

Duc Lap Battle Costs Enemy 800

FIRST IN VIETNAM

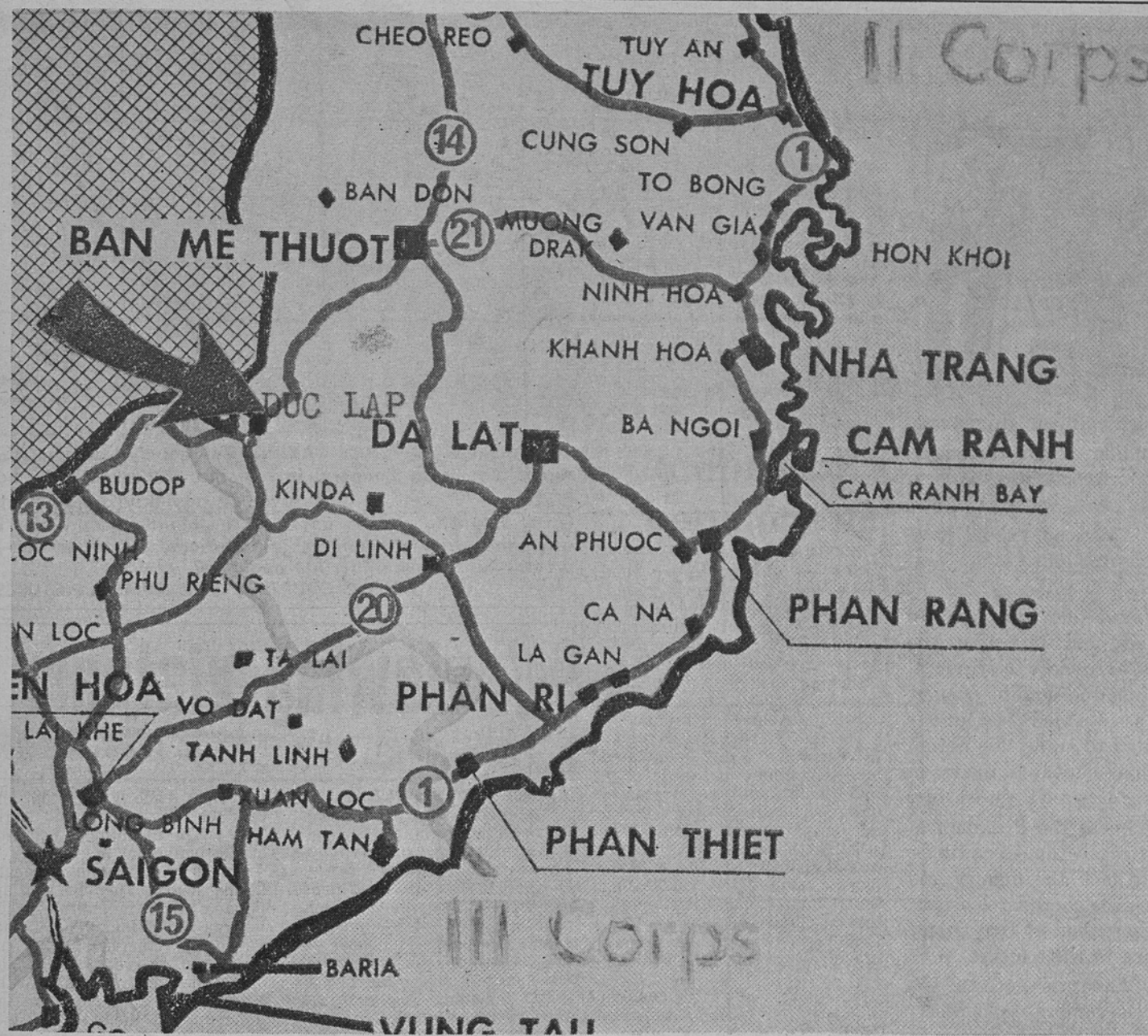
The

OBSERVER

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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)

Editorial

Strictly U.S.A.

Americans are currently engaged in that quadrennial phenomenon unique in the annals of political history and practice—our national elections.

This is not to say that other countries don't have national elections or that they are either more—or less—effective than those in the United States.

It is to say that our elections and the processes leading up to them are, to say the least, different.

Starting with the first Presidential Primary early in the election year, our populace is hallooed, hammered and harangued with the pleas, promises and protestations of potential presidents.

The show really gets on the road with the major party conventions. These are a combination of a Ziegfeld Revue, the World Series, a TV spectacular, the Constitutional



Convention and a Fourth of July picnic all rolled into one.

From these emerge the final candidates, selected on the basis of popular support by the majority of individuals in that particular political party.

Then until election day, the American people have the chance to concentrate on the opinions, views and policies of the major candidates.

By way of newspapers, radio and television, we are able to study, dissect, question, sift and determine the candidates' views on everything from aardvarks to zymurgy. From the mass of information, claims and counter-claims, we are able to arrive at a decision as to which man, in our own opinion, would be best suited to guide this nation in the coming four years. The final choice is made on election day when we exercise our right as a citizen to vote.

There may be better ways to choose the President of the United States—no system is perfect. Although at times, our presidential campaign seems to lack the dignity and solemnity of the high office to which the candidates aspire, the campaign process is the free expression of free people exercising their right to have a voice in their future.

Although the campaign may have its entertaining aspects, it's a serious business. Use the coming weeks wisely so you can make an intelligent choice on election day.

Our system may not be perfect, but it is certainly the best history has produced. Choice, even under a possibly imperfect system, is far better than no choice at all. (AFPS)



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Just In Case
You Have
Not HeardArmy Pin-on
Insignia OK'd

WASHINGTON — Worldwide Army wear of the new pin-on insignia worn on enlisted uniforms was authorized on July 1, with mandatory wear of the metal insignia scheduled for July 1, 1969.

The pin-ons have been okayed for wear on the field jacket, tropical combat uniform, cotton sateen utility uniform and wool OG shirt.

In addition, pin-on insignia of grade are authorized for wear on the utility and pile cap in lieu of distinctive insignia. Pin-ons are authorized too for cooks, medics, and enlisted women's white duty uniforms.

The insignia is to be worn on both collars, point up for NCOs and arc up for the specialists. The center of the insignia will bisect the point of the collar, allowing one-half inch space between the lower outside edge of the insignia to the edge of either side of the collar.

Three pairs of the pin-ons will be issued to each enlisted man.

Old Faithful
Streamlined

WASHINGTON — The soldier's old and faithful traveling companion, his intrenching tool, is getting a major face-lifting.

At the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories, Natick Mass., engineers have developed a new intrenching tool that is lighter, more compact and more versatile than the standard one.

The new, streamlined model is currently being evaluated here in Vietnam and in development tests elsewhere. Researchers report it is getting a favorable reaction in the field.

The lightweight shovel trims a full pound off the current four-pounder. It has a folding metal handle and packs neatly into a carrier 9½ inches long, eliminating the exposed handle of the current 20½-inch-long tool.

The handle is "D" shaped, designed to improve the efficiency of its primary job: digging.

Its blade is designed to pierce the soil and sever roots with less effort than that necessary with the present tool. One side of the blade has a serrated edge and the opposite side is sharpened to an ax edge for cutting roots and clearing light brush. The point of the blade is designed to act as a pick when necessary. (ANF)

Servicemen Giant Step Closer

WASHINGTON—Military and dependent drivers are a giant step closer to having all 50 states recognize their operator permits from sister states.

At a recent meeting of the National Committee of Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances overwhelming agreement was reached to include two Inter-Service Group (ISG) measures in the Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC) to benefit servicemen and dependents.

The committee updated the UVC by including provisions to encourage states to recognize a valid driver license issued by another state to a military spouse or dependent. The other measure would allow a



SORRY MEN BUT SHE'S TAKEN—Gorgeous Diane, wife of Agent 007 (Sean Connery) in real life, is "tough" like her husband—"tough" to turn down on any day! Miss Cilento is not only a talented actress, but the blonde beauty also is an author with a couple of publications under her belt—would you believe under her negligee? (PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES)



By ILT DAVID BOUDREAU

"Confucius say . . ." Yes, we've all heard this little phrase before. But who was this fellow called Confucius? Sure, we know that he was a Chinese philosopher who lived a long time ago. Few of us, however, know much more about this man whose teachings have exerted a profound influence on Asia, including Vietnam, for over twenty centuries.

Confucius was born in Shantung China in 551 BC. Because his father died when Confucius was only three, he spent his youth in poverty.

Confucius Founds School At 19 Confucius became an overseer of public lands. A few years passed before Confucius married. Shortly after his marriage Confucius resigned his position as overseer and started a

school to teach government and conduct, illustrating his early interest in the ethical behavior of the individual in society.

For 29 years Confucius taught at his school. Then he was appointed town magistrate when he was 51. In four years he advanced to chief justice of his state. So impressed was the state ruler, Duke Ting, with the teachings of Confucius, that the duke applied them to his state and greatly improved the living conditions of his people.

Confucius The Wanderer Seeing how much good he had accomplished here, Confucius resigned his public office once again, this time to spread his teachings to other states. For 13 years he wandered throughout China, going from state to state, teaching his ideals.

At the age of 68 Confucius returned to his home to devote the rest of his life to writing. His works include the "Analects," better known as the "Sayings of Confucius."

Confucian Influence After Confucius' death in 479 BC, his followers continued to teach his philosophy. In 140 BC, Emperor Han Wu-Ti made Confucianism the state religion of his Chinese people. Confucius' ethical system spread throughout Asia with the growth of Chinese influence. His teachings continue to have a deep significance in the personal and public lives of millions of Asians.

"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

THOMAS JEFFERSON

RF/PF Forces
Team With U.S.

TAY NINH (USA) — A U.S. 25th Infantry Division 1st Brigade unit and four Vietnamese Regional and Popular Force companies made a heli-borne assault along the Vam Co Dong river, and killed 10 enemy when they trapped an estimated Viet Cong company. The Allied forces also captured 54 enemy 82mm mortars on the operation four miles southwest of Go Dau Ha.

The 1st Brigade's Combined Reconnaissance Intelligence Platoon (CRIP) and the Tay Ninh Provincial Recon Unit (PRU) assisted the Vietnamese soldiers as they pushed into the enemy's well-fortified stronghold.

The contact began as the fifth wave of choppers bearing CRIP and Pru soldiers landed into ground fire. With a tremendous volume of fire the Vietnamese charged the first woodland as the 1st Brigade unit moved to sweep the western river bank.

Working the eastern side of the river, the four Vietnamese

RF and PF companies engaged the enemy in a five-and-one-half-hour pitched battle as nine air strikes pounded the Viet Cong's dug-in positions.

The two forces came upon an uncompleted Viet Cong base, finding enemy medical supplies and blowing two tunnels with hand grenades. The 1st Brigade soldiers then moved through heavy undergrowth to a canal. Making use of two sampans, the troops crossed the waterway and continued to sweep the VC-infested area.

As a result of the operation, nine boxes, each containing six 82mm mortars with fuses, were discovered along the river by the CRIP. They also captured 300 pounds of polished rice and several enemy documents and destroyed five sampans and three Viet Cong "hooches."

The four Vietnamese RF/PF companies killed 10 enemy in their battle and captured a sampan with an inboard motor, 10 outboard motors and 500 pounds of rice.



A sweep mission gets underway as CRIP soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division move out.

AF Pilots
Clean-Up
30 VC

CAM RANH BAY (USAF) — Air Force F-4 Phantom crews of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cam Ranh Bay air base, killed 30 Viet Cong in an enemy base camp, north of Saigon.

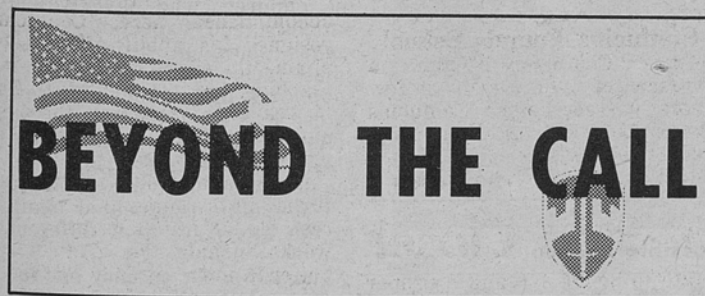
Colonel James H. Hoag Jr., deputy commander of operations for the 12th TFW, led the flight on the immediate close air support strike. First Lieutenant Thomas McKay was the colonel's pilot and Major Edward D. Goetze commanded the wing Phantom.

The target was in a small valley, 10 miles southeast of Bu Dop Special Forces camp, which 12th TFW pilots helped save last December.

The forward air controller, who directed the flight, gave an initial battle damage assessment of four bunkers uncovered and two secondary fires. The battle damage of 30 killed by air was forwarded after friendly ground troops moved into the area.



Eureka! CRIP members check 82mm mortars they found.



BEYOND THE CALL

★ ★ ★
SILVER STAR
★ ★ ★
Anderson, Leon L. MAJ USA
Anderson, Warren J. MAJ USA
Beisel, Charles C. CPT USA
Chase, Jack S. CPT USA

★ ★ ★
BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE
★ ★ ★
Finch, James T. MAJ USA
Howell, Michael M. SP 4 USA
Mace, James E. CPT USA

★ ★ ★
Powers, Dana SSG USA
Rummel, David J. SFC USA
Towle, Harold J. SFC USA
Voss, James W. SFC USA
White, Hubert SP 5 USA

★ ★ ★
ARMY COMMENDATION
MEDAL WITH "V"
DEVICE
★ ★ ★
Crumm, James R. MSG USA
Huett, Judson L. Jr. 1LT USA
Means, Dwight L. SGT USA
White, Mervin L. CPL USA

Rock-Hurling 'Enemy'
Harass Navy Builder

DMZ SOUTH (USN) — Rock-throwing monkeys would probably be humorous to watch anywhere except at a forward landing zone when one is busy clearing landing sites for helicopters to use in replenishing the Army and Marines located there.

According to Equipment Operator Constructionman Raymond M. Beczkowski, the monkeys ventured from their domain in the surrounding hills to harass him while he was attached to the forward outpost for two weeks.

More than once the Seabee experienced the monkeys using him for target practice as he performed his clearing operation. But, "if you just ignore them, they'll generally leave to amuse themselves elsewhere," he said.

The location of the landing

zone is in the northernmost section of South Vietnam, near the demilitarized zone. Working high on top of a hill, the Seabee could see across into North Vietnam.

Constant harassment from the enemy was the primary concern of the navyman. However, it wasn't unusual to receive a few "incoming," rocks of course, from the monkeys venturing into the area from the surrounding hills. At night they frequently set off trip flares and booby traps along the camp perimeter in their quest for food or possibly just to see if the guards were alert.

Asked if he would like to return to the outpost, Seabee Beczkowski stated, "sure, the only way you could tell us apart was by looking at my tattoo and the Army and Marines treated me great."

PFC 'Faces' Enemy
Twice In One Day

DA NANG (USMC) — "We just stood there and stared at each other for a few seconds; I didn't realize what had happened." It was the second time in one day that the Marine had come face to face with the enemy. It was the last time either of the enemy soldiers ever came face to face with him.

Private First Class Charles R. Manning, a rifleman with the 26th Marine Regiment, spoke of a recent incident that took place on Operation Allen Brook.

PFC Manning, along with the rest of his squad, was moving along the base of a mountain when he spotted three North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers hiding in a ravine. One of the enemy was preparing to fire a rocket propelled grenade

at the column of Marines. The leatherneck fired first, hitting the NVA soldier who was aiming and routed the other two. As the Marines continued through the thick vegetation in search of the escaped enemy, PFC Manning spotted blood. He looked up the trail and 10 meters away saw another enemy soldier.

He was surprised to see the soldier so close and froze for a split second, but not long enough to let the NVA trooper get the drop on him. The PFC fired a short burst from his M-16 rifle killing the enemy.

Two North Vietnamese soldiers at close range in a matter of a few minutes was enough action for one day as far as the PFC was concerned.

Wash. Voters

Voting regulations for the state of Washington: Apply for your ballot by mailing the FPCA card to the Secretary of State, Olympia, any time before September 17, election day. Your ballot must be in on or before the 17th and reach election officials no later than 15 days after the general election. The affidavit date on the return envelope will serve as the voting date for U.S. Armed Forces personnel. Registration for election will be accomplished at the same time you apply for your absentee ballot. Residence requirements are: one year in the state, 90 days in the county and 30 days in the city or voting precinct.



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

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 heal-

ing 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-by.

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.

"I guess you might say I fell into a good thing," he quipped. "But, my buddies should get the credit. If it weren't for them, I might still be down there holding that foot."

A member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, PFC Richardson was awarded a three-day R&R and promoted to SP4 on-the-spot for his experience.

In addition to the doctor, the paratroopers found the cave entrance which proved to be an NVA hospital.

the surprise of his buddies who pulled him out, he had hold of a bare ankle and foot clad in a Ho Chi Minh sandal. The leg belonged to a very surprised NVA doctor.

"Wow, what an experience!" exclaimed PFC Richardson. "They had lowered me right on top of this guy. Lucky for me he was as surprised as I was and not armed, or I'd have been in a world of hurt."

A bit later and a lot more relaxed, the paratrooper joked about the incident.



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.

But, to the PFC's surprise and

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

excellent. Also, he has lived several places in Vietnam. His family originally came from Hanoi in 1954 with thousands of other anti-Communist refugees. He attended high school in Hue and later moved south to Saigon."

Making no predictions about the length of the war, Thieu is, however, saving his money and working out the details of his dream.

"When the war is over," he says confidently, "I'll be ready to go."

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.

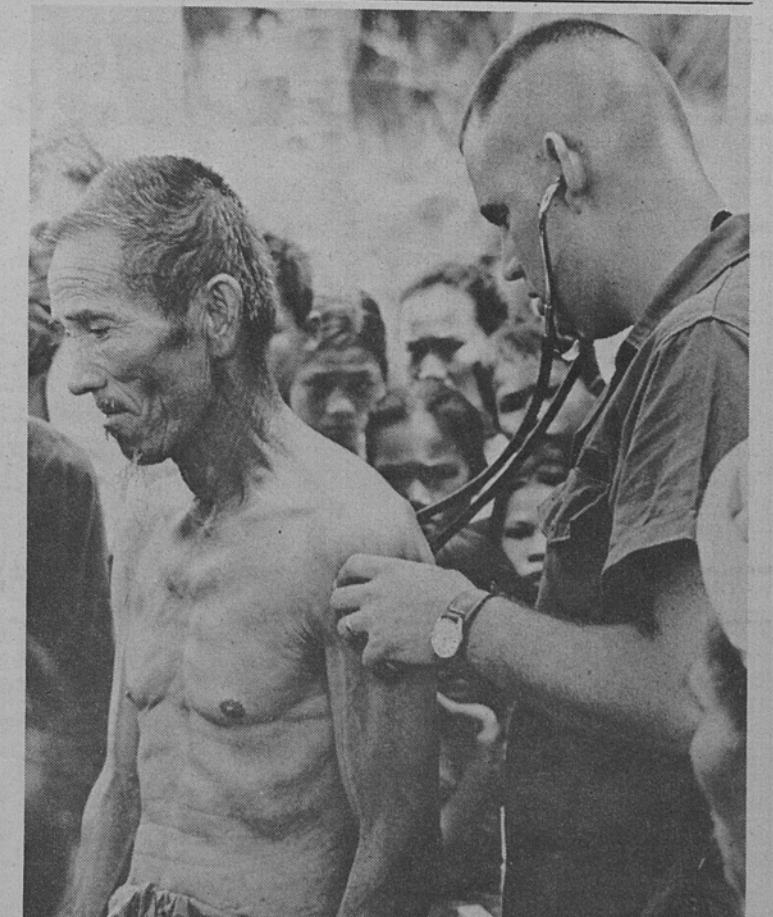
The leaflets are printed in Vietnamese and recommend sanitary procedures and inform the villagers their government will reward them for information concerning Viet Cong movements.

He also orders all the PSY-OPS materials for Coastal Division 14, including pre-recorded messages in Vietnamese that the Swift boats use. The messages are broadcast over loud speakers as they patrol the coast line, and consist of current events, news and music. They urge the villagers to support their government in the fight against the Viet Cong and Communism.

Story & Photos
By
JOI 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



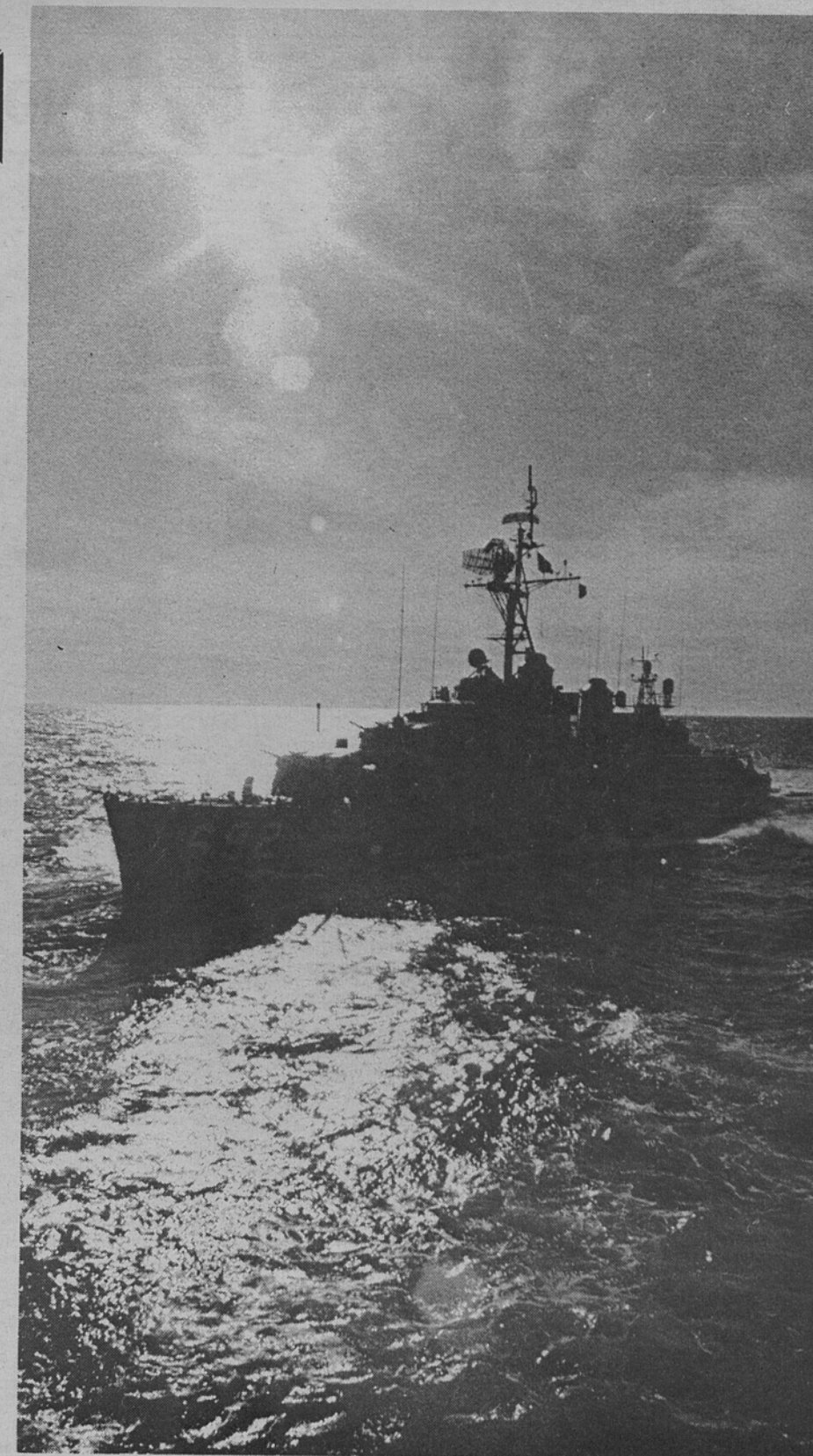
Steaming alongside the Pacific service force ship Sacramento, the nuclear powered attack carrier Enterprise prepares to resupply off Vietnam's coast.



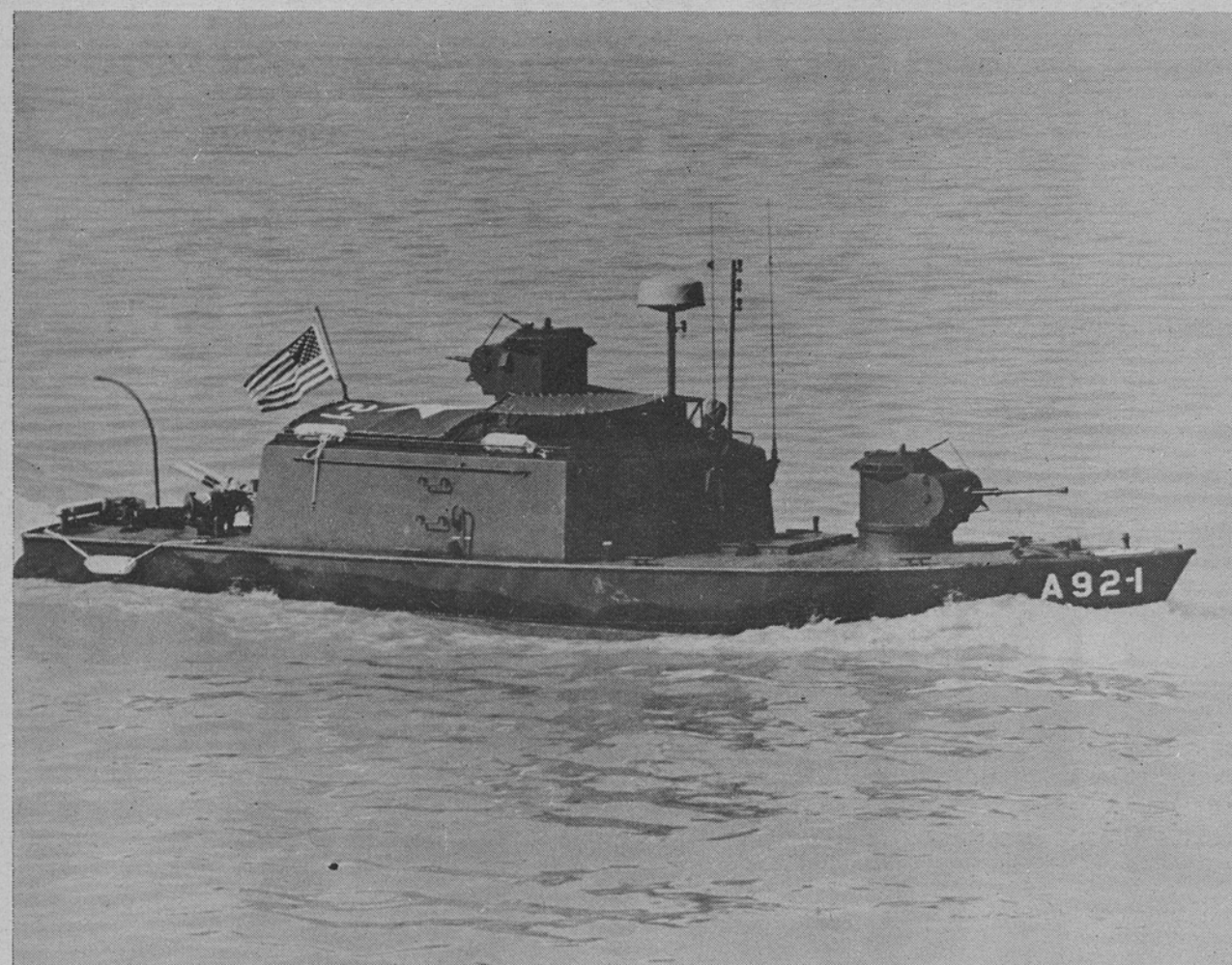
River patrols, a common sight on RVN's inland waters, pose a big threat to VC river crossings.



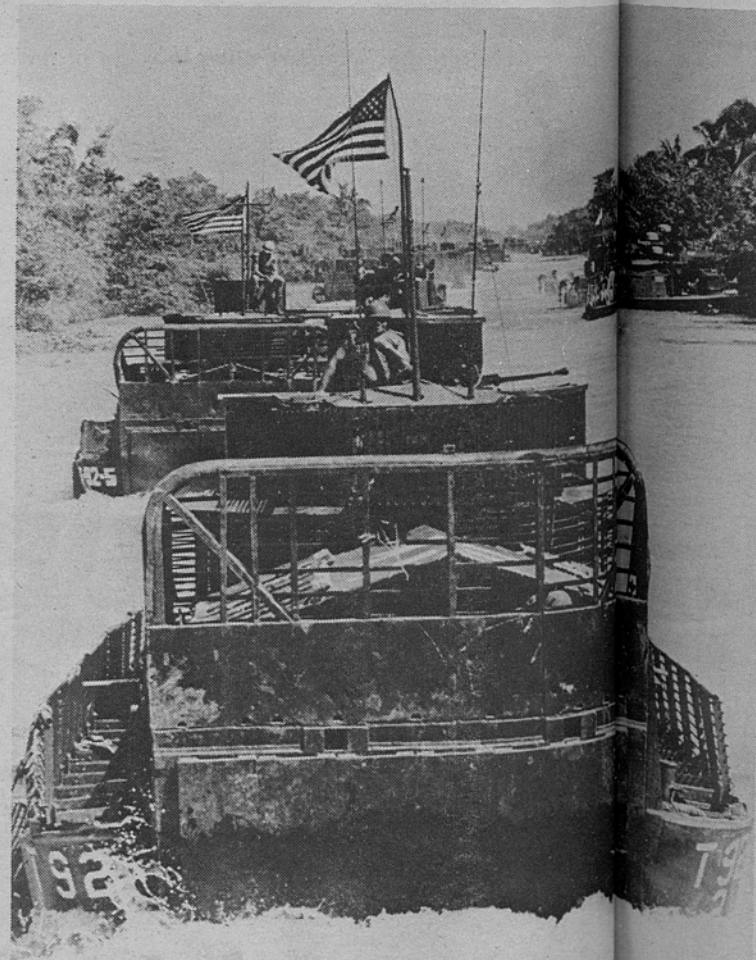
Hovering cushion of air, the air cushion vehicle can travel over land or water with equal ease.



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 about 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.

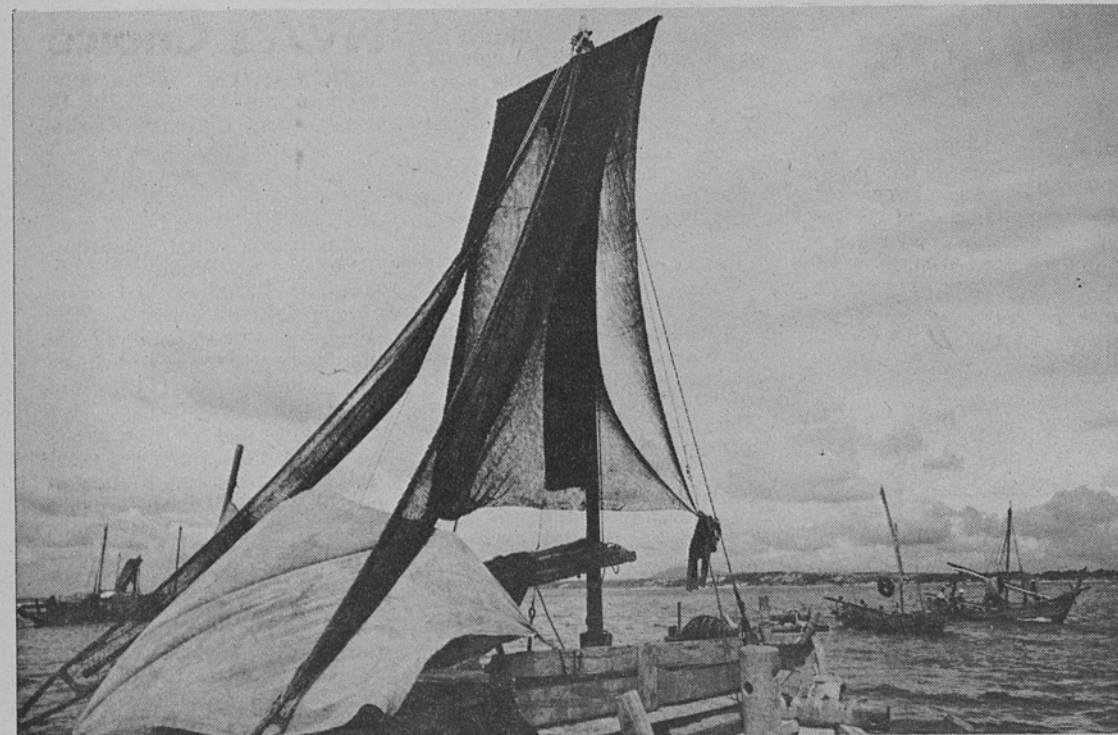
Unions Boost RVN Economy



Fishermen keep Phan Thiet's public market well stocked.



Do Minh Toan, a union president, carries on despite the VC.



Docked for the night, the fishermen's nets are draped from the mast to dry.



Officials of the union from 22 provinces assemble for a 25-day training seminar.

SAIGON (VFS) — One of the vital strengths in the Republic of Vietnam's emerging democracy is the rise of unionism.

The Vietnamese Confederation of Labor (CVT), with half a million members on its books, is the largest non-governmental mass membership organization in the Republic.

Hope For the Future

Because the attitude of government has so strongly affected the rise and fall of unions in Vietnam, the future of the trade union movement promises to be a better one, for today the government is more liberal toward unionization than it ever has been.

The present government of President Nguyen Van Thieu is favorably disposed toward the unions because the labor movement has demonstrated through the years that it is an independent, growing force for national progress. It is the one major nonpartisan group to have survived two decades of political crises, the one stable force in Vietnam's shifting political and social scene and the best organized group communicating directly with a large and relatively vocal segment of the population.

Story & Photos
By VFS

Vietnamese labor today not only is incontestably anti-communist, but has a stronger political voice than ever before. The CVT in the past two years has nullified the ban on political activity once written into its constitution. It has urged members to vote and has put forward slates of candidates for national office.

Fishermen's Union

The second largest union in South Vietnam is the Federation of Fishermen. It was organized five years ago and now boasts a membership of 65,000.

When the federation was formed very few Vietnamese fishermen knew what a union was or what advantages it would afford them.

At the time they were plagued from two angles: the Viet Cong harassment and political pressure from the Diem regime. Their nets were usually full but the fishermen never seemed to get an entire catch to market or to get a fair price once there.

Since its beginning the federation has increased its effective-

ness as a spokesman for its membership. The union trains future leaders at every level, thereby insuring that they can properly represent their respective memberships.

Not long ago fishermen who did not have their own boats were forced to pay the boat owners more than half the proceeds of their catch. Now due to union pressure the ratio is half and half in most fishing communities throughout the Republic.

Membership fees are nominal — 20 piasters monthly — and a member is not required to pay before he is making a clear profit. Until such time he still receives all benefits available to paying members.

When the unions help the individual fisherman, he gives his support for his union and for the government which allows his union to exist. Consequently, the Federation of Fishermen, an integral part of the CVT and of a growing democracy, seems to have a fixed future in South Vietnam — fixed in the will of the fishermen who constitute it.



Fresh from the sea, these lobsters are sold right on the dock.

Former VC Officer Opens Arms To U.S.

CAMP FRENZELL - JONES (USA) — With unerring certainty, Nguyen Van Ba made his way through the dense nipa palm toward a hidden Viet Cong weapons cache site. Stopping at a canal, he pointed to a portion of the canal bank.

The men of the 199th Brigade's 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry, quickly uncovered AK-47 rifles, mortar rounds, and ammunition. Had someone tipped them off to the hiding place? No, Nguyen Van Ba had remembered the spot from his days as a squad leader of the local Viet Cong Main force unit.

Nguyen is now working with the "Redcatcher" brigade as a scout. He came to the U.S. infantry unit through the "Chieu Hoi" or Open Arms Program established by the Government of Vietnam.

Only two months before, Nguyen was part of an enemy battalion that swept west for an attack on Saigon. Suddenly hit by a 199th ambush, his unit had recoiled into the perimeter of a "Redcatcher" battalion base-camp.

Hit by streams of fire from the U.S. "paper tigers" as his cadre had described his enemy, the remnants of his unit sought refuge in a village. There, they knew they could get food, shelter, and support from the villagers, as their cadre had told them.

Instead, the villagers fled from them, abandoning their homes and Nguyen's unit. Then came the planes and artillery. He was wounded, and his head rang from the concussion of the explosions around him.

Nguyen Van Ba was abandoned by his Viet Cong comrades. Now, despite his disgust for the VC, he expected the worst when, arms in the air, he walked towards the U.S. infantrymen with the little black rifles.

His treatment at the hands of the U.S. infantrymen left him almost speechless.

First, he was subjected "to his first good, hot meal in months; next came dry clothes in exchange for his torn and muddy VC "uniform".

At the basecamp, he received his greatest surprise. Walking over to an Armored Personnel Carrier, he stared at it, then cautiously touched it. With disgust he shouted incoherently. Through the interpreter it was learned he was cursing his for-

mer superiors, who told him that American APCs were flimsy cardboard and wood vehicles.

It was then that Nguyen Van Ba became a participant in the Government of Vietnam's Open Arms Program. He received instruction in the South Vietnam free government institution, and was given the opportunity to join the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, or to become an advisor to a U.S. unit.

As a scout and advisor, he has become an invaluable addition to the 199th Brigade. He has pointed out known Viet Cong in the area southwest of Saigon, and as a scout has uncovered many infiltration routes, cache sites, and staging areas for the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army.

As a former Viet Cong officer, no one could be more knowledgeable of the propaganda methods of the VC. With this knowledge he is able to show the village elders and chief the methods the VC use to deceive them, and show cause to fight back and prevent Communist control.

In loudspeaker broadcasts, Nguyen Van Ba tells his former comrades the folly of wanting to fight rather than switch. He did both and is happy he did.

Igloored Mail

DA NANG (USN) — Two days for mail to reach Vietnam from the States? Yes it's happened and you can expect it to happen with a little more frequency now that the postal service is using igloos.

Igloos are fiberglass containers used to transport mail from the States aboard jet airliners, and because the bulky and heavy CONEX containers they replaced are no longer used, a new word in speed has been created.

Upon arrival at the Da Nang air base, the igloos are off-loaded and the mail is transferred to two five-ton trucks for transport to the Naval Support Activity Post Office. When emptied, the igloos are re-filled with mail bound for the States and loaded aboard a jet for shipment to CONUS.

With each plane capable of handling up to 25 igloos, and delivery averaging three times a day, it's no wonder that Da Nang air base is one of the busiest airports in the world.

Jungle Ambush Successful Tactic

The ambush has been the most frequently and successfully used enemy offensive tactic in jungle terrain. Jungle ambushes are normally established on natural routes of movement such as trails and streams. They are characteristically short, violent actions followed

by a rapid withdrawal. Enemy ambushes have been conducted at all hours of the day and night; however, as would be expected, the majority of ambushes occur during daylight hours. Almost one-third of all enemy ambushes occur during the morning hours, at which time friendly troops are moving out from their base camps to conduct daily operations. Often

they have set up ambushes behind friendly patrols after they have left their patrol bases. There have been cases in which patrols retraced their routes and were caught in ambushes at times when patrol members were tired and security was lax.

The enemy uses great patience in studying friendly movement methods and techniques. He is quick to detect any pattern of regularity in friendly activity.

Based on observation and experience, the following list of indicators has been compiled to assist in determining the likelihood of ambush sites in their area of operations:

1. Tied-down brush. It may be a firing lane for an ambush site.
2. Villages with no people present. They may conceal ambushes, but it should be remembered that the presence of civilians in the area does not preclude the possibility of am-



3. bush.
4. An unusual amount of activity in a specific area.
5. A steady delivery of small arms fire from one position. While this may appear to be aimed at checking or delaying movement, it may actually be designed to encourage pursuit.
6. Sniper fire. The enemy will use snipers to draw friendly forces into ambush positions.



SILHOUETTED GUNNER — A door gunner on a 25th Infantry Division "Command and Control" helicopter keeps a close watch on the lead chopper during a 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhound air assault. The Tropic Lightning troopers were making the heliborne assault into a Viet Cong infested area northwest of Saigon.

(USA PHOTO BY: SP4 Bill Clevenger)

Military Policeman

Brings Better Life To Orphans

SAIGON (USA) — "The kids are Vietnam's answer for the future. If I can influence these children to search for freedom rather than following the Viet Cong, I feel my contribution well worthwhile."

Specialist 5 Thomas D. Mann, supply sergeant of Company C, 716th Military Police Battalion, spoke candidly from amidst a group of excited children as he delivered one of his many shipments of clothing and shoes to

the Xom Chieu Saint-Paul Catholic Orphanage in Saigon's 4th Precinct recently.

He first discovered the orphanage through contact with a Vietnamese priest in April. "When Chaplain Woodall, battalion chaplain, invited me to accompany him on a later visit there, I jumped at the chance." Since June he has delivered an average of 20 packages daily to the children cared for at the orphanage by Sister Catherine and Sister Margriethe.

The first packages started arriving shortly after he contacted a number of stateside newspapers. The Monterey Peninsula Herald and the Jeffersonville, Indiana Evening News printed articles requesting contributions, and Specialist Mann now receives so many packages that he has to travel to the post office and pick them up himself. The biggest help from back home has come from the members of the Carmel, California American Legion who have organized a drive to support his program.

Specialist Mann knows the loneliness of the children since both of his own parents are deceased. Married and having five children, three of them adopted, he is well aware of the value that kindness and interest have to the homeless tots. He is currently making plans to adopt a Vietnamese girl he met at the orphanage on one of his many visits, and he hopes to take her home when his tour of duty ends next April.

While the bulk of the materi-

als he receives goes to the Saint-Paul Orphanage, he also contributes to the battalion-sponsored orphanage near his headquarters at Tan Son Nhut.

"I think the world of kids," he stated repeatedly, "and I hope that what I'm doing will make the kids respect what we are trying to do here."

Popular Music NVA's Choice

CHU LAI (USA) — An infantryman from the Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade recently discovered that U.S. soldiers are not the only ones that enjoy the latest popular music from the states.

While on combat operations in the Que Son Valley, A Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry engaged and killed five NVA soldiers in a brief firefight. The infantrymen then searched the enemy bodies for papers and documents.

"When I went through one of the NVA packs I found a small book that looked like a diary or journal," said SP4 Nick Nicholson. The writing was in Chinese and resembled poetry.

"I showed the writing to our interpreter and after he studied it he started to laugh," Specialist Nicholson related.

The writing, thought to be poetry, was actually a song entitled "California Dreamin'" made popular by the Mamas and Papas.



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
Dean Martin
Star Trek
1730 What's Happening
Pentagon Forum
1800 Dick Van Dyke
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Gunsmoke
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening
Sports

Thursday September 5

1430 News-Sports
1445 Last In Space
Andy Williams
Gunsmoke
1730 What's Happening
Felony Squad
1800 Let's Speak Vietnamese
Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea
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
Kraft Music Hall
1730 What's Happening
The Lucy Show
1800 Wild Wild West
1930 The Monkees
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Dom DeLuise Show
2200 Combat
2205 What's Happening
Joey Bishop Show

Saturday September 7

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

Sunday September 8

1900 Dragnet
1930 Channel 11 News
2000 Weather
2100 Rowan And Martin
2100 Red Skelton
2200 Late News
2205 What's Happening
The Tony Awards

Monday September 9

1430 News-Sports
1445 Wild Wild West
Rowan and Martin
Combat
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
Mission Impossible
1730 What's Happening
Peter Gunn
1800 Let's Speak Vietnamese
Big Valley
1900 Love On A Rooftop
2000 Weather
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
- 22-Weight of India
- 23-Masticate
- 27-Wager
- 29-Equality
- 30-Beef animal
- 31-Three-toed sloth
- 32-Male sheep
- 33-Dance step
- 34-Chinese mile
- 35-Cornered
- 37-Conducted
- 38-Suffix
- 39-Fur-bearing mammal
- 40-Knock
- 41-Conjunction
- 42-Tart
- 44-Abrasive
- 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
- 2-Toll
- 3-Goal
- 4-Toward the ground
- 5-Native metal

COMET AVAST
PLEASE DINERS
HA TANG TAIL
ASH USUAL STA
SPOT ELBOW OB
ESTER LESIONS
ER POS TESTS
DELIGHT SPIES
ER DEARS SECT
NAP RYOTS RHO
TSAR TUNS OR
SERIAL DIADEM
REAMS SPLITS

37-Climbing device
38-Land surrounded by water
39-Liberate
40-Wash lightly
41-Three-toed sloth
42-Symbol for cerium
43-Sear eagle
44-Sea eagle
45-Vessel
46-Female ruff
47-Worm
48-Silkworm

Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 27

**Make Saving Easy
With Savings Bonds**

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.



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

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

From:

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

TO:

Heroic Marine Officer Wins MOH

FIRST IN VIETNAM

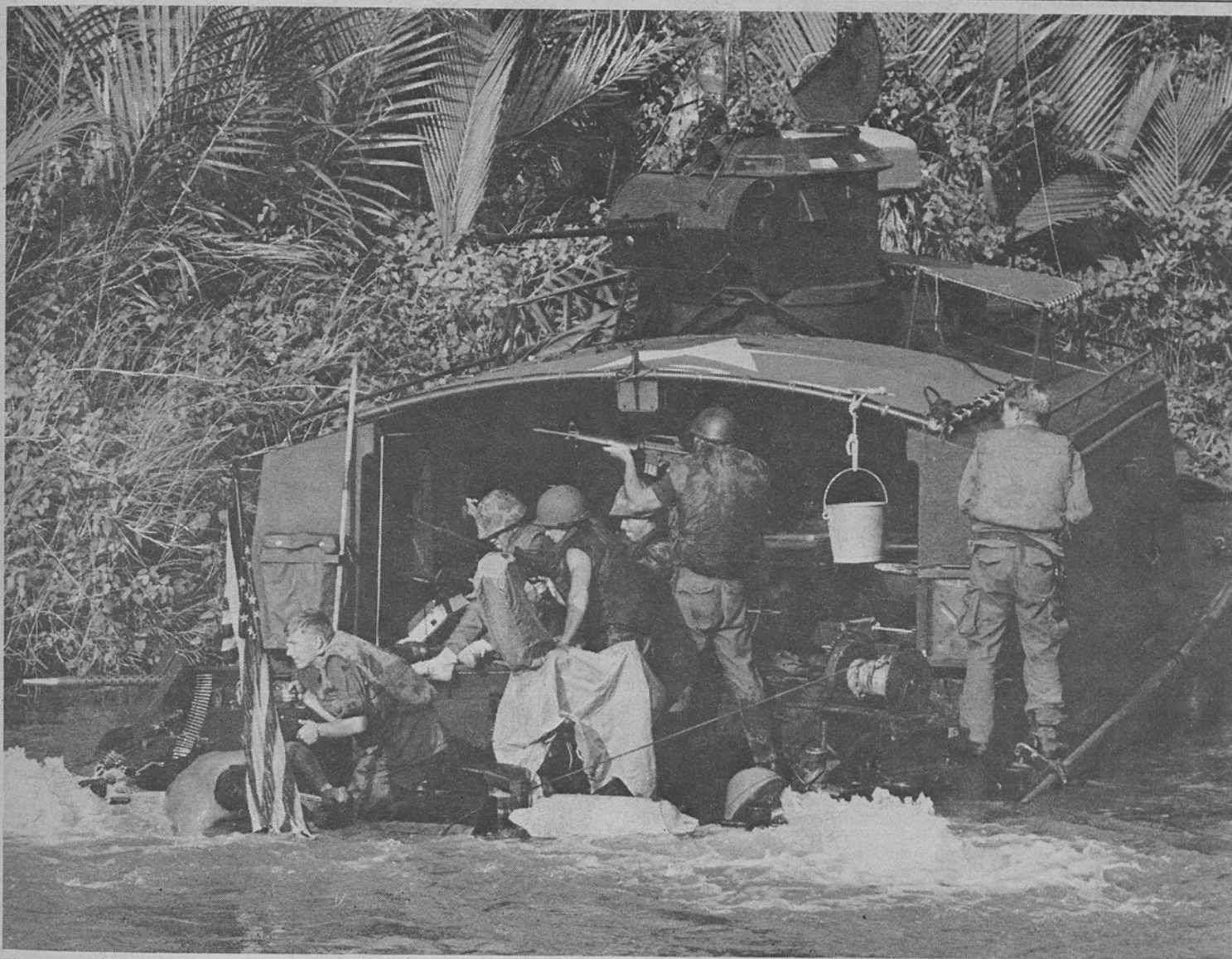
The

OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 20

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)

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

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-

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)

Armed Forces Voters Day
September 20, 1968

See Pages
2, 3, 4, 9 & 12

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



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 entered 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:

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.

Theatre Becomes Classroom

Because there were few schools in Vietnam during the early years of Confucian influence, the theatre became the classroom for the perpetuation of the Chinese philosophy. One need only recall that the Greeks used the same technique, the stage, to advance their philosophies, and the Medieval Christians had their "Morality

Plays" as a substitute for the classroom. On the Vietnamese stage, individuals from all walks of life made their entrances and exits in plots that depicted conflicts involving duty and passion. The good and the loyal were always rewarded and the evil were always punished.

Confucianism Organizes Society

In the moral life of Vietnam, Confucianism has been most influential. The follower of the teachings of Confucius knows his place in society and is aware of the behavior expected of him. For Confucianism gave Vietnam a highly organized society in which the improvement of the individual is encouraged, not for the sake of the individual, but for the benefit of the community. The individual is always subservient to his family and to society as a whole.

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.

Hacking their way through underbrush which was more than 20 feet high in some places, the infantrymen spotted

three bunkers along a mountain side in a clearing. The bunkers were built from three layers of six-inch logs.

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.

ARVN's, 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.

The teamwork of the regiment's 4th Battalion and the artillery and helicopter gunship support of the 1st Air Cavalry Division accounted for 25 dead North Vietnamese Army soldiers.

At dawn one day the ARVN battalion, commanded by Major Nguyen Huu Lu, made contact with an NVA platoon guarding huts and bunkers hidden under the jungle canopy. In the resulting two-hour firefight, the combination of ARVN troops and the 1st Air Cavalry support proved too much for the enemy.

Major Lu's men overran the complex without a friendly casualty.

"The gunships tore 'em up,"

'Turkey Shoot' With Howitzer Creams Enemy

LZ STUD (USMC) — An Army artillery gunner had "the biggest turkey shoot of his life" at this landing zone when he fired point blank at 30 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers overlooking the Marine outpost north of Ca Lu.

Corporal Viterbo Sanchez, a gunner with Battery B, 6th Battalion, 33rd Artillery, fired 11 rounds with his 105mm howitzer at the enemy soldiers.

"It was late at night and we were just getting ready for harassment and interdiction fire, when we received word to prepare for a fire mission," he said. "Then we were told that the target was approximately 30 enemy soldiers moving on a ridge line behind our positions."

His gun crew went into action and fired on the enemy at point blank range.

"It was dark so we couldn't assess the results but the Marines told us they didn't observe any movement the rest of the night," said the gunner.

Corporal Sanchez, in Vietnam since February, exclaimed, "That was the biggest turkey shoot of my life. It lasted only seven minutes. A long seven minutes for the NVA, I'm sure."

said Captain George Barma, senior U.S. advisor with the battalion.

They found eight machineguns, 19 rifles, and 5,000 rounds of small arms ammunition. Also captured were 1,500 B-40 rockets, 100 meters of detonating cord, 2,000 meters of time fuse, 10 anti-tank mines and a ton of medical supplies.

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's 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.

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, control and supply point because their old one is demolished.

The one-time enemy stronghold, known as Go Noi Island, became the key objective of Operation Allen Brook which began last May. During two weeks of heavy contact with North Vietnamese Army soldiers, over 300 NVA troops were killed.

With the main force beaten, Marines went to work clearing the island, southwest of Da Nang.

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 bull-

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 mini-guns 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.



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 maneuver to bolster firepower in support of the Division's Mobile Riverine Force.

(USA PHOTO By: 2LT Thomas Ingala)

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.



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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 psyops helicopter himself broadcasting to Viet Cong troops on the ground.

New Jersey

WASHINGTON (APPS)— "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.

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 mosquitos! Unimportant as it sounds, this job is vital to the health of Tropic Lightning soldiers.

"In this area there are 53 different types of mosquitos," 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 anopheles mosquito is a carrier of malaria, but mosquitos can also carry dengue, filariasis, yellow fever, encephalitis, falciparum and vivax," said Sergeant Wilson. "It is our job to collect mosquitos 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 mosquitos 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 mosquitos 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.

Captain Norman Heryford, detachment commander, explained: "Some of our other duties include making recommendations to the division surgeon in a technical advisory capacity."

"We also coordinate with Pacific Architects and Engineers," Captain Heryford added, "who provide the workers and equipment for such jobs as spraying insecticides."

Several times a week the water points in the 25th Division base camps are checked for potability. The fate of entire units may hinge on the cleanliness of water so a careful watch is kept on the wells.

To test the water supply and swimming pools, a two-man team goes out with a chlorine testing kit and small bottles. At each site the water is tested to insure that there are between five and 10 parts chlorine per million present. At the same time that this on-the-spot test is performed, a sample of the water is collected for laboratory testing. Through the constant vigilance of this detachment, the health of the 25th Division soldiers is assured.

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.

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

DA NANG (USMC) — What combat scenes does a man's eye retain? Orders are yelled; artillery booms; jets strafe and bomb; men cry in pain; bullets fly overhead or plough into nearby earth.

Combat is anything but a smooth sequence of events. Yet, to a trained eye, there can be a tidiness.

Marine Major Albert "Mike" Leahy, a combat artist, traveled from his Combat Information Bureau Studio in Da Nang to the Cam Le bridge where U.S. Marines and soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam were engaged with enemy units threatening neighboring villagers and a possible infiltration into the city of Da Nang.

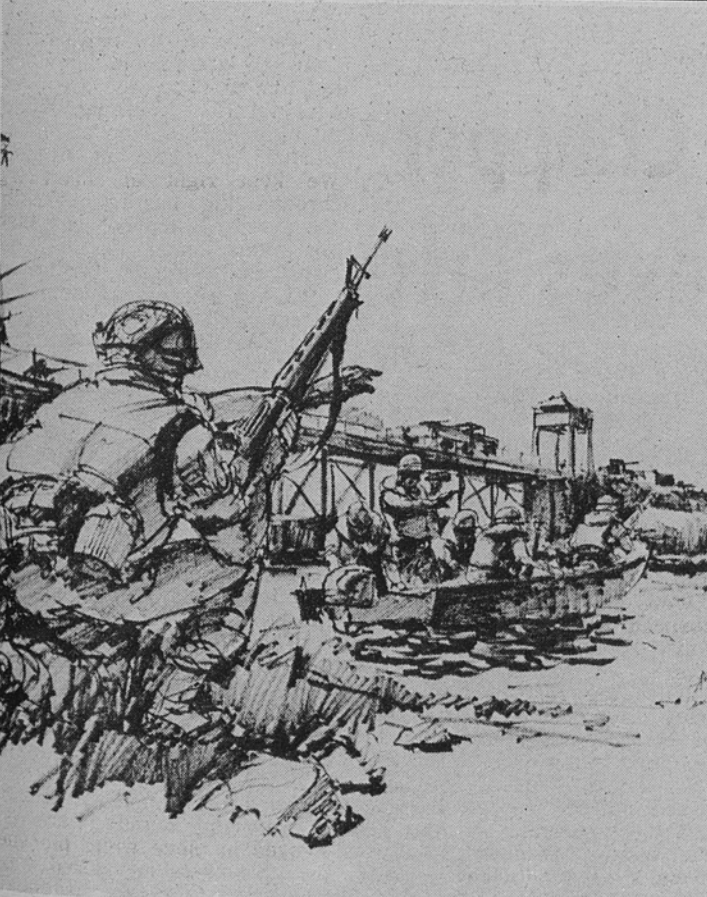
His four sketches averaged 20-minutes of work each, done with an ordinary felt-tipped pen.

The scenes depicted show Marines in the vicinity of the Cam Le bridge during some of the bitter fighting. At one point, the major dove for cover with the other Marines about him, as enemy automatic weapons raked the right bank of the river.

The major was an instructor at the Famous Artists School in Westport, Conn., before volunteering for active duty with the Marines. This is his second Combat Art tour in Vietnam.

Some of his work was recently exhibited in the Armed Forces Exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution and was widely reproduced in publications throughout the United States.

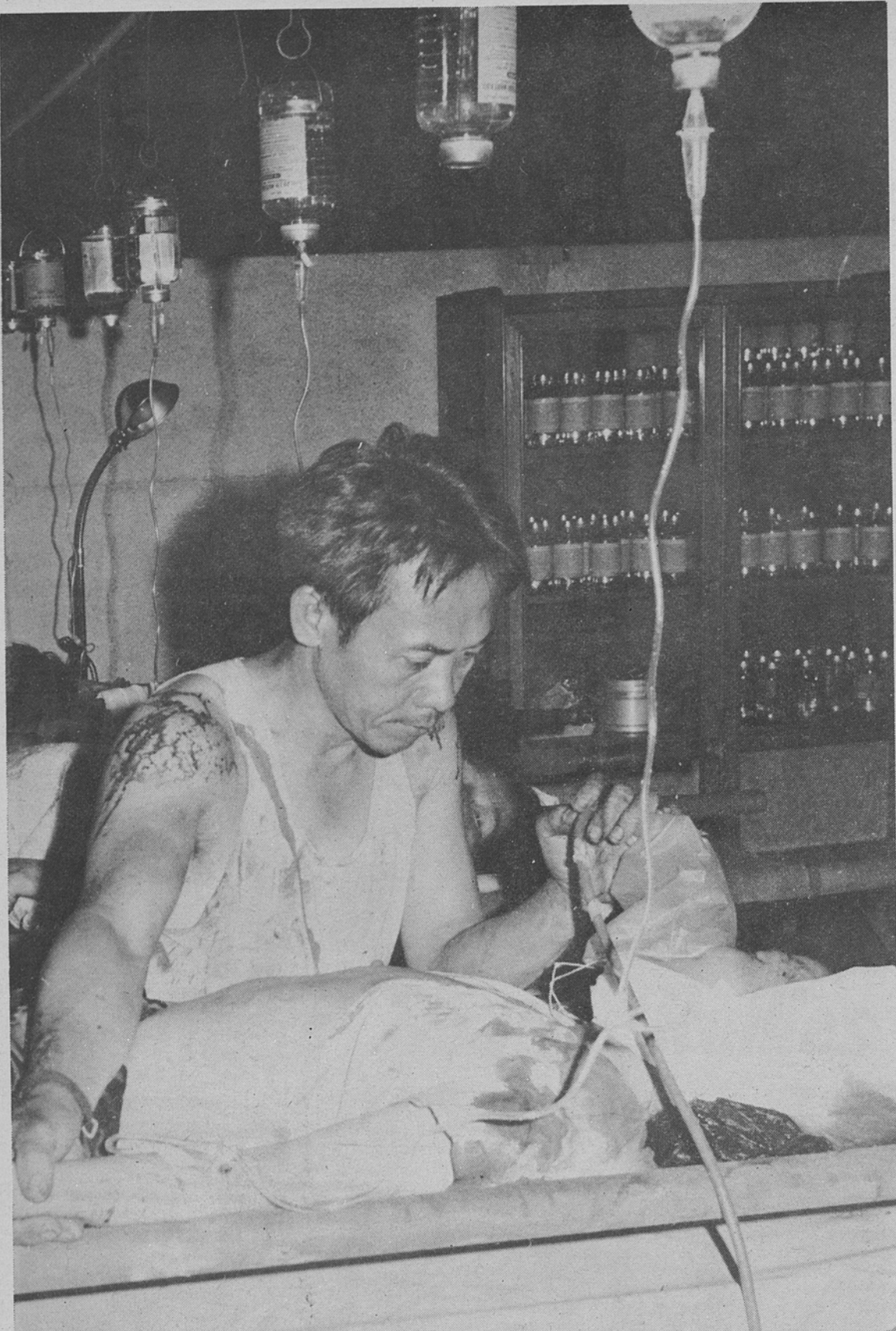
Story By
GySgt. Tom Bartlett
Sketches By
Maj. Albert Leahy



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



Leathernecks take cover and exchange lead after taking enemy fire as they advanced in jeeps.



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



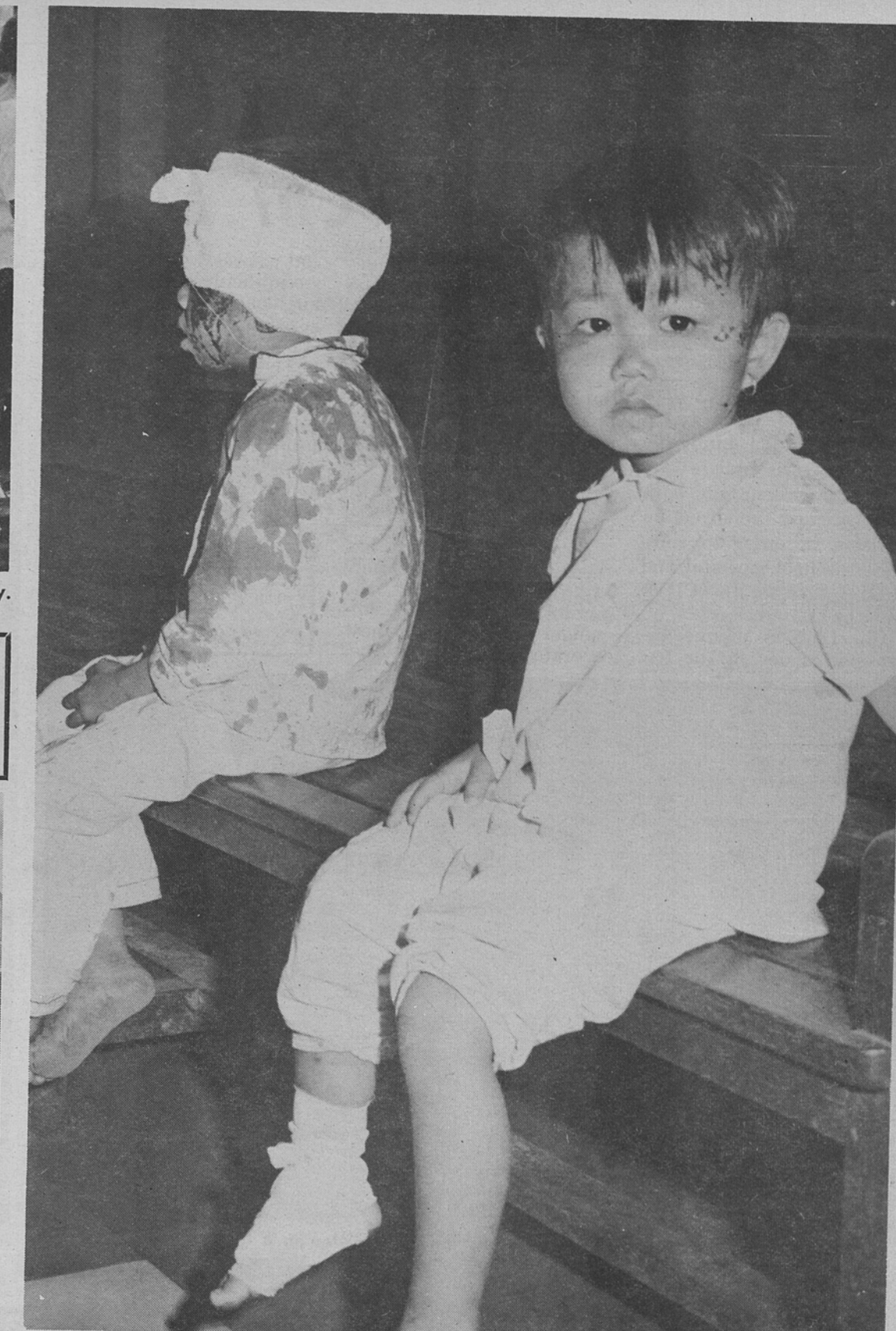
Saigon citizens return to their fire-gutted homes after 20 enemy rockets drove them from a mile-wide area in the early morning hours recently.

VC End Two-Month Lull

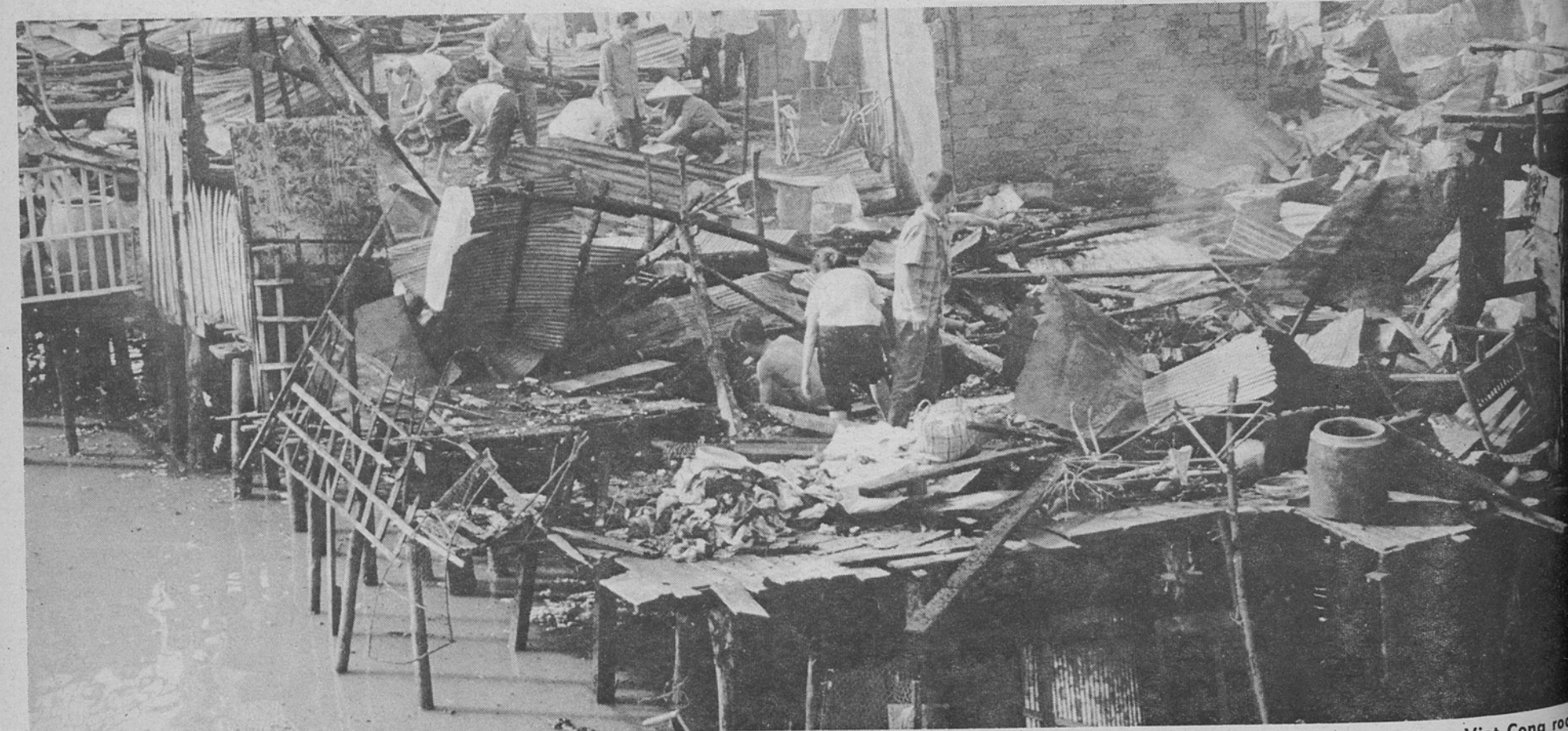
Photos
By
JUSPAO



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.

Green Beret Advisors Have 'Hands Full' at Chi Linh

CHI LINH (USA) — U.S. Army Special Forces advisors are twice as busy at Chi Linh—but all for a worthwhile cause.

Advisors to the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG), at Chi Linh, the Green Beret soldiers are presently serving as both military and construction advisors in order to complete a school, hospital and housing area for the CIDG and their families.

Chi Linh is unique because it is one of the few

CIDG camps where the dependents reside within the camp's perimeter. First Lieutenant William Bradley, team leader, is all for having the dependents in the camp because it has improved relations between the Vietnamese and the advisors, but more important it has greatly increased the morale and efficiency of the CIDG soldier.

Lieutenant Bradley has been working very closely with Lieutenant Nhut, the Vietnamese camp commander—one of the highest decorated Vietnamese Spe-

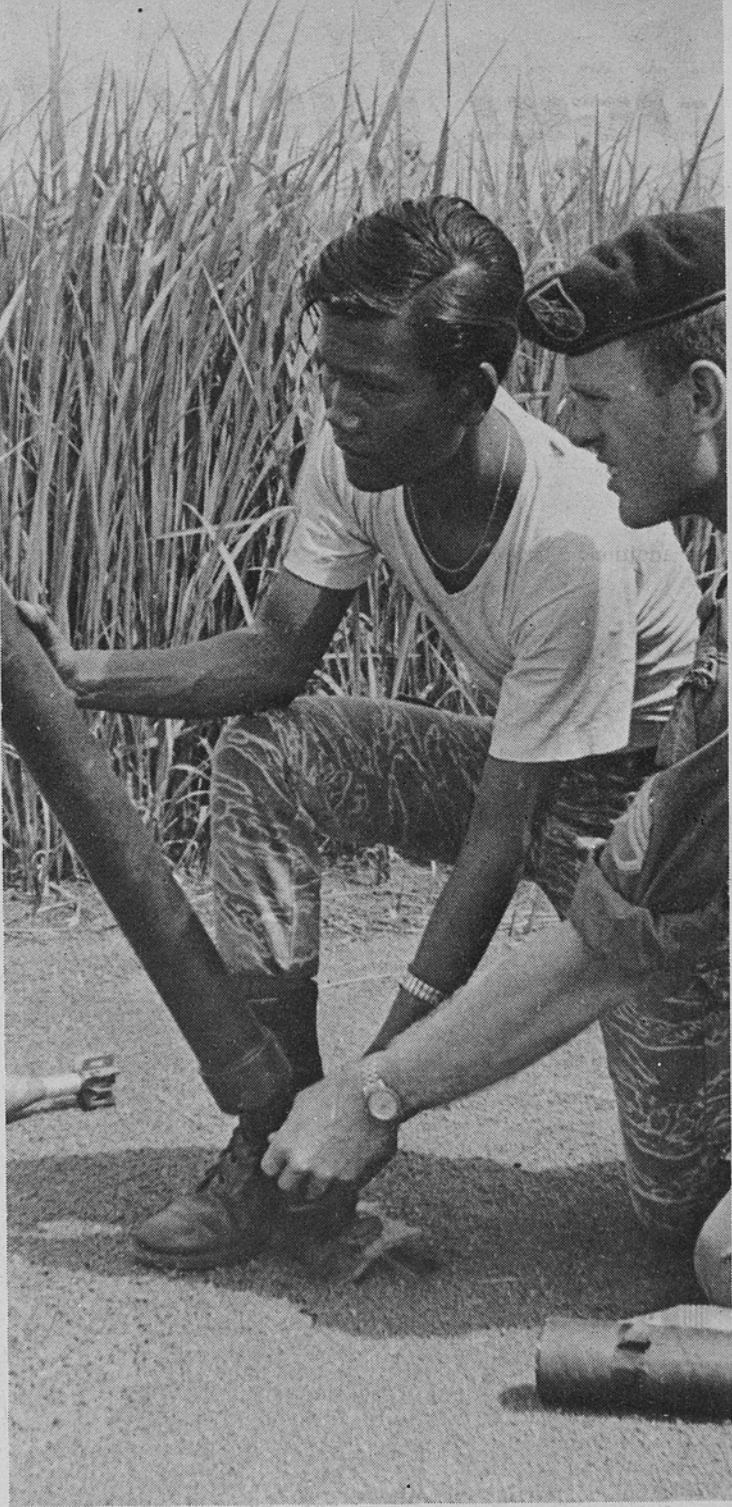
Story & Photos
By
SP4 Jerry Kringel



During "sick call" a Special Forces medic lances a blister on a CIDG soldier's foot.



Work begins on one of the buildings for the camp's families.



An advisor instructs a CIDG soldier on the 60mm mortar.



Members of the CIDG break down rations brought into the camp by an Air Force Caribou.

Beat The Deadline With Your Ballot

WASHINGTON (AFPS) —Armed Forces personnel voting by absentee ballot in the 1968 general election risk having their vote not counted if their ballot misses the receipt of ballot deadline even by a few minutes.		ARKANSAS		Election Commissioners on Election Day (See page two — THE OBSERVER)		VERMONT		Before Election Day	
Most states require that voted absentee ballots reach election officials by Election Day, Nov. 5. There are, however, some states with earlier or later deadlines.		Nov. 5		7:30 p.m.		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
In addition, there is a wide variation in time among the states as to when ballots are sent to absentee voters and the earliest date on which voted ballots may be returned.		CALIFORNIA		Nov. 4		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
Detailed information concerning absentee voting may be found in the pamphlet "Voting Information 1968" (DoD GEN-68).		Nov. 5		5 p.m.		Nov. 5***		Close of polls	
Absolute deadlines for the receipt of voted absentee ballots in the various states and territories are:		COLORADO		Nov. 5		WASHINGTON		Nov. 20**	
		Nov. 5		5 p.m.		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
		CONNECTICUT		Nov. 5		WEST VIRGINIA		Nov. 5	
		Nov. 5		6 p.m.		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
		DELAWARE		Nov. 5		WISCONSIN		Nov. 5****	
		Nov. 5		12 noon		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
		DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		Nov. 5		WYOMING		Nov. 5	
		Nov. 5		8 p.m.		Nov. 5		Opening of polls	
		FLORIDA		Nov. 4		GUAM		Before Election Day	
		Nov. 4		5 p.m.		PUERTO RICO		Before Election Day	
		GEORGIA		Nov. 5		Nov. 5		Nov. 5	
		Nov. 5		Close of polls		Nov. 6**		Close of polls	
		HAWAII		Nov. 11*		MISSISSIPPI		Nov. 5	
		Nov. 11*		12 noon		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
		IDAHO		Nov. 5		MISSOURI		Nov. 6**	
		Nov. 5		Close of polls		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
		ILLINOIS		Nov. 5		MONTANA		Nov. 5	
		Nov. 5		Close of polls		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
		INDIANA		Nov. 4		NEBRASKA		Nov. 7*	
		Nov. 4		6 p.m.		Nov. 7*		10 a.m.	
		IOWA		In time to reach designated official for delivery to election officers before Election Day		NEVADA		Nov. 5	
		Nov. 5		Close of polls		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
		KANSAS		Nov. 4		NEW HAMPSHIRE		In time for transmittal to Election officials before polls close on Election Day.	
		Nov. 4		12 noon		NEW JERSEY		Nov. 5	
		KENTUCKY		Nov. 5		Nov. 5		Close of polls	
		Nov. 5		Close of polls		(See page four — THE OBSERVER)		NEW MEXICO	
		LOUISIANA		Must reach issuing official in sufficient time for delivery to		Nov. 4		12 noon	
		Nov. 5		6 p.m.		NEW YORK		Nov. 4	
						Nov. 4		12 noon	
						NORTH CAROLINA		Nov. 2	
						Nov. 2		12 noon	
						NORTH DAKOTA		Nov. 12**	
						Nov. 12**		12 noon	
						OHIO		Nov. 5	
						Nov. 5		12 noon	
						OKLAHOMA		Nov. 1	
						Nov. 1		5 p.m.	
						OREGON		Nov. 5	
						Nov. 5		Close of polls	
						PENNSYLVANIA		Nov. 15**	
						Nov. 15**		10 a.m.	
						RHODE ISLAND		Nov. 5	
						Nov. 5		9 p.m.	
						SOUTH CAROLINA		Nov. 5	
						Nov. 5		Close of polls	
						SOUTH DAKOTA		Nov. 5	
						Nov. 5		Close of polls	
						TENNESSEE		Nov. 5	
						Nov. 5		10 a.m.	
						TEXAS		Nov. 5	
						Nov. 5		1 p.m.	
						UTAH		Nov. 5	
						Nov. 5		Close of polls	

Flaming Boots Aid Infantrymen . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

fighting was hot and heavy.

"Within about 30 seconds after our initial burst we started receiving heavy automatic weapons fire and also very heavy RPG fire . . . the RPGs were coming in at the rate of six to 10 every minute," Sergeant Lambers said.

The Tropic Lightning soldiers responded quickly to the enemy assault and returned a withering volume of fire. At one stage of the battle it seemed as if they would overrun the tiny perimeter, but they were repulsed.

"There were two rows of Viet Cong approximately 30 meters apart. We could see them coming at us in a horseshoe formation that covered three fourths of our perimeter," recalled Private First Class Roger P. Rost, a radio-telephone operator.

During the enemy assaults a machine gun position was hit with a hand grenade wounding

the patrol leader and Sergeant Lambers assumed command.

Hearing the helicopter gunships circling overhead but not firing, Sergeant Lambers was puzzled. Locating a radio, he learned that the infantrymen had to mark their positions before the gunships could safely engage the enemy.

The task of marking the friendly position was given to Specialist 4 Kenneth M. Cobb.

"The only way we had to mark our location was with fire," he said. "But it was a little bit hard running around looking for fire wood. We burned everything we had, our clothes, boots, everything."

During the battle, gunships, artillery and an AC-47 Dragonship assisted the besieged infantrymen.

The Wolfhounds also captured 18 AK-50s, three AK-47s, five light machine guns, two RPG launchers, and 11 drums of ammunition.

Courageous VNAF Pilot . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

get near the Demilitarized Zone. Captain Du got back at the enemy with a vengeance as ground observers credited the flight with the destruction of more than 100 enemy troops.

But the enemy still was not through with the captain.

A short time later, flying cover for friendly ground troops just west of Hue, he was downed again. Despite taking several hits, the captain continued making firing passes and destroyed two anti-aircraft guns. His smoking aircraft continued to lose power and he headed out to sea and bailed out from 300 feet. An American destroyer in the area dispatched frogmen who picked up the young pilot.

His third brush with death came while flying a mission against enemy positions south of Can Tho in the Mekong

Delta. Flying out of Binh Thuy air base, the courageous pilot made several low level runs through intense enemy fire until hit.

Hits in the left wing caused ordnance to explode and set fire to the aircraft's structure. Although he maintained control of the plane, smoke and oil from the engine covered his canopy. Captain Du's Skyraider crashed in a rice paddy and exploded. Miraculously, he was only slightly injured.

The Viet Cong have tried to end the daring pilot's career. Several times he has safely landed his battle damaged aircraft after missions against hostile positions.

"Anytime Viet Cong are to be found, I'll attack," the captain stated. He added that he could not leave his chosen career with any peace of mind while there were still enemy troops roaming the country.

Vietnamese Officers Teaching In States

FORT BELVOIR (ANF) — Vietnamese officers teaching Vietnamese enlisted men is not unusual in Vietnam, but it is at an Army Training Center in the United States.

It began when 10 Vietnamese engineer officers came to the U.S. Army Engineer School in September 1967. These officers first went through the Engineer Equipment Repair Course, then translated all the texts, manuals and training aids, by hand, into Vietnamese so that they could in turn instruct Republic of Vietnam Army (ARVN) enlisted men.

Four classes have graduated since the program started and another is nearly through its eight-week cycle. There are about 25 students in each class. Approximately 300 enlisted men are expected to complete the course before the conclusion of the program in June 1969.

All of these enlisted men from private to master sergeant, return to Vietnam to serve as cadre at the ARVN Engineer School and to instruct at field engineer units.

Students receive instruction on welding techniques, hydraulic systems and internal combustion engines, enabling them to perform second echelon maintenance on engineer equipment.

Classroom instruction is held to a minimum, and emphasis is placed on shop work. Students are taught with training aids and the actual equipment. Students are given a broad background on maintenance and repair of engineer equipment so that they can teach and specialize when they return to Vietnam.

Although class schedules are full, students are given the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., at least once during their stay in the United States.

The long-range benefits of this "first of its kind program" may not be realized for some time to come, but the ARVN now has increased capabilities with skilled, technically oriented maintenance personnel.

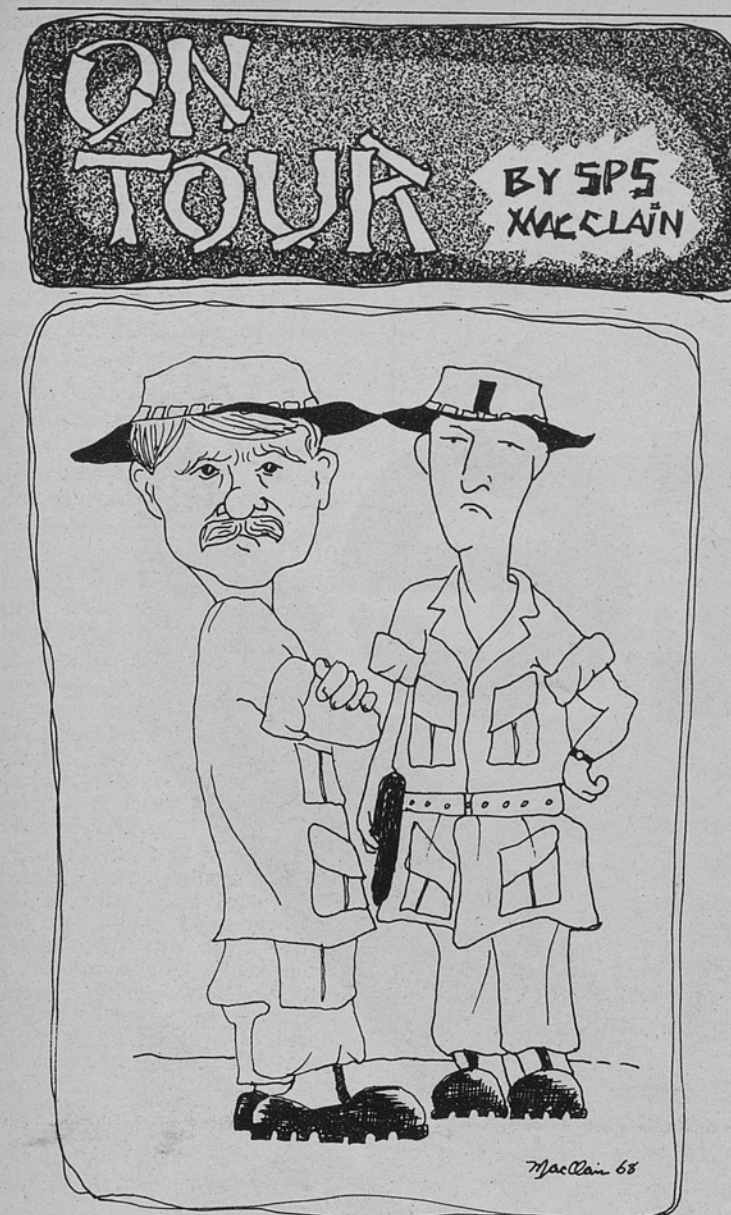


GRAFITTO—SFC James Fenling, 173rd Airborne Brigade takes a break. (USA PHOTO By: PFC Paul Sheehan)



★ ★ ★
Miss FPCA—1968
★ ★ ★

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)



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

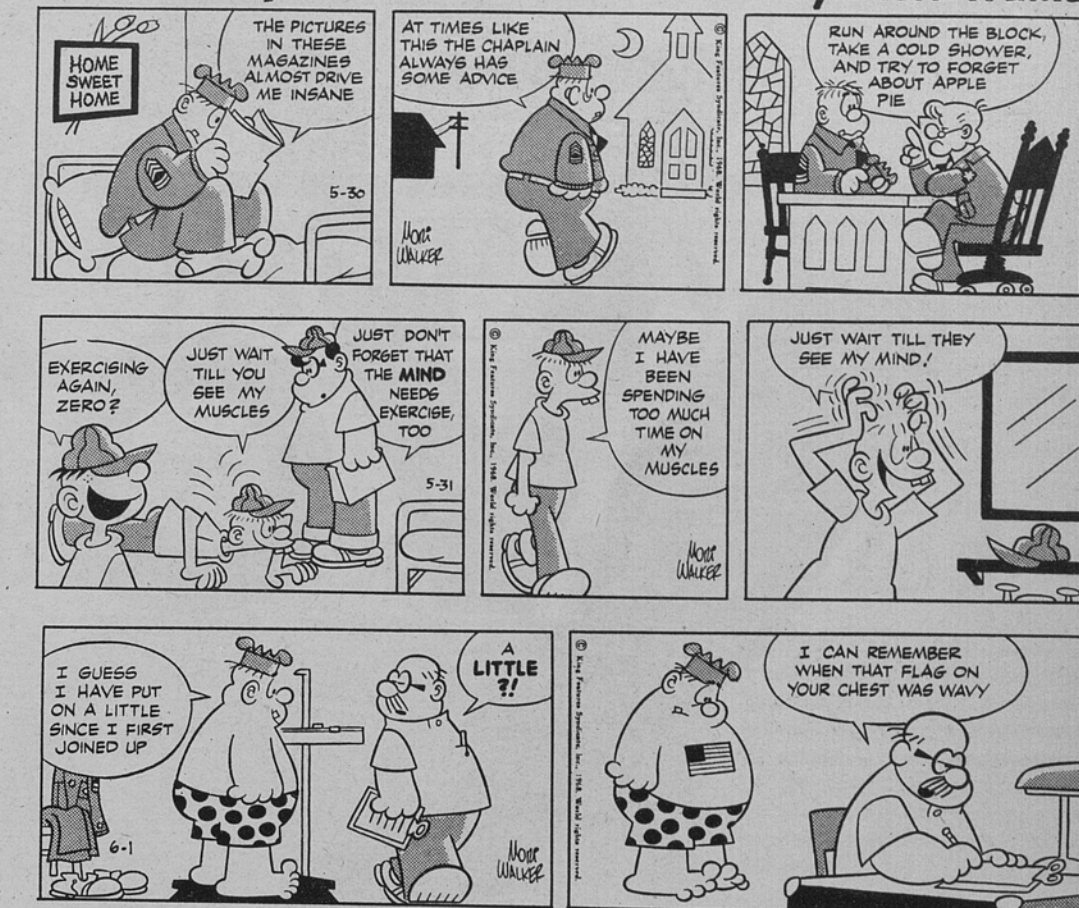
1-Soft food
2-Goddess of
healing
3-Spoors
4-Swift
5-Beverage
6-Pronoun
7-At no time
8-Allowance for
waste
9-Questions
intensely
10-Exclamation
11-The sun
16-Doctrine
18-Mother-of-pearl
20-Place
21-Cool
22-Girl's name
23-Worthless
leaving
25-Chemical dye
26-Vegetable
28-Collection of
facts
29-Reverence
31-The pineapple
32-Native metal
35-Reply
36-Seed container
37-Ceremony
39-Hostelry
40-Obese
42-Lubricates
43-Horse's neck
hair
44-Small barrel
45-Land of the free
(init.)
46-Negative
47-Regret
48-Piece out
51-Parent (colloq.)

POLES RIANT
NEGATE ERRORS
AS STA POE OE
NOT ATTENTION
AB ON ESP
RECLIMENTS TIP
AN TOR EAR NE
PTS SEEDLINGS
RAS MR PO
PAINTINGS WAY
II ALT LAP VE
ENGINE AMUSES
SALES DETER

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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 anti-tank 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 Loi, 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."



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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 Finley, 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

CAMP EAGLE (USA)—Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade recently killed 103 enemy and captured 23 suspects, while paratroopers of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, under operational control of the 101st, killed 130 more in two weeks of heavy fighting.

The enemy kills credited to the 82nd's 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Infantry raised the 15-week toll of Operation Nevada Eagle to 1,658 enemy killed in northern I Corps near Hue.

Engaging an enemy platoon occupying fortified positions 19 miles south of Hue, 82nd paratroopers pinned them down with small arms fire, then fixed their bayonets and assaulted the NVA bunker complex.

The enemy platoon broke contact and fled, leaving 14 bodies behind.

The troopers also detained one suspect, who later led the troopers to a cache which included 107 rounds of 82mm mortars and 1,200 NVA uniforms.

During their second day in the same area, the 82nd troopers engaged another enemy platoon entrenched in bunkers. They assaulted and drove the enemy from their positions. A sweep of the area yielded 12 enemy bodies and 13 individual and crew-served weapons.

Other units from the 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Infantry killed four NVA soldiers and found a large weapons cache containing 176 individual and crew-served weapons, a radio, two heavy machine guns, 10 122mm rockets and miscellaneous small arms and mortar ammunition.

On the third day of the reconnaissance-in-force mission, the 82nd paratroopers engaged an estimated reinforced enemy company, 16 miles south of Hue. Tactical air strikes and friendly artillery fire were called in on the enemy positions.

At dusk, the supporting fires were lifted while the airborne

(Continued On Back Page)

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 for more details and tips on mailing. (ANF)



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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 punchers 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 every time 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 \$3,585 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 photograph 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 Tsopel 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 flows out to a peasant-cut neckline and 3/4 sleeve blouse. Invisible clothes — HAH!! (PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOXI).



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

Have you checked your horoscope today? Or does that idea seem somewhat strange to you? To millions of Vietnamese, the consulting of their horoscope is an important part of their everyday living habits. The reason for this is Taoism, a religion that came to Vietnam centuries ago.

The founder of this religion was a Chinese gentleman by the name of Lao Tse, who lived 600 years before Christ. What Lao Tse sought to teach his followers was "a road" to harmony with nature and the invisible world of the spirits.

To achieve this harmony with nature, man has to learn to accept the world as he finds it. He has to learn not to struggle against his situation or against the forces of nature. Perhaps this helps to explain what we sometimes consider to be complacency on the part of many Vietnamese. They have been taught from childhood to accept

the world as they find it. Taoism in Vietnam has been absorbed into other religions, principally Buddhism and Confucianism. One of the most significant indications of the influence Taoism has had on Vietnam is the Vietnamese's reliance on astrology. The adherents of this belief will not take any significant actions without first consulting their horoscopes or their astrologers. Weddings, seed plantings, harvesting, major business transactions: these are all events that must be done under the proper signs of the stars.

It is not unusual to find a Vietnamese who adheres to the beliefs of three religions: Buddhism for the individual's relationship with the universe and future existences, Confucianism for his proper role in society, and Taoism for man's proper place in nature. Indeed, religion in Vietnam can be said to be plural.

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

Enemy
Losses
Heavy

DA NANG (USA) — A bitter 1½ hour battle north of Gio Linh on Operation Lam Son 250 recently cost the enemy 165 soldiers killed. Friendly casualties included only one soldier killed in the engagement.

Earlier the same day the enemy had lashed out at ARVN armored cavalry and infantry units and a Regional Force company with a heavy artillery barrage. The 2½ hour blitzkrieg killed two friendly soldiers and caused light damage to the armor units.

After the day's action ARVN troops recovered 16 individual and 18 crew-served weapons from the field. Total casualties for the eight-day operation were 294 enemy killed, including 50 by air strikes, 42 individual weapons and 22 crew-served weapons captured. Friendly casualties were light.

In other action, Regional Force Company 222 joined Popular Force elements from Phoung Dien to rout a local enemy squad. Thirteen enemy died, six suspects were detained and seven individual weapons captured. A 17-tunnel complex was destroyed along with five tons of unpolished rice being hoarded by the enemy. Phoung Dien is located in Thua Thien province, on Highway 1, two kilometers south of the Quang Tri province border. The friendly units took light casualties themselves, losing one man.

Eighteen more enemy fell to 54th ARVN Regiment patrols in a 3½ hour fight southeast of Hue, as Operation Lam Son 245 continued. Six individual and one crew-served weapon also were taken.

Satisfying Mission

AF Pilot Makes Rescue Possible



OPERATION PRAIRIE III — Marines of the 1st Battalion, Ninth Marines, waded through the Cam Lo river while on Operation Prairie III, about three miles west of Cam Lo, Vietnam. (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 city.

As darkness fell the enemy thrust two reinforced battalions toward the Hoa Vang district which includes Da Nang. The 59th Regional Force Battalion repulsed assaults on three of its defensive positions. This included a 10-hour siege of Cam Nam village. Local forces spotted the invaders as they swarmed across the Song Han river.

Vietnamese Rangers of Kilo Task Force blunted the enemy's thrust at the perimeter of Hoa Vang district headquarters. Rangers faced the best 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 airstrip 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 Thuo 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, Fox Trot Compa-

ny from 2/27th Marines and a marine tank element joined the fight at times. Seventeen air strikes killed an estimated 50 of the enemy. There were 401 Communist dead when the fray subsided on Sunday.

TUY HOA (USAF) — 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 Supersabers 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.



SWAMP EAGLE — PFC John S. Beam searches a swamp stream southwest of Phan Rang during the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne's Operation Klamath Falls. PFC Beam 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.

When the eight-man Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP) from the 1st Recon Battalion, 1st Marine Division, became surrounded by an estimated 40 to 50 NVA soldiers, they called for support from LZ Baldy, base camp of the 196th Infantry Brigade. To aid the LRRP, the "Chargers" dispatched a gunship light fire team. A "Spooky" aircraft was also dispatched by the Air Force to provide additional fire support.

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."

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 'Firebirds' continued close support of the LRRP, pouring heavy suppressive fire on all enemy muzzle flashes they spotted."

Informed of the severe obstacles in and around the area, WO Schoonborn still elected to make the rescue try. As he set

his ship down about five NVA automatic weapons opened up from all sides of the small perimeter. Because of the delay in boarding, WO Schoonborn's aircraft was forced to leave with only three of the LRRP aboard.

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.

"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."



AIRBORNE FIREPOWER — A First Team gunship swings around to make a run with mini-guns and rockets on enemy soldiers caught in the open. Enemy soldiers quickly learn to respect the 1st Air Cavalry Division's numerous gunships and aerial rocket artillery helicopters.

(USA PHOTO By: SP5 Jester Smith)

Your Entrenching Tool Can 'Plant' Viet Cong

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."

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.

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.

"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.

'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 Bunyan 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.

MP 'River Rats' On Lookout For VC

CHU LAI (USA) — "MP" to most soldiers rings the bell of road guard and traffic cop. This impression is far from the truth in the daily activities of combat Military Policemen of the Americal Division's 198th Infantry Brigade who patrol Viet Cong infested rivers and roadways north and south of Chu Lai.

Whether patrolling the rivers in 16-foot Boston Whalers or cruising the highways in gunjeeps, the 198th MPs are combat geared for action and have fought their way through numerous enemy engagements.

The major missions of the 40-man MP force are patrolling two major river complexes (An Tan and Tra Bong) and Highway 1 from Tan Ky to Binh Son. "We stop the flow of U.S. materials and black market goods going to the VC," said Specialist 4 Jerry D. Lear.

The specialist, who has been patrolling the network of waterways north and south of Chu Lai for six months, said that combat MPs have a more challenging role. "Here there's a job to do. Back in the states we were a lot of spit and polish, but over here we're in combat."

A young MP, Specialist Lear has not issued a single DR since he has been in Vietnam. Instead he sports a steel helmet that has a large dent in it — a dent that came from an enemy AK-47 round during a firefight on the Tra Bong river.

To patrol the miles of wan-

dering rivers north and south of Chu Lai, the combat policemen use boats outfitted with 80 and 85 horsepower motors and M-60 machine guns.

Dubbed the "River Rats" the 198th MPs man an outpost on each of the two rivers and patrol the water 24 hours a day. During hours of darkness they set up floating ambushes to catch unwary Viet Cong sampans.

"We use two boats on a patrol," the specialist said. "The first boat stops the sampans and junks while the second boat lags a short distance behind for security. Our boats are the fastest ones on the river."

A Vietnamese National Policeman from district headquarters accompanies the roving water patrols and checks identification cards and picks up Vietnamese draft dodgers.

"Security is the most important thing during the river patrols," said Private First Class Kenneth C. Irvin. PFC Irvin, who rides machine gunner in the security boat during patrolling, said, "It's a challenge to be a combat MP. You've got to deal with a lot of different situations, the Vietnamese, the soldiers, and even the VC. You have to be aware and alert at all times."

On road patrolling missions the 198th MPs use gunjeeps with specially mounted M-60 machine guns. The patrol policemen set up check points with Vietnam-

Story & Photos By: CPT Dennis M. Eilers



A jeep armed with an M-60 moves down Highway 1.



A Vietnamese National Policeman aids MPs in checking IDs.

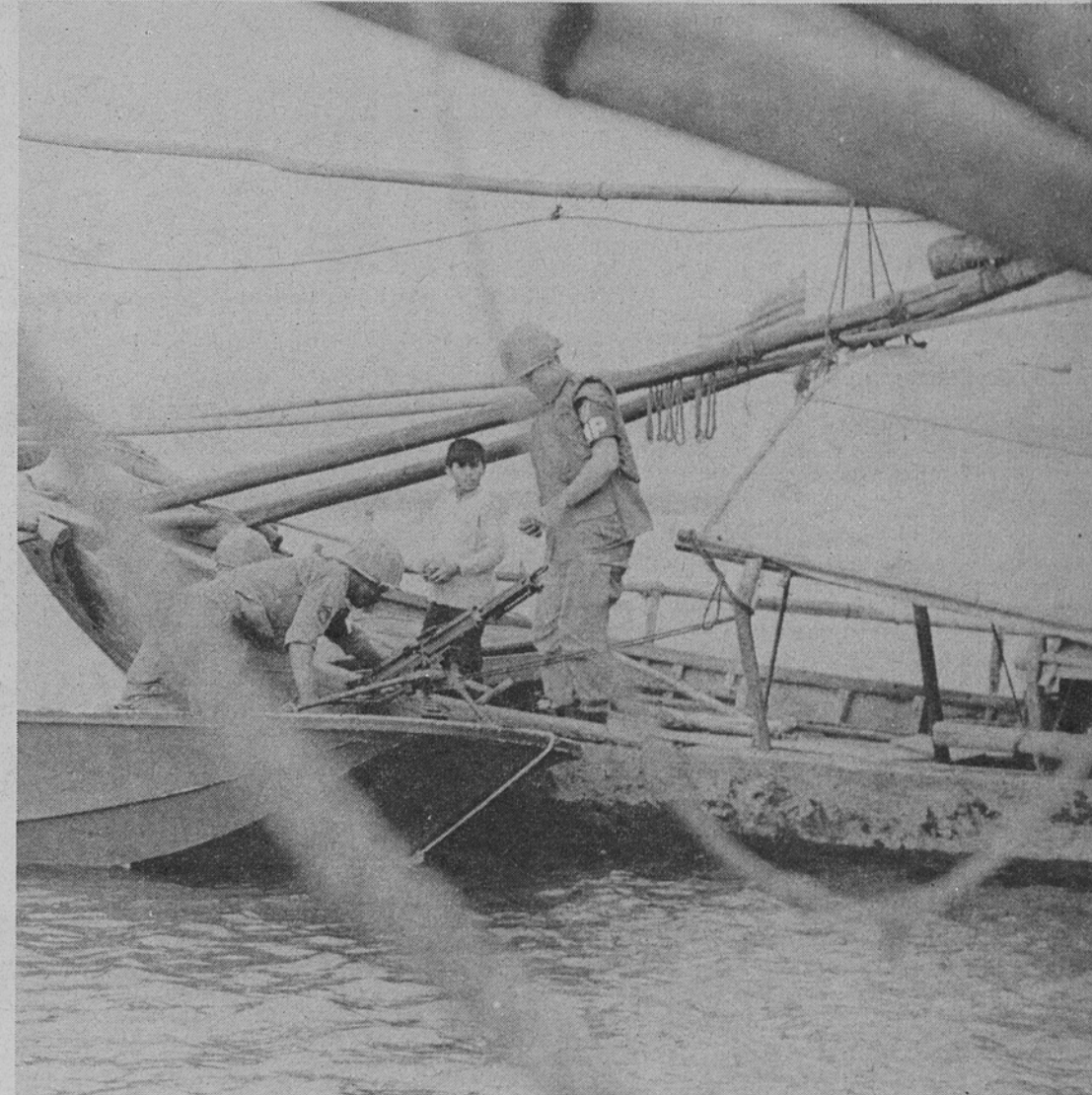
ese Civil Police and spot check all vehicles from five-ton trucks to Lambrettas for contraband and illegal shipments. The roadside check points have stopped most of the north-south flow of contraband and illegal goods along the Chu Lai portion of Highway 1.

All is not hard, fast action for the 198th MPs, however. In addition to the road and river patrols, the MPs provide security where needed in the "Brave and Bold" brigade's base camp at LZ Bayonet. But, that is on a limited scale only, as the new look in being a military police-

man in the 198th Infantry Brigade is definitely the look of combat. From skimming across the Tra Bong river to intercept a VC sampan to busting through an enemy ambush, the 198th combat MPs are a new dimension to the Military Police Corps.



The security boat gives covering fire if needed to the lead boat during patrols.



Military Policemen tie up their Boston Whaler to a fishing junk and get ready to search.

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's 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's turned themselves in to members of the Recon platoon of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry,

southwest of Quang Tri City.

"We made a combat assault right at the large hook in the Thach Han river," said First Lieutenant Cotton Ruthven, platoon leader. "We were working with the 1st Brigade scout birds, who reported seeing some clothing and some 'Ho Chi Minh racing slicks' (sandals made from rubber tires) on the bank of the river."

Sergeant Floyd Wolfe and Specialist Fourth Class Thomas F. Brown were walking point down a ravine near the river when they spotted the two Chieu Hoi's.

"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 scout birds shot up the area where the clothes were spotted. They had been living in a spider hole along the river bank. Neither had weapons.

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 Americal 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.

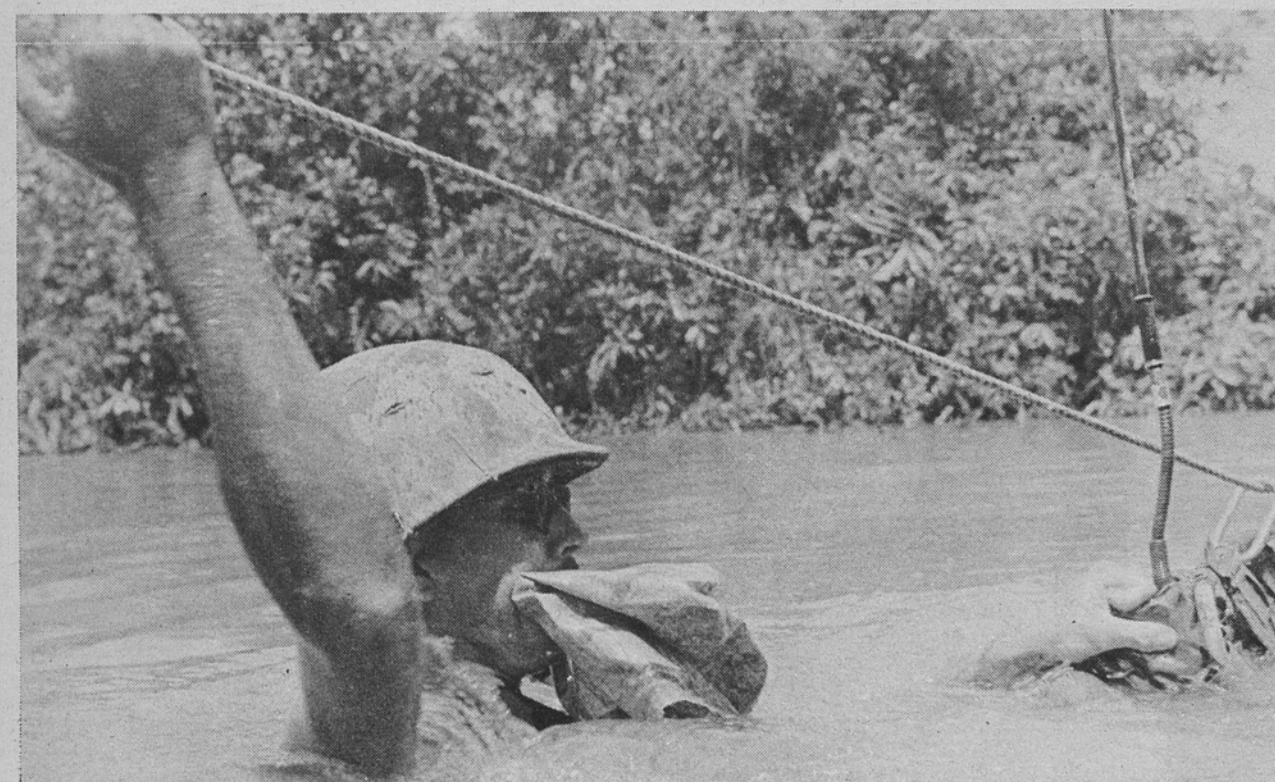
"We are proud of these people's efforts," a 198th Infantry Brigade spokesman said. "They initiated the action and completed it on their own. They desire to assume responsibility is outstanding."



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 (Mech), 22nd Infantry, as they advance on Viet Cong positions to their front.

Tropic Lightning 27 Years Young

CU CHI (USA)—October 1, another chapter in the history of the 25th Infantry Division will be closed. The Tropic Lightning Division will celebrate its 27th anniversary — its 10th as a foreign country and 17th in combat.

Along the thousands of miles covered by the 25th since its birth in Hawaii are legends of battlefields over which the Lightning patch has shone victoriously.

The division was ten weeks old when it was first sent to Guadalcanal, through Hawaii's Kilauea Pass on the morning of December 7, 1941.

Not until the following November, when the 25th Infantry Division Barracks for its first campaign on Guadalcanal, was the division able to return to the Japanese. Twenty years after the 25th landed on that vital island, the Japanese operation of it was over. It was the 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 Communist 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

enemy force.

During the United Nations Counter-offensive, the Tropic Lightning Division slew more than 8,000 enemy troops in one day. The 25th's heroes were decorated with 13 Medals of Honor. In 1954, the division returned to Hawaii after an absence of more than 12 years.

Constant training kept the division at the peak of combat readiness and it responded instantly in December of 1965 when called to combat in Vietnam. The 3d Brigade was airlifted to the Central Highlands as the 1st and 2d Brigades prepared to move to a Viet Cong haven called Cu Chi, 20 miles northwest of Saigon.

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 impressive 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 900 Viet Cong killed

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,

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.

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



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.

Before leaving the U.S., several weeks are devoted to training that will shape and develop the characteristics most desirable in a prime sentry dog.

Dog and handler meet for the first time when each arrives in Vietnam. The key word to future success is togetherness.

In order for a dog to learn to obey and respect his master, many hours other than those walked on post must be spent together during the day.

It is important that the handler know every mannerism and personality trait of his dog — the man's life could well depend on such intimate knowledge.

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.

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 horse meat 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.

Life at the unit is not all work and no play, however. The surf of the South China Sea is at their doorstep, and only a few yards away a handler can take his dog for a good splash at the beach.

With a lot of hard work, intensive training and healthful relaxation, the men and dogs that make up the NSA Sentry Dog Unit form an integral part of the Navy's security system in Vietnam.

Story & Photos
By
PHC Ken Nichols



The dogs are checked daily by a visiting Army Veterinarian.

Airborne Gets New 'Ring'

BIEN HOA (USA) — Every Sunday morning a school bell which once summoned children to their one-room school in a small community in southeastern Ohio now announces religious services for more than 1,000 paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division.

The bell can be heard throughout this sprawling base camp as it signals the beginning of worship services in the interdenominational 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 with 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."

To Safer Spot

Montagnard Village Moved

PHUOC VINH (USA) — The hamlet of Bo Mua has sprung up two miles south of here, nearly overnight.

Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade stationed here recently helped Binh Duong province officials and elements of the 1st Infantry Division in moving the entire village of Bo La 11 kilometers.

"The civilians of Bo La were being constantly hit by Viet Cong mortars and rockets," said Sergeant First Class Paul Rogers, MACV district advisor.

"It was getting so the villagers didn't feel safe and the South Vietnamese officials at the provisional headquarters requested American assistance in moving their village."

Elements of the 101st's 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, soldiers from the "Big Red One" and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment provided local security for the two-day operation, according to Sergeant Rogers.

The civilians took almost everything, including their homes, pigs, chickens and other domestic animals. A fleet of more than 60 trucks ferried the civilians and their possessions to their more secure home.

"The 101st's 3rd Brigade provided 27 medium sized tents to temporarily house the Vietnamese until their new homes could be finished," said Sergeant First Class Carroll Rampley, another MACV advisor.

"We moved 147 families and 890 people in less than two days," he added. "Their homes were rebuilt within three weeks in an area cleared by the 101st engineers working in the area."

Many Schools Without Cost

WASHINGTON (USA) — Hey, GI! Here are more benefits for those of you who intend to use the educational portion of your G.I. Bill.

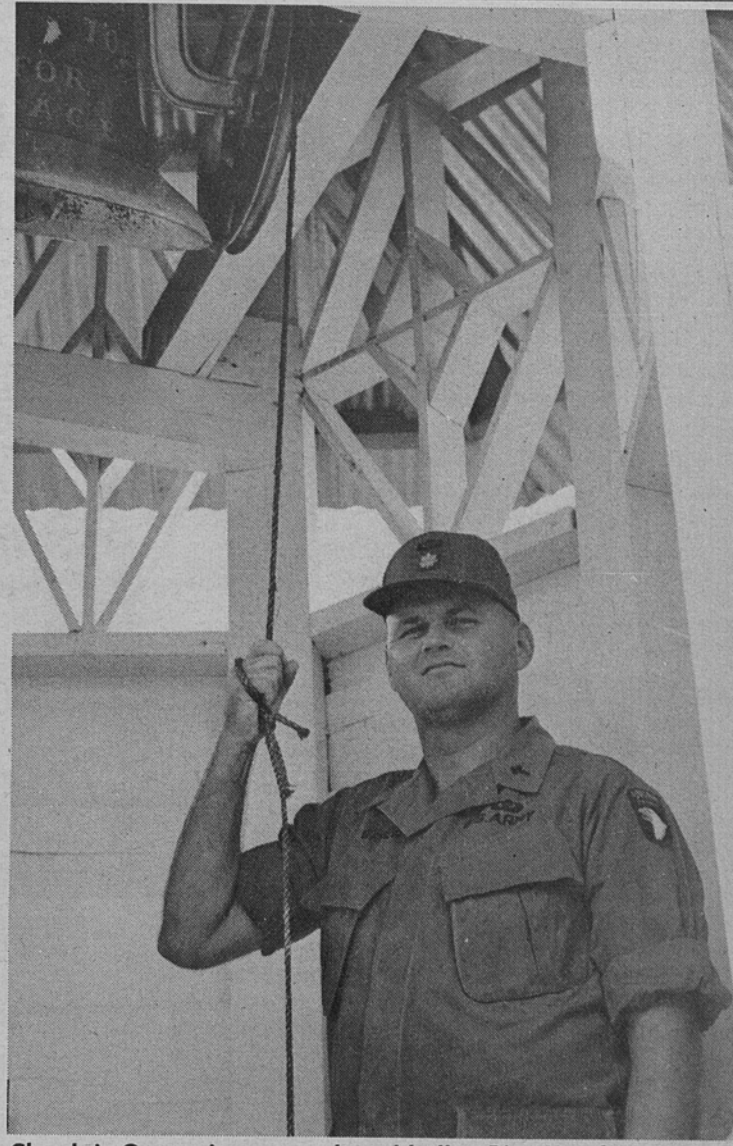
Many private colleges and universities are welcoming veterans who qualify for VA benefits. These schools will absorb the registration fee so that the veteran can enter without charge.

Complete information may be obtained from the National Center for College Admission, Suite 212, Oak Brook Executive Plaza, 1301 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Ill. 60521.



SAY AAH — This youngster more than obliged when Specialist 6 Rick Meyers asked her to stick out her tongue. The specialist, a medic with the 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry, was on a 1st Brigade 25th Infantry Division, medical civic action mission in Tay Ninh province.

(USA PHOTO By CPT Les Raschko)



Chaplain Green rings new chapel bell at Bien Hoa base camp.

Fast Action Saves Boy

BAN ME THUOT (USA) — "Dog with white mouth!" screamed the excited Montagnard villager.

Staff Sergeant Darrel Rhodes, with the 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs Team, was shown a nine-year-old boy who bore the marks of about four bites.

"I didn't see the dog myself," the sergeant said, "but from the man's description I knew the dog had to be rabid."

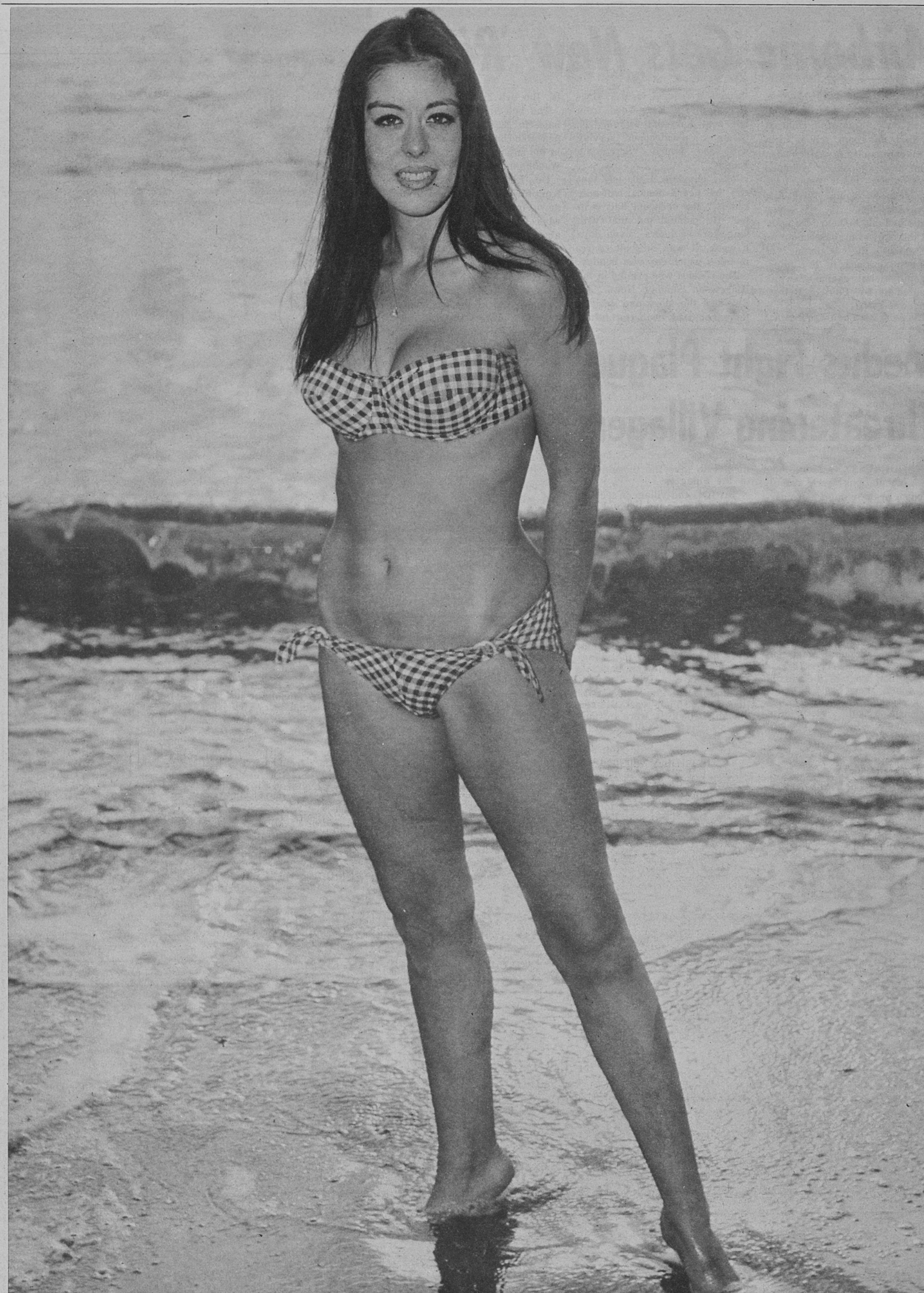
The boy's father was located and an interpreter explained to him that the child's injuries would be fatal unless proper treatment was given quickly.

The father agreed, and both he and his son were driven to the 2nd Brigade base camp where Company C, 4th Medical Battalion had the rabies shots waiting.

After 13 more shots the boy was out of danger.

"Actually we only had one problem," said Specialist 4 James Pack. "The people in the village gathered up all the money they had to pay us for saving the boy's life. We had quite a problem making them understand that we didn't want any payment."

"However, every time I picked up the boy, his father always brought several large cucumbers."



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

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN

IT'S NOT THAT AK47'S ARE ALL BAD... IT'S JUST THAT SO MANY AREN'T VERY GOOD!



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

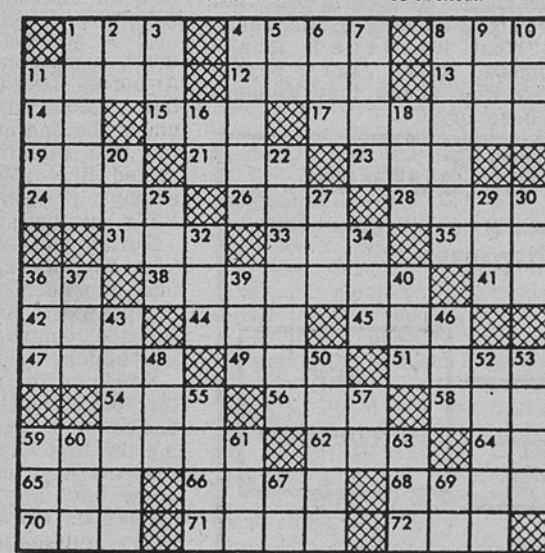
- 1-Dance step
- 4-Barracuda
- 8-Insect
- 11-Clean
- 12-Scene of first miracle
- 13-Fish eggs
- 14-Printer's measure
- 15-Period of time
- 17-Fragments
- 19-Stitch
- 21-High mountain
- 23-Scottish cap
- 24-Former Russian ruler
- 26-Prefix: before
- 28-Pinochle term
- 31-Tear
- 33-Native metal
- 35-Ocean
- 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-Slender
- 68-American ostrich
- 70-Confederate general
- 71-Part of camera
- 72-Still

DOWN

- 1-Sheets of glass
- 2-Conjunction

PET FAINT GAS
AIR ALTER RHO
PRAISE VENIAL
IST PETAL
CALM OUR CLEO
HIS ART ARSON
IM ANT OWE SI
LIANA PRE RIO
LENA HOE FINN
SNOOD MAT
KUWAIT NATURE
ESE LEMON AUK
GAR SLATE LEE

- 3-Pronoun
- 4-Top of head
- 5-Parent (colloq.)
- 6-Abstract being
- 7-Diplomacy
- 8-Picture holders
- 9-Cut
- 10-Affirmative
- 11-Direction
- 16-Sun god
- 18-Male sheep
- 20-Armed conflict
- 22-Go
- 25-Free of
- 27-Before
- 29-Meadow
- 30-Bespatter
- 32-Fondle
- 34-Goal
- 36-Resort
- 37-Hindu cymbals
- 39-Place
- 40-Noise
- 43-Mexican dish
- 46-Edible seed
- 48-Sink in middle
- 50-Mends with cotton
- 52-Rain and hail
- 53-Tissue
- 55-Narrate
- 57-Pronoun
- 59-The sun
- 60-Cravat
- 61-Bishopric
- 63-Attempt
- 67-Indefinite article
- 69-Pronoun



Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 28

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

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz





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.

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 woodland 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 woodland 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

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 woodland 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 Recon 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.

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 Readership Survey

A survey is being conducted in order that the OBSERVER staff may publish a newspaper which appeals to the majority of its readers. Your cooperation in answering the following as instructed and forwarding the survey and mailer on this page will be greatly appreciated.

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)

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

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.