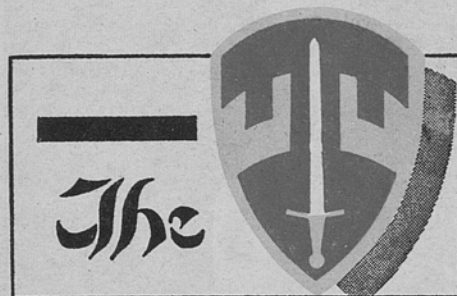


Elite ARVN Rangers Smash NVA



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

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Saigon, Vietnam

October 2, 1968

Night Fight Total Loss For Enemy

DAU TIENG (USA) — A human wave attack by an enemy battalion that came screaming through the night was smashed recently by elements of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry. Ninety-nine of the enemy were killed.

The 25th Infantry Division soldiers were set up at a night defensive position three miles southwest of Dau Tieng in the Ben Cui rubber plantation, scene of much recent fighting.

At 3:45 a.m., several men, using starlight scopes, noticed movement all around the perimeter. Alerting their comrades, they took their positions and with an illumination flare as the signal, opened up on the enemy.

The enemy — estimated at battalion size — launched a thunderous mortar and rocket attack from the north side, while making a human wave assault on the south and east sides of the perimeter.

Sergeant David Guider said, "It was raining mortars and RPGs everywhere. I've never seen anything like it."

Fighting back bitterly, the enemy took heavy losses as they made desperate attempts to storm the perimeter with bangalore torpedoes and home-made ladders.

With the help of spooky flare-ships, their own mortar crews, artillery and gunships, the infantrymen battled until 7 a.m. when the enemy fled.

The battlefield was littered with 99 enemy bodies and piles of ammunition, bangalores, grenades and RPG rounds.



Surface Mail Days



BIRD HUNTING?—Not quite. This 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) Skytrooper uses the high angle fire technique with his M-79 grenade launcher to clear the trees to his front.

(USA PHOTO)

Joint ARVN-101st Operation

Swift Move Surprises Charlie

LZ SALLY (USA) — In a lightning, early morning airborne assault, a joint 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and ARVN force killed 114 Viet Cong and detained 254 enemy. The action took place recently southeast of Hue.

In the daring, surprise assault, the combined force also seized 132 weapons.

The force consisted of paratroopers from the 2nd Brigade's 1st Battalion, 501st Airborne Infantry, the ARVN 1st Battalion, 54th Regiment, elements of the ARVN 7th Cavalry Squadron, the 12th and 13th Naval Coastal Group, a destroyer and local Vietnamese forces.

The task force was simultaneously put on the beaches in different landing zones in the region of Vinh Loc. The troopers immediately conducted a massive sweep over the entire Vinh Loc area.

The enemy was caught completely off guard. Interrogation of detainees revealed that after the first Allied lift hit the ground the VC panicked. Many

buried their weapons and tried to flee to the sea. Others attempted to blend in with the local villagers.

Those who elected to stay and fight were either killed or detained during the swift Allied sweep of the area.

"Pistol Pete" patrol boats and air cushioned "monster"

boats swooped down on those who had fled to the sea. They also were used for the search of sampans attempting to slip out of the area.

After completion of the initial sweep, each of the companies began the long, tedious job of saturation patrolling.

(Continued On Back Page)

'Canned' Charlie Couldn't Con Them

RACH KIEN (USA) — "Canned" Charlie. That's what 9th Division soldiers found sweeping the area around a VC hospital. Seven of the enemy had buried themselves alive in barrels.

A nurse, who had rallied to the government under the Chieu Hoi program, volunteered to take men of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, to the hospital where she had worked. Company A was inserted and she led them to a large house enclosed by a storm fence.

"The VC were using the house as a hospital," said First Lieu-

tenant Phil Ward. "There were 11 beds and an area for operating."

After searching the hospital and finding medical supplies and clothing, the infantrymen began sweeping the surrounding area. Specialist 4 Anderson Durham spotted an enemy running into a bunker and detained him. The suspect said more VC were hiding in the area.

Minutes later, eight VC were seen running toward a woodline. The 1st Brigade elements opened up on them, killing all eight.

DA NANG (USA)—The elite Vietnamese 21st and 39th Ranger Battalions recently killed 320 NVA in the first five days of heavy fighting during Operation Hung Quang 1-70.

Also committed in the clearing operation south of Da Nang were the 3rd Battalion, 51st Regiment, and 2nd Troop, 4th Armored Cavalry.

See Photos, Pages 6, 7

The Rangers met moderate resistance during the first two days of the campaign. They spent most of the time chasing the fleeing enemy and recovering numerous NVA weapons, equipment and ammunition.

In their first contact, Rangers from the 21st killed 11 NVA soldiers and captured several weapons. Before the end of the day they had 33 kills, taking light casualties. They accounted for 20 more kills the next day.

During the third day, the Rangers — supported by Vietnamese Air Force air strikes — killed 114 NVA.

The seasoned Rangers from the 39th clashed heavily with the enemy in the fourth day of Hung Quang 1-70. In the fierce fighting the Rangers killed 71 enemy.

The 21st Ranger Battalion and 4th Armored Cavalry's 2nd Troop met savage resistance in the fifth day of the campaign. Making a swing south, they came into contact with elements of the 3rd Battalion, 38th Quang Da NVA Regiment.

Gunships, artillery and fixed wing Vietnamese and U.S. Air Force air strikes supported the embattled 21st and cavalry unit. Enemy casualties reported were 82 NVA killed.

They Went That-away

PHU BAI (USMC) — You could call them flying cowboys. Marines recently used Huey gunships of the Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 367 to round up cattle hijacked from the owners by Viet Cong rustlers.

The Marines entered the cattle business when the VC laid claim to 150 water buffalo left behind when a village was relocated to protect the Vietnamese from VC terrorists. When the villagers returned for their cattle the VC refused to return them.

The villagers appealed to the Leathernecks for help and a Marine company was airlifted into the area to protect them while they gathered their cattle.

The search continued. Private First Class George Greendeer hit something hard as he probed the ground with a bayonet. He started digging and found a suspect hiding underground in a 50-gallon barrel. It had been cut in half and a layer of wood covered the top.

"I couldn't believe it," Private Greendeer said. "He told interpreters he had been underground for a day and a half."

Private Greendeer found five more barrels with suspects in them. They had buried themselves alive more than 30 hours earlier.

Editorial

Other Wars

LEST WE FORGET . . .

The Communist commitment to the violent overthrow of legally selected governments or the brutal repression of human rights that has become synonymous with Communism, take a quick look at the headlines printed below. This week, THE OBSERVER has resurrected some old headlines to prod your memory. Try matching the headlines with the dates to see how many moves have been made by Communist Chess players attempting to check-mate freedom throughout the world.

PUT THE RIGHT YEAR

1947 Soviets Crush Czech Liberalization
1948 Berlin Wall Halts Refugees

OVER HERE

Seeking Freedom
1949 CHICOM Invade India
1950 Revolt In Hungary Crushed by Soviet Tanks
1953 Castro Declares Cuba Communist State
1954 China Falls to Communists
1956 NVA Division Move into S. Vietnam
1959 Communists Seize Power in Czechoslovakia
1961 CHICOMS Increase Persecution of Tibetan People
1962 Vietnam Splits; 900,000 Flee Communist North
1964 Guerilla Warfare in Greece
1966 East Berliners Quelled by Soviet Tanks
1968 Communists Invade South Korea
(See answers on page 11)

MPs Utilize X-ray Vision To Nab Postal Violators

According to a new regulation from the Department of Defense, firearms and explosives of any type may no longer be mailed through the military APO and FPO systems.

The mailing of ammunition or any other explosives has never been permitted, however, prior to this new regulation, a serviceman here in Vietnam could send for a shotgun from the states and have it mailed to him. This is strictly forbidden under the new regulation.

In order to enforce this regulation, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore G. Shulz, USARV director of postal services, has announced that fluoroscopes, operated by MPs, are being installed in base post offices and air terminals in-country to prevent further mailing of firearms to and from Vietnam.

For Army personnel, the prohibition against mailing firearms will be spelled out in Chapter 8, AR 65-1, which is to be published soon.



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Buy United States Savings Bonds

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Inspectors Help Keep GIs 'Straight'

SAIGON (MACV) — Don't start your R&R on the wrong foot — you may regret it.

When you go on R&R, you are allowed to take one carton of cigarettes and one bottle of unopened liquor with you. If you try to take additional cigarettes, liquor or any other unauthorized items, chances are good it will be found and confiscated by one of the sharp-eyed military customs inspectors who check your luggage.

The 15 MPs from the 716th Military Police Battalion and 12 Air Force Security Policemen who search the luggage of every person leaving on R&R from Tan Son Nhut air base have proven themselves experts at finding the illegal items in your luggage.

The MPs have uncovered some interesting and some dangerous items in their daily task. In one case, a soldier appeared intent on blowing himself and his fellow passengers to pieces when three live grenades were found neatly packed in his luggage. A more common occurrence, is the passenger who brings along grenades that are unarmed but retain a dangerously live firing cap.

The military inspectors willingly give R&R personnel every chance to avoid becoming law-breakers. After briefing them on what they are allowed to take out of country, the MPs give all personnel the opportunity to drop unauthorized items into the "amnesty boxes" with no questions asked.

In addition, the MPs conduct customs inspections for all military flights going to the States or entering Vietnam from the States.

ARC To Play Santa Claus

WASHINGTON — The American Red Cross (ARC) has nearly completed a nation-wide project to provide individual Christmas gifts to U.S. servicemen here in Vietnam.

According to the National Red Cross headquarters, the gift bags will be shipped to Vietnam between September 1 and October 15.

The program, called "Red Cross Shop Early — Vietnam 1968," is designed to provide enough gift bags so that one can be given to each serviceman and servicewoman stationed in Vietnam.

The gift bags, containing pen-sized flashlights with batteries, plastic soap cases, writing paper with self sealing envelopes and small vacuum packed tins of nuts or candies, will be sent directly to Red Cross field directors who will distribute them to personnel in the military units with which they work.

Also, special gift bags are being packed for distribution to servicewomen and contain many feminine items such as hand lotion, shower caps, creme sachet or cologne and small powder puffs. (ANF)



HYPNOTIC TRANCE—Try staring at our mod beauty's eyes for a few seconds and if your mind is willing you can almost feel yourself going into a trance. If our "lady in the dark" succeeds in putting you in a trance, check your DEROS, you may be "shorter" than you think.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)



1LT David E. Boudreaux

A unique religious sect found in Vietnam is the Cao Dai (pronounced cow die). This religious sect is a blend of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Christianity modeled administratively after the Roman Catholic Church. However, when one takes into consideration the many religions found in Vietnam and the tolerant attitude of the Vietnamese people toward all religions, one is not too surprised by the Cao Dai.

The Holy City

The holy city of the Cao Dai is at Tay Ninh. The main temple is an impressive building, with nine floor levels. On the main altar is a large globe, symbolizing the universe. The large human eye, similar to that found on the back of a "greenback," represents the all-seeing divinity. Included in the temple compound are a school, a hospital, an orphanage, a convent, and a home for the aged.

Today the Cao Dai claim to have over three million followers. Most authorities put the figure closer to two million. They have been known for their resistance of Communist aggression for many years and even maintained their own army until they joined forces with the Republic of South Vietnam to defeat the common enemy.

. . . we think that what you are doing to help in Vietnam is right."

JOHN GROTON
Australian Prime Minister

Aloha Airlines Flies In Vietnam

OASIS (USA) — A small helicopter swoops out of the clouds, spraying the ground below with machine gun fire. Three unsuspecting Viet Cong fall. Aloha Airlines has struck again.

The 3rd Brigade's Aloha Airlines originally functioned solely as an observation outfit. Later, it flew combat missions in addition to observation flights.

To most people, the name Aloha Airlines means a Hawaiian commercial airline. But to the men of the 3rd Brigade, it is a hard-fighting helicopter support section.

The 3rd Brigade was stationed in Hawaii before coming to Vietnam. Its aviation unit took the name Aloha Airlines as its call sign. The men in the unit used the name jokingly at first. Later it stuck. Permission was obtained from the actual airline to use the name and there have been two Aloha Airlines ever since.

The unit originally boasted four OH23 helicopters, called "Bubbles" by the men who fly them. Today, it has three light observation Cayuse helicopters and one OH23.

Aloha has earned an outstanding reputation in Vietnam, having accumulated a confirmed record of 300 enemy killed. All of the kills were made by gunners sitting next to the pilot, holding M60 machine guns in their laps.

While flying observation missions in their earlier days, the small helicopters would often receive heavy fire from enemy ground positions. It was then that pilots began taking gunners along for protection.

"We really didn't become a combat unit until we moved to the Duc Pho area," explained Chief Warrant Officer Charles

Grigsby. "In addition to flying observation missions, we began to fly in support of combat assaults."

Aloha's gunners came from many different sections of the brigade.

Staff Sergeant John B. Howard, a mess steward, flew 85 missions with Aloha — on his time off from cooking.

Aloha Airlines in Hawaii, having learned of the unit's record with the 4th Division, invited all those who had served with Aloha in Vietnam to stop by their offices if they were ever in Hawaii. CWO Grigsby took up their invitation on his R&R.

"They gave me the royal treatment," he said. "They took me on a tour of the islands and I had a great time."

The commercial airlines also supplies the helicopter unit with stickers and T-shirts bearing their name.

Aloha no longer maintains a combat status, but to many men who have served with the 3rd Brigade, the daring maneuvers and blazing machine guns of the bubble will never be forgotten.

1st Brigade Leads Leaflet Fight

Paper Warfare Causes NVAs To Defect

DAK TO (USA) — In the jungles of the Central Highlands an NVA corporal saw a scrap of paper on the ground, picked it up and thought over what it promised him.

Later, an airplane overhead broadcast the voice of one of his comrades who invited the NVA troopers to lay down their arms and switch sides.

The decision was agonizingly difficult. The offers might be a trap. The penalty for desertion is serious.

Corporal Le Hung finally hid his rifle and walked into a fire base of the 1st Brigade at Dak Seang. The information he brought with him about the

NVA's strength and intentions provided the 4th Division with vital clues about their elusive enemy. For the men who fight a little-known paper war with leaflets and loud-speakers, it was another victory.

According to Captain Gary Olsen, assistant civil affairs officer, nearly everyday in the 4th Division's area of operations several million leaflets are dropped on NVA-occupied areas — ten thousand for every thousand square meters of land. The 1st Brigade drops about twice as many leaflets as other brigades.

A Roving Psychological Operations team visits fire bases when enemy troops are thought to be nearby. The team broadcasts messages to them over

portable loudspeakers. The leaflets bear diverse messages. They tell of death from the B-52 bombers and of the good life under the South Vietnamese government.

"Binh Minh," an illustrated newspaper, reports straight news of world events, the progress of the war, the peace talks and NVA casualties.

Appeals from former members of NVA units operating around Dak To are frequently used to persuade other members of these units to rally to the South Vietnamese side. "This," Captain Olsen said, "probably goes over biggest with the NVA."

Deficiencies of NVA training and tactics are the targets of other leaflets. "You were betrayed," declares a message addressed to the survivors of an attack on Kontum during

Tet. "The NVA soldiers were left exposed and those that could not withdraw died in Kontum."

One of the grimmest appeals simply says, "If you cannot rally to the Government of South Vietnam, please fill out this card and carry it on your body at all times. We will make every effort to notify your family of your death and place of burial through the International Red Cross."

One measure of the paper war's effectiveness, Captain Olsen points out, is the NVA's efforts to keep their men from picking up and reading American propaganda. But the NVA cadre are unable to watch their men all the time and cannot keep them from hearing the loud-speakers broadcasting from the planes and the fire bases.



WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE—Here's the view one door gunner of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262 had recently. The Sea Knight helicopters were transporting 3rd Marine Division Marines when they saw a sure sign of the enemy's close proximity. A North Vietnamese gun peppers a probable landing zone below.

(USMC PHOTO By: Cpl. Mike Servais)



SILVER STAR

Aberle, Harvey F. PFC USA
Blanton, Philip T. MAJ USA
Henschel, William E. LTC USA
Lowery, Jack G. SFC USA
Sanchez, Desi J. CPT USA
Shaw, Lamar M. CPT USA
Thompson, Clayton L. Jr. 1LT USA
Wright, Douglas A. SP4 USA

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Willis, Oliver Jr. SSG USA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

WITH "V" DEVICE

Beisel, Charles C. CPT USA
Benfield, Johnie H. Jr. 1LT USA
Benson, William E. SSG USA
Bond, Roy F. MAJ USA */1
Cohen, Charles J. SGT USA */3
Cole, Larry K. CPT USA */3
Cooper, John C. SP4 USA
Culbert, Harry J. CPT USA

Dorsey, Mercer M. Jr. 1LT USA */2

Douglas, Dennis L. SP4 USA */1

Dumas, Walter A. LTC USA

Frament, Eugene P. 1LT USA

Harris, Frederick, W. CPT USA */1

Hartford, George W. SFC USA

Heffley, James P. Jr. 1LT USA

Holland, Eugene CPT USA

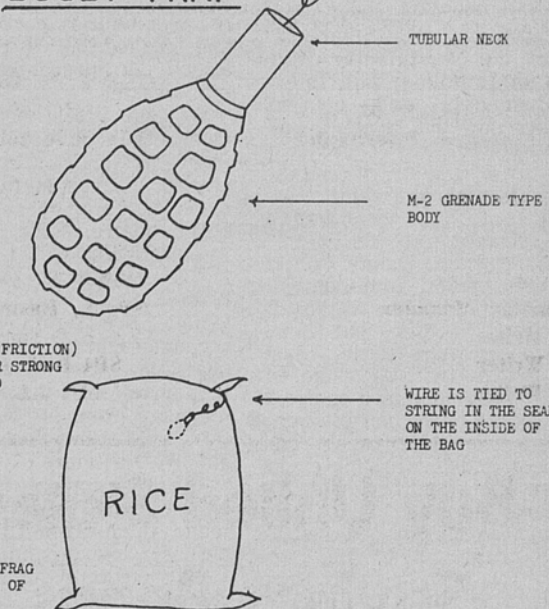
Hughes, Robert P. SSG USA

ARMY COMMENDATION

MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Dupuis, Bruce E. 1LT USA
Hawley, Steven A. SP4 USA
Hunter, James P. 1LT USA
Jerome, Robert C. SFC USA
Jewett, Gary E. CPT USA
Kanstrup, Richard D. 1LT USA
Mattes, David J. 1LT USA
*/ denotes number of Oak Leaf Clusters

RICE BAG BOOBY TRAP



3001: STEEL FRAG
APPROX 1/4 LB OF
EXPLOSIVE

AF Aid For Infantrymen

NHA TRANG (USAF) — During the flight from a battle area to Nha Trang hospital in a C-7A Caribou, Technical Sergeant Wilbur V. Hosman administers intravenous fluids to a wounded soldier while Sergeant William K. Fricker and Second Lieutenant John P. Regan (kneeling) administer aid to the patients. The men are members of the 903rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Nha Trang air base, which has flown missions through narrow mountain passes and landed on rough jungle valley airfields to pull out casualties.

52 In One Day

In a single day the 903rd airlifted 52 wounded, evacuating them to field hospitals at Phu Hiep and Nha Trang.

Wounded soldiers, most of them Americans, are flown from the battle area to the landing strip by Army "Dustoff" helicopters. They are carefully loaded aboard the Caribou and lifted out with maximum speed.

In-Flight Aid

Once on board the plane, Air Force nurses and medical technicians replace fluids and administer oxygen, resuscitation and reinforced dressings.

Captain Robert J. Anderson, officer-in-charge at Nha Trang, said, "The casualties are brought out so fast that most of them are still in their battle gear when we get them to the hospital."



Sergeant-On-The-Spot

NCO Never Misses The Action

SONG BE (USA) — Incoming mortars and rockets tore through the night air over Song Be as paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's (Airmobile) 3rd Brigade scrambled for cover. A series of violent explosions rocked the pock-marked runway.

Clutching his aid kit, Specialist 4 Lynn Lightfoot, a 3rd Brigade medic, ran for the airfield.

Suddenly a comic yet inspiring figure, framed in the pale light of artillery flares, appeared on the runway ahead of him.

Wearing only a flack jacket, steel pot, jungle boots, his PRC-25 radio and a set of "OD" undershorts, he was in the process

of directing in MEDEVAC helicopters, before Specialist Lightfoot could even appear on the scene.

Sergeant First Class Robert "Bob" Rose was once again in control of the situation.

SFC Rose is carried on the morning report of the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, as NCOIC of the S-4 Section, but generally gets involved in most of the battalion actions in various capacities.

"He's always on that radio directing something," Specialist Lightfoot said. "It's been said that Sergeant Rose even wears it to bed so he won't miss out if something happens. After that night at the airfield I believe it."

Prevents Disaster

Several nights later, more enemy rockets started a fire which began to spread toward ammunition and valuable equipment. A figure darted on to a bulldozer parked nearby and gouged out a trench that effectively prevented impending disaster.

Sergeant Rose stepped down from the bulldozer, smiling from ear to ear. He later conceded to friends that he had never actually operated a bulldozer before, "but had to do something."

Weeks later, paratroopers from Company A got into a vicious fire fight while on a reconnaissance-in-force mission near Song Be. "We were caught in a cross-fire and the rate of incoming rounds was fantastic," said First Sergeant Donald W. Larimore.

The outnumbered paratroopers returned fire but soon found themselves running dangerously low on ammunition.

"We couldn't get any supply choppers out there because the fire was too intense," said Major Joe Villa, battalion executive officer. "I informed Rose

of the situation. I knew he could get the job done if anyone could."

Minutes later, a jeep careened down the narrow road into the thick of the fire fight. Loaded down with precious ammunition, it darted between the American and NVA positions as a hail of tracer bullets filled the air around it.

Guess Who

Sergeant Larimore shook his head in disbelief as a man with a PRC-25 radio on his back jumped from the vehicle and began tossing ammunition to the stunned but grateful paratroopers.

"I might have known it was Sergeant Rose," said Captain J. W. Hendrix. "Who else would drive right through the middle of the battle to get that ammo to us?"

"Sometimes I get to the point where I almost feel like letting up," the sergeant said. "But then some young trooper trips over his own feet or something just as silly. We all laugh and I drive on, my outlook bright again."

US Marines, ARVN Rangers Quell Attack

Enemy Loses 36 Trying To Cross Bridge

DA NANG (USA) — A few miles south of here lies a small, narrow bridge which 36 enemy soldiers gave their lives to try and cross.

It happened recently, when an estimated company composed of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops moved during the early morning hours to the southern end of the bridge. Using mortars and rockets, they began firing on the village of Hoa Vang on the other side.

Elements of the combined force moved onto the bridge,

Army Crews Rescue Two Marine Pilots

CHU LAI (USA) — The assistance one service renders another was dramatized recently when two Americal Division choppers pulled two Marine pilots from the South China Sea.

The two pilots, Major Daniel Carroll and First Lieutenant Ralph C. Brown, Jr., were returning from a mission north of Chu Lai when they realized there was a malfunction in their landing gear.

"I contacted Chu Lai and told them to go ahead and foam the runway," Major Carroll said. After about 10 or 15 minutes, the two pilots directed their F-4B Phantom jet towards the runway and the cross-deck arresting gear pendant, which causes the aircraft to come to a complete halt after about 200 to 250 feet.

Pendant Breaks

"Our speed was slowed down to about 80 miles per hour, when suddenly the pendant broke, causing our airplane to go out of control and start to skid sideways," the major stated. "My choice at this time was to hit the burners and attempt to get the aircraft off the ground. I believe we did a first in aviation history, when we got the aircraft off the ground without landing gear."

"While I prepared for our ejection, Lieutenant Brown headed the aircraft out to sea. We both ejected about a half-mile from the shore," explained the major.

The first chopper to the scene was that of Warrant Officer James M. White from the Americal Division's 176th Aviation Company. Having spotted the red flare Major Carroll sent up, he proceeded to rescue the downed pilot.

Major Carroll commented later on the rescue: "The pilot hovered over me beautifully at about three feet while crewmen tossed me a rope. . . his crew really humped in getting me into the chopper. The job was so proficient it seemed they had trained for years at air-sea rescues."

Unusual Rescue

Lieutenant Brown's rescue was a little more complex. A Marine CH-34 chopper appeared first to pick him up. The helicopter, having Lieutenant Brown all hooked-up, began pulling him from the water, but then began to lose power. The downed pilot was dragged by the CH-34 as it sank into the water. He disengaged himself, then the chopper regained its power and moved out of the way.

All this time another Americal helicopter, piloted by Captain Herman Castle, 71st Aviation Company, circled the area. When he saw the Marine

chopper unable to make the pick-up, he immediately lowered his craft to about two feet above the water.

No Rope Aboard

There was no rope aboard Captain Castle's chopper so the pilot was forced to hold onto the skids. Lieutenant Brown said, "The crew pulled me up and I hooked my elbow over the skid, and locked the other arm to it through my harness. Then we headed for the beach."

Following his unusual rescue, Lieutenant Brown praised the professional ability of the pilot and crew of the Army chopper. "He did a beautiful job of flying. . . held it steady as a rock two feet above the water."

Give Celebration

That night the two Leathernecks went to the 176th Aviation Company Officer's Club and bought champagne for the company and especially for WO White, Captain Castle and their crews. Major Carroll said, "It was just our way of thanking the Army for helping out two Marines."

Leathernecks Kill 22 NVA

CON THIEN (USMC) — Leathernecks of "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines killed 22 enemy soldiers in two hours while acting as a lead element in a battalion-size sweep west of Con Thien.

The Marines suffered only light casualties in the engagement. Action began late in the morning when a Marine aerial observer sighted an estimated North Vietnamese Army (NVA) company-sized force on a nearby hill.

Captain Gary E. Todd, company commander, immediately called for Marine air and artillery strikes to soften up the enemy.

"The strikes forced the NVA unit to come out and fight in the open on our terms," commented the captain.

The Leathernecks launched an attack on the enemy position and instantly came under heavy enemy fire, but a second air and artillery strike caused the enemy to break contact and flee.

After securing the hill, Leathernecks found 110 recently-constructed bunkers, along with a number of enemy automatic weapons, documents and equipment.

"The attack was a complete success due to terrific teamwork between the Marine air, artillery and infantry units," commented Major F. J. Breth, battalion operations officer.

forcing Vietnamese civilians in front of them as shields. Marines at the northern end of the bridge held their fire, not wanting to harm the hostages.

As the civilians neared the friendly side of the bridge, they broke from the enemy and ran. U.S. Marines and a Ranger unit from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam opened fire, shooting straight down the span.

The enemy dug in at the south end of the bridge, but Marine Huey gunships were called in to control the area while elements of the 27th Ma-

rine Regiment and a Marine tank section of the 1st Tank Battalion closed in. Escaping enemy were cut off by elements of the 1st Military Police Battalion.

By 3 p.m. the fighting had ended, and 30 Viet Cong and six North Vietnamese lay dead. Marine casualties were light.

While enemy troops were attempting to cross the Cam Le bridge, a second enemy unit was attacking the Cau Do river bridge two kilometers west of Cam Le. Marines killed four of the enemy there.

Marines Fight Fire, Enemy In Village

DA NANG (USMC)—A small Marine Corps fire department responded to a call for assistance in the small village of Hoa Vang.

Enemy rockets, mortars and small arms had sparked a number of fires and the village was engulfed in smoke.

Before the day ended, two of the men accompanying the fire department would die. Four others would be wounded.

But the Marines would save more than half the village.

"I was scared as hell," admitted Lance Corporal Dennis E. Bessire, "because there was some live ammunition in the fire and the stuff was exploding in the flames."

"And, if that wasn't enough," interrupted Gunnery Sergeant William C. Young, "a gas station was a special threat."

"The gas lines had been riddled by enemy machine gun bullets and the gas was leaking out. If the gas had gone, there would have been one hell of a roar, and additional homes and businesses would have burned."

Captain William J. Cipperly, 1st Marine Air Wing Fire Marshal and the officer in charge of the Marine Fire Department, received the call from Hoa Vang shortly after noon.

He sounded the alarm and left the fire station with 15 firemen. En route to the village, they



Riddled by enemy weapons-fire, the gas pump leaks gas toward the flaming building which Marines work to control.

added a dozen Marines from the 1st Military Police Battalion, to provide security.

"We took off with one pumper, a 5,500 gallon tanker and two command vehicles," said Gunnery Sergeant George S. Willard, noncommissioned officer in charge of the fire department.

When the Marines entered the village, they found fire on both sides of the street extending for approximately 10 blocks. From 100 to 150 buildings had already been destroyed by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese fire.

The Marines were joined by two pumps and a tanker from the Naval Supply Activity, and an Air Force pumper, and later, a pumper from the Marine Force Logistic Command.

"When we fought the fire," Captain Cipperly recalled, "we had to keep the trucks spread out because of the possibility of attack."

"Sniper fire was hitting all over the village, and three mortar rounds forced my men to dive beside the wheels of the truck for protection. At times, the fighting was only a half-block away from where we were fighting the fire," he said. "We estimate that we saved 40 buildings, both homes and businesses, and of course, prevented the spreading of the fire. We'd place our vehicles in such a manner so that we could fight two fires with the same truck, and we continued fighting the fire until late that afternoon," the captain said.

During the attack on Hoa Vang and the nearby Cam Le Bridge, 30 Viet Cong and six North Vietnamese soldiers died as Marines of the 1st Military Police Battalion, fended off the initial ground attack.

Vietnamese Rangers and U.S. Marines were credited with killing more than 200 enemy soldiers around the village during the next three days of fighting.

Marine casualties were 14 killed in action, two of whom were providing security for the

Story & Photos
By USMC

Marine, Navy and Air Force fire fighting equipment was used.



Leatherneck firemen of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing fight fires on both sides of the street.

firemen. Marines had 58 wounded; four of them security for the fire department.

There is an article on the wall of the 1st Marine Air Wing fire station which reads:

"A combat fireman is a man,

who, while fighting fire, must worry about ordnance, snipers and extinguishing the fire quickly, to save lives and property. . . ."

Two dead . . . four wounded . . . but half-a-village saved.



Mission accomplished, fire fighters disconnect fire hoses.



A member of the 1st Military Police Battalion provides security.

ARVN Rangers Demolish Enemy Force, Killing 320

Photos By
GySgt. H. L. Shipp



A Ranger places his machine gun defensively, as he anticipates the long night to come.



Hip-deep in water, a Ranger keeps the enemy on the run.



Grimacing under the strain of extended battle, an ARVN soldier fixes his gaze to the front.



A U.S. Army Advisor to the 21st ARVN Ranger Battalion, assists in the evacuation of a wounded man.



Wounded ARVN soldiers are loaded aboard a U.S. "dust off" helicopter.



Battle-toughened Rangers from the 39th Battalion charge across an open field south of Da Nang, in hot pursuit of the enemy.



Supporting the far end of a pole-litter while assisting Rangers in the evacuation of a soldier is a U.S. Army advisor.

Rocket Attack Silenced

DAK TO (USA)—The rockets came whistling into the 1st Brigade base camp here ten minutes after the daily five o'clock briefing began.

Within seconds, the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), nerve center of Dak To's offense and defense, was ready to fight back.

While men scrambled for cover to the sound of a wailing siren, the men in the TOC began to gather the data and issue the instructions which would neutralize the damage an undetected enemy could do.

Enemy Location Plotted

Radio reports began to yield key details. Fire base 6 spotted flashes to the south and radioed the TOC with an azimuth. Fire base 29 quickly followed with an intersecting azimuth. Observers from the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, inside Dak To's perimeter, called in the position of each rocket as it landed.

Inside the TOC, Colonel Joseph Fix III, commander of the 1st Brigade, and his staff, took this data and plotted it on the operations map.

Enemy rocket launchers, they found, were firing from either

of two grid coordinates.

As soon as these coordinates were plotted, Captain Edward Hill, assistant S-3 of the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, quickly confirmed no friendly troops in these areas.

Soon after the first rocket struck Dak To, 155mm Howitzers were blasting back at the two suspected positions.

FAC Checks Positions

Elsewhere in the TOC, the brigade assistant air liaison officer, Major Duane Aasted, directed an airborne forward air controller (FAC) to inspect the two positions.

FAC pilot Captain Wayne Abbey was flying an O-2 Bird Dog south of Fire base 6 and spotted the enemy position only two kilometers away.

"I was practically on top of them when I saw the flashes and smoke," he later said.

With the launching site now pinpointed, artillery air observers in smaller spotter planes took over and guided a rain of artillery onto the enemy's rocket site. Shortly afterwards, air strikes brought more devastation.

The rocket attack was quickly

silenced.

But at the TOC, radios continued to crackle out their urgent messages. Perimeter Defense was receiving reports of movement to the southwest: trip flares had been set off and bunkers had taken sporadic small arms fire.

The warning siren came alive again to signal a possible ground attack.

Reaction forces moved quickly to occupy reinforcing bunkers.

Colonel Fix ordered a "duster" to take up a position guarding the threatened southwest perimeter.

Airstrike Destroys Attack

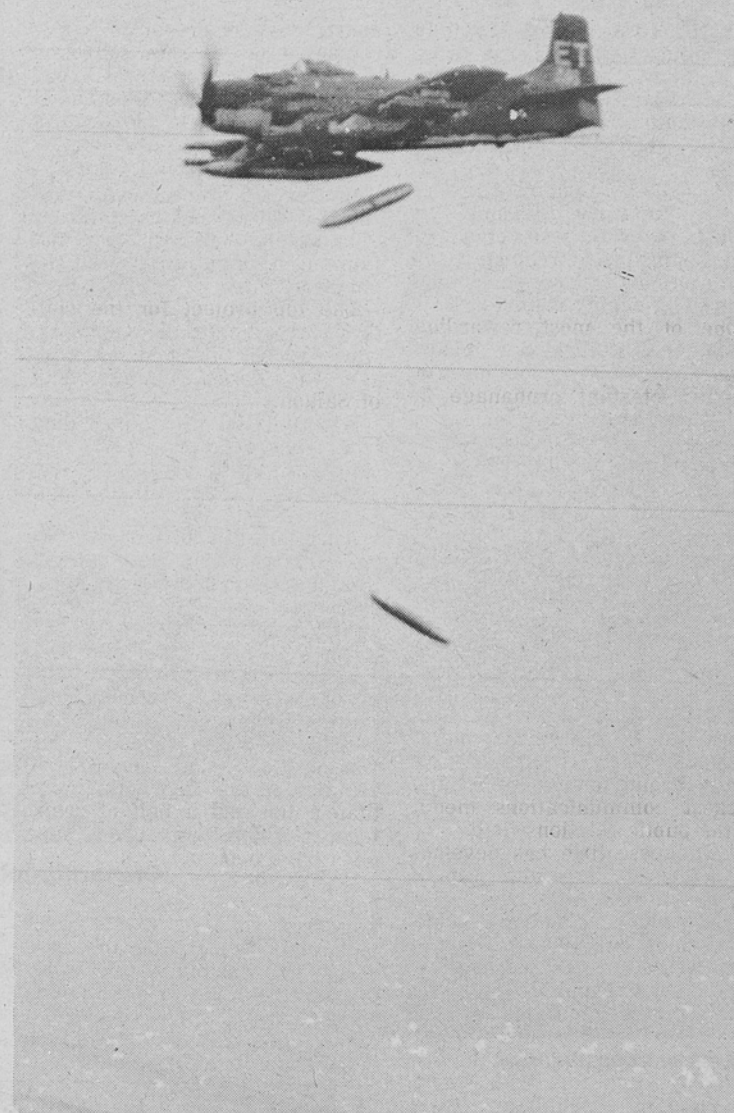
Captain Abbey guided his FAC plane back over Dak To and marked the woodland south of the Dak Poko river with a smoke rocket. A1E Skyraiders then dove in and turned the forest into a maelstrom of fire and thunder. F-100s followed their course and dumped more ordnance.

Whatever enemy troops were hiding in that forest would do no fighting today.

The attack was over. Tension let up in the TOC as the all-clear sounded. The men who directed Dak To's defense stepped outside to watch the last air strikes come in across the Dak Poko river.

Out loud, Colonel Fix asked no one in particular, "What ever happened to that five o'clock briefing?"

Story By:
1LT Alexander Cooker
and
SP4 Jeffrey Tarter
USA and USAF Photos



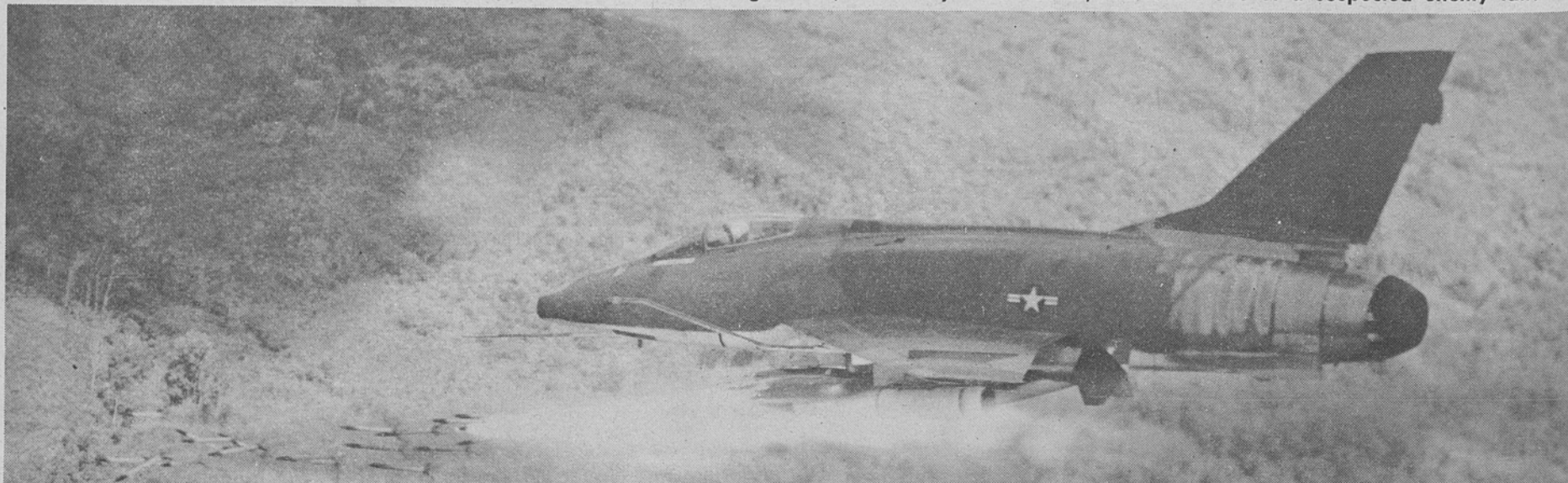
Skyraider A1E rains destruction on enemy forces.



An F-100 pulls out of a dive after depositing its load.



Rising smoke, caused by an air strike, marks the site of a suspected enemy lair.



A salvo of rockets is unleashed by an F-100 against the enemy position. The air strikes put an end to the enemy attack for this day.

Bridge-builders Support Orphans

DONG TAM (USA)—Playfully pushing a small child on a swing or cautiously probing for a dangerous booby trap, men of the 15th Engineer have done it all while working in the Mekong Delta.

As the combat engineer unit of the 9th Infantry Division, the 15th is constantly involved in building bridges, sweeping roads for mines and road blocks and destroying enemy bunkers.

One of the most rewarding tasks the battalion has undertaken has been sponsorship of a small Protestant orphanage in My Tho. Almost every Sunday a convoy of trucks filled with men and equipment can be seen moving toward My Tho, the men's pockets full of candy and balloons.

Since beginning work at the orphanage the engineers have

constructed or repaired classrooms, desks, a rain collection system, kitchen, access road and dispensary. One member of the battalion donated his entire Vietnam savings to buy cement blocks for the school addition.

Captain Carlos Del Valle, battalion surgeon, and his staff provide regular medical care and immunization programs for the children.

The top project for the children, according to the engineers, was a recent picnic at this division base camp 41 miles south of Saigon.

With the U.S. Navy providing boat transportation upriver, the children were brought to Dong Tam where they met their Army "parent for a day."

After an American-style picnic, the children were taught musical chairs and other games. The engineers were entertained with Vietnamese folk songs and dances.

In addition to party fare, the battalion regularly donates food to the orphanage. Through the assistance of churches in the United States and friends and families of the engineers, more than a ton and a half of soap, toys, clothing and school supplies have been donated.

Representatives from each company meet weekly to discuss problems concerning the project, plan future programs and assign responsibility. All work is coordinated by First Lieutenant Larry Cory, civic action officer, and Captain Stanley J. O'Loughlin, battalion chaplain.



Soldiers delight children at My Tho with sleight-of-hand show during a civic actions visit.

Story Of A Small Boy And The V.I.P.

CHU LAI (USA) — Ha Hoan is a 14-year-old Vietnamese boy. He lives in one of the thousands of small villages along the coastal plain in Vietnam's southern I Corps area. Probably the most distinguishing feature of Ha Hoan's village is that it is adjacent to Landing Zone Baldy, headquarters of the Americal Division's 196th Infantry Brigade.

Ha Hoan is a small youngster, but his face reflects a maturity unusual for his years. He wears an American GI's jungle hat — a status symbol among the boys of his village. He is fortunate, he has a bicycle and gets around.

Being an alert youngster, Ha Hoan notices much that goes on in and near his village. He knows where unexploded U.S. mortar rounds or dud artillery shells can be found. He knows where the Viet Cong left a supply of AK-47 ammunition. And Ha Hoan also has noticed something new that takes place every day at 3 p.m.

The Americans call it V.I.P., the Voluntary Informant Program. At 3 p.m. the Americans come to a crossroads near his village. There is a truck there that has loud-speakers that talk his language. The speakers say, "Don't give aid to the Viet Cong. The Americans are here to help you." They also tell about the Voluntary Informant Program: "Give unexploded shells to the GIs. Turn in mines and Viet Cong equipment for a reward."

Pay Is Incentive

That is why Ha Hoan is here. He has a 105mm howitzer shell strapped to the back fender of his bicycle. The shell makes his bike appear rocket-propelled. In a canvas bag he has two dud mortar rounds that fell into an empty field. A score of other children are there too, handing over explosives that could find their way into enemy hands and reappear as mines and booby traps.

The captain is sorry, but there is no money today. It is Sunday and the supply of piasters has run out. "I'll add it to your account, Ha Hoan," said the captain.

Both the captain and the boy will return to the crossroads tomorrow. Ha Hoan will have

of his village. He is fortunate, he has a bicycle and gets around.

more articles to turn in for his reward and the captain will have the piasters to settle the account. Ha Hoan is a regular. He comes to the collection point every day — even when he has nothing to turn over to the Americans. He is beginning to like the GIs. Some of the infantrymen know words in Vietnamese. Ha Hoan jokes with them. He laughs as they mispronounce the words of his language.

Medics Help

The boy stops to talk to a GI. He asks, "GI, got a band-aid?" He loosens the piece of corrugated cardboard wrapped around his ankle to display a mean-looking, infected open sore. This is no job for a band-aid. The captain calls for a medic and soon three arrive.

Ha Hoan stands very still as the medic cuts away the diseased flesh and cleans the wound. He doesn't make a sound. Before the medics leave, there are a half-dozen Vietnamese youngsters sporting new white band-aids.

By now there is a big pile of ordnance at the captain's feet and the proper notations recorded in his account book. The explosives are stacked in a hole behind a small hill. The radio warns aircraft to stay clear of the area. The demolition man sets his charge, and the GIs shout their warning, "Fire in the hole!" ... the youngsters mimic, "Fire in the hole!"

A smoke grenade is popped to mark the hole and everyone retreats to a safe distance. There is an explosion, then smoke, and it's over — over until the next day at 3 p.m.

But, maybe before then, maybe just after dawn tomorrow Ha Hoan or one of his friends will

point out a V.C. mine in the road. Maybe because he has come to trust the Americans a little more, one of those youngsters will warn an American patrol that "Charlie" is in the area.

Marine Hospital Gets AF Support

DA NANG (USMC) — The Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, Colo., has donated \$1,642 to the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital operated by Marine Force Logistic Command (FLC) near Da Nang.

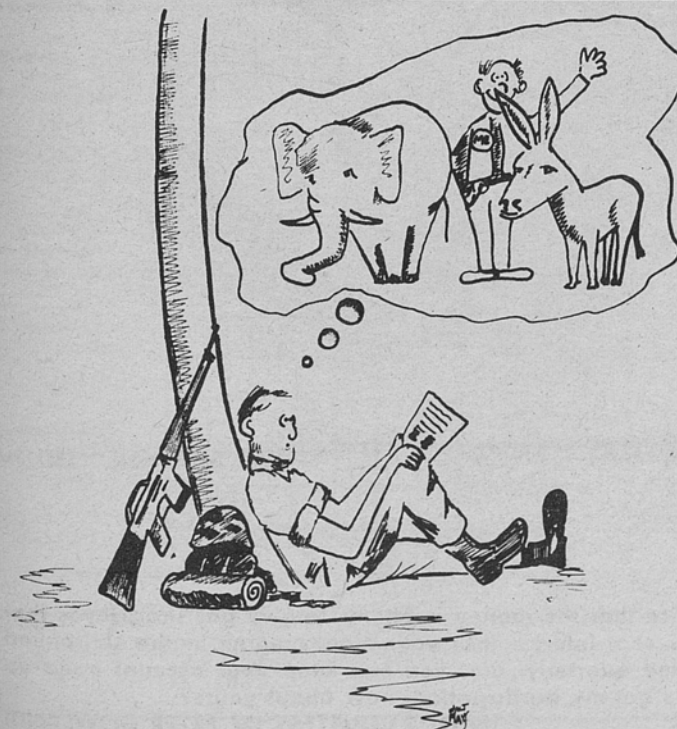
Colonel D. B. Bond, Jr., FLC's chief of staff, accepted the contribution from Air Force Chaplain William Montgomery, assistant 7th Air Force staff chaplain.

The Academy's chaplain, Captain Robert Browning, recently served a tour in Vietnam with the 366th Combat Support Group near Da Nang, where he learned of the hospital and the work it is doing. When the Academy wished to help some needy organization, Chaplain Browning suggested the hospital.

The only one of its kind in I Corps, the hospital is staffed by volunteer doctors and corpsmen from FLC and Vietnamese nurses. It is supported by donations from U.S. servicemen and stateside citizens.

A new building, which will increase the facility's capacity to 120 beds, is going up as a result of donations totaling almost \$30,000.

The hospital treats several hundred children monthly for diseases ranging from skin infections to plague and serious burns.

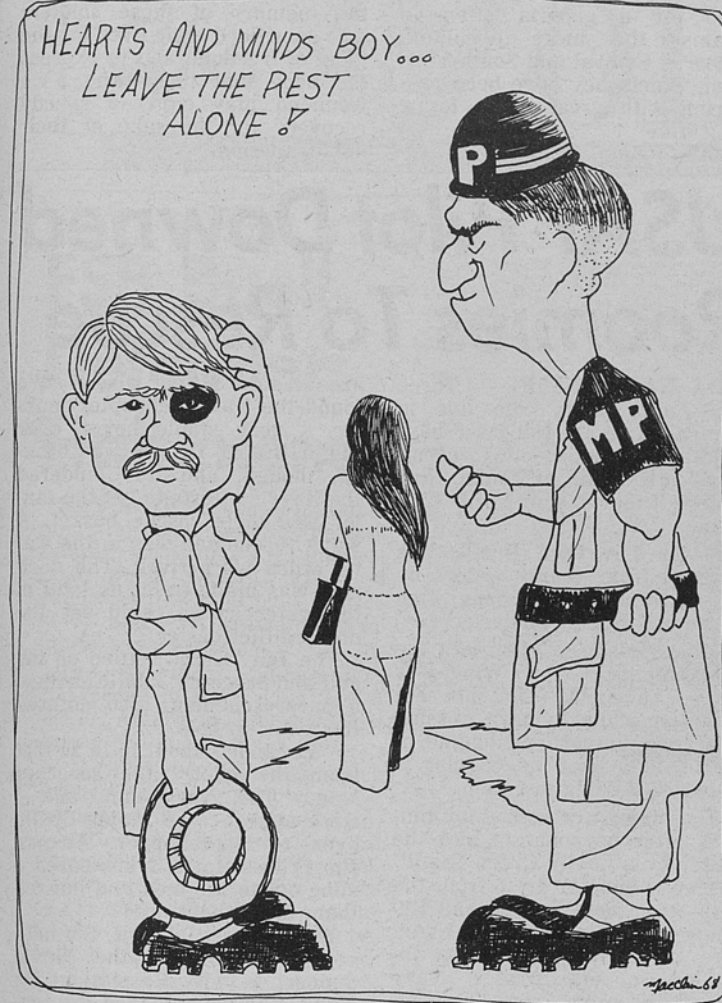




BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Sez, if, while carefully scrutinizing this picture you happen to notice that the money is phony, you've got sharp eyes (but what were they doing on the money?). Anyway, here's something that's not phony — the 10 per cent interest that your money earns in the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. That's right, your deposits earn 10 per cent interest, compounded quarterly, and you can keep your account open up to 90 days after you return stateside in order to take advantage of an extra dividend period. She's got my participation, how about yours?
(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR

BY SP5 MACCLAIN



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Unruly child
- 5-Skidded
- 9-Arrange in folds
- 10-Customs
- 12-Boxed
- 13-Wipes out
- 15-Conceal
- 16-Small island
- 18-Sodium chloride
- 19-Harvest goddess
- 20-Dirt
- 21-Greek letter
- 22-Postscript (abbr.)
- 23-Urge on
- 24-Initial
- 25-Word of sorrow
- 26-Need
- 27-Ardent
- 29-Section of hospital
- 30-Spanish for "yes"
- 32-Dry
- 33-Path
- 34-Greek letter
- 35-Pose for portrait
- 36-Workman
- 37-Pertaining to the dawn
- 38-Plagued
- 40-Mistakes
- 42-Cubic meter
- 43-Lift
- 44-Female sheep (pl.)
- 45-Let it stand

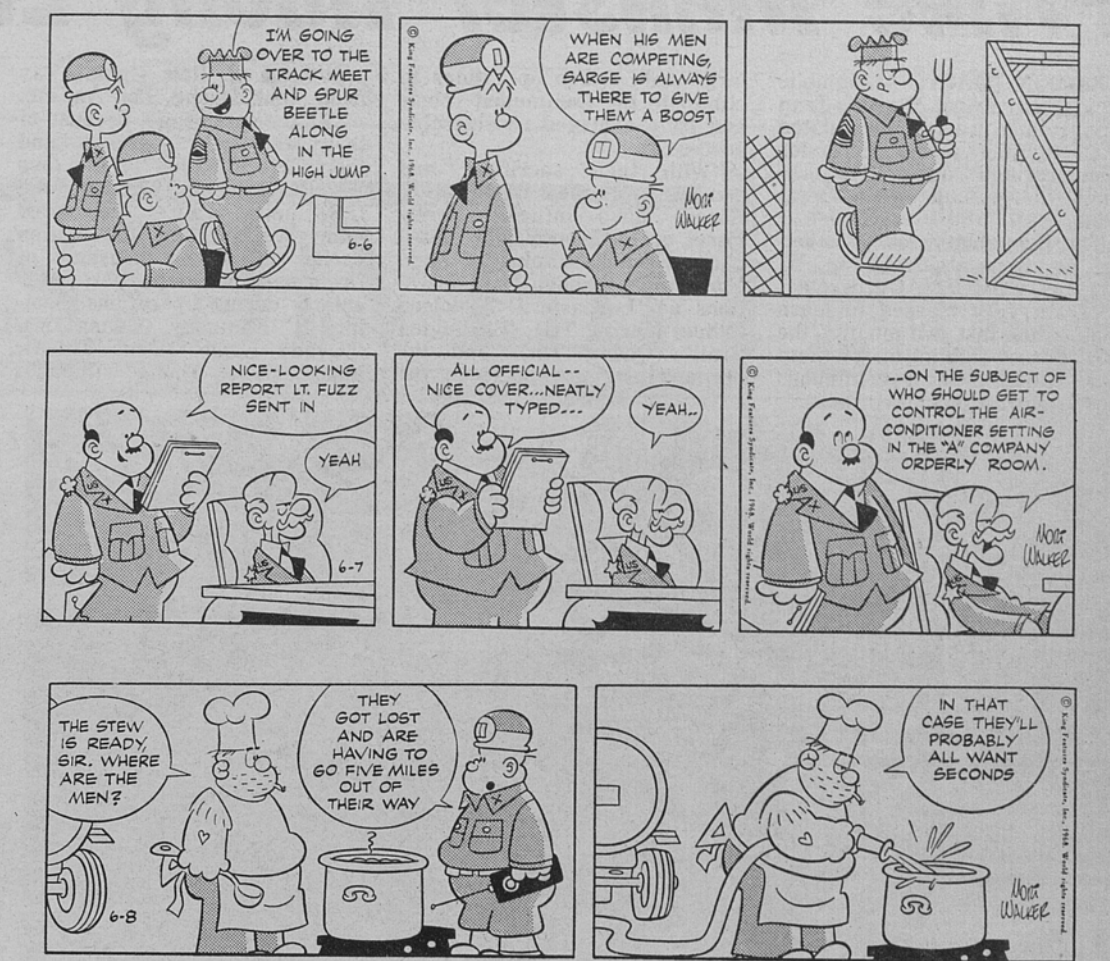
DOWN

- 1-Wire nails
- 2-Evaluate
- 3-Simian
- 4-Tiresome
- 5-Odor
- 6-Learning
- 7-Man's name
- 8-Dinner course
- 9-Falls in drops
- 11-Chairs
- 12-Cutting stroke
- 14-Narrow, flat board
- 17-Title of respect
- 20-Mast
- 21-Tie
- 23-Winter vehicle
- 24-Journey forth
- 25-Perturb
- 26-Roams
- 27-Direction
- 28-Sign of zodiac
- 29-Pale
- 30-Portion
- 31-Electrified particles
- 33-Loads
- 34-Perch
- 36-At this place
- 37-Great Lake
- 39-Stitch
- 41-Rodent

ANSWERS TO EDITORIAL: 1968, 1961, 1962, 1956, 1959, 1949, 1964, 1948, 1966, 1954, 1947, 1953, 1950.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Prime Minister Huong Lauds U.S. Forces

SAIGON (MACV) — Republic of Vietnam Prime Minister Tran Van Huong has congratulated U.S. fighting forces here for "considerable success" in continuous large-scale sweep operations.

The Prime Minister, in a letter to General Creighton W. Abrams, COMUSMACV, wrote: "I am very pleased to learn that, in the last two months, the U.S. Forces fighting in Vietnam have conducted continuous

large-scale sweep operations to eliminate the Communist rebels and have achieved considerable success.

"With their sacrifices and courage, the men of the U.S. Forces have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and routed a considerable number of Main Force units through such operations as 'Lancaster,' 'Napoleon Saline' (Quang Tri), 'Burlington Trail' (Quang Tin), and the 'Toan Thang' campaign in the

provinces of Hau Nghia, Tay Ninh, Binh Duong, Lon An, etc.

"At the same time, because of their thorough searches and their determination in the face of obstacles and hardships, the U.S. units have discovered many weapon and ammunition caches and seized thousands of firearms of various types, particularly during Operations 'Scotland 2,' 'Kentucky' (Quang Tri), 'Nevada Eagle' (Thua Thien), and the 'Toan Thang' campaign

(Hau Nghia), etc., in the marshes as well as the jungles, thereby leaving the enemy supply sources that much more impoverished.

"These fruitful sweeps have completely thwarted the enemy plan for a general offensive against the more populated towns in Central and South Vietnam, which they have been preparing with great effort for a long time.

"As Prime Minister, I re-

quest that you convey the warm congratulations of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam and of myself to all the military personnel who have contributed to these successes.

"Also, I would like to honor the memory of those soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the ideal of freedom, and to express the hope that those who are wounded may enjoy a speedy recovery for the sake of their noble mission."



CAYUSE DUSTOFF—A Tropic Lightning soldier wounded by sniper fire is evacuated in a small Cayuse chopper. The 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds were conducting sweep operations in the dense Iron Triangle. (USA PHOTO By: SGT. Ross Roessler)

Conn, Del, Ill, La, Mass

Five States Offer Vietnam Bonuses

WASHINGTON (AFPS)—Massachusetts is the latest newcomer to the list of states offering a bonus to qualified Vietnam veterans. Other states that have authorized Vietnam bonuses are Illinois, Louisiana, Connecticut and Delaware.

To be eligible for a bonus, military personnel and veterans must meet both the service and residence requirements established by the appropriate state.

Bonafide residence within the state — varying from six months to a year immediately prior to entry into service — is generally a prerequisite to qualify. Tem-

porary absence outside the state for health reasons, or while attending school, or while engaged in a trade or occupation will not bar an otherwise eligible veteran.

On the other hand, temporary residence in the state for any of these reasons will not establish the residence status. Anyone doubtful as to his entitlement should make application.

A brief rundown of state requirements include:

MASSACHUSETTS — (Vietnam bonus) — At least six months service since July 1, 1958, and at least six months

domicile immediately before entry into military service. Those who have seen active service in Vietnam will receive \$300; service elsewhere allows payment of \$200. For full particulars and application blank write: Vietnam Bonus Division, Room 227, State House, Boston, Mass. 02122, or local city or town hall, veterans' agent.

CONNECTICUT — (Vietnam bonus) — At least 90 days active service in the armed forces between Jan. 1, 1964 and such date as determined by U.S. Government as the date of termination of the Vietnam Era. Residence requirements call for domicile in the state for at least one year immediately prior to entry on active duty. Compensation amounts to \$10 for each month of active service between the dates specified above up to a maximum of \$300. For full particulars and application blank apply to State of Connecticut, Office of the Treasurer, Vietnam Bonus Division, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, Conn. 06115.

DELAWARE — (Vietnam bonus) — At least 90 days of service in the armed forces after Aug. 5, 1964. Residence requirement: A claimant must have resided in Delaware at time of entry into service if native born; otherwise, must have resided in the state at least 12 months immediately before entry. Compensation: Each month of countable domestic service will earn \$15 up to maximum of \$225. Each

month of foreign service will earn \$20 up to maximum of \$300. For full particulars and application blank write Department of Veterans Affairs, State of Delaware, Dover, Dela. 19901.

ILLINOIS — (Vietnam bonus) — Persons must have served on active duty in the armed forces on or after Jan. 1, 1961, and prior to such time the U.S. Congress declares such a person ineligible for the Vietnam Service Medal. He is entitled to bonus if still on active duty, honorably separated, released from active duty to the reserves, or has retired. Residence requirements call for domicile in Illinois for at least 12 months immediately preceding entry into active duty. Applications must be received before July 1, 1970. For full particulars write: Illinois Veterans Commission, 221 West Jefferson St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

LOUISIANA — (Vietnam bonus) — Service requirements call for active military service in Vietnam Combat Area between July 1, 1958 and the official end of hostilities as established by the U.S. Government. Applicant must have been a resident of Louisiana at time of entry into military service. Service must have been honorable. Compensation is \$250 regardless of length of service. For full particulars write: Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, Vietnam Bonus Div., 150 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, La. 70801.

USAF Pilot Downed Roomies To Rescue

DA NANG (USAF) — Three Air Force pilots who live in trailer 471 at Da Nang air base held an unusual meeting recently — in the Gulf of Tonkin, five miles off the coast of North Vietnam.

Major Lawrence Bustle was rescued from enemy waters by his roommates, Majors Don Olsen and Robert Shular.

Major Bustle, a pilot with the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, was forced to eject from his F-4 Phantom while flying a mission over the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. His co-pilot is listed as missing in action.

The major was picked up minutes after parachuting into the water by a "Jolly Green Giant" rescue helicopter crew from the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang. The rescue operation also included support from a Navy helicopter crew from the USS Bennington.

Immediately after ejecting from his supersonic jet, Major Bustle called for help. Within minutes a U.S. Navy chopper arrived.

"We also headed for the

area," said Major Olsen. "We found the Navy helicopter making a very stable hover over Major Bustle. His leg was broken, though, and this hindered the Navy's efforts to get the major into their rescue basket. A Navy rescuer was in the water when we arrived. The decision was made to let us land in the water so we could get the downed flier easier."

The Jolly Green settled on the gulf and Sergeant John Eldridge, a pararescueman, also entered the water to help.

"We landed about 15 to 20 feet from the pilot," the sergeant said. "The Navy man and I were able to ease Major Bustle over to our chopper. Airman First Class Hoyle Sykes eased a sling out to the men and hoisted them to the helicopter."

With all men aboard, the helicopter headed for the Naval Support Activity Hospital at Da Nang. "As we unloaded the major at the hospital," said Major Shular, "we couldn't hear his words, but we could make out from the movement of his lips, 'Thanks a lot, thanks a lot.' It's a wonderful feeling."

When Majors Shular and Olsen first heard that an aircraft had gone down, they recognized the call sign of the aircraft and suspected that Major Bustle, who was scheduled to fly that day, was the pilot.

Major Olsen, the rescue commander, was asked if he had ever kidded Major Bustle about having to pick him up someday.

"We joked with him before and, in fact, just a few days ago we told him that it wasn't everybody who had his own private chauffeurs in Vietnam," the major answered.

Lightning...

(Continued From Page 1)

Elements of Company B, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, discovered an occupied bunker built into the side of a high bank.

"We threw a smoke grenade into the bunker and saw smoke seeping out from a hidden exit behind the bank," said Staff Sergeant William Myles. The members of the squad surrounded the bunker and extracted two enemy soldiers. They were immediately interrogated by PFs. With the information obtained the para-troopers discovered two AK47s, with magazines, hastily buried in a dike some 300 meters away.

"Other than the increasing success of the field operation," said a 101st spokesman, "the Vinh Loc campaign also showed the effectiveness of the awesome military power that is available in a combined force operation."

Allied casualties have been very light.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

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

TO:

Ka Tum Defenders Slay 135 NVA



Vol. 7, No. 24

Saigon, Vietnam

October 16, 1968

FSB Buell Defenders Halt Enemy

TAY NINH (USA) — Infantrymen and cannoneers at the 25th Infantry Division's Fire Support Base Buell, recently killed 76 enemy as they beat back a force of VC and NVA estimated to be more than a battalion.

The successful defense was the second in three days. Not a single American life was lost during the encounter.

"We had received intelligence reports indicating they would be coming at us again," said Captain Donald Haramoto, the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, intelligence officer. "I alerted all the officers during our regular nightly meeting, and we all began to make preparations."

"Artillery and mortars were my main concern," said First Lieutenant James Carper, artillery liaison officer. "I took a gamble that they would try the same basic plan they used the other night. I conferred with our Bravo and Charlie Company mortar platoons, with the mortar platoon from the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry and with Charlie Battery of the 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery. We set up pre-planned defenses to cover enemy approaches and escape routes. We also conferred with the 105 batteries at Fire Support Base Rawlins and Tay Ninh."

"We checked to make sure that our positions were re-fortified and that weapons were placed where they could inflict the most damage," said Sergeant Roland Broussard, a Bravo Company platoon sergeant. "The .50 caliber and M-60 machine guns were placed along

(Continued on Back Page)



Surface Mail Days



GUIDING HAND—Second and third lifts of a multi-battalion air assault move toward a staging area as a soldier from the 9th Division's 3rd Brigade shows the proper landing zone. The units moved through Dinh Tuong Province, clearing rocket sites.

(USA PHOTO By: SP5 Richard Smith)

Aircraft, Artillery Join Fight

Air, Ground Units Rout NVA

SAIGON (MACV) — U.S. Infantrymen killed 147 North Vietnamese soldiers recently in action 28 miles northwest of Saigon.

An official military communique said that soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) made contact with the enemy at 8:50 a.m. and that contact was lost at 7:30 p.m. after the enemy withdrew.

Contact was regained shortly after midnight, the official communique said, and fighting continued until 4:30 a.m. when the enemy evaded the area.

U.S. Army helicopter gunships and artillery and U.S. Air Force tactical aircraft from the 3rd and 35th Tactical Fighter Wings supported the troopers in contact. U.S. casualties were 8 killed and 13 wounded in the engagement.

In other recent action, an official MACV source said, Marines from the 1st Marine Division killed 76 enemy in two actions in Quang Nam Province.

A division recon team directed artillery fire onto a group of 75 enemy soldiers nine miles east-northeast of An Hoa and killed 46. The Marines sustained no casualties.

During another recent engagement four miles east-northeast of the Thuong Duc Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Camp, tactical air strikes were credited with killing 30 enemy while supporting Marines from the 5th Regiment in contact with an estimated enemy platoon. Marine casualties were 12 wounded and no fatalities.

DA NANG (USMC) — Nui Tia Pong is almost as rugged as the members of the Ninth Marine Regiment's 2nd Battalion who recently clawed to reach its peak.

Once the Marines gained the top, they began a systematic search of the area for North Vietnamese soldiers and caches of weapons, medical supplies and ammunition.

The Marines found what they

were looking for. They killed 155 enemy soldiers.

They also found something else.

Carved into the bark of a large tree was the phrase "Da Dao Ho Chi Minh."

None of the Marines could interpret the Vietnamese words, but as the Leathernecks continued to find tons of enemy equipment, there seemed to be an inner satisfaction in knowing that they were depriving "Ho's

SAIGON (MACV) — Allied defenders of Ka Tum Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp killed 135 North Vietnamese Army soldiers recently as they repulsed wave after wave of attacks. An estimated 600 NVA swarmed out of the jungles before dawn to lay a two-hour siege on the small camp near the Cambodian border.

When the Communists withdrew, they left bodies strewn outside the camp, killed before they could breach the defense perimeter.

The Allies, 400 South Vietnamese and 12 American advisors, took light casualties.

Enemy gunners launched the attack on the camp, 65 miles northwest of Saigon and five miles from the Cambodian border, by slamming some 300 rounds of mixed 60mm mortar, 82mm mortar and 75mm recoilless rifle fire into the bunkered outpost.

Then North Vietnamese regulars charged. The defenders beat back the first assault, then artillery and tactical air strikes were called in as the attacks continued.

At 6 a.m., the Communists withdrew into the dense jungle, but not before the defenders seized eight detainees.

Sweeping the battleground after daybreak, the CIDG troops found among the enemy bodies four flame throwers, apparently unused.

The NVA also left behind arms, ammo and more than a ton of TNT.

Love Frees 24 POWs

SAIGON (USN) — Eight U.S. Navy SEALs and a Vietnamese force overran a Viet Cong prisoner of war camp recently and released 24 prisoners.

A Vietnamese woman led the combined force to the camp on Con Coc Island, 77 miles southwest of Saigon. Her husband was one of the prisoners.

Two VC guards were detained, along with a quantity of enemy documents and Vietnamese money.

The freed prisoners, some of whom had been held captive since the Tet offensive last February, were taken aboard U.S. Navy river patrol boats (PBRs). The SEALs burned the prison camp and an enemy tax collection station.

The combined force was landed on the island shortly before

(Continued on Back Page)

Sweep Was Sort Of A 'Ho-Ho, Ho'

boys" (as the Marines called the enemy) of necessary equipment, food and supplies.

The enemy soldiers had been forced to carry heavy mortars and rockets, by hand, to the top of Nui Tia Pong, which rises 1,192 meters skyward.

"Da Dao Ho Chi Minh," it was learned, means, roughly, "Down with Ho Chi Minh."

One might call it sort of a "ho-ho, Ho."

Editorial

Complaisance

WHAM! Everyone knows that a truck can do a lot of damage when it goes out of control, but what about the damage it can do even when it is under control?

WHAM! There's Jones, high ballin' it down the road leavin' everything behind him in a cloud of dust. Did he stop to think what those houses along the road are going to look like when that dust settles?

WHAM! Smitty just forced that old guy on the motorbike off of the road. Did Smitty ever wonder who owns the roads that he's driving on?

WHAM! The captain was in a hurry, and his jeep hit that puddle going full speed, splashing that girl's "Ao Dai" with mud. That was bad enough, but 25 other Vietnamese were watching when he did it. Now, what kind of girl is going to go for a guy like that?

YESSIR! When a vehicle goes out of its "courtesy control" then we've just had a bad accident, an accident which causes severe damage to our public relations.

"WHAM" is Winning the Hearts And Minds of the people you want to be on your side of the fence. How many of these "courtesy accidents" does it take to nullify the efforts of the last MEDCAP to a village? How many careless acts will it take for one of the elders of the hamlet to figure out that maybe GIs and what they stand for isn't so good after all.

Maybe the only contact these guys will ever have with the Vietnamese will be driving down the road, and if it is, they had better make it count FOR the United States and not AGAINST our efforts to help Vietnam.

During World War II an Englishman joshingly said, "There are only three things wrong with Americans. They're over-paid, they're over-sexed, and they're over here!" Now what kind of a guy will you be if you leave that attitude behind for your replacement to contend with?

Do everybody a favor, won't you?

"BE NICE, GI!"

Modification of Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan Announced

WASHINGTON — Flexibility highlights the newly modified Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP).

In order to provide greater flexibility in planning individual programs for the support of survivors, the RSFPP has been modified to meet present and future needs without creating any immediate hardships.

The basic concept of the RSFPP program remains the same. To provide an annuity for his widow and children, a

serviceman agrees in advance of retirement to receive a reduced amount of retirement pay.

The service member does not forfeit monthly retirement pay equal to the monthly annuity he wishes to set up for his survivors. The exact cost of providing an annuity under the revised program is being computed. Tables stating the costs are expected to be available in November.

Probably the most significant

change in the revised plan is that a retired person can now request that the amount of money he originally selected to be taken from his pay be reduced, subject to minimum limitations. He also can cancel his decision to participate in the program. Previously canceling participation could be done only in the case of severe financial hardship.

Other important changes include the following:

(1) The initial decision to receive a reduced amount of retired pay must be made before completing 19, instead of 18, years of service for pay purposes.

(2) If the decision is not made before 19 years of service, it can be made later, but will be effective only if the individual does not retire within two years after making the decision. This supersedes a three-year waiting period.

(3) A serviceman can decide to increase, decrease or cancel his participation, and the decision will be effective provided he does not retire for at least two years after making the request. The previous waiting period was three years.

(4) The exact dollar amount an individual can select for his survivors to receive has been broadened. Survivors can receive as much as one-half his retirement pay or as little as one-eighth, with a \$25 minimum. (ANF)

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

★ ★ ★
Save Time;
Mail In
Your Order

SAIGON — Need a couple of items to complete your R & R uniform? And you say you can't make the trip to Saigon to buy them?

Well — you don't have to go to Saigon for items normally found in a military clothing store because a special mail order service, designed for the convenience of military personnel and other authorized persons throughout Vietnam, enables the United States Army Headquarters Area Command's Clothing Sales Store located in the Cofat compound to serve customers who are in need of a few items but are unable to make the trip to Saigon.

The store stocks almost every possible type of military apparel from decoration ribbons and dress neckties to jungle fatigues and boots. In the month of July, more than \$13 thousand worth of clothing and equipment was sold with only \$500 coming in from the mail order service.

The store handles customers that include news correspondents and authorized Department of the Army civilians as well as United States and Free World Forces military personnel.

Payment in advance (checks are to be made payable to the Treasurer of the U.S.) is necessary. Price lists are available upon requests from: U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command, Clothing Sales Store Cofat Compound, APO 96243. (USAHAC)

CHECK YOUR VISION HERE—If you see spots and dots before your eyes don't sweat it, you still have 20/20 vision because our lovely Miss Gale Olson is clad in a polka dotted bikini. However, if you would like to get rid of the spots and dots, the editor of your newspaper recommends that you consult the August issue of Playboy.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYBOY)



viewing vietnam

By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

Five years before the Pilgrims were to land at Plymouth Rock, the first permanent Christian mission was established in Vietnam. The year was 1615 when five men from three nations (Italy, Portugal and Japan) began their missionary work. Their first year yielded 300 converts.

From 1615 to the present Christianity has had deep and lasting influence on Vietnam. The number of Christians in Vietnam has grown from 300 that first year to nearly 2 million Catholics (approximately 11 per cent of the population) and over 150 thousand Protestants (approximately 1 per cent of the population) for a total of 12 per cent of the population of South Vietnam.

Influence of Christianity

It would be difficult to discuss the influence Christianity had in South Vietnam without mentioning the name of Father Alexandre de Rhodes, a Jesuit missionary during the 17th century. When Father Rhodes arrived in Vietnam, Vietnamese was written exclusively in Chinese characters.

Father de Rhodes used the Roman alphabet to write the Vietnamese language. The first book to be written in "Romanized" Vietnamese was a catechism. Latin was printed next to the Vietnamese to aid the missionaries in learning Vietnamese.

A Romanized alphabet not only aided the spread of Christianity in Vietnam, but it also

simplified the exchange of knowledge between East and West. Consider for a moment how much more difficult it would be to learn to read Vietnamese if one first had to learn to read Chinese characters. It was not until 1920, however, that the Roman alphabet officially replaced Chinese characters.

Functions of the Missions

Education and social work have always been important aspects of missionary work. The missions in Vietnam, regardless of denomination, have been no exceptions. Hospitals, schools, orphanages, homes for the aged, as well as leprosariums, have been established throughout Vietnam. The Catholic Church, the oldest Christian denomination in Vietnam, illustrates this. Its 12 dioceses support 1,046 primary schools, 188 secondary schools and one university. There are six Catholic hospitals in Vietnam, with nuns working in 39 other hospitals. Six leprosariums, 79 orphanages, 28 old folks homes and 205 dispensaries for outpatients are under the administrative control of the Catholic Church.

The Protestants

The Protestants, although late in arriving, have been fast at work. With over 345 Protestant churches in Vietnam, these dedicated missionaries also have contributed enormously in social and welfare areas. The Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in Saigon is but one example of their outstanding work.

"... (Vietnam) is a war of prime example of America's support of an ally and of our firm reply to communist aggression and suppression."

ADMIRAL THOMAS H. MOORER
Chief of Naval Operations

Pilot 'Drops In' On 'Beret' Fray

TUY HOA (USAF) — "I guess I'm the luckiest guy in Vietnam today," commented Air Force Lieutenant Julius J. Thurn.

A 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron F-100 Supersabre pilot, Lieutenant Thurn was downed in a recent mission by enemy ground fire and spent three hours fighting alongside an Army Special Forces unit.

His aircraft was hit by enemy ground fire while making a strafing pass in support of Allied ground forces who were face-to-face with the enemy in the II Corps Tactical Zone near Duc Lap.

"I was hit on my last pass," the lieutenant said. "When my fire indicator light went on and my flight leader confirmed I was on fire, I went into a glide and punched out."

"I had never jumped before," he continued. "I aimed for the Duc Lap Special Forces camp airstrip, but didn't quite make it."

Lieutenant Thurn later learned that he was fortunate not to have come down on the airstrip. The camp was being

attacked by enemy troops while he was descending.

After he hit the ground, his flight leader, the Forward Air Controller and several helicopters circled overhead to thwart enemy attempts to capture him.

"Charlie was only about 50 meters from where I landed," the pilot continued. "I could hear him so I drew my revolver and took cover. The helicopters tried to pluck me out, but they had to turn back because of intense ground fire."

By this time, troops of the 5th Special Forces Group at the Duc Lap camp were slashing their way toward Lieutenant Thurn.

"After hiding in tall grass for about 15 minutes, I heard someone shout, 'I'm an American!'" the lieutenant said. "Being wary of a VC trick, I waited until several GIs did show themselves. Then I ran towards them. As I ran, I could see the Army troops firing their weapons and I could hear the enemy returning the fire as they tried to close in on us. We finally made it to a parked jeep. Getting to the vehicle through the jungle was fairly rough."

The group made it back to the camp. There, Lieutenant Thurn learned that the base was surrounded by an estimated two enemy battalions.

Lieutenant Joins Fight

"The first thing they did was give me an M16. The enemy was throwing in artillery, heavy mortar and automatic ground fire at us," he said. "So I took a bunker position and helped them out as best I could."

Lieutenant Thurn spent three hours on the ground before a helicopter was able to pick him up. During that time, two attempts to retrieve him failed when helicopters had to turn back because of concentrated enemy ground fire.

"Finally a chopper was able to land," the pilot went on.

"We ran for a jeep to get there as quickly as possible, but the enemy spotted us and began lobbing more heavy stuff in. We had to return to our bunker and keep on firing out into the jungle hoping that we might be able to beat them back. Suddenly, there was a lull in the fighting. We sprinted for the jeep and barreled to the waiting helicopter. Needless to say, I'm extremely grateful to the Special Forces. I'm really lucky to be alive."

USS TRIPOLI—Suspended from the belly of a huge CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, a load of supplies swings through the air toward this ship off the coast of Vietnam. As the external load touches down, the pilot of the Sea Knight releases it from the helo. At the same time, several sailors rush forward to remove the supplies and clear the area for the next delivery. This is the process of Vertical Replenishment (Vert-Rep)—the transfer of stores and supplies from one ship to another by helicopter. The most rapid form of replenishment at sea, Vert-Rep enables a modern combat vessel such as the TRIPOLI to receive over 30 tons of supplies in less than 45 minutes.

(PHOTO BY PH3 DON MAZOCH)

Force and Psyops Aid Program

Chieu Hoi Offer Wins Returnees

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Eight months of successful psychological operations and heavy combat culminated last month in northern I Corps as a record number of 201 "Hoi Chanh" rallied to the government of South Vietnam in the 101st Airborne Division's area of operations near Hue.

Total Increases

According to division officials, the figure represents an increase of 118 over the previous month's total. This increase was credited to a combination of offensive aggressiveness by the airborne infantrymen in conducting numerous cordons in the Hue area, plus the implementation of a highly successful psychological operations program.

Defeats Aid Appeal

"By defeating the enemy decisively in battle, the paratroopers have made the Chieu Hoi program very appealing to the local Viet Cong and NVA soldiers left in the area," said Major Charles R. Kelly, the Screaming Eagles' psyops officer.

During a recent combined forces operation on the island province of Vinh Loc, southeast of Hue, 53 Hoi Chanh elected the "Open Arms" program while facing the consequences of a full paratrooper assault.

Three-Step Approach

The 101st Airborne psyops experts use a three-step process in appealing to the hard core Viet Cong after every major battle.

"First, we cover the local populations and suspected enemy areas with thousands of

Chieu Hoi leaflets," Major Kelly said. "They are printed in every language spoken in Vietnam and explain that each VC can become a Hoi Chanh without fear of reprisal from allied or government forces."

Next, many of the new Hoi Chanh are asked to volunteer to make special broadcast appeals to their comrades still in the field. They often appeal to their friends by name.

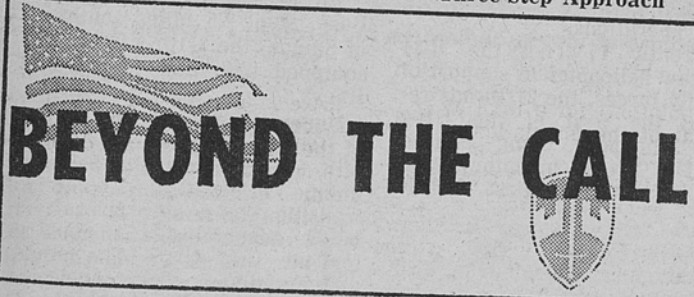
TV Augments Program
The newest addition to the program is a nightly television program broadcast from Hue for 30 minutes each night. More than 3,000 television sets have been distributed to villages from Hue to Quang Tri City. Each of the programs include 10 minutes of local and national news, 10 minutes of entertainment and a 10-minute interview with a former Viet Cong who has rallied to the side of the government.

Companies C and E of the battalion were inserted along the Ben Ba River. Three VC were seen running from a hut and were chased into the trees. There the infantrymen were hit by heavy automatic weapons fire.

Captain Joseph Hudson, Company E commander, and First Lieutenant Robert Walker crawled through thick mud toward the enemy bunkers. Lieutenant Walker inched near enough to throw a grenade into one bunker, killing four VC.

According to Lieutenant Walker, "The bunkers were all inter-locking, making them very hard to knock out with one grenade."

Within a few minutes, elements of Companies A and C of the 39th Infantry moved to complete the circular trap with a company of the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, sealing the river to the west.



SILVER STAR

Clark, Charles W. SSG USA
Girard, Christian G. SFC USA

2
Jones, Lawrence E. SSG USA
Malia, James J. SFC USA

*1
Ramos, Jesse MAJ USA
Reccor, Charles K. 1LT USA

*3
Watt, Jimmie W. SSG USA
Willis, Benjamin L. CPT USA

Bronze Star Medal
Abraham, Edwin A. CPT USA

Beach, John D. 1LT USA
Belson, Norman D. CPT USA

Best, Darrell E. MAJ USA
Boxer, Edward J. 1LT USA

Carter, Jerry W. SFC USA *3
Clark, Charles W. SSG USA *1

Coleman, Donald E. SGT USA
1

Davis, Robert J. SSG USA *1
Dunham, Terry SSG USA

Gardner, Ralph W. LTC USA

Harris, Edward A. SSG USA
Johnson, Earl H. SFC USA *1

Lindeman, Jon H. 1LT USA
Maldonado, Iluminado SFC USA

*1
McClure, William L. 1LT USA
Patronek, Jan M. 1LT USA

*3
Potter, Leland W. Jr. CPT USA
Prosperi, John A. SSG USA

Remmes, Joseph L. SSG USA
Rickman, Jack R. MAJ USA

*1
Samuel, William E. CPT USA
Sanderson, Michael C. CPT USA

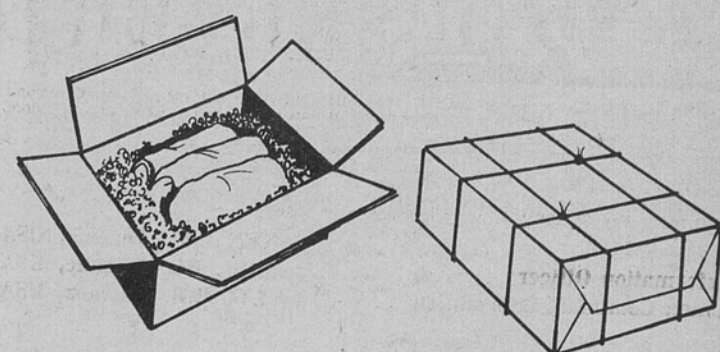
*1
Sierminski, Robert C. PFC USA
Army Commenda-

tion Medal
Andrysiak, Peter B. CPT USA

Hart, Albert D. SSG USA
Mejia, Ramon G. 1LT USA

Tabb, Robert D. CPT USA
*/ denotes oak leaf clusters

Christmas Mailing Tips



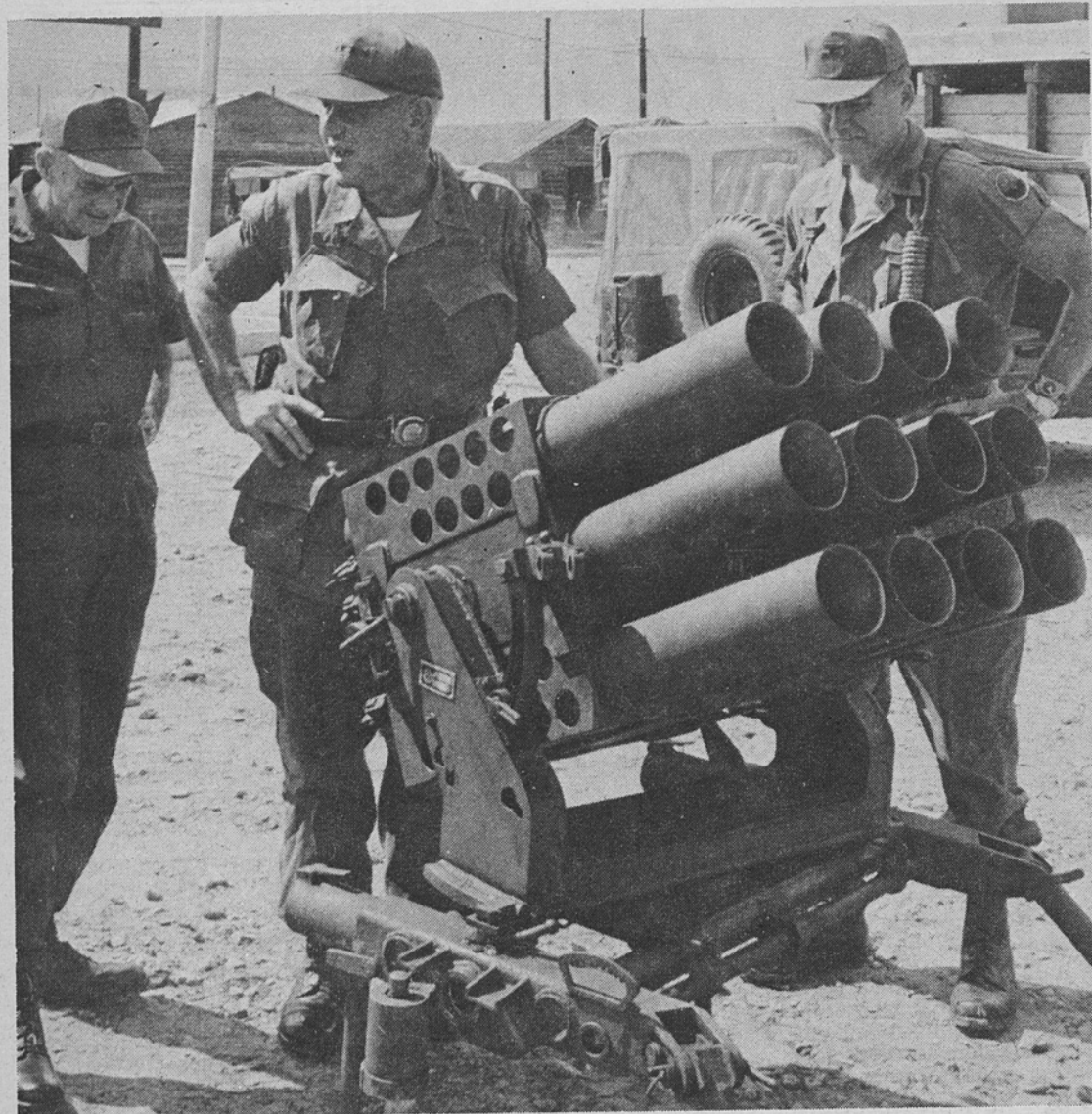
THE VALUE OF YOUR GIFT IS IN THE PACKING—Cushion your gifts in boxes of solid fiberboard, metal or wood. Omit outside wrappers if the box makes an adequate shipping container. If wrapping is needed, use a heavy Kraft paper similar to that used for grocery bags. Remember to include the complete name of the addressee and your return address. Don't forget the required customs declaration form.



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ENEMY LAUNCHER—Admiral John S. McCain (left), commander of U.S. Forces Pacific; General Creighton W. Abrams, MACV commander (center); and Colonel Ira A. Hunt, Jr., 9th Division's 1st Brigade commander, inspect the only intact 12-tube enemy rocket launcher found in Vietnam. The lethal 107 mm weapon was discovered by ARVN soldiers during combined operations with the 9th Division's 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry, near Can Giuoc. (USA PHOTO)

In Not-Too-Routine Sweep

Action-Filled Fight Kills 33 VC

CU CHI (USA) — A recon sweep of an area northwest of here recently resulted in the death of 33 Viet Cong, due to the alertness of paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's (Airmobile) 3rd Brigade.

Contact was made by the 3rd Platoon, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, as it moved east of Fire Support Base Pershing. The men reported hearing voices, and then spotted an enemy platoon heading in their direction.

The infantrymen quickly organized an ambush and fired at the enemy, then established a tight perimeter and called for fire support and more men. The company's 1st and 2nd platoons were sent into action by Captain Charles E. Nations, company commander.

Smashing Sweep

The quick-hitting paratroopers smashed the enemy force and began a sweep of the area. They forced 20 VC to cross a large open rice paddy where a light-fire team of helicopters quickly cut them down with rockets and mini-guns.

Gunships were again called in to rake a bunker complex as the infantrymen maneuvered to within grenade-throwing range. "We must have thrown at least 50 grenades in that hole," said Private First Class Frank Postma.

When the firing halted, PFC Postma, a "tunnel rat," went down inside.

Finds Surprise

"There were five enemy bodies that I saw," Private Postma said. "One had two holes in his chest and I could still see his shirt smoking. I had already taken out one AK-47 and was after another when a Viet Cong reached for it."

The infantryman crawled out hurriedly and was slightly grazed by a ricocheting AK-47 round. "We weren't sure what else they had down there so we blew the place with C-4 explosives," the captain said.

The explosion uncovered a lower underground room that might have been used as a command bunker.

Body Count High

When the battlefield quieted down, 29 dead enemy soldiers were counted, in addition to numerous blood trails and drag marks leading away from the area.

The next day, four additional bodies were found in the area. One RPD light machine-gun and five AK-47's were captured and one RPD and two AK-47's were destroyed in the action.

Vietnamese AF Unit To Join "Jet Set"

SAIGON (USAF) — A "Jack Rabbit" express will soon be offered to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Regional and Popular Forces who daily penetrate enemy defenses in the vast areas of the Delta. The "You Call, We Haul" service provided by the Vietnamese Air Force's (VNAF) 211th Helicopter Squadron, operating deep in the Mekong Delta, has started taking on a fleet of new vehicles to expedite its daily operations.



The VNAF's new UH-1H gets a "look-see." (USAF PHOTO)

Marines Capture Massive Cache

DA NANG (USMC) — A cache totaling 886,443 pieces of enemy equipment and ammunition was discovered recently by Marine units in the northern tactical zone of Vietnam. The huge find came during Operation Lancaster II.

Enormous caches of weapons, uniforms, documents, medical supplies and ammunition were found on what started out to be a three-day sweep by elements of the Ninth Marine Regiment.

One find led to another and after 25 days, more than 1,400 enemy bunkers and innumerable caches had been found. The end still wasn't in sight.

The Marines were lifted by helicopter to Nui Tia Pong, which Major General Raymond G. Davis, 3rd Marine Division commander, described as "a mountain hideout."

"It's massive," the general said.

Not only were paths beaten into the mountain, which rises to an elevation of 1,192 meters but steps were cut into the steep approaches and bamboo or wooden edges fastened neatly into place for easier hiking. The steps continued for miles.

Off the main paths were secondary approaches leading around shoulders. It was off such a bend that the first cache was found. . . and then another . . . and another.

Following the path on the mountain, Marines trailed into an area from which they were heli-lifted into the Demilitarized Zone. There they continued the search for additional caches and enemy troops that carry the equipment across into the Republic of Vietnam.

The maneuver paid off. Marines participating in Lancaster II and those supporting the operation in the demilitarized zone have killed 569 North Vietnamese soldiers and have taken three prisoners.

Included in the equipment found were 13,924 mortar rounds; 51,624 machinegun rounds; and 742,960 rounds of small arms ammunition. In addition, 129 cases of demolitions were found, as well as 20 cases of rocket-propelled grenades, 85 cases of anti-tank mines, 67,156 pounds of rice and 9,721 pounds of salt.

With all the supplies, weapons and ammunition seized by the Marines, there are bound to be many angry enemy troops near the Demilitarized Zone. And there are a lot of American servicemen eager to make them angrier.

USN, CG Hit Hard

SAIGON (USN) — U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units in one day destroyed or damaged 77 enemy watercraft, 28 structures and started two fires during scattered actions throughout South Vietnam.

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Pt. Orient destroyed 40 enemy sampans in Quang Ngai Province, 70 miles southeast of Da Nang.

Nine enemy structures were reported destroyed or damaged by a unit of the Coastal Surveillance Force in Kien Hoa Province, 58 miles south of the capital.

In the Mekong Delta, Navy Seawolf helicopters destroyed or damaged three enemy structures and two sampans in Sa Dec Province, 70 miles southwest of Saigon. Four structures and two sampans also were hit by Navy Seawolves in the Rung Sat Special Zone, 27 miles southeast of the capital.

No U.S. casualties were reported during the actions.

squadron to become operational with the new aircraft.

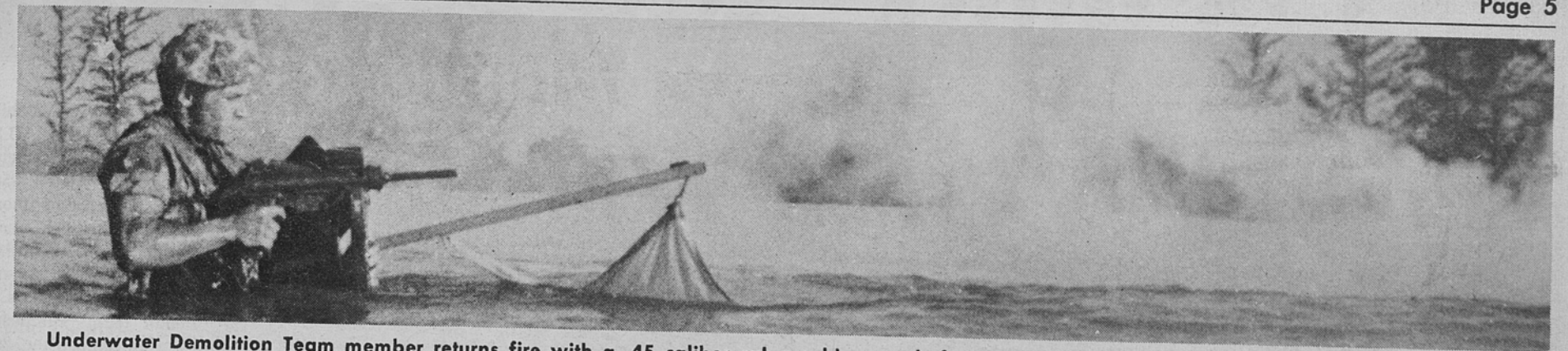
Flying out of Binh Thuy Air Base, some 75 miles southwest of Saigon, the 211th will be fully equipped with new jet-powered Hueys.

Under the operational control of Colonel Nguyen Huy Anh's 74th VNAF Wing, the 211th is unique in that the complete transition to a new aircraft is being accomplished in-country for the first time. The pilots and maintenance personnel are all being trained by elements of the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force and civilian technical representatives.

Colonel Robert C. Mathis, chief of Air Force Advisory Team 7, said the UH-1 is "... easier to work on ... requires less maintenance per flying hour." He added, "The aircraft is more maneuverable (than the H-34) and the skids make it easier to land in the paddies."

The latter is important to the mission of the 211th, the insertion and extraction of friendly forces in the swampy reaches of the Delta.

Soon, the VNAF Hueys will be roaming the skies of the Delta, adding still another deterrent to the VC, as VNAF joins with Vietnamese ground forces to stop their common enemy.



Underwater Demolition Team member returns fire with a .45 caliber sub-machine gun before swimming to the safety of a Coast Guard patrol boat.



UDT 12 members return from ambushed recon operation.

Ambushed On Zulu Beachhead UDT Crew Pounds Its Way Out

ZULU BEACH (USN) — It was early morning. A picturesque beach, lined with dense palms, pine trees and thatched huts, curved gracefully to the south.

This was Zulu Beach. Two Navy Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) platoons of the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force had recently tried to survey it. Both platoons had been driven off the sand by hostile gunfire from ambush. Now a third would try.

Holding weapons above their heads, six frogmen from UDT 12 swam quietly toward a nest of rocks at the north end of the beach. The water grew shallow and the swimmers crept onto the rocks. Three frogmen covered the beach with their weapons as the others strapped the long swim fins to their cartridge belts. The beach party then walked cautiously onto the warm sand. Lieutenant (jg) Peter Upton was in charge.

The party's first job was to lay base lines for the reconnaissance of the 2,600-yard beach. The men wore swim suits and inflatable life jackets as they worked in the open on hard-packed sand. They were armed only with light automatic weapons and the limited supply of ammunition they could carry in the water.

Few beaches in Vietnam are considered safe and a number — like this one — are considered "hot" — areas of con-

firmed Viet Cong activity. Sometimes UDTs can procure ground troops or armed helicopters for protection, but usually they cannot.

Offshore, Navy or Coast Guard patrol craft keep watch on the swimmers, ready to answer enemy fire. They must shoot over the heads of the beach party to defend them.

As the Zulu beach operation progressed, the likelihood of an ambush grew more remote. Seaman Terry Jenkins recalled that he had felt a little foolish sneaking onto such a quiet beach.

As the six-man party returned to the rocks, additional frogmen swam into the surf zone and formed a line perpendicular to the beach. They would sweep southward, measuring depths and recording obstacles.

Radioman Third Class Theodore Pugh guarded the southern flank of the group as it moved down the beach, while Seaman Jenkins guarded the north. Each had an M-16 rifle. They scanned the tree line for signs of the enemy.

Lieutenant Upton supervised the frogmen, who lined up on two hand-held range poles and recorded depths on plexiglass slates. Platoon leader Navy Lieutenant Bob Henry directed the overall operation from his station on the patrol boat offshore.

The party had finished 200

yards of beach without a hitch, and were passing what appeared to be a shrine, partially hidden by the woods, when they heard a rustling noise.

Suddenly there were bursts of machine gun and rifle fire from several elevated positions around the shrine. Lead plowed up sand in front of the beach party, as 15 or 20 enemy gunners concentrated their fire on Seaman Jenkins. The seaman dropped to the sand and returned the fire.

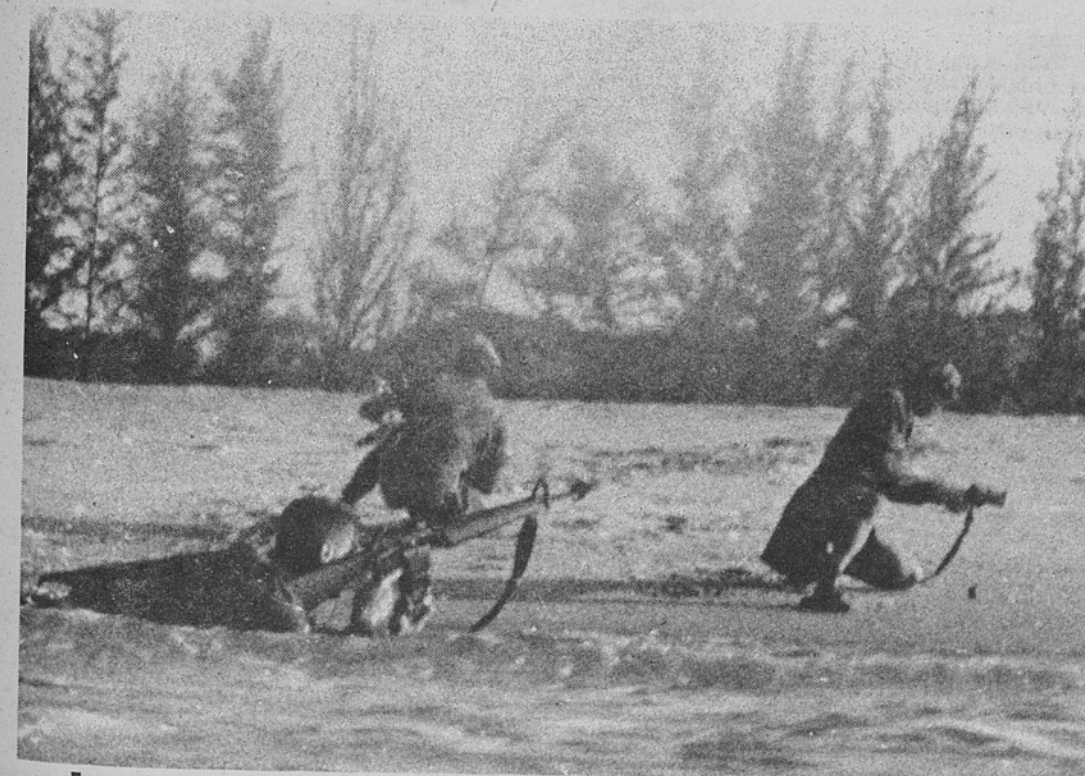
After a few seconds men of the patrol boat opened fire on the ambush sites with five 50 caliber heavy machine guns, slamming in slugs with a force that chopped down pine trees on the slope.

Three enemy rushed from cover and charged the beach. Boatswain Mate Second Class Paul Arn, a cartographer, downed one VC with a direct hit from his grenade launcher. The shrapnel and concussion dropped the other two. No one else rushed the party.

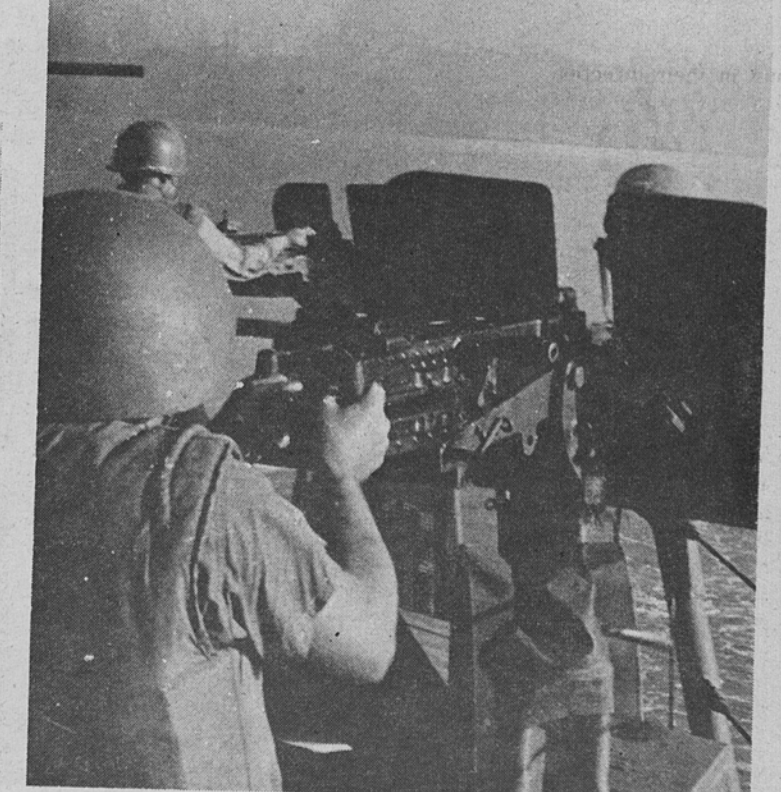
Finally, enemy fire subsided to an occasional burst. The men in the water had long since reached the patrol boat. Now the beach party began to scramble toward the water, facing the woods and firing their few remaining rounds. They kept firing as they waded into waist-deep water and swam for the patrol boat.

Then it was over. No one had been hurt.

Story By
Ensign J. M. Howard
Photos By
PH3 T. A. Muehlenbach



Frogmen return fire of VC concealed in distant treeline—all men safely withdrew.



Machine guns gained fire superiority over ambushing VC.

Voting Privilege

Congress has tried to PERFECT IT. Members of the Armed Forces have died to PROTECT IT. DON'T let those in your command NEGLECT IT.

Mobile Training Team Helps ARVN Division

CU CHI (USA) — A mobile training team from the U.S. 25th Infantry Division is helping forces of the ARVN 25th Infantry Division become more proficient with American arms and tactics in a program that is widely acclaimed by American and Vietnamese officials.

The 19-man team, composed of combat veterans of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, is now training the ARVN's 4th Battalion, 50th Regiment in a continuing program expected to last many months.

The team trains the Vietnamese soldiers in the use of American weapons, especially the 60-mm mortar and the recently issued M-16 rifle and M-60 machine gun.

"When we first started we ran into a problem regarding their 57mm recoilless rifle," stated Captain Richard E. Lovisone, the team commander. "The U.S. forces no longer use the 57mm rifle, and we had no one that was experienced with the weapon. We found the old technical manuals and taught ourselves," Captain Lovisone said.

The men of the training team can now effectively teach the Vietnamese soldiers how to load, fire, disassemble and clean the 57mm recoilless rifle.

Other subjects taught by the team include, squad and platoon tactics, road clearing and mine detection, combat in built up areas and river crossing.

One of the favorite subjects dealt with the U.S. Army's "quick kill" method of teaching a soldier to react quickly and accurately to a moving target.

A short lecture on the technique is given, and a demonstration is performed in front of the class. The rest of the period is devoted to actual practice by the students.

Employing BB guns the class practices on empty cans in small groups. As each group finishes with the BB guns, they move on to a live-fire range. Here, the skills are put to practical use as a line of six ARVN soldiers move through a rice paddy firing on simulated Viet Cong.

"The ARVN soldier is basically similar to his American counterpart," stated Captain Lovisone. "He learns fast and is an eager pupil."

"This program is actually a two-way street for my men," he said. "We teach them a lot, but in return they teach us some tricks too. For example, the ARVN is very good at setting; they seem to know exactly where to go and what to look for."

A marked improvement is evident in the units that have already received the training course, but it will be the long-range results that prove the effectiveness of the program.

However, an indication of success came when two ARVN battalions not originally scheduled to receive the training asked the Americans to give them the 28-day course.

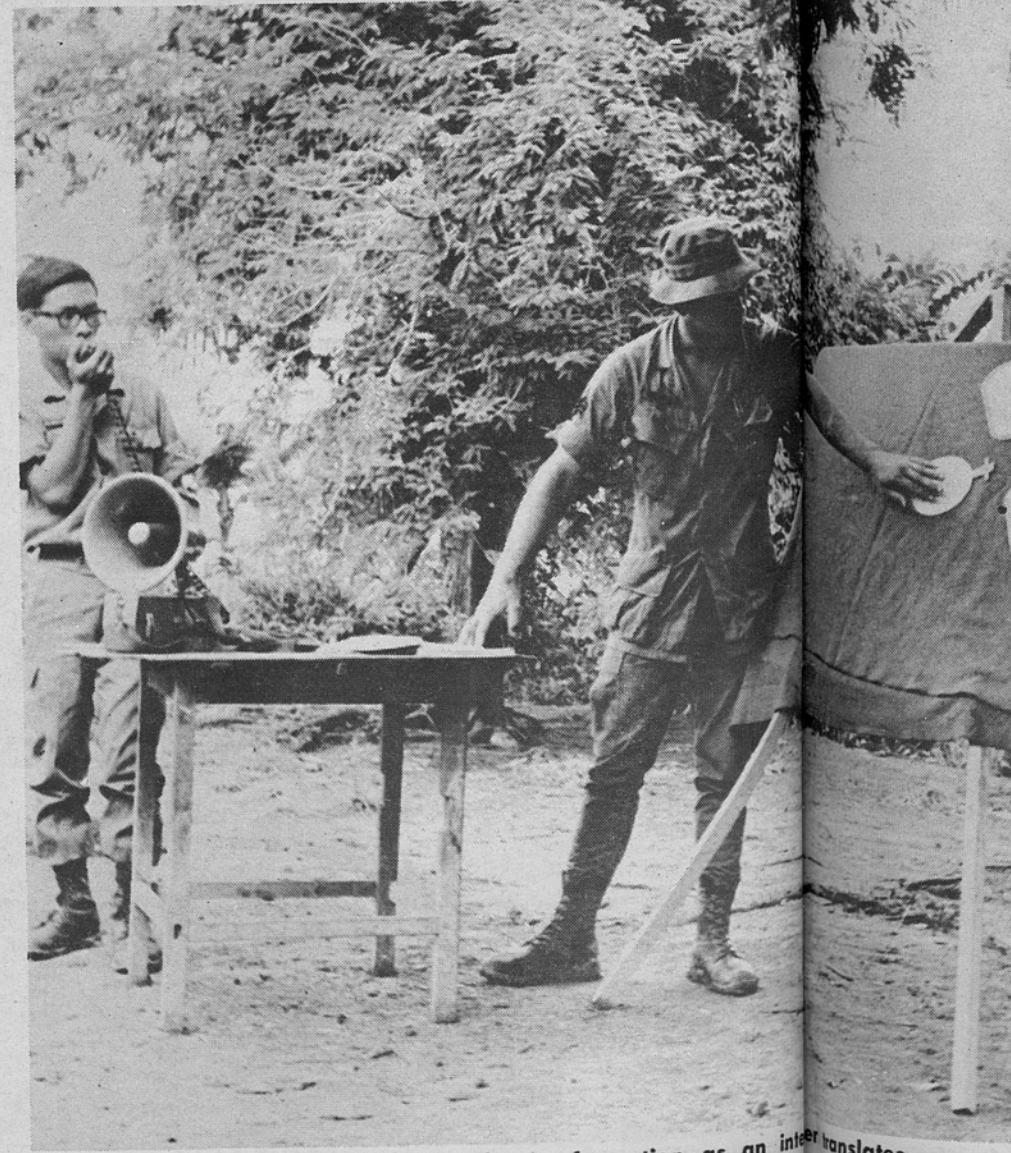
Story & Photos
by
SP4 Richard A. Pearson



U.S. 25th Division instructor loads an M-60 machine gun while another explains, via interpreter, the proper procedure.



Instructors observe a mortar explosion while demonstrating the adjustment of mortar fire.



Tactics instructor illustrates platoon formation as an interpreter translates.



During the combat fire class, an instructor points to a series of targets while sweeping through a rice paddy with a group of infantrymen.



ARVN soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division practice with BB guns the "quick kill" method of firing before moving to a live-fire range.



Vietnamese soldiers listen intently to instructions on river crossing. They carry their weapons, in case training becomes the real thing.

PACVs Patrol Perilous Waters for VC Prey

DA NANG (USN) — Two side gunners swung their M-60 machine guns out the windows while the topside gunner leveled his twin .50 caliber machine guns. "Target at 11

o'clock, range two thousand yards," the navigator told the pilot, their radio headsets cutting through the craft's high-pitched whine.

Flying four feet above the wa-

ter, searching for a Viet Cong sampan by radar at 60 m.p.h., the navigator called off courses and possible targets.

The five U.S. navymen were riding a new kind of machine — a Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle

(PACV). It has been described as "one-third helicopter, one-third airplane and one-third boat."

The 39-foot-long craft, powered by a jet turbine engine, rides a layer of air created by a horizontal lift fan while a propeller on the stern gives forward motion. The PACV's special feature is its ability to leave the water and hop over mud flats and salt marshes.

Since June, all three Navy PACVs in Vietnam have been operating in the bays and lagoons just behind the South China Sea coast between Da Nang and Hue. Their job is to stop enemy infiltration on Cau Hai Bay, where the VC had been sneaking ashore under cover of the sampan fishing fleet.

The craft came north from Dong Tam in the Mekong Delta where they had patrolled since December. In the two months since the shift, say the PACV crews, they have seen more fighting than in six months in the Delta.

Because of their mobility, speed and firepower, the PACVs have been called in for fire support, blocking actions and troop extractions.

Their biggest action so far came in a joint Army-Navy op-

eration four miles from Hue. While infantrymen of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) swept the enemy toward the coast, PACVs moved into the mud flats sealing escape routes. Forty-six Viet Cong and North Vietnamese were killed and 98 suspects detained in a single day.

"Infantrymen rode the sides of our craft, firing at VC with their M-16 rifles," Chief Radarman James E. Pitton recalled. "The VC tried to hide in the water but we flushed them out with concussion grenades, tied them on the craft, and turned them over to the South Vietnamese."

Two PACVs make up a patrol section, leaving their base at Tan My, six miles northeast of Hue, and travelling through inland waterways 20 miles south to Cau Hai Bay.

Day patrols usually check sampans for Viet Cong suspects. Night patrols used to do the same, but in two months the PACVs have cleared the bay of sampans violating the 6 p.m. curfew.

When the PACVs get into a fight, they are as dangerous as the fearsome eyes and teeth painted on their inflatable skirts make them look.

Story by SN Harry Eichel
Photos by DM3 C. E. Orr



With a mouthful of teeth and firepower to back it up, a PACV patrols waters near Hue.



On night patrol, Navy PACV crewmen stand by as an interpreter checks a fisherman's papers.



The PACV cockpit closely resembles an aircraft pilot's.

Well Business Really Booming

LONG BINH (USA) — A civil affairs platoon in Binh Long Province, 60 miles north of Saigon, recently entered the well-digging business and first reports claim that business is "booming."

The 10th Civil Affairs Platoon, commanded by Captain Walter Coles, started digging wells out of necessity because water was so scarce in the area.

Captain Coles explained that the villagers had been asking for tools to dig their own wells, but they had to penetrate a thick rock layer approximately three feet below the topsoil, which they could not do without dynamite.

Staff Sergeant Melvin Loveday learned dynamiting from a nearby engineer unit, and after a few days training, went to work blasting wells out of the red laterite soil of Binh Long Province.

The novice well-blasters have had some harrowing experiences. "One day we were getting ready to blast a well that was located close to a road," said Captain Coles. "We had the road blocked off, and everything was ready to go. Sergeant Loveday lit the fuse, and everybody ran for cover. All at once a boy came around the corner on a motorbike and headed right for the blast area. Sergeant Loveday reacted at once by running up and pulling the fuse out of the dynamite before it exploded."

The civil affairs platoon tries to make all of these projects self-help ones because they have learned from experience that projects built completely by Americans are not appreciated as much as ones the villagers build for themselves.

After the wells are dug the platoon conducts periodical water purity inspections. Captain Coles explained, "One well had an average of 250 bacteria colonies per cubic millilitre of water. From two to five colonies is considered acceptable in the United States."

"The villagers however, don't care about bacteria," he added. "All they know is that they didn't have any wells before. A preventive medicine expert is treating the wells with chlorine to cut down the bacteria count."

So far, a total of four wells have been dug in three different hamlets. Four more are to be completed under the current plan.

Civic action projects such as these show the villagers that the government is concerned with their welfare. This is an important phase of the pacification program in a land where people's loyalties go to the government that can most relieve their suffering.

Children Get Aid

DONG HA (USMC) — Using discarded building materials, a Marine civil affairs officer has built an orphanage, a school, a rectory and a place in the hearts of the Vietnamese.

Captain Joseph F. Mahoney's building success is reflected in the faces of 60 Vietnamese war orphans who live at the Dong Ha orphanage.

The orphanage was the first building project undertaken by Captain Mahoney, Force Logistic Support Group Bravo, a unit of Force Logistics Command.

The captain credits "Father Paul, the vicar of the Catholic church here, as the driving force behind the orphanage project."

During an enemy artillery attack, an orphanage operated by the church had been destroyed. During the same attack, Father Paul's church took two direct hits and a school next door was hit three times.

"We visited the Padre to offer our help following the attack," recalls Captain Mahoney. "While everyone else around the church was still in shock, Father Paul was making plans to rebuild. His dynamic spirit encouraged us to begin the orphanage project."

Materials for the building were secured by the captain, with construction accomplished jointly by local Vietnamese and Marines.

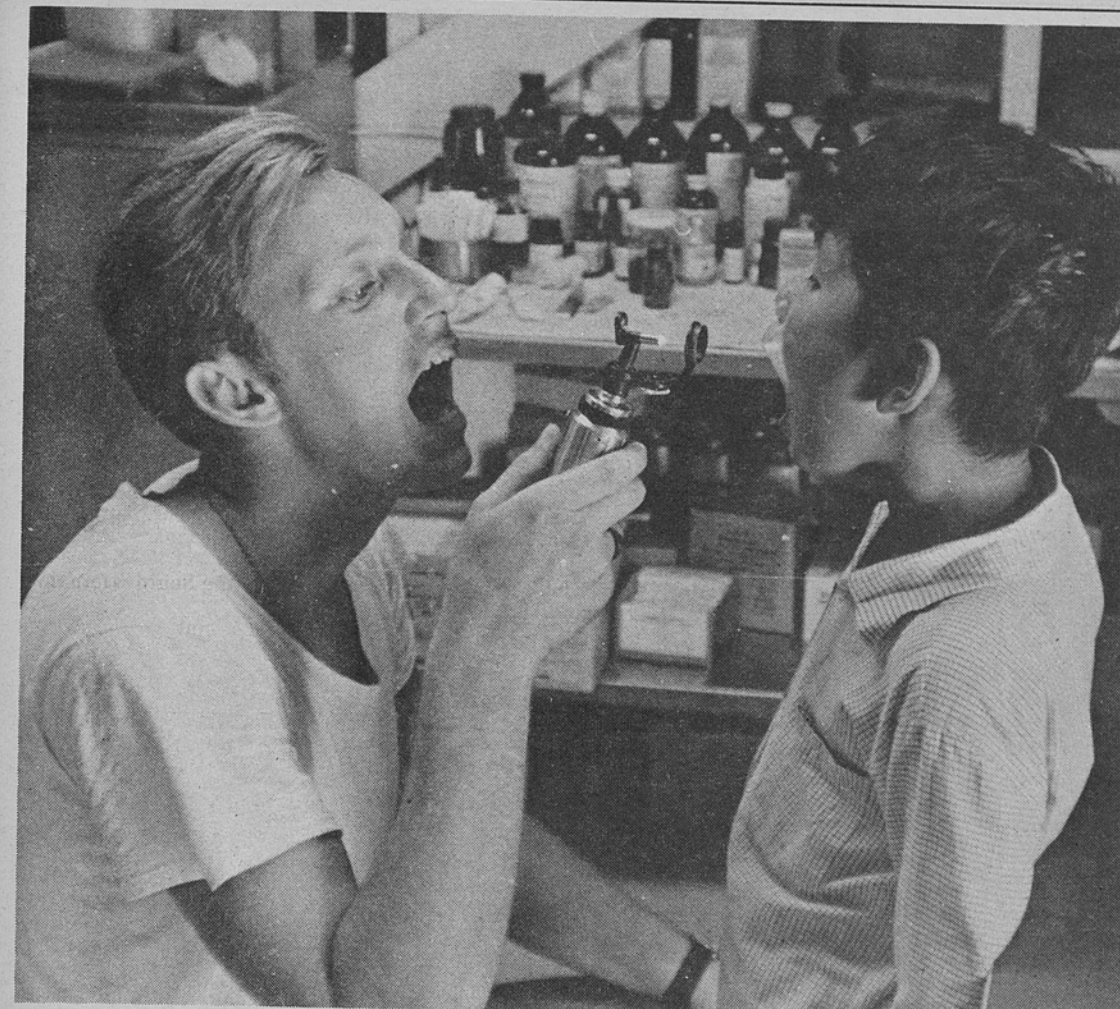
An old quonset hut was used for the basic building. Since the Vietnamese have done very little metal work, the job was undertaken by Marines.

"I'm mighty proud of the men," declared the captain. "Many of them would stand perimeter guard all night, then work on the orphanage from 7 a.m. until late in the afternoon."

The orphanage was constructed to hold 40 children. Today it is "home" to 60.

Word of the new orphanage has spread throughout nearby hamlets and villages.

"Just today," exclaimed Father Paul, "seven children came to me and said, 'Padre, we have no beds.' I cannot turn them away."



SAY AH-H-H-H—Hospitalman Buddy Hayes examines the throat of a Vietnamese boy suffering from laryngitis at Naval Support Activity, Saigon Detachment Qui Nhon. The Corpsmen hold sick call daily for the local Vietnamese.

Paratroops Aid Flood Victims Helicopters Fly Food To Needy

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Following the devastating rain and heavy winds of Typhoon Bess near Hue recently, paratrooper civil affairs teams from the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) rapidly moved in to assist the flood-ravaged civilians.

Major General Melvin Zais, 101st Airborne Division commanding general, provided CH-47 Chinook helicopter support for the purpose of supplying the flood victims with food.

On the crucial first day of the storm, Chinook sorties delivered more than 3,000 cases of combat rations to the people of Vinh Loc, Phu Thu, Huong Tra, Quang Dien and Nam Hoa districts.

On the second day of the storm, Chinook sorties were utilized to transport more than 40,000 pounds of rice and flour to Vinh Loc and Phu Loc districts.

The next day, seven Chinook sorties were flown to deliver more than 71,000 pounds of rice, cornmeal and sardines to the people of Huong Dien, Quang Dien and Phu Thu districts.

In addition, the 101st provided six 2½-ton trucks to transport more than 160,000 pounds of rice, cornmeal, sardines, blankets and medical supplies over all the passable roads in Huong Thuy District.

The paratroopers provided two UH-1 Huey helicopters to Colonel Thomas W. Bowen, senior MACV advisor for Thua Thien Province, and to Colonel Le Van Than, the ARVN province chief.

"These helicopters proved invaluable because we were able to move around rapidly for the initial survey of damage and expected needs of the people," Colonel Bowen said.

At the same time, these helicopters were used to transport South Vietnamese government assistance teams to the badly damaged areas.

"The outstanding accomplishment of the civil relief program was apparent in the manner in which local and national government officials reacted to the crisis," said General Zais.

"The Vietnamese government provided all of the supplies, excluding the C-rations, which came from their warehouses in Hue," he said. "We were able to take the food to the districts in a matter of hours, whereas they could not do so by ground transportation."

After the completion of the relief operation, the 101st commander received a thank-you letter from Colonel Than, which said in part:

"In the recent storm, many people in the countryside and in the cities were in a misera-

ble situation. Their homes had fallen down, their properties were destroyed, and many were left homeless.

"Your men didn't complain about the hardships in helping the storm victims. With all of your hearts and all of your abilities, you provided the helicopters and extra food in order to help the needy people."

"Your good deeds were engraved in the memories of the Hue people and your actions reflected the close and solid friendship among the Vietnamese and American soldiers in this area."

"We pray to God, in wishing you the best of health all the time, as you help us to reconstruct our country."

Rebuilt Homes Without Carpenters

LONG BINH (USA) — Sergeant Julius Mahaffey got his "pay" a little early recently.

The engineer sergeant's reward for seven months of hard work was not financial, though. It was the satisfaction of seeing 90 homeless families move into new houses he helped build, and the award of the Technical Service Honor Medal Second Class from the Vietnamese government.

Since the rocket and mortar attack which levelled 120 homes of Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) dependents February 27 in Hoc Mon, Sergeant Mahaffey has been "on loan" to the village near here as an advisor from the 46th Engineer Battalion, 159th Group.

A few days after arriving, Sergeant Mahaffey had a bustling carpentry pre-fabrication shop in operation, even though the ARVN soldiers he was working with had no previous knowledge of carpentry and his own

knowledge of Vietnamese was limited to the names of tools.

The original call for help in Hoc Mon came to the 159th Group from the 5th ARVN Engineer Group. The buildings destroyed on February 27th housed 500 dependents of soldiers from the Vietnamese engineering unit. Being in the field almost constantly, the unit could not spare engineers to rebuild the houses.

When Sergeant Mahaffey arrived at Hoc Mon on March 1, he found his work crew consisted of Vietnamese soldiers —

clerk typists, finance specialists and band members — from the headquarters companies of the 52nd and 53rd ARVN engineer battalions.

In the difficult days following the attack, individual battalions of the U.S. 159th Group provided food, clothes, bedding and construction materials to the 5th Group soldiers and their families; however, the actual work on the new buildings, as Sergeant Mahaffey quickly points out, was "completely the project of the Vietnamese soldiers."

Religious, Patriotic Days Remaining In '68

Oct. 20—World Order Sunday (United Nations Day)
Oct. 27—Navy Day
Oct. 31—Reformation Day
Nov. 1—All Saints' Day. Holy Day of Obligation for All Catholics.
Nov. 10—193rd Anniversary of

the Marine Corps.
Nov. 11—Veterans' Day
Nov. 28—Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 1—First Sunday of Advent.
Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception. Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics.
Dec. 8—Universal Bible Sunday
Dec. 16—Hanukkah (Dec. 16-23)

Dec. 23—Abstinence from meat for Catholics—optional in combat zone (or Dec. 24)
Dec. 24—Vigil of Christmas
Dec. 25—Christmas. Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics.
Dec. 31—Watch Night (New Year's Eve).



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Our pulchritudinous Bunny, who apparently loves the feel of the breeze in her hair, is proof that a touch of modesty makes a girl just that much lovelier—agree? (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 KACCLAIN



"PERSISTENT"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1-Policeman (slang)
4-Scene of first miracle
8-District in Germany
12-Anglo-Saxon money
13-War god
14-Baked clay
15-Deface
16-Restored confidence to
18-Cry like goat
20-Musical instrument
21-Symbol for nickel
22-Fondle
23-Periods of time
27-Torrid
29-Possessed
30-Trap
31-Near
32-Lair
33-Vessel
34-Indefinite article
35-Mature
37-Ordinance
38-Skill
39-Former Russian ruler
40-Merry
41-Pronoun
42-Moslem leader's title
44-Bury
47-Seasoning
51-Period of time
52-Girl's name
53-Slave
54-Insect egg
55-Church benches
56-Stalk
57-River in Scotland

DOWN

1-Barber's instrument
2-Spoken
3-Mother or father
4-Vehicle
5-Exist
6-Approached
7-Item of property
8-Scholar
9-Ventilate
10-Beverage
11-Communist
17-Compass point
19-Three-toed sloth
22-Shallow vessel
24-Sun god
25-Sandarac tree
26-Dispatched
27-Male deer
28-Great bustard
29-Chicken
30-Seed
32-Mocks
33-Remuneration
36-Parent (colloq.)
37-Most crippled
38-Be present
40-Contests
41-Preposition
43-Note of scale
44-Newspaper paragraph
45-Great Lake
46-Evaluate
47-Headgear
48-Number
49-Compass point
50-Compass point

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CHICOM WEAPONS ARE DANGEROUSLY DEFECTIVE

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz





SUPPRESSIVE FIRE—sprays snipers opposite the Marines and South Vietnamese Popular forces of Combined Action Group-4 while on patrol near Quang Tri City. The patrol was searching the area for VC suspects when they received fire from across the river.

(USMC PHOTO By: SSGT D. L. Shearer)

Jargon Of The Vietnam GI

'Turtle' Becomes 'Short-Timer'

CU CHI (USA) — The American soldier has always developed his own vocabulary to describe the sights and sounds of war. The jargon of the Vietnam GI is often humorous, sometimes confusing.

The new man in Vietnam is a "turtle" for the man he replaces, because he is so slow in arriving.

A few terms for his fighting comrades, "jet jockey" and "Saigon warrior," are self evident. Many are not.

It is possible to spend an entire tour of duty in Vietnam without learning all the terms for an infantryman. He is a "grunt" or a "stump jumper." He is called a "gravel crusher" or a "leg."

The enemy is called "Chuck" or "Uncle Ho's boys" by the cocky replacement. After a few months in the "boondocks" or "boonies," the GI respects the courage of his tenacious foe and calls him "Mister Charles."

A large bunker or tunnel complex is labeled "The Hanoi Hilton."

Enemy infested jungles become the "VC National Forests."

A wounded soldier is "zapped" by Charlie and enemy soldiers are "greased," "mas-

saged," or "blown away," by "friendlies."

Abbreviations are used extensively in this war. The military units of Vietnam are divided into several categories. The "good-guys" are:

ARVN — Army of the Republic of Vietnam. CIDG — Civilian Irregular Defense Group. PF —

FSB Buell...

(Continued From Page 1)

the edge of the road toward the northern edge of our perimeter," he continued. "Once again," the sergeant said, "the VC came down that road and tried to rush the perimeter. Our trip flares alerted us when they started to come close to the wire."

"All at once, 40 or 50 of the attackers got up on line and started to charge our positions," said Specialist 4 Leroy Gregerson, a rifleman. "We all opened fire and forced them to hit the ground. They crawled into ditches, and we momentarily lost sight of them. About a dozen then decided to retreat, but they didn't get very far."

"The weapons and equipment we captured was the most impressive cache I've ever seen," said Captain Haramoto.

Popular Forces. RF — Regional Forces.

The RFs and PFs combined are called the "Ruffpuffs." Opposing the "good-guys" are members of the:

NVA — North Vietnamese Army. VC — Viet Cong. The latter term refers to the local guerillas.

From the Vietnamese language the GIs have adopted "chop-chop" for food and "sin loi" for the phrase "sorry 'bout that."

A snake is called "Mr. No-Shoulders."

Beginning the day a "turtle" arrives, and until he leaves Vietnam as a "short-timer," the most important term in a GI's vocabulary encompasses everything from his sweetheart to Mom's apple pie and a soft bed: The United States — reverently called "The World."

Rude Awakening For These NVAs

DA NANG (USA) — Two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers have learned that they shouldn't go to sleep on the job.

The lesson came a little late. They were captured while they snoozed.

"We were looking for a path so we wouldn't have to beat our way through a bamboo hedge-row," said Private First Class Mario Perez.

He and four other Marines from Company B, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, were checking a treeline for possible enemy positions. The Marines were operating 13 miles from Da Nang.

"I saw the NVA lying in a hole and I thought they were dead," said Private First Class Russell Sebetka.

It was about this time that the "corpses" started to move. "Look out!" whispered Private First Class Charles Shobe. "We jumped up and covered them with our rifles," PFC Sebetka said, "but we kept quiet as possible. We didn't know if there were any other NVA in the area."

Pilot Saved By Dramatic Rescue

DA NANG (USAF) — An Air Force rescue team recently braved enemy fire 23 miles southwest of here to cut twisted wreckage from a U.S. Army pilot and pluck him from a swampy marsh.

The U.S. Army O-1 Bird Dog went down after being hit by enemy groundfire. Two HH-3E "Jolly Green Giant" helicopters were scrambled from Da Nang to rescue the survivors.

One passenger, Specialist 4 Robbin Harpe, was unhurt and was picked up seconds after the crash by a nearby Army chopper. The pilot, First Lieutenant Urbin Reinhart, was pinned within the wreckage of the light aircraft.

The Jolly Green crews, from the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, were unable to pull out the trapped pilot. The rescue crew called for assistance from the 37th back at Da Nang.

The rescue operations officer, Lieutenant Colonel James Grady, immediately selected a special crew.

He first called for a volunteer from the fire department of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing. Because of the twisted steel around the wounded Army pilot, the fireman needed special equipment. Staff Sergeant Ellis Thompson volunteered and ran to the chopper with a belt-driven saw with a special cut-off wheel.

He was joined at the chopper by U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant

Lance Eagan, three Air Force pararescuemen and Colonel Grady.

"When we arrived at the scene," Colonel Grady commented, "there was still some firing in the area. Within 15 minutes, this was suppressed and we went in with our pararescue team. The wreckage was in swamp water about chest deep."

The pararescue team determined that it would take about half an hour to free Lieutenant Reinhart from the wreckage. "We knew then that it would be best to leave the ground to avoid attracting enemy fire to the crash scene," Colonel Grady said. He added that because of hostile fire, the rescue crew was dropped off and the aircraft circled the area while the rescue effort unfolded below. "We didn't take any hits ourselves," Colonel Grady said. "We stayed clear while Spads (A1E Skyraiders from Pleiku Air Base) and Army gunships kept the enemy fire suppressed. On one pass, the Spads caused a secondary explosion and after that, there was no enemy fire."

As the pararescuemen and the fireman moved through the water, Army Special Forces troops were dropped into a protective circle to hold back the enemy.

"We sawed half the wreckage away and then broke the rest off," said Sergeant Steve North, a pararescueman. "I reached in and put a splint on the lieutenant's broken arm and gave him some morphine. I kept splashing water on him."

"I had my power saw in one hand and my M-16 in the other," said Sergeant Thompson. "We thought that we might be able to get him out without using the saw, but then realized that we couldn't, so I cranked it up."

"We had to cover the lieutenant's face with rags to keep the hot metal chips from burning his face. When we had him free from the wreckage, we floated him across the swamp and loaded him on the Jolly Green."

Twenty minutes later, Lieutenant Reinhart was safe in the Naval Support Hospital at Da Nang.

Love Frees...

(Continued From Page 1)

dawn by a group of Navy PBRs. The patrol boats then set up a blocking force and sank an enemy sampans attempting to evade the area. Its only occupant escaped into brush along the river.

Two other Viet Cong in the area surrendered to PBR crewmen during the operation. They, and seven members of their families, were taken aboard the PBRs and later turned over to local government authorities.

There were no U.S. or Vietnamese casualties.

"We spotted them about 50 meters from the company command post," said Private First Class John Constien, "but they were only 30 meters from our lines."

"When they woke up, one threw up his hands and the other reached for his helmet," Private Sebetka said. "We

grabbed their gear, searched them, and returned to the command post."

"My knees were knocking as hard as the NVA's were," said Private First Class Robert Vogel. The NVAs — one a private, the other a sergeant — were administrative personnel for the 38th NVA Regiment.

Ivymen Jump On NVA

CAMP ENARI (USA) — In two major engagements, Ivymen of the 4th Division killed 67 enemy troops as fighting continued in the Central Highlands.

A reconnaissance patrol operating north of Dak Seang found a position recently used by the enemy. Five NVA were observed in the area. Air strikes were called in and there were secondary explosions. Later in the same afternoon, more NVA were sighted in the same location. Gunships rushed into the area. The results of their strike was not immediately known.

Heaviest fighting occurred

near Duc Lap when the 35th Infantry's 2nd Battalion was attacked with mortars, rockets and a ground assault.

A sweep of the area after the hour-long fighting resulted in one enemy suspect being detained and 35 enemy killed.

A cache of weapons found in the area included four light machine guns, numerous AK-47s and a B-40 rocket launcher.

Contact was renewed two days later as the Ivymen encountered an estimated battalion-sized force of NVA regulars. The Ivymen, taking light casualties themselves, killed 32 of the enemy soldiers.

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TO:

Troopers Maul NVA Near Loc Ninh



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

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Saigon, Vietnam

October 25, 1968

Navy Guns Roar Against Enemy

SAIGON (USN) — In one of the busiest days of naval action in South Vietnam this year, gunfire from U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units recently destroyed or damaged 163 enemy structures, bunkers and watercraft.

Most of the damage was inflicted by Navy "Swift" boats PCF-37 and PCF-137 and the Coast Guard cutter Pt. Glover.

N. Eagle Up-Tight

LZ SALLY (USA) — Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade have killed 1,253 enemy soldiers during the first 20 weeks of Operation Nevada Eagle. They have recorded a 19 to 1 body count ratio.

The operation so far has accounted for 393 detainees and 47 Hoi Chanh. Nevada Eagle also has resulted in 659 individual weapons captured, along with 90 crew-served weapons and 73,495 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Brigade paratroopers have also kept the enemy hungry by capturing 400 tons of rice during the highly successful operation.

Combining the area north and south of Hue, the Screaming Eagles have effectively halted infiltration into the old imperial

(Continued on Back Page)

They teamed up to destroy or damage 82 enemy structures in Bac Lieu Province, 126 miles southwest of Saigon.

The three Market Time units reported hitting enemy positions on four separate occasions between 7 a.m. and noon. During that time, they also reported igniting four fires and one secondary explosion.

Seven miles south, in the same province, another Swift boat, PCF-54, reported destroying or damaging 13 enemy structures, 13 sampans and eight bunkers. PCF-54 crewmen also started five fires and captured an assortment of enemy ammunition.

In Kien Hoa Province, 42 miles south of Saigon, a fourth Navy Swift boat destroyed 18 enemy sampans and two bunkers and damaged one structure.

In other Market Time action the destroyer USS Savage damaged eight enemy structures in Ninh Thuan Province, 145 miles northeast of Saigon.

Happy Anniversary!

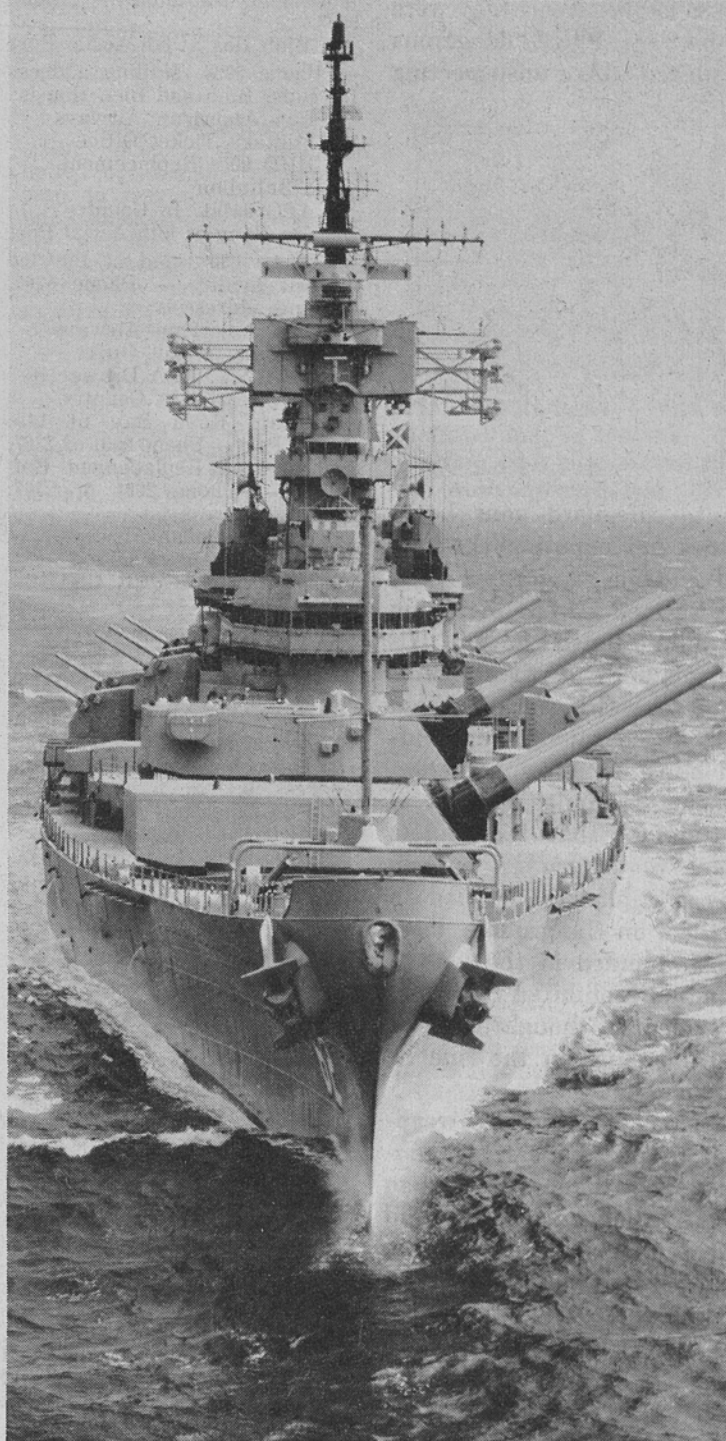
Navy Day, set for Oct. 27, marks the 193rd Anniversary of the establishment of the Naval Department. To mark the occasion, The OBSERVER has included two special features in this issue. Look for them on pages 5, 6 and 7.

Game Warden and Market Time units operating throughout the Republic accounted for the remaining damage.

In Vinh Binh Province recently, elements of U.S. Navy River Assault Flotilla One supported the 14th Regiment of the 9th ARVN Division in contact with an enemy force.

The Vietnamese units reported engaging a VC platoon and killing 17 VC, capturing five and detaining three enemy suspects. One ARVN was killed and eight wounded.

There were no U.S. Navy casualties.



SEA GIANT—The only active battleship in the world, the New Jersey is currently sending salvos from her 16-inch guns into enemy targets. Her 2,700-pound projectiles have slammed into supply depots, storage areas, troop concentrations and eliminated more than 15 bunkers since her arrival early this month. (USN PHOTO)

LAI KHE (USA) — Allied units supported by Air Force tactical aircraft and AC-47 flareships, recently killed 176 North Vietnamese Army Regulars in three days of bitter fighting. The action raged in the jungles around Loc Ninh, approximately 75 miles north of Saigon.

Parts of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry; and 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment were involved in the action.

Fighting in the dense jungle area near the Cambodian border broke out when a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) compound was hit by a heavy barrage of mortar fire. The camp strike force engaged several enemy soldiers outside the compound perimeter, killing two.

Suspecting a larger enemy force was operating in the area, commanders sent in more units.

As the units moved along a stretch of rubber trees, Company C began receiving heavy small arms, automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire from an entrenched enemy force. The infantrymen, backed by helicopter gunships, killed 15 NVA in the ensuing battle.

(Continued on Back Page)

Thank You From Illini

SAIGON (MACV) — It was a heavy, two-inch thick sheaf of paper that landed on the desk of General Creighton W. Abrams. It contained more than eight thousand signatures of citizens of Du Page County, Ill., who support the U. S. effort in Vietnam.

A cover letter from Mrs. William C. Walton of the city of Wheaton, to the commander of U.S. forces here, spoke for the signatories.

The letter was "... in deep gratitude for your defense of the freedoms we cherish.

"Those who oppose the war by marching, desecrating our flag, burning their draft cards, and through this, giving aid and comfort to the enemy," Mrs. Walton wrote, "do not represent the majority. . . The time has now come that more and more loyal and patriotic Americans will make it known to you that you have our full support."

General Abrams, in a letter to Mrs. Walton, expressed gratitude to "the many fine Americans whose signatures were inclosed. . . for your support and good wishes. Expressions of faith in the mission being performed here in such magnificent fashion by our forces and by our allies," the general wrote, "help maintain our high morale."

Yankee Ingenuity Tackles C-Ration Challenge

CAMP EAGLE (USA)—Yankee ingenuity abounds among paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

Men of Company B of the 502nd Airborne Infantry's 2nd Battalion can do amazing things with C-rations.

Did you know, for instance, that damp envelopes can be sealed with just a touch of peach jam? Private First Class James R. Redden, claims it is better than glue. "And it tastes better," he says.

Private First Class David L. Marrs doesn't use envelopes. He cuts up individual meal cartons and makes post cards.

The 1st Brigade trooper also believes in saving the wire that binds "Charlie" ration cases, if you happen to be someplace reasonably permanent. "Just weave the wire into a grill," he says, "and have a barbecue."

Private First Class Mike Murphy is strong on "candy, chocolate disk." "Take two," he says,

"and put them in an empty fruit can. Add a can of peanut butter, one package each of cream and sugar and a little water. Boil until it thickens, let it cool and presto—you've got chocolate fudge, just like home."

Private First Class Gerald Reed is a bit of a gourmet. His recipe: one can of beef with spiced sauce, one can of boned chicken, one can of beans with franks, a cup of rice, cheese, salt, Worcestershire sauce, gar-

lic salt, ketchup and crackers. It serves three. Private Reed not only claims it is edible, but insists it is delicious.

As to the favorite right out of the can, beans with franks in tomato sauce was a runaway choice.

Private First Class John Dean, a medic, made a reassuring statement. "C-rations are so packed with food value that no matter how you eat them, they're good for you," he said.



Surface Mail Days

Editorial

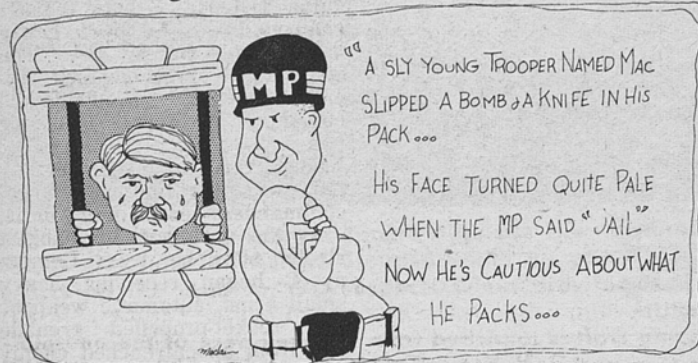
War Collectors

When Johnny comes marching home again. . .

Yes, Johnny is looking forward to the time he can get back home to that rousing welcome he's going to get. Of course he'll have many war stories to tell during the time he's getting readjusted to "the land of the big PX" — and the pursuit of the girls therein.

But Johnny will sooner or later get around to breaking out his war trophies to illustrate "how it really is," and the tragedy is that he may be doing just that if he smuggled in a live grenade, a "souvenir" mine, a stick of explosives or maybe some ammo for that CHICOM rifle he picked up.

Weapons of war are dangerous because they were designed to be, but they can be far MORE dangerous when sent through the mails or placed where unsuspecting civilians can get at them.



You have a responsibility to safeguard your home and loved ones, and that includes not exposing them to war trophies which are harmful. One serviceman sent home a grenade which he had disarmed — but in taking the powder out of the body he didn't finish the job. His little brother did, though, for in playing with it at home, he pulled the pin and activated the firing mechanism. The small amount of explosives it contained were sufficient to blow off a finger and blind him in one eye.

Another serviceman sent some "sample" rounds of ammunition home to exhibit the fact that the bullets were made in China. The bullets were harmless enough until they were played with by a nephew who tried to make them go off by throwing them on the ground. They eventually did, and the boy was wounded in the leg.

Mailing explosives back home is prohibited by postal regulations, but another GI evidently thought, "Well, they won't catch me." He is still paying on the fine he was assessed by a summary court-martial.

Still another man tried to smuggle out some weaponry, and he was lucky enough to just have them confiscated at the airport. If he had only taken the time to get his trophies certified free of intelligence value and obtained permission, he would probably still have his harmless "conversation piece." As it was he ran the risk of missing that flight home, for he could have been held in-country for punitive action and spent a few more months here.



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Just In Case
You Have
Not Heard★ ★ ★
Travel Service
Available

SAIGON — Ticket, reservation and travel service is provided by Pan American World Airways at the following locations in the Republic of Vietnam:

1. Long Binh at the 90th Replacement Battalion — Phone 5003.

2. Binh Hoa at 8th Aerial Port — Phone 5003. Mailing address for Long Binh and Bien Hoa is: Pan American Airways Military Ticket Office HHD 90th Replacement Battalion

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AP0 96307, In Country (MACV)

Help Wanted,
Drill Sergeants

WASHINGTON—More volunteers are needed for the U.S. Army drill sergeant program.

On Aug. 24, 1968, the Army was short 3,393 drill sergeants, about 38 per cent of the total authorized. This shortage has placed a greater workload on those currently filling these slots.

The Department of the Army has pointed out that drill sergeants receive extra uniforms, free laundry for fatigues and an 18-month stabilized tour if assigned to a Basic Combat Training unit.

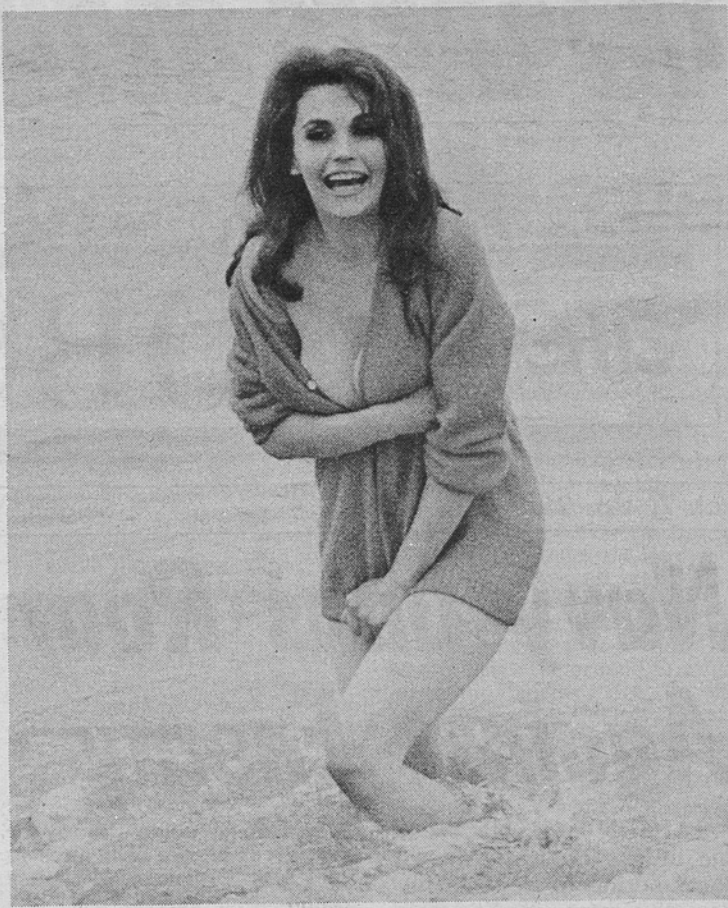
Drill sergeants may also be promoted up to the grade E-6, within DA promotion quotas but without regard to time in grade or service, for outstanding performance of duty or for being top graduate at Drill Sergeant Schools.

Details are listed in AR 614-204. (ANF)

Postal Guide

WASHINGTON—Every U.S. serviceman being reassigned outside the continental United States will now receive the latest information on mail service available to him while in an overseas command.

At the direction of the assistant secretary of defense each military member going overseas will receive a copy of a Post Office Department publication, "Mail for Servicemen—A Postal Guide for Speeding Service," which includes detailed information on mailing. (ANF)



CAN YOU FIND IT?—Miss Lindsay appears to have lost her bikini in the "fresh" undercurrent. However, thanks to someone, she was saved from embarrassment by a sweater. You might say that someone "pulled the wool over your eyes". Okay, I'll quit. You can see more of Lara in the movie "The Sweet Ride".

(PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX)



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

"If a man can eat and sleep well, he is as happy as the gods." So says an ancient Vietnamese proverb. But what does eating well mean to the Vietnamese? And what are the foods that constitute a Vietnamese diet? Let's take a look.

Vietnam is a land wealthy in natural resources, particularly food — or at least the potential of producing food. The nature of the conflict currently taking place in Vietnam has limited the production of some foods, particularly rice. Yet few Vietnamese go hungry.

Rice is the mainstay of the Vietnamese diet. When times are good, the average Vietnamese eats rice at least three times a day. Normally the rice is steamed; however, the Vietnamese are fond of rice prepared in other ways. Fried rice, a Chinese dish, is a favorite of the Vietnamese. Rice cakes are made from rice flour.

Rice alone is not a tasty dish; nor is it a balanced diet. The Vietnamese eat any of a variety of foods with their rice. The most popular addition is "nuoc mam," a fragrant fish sauce. Nuoc mam is so popular that it is termed the Vietnamese national dish.

Certainly the conflict in Vietnam has decreased the production of food. When the day arrives that the Vietnamese farmer can once again devote his entire attention to his crops, Vietnam will once again be the "rice bowl" of Asia. And many men will be happy as the gods.

Vegetables

The Vietnamese enjoy vegetables from the Dalat area year round, the climate being ideal for the crops grown there. Dalat lettuce, cabbage, germinated bean sprouts and cucumbers can be found in most market places throughout Vietnam. Another popular vegetable is the vinnelike plant which grows in the rivers and canals and which the Vietnamese call "rau muong."

Manufacturing Of Nuoc Mam

The manufacturing of nuoc mam is an interesting process. Fish from the abundant waters of South Vietnam's coast are placed in large vats. Salt is added and pressure is applied

Why am I here? Primarily because I believe in freedom for myself and for others, especially for others. . . . If others do not enjoy freedom then I certainly cannot.

CHAPLAIN (CPT) RICHARD D. YANCEY
92nd Engineer Battalion

GIs Invade Enemy Camp

BAN ME THUOT (USA) — An estimated NVA battalion picked a light observation helicopter (LOH) out of the sky near here, but got more than it bargained for when two U.S. companies struck a swift retaliatory blow.

Almost before the crippled LOH had limped to earth, the aero rifle platoon of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, and gunships were on the scene. With the gunships pounding the area, the aero platoon scam-

bled from their liftships and charged for the woodland. The helicopters were barely off the ground when the platoon came under a heavy barrage of enemy fire from the well-fortified NVA bunkers.

In spite of the overwhelming odds, the platoon held its position, compensating for its lack of manpower with a fierce defense.

Reinforcements Arrive

As the size of the enemy force became evident, more liftships began bringing in men

of Company B, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. The airborne soldiers, under operational control of the 4th Infantry Division, had their rifles blazing as they dashed from the choppers.

By the time the airborne company arrived, the armored personnel carriers (APC) of the 1st Squadron's Troop A were crashing through the underbrush and deadly fighter bombers were pouring their ordnance on the enemy position.

The APCs rumbling toward enemy positions gave the friendly forces the upper hand. The infantrymen then began to move through the enemy camp on foot, between the cavalry armor.

Camp Devastated

Guns blazing, the formation halted occasionally to allow a man to toss a hand grenade into a bunker and retrieve enemy weapons or supplies the NVA left behind. The unit would then move out again, slowly grinding its way through the enemy fortifications.

For the remainder of the day and part of the next, soldiers combing the area found 14 NVA bodies and a cache of enemy arms and equipment, including 11 individual weapons, 200 pounds of TNT, 101 grenades and 10,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

Spies Uncovered

CIDG Captain Outfoxes Foes

OASIS (USA) — The ARVN captain's plan resembled something out of a James Bond movie, but it resulted in the thwarting of an NVA ground assault and the capture of four

Viet Cong spies.

Intelligence reports passed on to Captain Huynh Chao Bao, commander of the Plei Mrong Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) compound, had forecast a major NVA attack in the near future.

VC Spies

Perimeter probes and enemy sniper fire had increased sharply in the Plei Mrong area and Captain Bao had received word that four Viet Cong spies had infiltrated into his ranks. Captain Bao quickly located the VC. Rather than arrest them immediately, he put the spies in positions where he could pass on false information to them.

False Document

The VC then gave the data to contacts in Plei Mrong who, in turn, relayed it to the NVA. Included in the false reports was a document which sup-

posedly outlined the camp's strong and weak points.

As was expected, the NVA attacked the compound later in the week, concentrating their main force on what they thought was the camp's least defensible point. Captain Bao had strongly reinforced that sector. The abortive attack was over before it had actually begun.

NVA Flees

Realizing that they had walked into a trap, the NVA soldiers fled into the night, taking with them the bodies of their comrades who died in the battle. No friendly casualties had been incurred.

Captain Bao then sent members of his CIDG force, who are working with the 4th Division's 3rd Brigade, to arrest the four infiltrators.

They were taken into custody and turned over to Vietnamese National Policemen.

VC Cache
Yields AKs

TAN TRU (USA)—Elements of the 9th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, bolstered by helicopter gunships, killed 19 Viet Cong and uncovered a weapons cache containing 90 AK-47 rifles in action two miles north of Ben Luc recently.

After spotting the enemy near a woodland early one afternoon, gunships were called in from Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, to support Company B, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry.

The gunship fire resulted in nine VC killed and one suspect detained. The detainee volunteered to lead the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry to the weapons cache. Three more VC were killed en route to the cache.

Buddy, the German shepherd sentry dog, belongs to the 3rd Military Police Battalion stationed in Da Nang. During operations near the Cambodian border, the dog was hit by enemy gas. Visual difficulties began to appear and Buddy's handler, Marine Corporal William H. Mathis, brought the dog to the 504th Veterinary Detachment in Da Nang. An examination revealed dense corneal scarring in both eyes.

"Buddy has proven to be an outstanding dog in the 23 months he's been in Vietnam," said Corporal Mathis. "When it was discovered that nothing could be done for him in Da Nang, I asked for permission to take him to specialists in Saigon."

After numerous phone calls and much paperwork, the corporal was allowed to take his dog to Saigon. Buddy was examined by Captain Gunnar E. Christiansen, Ophthalmologist at the 3rd Field Hospital. Dr. Christiansen performed the delicate transplant operation on Buddy's right eye, the one most badly damaged. The cornea of another German shepherd was used.

The outcome will not be known for several weeks.

SILVER STAR
Ruff, William S. SFC USA
BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE

Amarel, Abel SFC USA
Berg, Marshal J. CPT USA */1
Birong, Rodney V. SSG USA
Bryant, Westley SSG USA
Cain, Morton G. MAJ USA
Clarke, James SSG USA
Conover, Kenneth R. MAJ USA */1

Delk, Estel L. SFC USA
Emerson, David M. CPT USA
Evanoff, John. SFC USA */2
Eveland, George B. CPT USA
Garcia, Humberto R. SSG USA
Hendricks, David P. CPT USA */2

Hickson, Richard L. CPT USA */1

Hill, Alfred SFC USA */2
Hill, Lloyd N. 1LT USA
Jacobs, Jack H. 1LT USA */1
John, Virgil J. Jr. SGT USA
Johnston, Leonard H. SP5 USA

Koenig, John CPT USA */1
Landrie, Charles J. MAJ USA
McAdams, Robert E. MSG USA
Newby, George R. 1LT USA
Newby, George R. 1LT USA
Ostrowski, Joseph MAJ USA
Primont, Michael J. 1LT USA */1

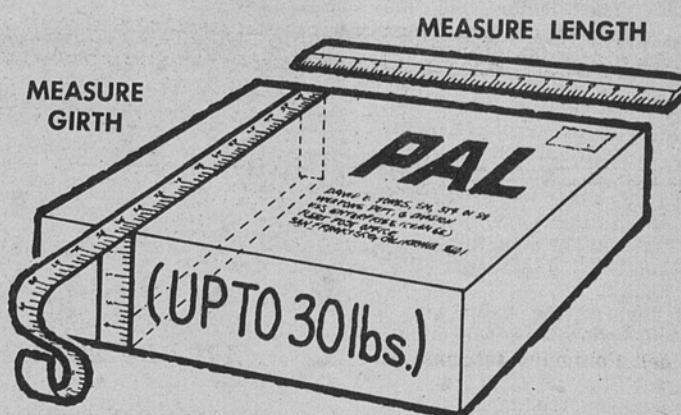
Pryor, John D. CPT USA
Pugh, William R. SSG USA */1
Ratto, Jeffrey R. 1LT USA
Ray, Roy G. MAJ USA
Raymond, Fred S. Jr. MAJ USA
Rodimon, Stanley J. CPT USA */1

Ross, Joseph SFC USA
Simister, Howard A. MAJ USA
Winn, Robert B. CPT USA */2

ARMY COMMENDATION
MEDAL WITH
"V" DEVICE

Harrell, Richard D. SFC USA
Hobley, Donald R. SP4 USA
Starr, Donald J. CPT USA
Tyler, Lacy J. 1LT USA
*/ denotes Oak Leaf Clusters

Christmas Mailing Tips



Length + Girth = 60 inches (max.)

Parcels weighing from five to 30 pounds and measuring up to 60 inches in combined length and girth can be sent via Parcel Air Lift (PAL). This means they will be loaded if there is room after all airmail parcels have been loaded. From Vietnam, a PAL package should reach a U.S. address in five to seven days. PAL service costs an additional \$1 plus the surface (fourth class) rate.

AF Rescuemen Aid Viet Hoa Orphanage

SAIGON (USAF) — Two years ago, the men of the Air Force's 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group (ARRG) Headquarters at Tan Son Nhut Air Base began a different type of rescue mission — one that is still listed as "open" on the unit's books.

This mission is one of the oldest and most active rescue operations in Southeast Asia. Its aim is to assist the Viet Hoa Orphanage in the Cholon district of Saigon.

The orphanage is home for more than 120 children ranging in age from infancy to 12 years. In addition, almost 500 day school students are taught in the orphanage's elementary school. The Viet Hoa Orphanage was founded in 1869 by French nuns and is now managed by 15 Vietnamese nuns who are members of the Congregation of St. Paul de Chartres.

Weekly Visits

During their weekly visits to the orphanage, the Air Force rescuemen have conducted English classes, helped with the painting and repairing of buildings and distributed needed articles to the children.

In the first year of their "adoption" of the Viet Hoa Orphanage, the rescuemen spent

many off-duty hours helping to improve living conditions, and were responsible for collecting several hundred pounds of clothing and donations totaling \$1,500.

Appeal For Aid

Recent collections have yielded nearly one ton of clothes, toys and toilet articles along with more than \$1,700 in donations.

Many of these contributions were response to an appeal for aid from Colonel Paul E. Leske, 3rd ARRG commander, to Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service Headquarters. The headquarters passed the word of the orphanage's needs to its units around the globe.

Soon contributions began pouring in from rescue personnel on a worldwide basis.

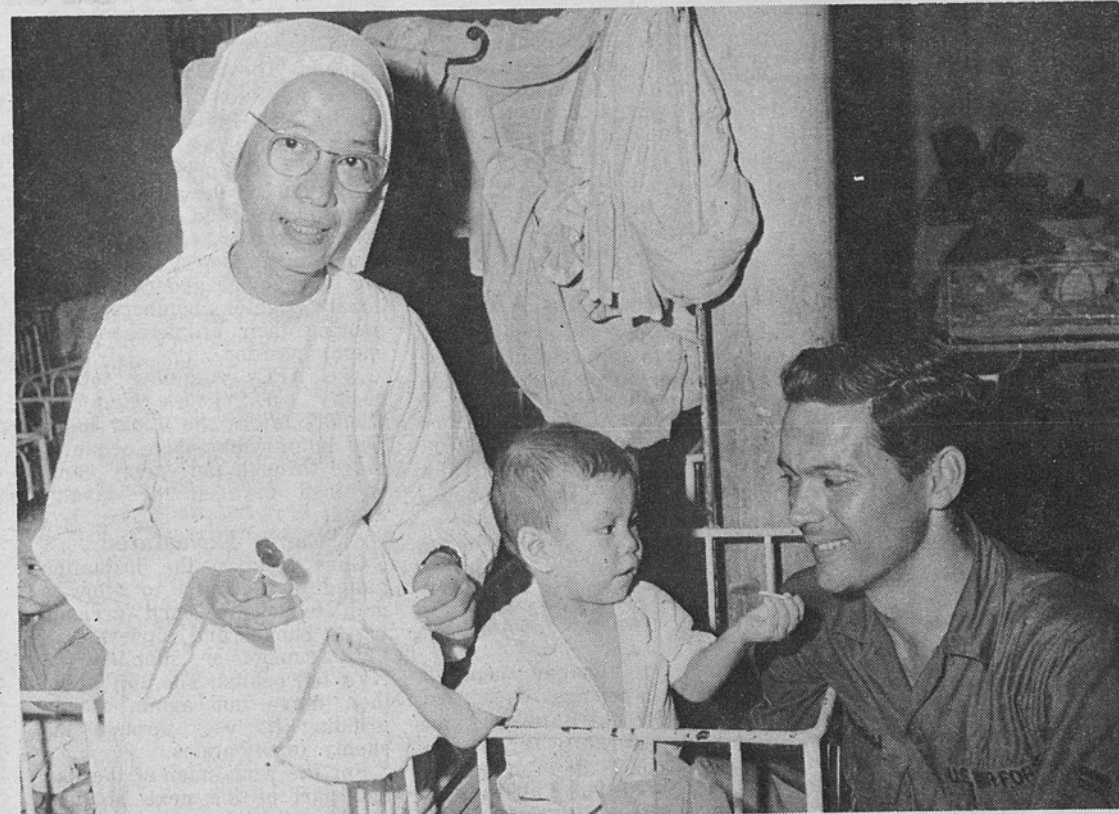
Recent Purchases

Use of the funds is designed to purchase items which will have a long range benefit to the children. Recent purchases have included floor tiling, light fixtures and ceiling fans for an additional 10 classrooms that have been completed for the orphanage.

In a recent letter to Col. Leske and "all the dear benefactors of the Viet Hoa Orphanage," the Superior of the orphanage, Sister Robert du Sacre Coeur wrote:

"I don't know how to thank you for all you have done for us. You have given us so many packages of things for the children, money for necessary items and completion of our classrooms, and military professors for instructing us in English. All of us at the orphanage, Sisters and children... were all thankful. Morning and night, each day, we will recite a prayer particularly for all of you. Without all of you, what would we become? May the good Lord protect and bless you for all that you have done for us and our poor country of Vietnam."

The letter has brought a particular feeling of warmth to the Air Force rescuemen who have aided the orphanage. As far as they are concerned, this is one rescue mission that will remain "open and active" indefinitely.



THANK YOU—Airman First Class Harvey P. Dawson is on the receiving end of "thank you" from one of the youngsters at the Viet Hoa Orphanage which is supported by the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Sister Robert du Sacre Coeur, superior of the orphanage, holds several articles which were donated to the Viet Hoa Orphanage. (USAF PHOTO)

Pursues VC Terrorists

Viet Sgt Cited For Valor

SAIGON (USA) — A Vietnamese sergeant who, although unarmed himself, pursued two Viet Cong terrorists after witnessing them murder an American soldier in Saigon, was presented the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for Valor in ceremonies held recently at Headquarters, Capital Military Assistance Command (CMAC) in Saigon.

Sergeant Nang Xuong Diep, 3rd Medical Veterinary Detachment, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, received the medal for heroism from Major Gen-

eral Fillmore K. Mearns, commanding general, CMAC, for his action on 22 August, 1968. On that date, Sergeant Diep was a witness when two terrorists on a motorcycle shot and killed a U.S. Army sergeant who was traveling in a vehicle on Cong Ly Street.

A portion of Sergeant Diep's citation reads: "Sergeant Diep, in a remarkable display of personal courage and with complete disregard of his own safe-

ty, immediately pursued the Viet Cong terrorists in an effort to capture them. During the pursuit, one of the terrorists turned and shot Sergeant Diep, critically wounding him. Sergeant Diep's bravery, initiative, and personal courage is in keeping with the finest traditions of the allied military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his command and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam."

RF/PF Troops Finish Leadership School

AN KHE (USA) — Five classes of South Vietnamese Regional Forces, Popular Forces troops have graduated from the 173rd Airborne Brigade's new leadership school at An Khe. Organized in July, the leadership school is the first of its kind in the II Corps tactical zone and has had a huge success.

A fresh concept in joint training, the school is aimed at improving the knowledge of key RF/PF home guard personnel in the areas of weaponry, equipment maintenance, first aid, platoon offensive tactics, rappelling and a variety of other infantry skills.

Twice a month, fifty hand-picked local force personnel from Phu Yen, Dinh Binh and Phu Bon Provinces attend the 12 days of instruction at the 173rd's Jungle School training area.

Colonel Le Trung Tuong, Vietnamese Deputy Commander of the II Corps, expressed his appreciation to the 173rd for instituting the program and enhancing the abilities of RF/PF cadre.

In addition to practical exer-

cises, the brigade provided classroom instruction, field problems and training films. "Our instruction," commented the school's commandant, Captain Michel E. Hess of Vancouver, Wash., "is designed to build up the confidence of these indigenous forces who are comparable to our National Guard in the States."

Army Names Tet Campaign

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The Department of the Army has designated two more Vietnam campaigns.

The sixth campaign, from Jan. 30, 1968, through April 1, 1968, will be called "Tet Counteroffensive."

A seventh campaign has been designated beginning April 2, 1968. Its name and termination date will be announced later.

Battle stars for these periods are authorized for wear on the Vietnam Service Ribbon in accordance with Army Regulation 672-5-1.

Navy 'Swift' Boat Earns Its Name

SAIGON, (USN) — Calm, coastal waves lapped gently against the sides of PCF-21 and the Vietnamese sampan tied alongside as American crewmen searched the innocent-looking oriental watercraft for enemy supplies.

Suddenly, the spell was broken as water splashes near the boat heralded an enemy attack from the beach.

"General quarters! General quarters! Break out your H. E. and man those fifties. Cut loose and get us out of here!"

Lines were immediately cast off as crewmen scrambled back on board. The 50-foot Navy "Swift" boat surged forward, its twin 480-horsepower marine Diesels roaring their response to the skipper's call. Crewmen scurried to their battle stations.

More enemy rounds splashed into the water close aboard as the "21-boat" zig-zagged out to sea. Crewmen broke out high explosive rounds for the boat's 81mm mortar.

Ten seconds had elapsed. Thirteen hundred yards off the beach, PCF-21 slowed down, then stopped with its stern towards the shoreline. Two crew-

men prepared to load the mortar and waited for the order to fire.

The skipper scanned the beach through binoculars and spotted the flash of rifle fire in the treeline. He also saw men carry a mortar towards several beached sampans where they set up the weapon.

"Range — 1400 yards. Bearing — 180 degrees. Elevation — 55 degrees. Fire," he yelled.

The PCF-21's mortar team scored a direct hit on the first shot.

Six more mortar rounds tore into the enemy emplacement on the beach, destroying it and surrounding sampans.

Heavy automatic weapons fire of large caliber was still coming from the treeline, however. PCF-21 again accelerated, running to one end of the beach. A sharp 180-degree turn brought the 50-foot craft back for a firing run in the opposite direction, 1,000 yards offshore.

All three of the Swift's .50-caliber machine guns were trained on the enemy in the treeline. The twin-fifties just above the pilot house opened fire first, their tracers stitching

a pattern in the trees 100 feet beyond the shore.

The aft single fifty spoke next, and the enemy fire died down. PCF-21 moved closer to the beach and fired several grenades from the M-79 grenade launcher. Then, ten minutes after the call to general quarters, the "cease fire" order was given.

Stillness and heavy smoke from mortar rounds and grenades hung over the area and the remnants of the enemy force.

PCF-21 turned out to sea to resume its patrol, leaving in its wake five Viet Cong killed, five sampans and one mortar destroyed, and three sampans damaged.

PCF-21 is one of more than 100 Swift boats used by the U.S. Navy in its coastal surveillance operation, called "Market Time." Based at Chu Lai, 55 miles southeast of Da Nang, the craft has, in the last four-and-one-half months, achieved a reputation as "tops" among the Swift people.

Even though it often provides gunfire support to unseen friendly troops or slugs it out toe-to-toe with the enemy on the beach, the primary mission of PCF-21 is to stop and search sampans or junks for enemy supplies or ammunition.

On off-days, routine maintenance on the boat's equipment has to be taken care of, with fuel tanks topped off, ammunition lockers replenished and weapons taken apart and cleaned.

Story & Photos

By

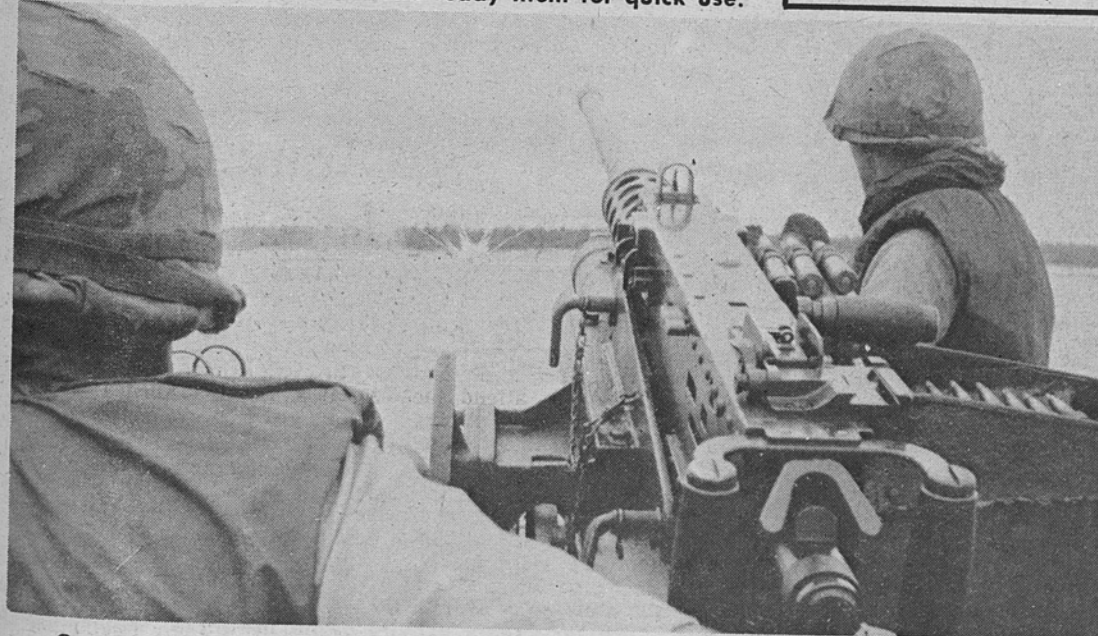
JO1 Joseph D. Sheets, USN



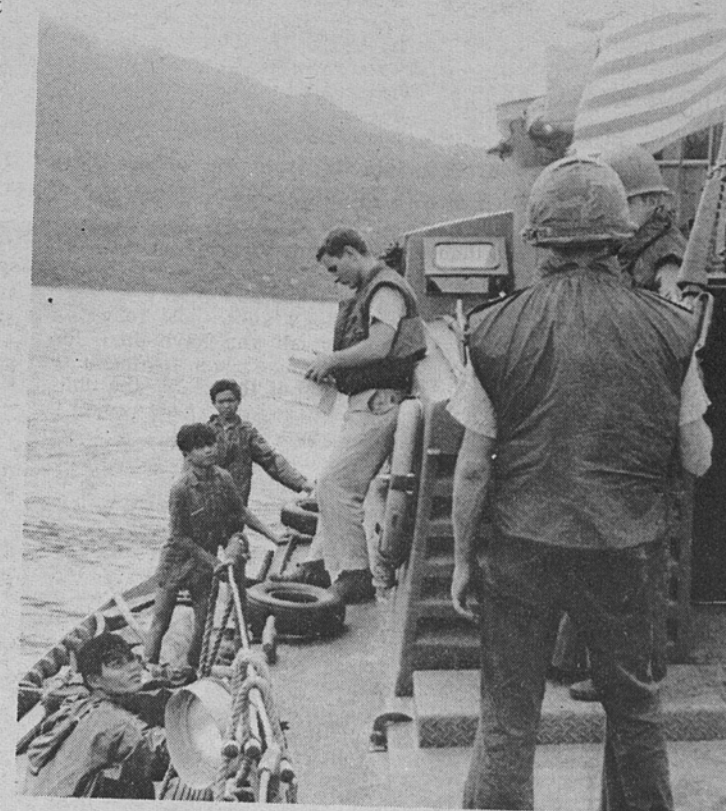
The PCF-21 nears base in Chu Lai harbor, after finishing a 36-hour patrol.



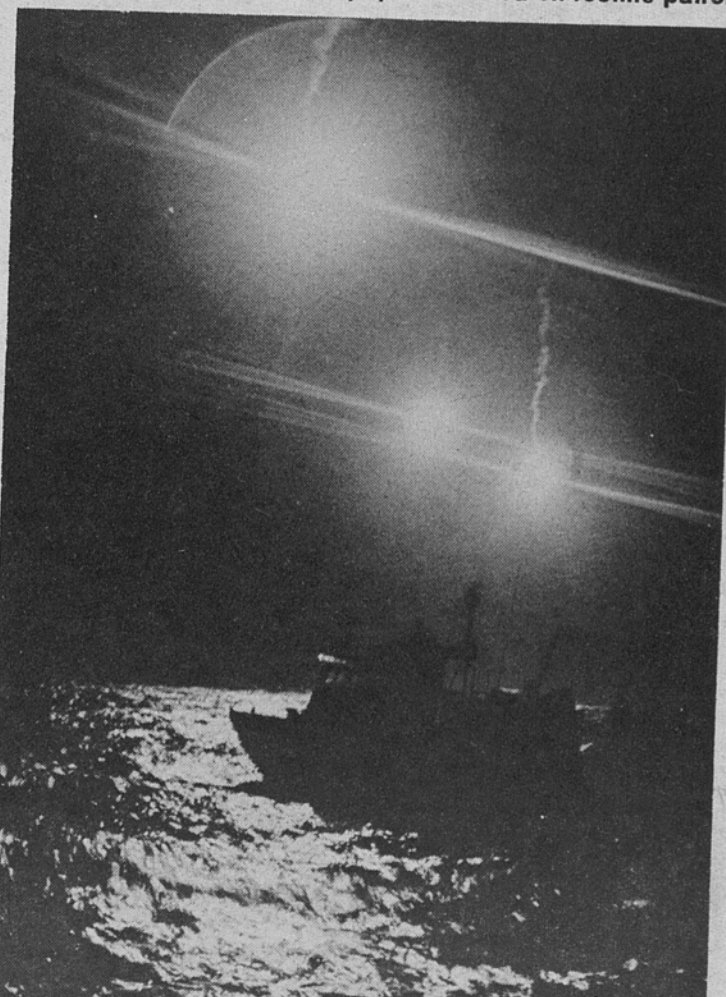
Seamen unpack mortar shells and ready them for quick use.



Crewmen watch an 81mm mortar round, fired moments before, destroy its target.



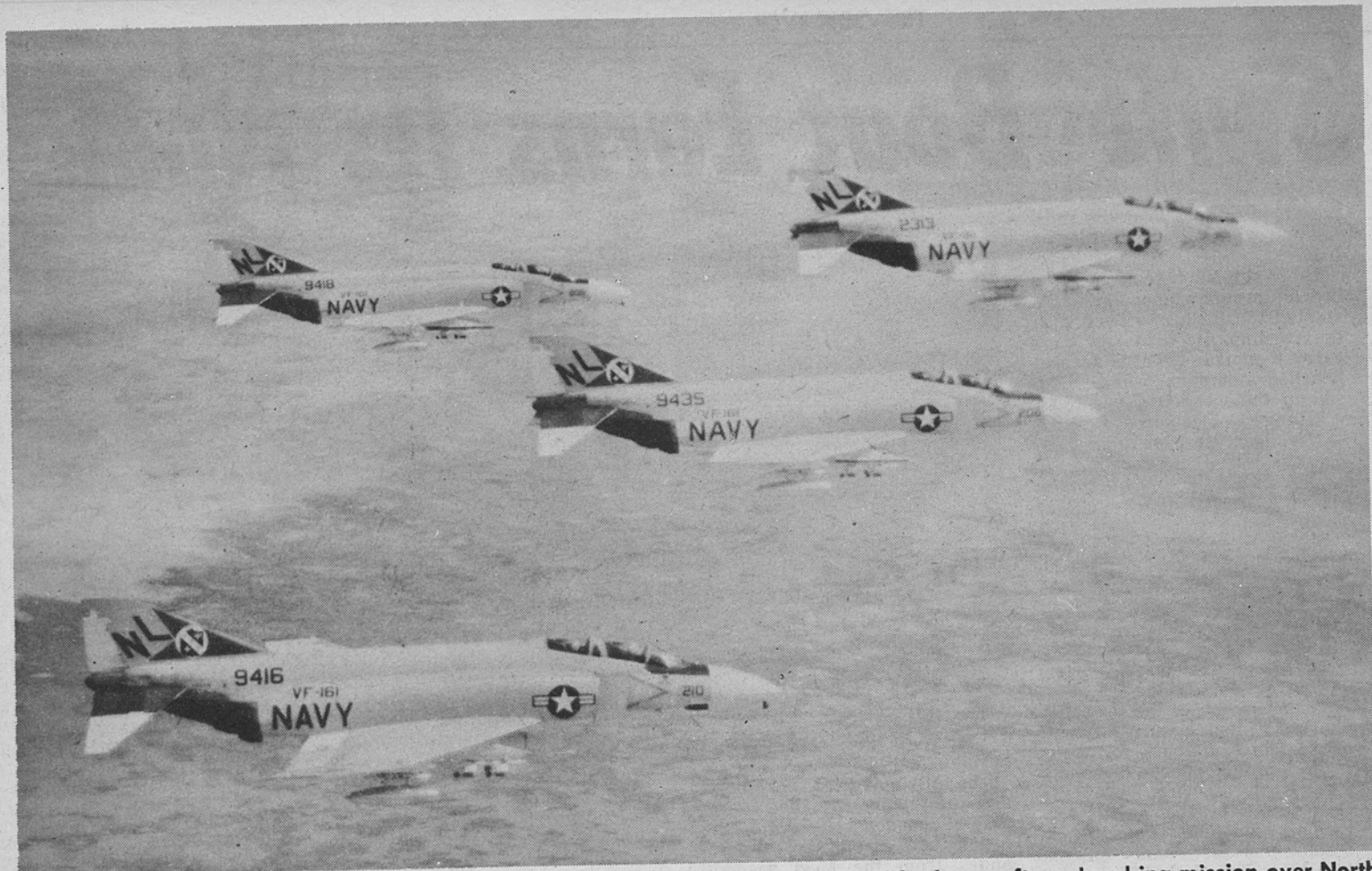
Vietnamese fishermen have papers checked on routine patrol.



PCF-21 fires illumination flares in support of allied troops.



LOH RECON—A 25th Infantry Division rifleman from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds watches as a light observation helicopter reconns an enemy location near Dau Tieng. (USA PHOTO)



Four double-sonic F-4B 'Phantom IIs' from the attack carrier USS Coral Sea head for home after a bombing mission over North Vietnam. The jets are but one of many types of aircraft based on Seventh Fleet carriers stationed in the Gulf of Tonkin.



U.S. Navy assault support boats, bristling with 20 and 40mm cannons from the Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force, escort armored troop carriers along a Mekong Delta river.

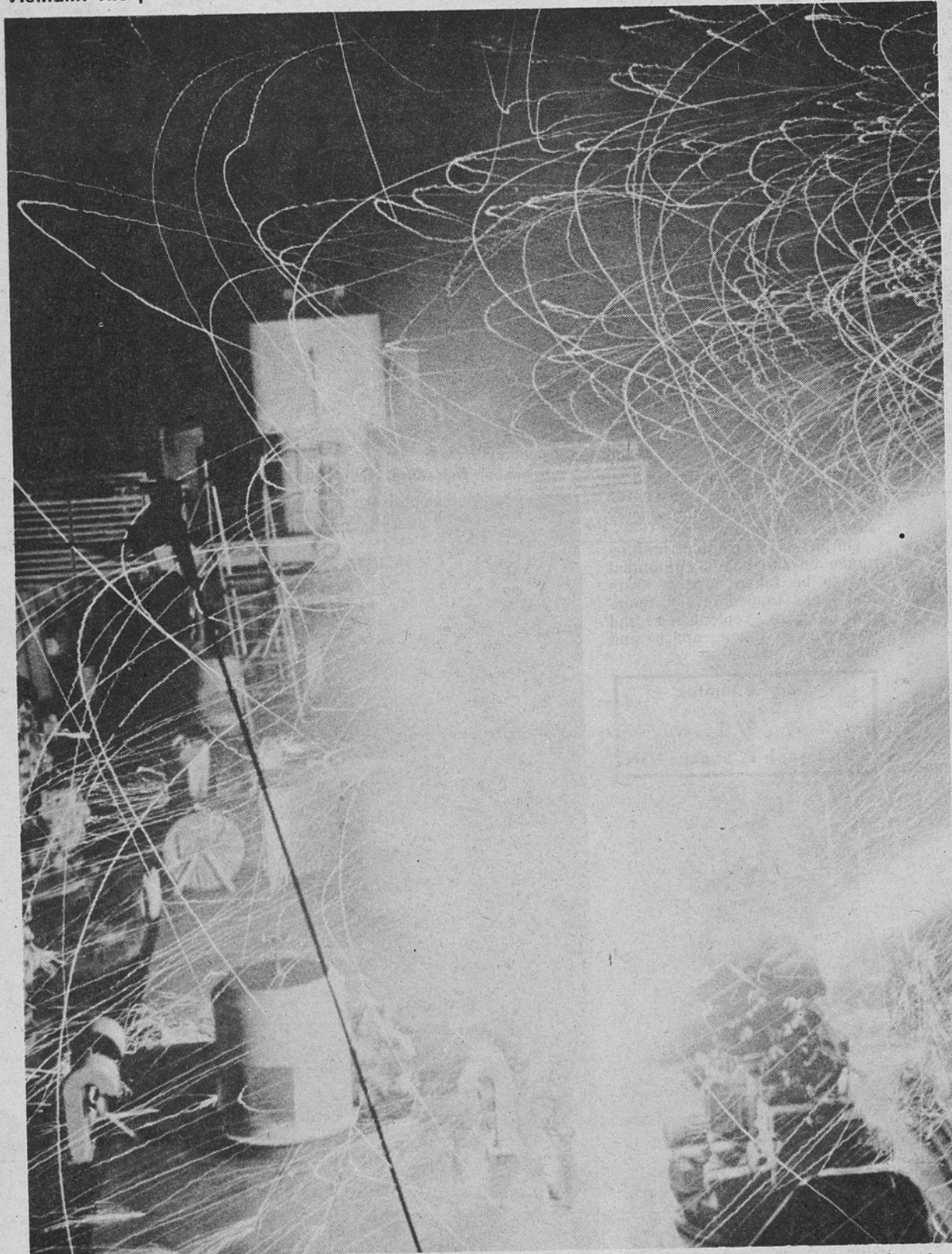
U.S. Navy Celebrates 193rd Anniversary

SAIGON (USA) — From its creation in 1775 with a small squadron of sailing ships, the United States Navy has grown to a mighty fleet of over a thousand ships and nearly 700,000 men.

October 27th, the Navy will celebrate its 193rd anniversary, as the mightiest seapower in the world. On the oceans which comprise four-fifths of the world's surface, U.S. Navy ships cruise freely, helping insure freedom for all peace loving people.

In Vietnam, the challenge to freedom is most acute and the Navy's response to that challenge most daring. Up muddy canals of the Mekong Delta, along the coast and across the skies of North Vietnam, more than 70,000 American Navy men have committed their time, their talents and their lives to the struggle for freedom. The machines of war have changed, as have the methods of waging it. But the men are much the same. The challenge they have accepted in Vietnam today, is the same challenge expressed by another Navy man, John Paul Jones, nearly two centuries ago: "The stature of our homeland," he said, "is no more than the measure of ourselves. Our job is to keep her free. Our job is to keep the torch of freedom burning for all. To this solemn purpose we call the young, the brave, the strong and the free. Heed my call. Come to the sea. Come, sail with me."

Story & Photos
By
U.S. Navy



Spewing flames and sparks during a gunfire support mission, the USS Clarion River booms five-inch rockets toward enemy targets. It is capable of firing eight rockets at once.



Flown by 'Seawolves,' a U.S. Navy helicopter flies cover for river patrol boats searching for enemy activity along the major waterways of the Mekong Delta during Operation Game Warden.



Speeding along the coast of South Vietnam, a U.S. Navy fast patrol craft heads out on a watercraft search patrol.



The radar picket destroyer USS Duncan cuts through the waters of the South China Sea to answer a call for support.

Montagnards Snatched From VC To Safety



Montagnard tribesmen hasten to board the Chinook that will take them to safety.

LONG BINH (USA) — The continued Montagnard rejection of Viet Cong control became increasingly apparent recently when more than 700 of the colorful tribesmen were voluntarily airlifted out of enemy territory in Phuoc Long Province.

Since the beginning of August, more than 2,800 refugees have come into government areas of their own free will to escape enemy harassment.

The Duc Phong District Chief, Major Tran Ngoc Hue, received word via a Vietnamese Special Forces patrol that the villagers at Bu Lach wanted to escape Viet Cong domination. They were asking their government

for help and, in no time, it was on the way.

With the help of American Special Forces advisors, the detailed plans for the operation were drawn up. Two companies and a recon platoon with their American advisors left the security of district headquarters and moved out on Highway 14.

Their mission was to travel 12 kilometers to the hamlet in enemy-infested territory and secure the landing zone for the evacuation of the Montagnard people to a government-controlled area. By 8:00 p.m., they were an hour away from headquarters. Then the Viet Cong opened fire.

Enemy Dispersed

The small force of Montagnards

clung tightly to their mothers. Some cried. Others stared wide-eyed at the confusion of wind and noise.

A platoon of Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) soldiers along with Major Tran and American advisors boarded one of four huge CH-47A Chinook helicopters at Duc Phong airstrip and headed for the landing zone. The helicopters were from the 205th Assault Support Helicopter Company at Phu Loi.

Chinook Lands

Ten minutes later, the Chinook roared down onto the sloping, grass-covered plateau overlooking a cluster of a dozen thatched houses and a brilliant green valley. Gunships added to the noise, circling low over the landing zone.

Frightened by the noise, water buffalo, cows, pigs, goats, dogs, chickens and ducks were running terrified in all directions.

Fifty meters away, a group of 50 Montagnard men, women and children with most of their worldly belongings waited for a signal to scramble into the Chinook — and freedom.

In less than 10 minutes, they were aboard. The Chinook roared off the ground and headed for the resettlement area at Hoa Dong.

Another Chopper

Two thousand meters away, in another part of the village, First Lieutenant Byrd Mac Sasser was guiding the second Chinook in for the extraction of approximately two hundred villagers there.

By 11:30 a.m., 200 people had been evacuated from one site and an equal number from the other. Despite a late start, the operation was moving swiftly. The villagers were well-organized and there was no doubt in anyone's mind that they wanted to leave.

The tremendous wash of twin-rotated Chinooks played havoc with straw hats, baskets, mats and little children. The children



Waiting for evacuation, a woman tightly clutches her pet.

clung tightly to their mothers. Some cried. Others stared wide-eyed at the confusion of wind and noise.

Kidnapped

One thing was strikingly obvious. There was an absence of young men and women. The VC had taken care of that a few days earlier by kidnapping them and forcing them to serve as laborers.

At the extraction site were the old and the very young — primitive people leaving their homes forever and taking their first flight. Old women and men carried precious belongings in huge baskets overloaded with rice, crockery, pots, chickens, ducks and even puppies.

The Children

A little boy, carrying a huge stalk of bananas, staggered down a path toward the landing zone. He fell with them and a Vietnamese soldier helped him carry them to the marshalling area.

A little girl huddled with her family and closely guarded four, week-old puppies in a basket.

At noon, they were still coming. The operation was moving more swiftly than had been expected and there was time to take more personal belongings and livestock. Everyone, from Major Tran and his American advisors to the Vietnamese Special Forces and the Montagnard CIDGs, assisted in the evacuation.

The scene was a kaleidoscope of pathos, comedy, fright, happiness, confusion, anticipation and efficient organization as the Chinooks flew sortie after sortie.

Mid-afternoon at the resettlement area was the same — but in reverse. Several hundred people watched and waited in an open, grassy field as the Chinooks brought relatives and friends in from Bu Lach. Adjacent to the field was the refugee village of neatly laid-out thatched houses. A mobile registration team, provided by the government, was present. By 4 p.m., all the people of Bu Lach and the nearby area were safely at Hoa Dong.

For them, there would be no more VC terror or harassment. They were to have a new life in a new village with government protection, medical care and food.

Back at Bu Lach, Lieutenant Sasser, executive officer of Detachment A-343 of Company A, 5th Special Forces Group, and his Vietnamese counterpart watched as the last Chinook departed.

One More Job

The company had one last job to do. They had to deny to the VC the houses and domestic animals left behind by the fleeing Montagnards.

The simple, thatched Montagnard huts were not much of a problem. They burned to the ground in seconds. The water buffalo and cattle required a different solution. Lieutenant Sasser and his men organized a cattle drive and drove their charges 12 miles from Bu Lach to Hoa Dong through the enemy-held territory.

Story and Photos
By
SFC Don Kidd

Buddies Desert Chatty 'Charlie'

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES (USA) — Quick thinking by a 199th Light Infantry Brigade sergeant recently outfoxed an ingenious Viet Cong ambush plan when the fake "Chieu Hoi" talked too much.

While on a reconnaissance mission west of Saigon, Team II of the Long Range Patrol (LRP) had a Viet Cong suspect boldly walk toward its position. As he moved nearer, a member of the patrol shouted "Dung Lai" (halt). The man calmly joined the Americans, still talking in his native tongue.

The team leader, Sergeant Bill Juechter, said, "That guy seemed like he wanted to be captured and take advantage of the 'Chieu Hoi' program, but we couldn't figure out why he continued to talk."

After completing its mission, the LRP started back to the helicopter landing zone. The Viet Cong suspect kept jabbering away, so his mouth was taped shut and the team silently continued through the dense growth.

Then, acting on a hunch, Sergeant Juechter gave orders to his men.

First, the tape was removed from the prisoner's mouth. He began talking at once.

Next, Specialist 4 Scott Hokoana and a companion in the rear of the patrol quietly slipped off the trail and into the nippa palm as the rest continued to the pick-up point.

The pair waited only a few moments before they heard sounds. Weapons were trained on the path as two Viet Cong with AK-47s appeared, following the sound of their "captured" comrade's voice ahead.

The GIs opened fire, and both VC fled.

When the two soldiers rejoined the team, the VC detainee realized his plan had backfired, and tried violently to free himself. As the helicopter appeared, he was at the end of his rope . . . still.

Recounting the episode, Specialist Hokoana smiled and said, "I guess he decided he didn't want to go if his buddies couldn't go too!"

Their Rx: Soap!

DA NANG (USMC)—A small, three-room stone building nestled in the midst of pine trees near Sacred Heart's Orphanage south of Da Nang. It's an ordinary building except on Thursday.

This day American doctors and corpsmen come, their bags filled with medicine to treat the sick, maimed and diseased. Vietnamese come from hamlets and villages 10 miles away for help.

Doctors and dentists from the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Hospital work in two small rooms treating the seriously ill. Those who cannot be treated are given medical papers referring them to the NSA Hospital down the road or the German hospital ship "Helgoland," anchored on the Han River, Da Nang.

In the largest room two corpsmen from the 5th Communications Battalion, a unit of Force Logistic Command, have begun their work.

"It's something like athlete's foot that's gone bad," Hospitalman First Class Servando M. Tolentino said, describing one

of the most frequent ailments he treats. He explained that most people refer to it as jungle rot, "but the cases we work with here are far more serious."

Corpsman Carto B. Rhodes was working at the next table, applying ointment to a young boy's hand.

"This little fellow got all bitten up by bugs. Then, like anyone would do, he scratched them," he said. Pointing to the large dirt-infected sores, he explained, "This is a case of poor personal hygiene."

The corpsmen specialize in dermatology — diseases of the skin. They've treated skin ulcers and contagious fungus infections such as scabies and impetigo. Tolentino said that they also do as much as possible for elderly Vietnamese suffering from cataracts.

Although their medicine chest is filled with different salves, creams and bandages, Corpsman Rhodes explained that, "Our most effective treatment in the long run is a bar of soap and a few words of instruction."

NO TIME FOR MANNERS—With all the food he can eat, this Vietnamese boy has no time for spoons during picnic held near his hamlet. The picnic, hosted by Marines of the 3rd Military Police Battalion, Force Logistic Command, was attended by nearly 500 Vietnamese youngsters. (USMC PHOTO)

Ex-VC Nurses Get New Jobs Find Security On 'Other Side'

LONG BINH (USA) — "I want to study to become a nurse," exclaimed the almond-eyed young miss. This may seem like a dream common to many young girls throughout the world. For two particular young ladies, however, it is quite different. They already have served as nurses — but with the Viet Cong.

Miss Pham Thi Nga, 16, is a Hoi Chanh who rallied to the Government of South Vietnam after serving five months with the local force Viet Cong in Lai Thieu District, Binh Duong Province, 12 miles northwest of Saigon. She cited missing her

parents as the reason for rallying, adding that, "I didn't volunteer to go with the VC — they threatened my family and I had to go."

Many Others

Since the beginning of January there have been more than 165 persons like Miss Nga to rally to the Government in Binh Duong Province.

Mrs. Ng Thi Deo, also a former Viet Cong nurse, became disillusioned with promises and propaganda that never bore fruit. She was approximately eight months pregnant when she came back to the control of the government.

Mrs. Deo accompanied her husband when he joined the Viet Cong in January, 1966. She explained, "The Viet Cong came to our hamlet and explained what the National Liberation Front was trying to do for the people. They promised many things, but never kept them."

During a bombing raid that killed her husband, Mrs. Deo took advantage of the confusion and escaped. The 20-year-old Hoi Chanh is currently at the Binh Duong Province Chieu Hoi training center with her three-month old son, where she is learning a new vocation — farming.

Fear Shows

The nurses readily admit that they are afraid of VC reprisals when they complete their train-

ing and leave the center. Mr. James O'Meara, American Chieu Hoi advisor in Binh Duong Province, said, "We try to resettle the Hoi Chanhs somewhere in a relatively safe area protected by ARVN soldiers."

With this sense of government-provided security, an additional 2,000 plasters and three months of training, the Hoi Chanhs are ready to fight anew — for the South Vietnamese Government.

Garb Gifts

CAM RANH BAY (USA)—A one-man civic action team recently combined private concern with private enterprise to produce some much-needed cloth for Montagnard refugees in the mountainous Gia Nghia area.

The mother of Staff Sergeant Luther A. Moore, Jr., non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the communications center here, wrote a letter to a New York cloth manufacturer telling them of her son's request for help in solving the clothing shortage among refugees. The company immediately shipped three large packages of cloth to Cam Ranh Bay, where it was flown to Gia Nghia for distribution.

ARVN PXs Get Expansion Aid

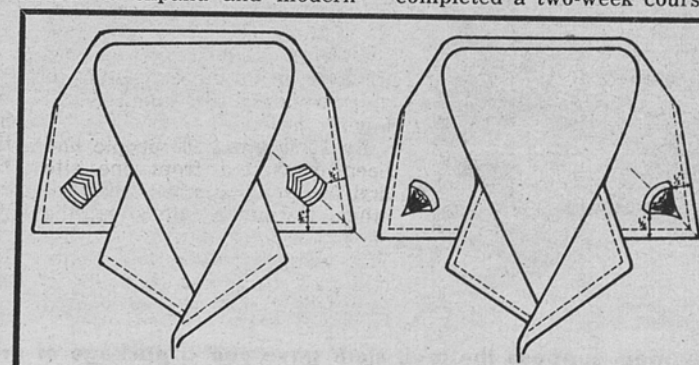
SAIGON (USA) — The Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE) is assisting the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Commissary Department in its current efforts to expand and modern-

ize. To assist in the eventual training of newly-assigned ARVN exchange officers, two Vietnamese officers recently completed a two-week course in

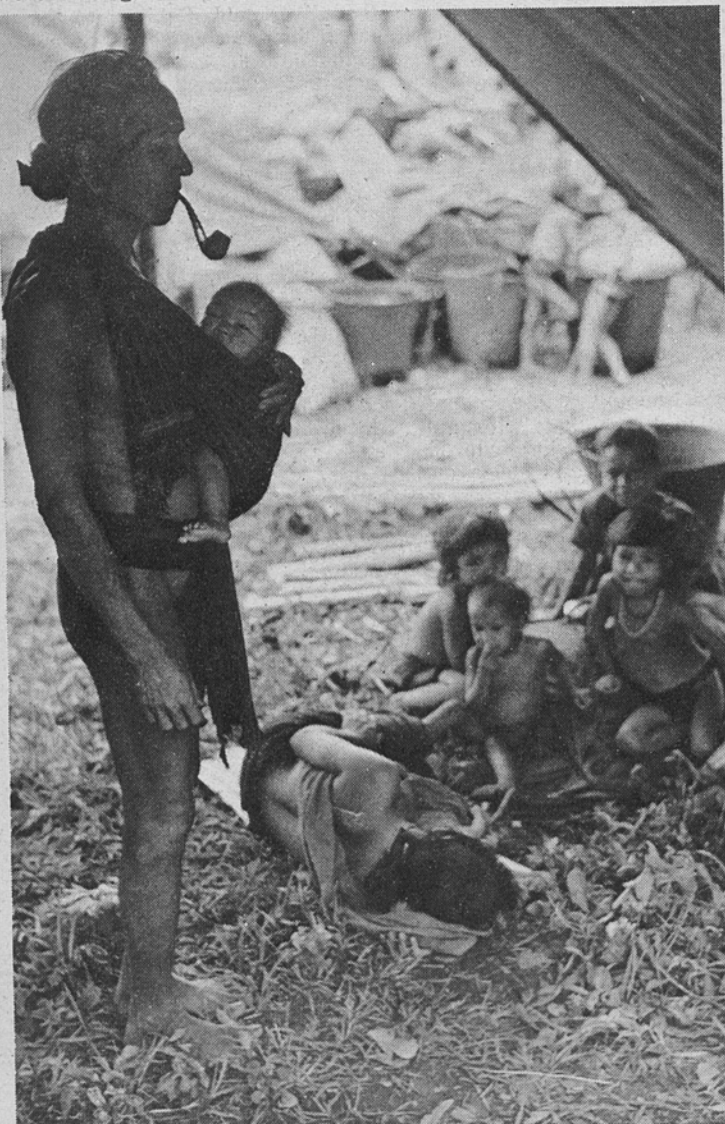
retail management practices taught regularly by the VRE training section. They will begin now to adapt what they learned about VRE operating procedures to the Vietnamese system. The result is expected to be an ARVN retail manager's course.

In addition, five ARVN officers attended a special Vietnamese session of the training course for one hour each day during the two weeks. The session included highlights of the regular course and was provided to assist Vietnamese with English language difficulties.

Subjects covered in the course included merchandising; stockroom and personnel procedures; retail accountability; oral and written communication; data processing programs and procedures; and safety and security.



PIN-ON INSIGNIA: Correct placement of Army rank pins on fatigue collars, according to latest MACV regulations.

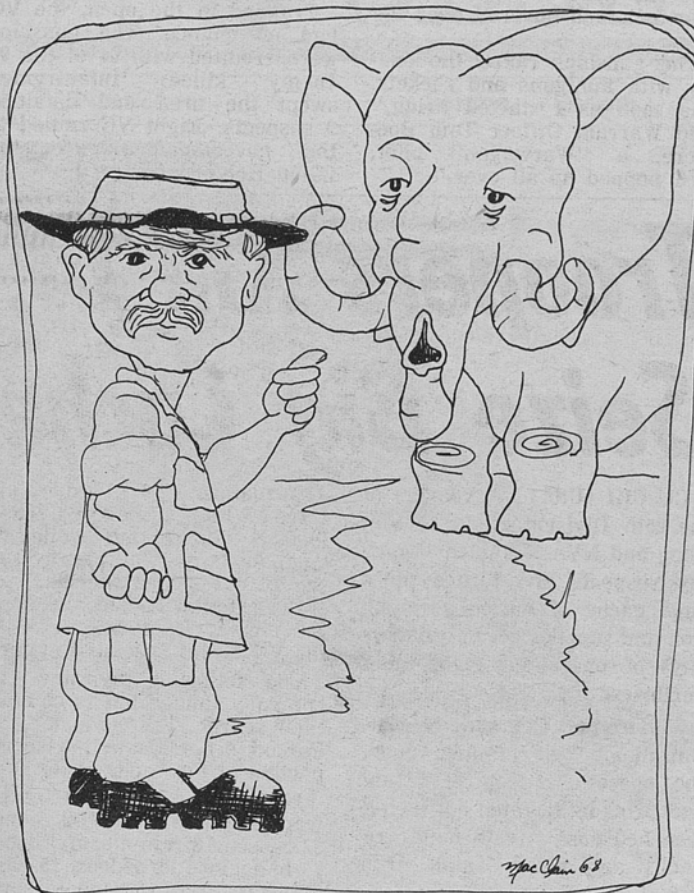


A tribesman watches over his family at the resettlement area.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Okay men, suppose the mail clerk gave you a package of unordered merchandise. What would you do with it? Did you know that you are under no obligation to return the package? Nor are you required to pay for it, unless used. In addition, remember, if the sender reclaims the package, you may charge him for storage fees. However, if you have hopes of getting something like this in a package, forget it—you know it's against postal regulations to send explosives through the mail. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN



"VC TANK"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Pertaining to the laity

5. Highway

9. Cry

12. Aroma

13. Girl's name

14. Cravat

15. Faux pas (colloq.)

17. Note of scale

18. Ancient

19. River islands

21. Remains

23. Distlike

27. Pronoun

28. Recess in a shore

29. Still

31. Seed

34. Latin conjunction

35. Period of time

37. 100,000 rupes

39. Symbol for nickel

40. Drunkard

42. Stitch

44. Claw

46. Preposition

48. Colonizing

50. Doomed

53. Boring

54. Skill

55. Preposition

57. Rules

61. Pigeon pea

62. Spare

64. Gaseous element

65. Before

66. Permits

67. Bloody

DOWN

1. Tennis stroke

2. Fuss

3. Electrified particle

4. Originated

5. Remains at ease

6. Hypothetical force

7. Emmet

8. Platform

9. European crimes

10. Unctuous

11. Articles of furniture

16. Lassos

20. Puppen

22. Note of scale

23. Expires

24. Preposition

25. Solicitor at law (abbr.)

26. Lamprey

30. Gossip

32. River in Siberia

33. Part of airplane

36. Affirmative

38. Hailing

41. Minute part

43. Marry

45. Chinese mile (abbr.)

47. Compass point

49. Twists

50. Diminish

51. Sandarac tree

52. Playing part

56. Toll

58. Man's name (abbr.)

59. Conjunction

60. Vessel's curved planking

63. Near

PLAID AORTA
PRIDE IDEALS
LOST COMET LA
APT TIGER TUB
NE SIDLE WIDE
SE ALLEE LAMER
SEED SAFE
SEAR HATE EL
LARD RIDER LE
ARE NADIA MAA
TO NIGER LOTS
SOLACE OWELET
NOTES NEVER

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9th Infantrymen Pound VC In Delta

DONG TAM (USA) — The 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, and 3rd Brigade units and supporting elements recently killed 138 Viet Cong 12 miles west of My Thuoc Tay, in two days of fighting.

It marked the first major contact in the Mekong Delta for the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, since it came to the Old Reliabilities from the 1st Division at Lai Khe.

Contact began when Company B of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, was inserted into a hot landing zone at mid-morning.

The enemy was dug in along a heavily wooded and bunkered area bordering a canal. Six more companies were inserted to surround the enemy and air and artillery were called in.

Troops on the ground pulled back slightly, allowing the 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery, to pound the beleaguered enemy. Air Force jets streaked in

while elements of the 7th ARVN Division solidified their blocking positions south of the canal.

Two more airmobile units were inserted and by nightfall three companies of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, and four from the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, had encircled the enemy. Sporadic contact continued throughout the night. The next morning, sweeping infantrymen found 48 enemy bodies.

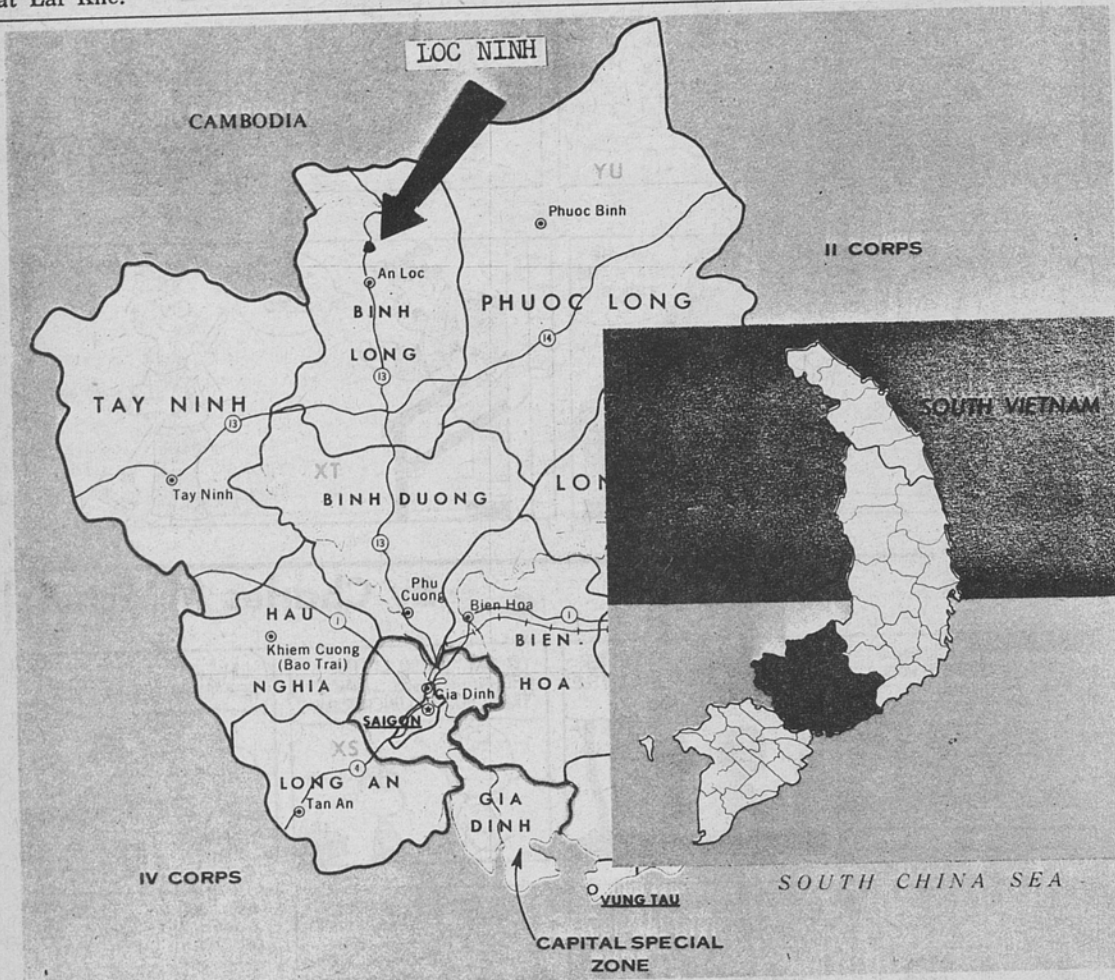
As pressure from sweeping

infantrymen mounted, the enemy began fleeing the area in twos and threes, hoping to elude the moving trap. Gunships from Troop D, 3rd Squadron of the 5th Cavalry, were called in. Teams of three "Cobras" and two LOH "Warwagons" soon hovered over the area.

The gunships raked the enemy with miniguns and rockets. "As soon as I started firing," said Warrant Officer Tom Boeshore, a "Warwagon" pilot, "VC popped up all over."

"We moved into the area and found nothing but VC running into the open," said First Lieutenant Frank Bryan, a "Cobra" pilot. He said that the VC had been lying in a series of canals that ran through open rice paddies.

Trapped in the open, the VC had no chance. The gunships were credited with 64 of the 90 enemy killed. Infantrymen swept the area and detained 9 suspects. Eight VC rallied to the government under the Chieu Hoi program.



Troopers Maul NVA...

(Continued From Page 1)

The next day, as Company B, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry and Troop E of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's 2nd Squadron were moving down a road toward a village in the area, they began receiving heavy fire from enemy soldiers hidden in the surrounding jungle. The cavalrymen returned the fire, forcing the enemy to break contact and pull back. With cavalry support, the units began sweeping the area, but again came under heavy enemy fire. Again they called in helicopter gunships. After the action, they

found 17 enemy bodies, bringing the first day's total to 34.

During three more encounters on the second day, the enemy body count rose by 96. In one action the NVA pounded the 28th Infantry position with mortars, automatic weapons and rocket grenades. Several times during the encounter they tried to overrun the friendly position. After several hours of bitter fighting, with Air Force tactical aircraft and flareships supporting the action, the enemy broke contact and fled. They left 75 bodies behind. Company C of the 28th Infantry killed 20 more NVA sol-

diers in yet another encounter. They were backed by helicopter gunships. Later, as a reconnaissance element of the 28th Infantry's 1st Battalion was moving to secure an area where a gunship had been downed, one more enemy soldier was killed.

Early on the third day of fighting, elements of the Big Red One's 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, were airlifted to the Loc Ninh area to reinforce the two battalions involved in the previous days' action. Company D made contact with an unknown size NVA force shortly after noon. As the battle got underway, infantrymen from the 16th Infantry's Company B moved from their area south of the contact area to block the enemy's retreat. The NVA force, attempting to escape, were caught between both units and in the ensuing fighting, 20 enemy died.

CU CHI (USA) — Troopers of the 25th Division killed 14 Viet Cong and NVA, detained 13 enemy suspects and turned up a huge cache of buried ammunition and supplies recently in two days of operations eight miles northwest of Cu Chi.

Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, under the operational control of the 2nd Brigade, ferreted out the entrenched enemy with hand grenades and heavy small arms fire.

"It was real infantry-type firing," said Captain Allen R. Wisinger, company commander. "We were laying down a base of fire and moving. When we hit the landing zone we saw three VC and opened fire on them. We chased them into the tunnels and tried to get them out. I put in four or five shots with my .45 and when that didn't get them out, we put in hand grenades."

"They were tossing grenades out of the holes at us and returning our fire with AK-47s."

Within four hours the battle ended, and the suspects had been evacuated to Cu Chi.

N. Eagle...

(Continued From Page 1)

city. During the last three months alone, brigade operations have chased large groups of enemy personnel into the mountains or underground hiding places.

Much of this success can be attributed to the effective use of the cordon.

In one recent operation, a massive allied cordon was established around the entire area of Vinh Loc. Reports indicated Vinh Loc was a Viet Cong stronghold.

South Vietnamese and American forces swept the area and rounded up 370 enemy soldiers, killing 154 more. Not one American soldier was killed and only two Vietnamese soldiers died.

Psyops Unveils 'Ultimate Weapon'

BAN ME THUOT (USA) — Her flowing black hair and sparkling smile could charm the satchel charge off a Viet Cong guerilla, and that is exactly what she is supposed to do.

Her photograph appears on millions of Chieu Hoi leaflets which fall from the sky like sexy snowflakes.

The leaflets are produced by the 4th Psychological Opera-

tions (Psyops) Group, and distributed by the 4th Division's Civic Actions section.

To insure that the leaflet girls are in fact young ladies the enemy would most like to chieu hoi with, the Psyops group left the decision in the hands of experts.

"We showed the pictures of several different girls to both hoi chans and detainees," one

official explained. "The girls we use on the leaflets were, by far, their favorites."

As tons of beauty float from the sky to shower the enemy, plans are being made for yet another Psyops weapon.

Psyops officials have written Hugh Hefner requesting photos of Gwen Wong, Playboy Magazine's "Miss December '67."

The ultimate weapon may have finally been discovered.

Troopers Kill 14, Seize Big Cache

Specialists 4 Jack Stanley and Dave White discovered cases loaded with ammo while the company was working to rout the VC out of their tunnels.

"The actual cache was about 300 meters from where we hit the VC," said Specialist Stanley.

The following morning, the company fanned out to continue their search. The company's Kit Carson Scout found the second portion of the cache.

Included in the two caches were 14 cases of RPG-2 rounds, 37 cases of 82mm mortar rounds, 73 bangalore torpedoes, 15 cases of 60mm mortar rounds, surgical supplies, one rifle, five pistols and 204 machetes.

"When we moved out," said Captain Wissinger, "it was supposed to be a three-hour operation, but when we found this we knew we had something."

Letter Contest Deadline Near

WASHINGTON (NAVNEWS)

— How do you feel about your right to vote? Is it worth defending? If you value your right to vote and have some worthwhile opinions on the subject, enter the 1968 Freedoms Foundation Letter Awards Program.

The letters on the topic "A free ballot — a free country," are judged on the basis of sincerity and understanding rather than on literary excellence.

The top award is \$1,000 and an invitation to the Presidential Inauguration. There are 50 awards of \$100, and 50 more of \$50.

Since the deadline is Nov. 1, 1968, this is a last minute drive for entries. Mail them with your name, rank, service number, full military and home address to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481.

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