H
AIR	A	L	T	R	P	R	A	I	S
PRAISE	V	E	N	I	E	V	E	N	I
6-Abstract being	E	N	I	E	N	A	E	N	I
7-Diplomacy	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
8-Picture holders	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
9-Cut	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
10-Affirmative	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
11-Direction	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
13-Sun god	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
14-Printer's measure	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
15-Period of time	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
17-Fragments	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
19-Stitch	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
21-High mountain	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
23-Scottish cap	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
24-Fomer Russian ruler	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
26-Prefix: before	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
28-Pinochle term	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
31-Tear	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
33-Native metal	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
35-Ocean	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
36-Saint (abbr.)	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
38-Climb down	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
41-Hebrew month	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
42-Stroke	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
44-Golf mound	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
45-Plunge	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
47-Word of sorrow	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
49-Man's nickname	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
51-Bird's home	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
54-Small rug	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
56-Obstruct	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
58-Beverage	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
59-Platforms	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
62-Soak	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
64-Spanish article	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
65-Lubricate	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
66-Sleender	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
68-American ostrich	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
70-Confederate general	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
71-Part of camera	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I
72-Still	N	E	N	E	N	O	E	N	I

DOWN

- 1-Sheets of glass
- 2-Conjunction

Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 28

If You're Over 21
Act Your Age
And VOTE!





A recon scout, alert for signs of the enemy, awaits extraction by chopper. (USA PHOTO)

Time's Up For Enemy Recruiter

DRAGON MOUNTAIN (USA)

The man squatting on the dank ground of a grass hut in the village of Chi Lang offered no resistance as reconnaissance scouts from the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade, took his briefcase and pistol.

As a veteran Viet Cong recruiter with six years service,

he knew his time had run out. The scouts, led by Captain Anthony Hoyer, the squadron's Delta Troop commander, had been reconnoitering several villages southwest of Ban Me Thout in an armored column of 20 heavily-armed light vehicles when they drove into the quiet village of Chi Lang.

Three rifle shots cracked and

as the scouts leaped from their vehicles, six men disappeared into the dense, surrounding jungle. A search of the village uncovered the VC recruiter who responded to the scout interpreter's questions with impassioned words of loyalty to Ho Chi Minh. In frenzied tones, he boasted to have been an associate of the Communist leader during the early days of 1945.

Within 20 minutes a gunship from the 17th's Alpha Troop landed in the field outside the village and airlifted the detainee to the squadron's forward base camp in Ban Me Thuot East for further interrogation.

The recruiter's effectiveness in the area was apparent when the reconnaissance armored column checked out several nearby Montagnard villages. The village chiefs remarked that it was routine for North Vietnamese Army troops to spend the night in the villages and leave in the morning with rice supplies plundered from the people.

The departing enemy's words invariably were that the villagers had no choice and that resistance would be suicidal since they were being watched by "someone" at all times.

For the present, "someone" is neither recruiting nor watching the villagers anymore.

1. Fill in the following blanks with numbers 1 through 8 according to your favorite OBSERVER newspaper item.

- Combat News
- Viewing Vietnam
- Comics (Beetle & Peanuts)—On Tour Cartoon
- Pinup
- Centerfold Story (Pages 6&7)
- Vietnamese Feature Stories and/or, Articles
- Crossword Puzzle
- Unit News (Combat & Civic Action)

2. Place an X in the appropriate block of your choice.

yes no I would like to see more news on individual servicemen and their accomplishments — utilizing more names and hometown cities and states.

yes no I would like to see more news articles with information on practical items such as Veterans Benefits, retirement benefits, state bonuses, Voting Information, New Armed Forces Equipment, etc.

yes no I would like to see a Saigon Area Television Schedule.

I received this copy of the OBSERVER on _____ (Date)

I receive the OBSERVER:

Weekly Monthly Occasionally.
I receive my copy of the OBSERVER from: Name of Unit or area of dist.

REMARKS: (What you would like to see, or any other comments)

Soldiers Surround, Pound Viet Cong

TAN AN (USA) — Using the tactic of chase, surround and pound, elements of the 9th Division's 1st Brigade and supporting units recently killed 90 Viet Cong in four days of fighting.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, made initial contact after inserting near a fortified woodline to secure a downed gunship a few miles west of Can Giuoc. Companies B and C were added to the fray after heavy fire erupted from an enemy force of unknown size.

One company each from the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry and the 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry, helped close the circular trap.

"We moved into the woodline and set up around the downed chopper," said Specialist 4 Glenn Sanville. "The VC would open up and we would blast them back, pinning them in their bunkers. Then we called

They Call...

(Continued From Page 1) except "Wrong-Way Riaz", who had crawled toward the enemy. He lay motionless on the slope.

"I rolled over and saw seven North Vietnamese soldiers climb past me," he explained. "They were talking and throwing charges. At first I didn't recognize them because they had helmets and web gear like any GI."

Illumination went up and Specialist Riaz could see the NVA above him as they were silhouetted against Gun 1. He lay still in the elephant grass and buried his face when they began retreating off the ridge. Holding his breath, he heard them dragging something.

"All of a sudden," he said, "I felt somebody tug on my leg. I just let him pull."

After dragging him about five feet down the slope, the North Vietnamese abandoned their "casualty" as they evidently realized this was not one of their men.

Specialist Riaz remained where he was "dropped" until his gun chief called out from the ridge. He yelled back not to shoot and went up the slope.

"What happened, man?" someone asked. But "Wrong-Way Riaz" knew they wouldn't believe it.

THE OBSERVER Survey

(Clip out this mailer, attach it to the survey and send them to THE OBSERVER Newspaper.)

From:

FREE
'IN COUNTRY'

To: THE OBSERVER

HQ MACV (MACOI-C)

APO 96222

in artillery and air strikes."

Support from the 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery, and the Air Force continued into the night. Infantrymen beat back many VC probes at their night positions.

A sweep the next morning produced 31 enemy bodies, eight rifles, five crew-served weapons and assorted ammunition, clothing and supplies.

Returning to the area the next day, gunships from Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, spotted several VC running from a woodline four miles west of Can Giuoc. Companies B and C, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, were inserted and immediately came under fire.

At 2 p.m. Company C engaged a VC force of unknown size in bunkers. Company B battled nearby and by evening two companies had killed 15, detained nine suspects and found 10 more VC bodies in freshly dug graves. Company B, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry added three more VC to the body count.

Troop A, flying missions during the day, detained three suspects and captured 15 tons of rice and one rifle.

As night fell, air strikes and 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery were called in for support and the Recondo Brigade soldiers swept the area the next morning.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, found three dead VC and four small arms during their search. The Recon Platoon, 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry, which had received heavy fire during the night, reported finding 10 dead VC, 70 Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) boosters, seven RPG rounds and 2,000 rounds of small arms ammunition. During the afternoon, Troop A killed four and captured one rifle.

101st, 82nd . . .

(Continued From Page 1) infantrymen assaulted the bunkers, driving the NVA back again. A sweep the next morning revealed 92 enemy killed and four heavy machine guns captured.

In a second major engagement, paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, under the operational control of the 25th Infantry Division, received fire from an estimated enemy platoon near Trang Bang, northwest of Cu Chi.

During the afternoon of the first day of battle, the enemy unit expanded to a reinforced company and an additional 3rd Brigade company was moved into action.

Sweeping the area of contact, the paratroopers found the bodies of 86 enemy killed during the first encounter. Also, 17 suspects were detained and another battalion element apprehended six more after receiving heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire, four miles north of the main area of contact.

In the third day of battle, the 3rd Brigade riflemen swept through the same area, killing one enemy and discovering the bodies of 16 NVA killed in previous fighting. Other scattered fighting accounted for additional enemy killed.