

Joint Operation Slays 202 Enemy



Vol. 7, No. 26

Saigon, Vietnam

November 1, 1968



LET'S GO! — Sgt. Charles Boyd, a member of Company A, 327th Airborne Infantry, leads his squad into combat during recent operations. The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division paratroopers were air-assaulted into a reconnaissance-in-force mission near Camp Eagle. (USA PHOTO By SP4 Robert Estrada)

Marine Recon Team Directs

Air Strikes, Artillery Kill 54

SAIGON (MACV) — A 1st Marine Division Reconnaissance Team directed artillery and tactical air strikes onto approximately 114 enemy soldiers in two sightings recently and killed 54 two miles northwest of An Hoa.

The enemy soldiers were dressed in khakis, black pajamas and shorts and were carrying rifles, machine guns, packs and one 122mm rocket round.

Five secondary explosions were observed. There were no U. S. casualties.

In other recent activity, the Dong Ha Combat Base and surrounding village received approximately 20 rounds of enemy 130mm artillery fire, killing four civilians and wounding six.

Counter-artillery missions were fired onto 10 suspected enemy firing positions. The northern half of the DMZ was taken under fire by Marine tactical air strikes and one 13mm field gun was reported destroyed. In ad-

dition, one secondary explosion was observed. U. S. and ARVN casualties were light as was material damage to the combat base.

To the northwest of Dong Ha, a company from the U. S. 3rd Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, sweeping seven miles north of

the Rockpile, received approximately 10 rounds of 130mm artillery fire resulting in 1 U.S. killed and three wounded.

An airborne spotter directed counter-artillery fire and air strikes onto two suspected enemy firing positions in North Vietnam. Results were unknown.

If Not For Bad Luck, No Luck At All

LAI KHE (USA) — There are many American soldiers in Vietnam who rely on good luck charms.

Nothing seems to work for a 1st Infantry Division soldier now convalescing in a hospital at Cam Ranh Bay.

Staff Sergeant James Padilla of the Big Red One's Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, has the Purple Heart and nine oak leaf clusters. He received the medals during two

tours in Vietnam.

The 15-year Army veteran was injured five times during his first tour here in 1966-67.

After a short tour in Germany with the 3rd Armored Division, Sergeant Padilla returned to Vietnam. He joined the 28th Infantry which was engaged in sporadic battles in the "Iron Triangle" part of the Division's tactical area of operation. He has since been wounded five times, being awarded the oak leaf cluster to the Purple Heart

SAIGON (MACV) — Operation "Maui Peak," recently terminated, took a toll of 202 enemy dead. The multi-battalion search and clear operation was centered in an area 11 miles northwest of An Hoa.

The combined 14-day action involved elements of the ARVN 51st Regiment and the U.S. 1st Marine Division.

"Maui Peak's" mission was to locate and capture or eliminate enemy forces, installations and material within the operational area. This encompassed the general vicinity of the Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Camp at Thuong Duc.

The Allied forces, besides killing 202 enemy, detained two suspects, captured two crew-served weapons and 25 individual weapons.

U.S. casualties were 28 killed and 148 wounded, 79 of the wounded were evacuated. There were 147 tactical air sorties flown in support of the friendly forces.

Meanwhile, in Operation "Quyet Chien," elements of the U.S. 2nd and 3rd Brigades, 9th Infantry Division and air cavalry elements of the Division's Cavalry Squadron recently killed 12 enemy in an engagement with an estimated company, seven miles northwest of Cai Be in Dinh Tuong Province.

The infantrymen also captured one crew-served and eight individual weapons and detained three suspects. U.S. casualties were five killed and 32 wounded.

While conducting a reconnaissance-in-force mission in the same general area the next day, air cavalry gunships observed and engaged an unknown size enemy force northwest of Cai Be. Contact was lost approximately one hour later when the enemy evaded and withdrew. The infantrymen found 47 additional enemy bodies in the vicinity of the action, killed by both helicopter gunships and ground fire. This raised the two-day total to 59 enemy killed.

In addition the troopers detained one more suspect and captured 1,287 VC protective gas masks and 500 pounds of assorted medical supplies.

'Kentucky' Erases 26

SAIGON (MACV) — U.S. Army troopers operating near the Demilitarized Zone recently clashed with a company of NVA soldiers, killing 26. The action came during Operation "Kentucky," two miles northeast of Con Thien.

At 8 a.m., mechanized infantry elements and tanks from the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), conducting an offensive sweep, engaged the NVA soldiers, who were occupying fortified positions.

The action continued into the late afternoon when the NVA troops withdrew.

U.S. losses during the engagement were three killed and 20 wounded.

Allied Units Throw Net Ring Foes

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Combined ARVN and 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) paratroopers recently killed 96 enemy, detained 174 and captured 161 weapons in 13 days, near Hue.

Keeping constant pressure on enemy elements in the Hue area, the paratroopers threw two cordons around Phu Vang district, north and east of the Imperial City.

The operations were planned after the highly-successful combined forces operation in Vinh Loc district, located on an island east of Hue.

Participants in the two cordon sweep operations were 101st Airborne Division paratroopers of the 1st Battalion, 501st Airborne Infantry; 1st Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry; and 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, along with ARVN infantrymen of the 2nd Battalion, 54th ARVN Regiment; 1st Battalion, 3rd ARVN Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 7th ARVN Regiment; and Regional and Popular Forces from Quang Dien and Phu Vang districts and the Hue River Security Group.

Paratroopers maintained blocking positions around the areas, as Vietnamese forces swept through the cordons uprooting hidden Viet Cong.

During the first day, 87 persons were detained and interrogated by allied intelligence personnel consolidated from participating units and agencies.

At the beginning of the operation, the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion, 501st Airborne Infantry, supported 43 Popular Forces members as



Space Available
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BUDDY SYSTEM — When the tide goes out, the mud comes in and the buddy system comes in handy. Two members of the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd battalion, 39th Infantry, take turns in helping each other through the quagmire. (USA PHOTO)

Formations Help GI's Learn Importance Of Oral Hygiene

LONG BINH (USA) — There were 214 of them, all new replacements, and after three to five days of in-processing formations, they were not too surprised at being called for still another formation.

They soon discovered this formation would be different.

The 214 replacements scheduled for the 199th Light Infantry Brigade found themselves brushing their teeth "by the numbers."

They are part of a unique two month old preventive dentistry program in the Long Binh area designed to instruct the soldiers on oral hygiene as well as to give them a teeth cleaning comparable to what they would receive in a dentist's office.

Captain Ivan D. Olsen, who is assigned to the 38th Dental Detachment of the 44th Medical Brigade, is responsible for these "different" formations. Captain Olsen also is the preventive dentistry officer of the Long Binh complex.

At each demonstration, Captain Olsen distributes free toothbrushes and Preventive Dentistry Paste, a new type of toothpaste which is being used exclusively in Vietnam.

Captain Olsen said the new toothpaste contains a highly concentrated amount of zincate with stannous fluoride that not only makes teeth resistant to cavities but also retards existing cavities.

He said the Preventive Dentistry Paste has proven highly effective if used every six months and if teeth receive regular and proper brushing.

In August and September, Captain Olsen gave demonstrations at units in the Long Binh vicinity to an estimated 6,000 soldiers.

"I try to stress the importance of oral hygiene," he explained, "and also the importance of using a fluoride toothpaste."

Captain Olsen stated that the program is largely a matter of expediency because many soldiers in the field can't always get to a dental unit to have their teeth cleaned.

Marines Rout Enemy Ambush; Kill 13 NVA

AN HOA (USMC) — Elements of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, walked into what one Marine termed the "best laid ambush I've ever seen," but still emerged with 13 enemy kills in the fierce fighting that ensued near An Hoa recently.

The fighting took place during a combat search and clear mission conducted by the 1st Marine Division unit five miles east of An Hoa.

Captain Paul A. Vanderberg, company commander of H Company, said "They (NVA troops) were dug in so well, it surprised me we were able to come out of it like we did, much less whip them. It was obviously a well laid ambush, because their position gave them perfect observation."

The enemy soldiers were in

spider holes and trenches along a tree line and in the tall elephant grass through which the Leathernecks were passing. The NVA opened up with an intense barrage of small arms and automatic weapons fire when the Marines were 30 meters away.

Marines of the 1st platoon answered the fire with their M-16's and began to advance toward the enemy positions hurling hand grenades.

The 2nd and 3rd platoons moved in on the enemy's flank, helping to rout them from their well-concealed positions.

Despite the ferocity of the battle, the Leathernecks killed 13 enemy.

Captain Vanderberg commented, "The ones we didn't kill must have been surprised we recovered from the initial contact so quickly because they sure left in a hurry."

Viet ID Cards Useful Weapons

LONG BINH (USA) — A National Identity registration program is underway in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

This is the latest attempt to acquire and file valid fingerprints of Vietnamese citizens.

The first Vietnam national population identification program was begun in 1938. The identity card was a simple piece of paper and because it had no protective covering, was easily defaced, worn out and was counterfeited with little difficulty. To make matters worse, different ID cards were issued in different regions of the country. They differed in size, appearance and data required, but still it was the first serious attempt at a scientific identification of the population.

Government officials realized in 1957 that a more realistic type of identification system was needed. Legislation was passed requiring all persons over age 18 to register for an ID card.

Fingerprints

Officials realized that fingerprints should be taken of all people registered. Two fingerprints were imprinted on the ID card and a complete set filed at the Central Identification Bureau in Saigon.

The comparatively peaceful conditions existing in South Vietnam led officials to believe that a simple laminating process would protect the card from counterfeiting attempts. This type of ID card was able to be manufactured cheaply and laminated quickly by an ordinary pair of hand operated rollers, thus eliminating expensive machinery.

Soon it was apparent this method was not going to be effective. Perspiration caused deterioration of the ID card, and forged cards began appearing as Viet Cong action increased. Officials discovered that with a razor blade and a little patience the card could easily be forged.

Latest Attempt

This latest attempt at identification uses the same type of card introduced in 1962, but improved methods of classifying fingerprints have been introduced so police officials can crosscheck their files more rapidly.

The system is based on the fact that no two person's fingerprints are alike. All prints fall into three general groups of patterns — the loop, arch and whorl. A trained technician counts the number of lines and gives a numerical or letter value to the print appearing on the ID card prior to its filing.

The enemy fully realized the consequences of the ID card, and shortly after the program started the enemy launched an intensive propaganda program designed to undermine the registration program.

The VC used action as well as words. They ambushed registration teams operating throughout the countryside. The Government of Vietnam successfully countered these attacks by demonstrating the benefits of this program to the public.

Trooper Takes A Plunge

PHUOC VINH (USA) — He didn't use a divining rod, but a squad leader, nicknamed "Water Fall" by his troopers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, recently demonstrated one way to find water when all others fail.

The 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division unit was conducting a routine reconnaissance-in-force mission in a village west of here.

"We were moving through an abandoned village; it was getting pretty hot, and we were all low on water," explained Sergeant Robert Johnson.

No water was found while searching the village.

"It looks like the only way to find a well is to fall in one," Sergeant Johnson said as he directed his squad away from the village.

He moved a few steps and suddenly disappeared.

"Who's got some purification tablets," smiled a rifleman as he pulled the soaked paratrooper from a brush-hidden well.

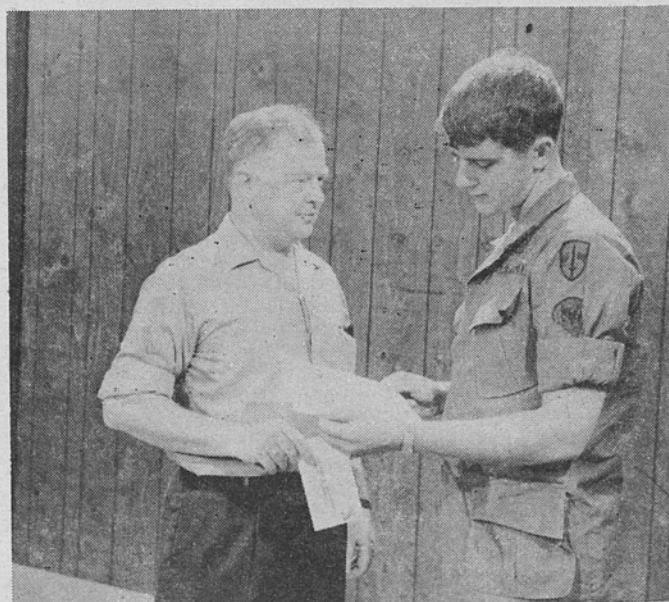
Deputy Postmaster Presents Letter

SAIGON (MACV) — An eleven-year-old boy's letter in support of American servicemen in Vietnam got a special delivery here recently.

Deputy U.S. Postmaster General Frederick C. Belen brought the letter, written by Louis Bisignano, 11, of New York City, with him during his pre-Christmas inspection tour of military postal facilities in Vietnam.

Mr. Belen presented the letter to a postal clerk in one of the mail facilities he visited. The letter, addressed to "The American Serviceman in South Vietnam," expressed appreciation for the serviceman's role in Vietnam and a young boy's pride in his country.

Mr. Belen's visit to Vietnam was part of a Far Eastern tour as personal representative of the U.S. Postmaster General. Plans are being finalized to provide servicemen with the fastest possible postal service this Christmas.



Viet Art Heritage

By
1LT David E. Boudreaux

SAIGON (MACV) — Arts and crafts of a nation reflect that nation's past as well as its present. For this reason, Vietnamese art, though original in many ways, shows the influence of 1,000 years of Chinese rule and more than 100 years of French colonial domination interspersed with 900 years of Vietnamese independence.

In coming weeks, the arts and crafts of Vietnam will be featured in "Viewing Vietnam," to include literature, the theatre, music, the dance, painting, sculpture, lacquerware and architecture.

Symbolism is most important in considering Vietnamese art, for whether the symbol appears as the subject matter of a painting, the image in a poem, a personified character in a play, or a bas relief incorporated into the architectural design of a building, the symbol's meaning is sure to be constant.

In Vietnamese art there are four major, dominant symbols. These are sacred animals: the dragon, the unicorn, the tortoise and the phoenix, representing the most noble aspirations of man.

Of these four symbols, the dragon is the most important. He is the symbol of nobility and power. The dragon is also a re-

minder to the Vietnamese of their legendary origins. According to legend, the dragon is "... immortal. There are not many, but their number increases because another fabulous animal, a reptile half lizard, half snake, can become a dragon at the age of one thousand years."

The unicorn, with a perpetual smile on his face, represents kindness and wisdom, which the Vietnamese have a deep respect for.

The tortoise is the symbol of long life. On his back he carries a stone tablet on which are recorded all the good deeds of man. Good deeds lead to Nirvana, the Buddhist's ideal state. The fourth major symbol is

the phoenix, the symbol of peace. It is a legendary bird which kills itself by consuming itself in fire, only to rise up from its own ashes in youthful freshness. Today one frequently finds bronze or brass statuettes of the tortoise carrying the phoenix on his back.

There are other symbols which frequently appear in Vietnamese art. Bamboo, a popular symbol, represents to the Vietnamese their ability to endure through turmoil. Even after a strong wind or storm, bamboo is always found standing straight.

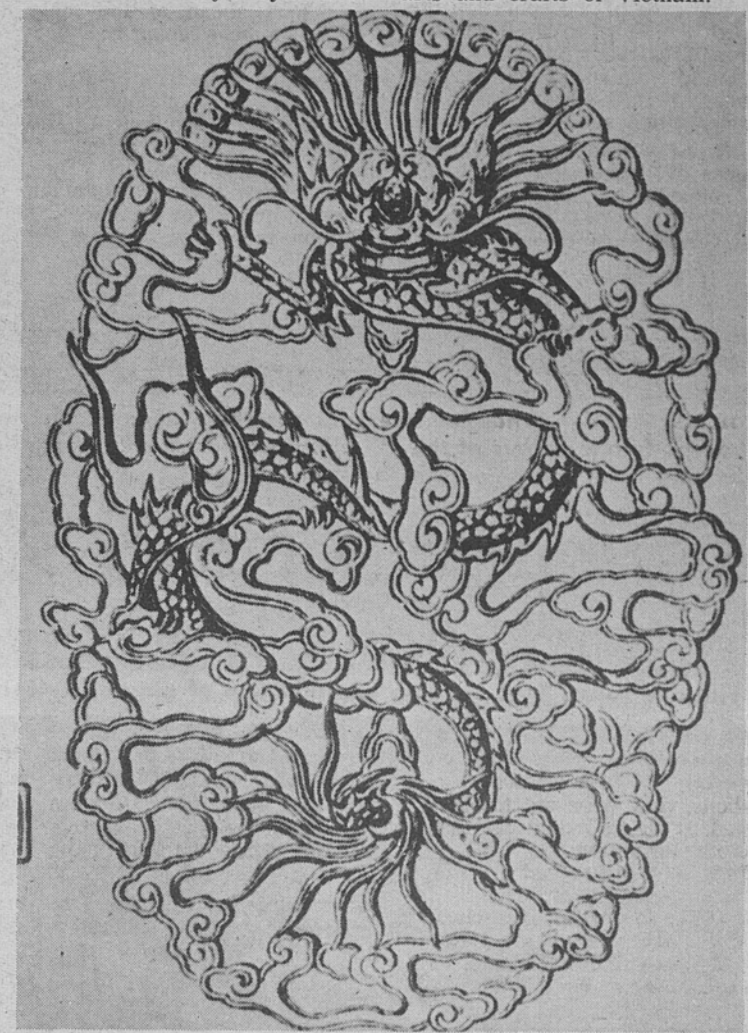
In future weeks these symbols will take on expanded meanings, as we look deeper into the arts and crafts of Vietnam.



Phoenix, symbol of peace, kills itself and is then resurrected.



Tortoise, symbol of long life, carries stone tablet where man's good deeds are recorded.



Dragon, symbol of nobility and power, is considered immortal.



Unicorn smiles symbolizing kindness and wisdom.

Army-Navy Riverines Assault Viet Cong

SAIGON (MACV) — For the Army-Navy Riverines, the name of the game is assault. They seek out Charlie in his Mekong Delta stronghold to clear the area where he has been entrenched.

The Mobile Riverine Force is a joint Army-Navy striking force which has been conducting search and clear operations in the marshy Delta south of Saigon since mid-1967.

It was 10 p.m., and in the mess deck of the barracks ship USS Colleton, boat crews drank coffee and awaited operations orders for the next day.

Then the intercom crackled, calling all boat captains for the briefing. They assembled quickly.

The area of the operation the next day was to be just past the "Crossroads" — the site of countless ambushes and an area where the Riverines almost always make contact.

A low murmur started in the mess deck and slowly built up. It subsided as the briefing officer spoke. "We take a company of infantrymen downriver and

drop them off. We'll wait while they clear a couple of Victor Charlie ambush sites."

The rising murmur started again. "Here is the steaming order," the briefing officer said. One boat was to load and transport downriver more than one-third of a ton of C-4 plastic explosive.

Nobody envied that crew. The briefing ended, the boat captains moving off in small clusters, talking of tomorrow's operation before hitting their bunks and sleeping until dawn.

Tomorrow's operation would include five Armored Troop Carriers (Tangos), a pair of the 100,000-pound Monitors, a Command and Control Boat (CCB) and two Assault Support Patrol Boats (Alphas). The speedy Alphas dart ahead of the main column, minesweeping and patrolling.

The rugged Tangos each can carry an entire platoon of 40 men and their equipment. The battleships of the riverine armada are the Monitors. They have heavier weapons than the Tangos and are designed to stay on the scene and slug it

out with the enemy once contact has been made.

The CCB, in appearance, is virtually identical to a Monitor. It is equipped, though, with an Army-Navy command post. From this sophisticated communications center, both the battalion commander and the river squadron commander can direct and coordinate the movement of their respective forces.

All of the assault craft except the Alphas are conventional World War II amphibious landing craft. They have been armed with heavy weapons. Specially-armored, they shield the embarked crew and troops from the heavy fire they often receive in heated fire fights at close quarters in the Delta environs. The Alphas were specifically designed for use in the Mobile Riverine Force.

At dawn, all of these boats prepared to churn down the murky, brown My Tho River. Aboard Tango 4, Boatswain Mate 1st Class John Brown, the boat captain, made ready and moved out to his position. Shortly the column was under way, moving past thick jungle and

tiny native villages.

As he reached for his flak jacket, Engineer 2nd Class Jimmie Choat broke a long conversational lull. "We're in Charlie country now," he said.

"You've got that right," grinned Boatswain Mate 2nd Class Mike Mazziotto. He struggled into his own jacket.

Over the radio came the order, "Recon by fire!"

The jungle reverberated with the cacophony of the weaponry pouring heavy fire into possible ambush sites. The weapons — 40mm and 20mm cannon, .50 caliber and 7.62mm machine guns, M79 grenade launchers and assorted smaller weapons sent hundreds of rounds zapping into the tangled foliage. There was no return fire.

It was 10:40 when Tango 4 beached along with other sister ships. Company A, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, moved across the landing ramps and into the "bellies" of the boats. They were dropped minutes later down the river.

Disembarking with gasoline-powered saws, they immediate-

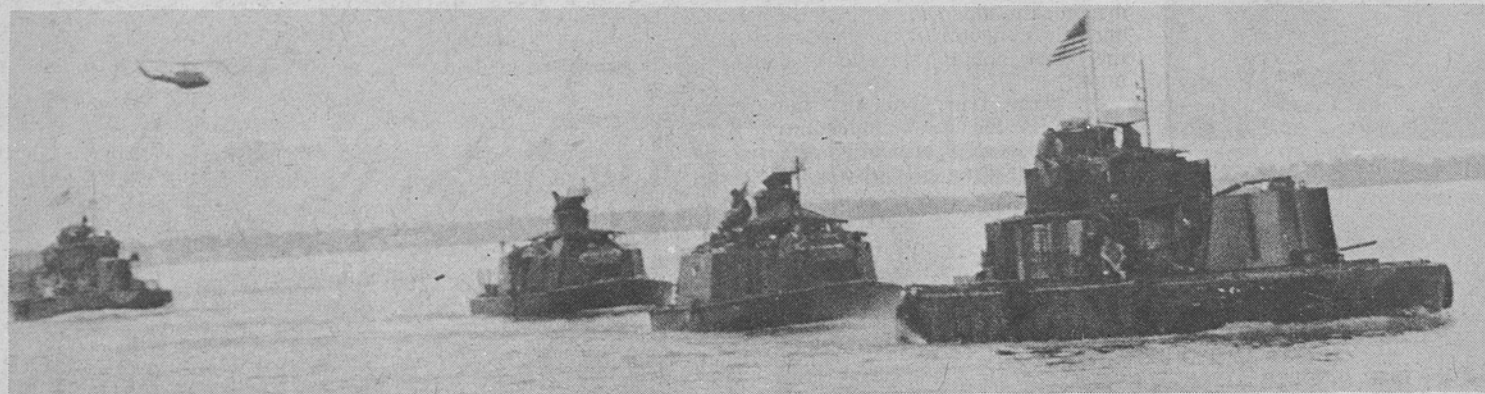
ly were swallowed by the dense jungle. They were to take light sniper fire during the operation.

The operation over, the column moved back through the "Crossroads," reconning by fire and berthed at the Colleton. They were home. The boat

crews, sweating, tired, into the mess deck for chow. Choat didn't elect to fight this day.

The riverines cleaned their equipment and made ready for the next operation and another possible confrontation with Victor Charlie.

Story & Photos
By
TSgt. G. K. Fears
&
Sgt. E. J. Sargent



With one Tango Boat carrying one-third ton of plastic explosive, the waterborne force gets under way to the "Crossroads."



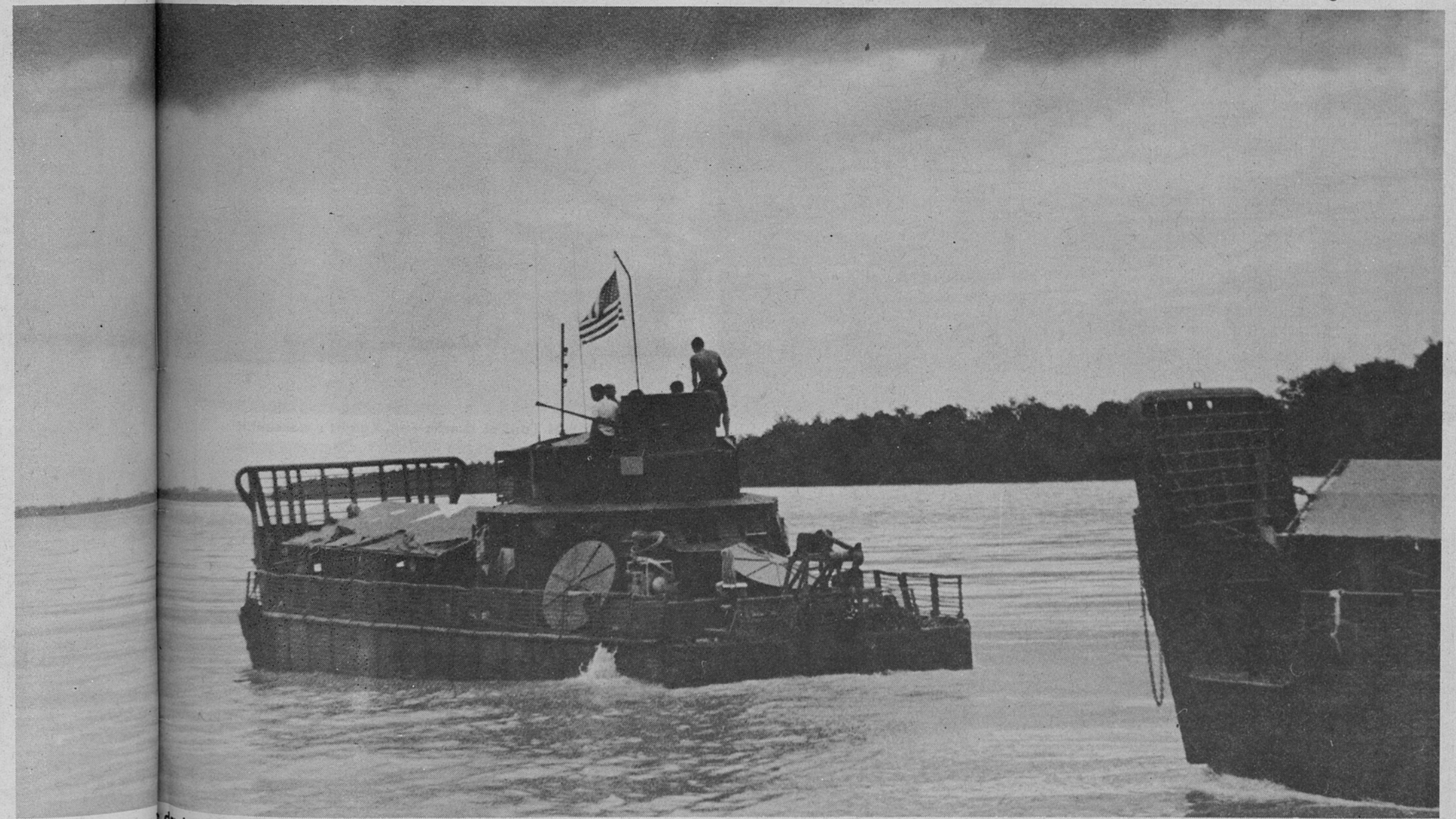
Contact is frequently made at the "Crossroads." Here a Riverine waits tensely with a grenade launcher.



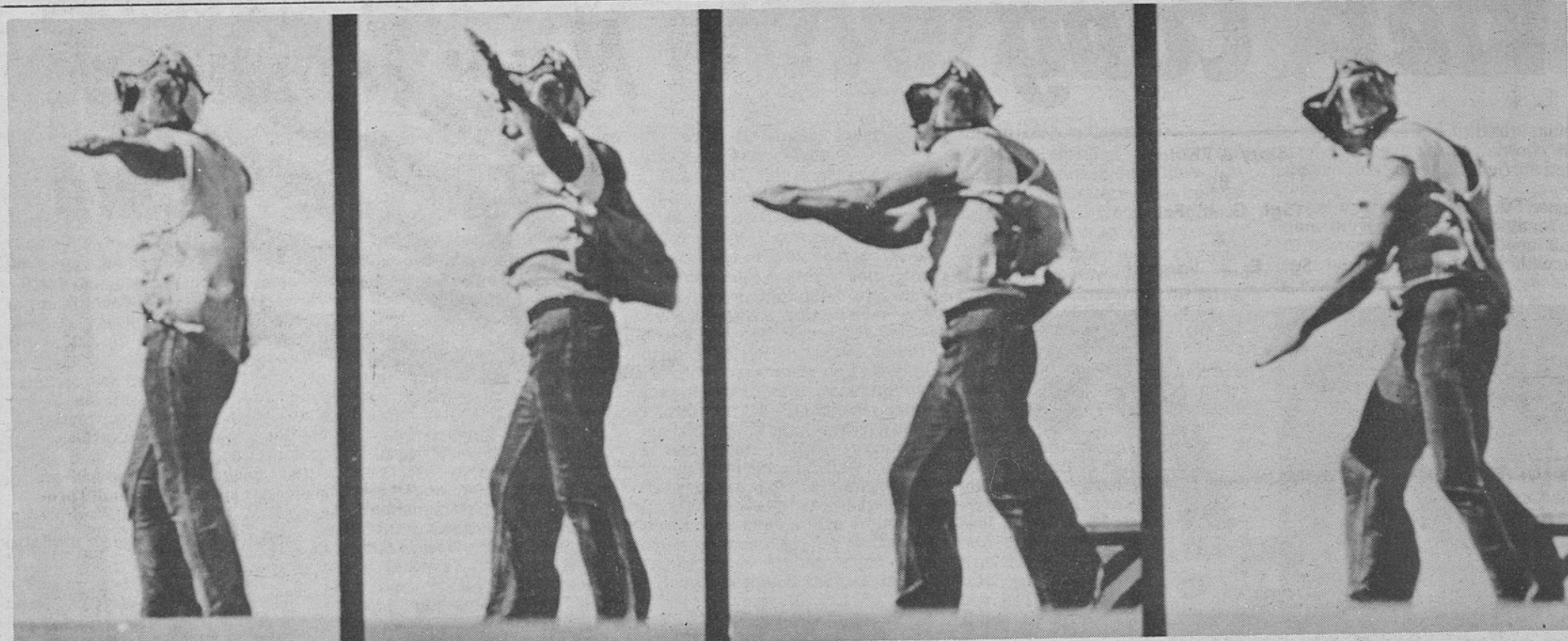
Dawn finds boats of the Riverine Force moving out into their steaming order.



Infantrymen of the 9th Division climb aboard one of the troop carriers to be transported downriver, where they'll clear ambush sites.



day-long operation comes to a close as the weary Riverines cruise back down the murky My Tho River. They will berth at the USS Colleton.



A "Yellow Shirt" guides a helicopter's approach with pantomimic signals. The choppers he assists are troop carriers, ambulances and supply vehicles.

TRIPOLI Handles Helos

SAIGON (USN) — Helicopters have become a new landing craft for amphibious assaults.

Before this "Age of the Helicopter," hitting the beach, to the Marines, meant slogging through the surf, weapon held high overhead. The scene has

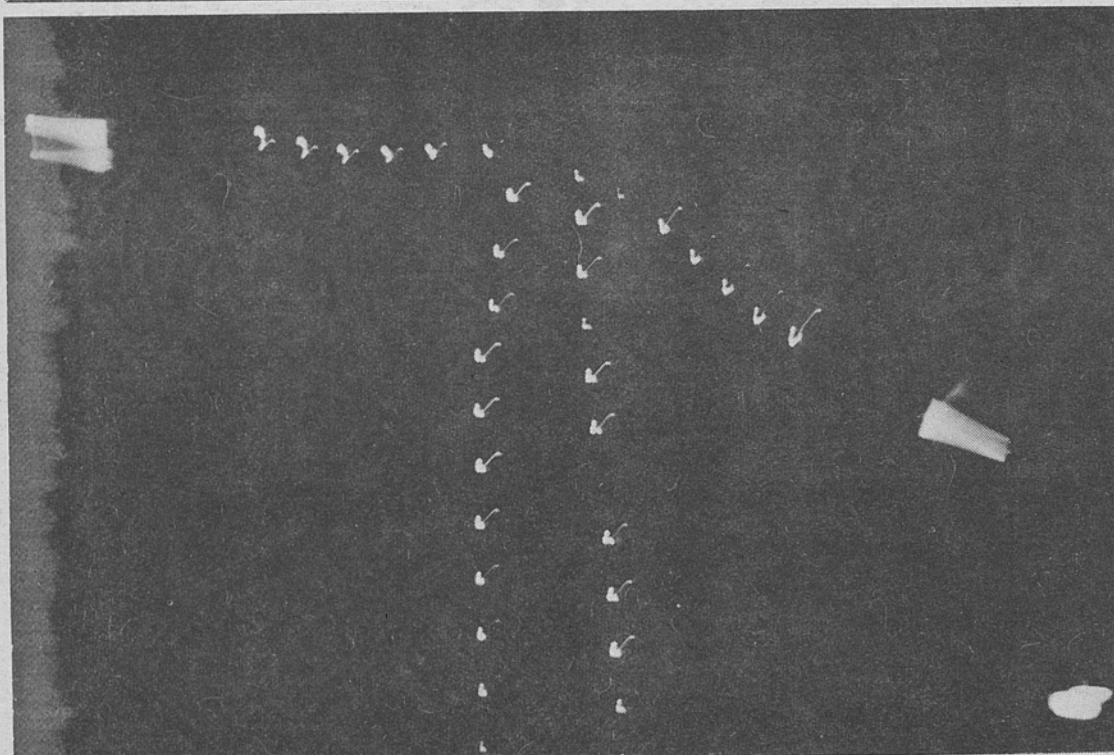
changed and some Marines no longer have to get wet. As helicopter landings become more typical, the Leathernecks can be seen running crouched low under the slicing whip of rotor blades as they dismount from their choppers.

The USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10)

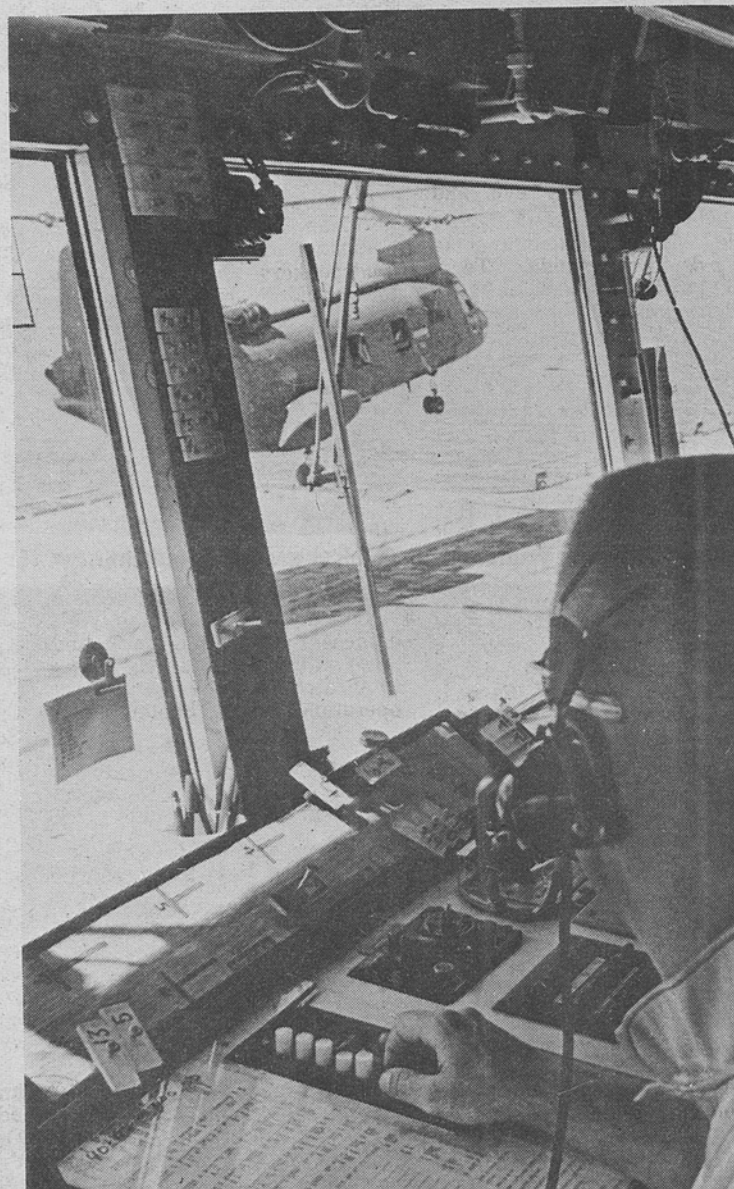
of the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force acts as a floating heliport. Her aircraft insert troops along the coast of Vietnam or deliver them beyond the beaches, deep inland. She keeps her Marines re-supplied, and she is a water-based field hospital.

The TRIPOLI's helicopters work day and night ferrying troops and the supplies they need to and from shore.

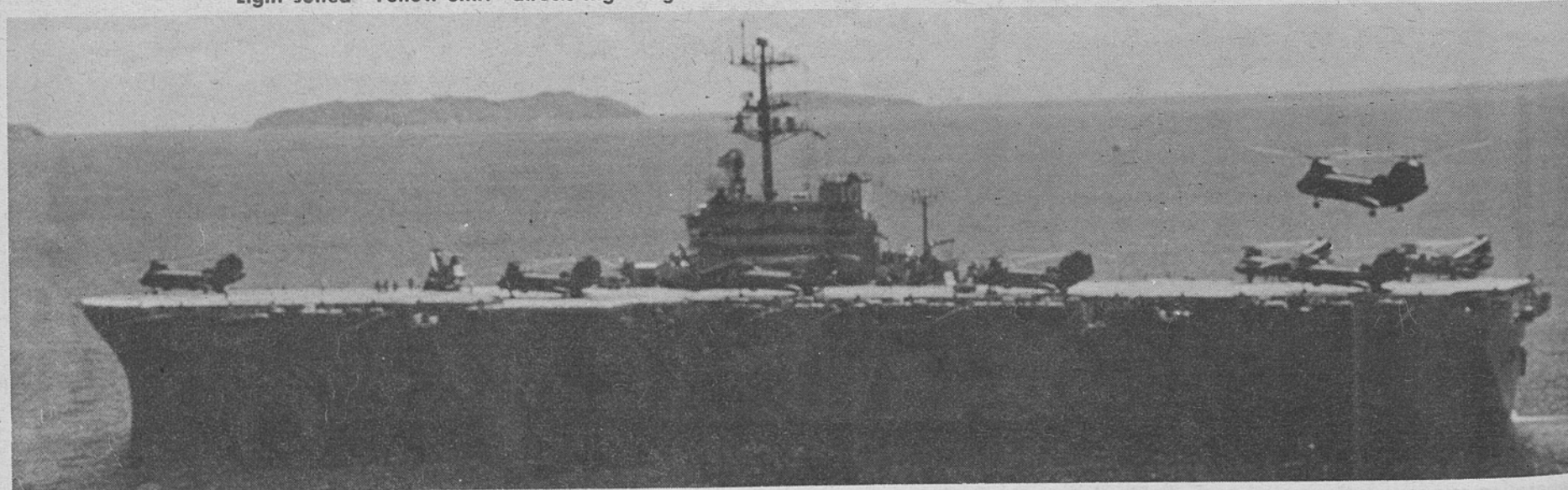
Story & Photos by JO3 Ralph Feliciello



Light-suited "Yellow Shirt" directs night flight.



Primary Flight Control checks Sea Knight's descent.



Floating heliport, the home for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265, cruises near Da Nang.



COLOR AND GAIETY — Tay Ninh school children display floats in annual Children's Day festival. First Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's civic action section contributed toys and candy, while the 77th Supply and Service Battalion furnished ice cream. (USA PHOTO)

Former VC Aid 6th PSYOP

BIEN HOA (USA) — In the village of Di An, a tear formed in the corner of an elderly Vietnamese peasant's eye and trickled down her leathery cheek. She was listening to Armed Propaganda Team (APT) members tell of their previous misdeeds as communists and of their newly-formed allegiance to the Government of Vietnam (GVN).

The APT talked with Dong River village natives as they worked with a 6th PSYOP (Psychological Operations) Battalion mobile field team supporting a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) mission nearby.

"This isolated incident is evidence of the positive effect these former enemy soldiers can have on our PSYOP effort in III Corps," stated Captain Robert Jewell, 6th Battalion, Company B commander.

He explained, "If we continue to get such positive results, we definitely hope to add five- to six-man teams to all our mobile PSYOP units."

The APT is composed of Hoi Chanh, former Viet Cong who have been trained in psychological and combat operations at Chieu Hoi centers.

The 6th Battalion utilizes APT members in three main areas: civic action, cordon and search missions and MEDCAPs.

"On a cordon and search operation, the team accompanies combat units into the area, explains to the people what is

happening and gives them instructions on where to assemble and what to do," the captain said.

During MEDCAP operations the team accompanies medical personnel to the village. Using loudspeakers they explain to the populace how to take advantage of the medical services provided. During treatment they show films emphasizing the positive values of the GVN's

programs and explain through face-to-face communication the advantages of supporting the South Vietnamese government.

"We've found that the audience really listens to what they have to say," said the captain. "They believe that as former VC and soldiers who have been on both sides at one time or another, they (the APT) should know what the true situation is."

Paratrooper Power Causes 231 To Rally

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Psychological operations in the Hue area have paid high dividends as 231 enemy soldiers have rallied to the South Vietnamese government and Screaming Eagle units in the 101st Airborne Division area of operations during September.

This figure represents the largest number of enemy troops to rally in one month to allied forces in the Hue area.

Credits Paratroopers

Major Charles Kelly, 101st Airborne Division psychological operations officer, explained, "The constant pressure that the division's paratroopers have been placing on the enemy in the Hue area is directly responsible for the increased Chieu Hoi rate."

This was evidenced during the successful combined forces operation, eight miles south-

east of Hue, in Vinh Loc District on the coastal plains of the South China Sea. From the time of the initial assault, enemy forces began discarding their weapons and eagerly joining the Chieu Hoi program.

During the operation, 53 enemy soldiers rallied to the South Vietnamese government and more than 300 others either surrendered or were taken as detainees.

Supplementing the Chieu Hoi leaflet drops are aerial broadcasts explaining how enemy soldiers can become Hoi Chanh. In addition, voluntary tape recordings made by recent Hoi Chanh urge former comrades to turn themselves in. They often appeal to individuals by name.

Perhaps the most advanced and revolutionary technological addition to the Psychological Operations Program has been the introduction of a nightly television program for village and hamlet residents.

The 30-minute broadcast consists of 10 minutes of local and national news, a 10-minute interview with a recent Hoi Chanh and a 10-minute variety show performed by amateur Hoi Chanh actors. Presently, 3,000 television sets, dispersed throughout the Hue area, receive the broadcasts.

An added supplement to the program is a three-man 101st Airborne audio-visual team equipped with loudspeaker, motion picture projector and a mobile television set. They enter remote villages nightly and bring the program to the inhabitants.

Through a combination of the airborne infantrymen's aggressiveness, initiative and genuine concern for the Vietnamese people, the paratroopers have taken great strides in winning the "other war," for the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people.

Navy Teamwork Wins The Game

SAIGON (USN) — The Navy has 15 very special teams currently in the Delta region of South Vietnam.

Unlike most teams, though, they receive no trophies for their triumphs, there are no championship play-offs and their game is played rain or shine.

They are the U.S. Navy Seabee teams.

These specialized groups, which started arriving in Vietnam during January, 1963, consist of one officer and 12 enlisted men each, including a hospital corpsman.

Often referred to as the Navy's "peace corps," they are expertly trained construction units supporting the U.S. pacification effort.

Their game is a vigorous one, aimed at helping people in underdeveloped areas of South Vietnam improve their standards of living by teaching them to help themselves.

Some 51 hamlets have seen these teams move in to work with and train the people to build roads, schools, hospitals, wells, airfields and improve irrigation and sanitation systems. In this effort, the technique has been to work not so much for the Vietnamese as with them, teaching them the use of Seabee tools and equipment.

Team members are all volunteers and receive extensive training prior to deploying for Vietnam. During four months of stateside instruction they are cross-trained so that the hospital corpsman can drive a tractor and the electrician can give first aid. Other specialties include steel working, surveying, building, plumbing and heavy construction.

The Seabee teams work on projects sponsored and programmed by the MACV office of Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS).

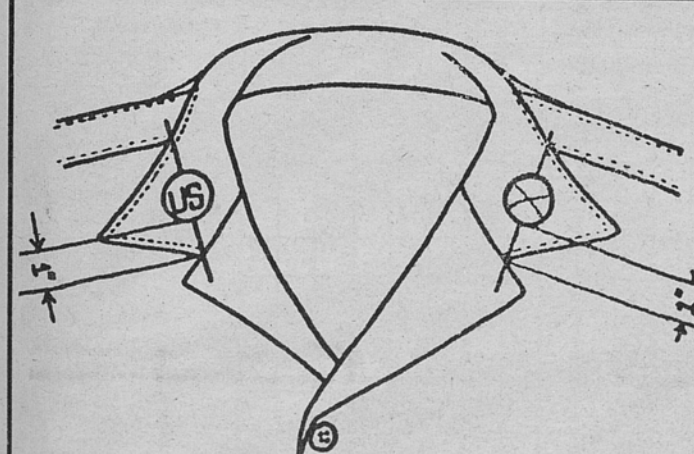
Seabee teams are requested by Government of Vietnam province officials to intensify the pacification effort. An additional 15 teams have been requested for the year 1969.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the Seabee operation is the close association which develops between each team member and his Vietnamese counterpart. Many of them are ex-Viet Cong who have returned to the Vietnamese government under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program. The Seabees have found these repatriated Vietnamese to be hardworking and eager to learn.

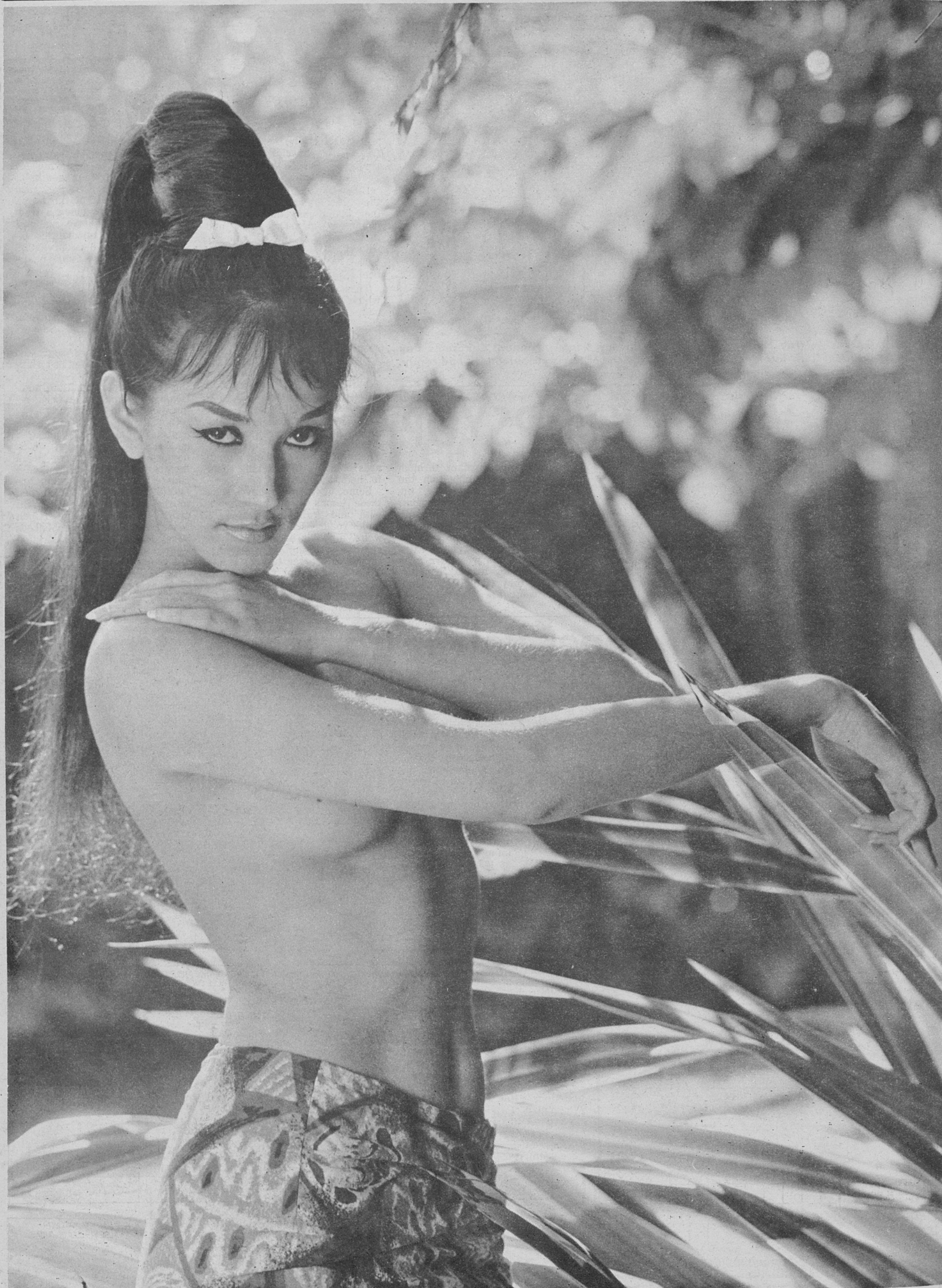
To thousands of Vietnamese they have come in contact with, Seabee Teams represent new hope for war-torn Vietnam.



An ARVN makes a last offer to surrounded enemy to rally.



ARMY REGULATION 670-5 requires new positioning for collar brass on shirts of enlisted men. Collar insignia on the khaki shirt or the tan shirt are to be placed in positions as shown here. The change is effective immediately. Insignia worn by officers and brass positions on greens will not be changed.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK — Pensively said to a combat medic who has recently returned from field duty, "There, as you can plainly see, I do not have a vaccination scar on my right arm. It is on my left arm along with my Smallpox, Cholera, Typhoid, Tetanus, Yellow Fever, Typhus, Flu and Plague shots. So you see, my shots are all up-to-date. Now may I have my blouse back?"

ON TOUR

BY SP5 MACCLAIN



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1-Dance step 4-Macaw 9-Chinese pagoda 12-Before 13-Royal 14-In music, high 15-Sift 17-Pounding instrument 19-Walk in water 21-Printer's measure 22-Liberate 25-Man's name 27-Lamb's pen name 31-Above (poet.) 32-Causing sudden surprise 34-Cyprinoid fish 35-Capuchin monkey 36-Obtained 37-Cooled lava 38-Satirized 41-Emmet 42-Dirk 43-Girl's nickname 44-Old pronoun 45-Babylonian deity 47-Chief god of Memphis 49-Baby's bed 53-High standards 57-Paddle 58-Threelfold 60-Illuminated 61-Change color of 62-Musical instrument 63-Edible seed</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1-Footlike part 2-Part of circle 3-Weight of India 4-Region 5-Performance 6-Symbol for silver 7-Knock</p>	<p>8-Toward shelter 9-Make lace 10-Everyone 11-Devoured 16-Female sheep 18-Small fish 20-Period of time 22-Frustrates 23-Part of fortification 24-Teutonic deity 26-Country of South America 28-Chinese mile 29-Pointless 30-Semi-precious stone 32-Portuguese for "saint" 33-Bushy clump 35-Haste 39-Pronoun 40-Short sleep</p> <p>41-Exclamation 44-Definite article 46-Singing voice 48-Arabian seaport 49-Edible fish 50-Beam</p> <p>51-Exist 52-Be mistaken 54-High mountain 55-Falseness 56-Music: as written 59-Inspector General (abbr.)</p>	<p>LAIC ROAD SOB ODOR EDNA TIE BONERS TI OLD AITS STAYS DISTASTE IT INLET YET SOW ET DAY LAG NI SON SEW TALDN FATED DULL ART OF REIGNS DAL LEAN NEON ERE LETS GORY</p>
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Time Is Running Out
Mail Your Ballot

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Hitting Where It Hurts: In The Bread Basket

TAY NINH (USA) — Infantrymen of the 25th Division's 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, recently seized 18,000 pounds of contraband rice and destroyed a VC base camp and staging area 15 miles southeast of Tay Ninh City.

"Since coming to the Tay Ninh area," said Captain George Featherston, Company B commanding officer, "we have made more than 30 combat air assaults into the nearby jungles." It was the third time in the past two weeks that the company found significant VC camps, equipment, ammunition and weapons.

Of the latest find, Sergeant Roland Broussard, a platoon sergeant, said, "This was a regular resort village, complete with kitchens and living quarters. The quarters were not bunkers, but thatched huts, well constructed and roomy."

"The two cooking areas were 40 meters square with thatched roofs and open sides," said Captain Featherston. Just in

case the VC had to take cover from artillery or air strikes there were two bunkers nearby with three feet of overhead cover.

Partially hidden by the jungle terrain were 300 pounds of rice neatly packed in burlap bags, and two bins containing the balance of the nine tons of grain. Scattered about the area were more than 20 empty bags with Chinese markings.

The troopers lost no time in taking care of Charlie's village. The bagged rice was helilifted to a secure area and everything else was destroyed. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hunt, 3rd Battalion commanding officer, used his command and control ship to bring extra explosives out to the engineers.

While the battalion's demolition men were busy blowing up the bunkers, others were busy knocking down the hootches and cooking areas. Gasoline found in the camp was put to good use.

"We spread it all over the loose rice and set it aflame," said Captain Featherston. "Whatever didn't burn, we buried, using our explosives. By the time we were finished there wasn't enough left to fill a single VC rice bowl."

When gunships and helicopters arrived on the scene to lift Company B back to their night defensive positions, they spotted two VC trying to escape the area. The fleeing enemy were cut down. The gunships continued to search and strafe the area. When the smoke had cleared, nine enemy bodies were found.

Change To New MPC

SAIGON (MACV) — Approximately \$49 million in Military Payment Certificates (MPC) was converted Oct. 21. The smooth conversion, taking place throughout South Vietnam, took just 12 hours. U.S. servicemen and others with G.I. privileges turned in their MPC Series 641 in exchange for Series 661.

"Series 641 was in circulation for three years and the bills were wearing out," said Colonel M. E. Richmond, MACV Comptroller. "Also, it was to ascertain that only authorized persons are holding MPC."

The change was planned a few weeks before the implementation. It was ordered by General Creighton W. Abrams, commander of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. No one, unless directly connected with implementation of the change, had any advance knowledge of the action.

Training Proves To Be Enemy's Downfall

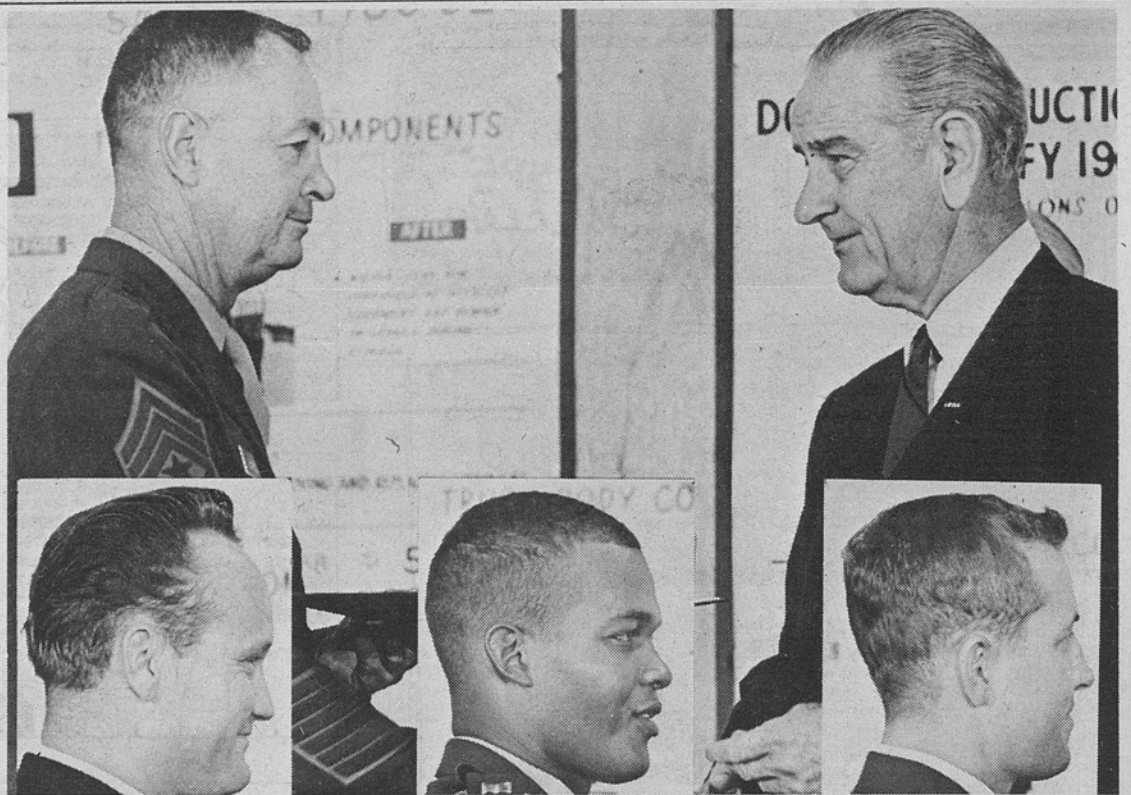
LZ SALLY (USA) — The command "Fall In" is a familiar one to all American soldiers, and recently it proved just as effective for 63 Viet Cong. They had been detained by elements of the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 501st Airborne Infantry, in Vinh Loc.

For 10 days, paratroopers and Vietnamese forces swept the entire coastal plain area reported to be a Viet Cong stronghold. Everyday, scores of suspects were moved to interroga-

tion points. Nearly 1,000 persons were detained and classified during the operation.

So as not to inconvenience innocent civilians, the combined force collection points were operational 24 hours a day.

One particularly dark evening, a group of 215 detainees were airlifted by C-47 Chinook helicopters. One landed at the collection point, and amidst all the dust, noise and general turbulence, the suspects filed out. It was the first helicopter ride for most of them and they



FRUGALITY — Sergeant Major Elmo A. Burns accepts a citation from President Lyndon B. Johnson in behalf of the USMC, Vietnam, in conjunction with support for "Project MACONOMY", falling under a DOD-wide cost reduction program for the 1968 fiscal year. The ceremony took place at the Pentagon. Accepting for their respective services were (insets, left to right) Chief Storekeeper Charles W. Cutright, Navy; Lieutenant Lee E. Grimsley, Army; and Captain Robert E. Beaver, USAF. See story on Page 3. (DOD PHOTO)

Ready For The Holidays

'Call Home' In High Gear

SAIGON (MACV) — Operation "Call Home" — linking Vietnam to the United States by telephone — is getting special emphasis as the holiday season approaches.

Major Ingram B. McCleod Jr., program director, pointed out that the system was mainly for calls from points in Vietnam to points in the United States. Here is the way it works.

The calls are routed over military circuits from four points in Vietnam to Saigon. From here they are routed over commercial facilities. The calls will be billed at the commercial rate of a call from Saigon to the United States, or \$4 per minute plus 10 per cent U.S. Federal Excise Tax. All calls are limited to five minutes and must be placed on a collect basis. They will be charged to the telephone number called in the United States.

When the handset on the telephone is lifted, the caller will be connected to a commercial telephone operator in Saigon. He must provide the following information:

Name, Grade, service number, organization and APO.

Name of the party to whom you wish to speak.

City and state in which they reside.

Area code and telephone number.

Location of the caller, status of units and any other military information will not be discussed during the call.

Major McCleod said that mil-

itary personnel who are patients in a hospital will receive priority handling. Their calls, as much as possible, will be handled before others. "Calls from hospitals must be indicated as coming from a patient before this service is rendered," he said.

Here are the "Call Home" locations and schedules.

Nha Trang: Dec. 1, USO; Dec. 2, 8th Field Hospital. Repeat the cycle every second day.

LONG BINH: Dec. 1, 24th Evacuation Hospital; Dec. 2, 93rd Evacuation Hospital; Dec. 3, 9th Replacement Company USO. Repeat the cycle every

third day.

Cam Ranh Bay: Dec. 1, 12th Station Hospital; Dec. 2, Aloha USO; Dec. 3, 12th Station Hospital; Dec. 4, 6th Convalescence Hospital; Dec. 5, 12th Station Hospital; Dec. 6, 6th Convalescence Hospital; Dec. 7, Aloha USO. Repeat the cycle every 8th day.

Qui Nhon: Dec. 1, Qui Nhon USO; Dec. 2, 67th Evacuation Hospital; Dec. 3, 85th Evacuation Hospital; Dec. 4, 91st Evacuation Hospital (Tuy Hoa); Dec. 5, 67th Evacuation Hospital; Dec. 6, 85th Evacuation Hospital; Dec. 7, 91st Evacuation Hospital. Repeat the cycle every 8th day.

Best Wishes To Eisenhower

SAIGON (MACV) — A message of "best wishes" was sent to Dwight D. Eisenhower on the occasion of his 78th birthday by General Andrew J. Goodpaster, who wrote for the entire command.

The former President wired his "heartfelt thanks" for the message.

Wrote General Goodpaster, deputy commander of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam: "General Abrams and the entire MACV command join me in a hearty greeting on your 78th birthday. Please accept

from fellow soldiers a special salute for your indomitable battle to regain full health, and for the victory you have achieved. From ourselves and our families, best wishes for future happiness to you and Mrs. Eisenhower."

Mr. Eisenhower, in his reply, wrote: "Please convey to General Abrams and all my fellow soldiers serving in your command, my heartfelt thanks for their thoughts on my 78th birthday. I return their salute and send best wishes in which Mrs. Eisenhower joins."

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

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

Ambassador Komer To Turkey



Vol. 7, No. 27

Saigon, Vietnam

November 8, 1968



ON TARGET—Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) pensively await the order to move out as a gun-ship slams deadly rockets on enemy positions during a recent operation south west of Hue.
(USA PHOTO By SP4 Robert Estrada)

Last Held By United States

Prisoner Transfer Effected Without Hitch

SAIGON (MACV)—In an humanitarian gesture, the United States Navy recently participated in the return of a group of 14 North Vietnamese prisoners to their homeland.

The 14 sailors released were the last of a group of 19 captured in international waters when their torpedo boats were sunk by U.S. ships in the Tonkin Gulf in mid-1966. The other

five had been repatriated earlier.

Planning for the release of the prisoners started in late September when the U.S. State Department contacted the Embassy in Saigon, directing that means for the release be explored.

"When I received directions," said Commander Robert G. Doney of the Surface Plans and Operations Branch of the Command Operations Center, "I contacted Navy officials. We met and decided upon the method of return we thought best. This was passed through Embassy officials to the State Department."

Arrangements for the release were negotiated through the officials of a third country. Both sides agreed to the method of repatriation and on a brief cease fire in a small area off the coast from the North Vietnamese city of Vinh.

The Seventh Fleet amphibious

transport ship USS Dubuque left Da Nang harbor in a driving rain. The prisoners had been transferred to the ship by helicopters.

The Dubuque sailed to a point about eight miles off the coast of North Vietnam and approximately 120 miles north of the DMZ. The North Vietnamese sailors then headed for the coast.

Originally they were launched in a Vietnamese motorized fishing junk purchased by U.S. authorities for their transportation from the Dubuque to shore. The boat developed steering problems, though, and a Navy whale boat was substituted.

From that point the return was carried off without incident.

(Continued on Back Page)

He Hits Jackpot Twice

DA NANG (USMC) — Corporal Kimble Kaiser Jr. recently hit the jackpot twice, discovering two large rice caches, within two days.

The corporal, a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, uncovered a total of six and a half tons of rice

on two different patrols near Da Nang.

The first was found when his squad probed an area outside a small village. Corporal Kaiser used a thin rod to find four tons of rice the enemy had buried.

Two days later, on another squad-sized patrol, he found a ton and a half of grain buried by the enemy.

Some Days It Doesn't Pay Charlie To Get Up

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division recently apprehended a pair of Viet Cong who turned out to be real losers.

The troopers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, were on a reconnaissance-in-force mission near here when the VC jumped out in front of them and threw down their AK-47 rifles.

Sergeant Roy Hart and Specialist 4 Donald Baker grabbed them.

"Through our interpreter," said Sergeant Jim Ayling, "we learned they had quite an interesting past."

The VC reported that they had been "captured" by the North Vietnamese Army just before the Tet offensive, only to be apprehended by the Army

of the Republic of Vietnam and jailed.

"Then during Tet, the pair said, they had been recaptured by the NVA and forced to carry 82mm mortars," Sergeant Ayling added.

"According to our interpreter, it was the last straw for the VC when the NVA made them carry the heavier 122mm rockets," the sergeant said.

For the fourth time in a year, the war-weary VC changed sides, this time voluntarily turning themselves over to the American patrol.

Sergeant Ayling said he was not surprised to learn of their incredible year.

"They are supposed to know this territory real well," he said, "but the first time they walked point for my squad, they got lost."

SAIGON (MACV) — Ambassador Robert W. Komer, Deputy to COMUSMACV for CORDS in Vietnam and a former Presidential assistant, has been appointed ambassador to Turkey. CORDS is the abbreviation for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support which assists in the pacification program in the Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Komer succeeds Ambassador Park Halt, who has been appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asia Affairs.

Replacing Mr. Komer will be William E. Colby, who is presently Assistant Chief of Staff for CORDS.

Mr. Komer, preparing to leave his assignment here in the immediate future, issued the following statement.

"I deeply appreciate the President's confidence in me in appointing me as U.S. ambassador to Turkey. I look forward with great pleasure to renewed association with the people of Turkey and their leaders, among whom I have many good friends.

"However, I leave South Vietnam with profound regret, tempered only by my firm conviction that the Government of Vietnam's pacification program has come of age. It is achieving self-sustaining momentum in breaking the Viet Cong hold
(Continued on Back Page)

PF Sgt. Honored

DAU TIENG (USA) — A 47th Popular Forces (PF) soldier has won the Bronze Star for Valor for his role in defense of a beleaguered outpost.

Major General Ellis W. Williamson, 25th Infantry Division commander, presented the award to Platoon Sergeant Hen Ho Van in a recent ceremony at Tri Tam district headquarters in Dau Tieng village.

The citation accompanying the Bronze Star award praised Sergeant Van for leading Popular Forces troopers as they warded off an enemy attack against Outpost 68, a mile south of Dau Tieng.

An enemy force attacked the outpost shortly before midnight, using 61mm and 82mm mortars, Rocket Propelled Grenades, machine guns and rifle fire. The PFs repulsed the one-hour attack, killing six of the enemy.

During the attack, Sergeant Van directed small arms and mortar fire in defense of the 10-man position, personally detonated Claymore mines and fired M-79 grenades and a machine gun. He also assisted in distributing ammunition and caring for two men who were wounded.

The presentation to the PF sergeant was witnessed by civic and governmental officials of the Dau Tieng area, officers of the "Tropic Lightning" Division's 3rd Brigade, and by school children.



Space Available
Days Left

Editorial

Veterans Day

On November 11, 1918, at 5:00 a.m. Paris time, representatives of the government of Germany, the most powerful of the Central Powers engaged in World War I, signed an armistice of 35 clauses, the most severe and drastic ever demanded from a major power.

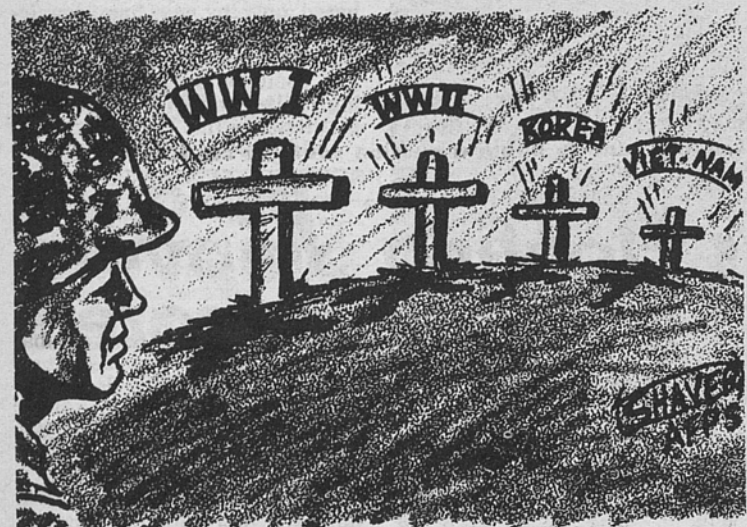
At 11:00 a.m. that same day, the battlefields fell silent, hostilities ended, and the first time in four years, the world was peace. World War I was over!

Historians of the time dubbed World War I as "the war to end all wars." Those of us now in uniform know only too well that such was not the case. First came World War II, then Korea and now Vietnam.

The strife, conflict and tension the world has endured in the intervening fifty years may have dimmed the significance of World War I for many of us.

But November 11 is still a day to be remembered.

Until 1954, Americans celebrated Nov. 11 as an observance of the end of World War I. But then the Congress of the United States amplified the meaning of the holiday, designating it Veterans Day—a day to honor all the men and women who have served in the armed forces of the United States.



Veterans Day is a day when all Americans should pause a moment in recollection and prayer.

By making just this simple observance before going on that air mission, ground patrol, cruise or trek to the office, we will have paid proper homage to the millions of Americans, past and present, living and dead, who have courageously served their country from the Argonne to Khe Sanh, from Iwo Jima to Hue, from Pork Chop Hill to Con Thien, Bu Dop, Tay Ninh, Gia Dinh and Duc Lap.

It is also a day for those of us in jungle fatigues, blues, greens, whites and khakis who now serve this immortal country—the veterans of tomorrow—to rededicate ourselves to the principles of freedom and human dignity for which our comrades-in-arms throughout America's history have fought and died. (AFPS)



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the Armed Forces Press Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO 96222. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

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Just In Case
You Have
Not HeardSanta Levied
For Vietnam
In November

WASHINGTON — The "1968 Santa Claus Special," a fast United States cargo ship, will sail from Oakland, Calif., on Nov. 21 or 22 and will carry parcels to ports in Vietnam in time for delivery before Christmas.

The Defense Department announces that fourth class parcels must be mailed by Nov. 9 — preferably earlier — to be loaded aboard the ship. The Christmas packages must be marked on the outside "Santa Claus Special" above the address and below the postage stamps.

The Armed Forces, in coordination with the Post Office Department, developed the plan to transport parcel post packages to U.S. servicemen and women stationed in Vietnam at substantial savings to the public as well as the government. The ship will have ports of call at Da Nang, Cam Ranh Bay and Saigon.

The Defense Department and the Post Office Department recommend to all mailers that they send parcels early. Christmas packages for servicemen mailed during the surface mailing period — now through Nov. 9 — will be delivered before Christmas. (ANF)

Travel Regs
Relaxed

WASHINGTON — Dependent travel regulations have been amended to permit travel to Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. territory or possession for military dependents of sponsors who select the "all others" tour or permanent change of station (PCS) to overseas areas where dependents are not authorized.

However, the service member must certify that during his overseas tour or period of assignment, his dependents will establish a bona-fide residence in the place designated.

Department of the Army (DA) officials emphasized that travel to Panama must be only to the Canal Zone proper. (AD)

For Sale:
VA Handbook

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration (VA) announces that its comprehensive handbook on veterans benefits is now available for purchase by the general public.

The 400-page manual, called "Handbook for Veterans Administration Contact Representatives" (Handbook 232-68-1), was distributed on a limited basis last May. Since then, the VA has received thousands of requests for the handbook.

The VA has arranged for general sale of the basic handbook through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The price is \$2.25. (ANF)



JACK AND JILL—went up the hill to fetch a pail of quarters. Jill came down with a pail full of quarters and Jack didn't. We know this doesn't rhyme, but do you know why Jack didn't have a pail full of quarters? It's like this—he didn't take advantage of the big 10 percent savings available through the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit program. Care to fill up your pail?

(PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES CORPORATION)



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

Let a wise man read the literature of your nation and he will tell you the history of your country. The literary tradition of a nation closely parallels that nation's political and social development.

Most high school graduates recall "Beowulf," that Old English epic which our high school teachers exposed us to in order to enrich our growing minds. The Vietnamese, too, had their early poetry, epic in nature and steeped in folk lore. Normally, these poems were passed from generation to generation in the true folk manner: oral recitation. The storyteller for the evening simply recited the poem to his audience.

Chinese Influence In
Literature

As literacy grew more widespread, the poems were recorded in Chinese characters. As a result, the earliest literature still preserved today is a collection of writings which had been exchanged between Vietnamese monks and Chinese poets and scholars. As one might expect, these works are Chinese in nature rather than Vietnamese; Vietnamese poetry was still a pure folk art.

For centuries Vietnamese literature had two major influences: the influence of the Chinese tradition brought by the invading and occupying Chinese and the influence of the agrarian environment of the Vietnamese. Thus much of the early literature of Vietnam consists of fantastic legends. Many of these legends are still told to young Vietnamese

children. An important influence on traditional Vietnamese literature was the introduction of the Roman alphabet into Vietnam and the resulting "Romanization" of written Vietnamese. This opened the door to an exchange of knowledge between Vietnamese and the Occident, particularly France. Western literature then became an active influence on the Vietnamese.

Vietnamese Literary
Devices

Many of the literary devices employed by Vietnamese authors are similar to the devices found in our own literary heritage. The simile, the use of "like" or "as" in a comparison of two unlike objects in a poem, is a popular device. Observe how cleverly a Vietnamese poet uses a simile in these few lines,

Now my husband is short
And I am tall
Like a pair of
unequal chopsticks

Two unequal chopsticks present an awkward situation, which is what the wife is complaining about in the poem.

The literature of a nation cannot be fully appreciated in one "view." And it is still difficult for most Americans to pursue studies in the field of Vietnamese literature, for most of the interpreted works are almost exclusively in French. Nonetheless, it is significant for the American to realize that the Vietnamese have a literary tradition as old as their history... and one that continues to develop.

... You have never stood taller than you do now. You, and you alone, have proudly accepted unlimited personal liability in the defense of liberty.

GENERAL EARLE G. WHEELER
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Chopper Squadron Cited

DA NANG (USMC) — A Marine helicopter squadron was recently cited for its efforts in hauling men and material by the National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA). The NDTA is comprised of private businesses involved in the movement of freight and passengers.

Each year, the NDTA recognizes and acknowledges an organization of each of the four services for "outstanding achievement by a military unit engaged in transportation functions under combat or combat support conditions."

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, based at Marble Mountain Air Facility south of here, is the winner of this year's award for the Marine Corps. A unit representative attended a formal presentation ceremony in Washington.

Squadron 463 has lived up to its nickname, "Heavy Haulers," during its tour in Vietnam. The squadron set a record in July as the giant Sea Stallion helicopters lifted more than 10 million pounds of equipment and supplies.

During the same month, the "Heavy Haulers" airlifted every type of equipment in the inventory of the Marine Corps supply system. The squadron reached a single day high of 300 tons of equipment shipped to various bases and other points.

Besides carrying the tons of supplies, the Sea Stallions carried 13,692 troops. Though the squadron operates throughout the northern Tactical Zone, the majority of its record-setting efforts were in support of Marine units in the northern area of South Vietnam along the Demilitarized Zone.

Services Join Hands
To Aid Chopper Pilot

PHU BAI (USMC) — Five Marine medical evacuees destined for the USS Repose in Da Nang harbor had the ride of their lives recently and the Marine Corps, Navy, Army and Air Force all had hands in it.

The Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 Sea Knight chopper in which they were riding, piloted by Major Robert D. Taylor, developed engine trouble a short distance from the hospital ship anchored in the harbor.

In describing the experience, the Sea Knight operations officer said, "We were 80 feet above the water and very close to the ship when our fire warning light flashed on. We immediately pulled the engine fire extinguisher switch which cut off the oil and fuel flow to the damaged engine and covered it with foam."

The danger of fire was checked, but the heat of the day and the weight of the load were too much for the helicopter's lone remaining engine.

"We knew we couldn't make the ship," the officer continued, "so I gave the command to prepare to hit the water. The next thing I knew, we were in the water. I tried a maximum performance take-off, but the one engine didn't have the power."

Now, the major's problem was to beach the chopper. The shores on either side of the harbor were close, but the pilot wasn't sure of their security status.

"Red Beach was straight ahead. It was further, but I didn't want to chance any enemy interference."

The helo's rotor blade grabbed for air and its nose lifted from the water. The taxi

ride began.

The major continued, "As soon as we hit, the Repose launched two swift boats which joined us in case of trouble. After we began our taxi, I noticed a big Air Force Search and Rescue chopper hovering beside us with its hoist and cable dangling over the water. It was flying sideways, all the way to the beach, keeping a close eye on our aircraft."

"Next, three Army Huey gunships joined our team, providing cover for the trip. The Navy added another touch by launching three personnel carriers from the Repose."

With assistance from each of Uncle Sam's forces, the major water-taxied his crippled aircraft three miles to the beach, completing one of the few amphibious landings in helicopter history.

Approximately 15 seconds after touching the beach, Navy men were hurrying the evacuees back to the hospital ship. The Sea Knight crew was flown to the Repose where they were thanked for their efforts by her captain.

At the nearby Marble Mountain Air Facility, a Boeing-Vertol representative spoke with Major Taylor concerning the three-mile taxi. Boeing-Vertol is the manufacturer of the Sea Knight.

"According to their representative, the company has tested the aircraft in this manner in Chesapeake Bay," concluded the major. "He thought we had a record here—the longest water-taxi test having been one mile. Whether it's a record or not, I got a feeling of tremendous pride and appreciation when I saw those people from every service come to our aid."



FOLLOW THE LEADER—Helicopters prepare to set down as they insert soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division into a new landing zone to begin a mission south of Lai Khe.

(USA PHOTO By PFC Kenneth Burke)

VNav Gets Floating Shipyard

SAIGON (USN) — YR-24, a floating workshop which for more than two decades helped to keep U.S. Navy ships on the line, recently changed flags and began a new life as the first repair ship in the Vietnamese Navy.

During the transfer ceremonies at the Vietnamese Navy headquarters here, Vice Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., Chief, Naval Advisory Group, described YR-24 as "a very different kind of Navy ship."

"She lacks the sleek lines of modern warships," he said.

"She doesn't have their firepower nor her own propulsion system."

"But what she does have," the Admiral continued, "is what the Vietnamese Navy needs most right now. She's a floating shipyard, capable of keeping the Vietnamese Navy's gunboats in a constant state of readiness and good repair."

Commodore Tran Van Chon, Chief of Naval Operations of the Vietnamese Navy, accepted the ship on behalf of the Republic of Vietnam.

"This ceremony exhibits once again the good will and determination of the American nation and its people to assist the Republic of Vietnam's combat capability to defeat the communist aggressor," the commodore said.

He also noted that increasing the fighting potential of the Vietnamese Navy was dependent on increasing its technical capabilities.

The 150-foot vessel contains five workshops equipped for repairing or fabricating anything from a diesel driveshaft to a gyro compass used aboard Vietnamese Navy patrol ships.

The YR-24 will be manned by a crew of two officers and 135 enlisted men.

Christmas Mailing Tips



NON-MAILABLE MATTER — Some items cannot be mailed through APO/FPO. These include matches, lighter fluid, intoxicating liquors, magnetic materials and radioactive matter. If in doubt about an item, ask your local mail clerk, or postal officer.



SILVER STAR

Buckley, William F. MAJ USA
Candler, Edward H. CPT USA
Divers, Warren L. SFC USA *1
Green, Johnny M. SFC USA
Kane, Philip C. MAJ USA
Reichelt, Eric F. MAJ USA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

WITH "V" DEVICE
Ciccarelli, John E. MAJ USA *1
Copp, Norman S. SFC USA
Del Proposto, Andrew M. 1LT USA

Fix, Donald J. CPT USA *1
Hamilton, Freddie W. SFC USA
Jones, Joseph H. SGT USA
Keller, Paul F. SFC USA
Leach, William G. CPT USA *1
Lee, Walter T. SSG USA
McMichael, Howard R. SGT USA
Michael, Russell A. 1LT USA
Milner, Emory L. SP4 USA

Pilcher, Michael P. 1LT USA
Puebla, Carlos SFC USA
Putnam, Joe A. CPT USA *1
Siler, Kenneth K. CPT USA
Simmons, Larry G. SSG USA
Smider, Donald D. SFC USA *1
Strugarek, Michael L. PFC USA
Tees, Hans, 1LT USA
Terrell, James C. SFC USA
Umacke, Richard P. 2LT USA

ARMY COMMENDATION
MEDAL WITH "V"
DEVICE
Armstrong, Lawrence E. SP4 USA
Bachert, Alfred F. PFC USA
Carty, Thomas E. Jr. SP4 USA
Erwin, Jerry L. SSG USA
Franklin, John D. SP4 USA
Stanley, Stanislaw T. 1LT USA
White, Howard J. CPT USA
*/ Denotes Oak Leaf Clusters



IN MEMORY—Leathernecks of the 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment salute fallen Marines during memorial services held recently at Khe Sanh. The unit was joined by soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam during the ceremony. (USMC PHOTO)

Viet Artillerymen Expand Skill

DA NANG (USMC) — South Vietnamese artillery repairmen from various units throughout the Da Nang area are being taught the finer points of their trade by Force Logistic Command (FLC) Marines.

The Vietnamese are attending a 30-day period of instruction in which they work side by side with their Marine counterparts from FLC's Maintenance Battalion.

The program was initiated to give the Vietnamese a better understanding of how different weapons function and the knowledge to repair their own artillery pieces, according to Gunnery Sergeant E. J. Bishop, an instructor with the battalion.

ciency of the Vietnamese since his first trip to the country.

"These people are better trained, disciplined and motivated than any I had previously met," he said.

The acclaim, however, is not all one-sided. One Vietnamese, when asked about his stay with the Marines, replied, "I am very grateful for the chance to be here. I would like very much to stay and work with the Marines."

Sergeant Bishop, a 22-year Marine veteran serving his second tour of duty in Vietnam, pointed out the increased effi-

ciency of the Vietnamese since his first trip to the country. "These people are better trained, disciplined and motivated than any I had previously met," he said.

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Engineers Are Clearing Roads With Leaflets

TAY NINH (USA) — Efforts by the 588th Engineer Battalion to keep the road net around Tay Ninh cleared of enemy

mines and booby traps are being aided by a recently-begun civilian cash reward program.

The program is expected to pay big dividends in lives and equipment saved.

Leaflets are being distributed to the local civilians who live and work along Highway 26, part of the Tay Ninh to Dau Tieng military supply route, according to First Lieutenant Kenneth M. Snead, 588th intelligence officer.

The leaflets tell of rewards given for enemy weapons turned in or for information leading to the location of weapons. In addition, rewards are given for information on the location of mines or booby traps. ARVN Sergeant My Lam, the 588th's interpreter, aided in handing out the leaflets and explained their meaning to those who couldn't read.

Sergeant Lam said that the farmers here "are in an ideal situation for giving information on mines and booby traps; they work their fields next to the road each day and can easily tell if the VC have installed mines there."

Lieutenant Snead said, "We actually have more luck with the children. They don't have the inhibitions of their parents, and don't seem to fear the VC the way their elders do. And being kids, they naturally will get around a lot and will be very likely to find an arms cache while playing."



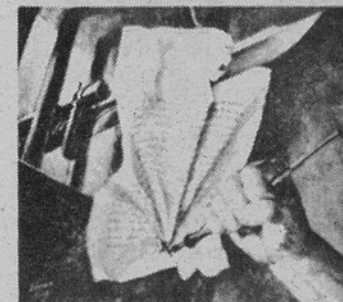
I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.



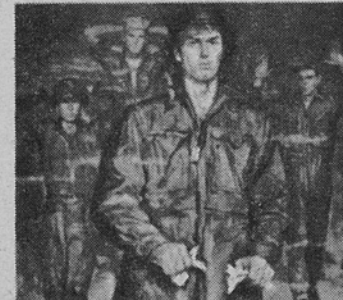
If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information nor take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.



I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.



When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am bound to give only name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.



If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.



I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

Joint Operation Hits Charlie In Stomach

CHU LAI (USA) — A joint operation involving Americal Division troops and Vietnamese civilians from the Que Son District of Quang Nam Province is striking a low blow to the Viet Cong in the area.

The objective is "Charlie's" stomach.

CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters from the 178th and 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Companies (14th Aviation Battalion), have begun shuttling refugees from Que Son District Headquarters to the insecure regions of rice-rich Que Son Valley. There, nearly 1,000 Vietnamese labor daily cutting the rice and stacking it into bundles. The bundles are then airlifted by sling nets by the big ships back to the secure vicinity of district headquarters.

As much as 155 tons of rice have been harvested in a week's time.

"This is an effective program in many respects," a spokesman for the S-5 section of the 196th Brigade said.

Store Of Rice
"The refugees are accumulating a sizeable store of rice which could have fallen into enemy hands. The relocated rice has given reassurance to many of the refugees who might have become disillusioned with their displacement. A number of these people invariably choose to return to their former homes, even though they risk harassment, or worse, from the Viet Cong."

Dividend
An unexpected dividend has cropped up since the operation began. Mr. Jeszeck explained: "After the first few days we noticed there were more people being transported out of the rice fields than had been flown in. Charlie must have decided that his stomach's cause was far more important than that of the communists."

After touching down in the paddies, the workers are protected from the enemy by infantrymen from the 196th Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, which provides security on

the outer perimeter of the harvest area. Further security is provided by a number of Regional and Popular forces who keep a wary eye out for snipers in the immediate vicinity.

After the rice has been flown back to the district headquarters it is taken to a processing plant in Hoi An. There the rice is polished before being transported back to Que Son.

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GI Relives Two Terror-Filled Weeks

By SP4 Peter Call

OASIS (USA) — For two weeks, Sergeant Buddy Wright, Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, fought a war all his own — the battle to survive a jungled wilderness and to outwit his captors, North Vietnamese Army regulars.

The young, gangling sergeant is one of few soldiers who have been taken captive by hard-core North Vietnamese, bound, questioned, led into Cambodia, witnessed an enemy base camp — and lived to tell about it.

Sergeant Wright was listed as "missing in action" for two weeks. Because of his indomitable will to live, he is alive today.

The experienced soldier was providing rear security for his company. He had a lot of green troops he didn't want to expose to the perils of a rear guard.

As the men halted for a break, Sergeant Wright watched with an eagle-eye, approximately 100 meters back on the trail.

When the infantryman moved farther up, he discovered he was separated from his company. He believed he just hadn't gone far enough.

Soon he came to a fork in the trail. Finding boot prints leading in one direction, he followed.

The boot prints became lighter and soon disappeared. In their place were found the prints of Ho Chi Minh sandals — the kind North Vietnamese regulars wear.

The lone soldier began to double back, but before he had gone more than a few feet, a platoon of grim-faced North Vietnamese soldiers leaped on him, had his weapon, and bound him with heavy, flesh-cutting rope.

Without blindfolding him, they led the sergeant — hands tied behind his back — into a strange part of the jungle, westward.

For two days, Sergeant Wright had no idea where he was going. At the end of the second day, his captors led him into their Cambodian stronghold.

It was not a new hideaway. Facilities were aged and well-developed.

Sergeant Wright was untied, then searched. He attempted to show his Geneva Convention

card, but they only pushed it away. Enemy soldiers confiscated his personal effects and removed his boots and dog tags, making him sit on the ground.

When an English speaking North Vietnamese interrogator arrived, Sergeant Wright knew what his survival hinged upon.

For five days, the sergeant was repeatedly questioned about tactics and his unit. Each time he refused to answer.

When not being questioned he remained tied. The rope was loosened only when the sergeant was given a bowl of hot water and rice to eat.

Nights were long and cold. His hands were tied to a pole, making it impossible to recline. A guard remained close by. Every half hour he shined his flashlight into the sergeant's face.

Photo By
SP4 Ron Johnston
Illustrations By
PFC William A. Sigfried

The bamboo mat he was tied against signaled any change in position.

"I knew escape was a big chance to take and the odds were all against me," he recounted later. "But I promised myself the first chance I got, I'd take it."

His chance came early on the morning of the fifth day. "The guards must have been getting used to me," Sergeant Wright recalled. "They were beginning to relax. One saw how uncomfortable I was. He loosened the ropes and gave me a blanket to keep warm."

When the guards moved back, Sergeant Wright worked his hands free under cover of the blanket. The bamboo mat creaked loudly and a guard walked over to him. The sergeant knew it was his only chance for freedom.

He leaped up and dashed madly out the door. The surprised guard hesitated, then sounded the alarm.

Sergeant Wright never looked back, but heard bullets whizzing over his head. Dazed, mauled by brush and stones, the haggard soldier could not remember when he stopped running. Even as darkness draped the jungle, he stopped only briefly to catch his

breath.

He never knew — or cared — in which direction he traveled until the sun rose on the sixth morning. Then he knew he was going farther into Cambodia. He changed directions and began his trek toward the sun.

Two days, Sergeant Wright carved his way through a strange, lonely land. His feet were swollen, his hair straggly, his face bewhiskered, his stomach empty. Still, an ember of hope burned within.

The sergeant avoided trails. His only food was a small fruit, resembling an unripened bitter peach, which he forced himself to eat.

The jungle seemed endless. One night, the lone escapee spied an enemy patrol only ten meters away. He hit the ground with so much impact that he was sure he had been heard. But the enemy soldiers passed on, traveling east.

On the eighth day after his escape, Sergeant Wright witnessed his first sign of hope. Several helicopters flying east meant the Vietnamese border was nearby.

After another day of weary struggling through the wilderness, the terrain became more familiar. Fresh craters from artillery shells pitted the area. Sergeant Wright was inside Vietnam again.

He paralleled a trail that ran eastward. He was so weakened it seemed he had to stop every few steps to rest.

When freedom seemed near, his ears picked up the sound of footsteps. He concealed himself in a clump of bushes and watched a Vietnamese soldier walk past.

Sergeant Wright's nine-day flight from captivity had been

Sergeant Buddy Wright's will to live was proven in Cambodia.

too far, too long, to take a life or death chance. He chose to wait.

That night, he spotted camp fires glowing on a hill. "I knew they had to be friendly, because the enemy would never light a campfire so close to our positions," he later said.

At dawn the next morning, Sergeant Wright waved down the first Vietnamese soldier who came down the trail.

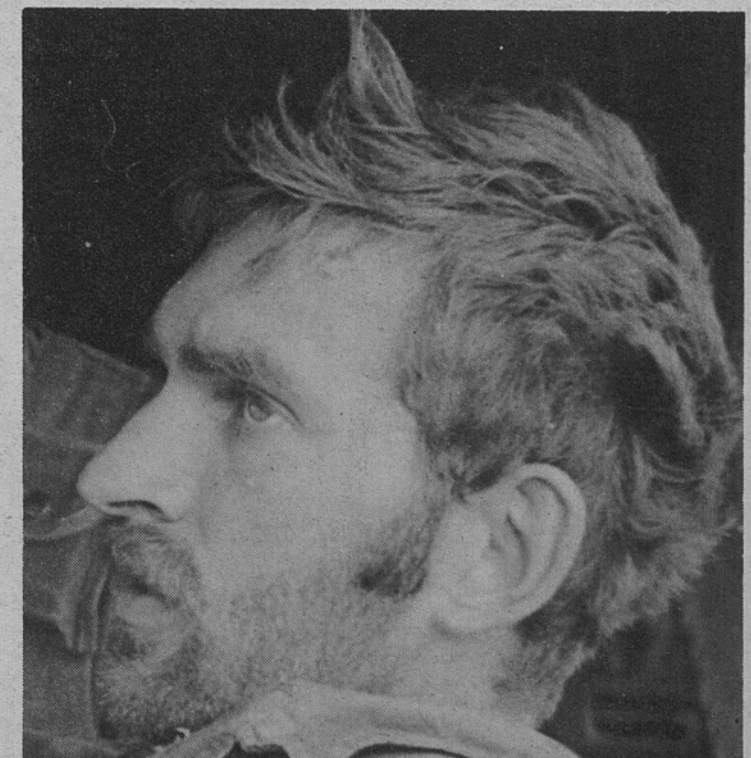
When he saw me I think he was really scared, Sergeant Wright said as he repeated his incredible story. "I had for-

gotten what I must have looked like with a heavy beard and torn clothes."

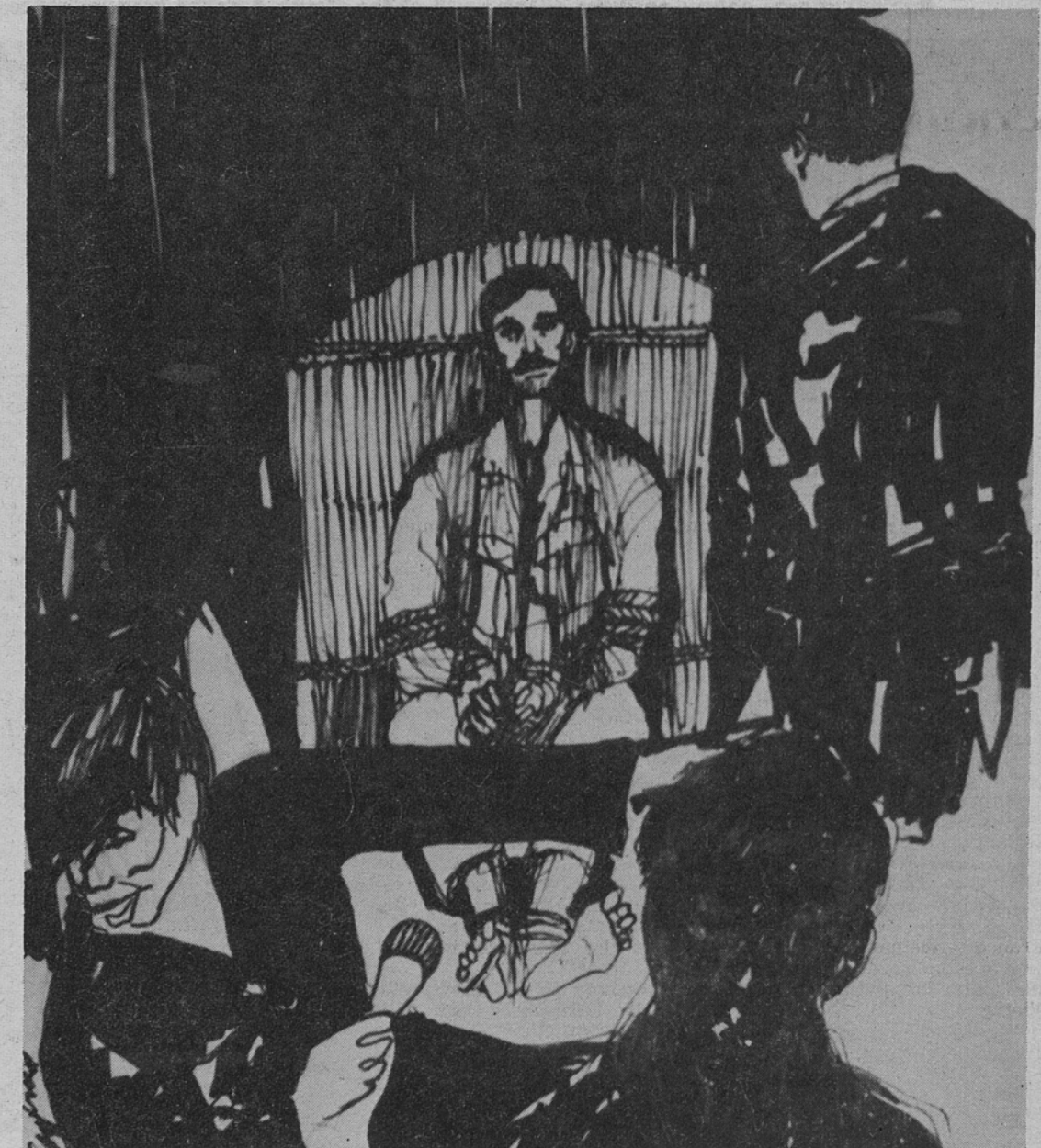
"Chop, chop," he moaned, pointing to his stomach.

The South Vietnamese soldier took the sergeant's arm and gently placed it around his neck, walking him up the hill. It was the path to freedom.

Sergeant Buddy Wright, the infantryman, the captive, the escapee, had fought two battles. The first with the North Vietnamese — the second with the jungle. His will to live had won them both.



"I was growing weaker. All my hope . . . turned into despair."



"At night, I was bound . . . a guard shined his flashlight in my face every half-hour."

Leathernecks The World Over Honor 193rd Anniversary

193D BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT THE MARINE CORPS

This 10th of November 1968 marks the 193d anniversary of the founding of our Corps. Conceived in a period of crisis, Marines ever since have stood ready to defend the Republic. We do so today.

Our success derives from the sweat and blood of the Marines who preceded us. We see the value of this heritage reflected in the combat record of our forces in Vietnam.

To those past Marines who have made the Corps what it is -- the finest fighting force the world has ever seen -- pay our everlasting respect. To those wearing the uniform today, I say, "Well done; continue the march."

Our Corps lives in the hearts and minds of Marines -- regular, reserve, retired -- throughout the world. To them and to their families on this very special day, send my personal greetings and best wishes.

Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.
LEONARD F. CHAPMAN, JR.
General, U. S. Marine Corps

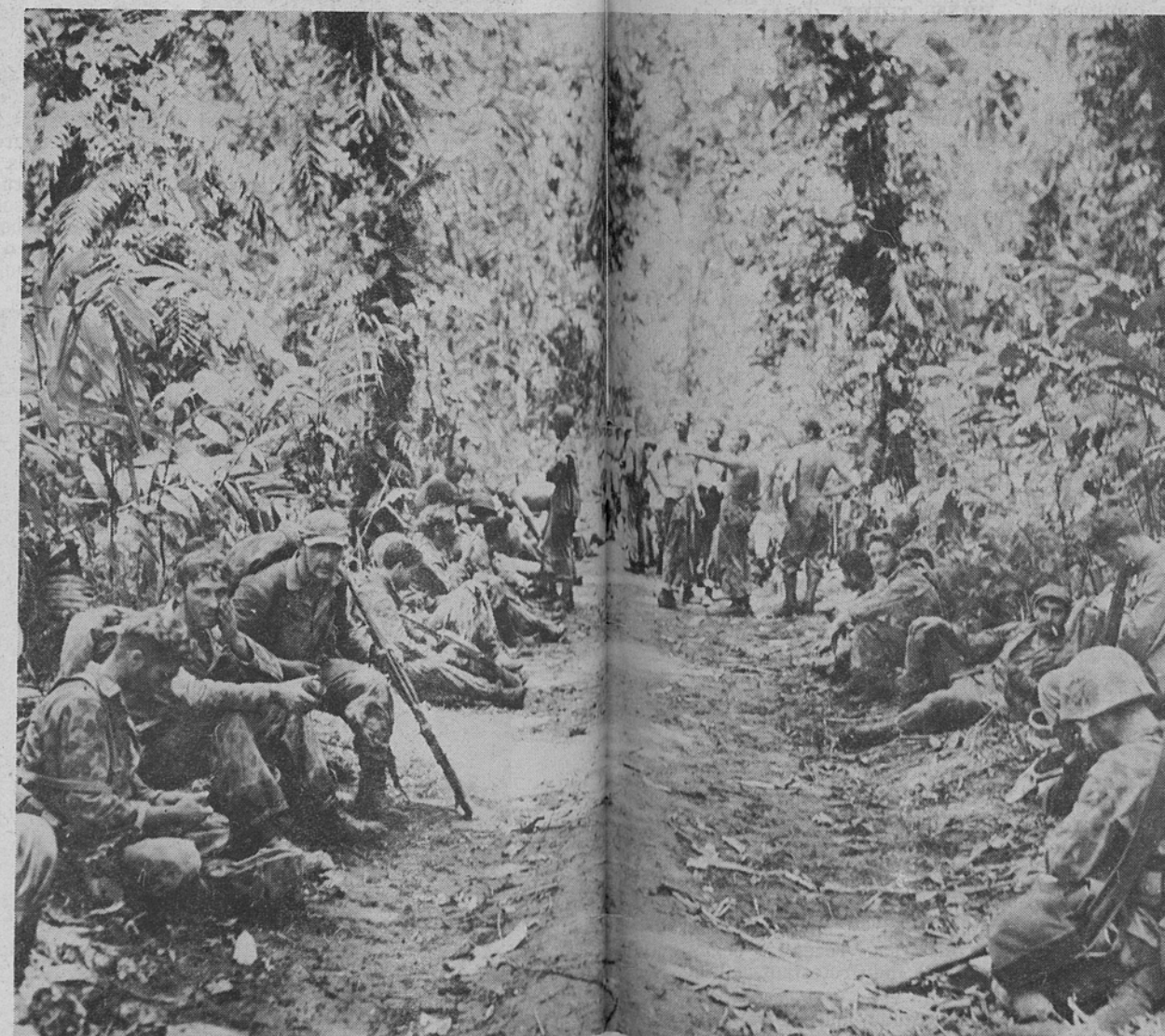
Photos USMC



Marines charge enemy positions at the finish of the Meuse-Argonne area in France during World War I.



During fierce jungle fighting in the South Pacific, Marines repelled repeated attacks by Japanese forces.



World War II Leathernecks pause for a brief rest before meeting the enemy in Bongainville.



Leathernecks prepare to fire an 81mm mortar while a chopper drops into their landing zone near the DMZ in Vietnam.



Crew members of the 6-106mm Ontos load their "beast" preparing for fire support in the Northern I Corp.

New GI Bill Passed; Offers More Courses

SAIGON (MACV) — An addition to the GI Bill, which enables soldiers who have completed tours of 18 to 24 months active duty to receive up to 36 months of peacetime educational benefits, has recently been signed into law.

The new, liberalized bill increases the GI Bill benefits by 50 per cent. Under the old bill, a draftee could accumulate only 24 months of assistance for 24 months service, or one day of school for each day of service.

The revised bill provides extra school assistance for all men who have served on active duty since Jan. 31, 1955.

The bill is part of a major congressional overhaul of veterans' educational programs. Other provisions:

—Permit veterans eligible for educational benefits under two or more veterans' programs to draw up to 48 months of educational entitlement. Previously, they could draw no more than 36 months of total aid. This provision benefits soldiers who have already used up full entitlement under the World War II and Korea GI Bills and orphans who received aid under the War Orphans Scholarship program.

—Permit veterans to take farm cooperative training on a half-time or three-quarter time basis. Under the old law, they were required to attend 12 hours of classes per week while working full time.

—Permit payments for flight training to be made monthly instead of quarterly.

The new legislation keeps allowances at the present levels — \$130 per month to single veterans; \$150 per month to married veterans; and \$175 per

month to veterans with two dependents. Veterans with more than two dependents receive \$10 per month for each additional dependent.

This legislation, giving more GI benefits to draftees, was sponsored by Senators Ralph Yarborough of Texas and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts. It permits draftees who are separated up to six months ahead of their normal discharge date and who satisfy their draft obligation, to draw a full 36-month GI Bill entitlement.

Bell Tolls For Fifth

DA NANG (USMC) — First Lieutenant John E. Journey, officer in charge of the Marble Mountain Air Facility's base operations, learned that many members of the 5th Marine Regiment there didn't know when chapel services were held. There was no bell to call them to prayer.

Lieutenant Journey wrote to his wife, explained the predicament and asked if she knew some way to help.

With the assistance of the children in Mrs. Journey's Sunday School class, a bell for the Marines was purchased, boxed and shipped to the lieutenant.

The Marines constructed a 10-foot steel frame to hold the 110-pound, cast iron bell. The bell was accepted on behalf of the regiment by Lieutenant Commander Richard P. Beck, chaplain for the 5th Marines.

A New Lai Khe Boy Scout Troop Is Aided By U.S. And Vietnamese

LAI KHE (USA) — On a bright autumn festival day, members of the Lai Khe Boy Scout Troop marched to their meeting area wearing new, bright blue shorts and crisp white shirts.

The uniforms were paid for by the 1st Infantry Division's civil affairs section. They had been presented to the boys by the 121st Signal Battalion, which sponsors the troop.

Under the leadership of Vietnamese sergeants attached to the Big Red One, boys and girls began setting up tents and building fires, practicing skills learned at earlier meetings.

A month earlier, there had been no scouting program in Lai Khe. ARVN Staff Sergeant Ho Van Thach, who had been active in scouting elsewhere in Vietnam, interested other Vietnamese sergeants in assisting him as leaders. Lieutenant Colonel Claude S. Simpson Jr., commander of the signal battalion, interested his unit in providing support.

Commenting on the Vietnamese troop whose meetings he attends every week, the colonel said, "These boys and girls are like kids everywhere. They're eager and excited about scouting."

In the words of one battalion member, Sergeant Marvin A. Bucholz, "Teaching the boys

and girls through scouting is more valuable than giving them material things. We are giving

them something that cannot be taken away because it is in their hearts."



Lieutenant Colonel Claude S. Simpson demonstrates knot-tying skill to Boy Scouts at Lai Khe. (USA PHOTO)

Education Week Proclaimed

SAIGON (MACV) — Nov. 10 is American Education Week. In a proclamation, President Lyndon B. Johnson called attention to the progress made during the last decade in achieving the goals of universality, equality and excellence in American education.

The President calls upon "every American to work toward an even better educational system in America — a system which will truly deepen and enrich American thought, and truly ennoble life for every man."

Educational opportunity is one of the greatest benefits available while serving in the military. In Vietnam, there are education centers staffed by professional educational advisors at each major command.

These centers provide educational information, classes, correspondence courses and a testing program. Branch centers in many areas provide a part of these services.

To take advantage of these educational opportunities, see your educational counselor. He can examine your past performance and aid you in setting up the program that will fulfill your goals.

He can also give special assistance to personnel applying for the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, officer candidate schools, the Enlisted College Training Program, the Two-Year Evaluation and the

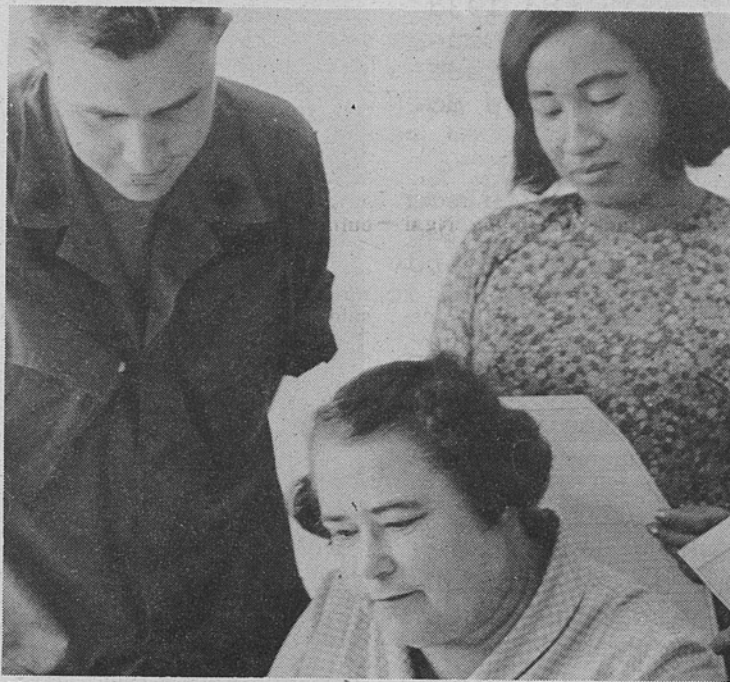
Degree Completion Program.

Even if you don't think you need additional schooling, you may be interested in learning a new skill, such as typing or mechanical drawing. Perhaps an extension course would help you improve your MOS or AFSC efficiency.

Perhaps you're thinking of

learning a new language, particularly Vietnamese, or the language of your ancestry.

Tuition? Enrollment in a high school, college or technical course requires a \$5 money order, certified check or bank draft payable to the Treasurer of the United States (USAFI), Madison, Wisconsin 53703.



Miss Natalie E. Nason, director of education at Saigon's Education Center, goes over student records with her assistants, SP4 Henry T. Hagenah Jr. and Miss Tran Thi Gam. (USA PHOTO)

Psy-War Program Is Enlarged

SAIGON (CMAC) — The biggest psychological warfare campaign of the Vietnam War, Nguyen Trai, was inaugurated last month by Tran Van Huong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam.

"The Allied forces and our

government have been successful in the fighting," the Prime Minister said during a morning ceremony on the parade field of the Capital Military District (CMD).

"The enemy has suffered heavy casualties and lost many weapons. But in a democracy it is better to save the people than kill them," he continued.

The new psy-war program, said Mr. Huong, would offer those VC who wanted to leave the enemy a way out and would give them justice when they return to the national cause.

"Allow these returnees to unite with their families and rebuild their country," the Prime Minister pleaded.

A group of brown-uniformed Vietnamese cheered the Prime Minister. These men were Hoi Chanh, former Viet Cong who rallied to the government under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program.

An enlarged Chieu Hoi program is the heart of the new psy-war plan.

The Nguyen Trai Campaign, launched when the Prime Minister presented the campaign flag at the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) ceremony, employs 1,400 cadre in a nation-wide plan tied in with combat operations.

"The accelerated program combines coordination by three primary psy-war ministries," explained Major John Skidmore, Senior Political Warfare Advisor to the CMD.

The Chieu Hoi program, the Vietnamese Information Service, working with the citizenry, and the General Pol-War Department, working with ARVN forces, dependents and the enemy, are all involved.

The plan, aimed at the VC infrastructure, is actually a rewritten, updated and greatly expanded psy-war program, according to Major Skidmore.

"The goal is to get the people to work with the government by reporting VC activi-

ty, weapons caches, and enemy propaganda," Major Skidmore explained.

Charitable GI Helps School

PHAN THIET (USA) — A chaplain's assistant from the 101st Airborne Division is proving that even in war, there is still time for charity.

Specialist 4 Michael T. Smith, of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, has raised \$1,300 to pay the tuition fees for 64 underprivileged students of the Catholic high school here. Through wide distribution of letters and photographs, the specialist has received contributions from world-wide organizations.

Specialist Smith had done more than just raise the money. He volunteered to teach English three days a week at the school. From building desks to installing a public address system, the specialist has helped to strengthen Vietnamese-American relations.

Contributions from the United States have included items from clothing to baby food. On a seven-day leave in Japan, Specialist Smith bought a wall clock and other gifts to brighten the surroundings of his students.

Specialist Smith has begun a five-month extension of his just completed 12-month tour. He is driving hard to bring his programs to other churches. The specialist has recently begun work with the Protestant church here.

His attitude and accomplishments have won the admiration of the hardline paratroopers of his unit.

Tribesmen Put 105 Back In Allied Arsenal

CHU LAI (USA) — Two Montagnard informants earned 25,000 piasters apiece recently by leading infantrymen from the American Division's 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, to a 105mm howitzer buried eight miles west of Quang Ngai City.

The artillery piece, captured by the enemy when the Tra Bong Civilian Irregular Defense Group Camp was overrun three years ago, has been cleaned and reassembled and is being used by the 11th Brigade in Operation Champaign Grove. Seven months ago, the Viet Cong used the cannon during the Tet attack on Quang Ngai City.

The 18-year-old tribesmen, their wives and one sister turned themselves over to elements of the brigade's Task Force Garcia late last month, west of Quang Ngai. They claimed the VC used them six times as forced laborers and were planning to indoctrinate them as guerrillas before they decided to seek allied protection.

"Laborers don't usually have valuable information," said First Lieutenant Thomas Grieme, of the brigade's 52nd Military Intelligence Detachment. "The VC infrastructure is pretty careful about letting forced laborers know too much."

Lieutenant Grieme and his Montagnard interpreter asked the young men routine questions when they were returned to Landing Zone Bronco: Did they have any weapons? ... know the location of any small arms? ... explosives? ... grenades? ... caches? ... They shook their heads.

"Do you know the location of any weapons?" Lieutenant Grieme asked. "Yes, one big one," they answered. "How big?" "It took 60 men to carry it," said the informants.

"I asked them the smallest number of men they had seen carry it and they replied 30," said the intelligence officer. "But we know 30 Vietnamese can move a mighty large piece of equipment."

One VC referred to the cannon as a "Dai Bac," an 82mm re-

coilless gun. "They look somewhat like a 105," said Lieutenant Grieme, "but the 82 has metal wheels. The informants said the wheels were rubber, just like our jeep tires. They also said the barrel was eight feet long and these two things indicated an artillery piece."

The Montagnards said they were forced to work and help drag the 4,800-pound cannon to a stream bed after Tet. Later they returned to the spot and dug holes to bury the weapon. A few days before turning themselves in, they passed the stream bed and noted the camouflage had not been disrupted. "They couldn't find the place on a map or even tell the difference between east and west," said Lieutenant Grieme. "And there are lots of little streams out there."

It took the interrogation team over six hours to narrow the location down to a grid square, using word-pictures and crude maps the Montagnards drew to locate the spot.

"After hours of map-tracking I felt pretty sure we had the right square," explained the lieutenant. "The boys had been honest with us all along, but I told them I thought their story was crazy and I didn't believe it. They said they would lead us to the weapon to prove they weren't lying. This was before any monetary incentive had been mentioned."

A few days later, the two informants joined Company B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, on a hilltop west of the province capital.

"We had a hell of a time getting down that hill," recalled Captain Jimmie Davis, Company B commander. "We were all slipping around and they seemed to be leading us in circles. But when we got to the bottom they became more sure of themselves."

"I was walking up front, firing my M-79 into the trees behind the stream," said Private First Class Wayne Yarbrough. "The interpreter was afraid there'd be an ambush near the weapon. Then he pointed to the underbrush and said, 'They say VC artillery here.' We pushed through the tall grass and dug

into the sand. We got about six inches down when I hit something."

It took the soldiers two hours to dig the cannon out of the four well-camouflaged holes.

"Everything's here except the panoramic telescope," First Lieutenant Michael Reid, Bra-

vo's artillery observer, said. "It's pretty rusted, but the VC put the small, movable parts in plastic bags. I imagine it could be cleaned up and fired without too much trouble."

The infantrymen lugged the barrel, shields, cradle and wheels across a small rice pad-

dy where a Chinook lifted the weapon back to Landing Zone Bronco to be reassembled.

The men had heard about the 30 Vietnamese who dragged the cannon through the hills.

"Where are those 30 now when we need them?" one G. I. muttered.



BACK IN ACTION—Sergeant Gerald L. Smith, American Division's 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery, prepares to fire 105 Howitzer which had been buried by enemy for over six months. Major General Charles M. Gettys, division commander, looks on. (USA PHOTO)

Dual-Purpose MEDCAPs

They Work In Charlie's Village

DONG TAM (USA) — Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) teams of the 9th Infantry Division are emphasizing a program of medical aid to remote, VC-infested hamlets and villages in key Mekong Delta provinces.

"We call them Tactical MEDCAPs," said Lieutenant Colonel William T. Leggett, division civil affairs officer. "These medical teams operate away from the base camp areas in insecure hamlets where people seldom receive medical care."

Most of these Tactical MEDCAPs go directly into VC-controlled villages. Often they are coordinated with Regional Forces, Popular Forces and ARVN units to provide securi-

ty and increase cooperation between American and Vietnamese forces.

"The people are more impressed when they see Americans and Vietnamese working together," said Colonel Leggett. "These MEDCAPs are an excellent opportunity for American and Government of Vietnam forces to upgrade their image at the grass roots level."

Emphasis on Tactical MEDCAPs in the 9th Division began during August. Since that time the total number of MEDCAPs and patients treated has decreased slightly, according to the colonel, but the number of patients with serious disabilities treated has increased.

"In the heavily-populated and more secure areas much of the treatment is giving cough syrup and aspirins," explained Colonel Leggett. "The Tactical MEDCAPs which go into these far-out places are giving proper medical treatment to sick people."

"It takes more time and more people to reach the sparsely-populated areas, but we're reaching people who haven't seen a doctor in years."

In order to overcome the fears of families in VC-controlled hamlets, the MEDCAP team goes from house to house treating children and parents. This also makes them more willing to give information on VC activities.

All MEDCAPs reach the audience where the psychological message can be most effective. These are the people who are unaware of South Vietnamese Government programs designed to help them.

One important facet of the Psychological Operations (PSY-OPS) Program is to sell the VC on the Chieu Hoi amnesty program. During the Tactical MEDCAP this can be accomplished through highly effective face-to-face PSYOPS.

Hoi Chanh who have rallied to the government talk to wives and parents of probable VC, explaining the program and trying to convince them to persuade their husbands and sons to rally.

AFVN Slates Commentary For Sunday

SAIGON (MACV) — The Vietnam conflict, as with other wars, will probably be most poignantly remembered because of songs and letters written by the men who lived and died in the battles.

Among the most moving pieces of literature to come from Vietnam is the diary kept by Army Sergeant Dave Simmons, a Special Forces trooper who was killed in action in January 1968.

The last entry was made on the day of his death. The Armed Forces Vietnam network (AFVN) has adapted this diary for radio and labeled it "Commentary on a Diary."

AFVN will air the program throughout Vietnam at 7:05 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 10.

Organization Enhances Viet-Yankee Friendship

SAIGON (MACV) — The Vietnamese-American Association (VAA) is a cultural and educational exchange organization made up of Vietnamese and Americans living in Vietnam.

The Association, formed here in 1955 to further understanding and friendship between Vietnamese and Americans, is growing rapidly.

The non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political organization has grown to include more than 1,500 members and is registered under the laws of Vietnam.

A major function of the Association is teaching language. Classes in English and Vietnamese provide instruction for approximately 14,000 students in the Saigon-Cholon area.

VAA members also benefit from a wide range of social and cultural activities. These include concerts, lectures, film showings, discussion groups, and appropriate social events, such as coffee hours, exchanges and dances.

New members must be introduced by two sponsoring members of the Association and his application accepted by the Board of Directors. Annual

membership fees are 200 piasters for individuals and 400 piasters for a family.

Anyone interested in the organization is invited to contact the office of the director, Vietnamese-American Association, 55, Mac-Dinh-Chi, Saigon.

Just Yankee Ingenuity?

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — An observant civil affairs officer and a civic-minded engineer battalion helped make grade school a little more enjoyable for some 800 Vietnamese children near here recently.

"I noticed that the children had practically nothing to play on, and the equipment they did have was so dilapidated it was dangerous," said Captain Louis J. Bradley, civil affairs officer for the 326th Engineer Battalion.

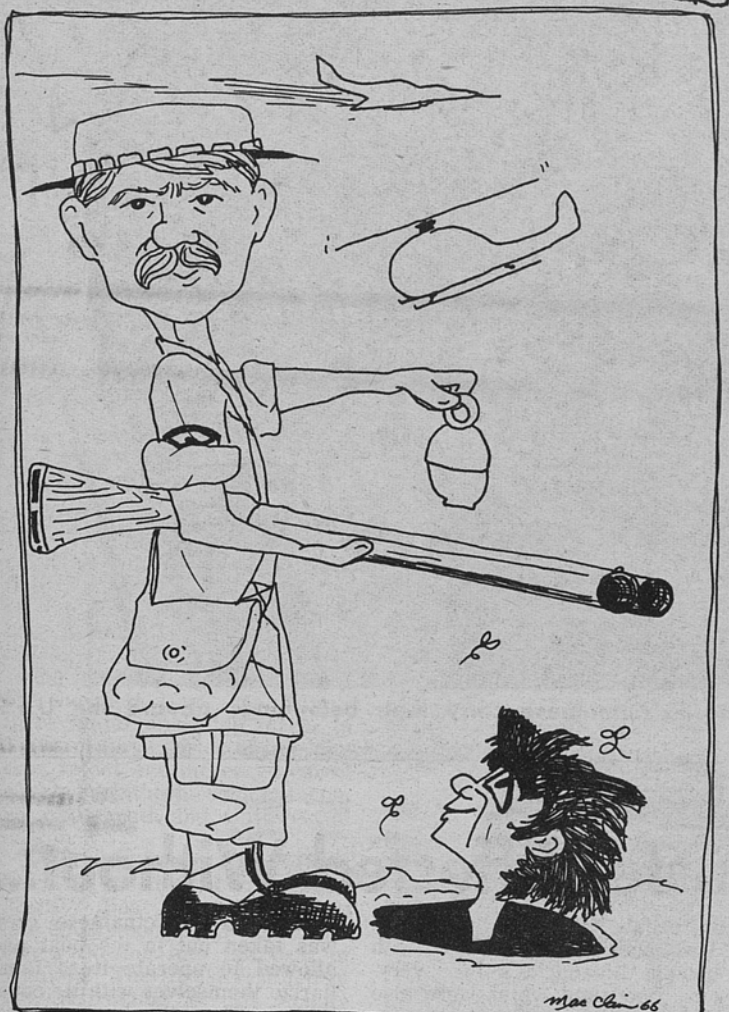
Captain Bradley contacted the battalion's maintenance shop, which immediately started gathering materials for a project.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Lifts her glass in a toast to the many veterans and veterans to be. Whether dressed in blues, tans, greens, whites or jungle fatigues, our Bunny sez, "This is your day, Veterans Day, November 11, 1968. The day set aside to honor everyone of you in the armed forces for your sacrifices in helping to keep our country safe and secure."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN



YOU PLENTY SMOOTH TALKER GI
YOU JUST WIN ME OVER...

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1-Japanese sash
- 4-Hebrew month
- 6-Tulle
- 11-Part of furnace
- 13-Spoilation
- 15-Toutonic city
- 16-Speechmakers
- 18-Babylonian deity
- 19-Artificial language
- 21-Pertaining to the ear
- 22-Female sheep
- 24-Possessive pronoun
- 26-Dirk
- 28-Before
- 29-Winged
- 31-Lampreys
- 33-College degree (abbr.)
- 34-Grant use of
- 36-Tropical fruit
- 38-Steamship (abbr.)
- 40-Weary
- 42-Direction
- 45-Frozen water
- 47-Lifeless
- 49-Reflect deeply
- 50-Extinct flightless bird
- 52-A continent
- 54-Compass point
- 55-Printer's measure
- 56-Buys back
- 59-Parent (colloq.)
- 61-Strike out
- 63-Crowns
- 65-Dinner course
- 66-Steward (abbr.)
- 67-Writing fluid

DOWN

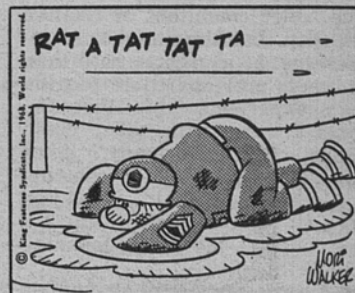
- 1-Poem
- 2-Container
- 3-Prefix: not
- 4-Danish island
- 5-Unruly children
- 6-Go
- 7-Organ of hearing
- 8-Part of church
- 9-Chinese mile
- 10-Scuffs
- 12-River in Italy
- 14-Mollified
- 17-Fork prong
- 20-Spoken
- 23-Pronoun
- 24-Exclamation
- 25-Let it stand
- 27-Verve
- 30-Wife of Geraint
- 32-Cease
- 35-Fearful
- 37-God of love
- 38-Took one's part
- 39-Scottish cakes
- 41-Comfort
- 43-Surgical saw
- 44-Pronoun
- 46-Man's nickname
- 48-Food programs
- 51-City in Russia
- 53-Among
- 57-Greek letter (abbr.)
- 58-A continent (abbr.)
- 60-Inquire
- 62-Note of scale
- 64-A state (abbr.)

Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 8

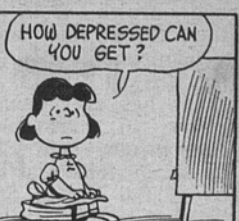
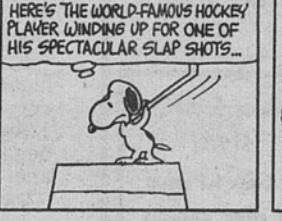
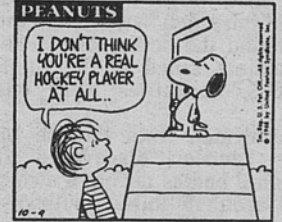
For Use In Authorized Service Newspapers Only.

Only 46 Days Till Christmas!
Have You Mailed Your Packages?

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz

5th Inf. Vs NVA; 232 Enemy Killed

SAIGON (MACV) — Elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), killed 232 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers recently and captured a huge quantity of weapons in the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone.

They were supported by helicopter gunships, artillery, tactical air strikes and naval gunfire.

During a sweep of the battle area after the engagement, the

troopers captured 242 individual weapons and 17 crew-served weapons. It was one of the largest quantities of weapons captured on a battlefield in any single engagement of the war.

In other recent action, troopers from the air cavalry squadron and infantrymen from the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division engaged on unknown size NVA force in an area 19 miles southwest of Pleiku City and killed 20 NVA soldiers.

In the action, an OH-6 light observation helicopter in support of the ground troops was hit by enemy ground fire and crashed in the same general vicinity. In the seven-hour battle, two U.S. soldiers were killed and five wounded.

South of Saigon, troopers from the air cavalry squadron and infantrymen from the 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, supported by U.S. Navy armored troop carriers and river patrol boats, killed 31 enemy soldiers in a clash six miles east of Can Giuoc. U.S. forces suffered two wounded.

In the air war, the weather over the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam continued to prevent accurate collection of bomb damage assessment. Low clouds remained over much of the area. U.S. aircrews flew through moderate antiaircraft fire while completing 125 missions in North Vietnam.

A Surface-to-Air Missile was fired during a Navy strike northwest of Vinh. The crew of an aircraft observed the missile as it detonated above the clouds.

In other recent air action, an Air Force F-105 Thunderchief was downed by enemy ground fire west of Dong Hoi. The pilot is listed as missing in action.

Ambassador...

(Continued From Page 1)
over the countryside.

"This will, in my judgment, be amply demonstrated over the next few months. Not only do almost 12 million people now live under conditions of relative security, but this number is increasing at a greater rate than at any previous time during my experience in Vietnam. Thus I leave with sober confidence, as in many other spheres, the GVN is gaining the upper hand in providing security and a better life for the people—the real meaning of pacification.

"Among the accomplishments of which I am proudest is in having helped to form the MACV CORDS team—an integrated civil-military advisory group drawn from all our armed forces and many civilian departments and agencies. They are as fine a group of men as has ever been brought together to perform a task unique in our country's history.

"I am grateful that the President of the United States has appointed as my successor the man best qualified to help the GVN in its accelerated pacification effort. Mr. Colby takes over a going concern, which he has already proved he knows how to run.

"But it bears repeating that we Americans only advise and assist in pacification. The results achieved over the last many months must be attributed primarily to the energy and determination of the GVN itself. Pacification has been from the outset the dedicated effort of hundreds of thousands of devoted Vietnamese soldiers and civilians—from the President himself down to the RD cadreman. Together they have made pacification and revolutionary development an ever more significant contribution to the viability of the GVN. This may not yet be evident to all Americans or even to many South Vietnamese, but I am convinced that it is well understood by Hanoi."



As a U.S. Navyman watches, North Vietnamese carry their belongings aboard the U.S.S. Dubuque.

Suffer Light Casualties

Prisoner Transfer Effected Without...

(Continued From Page 1)

Rear Admiral Paul L. Lacy Jr., Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Seventh Fleet/Commander Task Force 76 and commander of the repatriation operation briefed the senior officer among the prisoners. He informed Capt. Van Bao of the plan of operations and described the safety precautions taken

in behalf of the 14 prisoners. The boat was stocked with enough life jackets for everyone. Food and water were also put aboard.

Before being allowed to proceed to shore, the North Vietnamese crew was briefed on the use of the equipment on board by Capt. Bao and a team of U.S. Navy men.

The North Vietnamese crew was taken out in the boat and allowed to operate it to familiarize themselves with its capabilities. Then the boat was released by Admiral Lacey and proceeded toward land.

Ensign John C. Fisher, the boat officer of the whale boat, reported the prisoners "in good spirits."

Helicopters of Marine Helicopter Squadron 365, commanded by Maj. J. J. Harrison, accompanied the boat to within three miles of shore and remained in that vicinity until the whale boat successfully navigated through the surf.

If unforeseeable trouble had been encountered, the helicopters were standing by to pick up the North Vietnamese and return them to the Dubuque. Captain Bao assured Admiral Lacey that he was satisfied with the arrangements and that he was capable of operating the boat and landing the men safely.

Admiral Lacey, from his helicopter, observed the final approach of the whale boat to North Vietnam. He watched the prisoners beach at the mouth of the Cua Sot River on the northern shore, 19 miles southeast of Vinh. No Vietnamese craft of any kind were seen during the operation.

U. S. Forces Kill 97 Enemy

SAIGON (MACV) — In scattered actions, U.S. forces recently killed 97 enemy while taking light losses, according to a MACV communique.

Helicopter gunships from the 12th Combat Aviation Group reported killing 18 enemy soldiers in an engagement with an estimated platoon, seven miles east of Dau Tieng, the communique said. There were no U.S. casualties.

Earlier the same day, helicopter gunships observed and engaged an enemy force of unknown size. An element of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, was air assaulted into the area seven miles northeast of Trang Bang, and immediately engaged the enemy. They were

supported by Air Force tactical aircraft from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing. The action raged for 30 minutes.

The enemy then withdrew and the infantrymen sweeping the area found the bodies of 11 enemy soldiers killed in the fighting. U.S. casualties were one killed.

Infantrymen from the 4th Infantry Division discovered 17 additional bodies during a sweep of an area 19 miles southwest

Coast Guard Pounds VC

SAIGON (USN) — Gunfire from the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Point Arden recently killed 19 Viet Cong in Quang Tri Province, 85 miles northwest of Da Nang.

Enemy casualties were the highest caused by any coastal surveillance force unit since the Navy's Operation Market Time began more than three years ago.

The cutter was on a routine coastal surveillance patrol near the Demilitarized Zone when an urgent call came from units of the 3rd Marine Division for naval gunfire support.

Pt. Arden silenced the enemy positions with 81mm mortar and .50 caliber machine gun fire as the Marines withdrew from the area.

There were no U.S. casualties during the mission.

of Pleiku City where a battle had taken place the previous day. This raised the total to 37 enemy killed for the engagement. Also, a significant quantity of enemy weapons, equipment and ammunition was found scattered around the vicinity of the action. U.S. forces lost two killed and five wounded.

To the south in IV Corps, U.S. forces lost two killed and three wounded, while killing 13 enemy in recent action northwest of Ben Tre.

A Combined Action Platoon, made up of U.S. Marines and Popular Force (PF) troops, killed 14 enemy in an hour-long battle four miles northeast of Tam Ky.

U.S. and PF casualties in the engagement were light.



Released North Vietnamese head for their homeland.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

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

TO:

ARVN Battalions Win U.S. Awards



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 28

Saigon, Vietnam

November 15, 1968

U.S. Navy 'Sea Lords' Under Sail

SAIGON (USN) — The U.S. Navy recently announced a new offensive effort tabbed "Operation Sea Lords." It is designed to interdict enemy infiltration deep in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

The operation brings together for the first time, the Navy's three major operating forces in Vietnam for a series of interdiction, raider and increased patrol efforts in hitherto seldom-touched areas south and southwest of Saigon.

Sea Lords began in mid-October with the first of a series of "Swift" boat incursions deep into enemy-controlled canals and rivers flowing into the Gulf of Thailand. The thrust resulted in the destruction of 359 enemy watercraft, 411 structures and three enemy killed.

A total of seven Navy men were wounded in the actions.

The Swift boats were supported by U.S. Coast Guard patrol boats, high endurance cutters and a U.S. Navy Market Time LST.

In more recent action, Mobile Riverine Force gunboats, ARVN soldiers and Vietnamese Marines, assaulted the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen Canal.

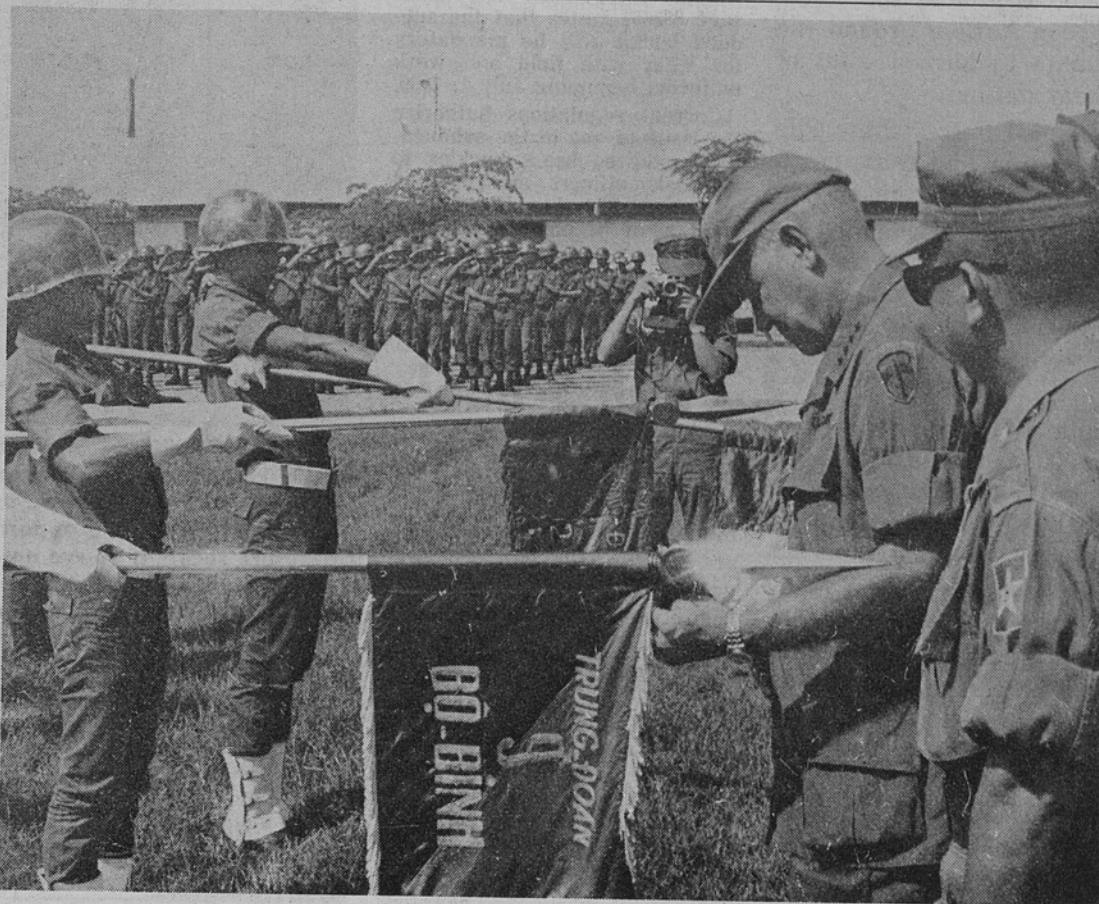
The first landings took place on the 35-mile-long canal when units of the Navy's River Assault Flotilla One inserted troops of the Fourth Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps, on both banks of the canal.

The landing was in Kien Giang Province, 100 miles southwest of Saigon. Vietnamese Marine casualties were light during the assault.

(Continued on Back Page)



Space Available
Mail Days Left



A streamer representing the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the 2nd Battalion, 9th Regiment, 5th Infantry Division is attached to the guidon by General Creighton W. Abrams. The ARVN unit was cited for heroism against enemy forces near Tan Rung, Binh Long Province, July 11, 1967. (MACV PHOTO By: Sgt. E. J. Sargent)

Joint General Staff Chief

Legion Of Merit To Gen. Vien

SAIGON (MACV) — General Cao Van Vien, Chief of the Joint General Staff, Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam, was recently presented the U.S. Legion of Merit, Degree of Commander. General Creighton W. Abrams, Commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, made the presentation during ceremonies at the Joint General Staff Compound in Saigon.

The Medal was presented "For outstanding meritorious service as Chief, Joint General Staff, Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam, Oct. 14, 1965, to Nov. 1, 1968 (and concurrently as Minister of Nation-

al Defense from Jan. 28, 1967 to Nov. 15, 1967)."

The citation accompanying the award continues:

"Assuming these heavy responsibilities during a period of intense conflict and grave national peril, General Vien exercised a dominant role in reversing the then discouraging trend of the war. He immediately implemented imaginative and far-reaching programs to increase the effectiveness of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

"Demonstrating the highest order of professional skill as a planner, trainer and tactical commander, he supervised the modernization of the Republic

of Vietnam Armed Forces, directed the initiation of effective military training programs to improve both the level of training as well as military leadership at all echelons; instituted vast improvements in living standards and welfare programs for the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, while continuing to demonstrate forceful and aggressive leadership in directing the battle against the communist aggressors.

"The results of his unwavering efforts were never more in evidence than during Tet and May 1968, when the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam, under his able leader-

(Continued on Back Page)

Officer Has Only 'Repatriated Wallet' In VN

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — A forward observer from the 101st Airborne Division recently recovered his wallet which he lost eight months ago and 65 miles away.

Lieutenant David Nebel, now a fire direction officer with the 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Artillery, was serving with the infantry in March when he and his wallet became separated.

His company was involved in a heavy firefight near the village of Song Be, along the

Cambodian border, when Lieutenant Nebel was hit by the concussion of an enemy mortar round. "The explosion literally blew my trousers off as I was thrown down," the lieutenant said.

He was able to crawl away, but left his pants behind. He gladly wrote the loss off as the price to pay for not being seriously injured.

Almost eight months later, Specialist 4 Robert Agnew was leading a reconnaissance patrol

near Trang Lap, 70 miles from Song Be.

The patrol was approaching a jungle thicket when it was hit by sniper fire. Infantry reinforcements were called forward to sweep the area. After the sweep, the troopers found the sniping had come from a small tunnel complex. Four men with flashlights disappeared underground.

Inside the enemy stronghold, they uncovered numerous Viet Cong documents and gear. One

trooper brought up what he thought was a diary. Specialist Agnew opened the bulky diary and the wallet fell out.

"Inside was a driver's license," said the specialist. "I couldn't think of anything Charlie would be driving out there, so I looked closer and spotted Lieutenant Nebel's name."

Now, the lieutenant is at Camp Eagle and carries in his pocket what he claims is "the only repatriated wallet in Vietnam."

SAIGON (MACV) — Two Republic of Vietnam Army (ARVN) battalions were recently awarded high U.S. decorations for outstanding performance of duty and heroism in action against enemy forces.

In ceremonies at Lam Sam, General Creighton W. Abrams, Commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, presented the Presidential Unit Citation to the 2nd Battalion of the 9th Regiment, 5th Infantry Division.

Later the same day, the general presented the Valorous Unit Award to the 1st Battalion of the 52nd Infantry Regiment, 18th Infantry Division. The ceremonies took place at Xuan Loc.

The 2nd Battalion of the 9th Regiment was cited for action against a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment, near Tan Rung, in Binh Long Province, July 11, 1967.

The ARVN troopers, engaged in the defense of a pacification project of the Revolutionary Development Program, repulsed a full-scale attack on their defensive positions by the NVA attackers. They killed or captured 170 enemy soldiers in the action.

Shortly after 2 a.m., the NVA (Continued on Back Page)

SP4 Turns 'Birdman'

AN KHE (USA) — Reaching over the slumped body of an injured pilot, a helicopter crew chief with no flight training grabbed the controls of a light observation chopper and averted a crash during a recent mission with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Specialist 4 Gary Poland was crew chief on a recon mission 20 miles north of Qui Nhon when his chopper began receiving fire.

He quickly began returning fire. Then turning, he saw the pilot had just been hit.

"We started into a dive," said Specialist Poland, "and the pilot blacked out." Moving into the seat beside the pilot, the specialist began manipulating the controls.

When the pilot regained consciousness, he took over control of the chopper, which was heading into a valley, and guided it into a forced landing.

The pilot was evacuated while Specialist Poland remained with the helicopter until a relief pilot from Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment was brought in to fly it back.

"It wasn't that difficult," Specialist Poland grinned.

Editorial

Informed GIs

American military personnel are the best informed fighting forces in history.

Every day, every week, every month throughout the year thousands of daily, weekly and monthly newspapers and other publications are made available to our forces all over the world. In the Republic of Vietnam alone over a hundred newspapers and more than 20 magazines produced and published by unit information offices are available to our forces.

Every hour of the day and night in the year, Armed Forces Radio and Television Service-Washington transmits radio news reports to our forces around the globe. There are 303 radio and 65 television stations around the world. In Vietnam we are fortunate to have a total of six-television stations and five radio stations.

Every week 2,500 copies of Armed Forces Press File are sent to all military newspapers, east and west, north and south, for their use in publication for their readers.

Every week AFPS sends out 106,000 Commanders' Digests to newspapers, radio stations, all generals and admirals and other commanding personnel around the world for dissemination to troops. This gives policy and concept from the seat of government—that the military may know.

Personnel who put out military news publications sometimes do it under trying conditions in the field—but they get the news to the troops. Both the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes have tremendous circulation problems, but they get the job done.

In recognition of the splendid work the various news media staffs do in the field, the Thomas Jefferson Awards will be made for work done this year. Next May awards will be made to deserving personnel in ceremonies at Williamsburg, Virginia.

These components of information form a keystone block in Freedoms Foundation for Americans.

Until fairly recently in our history, information for fighting men was in the category of "take that hill" or "blockade that ship." And that was all.

Today the fighting men not only know what hill to take or what ship to cut off—they know why!

That's freedom—freedom to know what's going on, through the efforts of American military news media. (AFPS)

Service Bar Criteria Explained

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Army has expanded criteria for wearing the overseas service bar to include recent tours in Korea.

The small, gold-colored overseas service bar is worn on the right sleeve of the Army Green coat for specific areas and periods of service in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. Each bar denotes six months of service with the Army.

Credit towards an overseas service bar now is authorized for each month of service in the designated hostile fire area in Korea since April 1, 1968, according to DA Message 82793.

Hostile fire pay in Korea is paid to U.S. servicemen on duty

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

★ ★ ★
Army Buckles Lackluster

WASHINGTON — A black, open-face belt buckle has been authorized for wear on all U.S. Army field and work clothing.

Department of the Army Message 883664 states that the subdued buckle will be mandatory for wear with field and work uniforms beginning July 1, 1969.

Current regulations authorize the issue of one of the subdued, black-oxidized brass buckles to all male officers and enlisted personnel. The buckle may be worn as it becomes available.

The message states that individuals will not be required to purchase the buckle with personal funds.

High School Aid For Vets

WASHINGTON — If you haven't finished high school and are worried about depleting your GI Bill college entitlement before you get to college, forget it.

Last year Congress passed a law that permits you to receive a Veterans Administration educational assistance allowance, which amounts to \$130 a month for a single veteran in full-time training, while you complete high school. However, the best part is, it won't be charged against your full entitlement to college level training under the GI Bill. (AD)



SUMPTUOUS, SECURE SOMMER—Yes, with assets like that, Miss Elke Sommer doesn't have to worry too much about her financial future. However, unless you have similar assets you're missing a good opportunity to help make your financial future secure if you're not investing in the new "Freedoms Shares" or "Savings Bonds." On the other hand, if you do have assets like Miss Sommer, we recommend an immediate curtailment of tour because you are in danger. (PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES CORPORATION)



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

The theater is quite popular among the Vietnamese. According to most authorities, there are three types of Vietnamese dramas: the Hat Boi, the Cai Luong, and the Kich.

The Hat Boi

The Hat Boi is the traditional theater in Vietnam. Its origins are to be found in China rather than Vietnam. Hat Boi came to Vietnam with the Chinese occupation of the Red River area. Today, the Chinese characteristics have almost completely disappeared from the Hat Boi. What remains is a theater uniquely Vietnamese.

During the early years of the Hat Boi in Vietnam the actors were held in low esteem by most people. Actors were not allowed to take the examinations which were given to people competing for places in the Confucian Mandarinate, Emperor Tu Duc supposedly said, "Actors do not belong to the human kind." With the passage of time this idea, too, passed.

Today actors are well-known and idolized by many Vietnamese.

In keeping with the Confucian doctrine of simplicity, the Hat Boi stage is kept simple. Scenery, lighting, and curtains are not used. Props, if used, carry symbolic meanings. Costumes, on the other hand are both elaborate and expensive.

Although some Vietnamese maintain that modern drama is a threat to Hat Boi, this traditional art continues to be performed and enjoyed in Vietnam. NEXT WEEK: Cai Luong and Kich—two types of modern drama.

We seek an honorable settlement, one which will protect the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people.

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. AMBASSADOR

Joint Force Batters Enemy

SAIGON (USN) — A combined U.S. Navy, Coast Guard and Vietnamese Air Force task force recently staged a surprise raid on enemy positions along the entire length of a 32-mile-long river complex near the southernmost tip of South Vietnam.

During the five-hour battle which followed, a total of 242 enemy watercraft, 167 enemy fortifications and one recoilless rifle emplacement were destroyed or damaged by the combined force of seven Navy "Swift" boats (PCFs), the Coast Guard cutter Wachusett, the Market Time support ship USS Washoe County (LST-1165) and Vietnamese Air Force A-1 Sky-raidiers.

Five Swift boat crewmen were wounded, one of them seriously. Enemy casualties were unknown.

The action took place along the Cua Lon-Bo De River complex which forms a 32-mile-long strait separating the southernmost portion of An Xuyen Province from the rest of South Vietnam.

The action began at approximately 7:30 a.m. when PCFs 28, 32, and 103 sped into the river complex from the east and PCFs, 3, 50, 36 and 94 entered from the west.

With the USS Washoe County providing naval gunfire support off the east coast and the Coast Guard cutter Wachusett firing from the western coast, the two

groups of Swift boats raced up the river towards their rendezvous point. Vietnamese Air Force A-1 Skyraiders provided air cover.

Less than 15 minutes after PCFs 28, 32 and 103 made their eastern entrance, they came under heavy automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire from both banks of the river. All three of the boats were hit, but the enemy fire was returned and suppressed. One PCF crewman was wounded and was later transferred to another Swift boat for evacuation from the area.

The seven Swift boats rendezvoused in mid-river where the wounded crewman was transferred to PCF-94. PCF-50 and 94 then returned to the west, taking the wounded crewman to the medical facility on board the cutter Wachusett.

PCFs 3 and 36 then joined up with PCFs 28, 32 and 103 to make the return transit to the east.

As the five-boat armada was approaching the eastern river entrance, they again came under enemy fire which was returned and suppressed with unknown results. Four more Swift boat crewmen were slightly wounded. The boats received minor damage.

The combined, five-hour operation resulted in 242 enemy watercraft and 167 enemy fortifications destroyed or damaged. Enemy casualties were unknown.

Air Force Officers Rescued By Huey

CU CHI (USA) — The crew of a UHID helicopter rescued two grounded Air Force aviators only 15 minutes after their RB57 photo reconnaissance plane crashed approximately 15 miles east of Dau Tieng.

Air Force Major James W. Johnston, pilot of the unarmed recon aircraft, said that one of its two engines developed trouble and the plane went out of control. "It went into a starboard roll," he said. "The craft was inverted when we ejected."

The major and his navigator, Major Philip N. Walker, radioed a distress signal before they bailed out at 5,000 feet. The two majors were on a photo mission for Detachment 1 of the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing when the trouble occurred.

Major Johnston landed in waist-deep water in a rice paddy approximately 200-300 meters from Major Walker. He sloshed through six more paddies, trying to get away from his bright red and white chute.

Noticing an O-1 Bird Dog light scout plane circling the area, Major Johnston tried to raise radio contact. His portable radio refused to operate. He was finally able to signal the scout plane with a mirror contained in his survival kit. Major Walker gave the same signal from his position near thick underbrush at the edge of a river in which he had landed.

Meanwhile, First Lieutenant John H. Webb, commander of the helicopter which was to perform the rescue, and his crew were flying a routine general support mission from Tay Ninh to an area southeast of Dau Tieng. There were five passengers aboard and according to Lieutenant Webb, "Our ship was almost at gross weight."

At 11:30 a.m., they received the recon crew's distress signal. Lieutenant Webb quickly plotted the coordinates of the downed plane.

Within ten minutes after the distress signal was heard, Webb and his Huey were in the rescue area. He spotted Major Johnston's brightly-colored parachute on the rice paddy and then sighted a smoke signal nearby.

Knowing that his chopper would not hover over the water with its heavy load, Lieutenant Webb flew his passengers to a dry clearing in the area where they disembarked and set up a perimeter.

The Huey returned to the downed men and moved in to pick them up. Major Johnston was the first to be rescued. When he had his equipment aboard, they went for Major Walker.

The Huey picked up its original five passengers and flew to Cu Chi where the two Air Force officers were disembarked.



SILVER STAR
McCoy, Frederick W. Jr. CPT USA

Nolen, James T. MAJ USA
O'Brien, Erin S. MAJ USA
BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Garman, Steve Jr. SFC USA */2
Hall, Donald E. MAJ USA
Hanke, James A. 1LT USA
Hawthorne, Wilbur G. SFC USA
Hitchcock, Robert J. 1LT USA
Holland, Eugene CPT USA */2
McCarthy, Dale B. CPT USA
Peyton, Richard A. 1LT USA
Thompson, John P. SFC USA
Tollison, Billy SFC USA

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE
Dugan, Charles S. MAJ USA
Gilmore, Ralph J. MAJ USA

Harris, David H. MAJ USA
Maertens, George K. COL USA

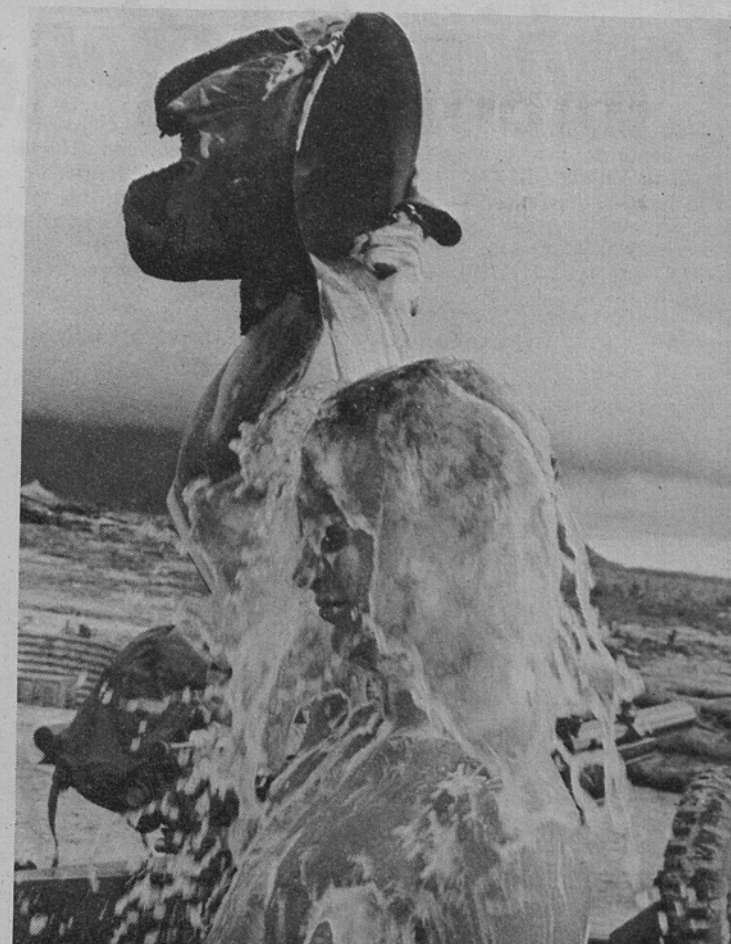
*/4
Mantia, Robert S. 1LT USA

ARMY
COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Antoniu, Robert P. CPT USA
Buck, Robert L. 1LT USA
Caraballo, Ruben SGT USA */1
Cook, Michael E. PFC USA
Davisworth, Norman R. PFC USA

Garris, Bobby G. SSG USA */1
Garvey, James G. MAJ USA
Howlett, William O. SFC USA
Knight, Billy SSG USA
Miller, Richard A. SSG USA
O'Donnell, William H. SGT USA

*/ denote oak leaf clusters



SHOWER POWER—When B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery moved its 105mm howitzers to Buell III near Tay Ninh, there was little time for the cannoneers to shower between building bunkers during the day and firing all night. It seems that Corporal Robert Newcombe has solved the problem with a steel helmet and a long arm. (USA PHOTO)

'Reconmen' Sign For Damage

DA NANG (USMC) — A 1st Reconnaissance Battalion insert team recently added insult to injury when they left a sign saying "Recon Was Here" near an NVA bunker complex they had destroyed recently.

The team was operating deep in NVA territory southwest of here when the recon Marines spotted signs of enemy troops in the area. "We came upon a well-used trail and the brush nearby was matted down," said Sergeant S. N. Farris, the team leader.

Enemy Camp

They followed the trail up an embankment and came upon a cluster of seven well-constructed huts which proved to be an NVA base camp.

"We didn't see any people at first," said Private First Class D. M. Hodge, "but there were plenty of livestock and domestic animals around."

Under the huts was a tunnel complex leading to a bunker approximately six feet square.

NVA Attack

An old woman was found in one of the tunnels. The team persuaded her to leave the underground passageway. As they were leading her from the tunnel, the group was hit with automatic weapons fire and a grenade from a nearby treeline. They returned the fire and the attackers fled.

Supplies Found

A search of the platoon-sized base camp yielded approximately 500 pounds of food and a large supply of tobacco.

The leathernecks discovered khaki uniforms and a supply of medical gear, including a large quantity of insulin, in a search of the bunker. They also found four enemy weapons.

Spring Ambush

The insert team destroyed the bunker, then moved approximately 400 meters away and set up an ambush. They surprised a group of eight NVA soldiers and opened fire. When the firefight was over, the Marines searched the area and found

several blood trails, two packs containing mortar rounds and grenades and some documents.

The team returned to the camp and erected a sign bearing a big, black ace of spades and the message: "Recon Was Here."

The next morning, the team

scouted the base camp again. They found that their sign had been turned around and several Vietnamese words had been scrawled upon the other side.

"We couldn't read the return message," said Private First Class T. J. Sales, the team point man, "but it sure looked nasty."

Christmas Mailing Tips



PRIORITIES OF MAIL SENT FROM VIETNAM—All items marked AIR MAIL and bearing airmail postage receive first priority. Military official letters and parcels marked FIRST CLASS, SPECIAL HANDLING receive second priority. SAM — Space Available Mail under five pounds — receives third priority for air transportation. PAL — packages sent by Parcel Airlift weighing five to 30 pounds — are marked PAL and are also included in the Space Available category and do not require airmail postage. However, a \$1 PAL fee must be paid to receive this service. All other mail is sent on the first available surface transportation.



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the Armed Forces Press Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO 96222. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

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Combined Action Nets Progress For Village

LONG BINH (USA) — Progress remains the byword of Buu Long Village.

The inhabitants turned out en masse recently to dedicate a modern market place.

From the village's outskirts came the clink of small hammers turning huge boulders into pebbles. This is the prosperous gravel and cement industry, owned and operated by entire families — grandparents through grandchildren.

Explosions are commonplace. They are dynamite charges, breaking up bedrock in the cavernous pits. Trucks deliver the stone to women and girls who begin the task of demolishing the huge slabs.

Buu Long, 15 miles northeast of Saigon, is fortunate in many respects. Considered an upper-middle class income area, quite rich by usual standards, the village rests on the banks of the Dong Hai River — the most important inland waterway in all of Bien Hoa Province. The Dong Hai serves as an invaluable transportation route for Buu Long's numerous exports.

The new market place is snuggled in the village square and affords easy access to the river. It is a product of the Government of Vietnam and the American assistance program.

Seeing that the old market place had outlived its usefulness, the villagers went to village chief Lam Liem for aid. Liem, in turn, sought help from

Captain Nguyen Van Hai, Duc Tu District Chief and David Brown, CORDS Senior Advisor.

Mr. Liem epitomizes the village's hard work and perseverance. Village chief for five years, he was the object of an assassination attempt a month before the Tet attacks. The Viet Cong, who realized that Mr. Liem's death would mean control of his people, were thwarted when he fought off his assailants. Today, Liem bears deep scars on his head and shoulders which testify to the ferocity of the Viet Cong attacks.

Captain Hai, a native of Bien Hoa, experienced a homecoming with his appointment as district chief three months ago. A veteran of 17 years military service, the last eight years with the ARVN Rangers, Captain Hai utilized the 56th Regional Force Battalion for civic action, the chief weapon in winning the home area.

David Brown is currently in his fourth year of civilian service in Vietnam. After spending 36 months as a Saigon embassy officer and regional political officer, he volunteered for another year "to work at the cutting edge or local level."

U.S. military assistance came from II Field Force. Major Warren W. Buckingham, executive officer of the 2nd Civil Affairs Company in Long Binh, turned to Lieutenant Ruhl W. Russell of the 16th Platoon for additional help.

Lieutenant Russell, liaison between advisors in villages, hamlets, the district and the military, worked hand-in-hand with the 57th Regional Force Battalion and MACV Advisory Team No. 98.

The atmosphere in the area of Buu Long School is one of sharp contrasts. Inside the classrooms, one hears young

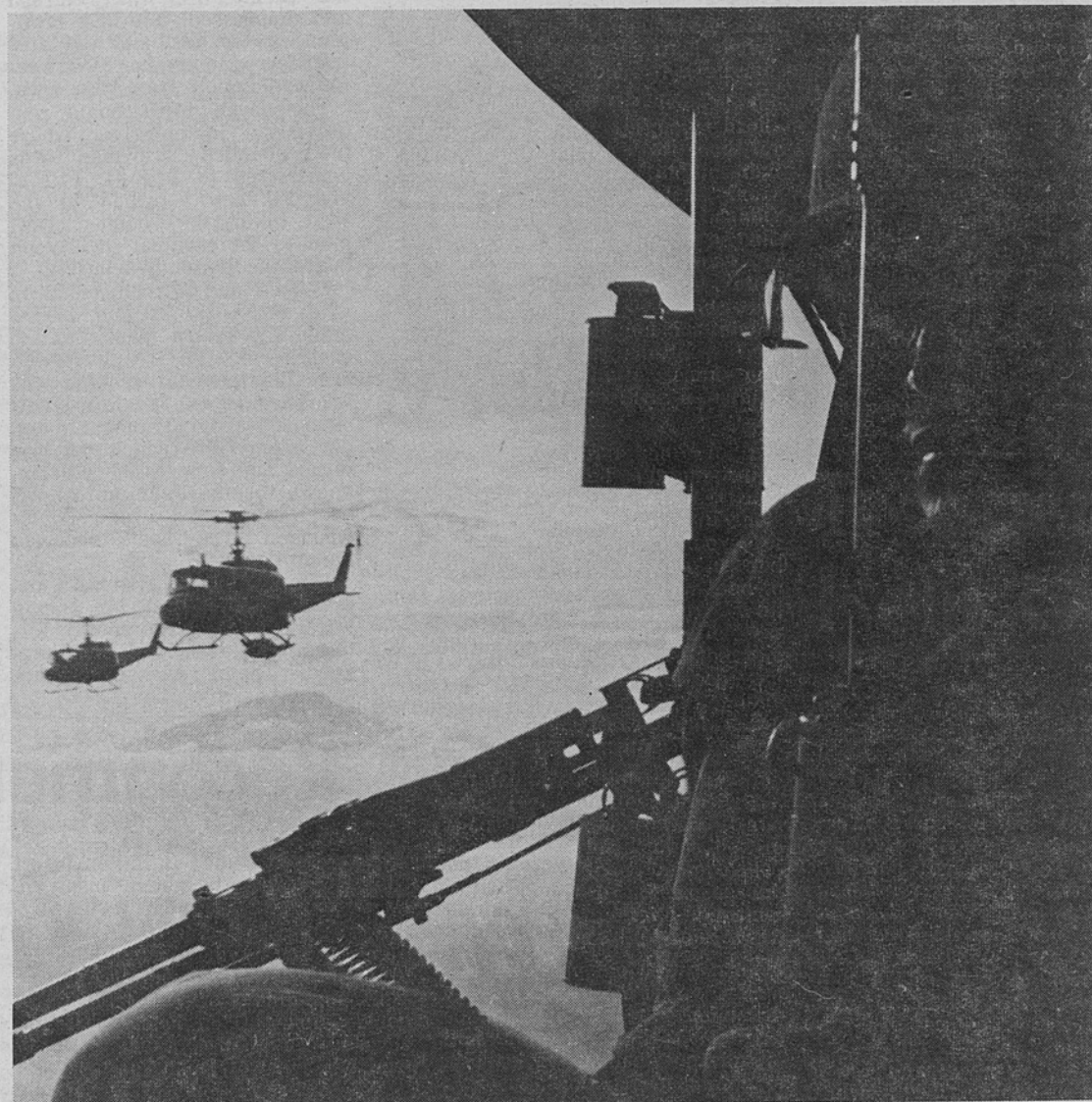
voices chanting the Vietnamese alphabet in rhythmic fashion: a . . . be . . . c . . . de . . . e, or the numerals, mot . . . hai . . .

Outside, the children's recitation is punctuated by the crescendo of rifle fire from the ARVN Basic Training Center. A thin stretch of barbed wire separates the two educational facilities.

Well over half of Buu Long's

2,909 inhabitants are under the age of 18. It is clear that education is paramount in the village's plan.

Buu Long, with its 257 acres and 500 homes, is the perfect example of what many communities strive for, but seldom achieve. It is the culmination of a three-pronged assault by the village itself, government forces and the U.S. military.



GOING IN—Choppers carry troops of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry on a combat assault into "Charlie" country. In the background, 3,200-foot Nui Ba Den mountain juts through the clouds. (USA PHOTO)

Rescuers Save Pilot Downed In North Vietnamese Jungle

TAN SON NHUT (USAF) — "The weather was terrible. We were really lucky to make the pickup."

This was the way Lieutenant

Colonel Royal A. Brown, the rescue commander from Detachment 1, 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (MAC), described a recent early morning rescue over North Vietnam.

Plane Hit

Colonel Brown and his crew picked up First Lieutenant Darrell L. Richardson, an F-4 Phantom pilot from the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Da Nang Air Base.

Lieutenant Richardson's plane was hit by antiaircraft fire southwest of Dong Hoi in North Vietnam. He bailed out of the aircraft and landed in a double canopy jungle 30 feet above the ground.

The plane went down at 10 p.m. "Jolly Green" rescue helicopters were scrambling early the following morning.

Four "Sandys" from the 602nd Special Operations Squadron flew over and the "Crown" C-130P from the 39th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron (MAC) at Tuy Hoa Air Base controlled the recovery.

"Finding the pilot was a real problem," said Colonel Brown.

"The weather was so bad, we were actually hovering in the clouds. The ceiling was about 150 feet with less than a half a mile visibility. We could see the pilot from the side but not from directly above because of the trees."

Master Sergeant Lee R. Maples, flight director, let the penetrator down, but it did not get near the pilot because of the trees.

"We had to send Airman First Class Barry D. Herbert, the pararescue specialist, down with the penetrator," Captain Robert Heron Jr., the co-pilot, noted.

Feels Great

Airman Herbert rode the penetrator down and directed the helicopter over the pilot by radio and instructed the hoist operator to put him below the downed pilot.

Airman Herbert slid Lieutenant Richardson onto the penetrator, then cut him from the chute. They were then lifted into the helicopter.

"My eyes are messed up. My shoulder is messed up. My knee is messed up. But I feel great," the thankful Lieutenant Richardson said.

Bronco And Bird Dog Deadly Duo

BIEN HOA (MACV) — A harsh late morning sun reflected from the silver OV-10 "Bronco" as it roared off the runway here and punched through the light overcast. Moments later, a slower single-engine O1-E "Bird Dog" lifted from the concrete strip and soon became a speck in the sky. U.S. Air Force Forward Air Controllers (FACs) were at the controls of the dissimilar aircraft.

In the twin-engine, twin-tailed Bronco was Captain Larry Jones, on a Visual Reconnaissance mission, heading toward the "Pineapple Area."

In his Bird Dog, Captain Pratt Ashworth circled slowly, scanning the area below him. He was approximately 10 miles north of Bien Hoa. On the ground, a canine team had been eluded by Viet Cong they had been trailing. They were near an enemy base camp and the team leader suspected that the elusive enemy was headed there.

Captain Ashworth received instructions to check out the enemy base camp. After doing so, the captain requested approval for a tactical air strike.

Shortly, the O1-E FAC spotted two sleek F-100 Supersabres at 2 o'clock. They would provide the air strikes. Flying low and slowly over the target, the Bird Dog went into a rocket pass and recoiled slightly as the white phosphorous smoke rocket whumped from pods under the wing, marking the target below.

Captain Ashworth pulled his aircraft up and away. The camouflaged F-100s, difficult to spot as they swooped to the attack, released 750-pound bombs on the target marked by the smoke.

After the attack, Captain Ashworth flew over the area to make a Bomb Damage Assessment. Pulling up and circling, he then put another smoke rocket on the target.

The Supersabres swung in again for their bombing runs.

Back over the area after they had finished, Captain Ashworth saw numerous bunkers and trenches demolished below. The attack had been effective.

As they started a sweep of the area below, an infantryman radioed the aircraft. "Thanks a lot," he said, "you guys do good work."

Meanwhile, back in the "Pineapple Area," Captain Jones checked out the familiar terrain. Like all FACs, he knew the ground below almost as well as he knew the block he grew up on back in his hometown.

If there was anything changed in the landscape, he would spot it immediately. Below him, he watched a flight of six helicopters insert infantrymen into an area crisscrossed by canals. The terrain resembled a lunar

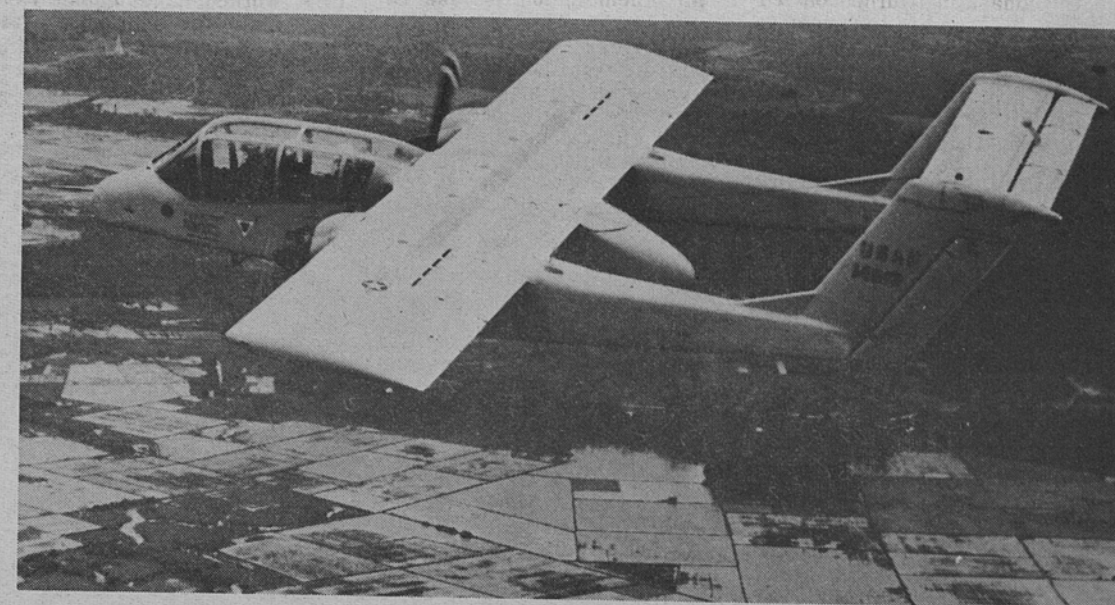
sea, pockmarked by heavy B-52 Stratofortress strikes.

He banked to the east and continued his Visual Reconnaissance mission. It would be a routine day.

Some three hours after they had left the Bien Hoa runway, the two small birds were settling back down, back home to roost.

The FACs, perspiring and tired, walked to the Survival Equipment hooch to turn in their gear. For Captain Ashworth it was the end of a second three-hour mission that day. The pilots then headed off for a cold drink, a hot shower and a meal — just like any breadwinners, home after a hard day at the office.

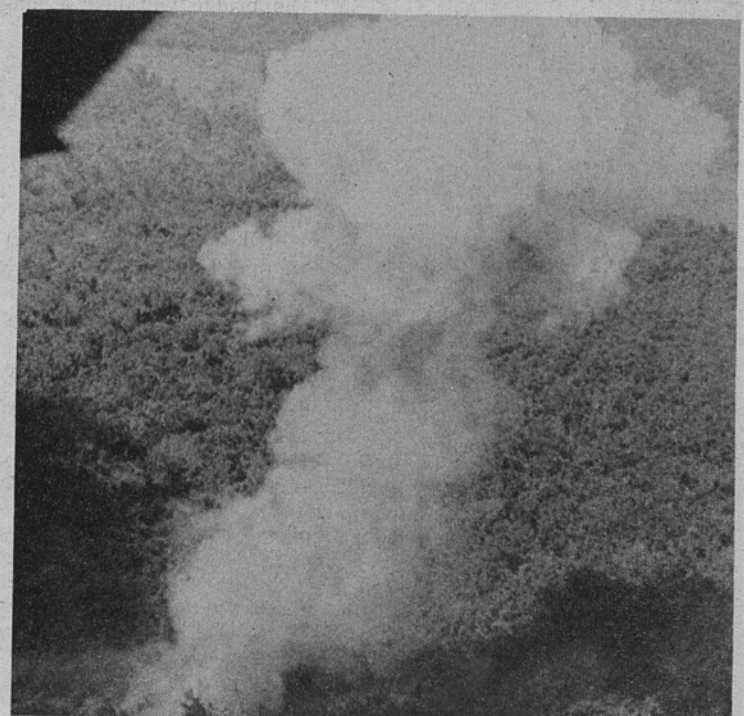
Story & Photos
By
SFC Dennis Perez (USA),
TSgt. Jerry Fears (USAF),
and **USAF**



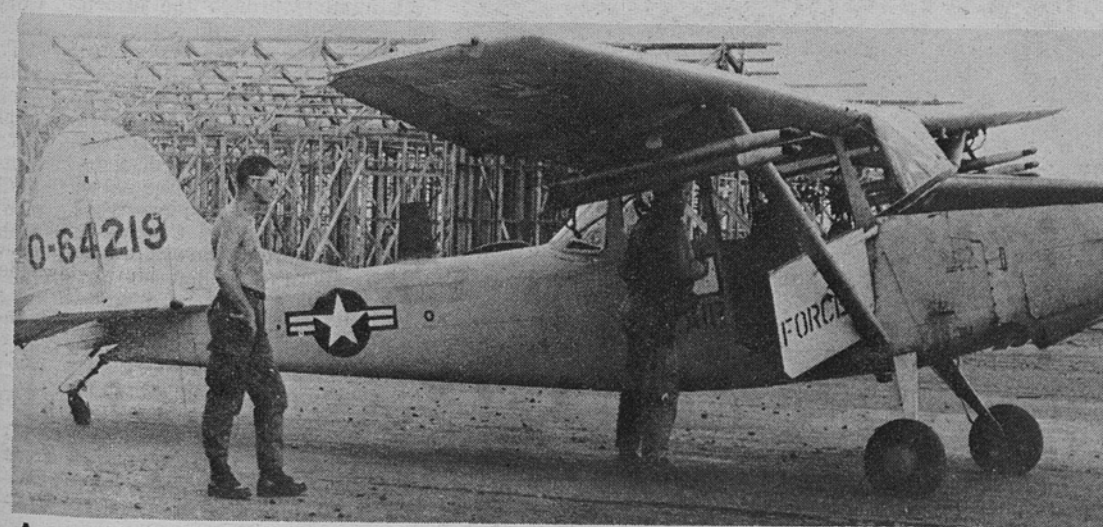
An OV-10 "Bronco" streaks over rice paddies looking for signs of enemy activity.



Captain Ashworth checks his rocket pods before taking off.



Clouds billow from an enemy bunker area after an air strike.



A ground crewman stands by as Captain Ashworth prepares to take his O-1E "Bird Dog" up

Smoke from a white phosphorous rocket marks a target.

Steel, Friendship Build New Bridge

BAN ME THUOT (USA) — Two bridges, one of steel and one of friendship, were built near here when American and Vietnamese joined forces.

For most of the year, people had been able to wade across the tiny river 42 miles east of here. However, the monsoon rains had washed away the drainage culverts and turned the tiny stream into a raging river.

First Lieutenant Clifford Burnstein and Platoon Sergeant Randolph Jones were flown into the 4th Infantry Division area of operation to supervise the construction of a permanent bridge.

Both Lieutenant Burnstein and Sergeant Jones are members of the 509th Engineer Panel Bridge Company.

Men from the 23rd Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division and the 70th Engineer Brigade worked together on the project.

Bridge Material

Material for the bridge was supplied by the 23rd ARVN Division Engineers.

The assortment of panels, transoms, pins and other material appeared like a giant erector set spread out before the men.

Consulting with other ARVN and American officers, Lieutenant Burnstein calculated the exact launching and landing points for the 80-foot panel bridge.

"The ARVN officers and NCOs knew what they were doing," Lieutenant Burnstein said.

Work At Night

Huge sections of steel, weighing almost 600 pounds, were moved into place by use of manpower alone.

The work had barely begun when darkness set in.

The engineers continued, working by lights from the

truck's head lamps. As the call for more panels were shouted, the engineers worked faster.

Americans and Vietnamese often could be seen working shoulder to shoulder as the bridge took shape.

As the engineers worked, Vietnamese and American troops provided security for the construction site.

Slowly the bridge inched its way across the river.

The morning sun brought not only welcome light, but an ARVN convoy, eager to cross the new bridge.

Final adjustments were made. The engineers stepped back, and the convoy rumbled across.

Watching the product of their efforts, the engineers smiled. "The bridge will last a long time," one said proudly.

Christmas Calls Home Provided Servicemen

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense will cooperate again this year with the Communications Workers of America (CWA), AFL-CIO, in administering the 12th annual "Hi-Mom" Christmas telephone call program.

The program provides free telephone calls from certain overseas servicemen to their families in the United States. Priority this year will be given to calls from patients in military hospitals outside the continental United States.

The number of calls in this year's program is expected to exceed the more than 4,000 calls made last Christmas sea-

son. Servicemen stationed in Vietnam and other areas of Southeast Asia will be included in the program.

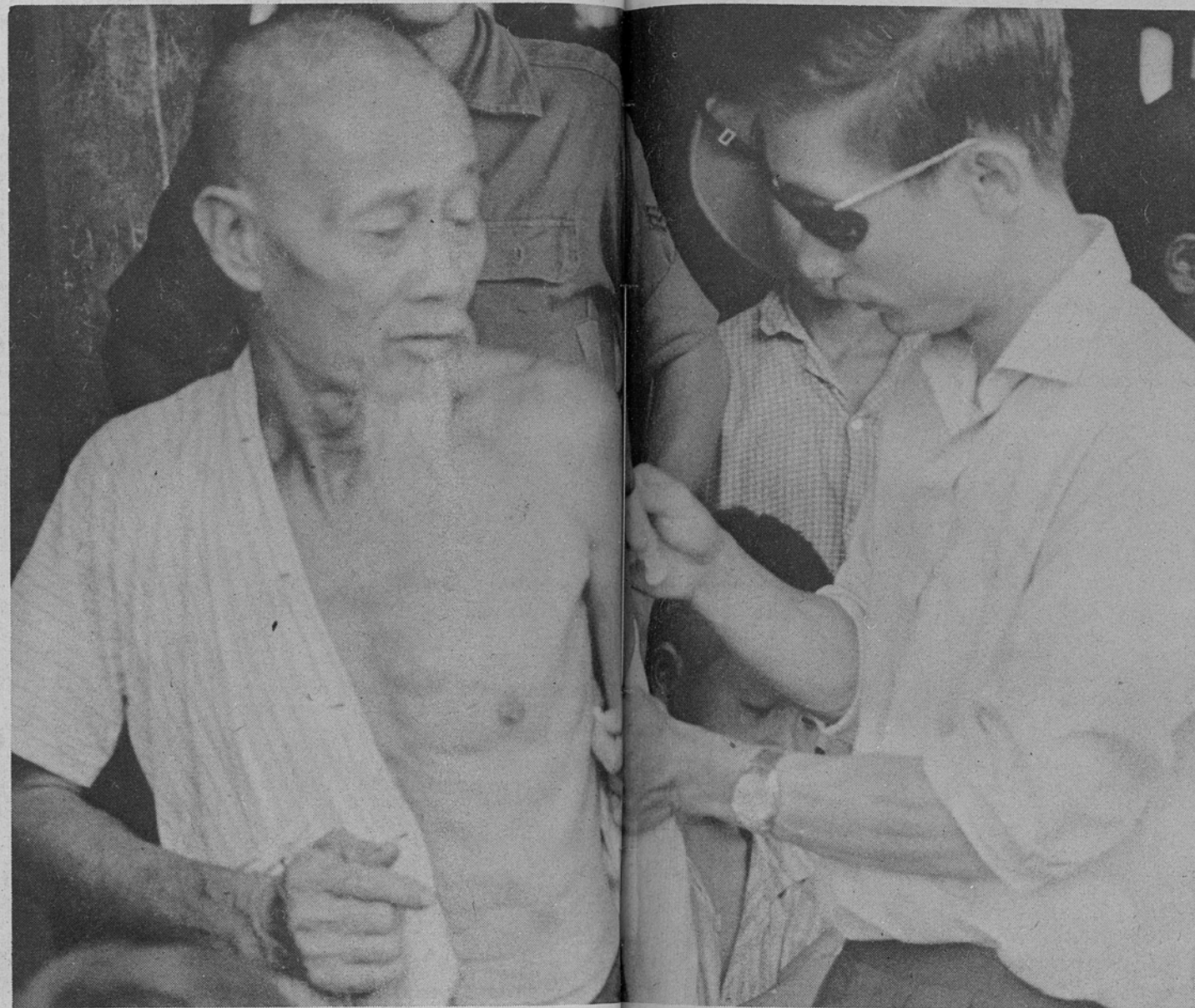
As in other years, the calls will be arranged in two ways. The family of a serviceman or woman may be contacted by a local union of the CWA. The family then will have the serviceman place a collect call, which will be paid for by the local union.

Arrangements for other calls will originate overseas, where the United Service Organizations, Inc., (USO) may select a serviceman who will notify his family that he will call. The USO will pay for the call with funds provided by the Communications Workers of America.

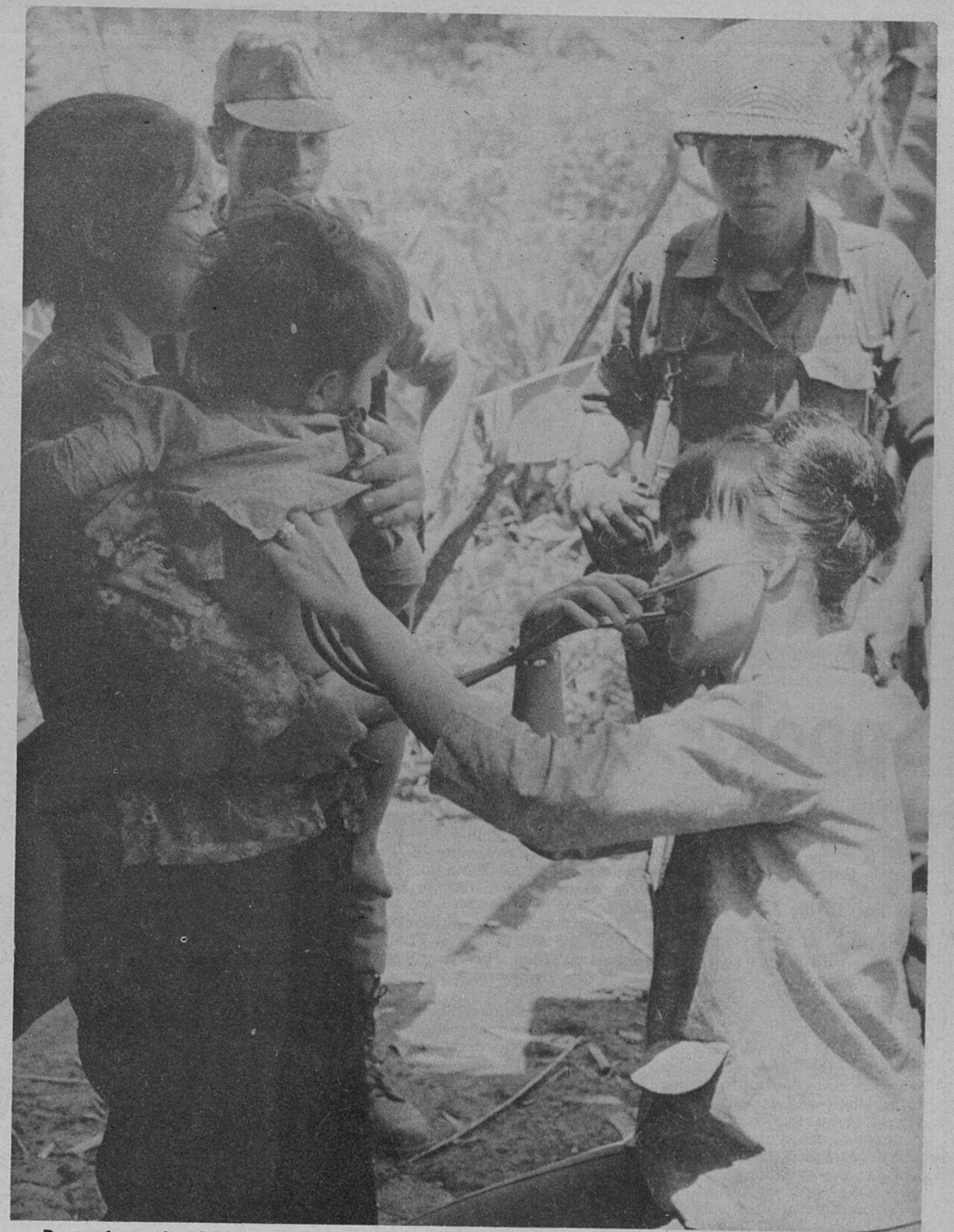


A youngster receives his vaccination.

Joint MEDCAP Aids Villagers In Tiny Hamlet



A village elder stands firm as he receives his cholera vaccination to show other villagers that there is nothing to fear.



Doctor Lan takes her skill deep into the hamlet to insure all the people receive medical care.



U.S. Army doctor, Captain David M. Montgomery, treats an ailing village child during the MEDCAP operation.

SAIGON (MACV) — Almost hidden among the lush green of rice paddies, canebrakes and palm fronds, approximately eight miles northeast of Saigon, lies the tiny hamlet of Hiep Bien Xa.

The villagers there have food, clothing, shelter and little else. No medical aid is readily available.

Recently, Hiep Bien Xa was visited by a Medical Civilian Assistance Program (MEDCAP) team consisting of 10 Vietnamese civilian doctors (both men and women), general practitioners and dentists. The team is part of the Saigon Branch of the World University Service. Two such teams operate out of Saigon.

The MEDCAP team visited the hamlet through the efforts of Lieutenant Huynh Cong Ba, commander of 533 Company, 53rd Regional Force Battalion, the protectors of Hiep Bien Xa, and one of the American advisors, Sergeant First Class Herman M. Alfred, NCOIC of a detachment of Advisory Team 100.

The team was assisted by a U.S. Army doctor, Captain David M. Montgomery of the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion, and a team of medics.

The doctors set up their clinic in the community's sugar mill, a thatched-roof structure open on all sides and having a stone floor. Medicine was unpacked and instruments sterilized. After the doctors had sterilized their hands, all was ready.

A sound was shouted out the team's aid. Immediately, the people in droves, as if the sound the loudspeaker had started an avalanche. The crowd fell lines before the doctors' feet.

"The villagers were very responsive to operation. This is the largest crowd we've ever had for such program," said First Lieutenant Thomas J. Fox, commander of the detachment. "Almost 100 per cent of the village is here."

There were men and women and young children. There seemed to be no one between the ages of 45 or 50. Members of this age group were either sick in the Vietnamese Army had been reported kidnapped by the Viet Cong and forced to serve their ends.

The doctors began to treat the villagers as they congregated. They worked feverishly through the day without stopping to rest or to eat. Each man is dedicated to the cause of helping his nation's people. Only pay the team members receive are the expressions of appreciation on the faces of patients.

Little children with their

Story photos

Sgt. E. J. Kent, USMC

SP4 David Gerol, USA

sleeves rolled up thronged around one of the female doctors, awaiting vaccinations against smallpox and cholera.

Villagers formed orderly lines near the dentist chairs. Before the end of the day, the dentists had collected almost a bucketful of teeth which had been extracted.

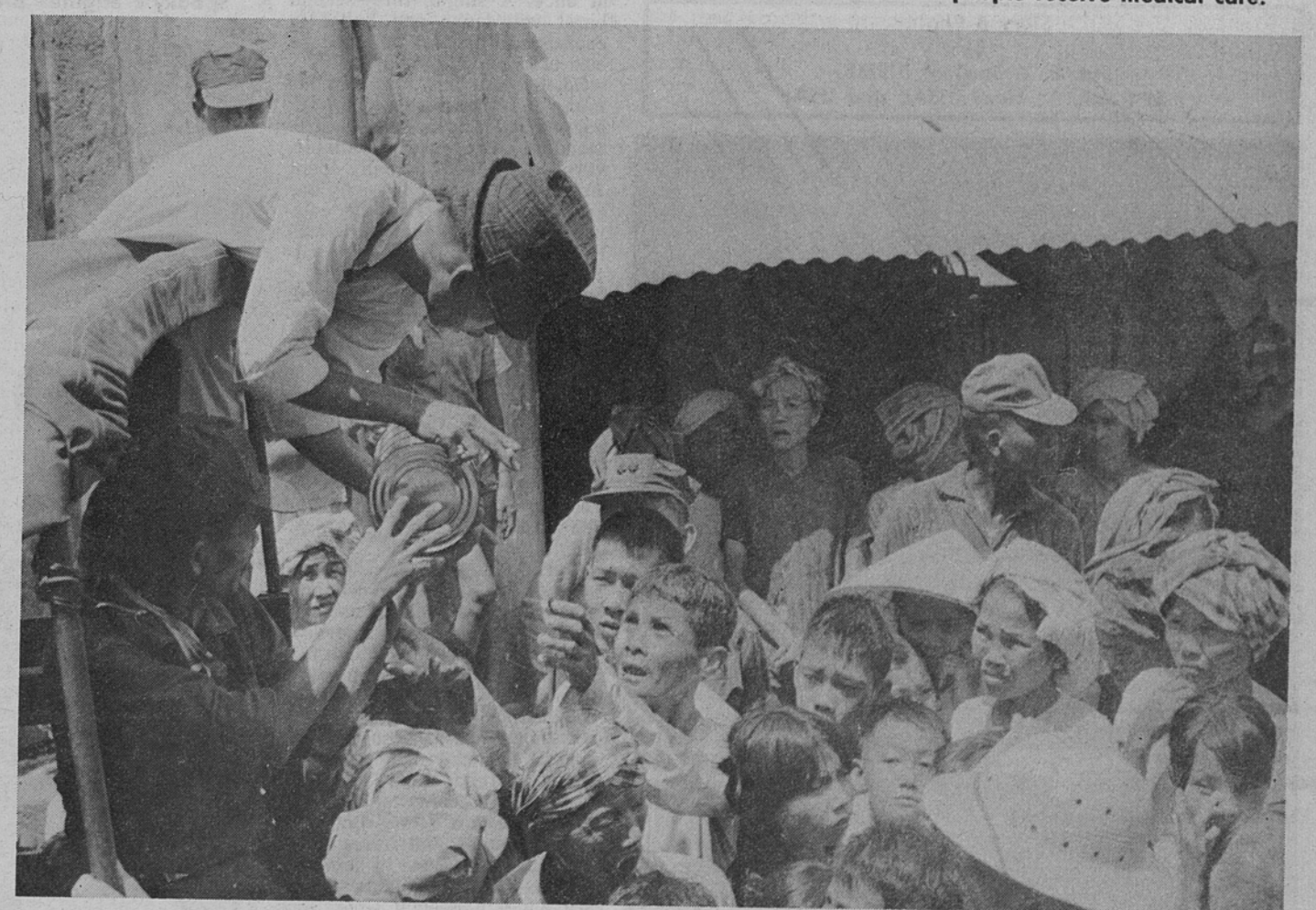
Skin diseases were treated by the score and cases of medicine were given out.

Out of the doctors, Huynh Xuan Lan, the sister of Lieutenant Ba, took her medical bag deep into the widely-spread hamlet, checking at each of the thatched huts to make sure that everyone in need of care received it.

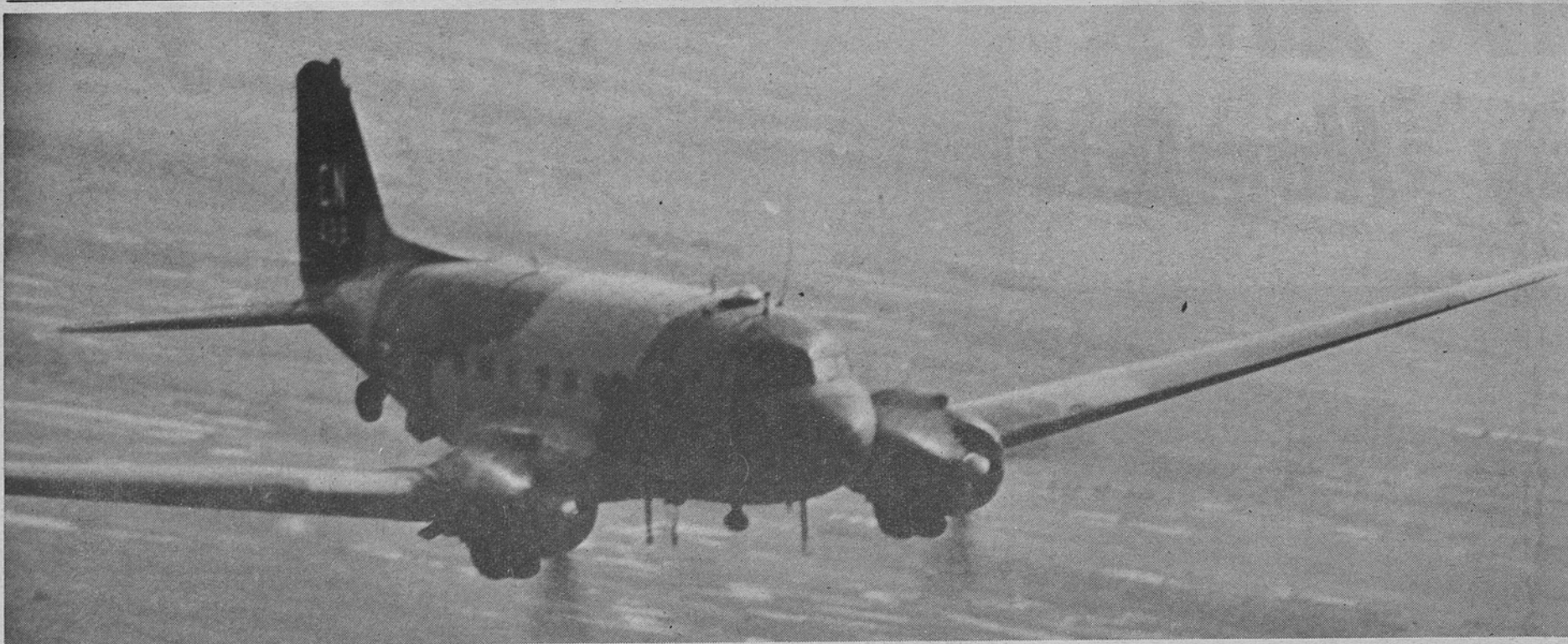
Dr. Nguyen Son Ha, general secretary of the World University Service, said, "We are happy to help the country people. It's a duty for us."

Later in the day, after the lines had dwindled, a Vietnamese Army truck loaded with rice, cooking fat and soap donated by Americans backed into the courtyard adjacent to the sugar mill. Lieutenant Ba and some of his men distributed these necessities to the villagers.

After the people had returned to their homes and the doctors to Saigon, Lieutenant Fox concluded, "It's operations such as this, in which we are responsible for bringing Vietnamese aid to help Vietnamese people, that convince these villagers that we are here to help."



Grateful villagers await their share of American-donated rice, cooking fat and soap.



Averaging six to eight sorties per night, this C-47 Dragonship supplies minigun fire support to troops in combat, bases and outposts on call.

Spooky Goes Great Guns

SAIGON (MACV) — There's a fly-by-night outfit operating in Vietnam, and the members are proud of it. Its name — the 14th Special Operations Wing, 7th Air Force.

Its men fly the AC-47 Dragonship, a tactical fighter modification of the AC-47 Skytrain ("Gooney-Bird"), which was first introduced in Vietnam in November, 1965. Originally christened "Puff the Magic Dragon," but now known throughout the Republic as "Spooky," the AC-47 has three 7.62 mm miniguns jutting from its windows and is capable of expending an 18,000-round load of ammunition in one minute.

Until January, 1968, the 4th Special Operations Squadron (SOS) operated all AC-47s in Vietnam from its headquarters at Nha Trang Air Base. Then the 3rd Special Operations

Squadron was formed, also headquartered in Nha Trang, with the responsibility for providing AC-47 coverage in the southern half of Vietnam. The 4th SOS was given the northern half.

Largest of the Spooky outfits within the 3rd SOS is C Flight, based at Bien Hoa Air Base, with five Dragonships in operation.

Lieutenant Colonel Shelton J. Anthony, operations officer for C Flight, explained that the 60 Airmen and 27 officers flying Spookies out of Bien Hoa are responsible for fire support primarily in the III Corps area. Though most sorties are flown between Bien Hoa and the Cambodian border, occasional support is given in the IV Corps area.

Since starting its operation, C Flight has averaged six to eight

sorties per night, with four planes in the air.

Minimum crew on each Spooky includes two pilots, a navigator, flight mechanic, loadmaster and two gunners.

"We also carry a VNAF interpreter, in case we're supporting ARVN troops," said the colonel. He explained that because strafing zones are often located by ARVN ground commanders, an interpreter on board expedites communications.

Each gun on the ship can fire 6,000 rounds per minute. Each gun is controlled by the pilot, who aims them with the aid of a side window sight while turning the plane in a 45-degree left bank.

When fired simultaneously, the miniguns' firepower is the equivalent of 72 riflemen plus six M-60 machineguns all firing at once. A single, three-second burst will leave one bullet in each square foot of an area the size of a football field.

Colonel Anthony, who pilots many of the sorties himself, pointed out that with such tremendous firepower available, very little time is actually spent firing. "We usually fire only one gun at a time," said the colonel, explaining that with all three weapons firing, the pattern is only twice as large.

Colonel Anthony remarked, "We can fire closer to the target than fighters because we're lots slower." The AC-47 lumbers along at approximately 125 knots, while fighters strike at an estimated 200-300 knots.

Despite its slow speed, there have been no casualties during C Flight sorties this year. "We receive a lot of groundfire, but few hits," explained the colonel.

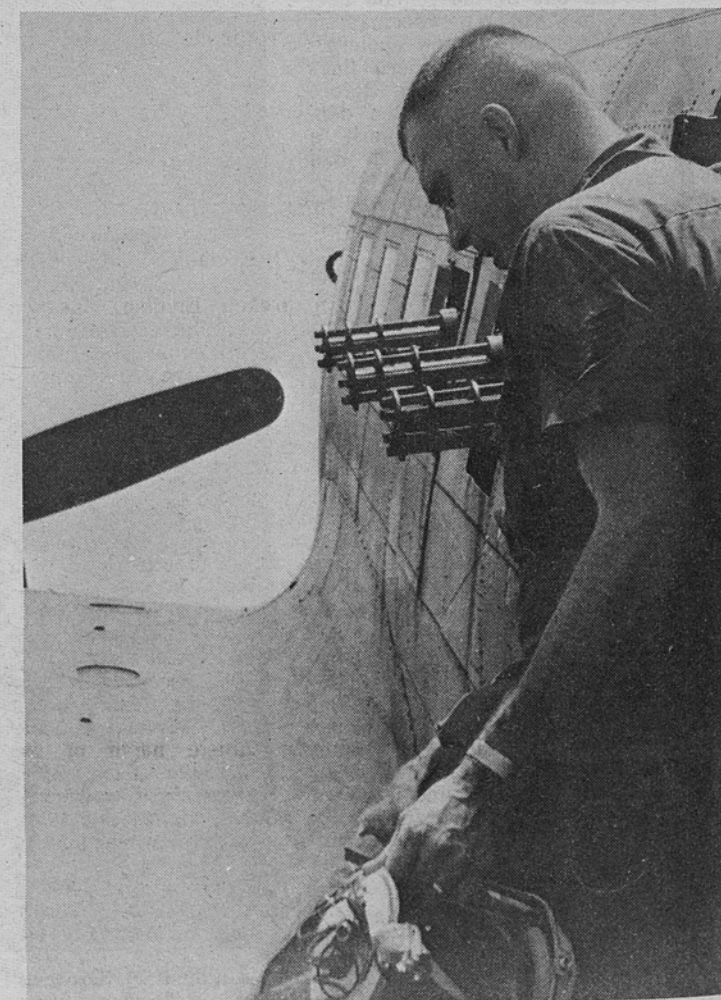
During the Tet offensive, the number of sorties flown and amount of ammunition used hit their peak, with 571 hours of flight time logged, over one million rounds of ammunition expended, and 5,000 flares dropped.

"Since then," observed the colonel, "with each offensive the action has slowed down." Ammunition counts for May and August show a decreasing number of rounds and flares fired.

C Flight has done its job well, as have all the flights in the 3rd and 4th Special Operations Squadrons. Their proof — not one outpost has been overrun with Spooky on the scene.

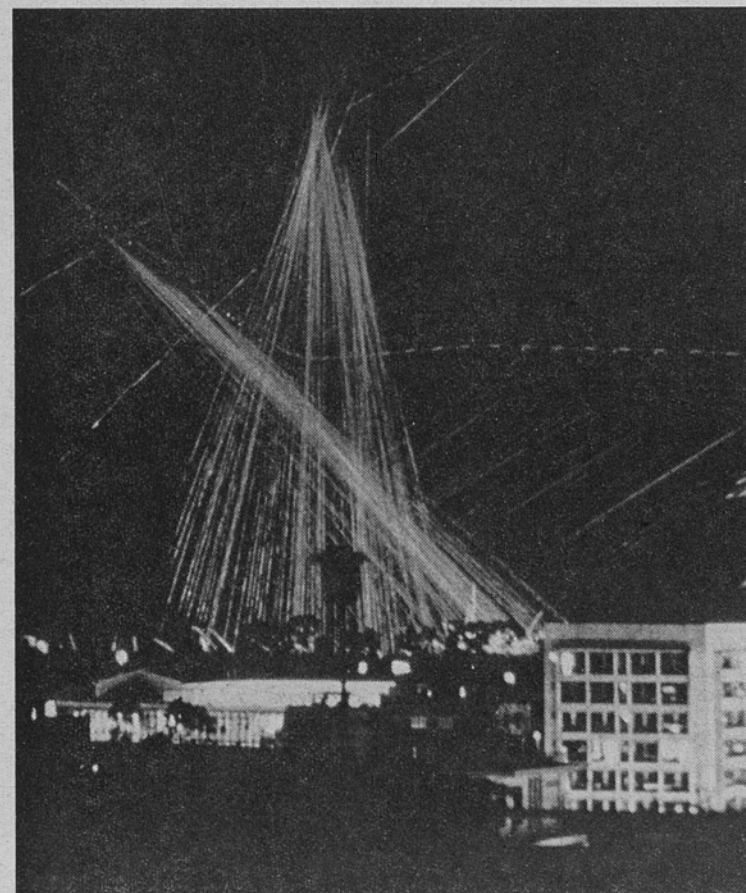


Spooky's engines are revved up for a preflight check.



Staff Sergeant Paul E. Marley, aerial gunner, ends long sortie.

Story & Photos
By
Sgt. E. J. Sargent (USMC)
SP4 John L. Klopff (USA), and USAF



During Tet Spooky displayed its glowing power.



THANK YOU GI—The look on a small boy's face is worth 1,000 words as he receives cake and candy from members of the 218th Military Police Company during a party the 97th MP Battalion threw for 300 students of Nha Trang's Christian Brothers School recently.

(USA PHOTO)

Viet Vet Still In War

He Loses Legs But Not Spirit

DA NANG (USMC) — There's a small cubicle in the Marine Force Logistic Command's Data Processing Platoon (DPP) complex north of here called the "boot room."

That's where everyone who works in DPP sheds his boots in favor of sneakers or sandals. The reason is to keep as much dust and dirt as possible out of the rooms housing sophisticated electronic computer equipment.

When someone wanted to know how many men were working, he held a "sneaker count." Fifty pairs of boots in the pigeon holes meant 50 sneakered men shuffling around

inside at work.

That's not true today. Now one is added to the total because Tran Van Sau doesn't have a pair of boots or a pair of sneakers. Sau has a walking stick, a wheelchair and a pair of artificial legs.

But his presence is known. Sau's beaming smile and cheerful laughter radiates from the keypunching room six days a week. On Sundays, Sau stays home with his wife and two children.

Sau lost both his legs to a Viet Cong grenade.

He joined the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in 1959 at the age of 20. For eight years, he fought in Quang Nam Province, in an area south of Da Nang. His small unit was overrun there.

In broken English, Sau explained what he could remember. "I remember the bullets and the shouts and then the explosion," he said. He barely remembers being medevaced and his mind remains blank to the many hours he spent at the hospital.

Sau spent more than eight months recovering. He was taken to Quoc Gia Phuc Hoi, a large military hospital in Saigon, where he was fitted with artificial limbs. There he began to learn to walk again.

After being discharged from the Army, he went back to his home in Hoa Khanh, a large refugee village north of Da Nang. His wife and eldest daughter were there waiting.

Jobless and almost penniless, Sau set out in his wheelchair to find a job.

"We thought he was looking for a handout," said Gunnery Sergeant John K. Moore, a representative of Force Logistics Command's Industrial Relations Office (IRO). "We soon knew better. His desire, intelligence

and aptitude were far above par."

Arrangements were made to send Sau to a month-long English school in Da Nang. When the course was over, he was sent to school to learn the basics of typing.

He returned to the IRO and was given a position working as a keypunch operator in the Data Processing section — a demanding and vital job.

"I love my new job," Sau said. "I'm thankful to the Americans and the American Marines for giving me this new opportunity."

Orphans to Norway

BIEN HOA (USA) — With the help of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, a Norwegian couple has found homes in Norway for 70 Vietnamese orphans.

Mr. Torbjorn Jelstad and his wife, Eva, from Oslo, represent the Norwegian Committee for Southeast Asia. They came to Vietnam recently on invitation from the Vietnam Confederation of Labor (CVT). They came to find orphans and take them back to Norway for adoption.

Strangers At First
According to Mr. Jelstad, "We arrived in Vietnam not knowing many people and it was difficult at first. We did not make much progress until we met Captain Fulmer."

Captain Lemos L. Fulmer, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, met the couple in Saigon. "They told me their story and the problems they were having," Captain Fulmer recalled, "and I thought we could help them."

Provided Transportation
Captain Fulmer introduced the couple to Vietnamese officials and provided transportation to orphanages in the Long

GI 'Road' Show A Hit In Hamlet

DI AN (USA) — Down the narrow cart paths which lace Dong Tam hamlet near here went a bulky two-and-one-half ton truck loaded with 1,200 pounds of food. While the unnoticed driver maneuvered under low-hanging bamboo limbs, through muddy chuckholes and around cows in the road, activity centered around the tailgate.

Standing on the bed of the truck, sweating sergeants broke down large piles of food for distribution to the families that make up the hamlet's more than 1,000 inhabitants. Leaning over a chattering throng of children, they handed boxes of dehydrated potatoes and rolled oats, scoops of rice and combination meal, and containers of jam, peppers, sardines, cooking oil, apple butter, candy and health items to their assistants on the ground.

Insuring a fair share for all, clerks from 1st Administration Company, 1st Infantry Division, caught scoops of meal in their steel helmets, grabbed boxes of potatoes and other supplies and hurriedly delivered their load to each family's doorway. With each share went a leaflet, explaining in Vietnamese that the gifts came from American people in support of the Republic of Vietnam's Revolutionary Development program.

Catching a lot of attention were two volunteer musicians, Specialists 5 Robert W. Gift and Jack W. Morin. They added to the overall diversion provided the villagers by the occasion, playing their guitars and singing everywhere the truck went.

Supervising the entire project were Captain W. A. Chubb, commander of 1st Administration Company, and Specialist 5 Michael R. Mullen, the company's civic action coordinator. A Vietnamese Popular Forces platoon, furnished by the village chief, walked along each side of the road providing security.

Over the weeks, Dong Tam has benefitted in many ways from the interest of the administration company volunteers. Much of the work in the village has been done by men who get

a morning off from their regular clerical jobs after a night on perimeter guard. Instead of sleeping in, the men head for the village with Specialist Mullen.

Through the company's civic action efforts, students in the local school now enjoy swings, seesaws and volleyballs. A lot of effort has also gone into rebuilding a religious community building near the hamlet. With the villagers providing most of the labor, members of this Big Red One company have brought materials to the hamlet and helped with the painting.

A frequent participant in the civic action program has been Specialist 5 James Nye. Recommended by the hamlet chief because of his hard work, he now holds the Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal and the Vietnamese Armed Forces Honor Medal.

Troopers Help Out

DUC PHO (USA) — One hundred and fifty victims of war live at the Captain Ronald Rodd Orphanage, Duc Pho, named after its founder. Like all children, they require love, attention and understanding.

The troops of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Brigade, realizing the need, have been providing that love via visits, food donations and medical care.

According to Sister Dominique, a caretaker at the orphanage, more than 40 persons per day are treated by Army medical personnel. The 174th, combating a high mortality rate from tuberculosis, worms, plague and infections irritated by uncontrolled insects and pests.

Sergeant First Class Alan Wilson, mess steward at the 174th, brings candy and foodstuffs to stimulate a lacking diet and soap to promote sanitation for the children.

During the months of June, July and August 1000 pounds of food candy, and soap have been given to the homeless children.

The Rodd Orphanage is unique because it is largely self-supported by a laundry service worked by the older children. Soldiers from units in the Duc Pho area, including the 174th, bring in laundry as a gesture of good will.

Thanks to the U.S. Army civic action program and the laundry service profits, plans are underway to expand the three-year-old orphanage to accommodate an additional 50 children.

Charlie Happy To See GIs? A Little Soap Works Wonders

BONG SON (USA) — The inmates of Bong Son Jail were happy to see Captain Elliot Finkle, 173rd Airborne Brigade's MEDCAP Team doctor. Even Viet Cong detainees like to keep clean, and the Medical Civic Action Program is their main supplier of soap.

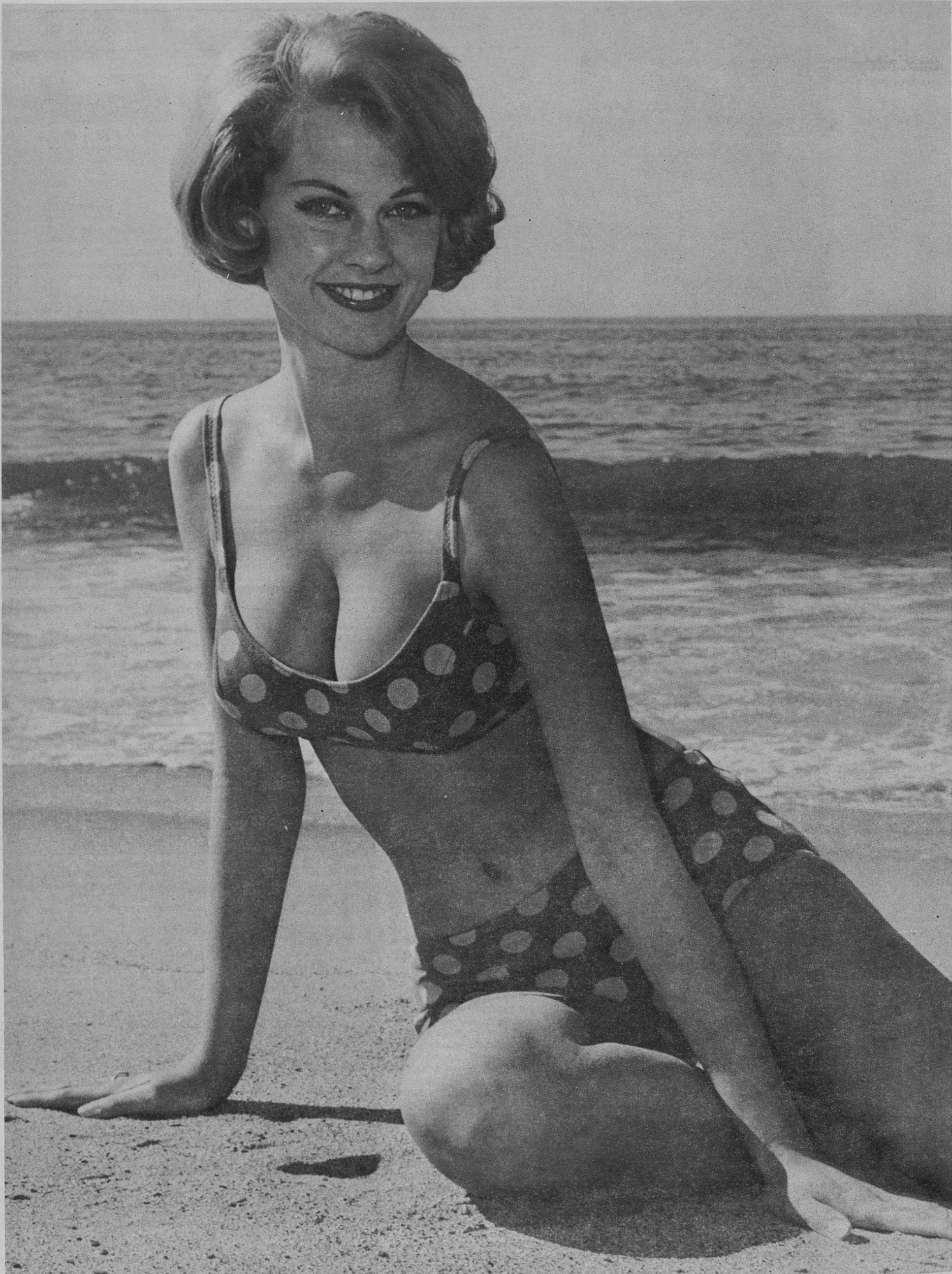
A captured VC sergeant now says he would like to join the ARVNs. "Only GIs give us sa-phong (soap)," he said.

MEDCAP medic Specialist 5 John Green said, "Besides the

detainees, we call on five villages in the Bong Son area."

Specialist Green and Sergeant Pham Vien, a medic interpreter, treat as many as 100 patients a day. Sergeant Vien is a former NVA doctor who came over to the allied cause. He has worked for the U.S. Army for three years.

The specialist said, "Most cases we treat are dysentery, headaches and infections. The doctor handles anything more serious."



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Sez "If you are hot, delirious, red, dry, almost unconscious and on the verge of having convulsions, don't blame me. These are really some of the recognizable symptoms of a heat stroke—the most serious heat injury. The heat is one of the facts of life in Vietnam, and it can take a heavy toll if you aren't careful." "In addition," our Bunny sez, "the three ways to prevent yourself from becoming a heat casualty are to be sure that you drink enough water, take extra salt, and stay away from Bunker Bunny pictures."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN



YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL THE GIRLS WHO WORK AT THE RUBBER PLANTATION...

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Insect
- 5-Unlock
- 9-Nod
- 12-Toward
- 13-Burrowing animal
- 14-Wine cup
- 15-Be in need
- 17-Pronoun
- 18-Man's nickname
- 19-Shakespearean character
- 21-Look fixedly
- 23-Students
- 27-Preposition
- 28-Omit from pronunciation
- 29-Perform
- 31-Snake
- 34-Greek letter
- 35-Post
- 38-Maiden loved by Zeus
- 39-Haul
- 41-Capuchin monkey
- 42-River ducks
- 44-Indefinite article
- 46-In a corrupt manner
- 48-Danger
- 51-Want
- 52-Be mistaken
- 53-Preposition
- 55-Get up
- 59-Falsehood
- 60-Fondles
- 62-Girl's name
- 63-Number
- 64-Withered
- 65-Electric catfish

DOWN

- 1-Existed
- 2-In music, high
- 3-Ocean
- 4-Punctuation marks
- 5-Greek letter
- 6-River in Italy
- 7-Man's name
- 8-Seines
- 9-Fruit
- 10-Hebrew measure
- 11-Walk in water
- 16-Menservants
- 20-Speech
- 22-Preposition
- 23-Clan
- 24-Muse of history
- 25-Greeting
- 26-Science (abbr.)
- 30-Walk unsteadily
- 32-Part of window frame
- 47-Plague
- 53-Nosegay
- 56-Swiss river
- 57-More in want
- 60-Rabbit hutch
- 63-Indefinite article
- 65-Symbol for nickel
- 48-Animal's coat
- 49-Great Lake
- 50-Part of face
- 54-Barn
- 56-Music: as written
- 57-Greek letter
- 58-Mournful
- 61-Initials of 26th President

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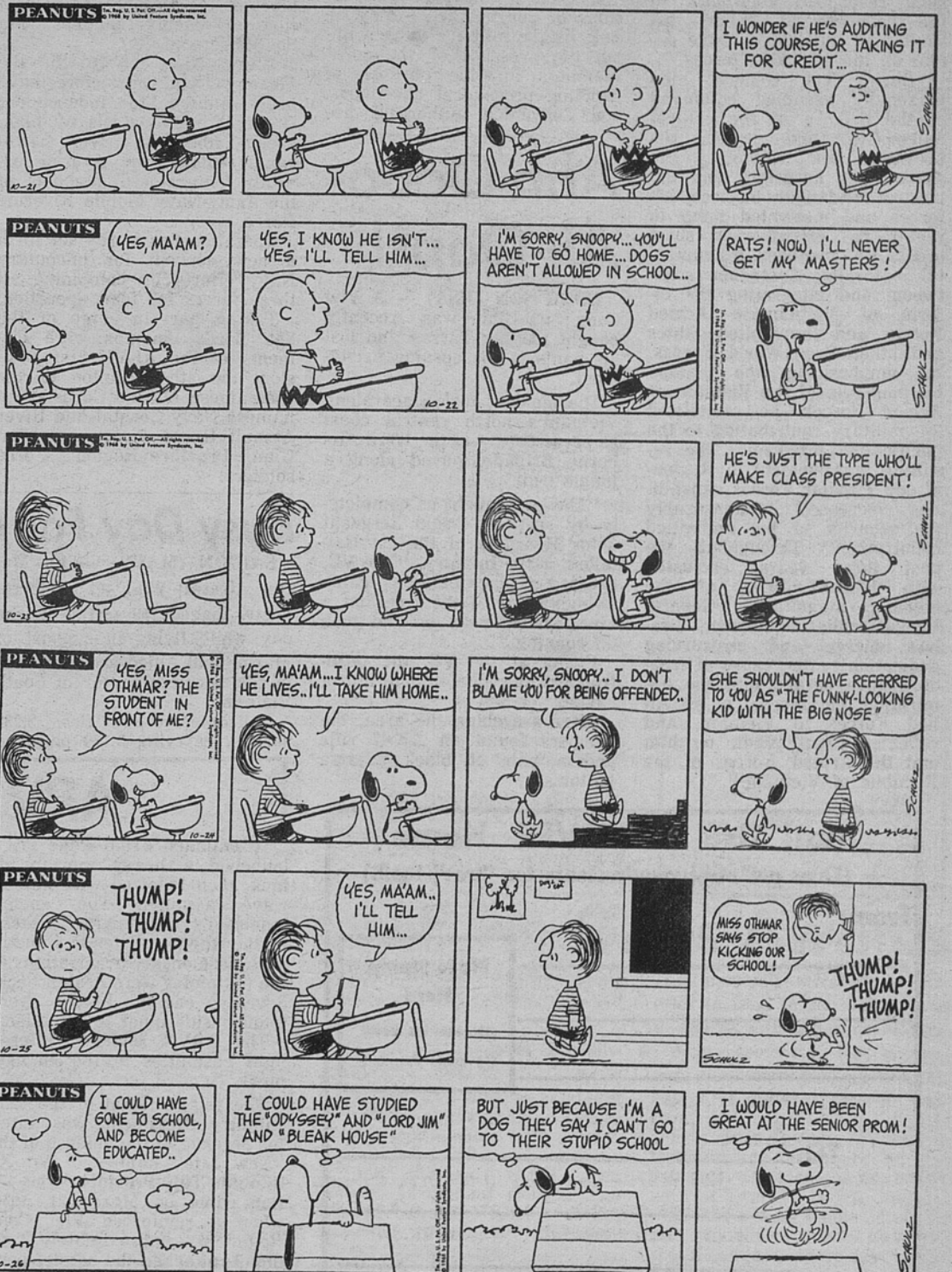
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Change In Military Justice Given Congressional Nod

WASHINGTON (ANF) — President Lyndon B. Johnson has signed into law the Military Justice Act of 1968, which is designed to insure that military personnel are afforded the same protection as civilian persons who are accused of federal offenses.

Also, the new law is intended to bring the procedures for trials by special and general courts-martial more closely parallel to current procedures in U.S. district courts.

The legislation, which had the concurrence of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, makes far-reaching changes in military law and trial procedures.

Part of the law went into effect when the President signed the act in late October. The remaining provisions, which will have a great influence on commanders and all other military personnel, will become effective Aug. 1, 1969.

The portions of the law now in effect pertain to appellate review of court-martial cases. Two major changes are included:

- The time in which the accused can petition for a new

trial is extended from one year to two years, including summary and special court-martial cases.

- The Judge Advocate General is given new powers to modify, or set aside, illegal convictions by summary or special courts-martial.

Before the remaining provisions of the law can be implemented, the President must issue an executive order changing the Manual for Courts-Martial.

A revised manual reflecting changes in military law over the past 17 years, will be used by the Armed Forces beginning Jan. 1, 1969. This manual will be revised further by the President's executive order, which will be drafted with the assistance of the military services.

Among the major changes in the Manual for Courts-Martial required, or permitted, by the law are the following:

- The accused will be afforded the opportunity to be defended by a legally qualified counsel at special courts-martial unless the commander certifies that such counsel cannot be obtained.

- Trial in special and general courts-martial may be held by a military judge alone if the accused so requests and the request is approved by the military judge.

- Pretrial and post-trial sessions of courts-martial may be held by the military judge without the presence of the court members for the purpose of deciding procedural questions.

- Convening authorities are

given discretionary authority to defer the service of sentences to confinement pending appellate review. This parallels the civilian practice of an individual being freed on bail pending appeal of a sentence.

- An accused may object to trial by summary court-martial even if he has refused punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

U.S. Navy...

(Continued From Page 1)

Later the same day, a second landing was made six miles further south along the canal. Again Vietnamese Marine casualties were light.

During the first day of the combined operation, six boxes of 60mm mortar rounds, three 120mm mortar rounds, two 155mm artillery shells, three 81mm mortar shells and 2,000 rounds of small arms ammunition were captured.

There were no U.S. Navy casualties in any of the action.

Swift boat raids in the two weeks preceding the action marked the first use of these coastal patrol craft in river warfare. Backbone of the Navy's Market Time Operation, they normally patrol coastal waters, blocking the seaborne infiltration of enemy supplies into South Vietnam.

Major Navy efforts in the Mekong Delta heretofore have been limited to independent Game Warden patrols by high-speed, fiberglass river patrol boats (PBRs) and riverine assaults by armored gunboats of the Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force.

Operation Sea Lords set forth a new concept for in-country Navy efforts by combining all three forces for joint operation.

Taking part in some of the Sea Lords landings were elements of the ARVN 21st Division, the 4th Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps, Vietnamese Navy Coastal and River Assault Group forces and Kien Giang Province Regional Force soldiers.

Busy Day For Marine Fliers

SAIGON (MACV) — 1st Marine Aircraft Wing jet pilots recently logged 250 sorties in one day while flying in support of Marine and Allied ground forces in the northern sector of South Vietnam.

Helicopter crews flew 2,232 sorties, carrying 3,179 passengers



Martha Raye is greeted by LTC K. B. Facey, 5th Special Forces Group deputy commanding officer.

(MACV PHOTO By: SP4 David Gerroll)

'Col. Maggie' Back For Sixth USO Tour

SAIGON (MACV) — "Colonel Maggie" is back in Vietnam for her sixth USO tour.

Martha Raye — affectionately known as "Maggie of the Boondocks" — received a warm welcome upon her recent arrival at the Tan Son Nhut Air Terminal. Miss Raye, accompanied by guitar virtuoso John Carr, has begun a two-month

tour of Vietnam entertaining servicemen.

The entertainer holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and is an honorary Green Beret. She brought a mini-version of the Broadway hit "Hello Dolly" to Vietnam on her latest trip.

A tireless entertainer, Miss Raye began making USO tours in 1942. During World War Two, she entertained troops in England and North Africa.

In Vietnam she put her training as a qualified nurse to practice in Soc Trang on the morning of a major battle. She was cited for her nursing work there by General William C. Westmoreland.

Miss Raye's career embraces work with many of the greats of show business — from Al Jolson and Charlie Chaplin to Bob Hope and Eddie Cantor. Welcome back, Maggie.

Ahh-Oooo- Ah-Oops!

BONG SON (USA) — A Viet Cong guerilla was recently caught playing Tarzan and lost his pants in the ensuing excitement.

The incident took place along Vietnam's north central coast as paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade moved along a jungle trail.

"The guy caught us completely by surprise," said Sergeant John Moorman of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry. "The VC, dressed in black pajamas, came swinging out of the trees on a vine, landed near us and took off running."

Firing at the VC, the paratroopers saw him tumble into a ravine.

After searching the area, the troopers found an AK-47 rifle and a pair of black pajama bottoms.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

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

TO:

ARVN Battalions Win...

(Continued From Page 1)

launched a heavy mortar attack, then followed with human wave assaults. The enemy launched three separate attacks on the stubborn defenders and in each case enemy penetrations of the perimeter were beaten back. Seventy enemy bodies were found inside inner fortifications.

The ARVN soldiers suffered light casualties in the engagement.

The 1st Battalion of the 52nd Infantry Regiment was cited for heroism in the defense of the "New Life" hamlet of Vo Xu in Binh Tuy Province. The action came on March 21, 1966, when a reinforced Viet Cong Regiment — approximately 1,500 men — attacked the hamlet perimeter defenses.

When the enemy launched the first assault, the 1st Battalion deployed and hurled it back, forcing the VC to fall back, regroup, receive reinforcements and renew their assault from a

12th Gunships Net 17 Enemy

SAIGON (MACV) — U.S. Army helicopter gunships and troopers from the Air Cavalry Squadron of the 12th Combat Aviation Group, recently killed 17 enemy in a 45-minute engagement. The action against an enemy force of unknown size was six miles southeast of Can Giuoc in Long An Province.

There were no U.S. casualties.

different direction.

In the close, savage fighting that ensued, the defenders continued to resist the enemy's penetration, while under intense automatic weapon, .50 caliber machine gun, mortar and recoilless rifle fire. The defenders were outnumbered four to one and cut off from outside help except for artillery and air support.

After the defenders repelled two more assaults by a battalion and reinforced company during the next three hours, the Viet Cong were eventually able to overwhelm a portion of the defender's perimeter and advance to within a few meters of the Battalion Command Post. The 1st Battalion drove the attackers back.

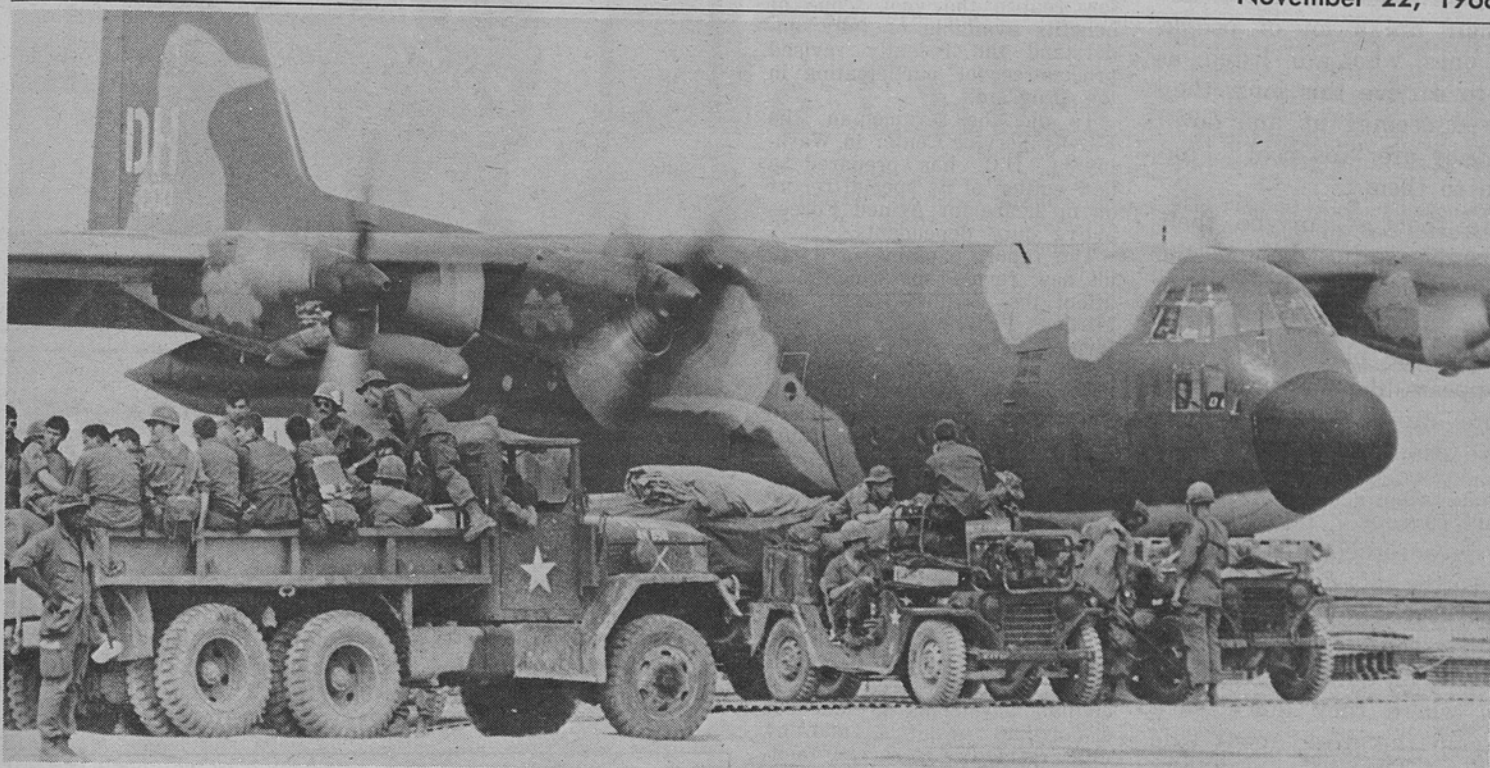
1st Cavalry Div In Action In III Corps



Vol. 7, No. 29

Saigon, Vietnam

November 22, 1968



Cav troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) prepare to load on troop-cargo transports of the 834th Air Division, such as this C-130 Hercules revvingup to airlift them from Camp Evans to their new area of operations near Tay Ninh.

(USAF PHOTO By: SSgt Ron Smith)

Operation Liberty Canyon

Troop Move 'Largest of War'

SAIGON (USAF) — "The biggest quick response troop movement of the war." This is how Major General Burl W. McLaughlin, commander of the 834th Air Division, described the recent airlift of the majority of the 19,000-man 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) from I Corps to III Corps. The operation was tabbed "Liberty Canyon."

General McLaughlin said,

"We must have set all kinds of records in moving the first brigade of the division into III Corps in minimum time."

The general revealed that the only comparable airlift of the war was the switch in September and October of a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and a brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division between I Corps and III Corps in Operation "Golden Sword." Although "Golden Sword" was performed in some six weeks, "Liberty Canyon" was expected to end in mid-November.

Beginning with a dozen sorties a day on Oct. 27 and increasing to more than 30 sorties by the first week of November, C-130 Hercules, C-123 Providers and C-7 Caribous touched down on the narrow, 2,900-foot perforated steel runway at Camp Evans, picked up cargo, troops and their belongings, and transported them south to III Corps.

Air Force combat controllers provided communications between the airlift mission commander at Evans and airlift officials at 7th Air Force Headquarters at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. A five-man aerial port team from Da Nang Air Base's 15th Aerial Port Squadron was at the site in advance to prepare pallets and load them onto the aircraft.

A nine-man maintenance crew from Cam Ranh Bay Air Base brought tools and parts to repair any aircraft troubles.

A tactical airlift liaison officer (TALO) at Evans provided

an on-station link between the Air Force and the Army, helping commanders determine how to get the best use out of the aircraft.

The Navy was also involved in "Liberty Canyon." In addition to the Seabees having built the runway, the USS Princeton floated aircraft — stripped for maintenance — to Saigon, and landing ship tanks moved certain equipment out of Phu Bai.

Commenting on the manner in which aircrews reacted to the demands of the transfer, General McLaughlin said, "Airlift crews know that their job often means life or death to the ground troops. Every time they rush ammunition to an outpost under attack, and every time they lift troops out of a hot area, they see the immediate results of their efforts."

Honored Himself, He Gives Awards

CHU LAI (USA) — Lieutenant Colonel Wang Dinh Tho, Quang Tin Province Chief, has been awarded the Air Medal with "V" device for heroic action June 15, 1968. Brigadier General James V. Galloway, Americal Division assistant commander, made the presentation.

At the same ceremony, which took place at Hawk Hill (Hill 29) north of Chu Lai, Lieutenant Colonel Tho, on behalf of the Republic of Vietnam, awarded 38 Crosses of Gallantry to members of the Americal Division.

Rice Haul For 198th

CHU LAI (USA) — "Take away their will to fight." This is a saying among soldiers of the 198th Infantry Brigade, and lately the Americal infantrymen have been working rather hard to do just that.

Soldiers of Company D, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, discovered and confiscated 29,500 pounds of rice during an operation in an area 10 miles southwest of Chu Lai. They also killed four Viet Cong and detained 12 VC suspects during the operation.

"It took more than three Chinook loads to evacuate all of that rice," said Captain Michael R. Smith, the company commander. "Fifteen tons is a lot of rice."

Varying quantities of the cereal were found in 24 different locations in the area. The largest of the caches was about 2,500 pounds.

The citation accompanying Lieutenant Colonel Tho's award read, in part:

"Lieutenant Colonel Tho distinguished himself . . . while directing Republic of Vietnam Air Force elements in an operation in conjunction with American forces."

"With disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Colonel Tho placed himself almost over the bursting rounds to effectively direct artillery fire."

The citation also noted that, on several occasions Colonel

PHUOC VINH (USA) — Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) — after a 500-mile airlift from the northern I Corps to the III Corps Tactical Zone — made their first major contact recently

sive.

in the Toan Thang Offensive. They engaged an estimated battalion-sized force of NVA Regulars and Viet Cong and killed 31 enemy in two days of action.

The battle started when Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire in the jungle near a portion of the Cambodian border known as the "fish hook," because of the sharp curve the border makes, approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Saigon.

Battle Continues

Companies A and B of the battalion were inserted into the contact area and the battle continued into the early evening. There were nine confirmed enemy dead at day's end.

Action broke off during the hours of darkness and flared briefly the next morning. The enemy fled from contact with the cavalymen just after noon the second day, after losing another 22 dead.

Units of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) began conducting combat operations in III Corps under the operational control of the 1st Infantry Division on Nov. 1. The cavalymen killed 109 North Vietnamese Army troops and VC soldiers in actions through Nov. 8.

500-Mile Area

While the 1st Cav's 3rd Brigade led off the 500-mile air, land and sea move, units of the 1st and 2nd Brigades continued to fight the war in South Vietnam's northernmost provinces. During the first few days of November, elements of the world's first airmobile division conducted four separate combat operations, spread out over a 500-mile area, nearly the entire length of the Republic of Vietnam.

The 1st Brigade finished the 171-day Operation Jeb Stuart III Nov. 3, then began the move south.

Comanche Falls

The division's 2nd Brigade continued with Operation Comanche Falls, in the jungle 25 miles south of the DMZ. The brigade,

(Continued On Back Page)

Inside

Nine Months
After Tet page 5
Delta Pacific-
ation pages 6&7
ARVN Rangers page 8



Parcel Airlift
Days Left

Editorial

What Word?

Judging from all the outward appearances, news reports and statistics available, there are still a great many servicemen and women — too many, in fact — who haven't gotten "the word."

What word? The one on driving safety.

That's right, driving safety. The thing you've been hearing about for years. The thing you've spent hours listening to lectures and seeing films about. Driving safety, the thing that — if you're lucky and it's gotten through to you — has helped keep you alive so you could be griping now about reading another article on it.

Maybe you've gotten the word and do drive defensively and intelligently. There are a lot of people who haven't. They are the ones who are listed as statistics. If they've managed to survive this long, they are probably the ones who are screeching up and down the roads of Vietnam figuring they are "too cool," "too swift" to have anything happen to them.

Maybe it won't happen to them — maybe their indifferent, inconsiderate, dangerous antics behind the wheel of a car will only cause an accident, injuring or killing someone else.

Time will tell — and this is the place for it . . . the place where it sometimes appears like there are more motorcycles than people; more rain than sun; more bad roads than good; and more people in a hurry than not.

Into the middle of all this careens "Harry Heavy-foot" or "Bob Blankbrain" — unconcerned, unaware and unpredictable. They have watched the safe-driving movies, but they didn't see. They heard the safety lectures, but they didn't listen. They have read the articles, but they didn't comprehend. They are living on borrowed time.

If they're someplace now where they don't have a vehicle, they'd do well to keep the word about safe driving tucked away in their head. It'd be pretty wild to make it through several patrols and firefights and then get zapped on a crowded street in 'Nam.

There's the word — again. See you around — we hope. (AFPS)

Leave Smokes Behind When "Down Under"

SAIGON — Effective Nov. 10, only one pack of opened cigarettes, or one pouch of pipe tobacco, or four cigars will be retained in the possession of the serviceman heading for Australia on R&R.

In addition, no cigarettes or tobacco products will be allowed in stowed baggage. The only

cigarettes, cigars or tobacco which should be taken on board are those intended for in-flight use only.

Prior to debarkation, all remaining tobacco items will be deposited in a container on board the aircraft. No cigarettes or tobacco products will be permitted to enter Australia.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Free Military Medicare Pam Explains All

WASHINGTON — Military medicare is one of the major fringe benefits for millions of American service families. But few realize the vast scope of benefits available or fully understand the recently revised procedures for participating in the program.

To aid the serviceman, the Family Service Center in Washington, D.C. has prepared a new edition of its special report on medicare for Armed Forces active duty dependents.

The report explains in detail all new regulations which now affect the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS).

For example, it notes the government's position on "unreasonable" doctor's fees and outlines the steps you must take to insure that your physician is "participating" in the CHAMPUS program.

If you neglect to take the necessary steps, you may be liable for a larger part of the physician's bill than you expected.

The new report covers all phases of military medicare including dependent treatment by civilian physicians in and out of civilian hospitals, and by military medics in service facilities.

The report also explains how much you pay to the doctor or hospital and what portion of the bill the government pays, as well as how to get reimbursed if you've paid too much.

Home nursing is now authorized and the report outlines what is covered.

Also included is a warning against getting treatment in a hospital practicing racial discrimination.

A copy of this report is available free by sending a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to the Family Service Center, 475 School Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. Ask for Report Number 100.

Field Artillery Insignia In

WASHINGTON — Separate insignias have been approved for the U.S. Army's two artillery branches.

Officers in the Field Artillery Branch and enlisted personnel assigned to field artillery organizations will be authorized to wear an insignia consisting of two crossed field guns. This insignia was used by the Field Artillery Branch before Jan. 2, 1957.

Officers in the Air Defense Artillery Branch and enlisted personnel assigned to air defense artillery organizations will continue to wear the present Artillery Branch insignia, which consists of the two crossed field guns and a missile.

The names of artillery officers transferred to the new Air Defense Artillery Branch will appear on a special order scheduled for publication in November, with an effective date of Dec. 1. The new insignia will be authorized for wear on the effective date of the order. (ANF)



IS THIS TIGHT ENOUGH? — Miss Lisa Jak is trying to keep a tight lip on classified information. She feels that if "Charlie" gets classified information due to loose talk, it may decrease your chances of going home and seeing her in such TV shows as "Time Tunnel" and "Peyton Place."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX)



viewing vietnam

By 1LT David E. Boudreaux
Last week we saw that the Hat Boi is the traditional theater in Vietnam. This week we shall look into two more recent types of Vietnamese drama, the Cai Luong and the Kich.

The Cai Luong, literally meaning "modern theater," generally is what we call a "comedy of manners," though there are some tragedies in the repertoire. Whereas the Hat Boi praises traditional virtues (such as loyalty to ones family or respect for elders), the Cai Luong is more realistic. The characters are down-to-earth rather than superhuman heroes.

Costumes

Costumes in the Cai Luong will vary with the nature of the play. Characters will wear costumes ranging from the elaborate dress found in the Hat Boi to modern Western dress, depending, of course, on the play itself.

The Cai Luong makes excellent use of scenery, often elaborate and colorful, to brighten and enhance the play. The scenery, when it is along the lines of classical Oriental architecture, is most fascinating to the Westerner in the audience, especially if the Westerner cannot understand Vietnamese and therefore has more time to study the stage. Light-

"We continue to believe that our responsibilities toward others are as important as our responsibilities toward ourselves."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
Ambassador

"Smokey's" Kind Of Air Pollution Is A Help

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Like his furry-faced namesake in Yellowstone Park, the 101st Airborne Division's "Smokey" devotes his time to preventing fire.

The similarity ends quickly. The Screaming Eagles' Smokey has no use for water in his fire-extinguishing duties. In the rice paddies, jungles and mountains surrounding Hue, Smokey's quaries are AK-47s, .50 caliber Chicom machine guns and 81-mm mortars forged in Hanoi.

The paratroopers' Smokey is not a bear, but a UH-1 helicopter. Shortly before a division

combat assault, if wind conditions permit, the chopper sweeps in along the selected

the helicopter's superheated exhaust, Smokey lays down a wall of white smoke between the LZ

a dozen troop-carrying Hueys deposit enough paratroopers to secure the LZ for the main



landing zone (LZ), skimming just above ground level. Using a special oil pump attached to

and likely enemy gun positions. Before the smokescreen has had a chance to disperse, half

Hoi Chanhs Lead To Caches

LZ SALLY (USA) — A former Viet Cong company commander led paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division to a sizeable weapons cache recently.

At the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Intelligence Center in Hue, the file of the ex-commander had been carefully studied and compared with that of another Hoi Chanh. Both files gave identical detailed information of a large cache in Quang Dien province.

The two Hoi Chanhs were immediately flown to the Quang Dien district headquarters

where they were questioned by a Popular Forces intelligence team.

It was revealed that weapons were buried in sand drifts several miles northeast of the headquarters. A platoon commanded by Lieutenant John F. Hay was notified and the rangers were flown out to join them.

After several minutes of walking through heavy sand, the Hoi Chanhs stopped and pointed to the ground. The paratroopers, slightly skeptical, began to dig.

Suddenly, a shovel struck something solid. A little more

digging revealed the tip of a 60mm mortar tube. Within minutes, two of the tubes and several high explosive rounds lay on the sand.

After a short walk, the Hoi Chanh pointed to another spot. This time, the paratroopers dug up a light Russian machine gun, a Browning automatic rifle and several thousand rounds of ammunition.

The Hoi Chanhs were flown back to Quang Dien for the night, but the paratroopers continued their probe.

A few moments later, a discovery was made in a water-filled bomb crater. Half buried in water and sand were 12 new Soviet SKS rifles, still in the packing cases. Digging deeper, the soldiers found 40 new North Vietnamese Army rucksacks, numerous ammunition pouches, cleaning kits and first aid packs.

Simultaneously, a rocket propelled grenade launcher and several Chicom claymore mines were pulled from wet sand on a crater's edge a few meters away.

"If I wasn't here to see it, I never would have believed it," concluded Lieutenant Hay.

ROKs Win Decoration

NHA TRANG (USA) — General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., Commander of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), presented unit and individual decorations recently to Korean troops at Headquarters, Capital Republic of Korea Infantry Division, Tiger Town, Vietnam.

The general presented the Presidential Unit Citation and 11 individual decorations. The Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to the 9th Company, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Capital Division. The company distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism and outstanding military professionalism while defending Landing Zone 27 Victor, Pleiku Province.

In the same ceremony, seven members of the 26th Regiment and four from the 1st were presented U.S. awards for valor. The awards included seven Bronze Stars with "V" Device, one Air Medal with "V" Device and three Army Commendation Medals with "V" Device.

Fifteen recently departed members of the division will be awarded U.S. decorations in Korea. Those awards include four Silver Stars, nine Bronze Stars with "V" Device and two Army Commendation with "V" Device.

Suspect Yields Info

TAN TRU (USA) — The operations of a Viet Cong demolition team which has been operating along the road leading from this 60th Infantry, 2d Battalion, 9th Infantry Division base camp since July, have been uncovered from information supplied by a detained VC suspect.

The suspect — with the legend, "Hero — Kill American GIs" tattooed on his chest — was detained by elements of an ARVN intelligence squad on an ambush patrol near Binh Thanh hamlet, about one mile west of here.

According to First Lieutenant Philip Poynter, 2d Battalion intelligence officer, the suspect is one of a four-man team which has been mining the road from the base camp.

The suspect admitted that a VC soldier, killed by small arms fire from a helicopter, was the leader of the demolition team.

"The mines have been of two types," Lieutenant Poynter stated. "One type was 10 kilos of

TNT and the other was six kilos of a plastic charge. In all cases, the explosives were detonated by blasting caps connected to several hundred feet of wire."

The command-operated detonators were fashioned from two flat pieces of bamboo. Barbed wire ends were wrapped around one end of each piece. The bamboo was separated by a twig, and a rubber band was wrapped around the opposite ends to keep the wires apart.

The VC suspect explained that the mine was usually placed in a hole three feet deep. The wires were then run off behind cover, usually a dike. One man was always used as an observer from the time the charge was set until it was detonated.

Two or three of the men would remain behind to aid in the escape, usually accomplished by means of a sampans.

According to Lieutenant Poynter, the saboteurs were being supplied from a pagoda approximately one mile north of here.



SILVER STAR

Kendall, Floyd W. SFC USA
Miles, Peter D. MAJ USA
Pacheco, Robert S. 1LT USA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Bouknight, Bobby R. SGT USA
Copeland, J. B. 1LT USA
Eads, Samuel H. SSG USA
Hoff, Laurence B. 1LT USA
Jamieson, Victor E. SFC USA
Maples, David C. SSG USA
Riddle, Walker M. Jr. CPT USA

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Butterworth, Robert F. SSG USA
Good, Frederick E. SFC USA
Gray, James S. SFC USA
Hough, Henry MAJ USA *2
Matsumoto, Stanley Y. SFC USA *1
Nelson, Ronald R. CPT USA
Norman, John S. SFC USA
Olenn, Stanley F. 1LT USA
*/denotes Oak Leaf Clusters



DENTISTRY GOES TO THE DOGS — "Sarge," a four-year-old sentry dog, was plagued by a fractured tooth which had become abscessed. Captain Charles W. Norwood, a dentist from the 518th Medical Detachment at An Khe, was called in to provide the dog with a gold tooth. Now, "Sarge" boasts of his command unit every time he opens his mouth. Imbedded in the gold tooth is a detailed green and gold replica of the 18th Military Police Brigade insignia. (USA PHOTO BY: SP4 JACK F. PASKVAN)

Zip Code Moves The Mail



Zip code is a five-number code for every mailing address in the United States. Here's how the zip code works: Suppose the zip code is 60635. The "6" says it goes to the Midwest; the "06" narrows it down to Chicago; "35" pinpoints a local post office. This eliminates many handlings. The letter is sorted faster and sent more directly to its destination.



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the Armed Forces Press Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO 96222. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

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Dinner Invite Marks Success

DA NANG (USN) — "Moi cac anh di an." Freely translated this means, "You brothers are invited to dinner."

For four U.S. Navy men, the invitation was an indication of acceptance they had been striving for since last March.

A Vietnamese village chief had invited them to a community dinner celebration. They are now part of the village.

The four sailors comprise a Navy Village Assistance Team (VAT). They have been living and working six miles south of Da Nang in the fishing village of Nam Tho. Their mission is to assist the fishermen in any way possible.

They built their own home near the middle of the village. It lacks plumbing and their drinking water has to be carried in from a nearby base. A portable gas generator provides power for their radio, TV, tape recorder and refrigerator. Showers are from a well dug by the team members.

Technical Know-How

VAT-7 is one of 14 teams that comprise the Civic Actions Section of the Naval Support Activity at Da Nang. The members of VAT-7 are Yeoman First Class Robert Wilks, Boat-swain's Mate Third Class Eugene Burris, Signalman Seaman John Rinehart and Seaman Walter Maring.

The VATs bring technical know-how to the village level. Yeoman Wilks said, "You cannot help men by doing for them what they can do for themselves."

The teams have learned to capitalize on the Asian community spirit which is especially strong at the village level. The

villagers do the work.

The VAT program was started two years ago to help Vietnamese achieve military, social and economic victories over Communist forces.

VAT-7 advises the people of Nam Tho on construction, procurement of materials and defense of their village. The team also provides limited medical assistance.

Since March 1968, VAT-7 has helped the people of Nam Tho village construct a two-room addition to their only school, a six-room village office building, four homes and 30 wells. Da Nang VAT teams have 167 similar self-help projects under way this month.

Materials used by the villagers consist of shipping crates from the American base at Da Nang, concrete, metal sheeting and small tools provided by the Agency for International Development (AID). At Da Nang, the Civic Action Section has grown to include its own warehouse, a covered storage area and a lumber yard.

Bonus

VAT-7 sailors often accompany the village defense force on night patrols.

Language poses no serious problems for VAT-7 sailors. Two of the men had extensive Vietnamese language training in the United States prior to coming to Vietnam. Those who have not had this training attend language classes conducted by their teammates six nights a week.

"The invitation to have dinner with village officials was a highlight for us," Seaman Maring said. "Then we knew that we had been accepted."

ARVN, US Artillery Officers Exchange Useful Tactical Tips

DAK TO (USA) — The first exchange of officers between units of the 4th Infantry Division and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) took place recently.

Two ARVN officers of the

PBR Crew Helps PFs

SAIGON (USN) — U.S. Navy men from River Division 514 turned their river patrol boats (PBRs) into cargo haulers recently to help rebuild a Popular Forces operating base on the Bassac River, 70 miles southwest of Saigon. The buildings on the base were destroyed by fire recently.

During the nine-day operation the sailors hauled in roof trusses, lumber, cement, nails and cooking utensils. The Navy men provided technical help to the Popular Forces in the rebuilding effort. They also supplied a field radio and ammunition in response to a request from the village chief. The Catholic Relief Society provided homeless families with clothing.

Taking part in the operation were Navy men from the Game Warden support ship USS Harriet County (LST-821), the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Binh Thuy, and PBR sailors from River Division 514.

22nd Infantry Division Artillery at Qui Nhon spent two weeks of observation and study of American artillery techniques with the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery.

In the first days of the exchange, Lieutenant Colonel William Maurer, battalion commander, explained the organization of a 105mm howitzer battalion.

The officers took part in a battery move from Firebase 31 to Dak To and spent several days with Battery A.

Although the ARVN and United States artillery batteries are similar, Colonel Maurer said, "I feel the officer exchange will make significant contributions to their professional knowledge as well as to ours."

First Lieutenant Ted Dieumegard, the battalion reconnaissance officer, visited the ARVN 22nd Division Artillery and kept a record of tactical tips and lessons learned while involved in the program.

"The reason for this," explained Colonel Maurer, "is so we can provide 4th Division artillery and other battalions a report of Lieutenant Dieumegard's observations while with the ARVN."

The officer exchange, which involves men from the 4th Division, Republic of Korea (ROK) Infantry Division and the 22nd ARVN Infantry Division, was developed to increase effective-



QUICK TIMING — Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade move toward their positions in a combat assault near Tuy Hoa. (USA PHOTO)

Dental Assistant Now Learning Art Of 'Easy' Extractions

DAK TO (USA) — Captain Robert A. Carmichael, a dentist with Company B, 4th Medical Battalion, commanded by Captain Stephen Bell, is doing more than his duty.

Besides his regular dental assignments at 1st Brigade headquarters, he is training a dental assistant for the local people.

Mrs. Tuyen is a resident of Tan Canh near Dak To. Until a few months ago she had been supporting herself and her children as a midwife. Her income was so small that she had to send two of her three children to live with their paternal grandmother near Saigon. Her husband is serving in the Vietnamese Army.

Captain Carmichael had been running MEDCAPS to Tan Canh and found that to meet the needs of the people, he needed to spend more time there than he had available.

Extractions

Few of Tan Canh's residents would see a dentist until they had a toothache. By then it was usually too late to save the tooth. Therefore, Captain Carmichael's duties in Tan Canh consisted almost entirely of extractions.

Strict Purchase Rules Protect PX Privileges

SAIGON (MACV) — "All military and civilian personnel have an obligation to protect their Post Exchange (PX) and Commissary privileges," a MACV spokesman said recently. He listed some of the rules governing these privileges:

Any item purchases in a Vietnam Post Exchange must be for the sole use of an authorized patron. PX merchandise purchased by military personnel or authorized civilians cannot be resold or exchanged in barter.

PX merchandise may be bought for persons who are not authorized patrons if such merchandise is presented as a gift.

He felt it would be easier to find a resident of Tan Canh who would be willing to study dental techniques and serve as "tooth extractor" for the city.

He asked Bill Rose, an American civilian working in Tan Canh with the Montagnards, to find someone for the job. No men were willing, but when Mr. Rose asked Mrs. Tuyen, she accepted.

"Teaching Ba Tuyen was difficult at first," explained Captain Carmichael, "because she understood no English whatsoever."

But Ba Tuyen improved rapidly during her 90 days of training. One of her first lessons was to memorize the complete bone structure of the head, plus all the arteries, veins and nerves. She accomplished this in a week by using an American-Vietnamese medical dictionary.

This was extremely important, for novocaine must be administered to a nerve. Injections in an artery or vein could cause serious harm to the patient.

Experience

Mrs. Tuyen gained practical experience by extracting teeth of villagers who came to the 4th Medical Battalion. The work was supervised by Captain Carmichael.

"She has learned her work better than I had ever hoped for," Captain Carmichael said. "Within two weeks she'll be able to work on her own in Tan Canh."

Her only duty will be "easy" extractions. If a tooth shows signs of being impacted, the patient will be treated by an Army dentist or a civilian dentist in Kontum.

The only promises that Captain Carmichael "extracted" from her are that all ARVN soldiers and their families aren't charged. If a licensed dentist begins practice in town, she will become his assistant.

South Vietnam—Nine Months Later



Residents dig out after Tet offensive launched on Saigon.



Following restoration of mainlines of communication, food again flows into markets.

SAIGON (VFS) — A viable and independent South Vietnam is emerging from a crucible of strife.

The scars of the communists' Tet offensive of February and the "second wave" or "mini-Tet" offensive of May 1968 are mostly healed. The Saigon government, having faced up to a situation that amounted almost to a do-or-die challenge, has brought to a conclusion its Operation Recovery to restore pre-offensive conditions — an operation that turned out to be a major success. The government has thus fulfilled its promise of help to the people victimized by the Viet Cong terror offensives.

"The facts speak for themselves," said Ambassador Robert W. Komer, former advisor to the Central Recovery Committee. "More than 100,000 damaged and destroyed homes have been repaired or rebuilt. There is an abundance of food. Lines of communications are open. In short, the economy is moving."

Not only is it moving, but it is growing. The nation's resources remain rich and varied; the labor force has been trained at a rapid rate; there is a dynamic private sector in the economy; and the educational level of the population is improving substantially.

Despite nearly \$40 million damage inflicted on 105 industrial plants during the spring offensives, rehabilitation has been rapid in most fields. Textile production is recovering, and notable successes are being scored in cement, paper and pulp, chemicals, lumber mill products and construction industries. Agriculture is holding its own, and for the first time since 1965 the downward trend

Story & Photos
By
Vietnam Feature Service



This 2,300-unit refugee complex is one of many in Saigon.

in rice production is being reversed.

Unemployment has virtually vanished. Peasants get more for what they produce and generally pay less for the essentials they consume.

Public faith in the ARVN has increased dramatically as a result of its effective performance in repelling the Tet and mini-Tet offensives, and the soldiers of the Popular Forces and Regional Forces are reaping just praise. The Saigon government, the most stable of any since the Ngo Dinh Diem days, bolstered its public support by demonstrating a high degree of determination, adaptability and efficiency in standing up to the Tet assaults and moving rapidly to heal their wounds.

Under Operation Recovery, care was provided to 750,831 persons forced from their homes during Tet and another 140,000 evacuated during the mini-Tet offensive. Most now have returned to their homes, many of which have been rebuilt.

More than 66,000 tons of construction materials and 5,000 tons of clothing, blankets, food packages and other relief commodities were released from warehouses in Saigon and the provinces to meet the needs of the offensives' victims. About 483 million piasters (\$US4,093,220) in relief and resettlement allowances were paid by the government to nearly 60,000 families throughout South Vietnam.

Nearly 590,000 bags of cement and 664,000 sheets of metal roofing were distributed to 64,000 families so they could repair or rebuild their homes. Twenty-eight free world countries, the

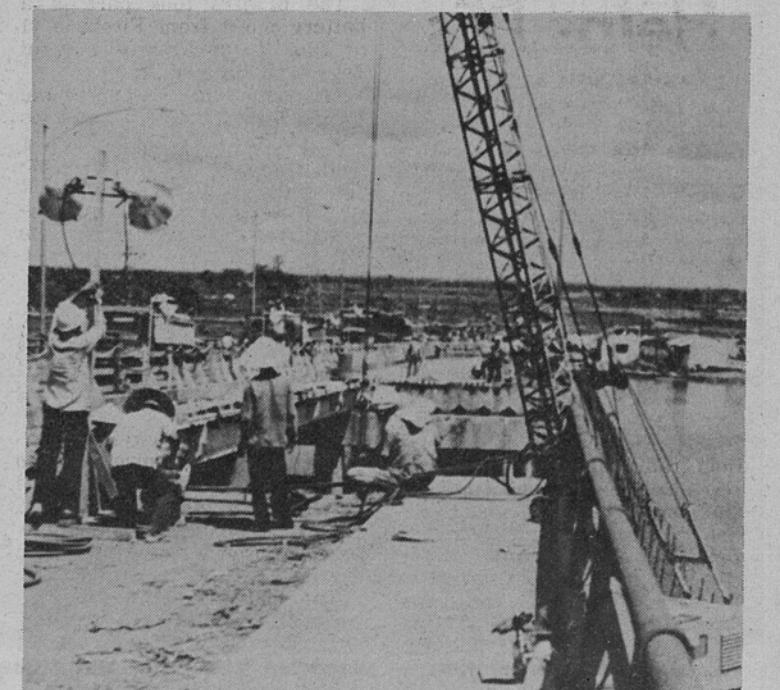
Red Cross, UNICEF, WHO, and other volunteer agencies operating in Vietnam contributed the equivalent of 738.8 million piasters (\$US6,261,017) in funds or commodities.

Along with the buzz of saws and the tap of hammers, there is a rising spirit of unity among the people, a new sense of allegiance to the government that came to their aid in time of catastrophe. From the psychological as well as the military standpoint, the communists lost the battle of Tet.

Progress is being made. This year emphasis is being given a relatively unfamiliar program—the government's Phung Hoang or Phoenix program. This is designed to root out the communist infrastructure, the underground apparatus by which the Viet Cong plague the lives of South Vietnamese living outside secure areas.

Operatives of Vietnamese intelligence services, the Police Special Branch, ARVN and others are working in tandem out of District Intelligence and Operations Centers in about 200 key districts this year. More than 9,600 members of the VC shadow government have been captured, killed or forced to flee their posts so far, but there remain thousands still burrowed in. It is the task of Operation Phoenix operatives to identify and root them out.

The name of the operation is significant, for the phoenix, or phung, is a legendary bird that emerges reborn and revitalized from the ashes of destructive fire. And so is the Republic of Vietnam now emerging reborn and revitalized from the arson and terror tactics that marked the communists' spring offensives.

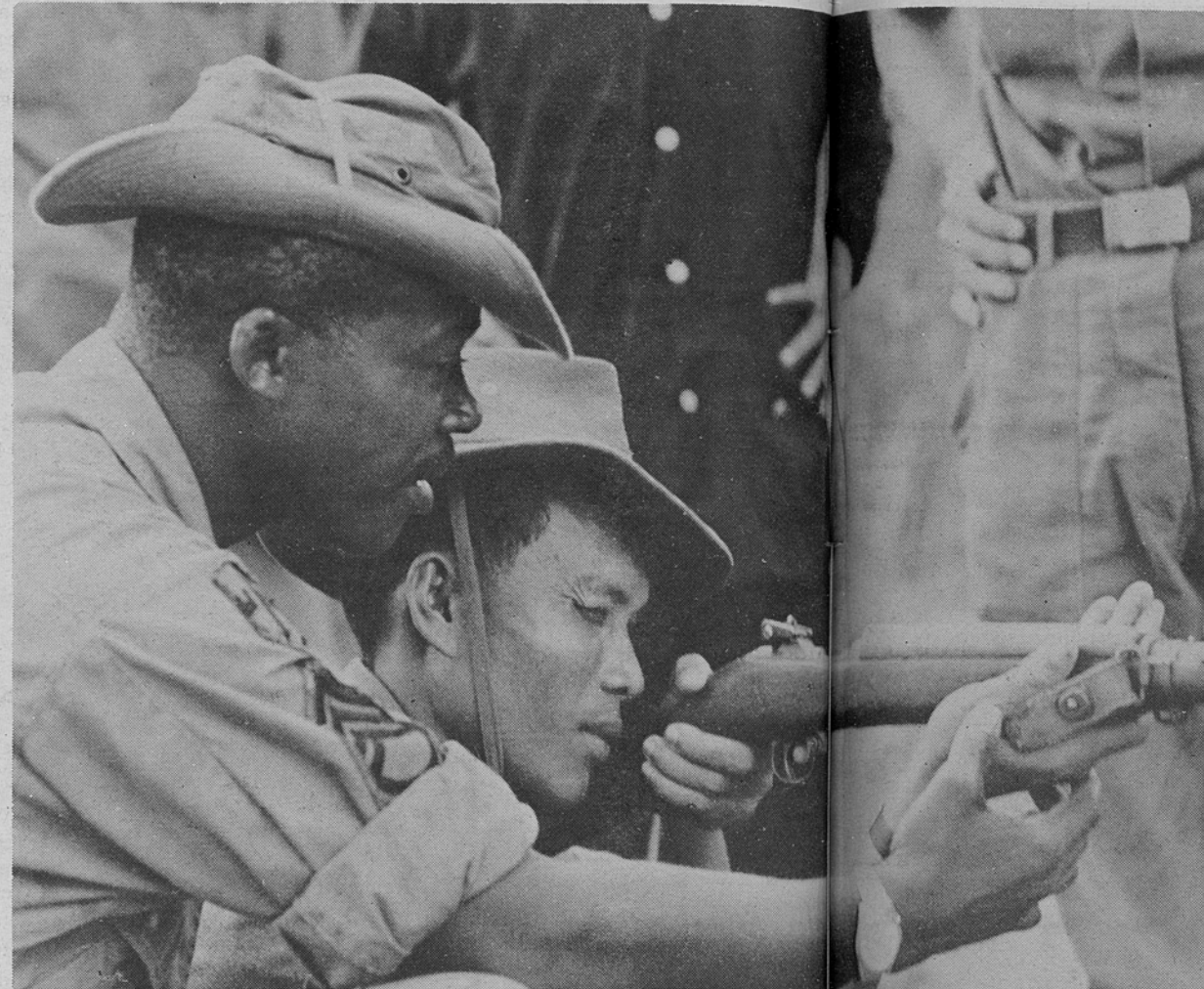


Construction crew repairs bridge north of Saigon's dock area.

Advisors' Prime Goal: Pacification Of Forty Hamlets



Lieutenant Mouny Kien, Tra Cu District Chief, is briefed by RF/PF cadre members.



The team's light weapons advisor, SFC High, gives tips on marksmanship to a PF trooper.



Results of one operation — suspected Viet Cong await questioning at district headquarters in Tra Cu.



A village protector prepares for the long day that lies ahead.

SAIGON (MACV) — From the air, the face of the Mekong Delta is a chain of rice paddy squares.

Wherever the sun may shine it seems to strike water. One of the richest rice producing provinces of this region is Vinh Binh. Some outstanding American advisory efforts are taking place in this province. One of them — Tra Cu District — has a pacification Program to pacify 40 hamlets by the end of the year. "A lot of effort is going into this project," said Major Jimmy Sloan, district senior advisor.

"Regional Force companies and Popular Force platoons provide security for the hamlets. And we have seen some good results," he said.

Major Sloan is working closely on the project with Lieutenant Mouny Kien, the District Chief.

There is a remarkable degree of rapport between Major Sloan and the district chief. Lieutenant Kien has the respect of the troops, the district civilians and the American advisors.

"The people have supported this campaign wholeheartedly," Major Sloan said. "And our advisory team members are doing a tremendous job."

"We started a week ago by going into a village," Major Sloan said.

It was the village of An Quang Huu.

Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) 42 had moved into this village with Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) and cleared it of Viet Cong control. For five months prior to the move, the Viet Cong had held the village and also boasted of control over 7,000 meters of the road running from the village to the district capital of Tra Cu.

The MAT team immediately advised the villagers on the construction of an outpost made of bamboo and dirt. The villagers completed the task in only three days. The outpost stands in a field flanked by rice paddies on the village perimeter. From a bamboo pole fly the yellow and red of the Republic of Vietnam flag.

Work began on improving the road to the district capital. Native villagers who had left their homes during the VC reign returned. The market place was crowded again. Children ran in the streets.

"You live with the people . . . advise them . . . you become one of them."

Captain Donald E. Dick, senior advisor with Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) 42, was commenting on his mission and that of his team members.

"We are basically interested in security," Captain Dick said. The proximity of the Government of Vietnam forces to the village has inspired enough confidence in the people for them to return to their homes, clean up the village and improve their road. An Quang Huu is returning to normal.

"We received 14 Hoi Chanh in five days," said Captain Dick. "The reason? They've wanted to return to control of the South Vietnamese government under the Chieu Hoi program but, without security, they were afraid."

Captain Dick and his team members, First Lieutenant Kenneth Kron, assistant senior advisor, and Sergeant First Class James High, light weapons advisor, had been working in An Quang Huu for several days.

The team members performed their mission: "Advising and instructing Regional and Popular Forces within Tra Cu District," Captain Dick explained.

"This includes such things as field fortifications, barrier systems, adjustment of indirect fire, small unit tactics, medical evacuation, weapons emplacement and training."

The advisors, going out on every operation with the RF/PF at first "felt they were firing too high and didn't use the correct firing positions," Captain Dick remarked.

"So we concentrated on teaching them the basic positions. We developed a field fire course for them to zero their weapons."

"We made sighting bars out of local materials — tin and wood — to use during our rifle training."

According to Captain Dick, supplies are received primarily through Vietnamese channels. "We have a mission in this area also," he said. "This is advising and assisting the Vietnamese in improving their administrative and logistical support."

The MAT Team advisors live in a village hut with the Vietnamese forces they advise. They begin the day with a sweep of the road to Tra Cu.

"We found a 20-kilo mine on the road this morning," said Captain Dick. "The Viet Cong lost a mine and we gained one. It did absolutely no damage. This is important."

The advisors accompany the RF/PF on night ambushes. "We've been sniped at every night. The VC, I think, are just letting us know they are still around," commented Captain Dick.

Major Sloan said, "After we have completed the work in this village we will move on to other villages in the district. We hope to open all the roads to the nine villages."

So MAT Team 42's work in An Quang Huu was only a beginning. In the weeks and months to come they will extend their mission to other hamlets and villages.

There is always work to be done. It is demanding work. The members of MAT Team 42 have focused all their energies and efforts to meet those demands.

Story & Photos By
SP5 Joe De Priest, USA
&
Sgt. E. J. Sargent, USMC



A PF soldier field strips an M-16 under the supervision of Lt. Kron's watchful eye.



The women sew and make clothing while the men defend.

ARVN Rangers Fight And Build

PHU LOC (USA) — The 21st ARVN Rangers are one of the great hopes in South Vietnam's quest for peace. Like the Minutemen of the American Revolution, they are building for the future. They stand alert and ready to defend their land and homes against the enemy.

Home for the 21st Rangers is the hamlet of Phu Loc, seven miles northwest of Da Nang. Commander of the distinguished unit is Major Vo Vang, one of the nation's most highly decorated heroes.

Phu Loc is a growing, progressive community in which the rangers build as well as protect their homes and families. The soldiers have erected a new community center, church and school to continue their children's education. They even teach in the school when they are not on combat operations.

Off-duty life in the hamlet is astir with activity. Wives and daughters sew and make clothing for the family while husbands build and teach. For just a moment, the war is far away. The village's security demands a constant alert status, however.

The company commander having local security duty for the day is responsible for giving instructions for sweeps around the hamlet and for posting of the night sentries.

The rangers realize that vigilance is a part of the war. Yet they continue to find time to build a better way of life for the future.

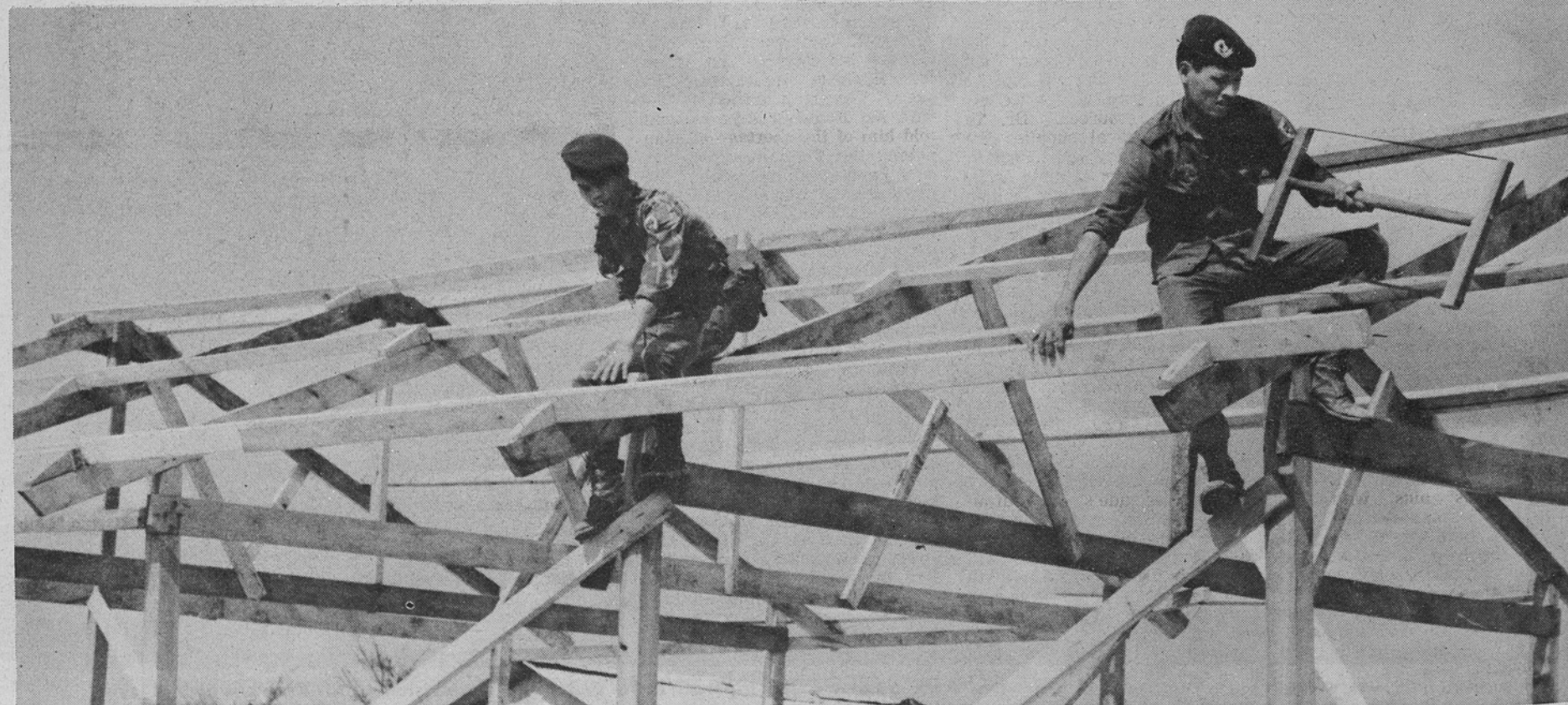
Story & Photos
By
GySgt Harold Shipp, USMC



Village children listen attentively in school where Rangers serve as part-time teachers.



A ranger lends a hand to an injured friend. Their task is the defense of their hamlet.



When not on combat operations, the men of the 21st Rangers spend their time constructing homes, a church and a school for the children of Phu Loc.

Children Receive A Helping Hand

CAMP ENARI (USA) — A stranger to compassion might not have understood the author who said, "A man never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child."

But, the tiny orphans of La Son see a giant no matter which way they turn. They understand.

Hungry, sad and in ill health, the youngsters have come from all over Vietnam — both North and South — to this small village in the Central Highlands, only a few miles from Pleiku.

Their hunger is being stilled, their health problems are being treated, and their smiling faces say even the sadness may be going away.

Father Minh is taking care of them with a helping hand from a group of concerned 4th Infantry Division soldiers.

The children's admiration for these men is expressed in their voices. Phur, an eight-year-old boy orphaned by a Viet Cong terrorist attack, asked the Father to "... help me, give food, teach school."

Despite his plight, Phur is thankful to the "tall" people for what they are doing to help him. The bright-eyed youngster said, "GIs nice to us, build us school, give candy."

Father Minh, a Catholic priest educated at Hanoi University in his native North Vietnam, traveled the towns and village of Vietnam until he found La Son had a need for him.

The men of Company E, 704th Maintenance Battalion, commanded by Major Charles H. Grayson, came to this opportunity by other means, but they too are now fully integrated

into the development of the La Son Orphanage and its 150 children.

Recently the men presented 385 books for use in educating the youngsters. The books, for grades one through seven, include the same subjects children throughout the world are studying.

"I made the trip to Saigon to purchase the text books," explained Warrant Officer Walter Emery, "because we thought this was the most pressing problem facing us."

Although the school might be considered complete by Vietnamese standards, the American soldiers aren't satisfied and are planning to step up their aid program.

"We finished the school building in late summer," said Major Grayson, "but we feel there is still work to be done so we intend to make improvements."

Those 4th Division Infantrymen not able to visit La Son have still maintained a deep interest in the project and have contributed more than \$1,000 to help keep the orphanage in operation.

Soon, Company E's aid will extend into the school's curriculum.

"We are searching now for the right man in our company to come out here three days a week to assist Father Minh with English lessons," explained Mr. Emery. "The Father speaks adequate English, but has told us he needs someone who speaks it well."

"There are several college graduates in Company E and we already have enough volunteers to fill several schools," smiled the major.

To the orphans of La Son, Father Minh and his American friends stand tall. They have stooped to help a child.



A tiny girl greets soldiers bringing books to La Son Orphanage in the Central Highlands.

During MEDCAP Operation

Students 'Take Over' For GIs

LONG BINH (USA) — Two 199th Light Infantry Brigade medics conducting a MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) for civilians were surprised recently when South Vietnamese students took over and ran the operation as the medics looked on.

"We thought we were going to have a routine MEDCAP," said Private First Class Donald Wood, "when a busload of Vietnamese students pulled up and took over right under our noses."

"This is actually the best MEDCAP I've pulled," Specialist 4 David H. Laughrie said as he stood, looking somewhat helplessly, in the treatment room of a Catholic seminary

near Saigon.

The 15 Vietnamese students were from high schools and universities in Saigon and belonged to a voluntary service organization called Congregation Mariale Universitaire. Their president, Dr. Ta Thanh Minh, said approximately 150 students have volunteered their free time for work to help needy countrymen. Most are pre-med, medical, or pharmacy students who devote Saturday afternoons to service at various locations near Saigon.

While Specialist Laughrie and PFC Wood observed, the students lined up the patients, interviewed them, diagnosed ailments and prescribed and administered treatment as well as medicine and advice.

"We think only of helping our poor people," said Dr. Ta. "Vietnam is a poor country and we try to do what we can for our people, even though we are limited by resources." Dr. Ta said that medical supplies are difficult to get and, further, "We've lost a lot of male members because of military obligation. Two-thirds of the volunteers are girls."

In addition to their own MEDCAPs, the students take part in organizing social activities among the underprivileged. Students have also visited leprosy colonies and distributed gifts to orphanages.

Money for activities is raised through fund drives, by showing movies, from contributions, and from the apostolic delegation of the John Baptiste de la Salle mission in Saigon. The 199th Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, provides the group with medical supplies each week for the MEDCAP.

Nguyen Thi Nguyen, a sixth year medical student at Saigon University, says that, "The association not only gives us an opportunity to help our own people, but does so in a way in which most of us can use our medical knowledge. We consult directly with the people and

learn their problems firsthand."

An attractive first-year French language student, Tran Thi Nhan sees her non-medical field of study as no hindrance to her desire to help. "I always wondered what I could do for my country in its distress," she said. "This program gives me a chance to do something for my people."

Hawaiian Soap Brightens VN Village

LAI KHE (USA) — Through the courtesy of the Chinese Junior Chamber of Commerce in Honolulu, 3,000 bars of soap have been donated to residents of the village of Long Vinh, about five miles south of here.

Captain Edward M. L. Yee of Honolulu, the civil affairs officer for 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, contacted Mr. Glenn Chang, a friend of his with the Honolulu Jaycees, and told him of the shortage of soap among the Vietnamese.

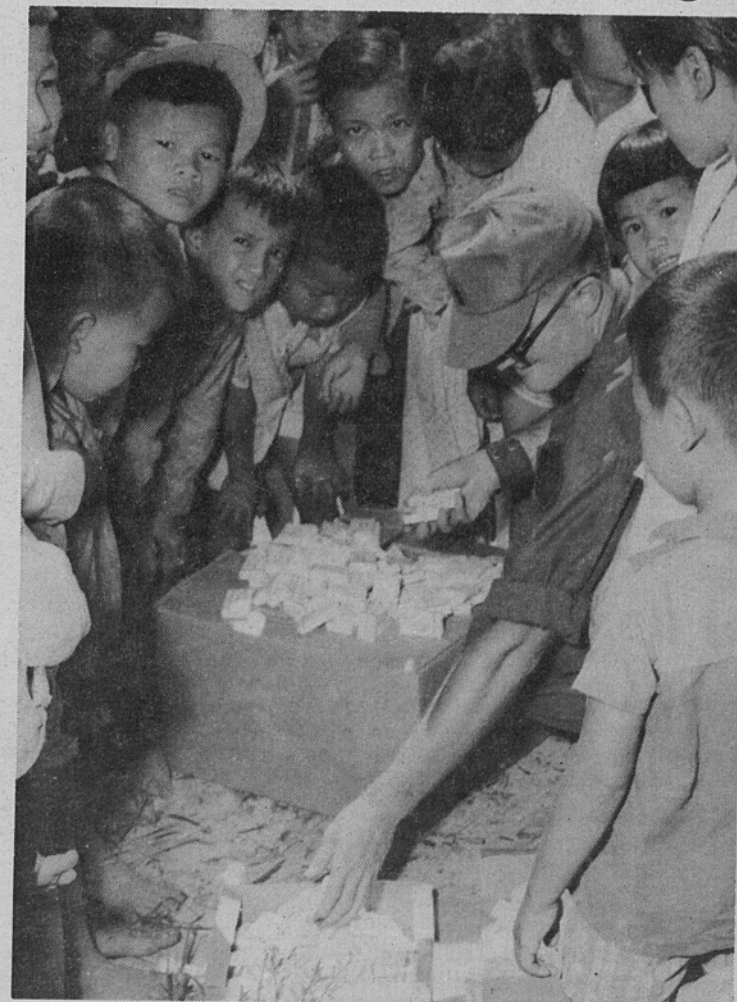
"Almost immediately, the campaign to round up the soap was started and the people displayed great enthusiasm for the project," reported Captain Yee.

The soap traveled to Vietnam aboard a jet to Bien Hoa Airbase, where it was picked up by 3rd Brigade representatives and taken to Lai Khe.

From Lai Khe, a team headed by First Lieutenant Thomas Shannon took the soap to the village. Children gathered quickly around the American soldiers, as they nearly always do when the men enter a village.

Nearly everyone in the area eagerly tried to get one of the sweet-smelling soap cakes before the supply was exhausted.

The soap distribution was only one phase of an extensive civil affairs program conducted by the 3rd Brigade. Medical Civic Action Programs have frequently operated in the Ben Cat complex of hamlets which includes Long Vinh.



First Lieutenant Thomas Shannon distributes soap in Long Vinh.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK — Sez, "Don't take on more than you can handle. In order to make life more memorable and pleasant, don't overcommit your resources. An inability to meet your obligation can cause a great deal of embarrassment. It can even ruin your career, home life and future. So remember, practice moderation and good judgement if you intend to use credit to meet your Christmas obligations." (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN



ISN'T THAT CUTE...
10 LBS OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

1-Wine cups

5-Equality

8-Philippine Moslem

12-Clan

13-Exist

14-Inland off Ireland

15-Correspond to

17-Part of church

18-Gravestone

19-Seats on horses

21-French plural article

23-Afternoon party

24-Silkworm

27-Slivers of wood

32-Speech impediment

34-54 (Roman number)

35-Great Lake

36-Controls

39-Suitable

40-Things, in law

41-Total

43-Inhale and exhale

47-Burdens

51-Relative

52-False impression

54-Century plant

55-Penpoint

56-Girl's name

57-Fewer

58-Aeriform fluid

59-Leak through

DOWN

1-Snakes

2-Flesh

3-Land measure

4-Bog down

5-Crony (colloq.)

6-War god

7-Kinfolk

8-Command

9-Spoken

10-Rant

11-Units

16-Dregs

20-Lair

22-Frolicking in water

24-Ancient (poet.)

25-Spanish for "river"

26-Doctrine

28-Illuminated

29-Period of time

30-Tear

31-Place

33-Buccaneers

37-Openwork fabric

38-South Sea islander

42-Hebrew prophet

43-Ancient Semite

44-Regulation

45-Man's name

46-Lamb's pen name

48-Assistant

49-Accomplished

50-Break suddenly

53-Measure of weight (pl. abbr.)

W	A	S	P	O	P	E	N	B	O	W
A	L	E	E	M	O	L	E	A	M	A
S	T	A	R	V	E	I	T	E	D	
I	A	G	O	S	T	A	R	E		
S	C	H	O	L	A	R	S	O	N	
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P	E	R	I	L	N	E	E	D		
F	E	R	R	I	N	A	R	I	S	E
L	I	E	P	E	T	S	E	T	T	A
T	E	N	S	E	R	E	R	A	A	D

BEFORE GOING on R & R, leave, TDY, or returning to CONUS, personnel should visit the dispensary at least 20 days in advance of departure date to insure that immunizations are up-to-date.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



A Welcome Addition To 1st Infantry Troops

DI AN (USA) — Le Van Det, a Kit Carson Scout, has become an outstanding addition to the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry.

Three years ago, Mr. Det, then a Viet Cong rifleman with two

decorations for valor, went into Ben Cat, the village of his youth, and turned himself over to government troops.

"When I was a boy in Ben Cat, I did not understand things yet," says Mr. Det. "The Viet Cong came into the village and I did what I was told." Responding to pressure, he became an active member of a local VC force.

During the months he has been a scout with the 1st Infantry Division unit, Mr. Det has displayed a knowledge of the enemy which could only have been acquired by having been one of them himself. In the heat of a battle, Mr. Det will go running forward alone, racing right around the enemy's lines of fire. He knows just where they can fire and where they cannot. He can singlehandedly silence enemy firing positions and lead his comrades through safe avenues of approach.

"He saved my life on several occasions, particularly once when he pointed out a mine I was about to step on," said Private First Class Christopher Podgus, an infantryman with the battalion. "I saw him personally blow three live bunkers which were spraying automatic fire during a recent contact," he added.

On another occasion, while a 1st Infantry Division company was moving forward, Mr. Det observed three enemy moving along the flank of his platoon. Without hesitating, he moved ahead and engaged them. His squad leader reported seeing two fall and the third disappear into the brush.

During the day-long battle which followed, he continually moved through heavy enemy fire to assist in any way he could.

25th Finds VC Hosp.

DAU TIENG (USA) — A deserted rubber plantation 50 miles northwest of Saigon yielded a sprawling Viet Cong hospital complex with the capacity for an enemy battalion.

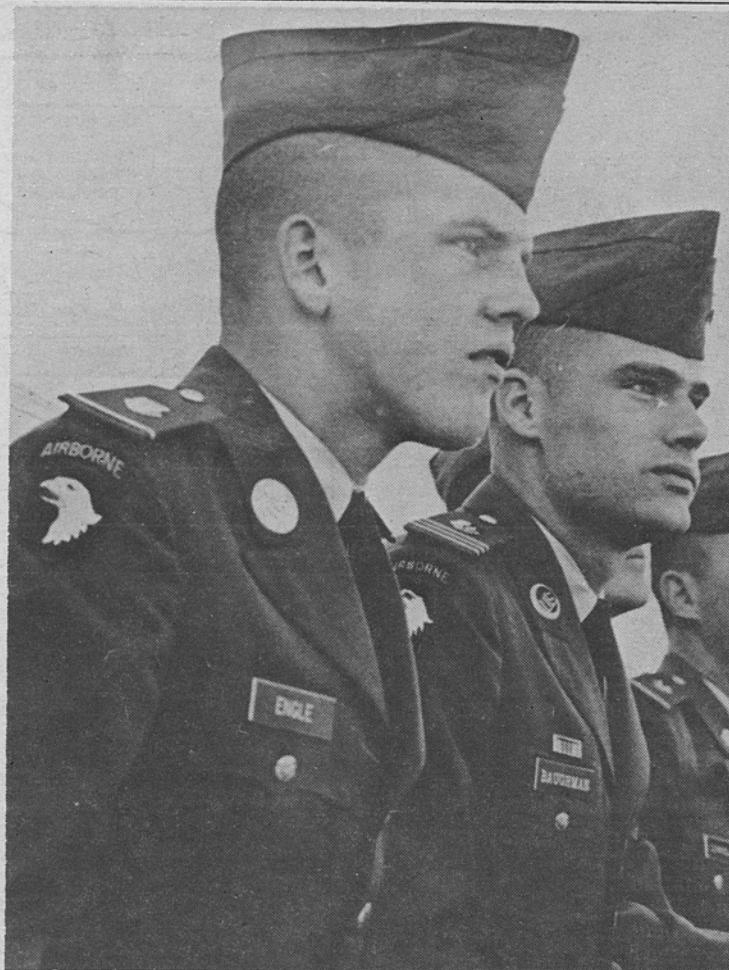
The hospital also housed a massive munitions factory in which the enemy used to manufacture hand grenades and bangalore torpedoes.

The 200 bunker complex, interlaced with numerous tunnels, was filled with more than 1,000 pounds of medical supplies. Four enemy bodies still lay inside, apparently left behind as the enemy left. It was estimated that the hospital and arms shop had been deserted for less than a week.

The complex was discovered by Company B, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, as they conducted a reconnaissance-in-force in an area approximately 11 kilometers west of Dau Tieng.

The 25th Infantry Division unit discovered an assortment of small items including a typewriter and nine bicycles.

"Apparently they were driven out by our artillery fire, or they had to abandon the complex for lack of manpower," said Captain Lawrence F. Rubino, company commander.



Two former Screaming Eagles, Sergeants Engle (left) and Baughman, watch a football game at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, Ft. Belvoir, Va.

(USA PHOTO)

West Point Is Goal Of Ex-Screaming Eagles

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Aiming at admission to West Point next summer, two Vietnam veterans of the 101st Airborne Division are continuing their education at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Staff Sergeant Michael W. Baughman and Sergeant Thomas D. Engle are undergoing intensive study in English, mathematics and military subjects. The school provided 121 students for the Academy's plebe class this year.

Sergeant Baughman served with the 101st from December 1967 to July 1968 as a squad leader and platoon sergeant in Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry, operating at Landing Zone Sally north of Hue.

On a previous tour in Vietnam, he was assigned to the 52nd Pathfinder Detachment from May to July 1966 and to the 170th Assault Helicopter Company, July 1966 to February 1967. He has won the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Bronze Star with "V" Device, Air Medal with "V" Device and Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Sergeant Engle was assigned as a squad leader in a rifle platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry at Cu Chi and Quang Tri.

Serving with the Screaming Eagles from December 1967 to April 1968, he was awarded a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Quotas Up In Prep School

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII (USARPAC) — Many more Army enlisted men assigned to the Pacific area will have the opportunity to enter the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School during 1969.

The West Point Cadet Corps has been enlarged and the Department of the Army has taken this opportunity to increase its Preparatory School quotas for outstanding enlisted men.

There are no hard and fast rules which apply for admission to the school. Basic standards, however, are set forth in Army Regulation 350-55. No tests of any kind are required. After interview and indorsement by his commander, application is made to the USMA Preparatory School, Fort Belvoir, Va., where the individual students are selected on the basis of their records.

Courses at the school prepare students to compete for appointments to West Point and provide additional preparation for those who win appointments to the Academy.

The program will be actively supported within U.S. Army, Pacific, with strong encouragement from General Ralph E. Haines Jr., USARPAC commander-in-chief.

Cadet enrollment at West Point is expected to increase to more than 4,000. More qualified enlisted men will find an opportunity to enter the USMA Prep School and compete for an appointment to the Academy.

Commanders at all levels will be the primary contact point for those enlisted men who wish to enter Prep School. Only men with outstanding motivation and qualification can achieve the objective, but there are great numbers of such soldiers within the USARPAC ranks.

1st Cav...

(Continued from Page 1)
with elements of the 1st ARVN Division and a unit of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, formed a massive cordon aimed at the My Chanh District in the Thua Thien Province and weeding out the Viet Cong infrastructure.

Cavalrymen of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, and their allies set a cordon some 16 kilometers in circumference, while government troops searched the interior of the cordon for VC. The search resulted in more than 300 VC killed by U.S. and ARVN units.

The division is now fully operational in the III Corps area.



THREE-STAR VISIT — Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, inspects a Vietnamese Honor Guard at the Recruit Training Center at Thu Duc during his recent visit to the Saigon area.

(USN PHOTO)

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FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 30

Saigon, Vietnam

November 29, 1968

ARVN Kill 206 In 'Hung Quang'

Operation 'Sea Lords' Hits Enemy

SAIGON (USN) — Twenty-six enemy sampans were destroyed and 63 structures and 15 bunkers destroyed or damaged by U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units during two "Sea Lords" river penetrations recently. The naval units suffered no casualties and enemy casualties were unknown.

In the first operation, two Navy "Swift" boats (PCFs), supported by two Navy "Seawolf" helicopter gunships and the Coast Guard cutter Point Comfort, ventured 13 miles up the My Thang River, which separates Bac Lieu and Ba Xuyen Provinces, 90 miles southwest of Saigon.

Enemy small arms fire was encountered by the Swift boats twice during their four-hour river incursion. It was immediately returned and suppressed. Seawolf helicopters covered their exit from the river with rocket and machine gun fire.

During their penetration of the river, the Swift boats destroyed or damaged 26 enemy sampans, 53 structures and five bunkers. Gunfire support from the Coast Guard cutter Point Comfort accounted for seven enemy structures destroyed or damaged.

In a similar operation, two other Swift boats and two Navy landing craft (LCVPs) moved into the Rach Vang River mouth in An Xuyen Province, 159 miles southwest of Saigon. A Market Time support ship (LST) remained offshore, rendering fire support.

The four boats penetrated the river more than three miles, with the Swift boats destroying four enemy bunkers and the LCVPs destroying five more. After the boats withdrew, fire support from the LST destroyed three structures and one bunker.

There were no Navy casualties.

Thanksgiving Message

Each Thanksgiving Day, grateful Americans pause to give thanks for our nation's heritage of abundance and prosperity.

Today, we pause momentarily in our quest for an honorable peace, to give thanks to the Almighty, for his gift of strength and for enabling us to achieve the great progress we have made in the past year.

This progress has denied to our enemies any hope of military success. We now pray that God may grant us the skill and fortitude to forge a just and honorable peace which will permit the South Vietnamese to create their own destiny—free from aggression and oppression.

Let us also give thanks that as free men we have been privileged to give a measure of ourselves in assisting the Vietnamese people against the enemy who would enslave them.

On Thanksgiving Day 1968, we must remain vigilant against complacency and secure in the knowledge that our cause is just and our strength invincible.

GENERAL CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
COMUSMACV

DA NANG (MACV) — In an operation, code-named Hung Quang 12-5, the 51st ARVN Infantry Regiment recently killed 206 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers. Friendly casualties were reported as light. The ARVN infantrymen made contact with a battalion-sized NVA unit near Dien Bien, approximately 20 kilometers south of Da Nang. Reports in the early afternoon of the first day listed 63 enemy soldiers killed.

The figure soared to 124 NVA killed the following morning. Thirty-six of the enemy were killed by gunships participating in the action. The 2nd Battalion of the 51st Regiment was the main force committed to the battle.

While the 51st maintained contact with the enemy, a Regional Force company swept into the area from the east and, along with supporting fire and air strikes, killed 82 communist soldiers. They also captured 22 assorted weapons from the enemy. The operation during the second day accounted for 37 individual and four crew-served weapons captured. Sporadic action continued as the 51st maintained contact.

Meanwhile, the 1st Regional Force Battalion, in a night defensive position seven kilometers southwest of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province, received 15 to 20 rounds of 57mm recoilless rifle fire and 20 to 25 rounds of 82mm mortar from an unknown number of enemy.

Quick reaction counter artillery fire from ARVN units accounted for 49 communist soldiers killed. Two bangalore torpedoes and 308 Chicom grenades were confiscated by the ARVN after a sweep of the area.

After 3 Years, Another Train

New Life Puffs Back Into Hue

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — The first train in three years puffed noisily into Hue recently as 10 miles of track between Phu Bai and the old Imperial City were opened.

The railway had been idle since 1965 when Viet Cong demolition teams knocked out

bridges and several sections of track.

Two months ago, under the protective wing of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) Screaming Eagles, the shattered line began to come to life again.

"This is a very important

milestone in Thua Thien Province," said Colonel Thomas W. Bowen, MACV senior advisor. "It could not have happened without the 101st Division."

Although the rail line is important economically, it is perhaps more important for its meaning to the people. It is a symbol of security and stability, as well as a fresh example of the government's concern.

"When my people see the train running again," said Colonel Le Van Than, Thua Thien chief, "they realize that life is almost back to the way it was before the fighting."

Among the guests for the train's historic run were the members of the Screaming Eagle Band. Jammed in a low-sided freight car, they played for the Vietnamese citizens along the route.

LRP, Gunships Zap VC

DONG TAM (USA) — A Long Range Reconnaissance Team (LRP) of Company E, 50th Infantry, and gunships of Troop D of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, combined forces recently to kill 10 Viet Cong.

The 9th Infantry LRPs were inserted after radar sightings indicated that a large group of people were in the area.

The team spotted a hut with a plastic covering on it which they believed to hold an enemy cache. Moving toward the hut, they came into contact with a small VC force and killed two of them.

A cavalry light fire team was called in to support the LRPs and pounded the area with rockets and mini-guns, killing eight more fleeing VC.

The 'Enemy' Was Just Monkeying Around

OASIS (USA) — Because they sounded too much like an NVA ambush, friendly orangutans brought mortar and artillery fire down on themselves when they blundered into a Short Range Patrol (SRP) team near the Cambodian border.

"We had been finding long, human-like hairs along the trails," said the team's leader, Specialist 4 Toil Smith. "We just couldn't figure out what they were."

When the 4th Infantry Division SRP team stopped in a clump of dense bamboo, they began hearing noises that gave them more reason to worry. "The first time I thought it was a small tree falling down," Specialist Smith said.

"Then I heard the same sound again," he said. "No tree falls twice in the same place."

The sounds of movement continued and began approaching the SRP team in a wide semi-

circle.

Convinced that an enemy patrol was moving up around their position, the SRP team called for 81mm mortar fire from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry.

"They gave us a couple of illumination rounds to adjust with," Specialist Smith said. "But the jungle was too thick for mortars to do much good."

Bravo Company then offered to call for artillery support, and

the SRP team agreed.

Just as the first 155mm rounds were fired, however, the SRP leader finally caught sight of one of the "enemy."

It was a long-armed orangutan jumping from tree to tree.

The SRP team quickly checked fire.

"The orangutan spotted us and started jumping around and clapping his hands," Specialist Smith recalled. "He seemed pretty happy to see us."



Parcel Air Lift
Days Left

Editorial

Think About It

Thanksgiving Day, no matter where you celebrate it, is one of the most traditional of American holidays. Most of our folks at home will be thinking special thoughts of us, who are serving the cause of freedom in Vietnam, of family reunions, turkey and American traditions. At the same time, we will be thinking of home and loved ones and maybe, the hot turkey meal we'll eat as we pause briefly in our daily task of ensuring the enemy's ultimate defeat.

1968 has been a year of great progress in our efforts to win an honorable peace in Vietnam. With our RVNAF and Free World Force comrades, we have met the enemy main force units and have clobbered them. Our Pacification programs are moving with increased momentum. The Government of South Vietnam is meeting with ever-greater success in its efforts to provide the citizens of their war-torn land with a stable and representative government. It has been an encouraging year for the allies in Vietnam.

Yet, it is exactly times like the present that call for renewed vigilance and dedication. Yes, the bombing halt and the possibility of meaningful negotiations are encouraging. On the other hand, we need only look back sixteen years to the beginning of negotiations to end the Korean conflict to know why we can't afford to let down our guard. The fiercest fighting took place in Korea while the negotiating was taking place. And so may it happen here. Our opponent's bag of tricks includes the instructions to fight with renewed vigor while negotiations are under way. So, we have to be every bit as alert today, and maybe even more so, than we were before the President's announcement.

Keep in mind that the enemy didn't come to the negotiating table because he was winning. You have upset his timetable for conquering Vietnam, but there is still much to be done. The mission is still the same . . . winning a just and honorable peace and ensuring that the courageous people of Vietnam can enjoy, after so many years of bloody strife, the fruits of freedom under a government of their own choosing.

Digest that along with your Thanksgiving turkey.

Early Release Program Set For Holiday Season

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Army has announced an early release policy for the 1968 Christmas holiday season.

With certain exceptions, non-regular officers, nonregular warrant officers and all enlisted personnel who would normally be separated or released from Dec. 21, 1968, through Jan. 12, 1969, will be released or separated during the period Dec. 16 through Dec. 20.

This policy applies to personnel stationed in the continental United States (CONUS) or in their area of permanent residence outside CONUS. It also includes personnel who have returned from overseas commands for transshipment to their area of permanent residence.

Department of the Army Message 886383 states, "Every action will be taken to expedite movement of such personnel who are eligible for separation or release in their home areas. Personnel eligible for separation or release under this policy will not be retained on active duty beyond Dec. 20 because of nonreceipt of records. Temporary records may be utilized as required."

Personnel whose re-enlistment bonus, accrued leave pay or other benefits would be adversely affected by an early release may be retained until their normal expiration of term of service or release date. Early return of personnel from overseas to specifically qualify for Christmas early release is not authorized. (ANF)

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

★ ★ ★
USO Sponsors "Living Letter" For Holidays

WASHINGTON — A special national project that will allow every overseas serviceman to receive tape-recorded holiday greetings from their families and friends is underway by the USO.

Covering more than 250 key cities throughout the country, the "Living Letter" project has been developed to encourage the public to send special greetings to military personnel away from home during the holidays. USO particularly wants to stimulate the flow of taped letters to Vietnam where any message, taped or written, is doubly appreciated.

Through special arrangements with the Radio Shack stores, the USO will have free taping facilities in more than 350 locations. In addition to supplying special recording booths in each of its stores, Radio Shack has agreed to supply free tapes and mailing cartons to anyone wishing to send a "Living Letter" to service personnel overseas.

The USO maintains taping facilities at most stateside USO clubs and in all overseas USO clubs where service personnel can play back the letter and record a return message.

To allow time for mail delivery to Vietnam, Thailand and other critical areas, the project will run through Nov. 30.

Take advantage of this special benefit and notify your parents, friends and girlfriends right away. (AFPS)

Drug Abuse

WASHINGTON — A new 80-page indexed handbook entitled "Drug Abuse: Game Without Winners, A Basic Handbook for Commanders," is one of the most comprehensive publications ever produced on drug abuse.

Prepared by the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, it is designed to help fill the information vacuum on drug abuse. Its aim is to help commanders understand, prevent and combat drug abuse problems.

The handbook sets out a brief historical view of drug abuse, distribution methods, penalties for illegal drug traffic and technical definitions. A drug abuse reference chart is also included.

Prevention is stressed. The handbook points out that "The illegal use of drugs by members of the Armed Forces is a matter of concern that requires intensive, coordinated departmental effort for its control and elimination. The Department of Defense acknowledges particular responsibility for protecting the young, impressionable members of the Armed Forces overseas against the dangers of using drugs which may have a seriously damaging effect on their health and welfare."

The handbook may be ordered through normal supply channels by requesting: DRUG ABUSE, GAME WITHOUT WINNERS, A Basic Handbook for Commanders. (DoD GEN-33; DA Pam 360-530; NAVPERS 15234; AFP 34-2; NAVMC 2620; CG-173) (AFPS)



"LET IT COOL OFF—Before you pass it on to someone else," says Miss Jacqueline Voltair. "Remember that the OBSERVER is published on the basis of one copy for every five servicemen in Vietnam. So won't you share me with your buddies?" (PHOTO COURTESY OF LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU)



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

Music is as universal as any artistic expression of human emotion. A nation or a people may use music in many ways, and history is not without examples of music taking some interesting or significant role. Nero fiddled while Rome burned; Shakespeare, realizing its soothing effects, refers to music as having the power to "tame the savage breast;" and Hitler used Wagner's stirring music to arouse the emotions of the German people.

Much can be learned from studying a nation's musical heritage. While space limits us to a very brief view of Vietnamese music, we can seek a better understanding of the Vietnamese through a knowledge of their musical heritage.

Harmony

The American hearing Vietnamese music for the first time usually finds nothing musical at all in what he is hearing. Harmony, a natural ingredient in music (before the "rock" era) seems to be totally lacking. The reason is this: traditional Vietnamese music uses the five-tone scale rather than the eight-tone scale that we are accustomed to.

Traditional Vietnamese music at one time was strictly governed by a court at Hue, which has long been considered the cultural center of Vietnam. Changes have occurred, espe-

cially with the introduction of Western music and musical instruments. Nonetheless, Vietnamese students of music are still required to learn the basic repertory, which has two categories: the northern tunes (light and gay) and the southern tunes (more remorseful in nature). While the musician is free to improvise on these melodies, he is free to do so only to the extent that he does not cause them to be unrecognizable.

Instruments

Vietnamese musical instruments, for the most part, are borrowed from the Chinese. The string instruments, similar to mandolins and guitars, are played with bows. Percussion instruments are popular, especially cymbals and gongs. Wind instruments, particularly flute-like instruments, have been part of the Vietnamese family of instruments for a long time.

Western instruments, such as the piano and the violin, have brought about changes. Today Vietnamese music is literally patterned after French marches, is most popular. It motivates and inspires the Vietnamese to rally to their country's cause. Music, too, may play a significant role in defeating communism in Vietnam. Just remember what "Over There" did for the doughboys in our country's history.

"Let men everywhere know . . . that a strong and a confident and vigilant America stands ready . . . to seek an honorable peace, and it stands ready . . . to defend an honored cause. . ."

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Disillusioned With NVA, He Decries Propaganda

SAIGON (CMAC) — Thin, very short, impeccably mannered, Tran Vinh would be the ideal 20-year-old "kid brother." But Tran Vinh is not one to be dealt with lightly. He has served in the North Vietnamese Army as a PFC in the K-II Battalion, Quyet Thang Regiment.

Previously, Tran Vinh had been a high school mathematics teacher. "After that," he explained, "I was transferred to a big factory of the culture program." Families owning private property were forbidden to hold teaching or governmental positions. By working in a factory, Tran Vinh could show his "patriotism and faithfulness to the party."

He wanted to help his country and fight the Americans he was taught to hate.

Tran Vinh began military training 70 kilometers southwest of his home in Hanoi. After three months of training, he entered South Vietnam Dec. 6, 1967.

Tran Vinh was told that the South Vietnamese would welcome him; that he would be helped wherever he went in South Vietnam. "The people did not welcome us, but ran away," said Tran. "We had to fight very hard. We didn't get any supplies from the South Vietnamese people, so we were very short of food, weapons and ammunition."

In Hanoi, Tran Vinh had been told that South Vietnamese soldiers were mercenaries, fighting without a cause. That, he learned, was not the case.

"The strong fighting of the ARVN troops placed us in a very bad situation," Tran continued. He had not expected to fight ARVNs. He said, "In battle, I only heard the sound of the voices of South Vietnamese soldiers, never Americans. It was not like the propaganda we were given in the north."

On June 15, while fighting in Gia Dinh, the Quyet Thang Regiment had almost run out of ammunition. Tran Vinh had some AK-50 ammunition left, but none of the rockets that each member of his squad carried.

ried. "Our casualties were up to 99 per cent, so our ability to fight was weak."

Medical supplies were almost non-existent. "We had only the common medical supplies for light injuries," Tran explained. "We could do nothing for serious injuries. Our medics were not experts and many serious casualties were left to die."

"Our leaders should have set an example and sacrificed for the people." Instead, the regimental commander escaped, using a false identification card. The assistant commander, with 23 years in service to the party, decided to rally to the Government of Vietnam under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program.

Tran Vinh began to think of rallying also. He recalled, "It wasn't merely a route of surrender. I had no injuries and I had 600 rounds of ammunition,

so I still had the capability to fight. Because of the untrue North Vietnamese propaganda and the defection of our leaders, I chose to rally."

On June 18, Tran Vinh and 151 other members of the Quyet Thang Regiment rallied to four ARVN Airborne and Marine units of the Capital Military District. These troops and their American counterparts, units of the Capital Military Assistance Command, are responsible for the defense of the Saigon area. The defection in Gia Dinh was the largest of the Vietnam war.

Tran Vinh attended the Saigon Chieu Hoi Center for a month, then he attended an advanced training course. He has made several broadcasts over the Vietnamese "Voice of Freedom," which broadcasts to North Vietnam. Tran Vinh has found a new life in South Vietnam.

Checkmate Finds VC

DI AN (USA) — Viet Cong in the Saigon area are no longer as free to mingle with Vietnamese civilians as they once were, since the Vietnamese National Police and the Aero-Rifle Platoon of B Troop, 7th Armored Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry have commenced "Operation Checkmate."

At any time, in any locale around Saigon, the farmer planting rice in his paddy may see a single UH-1H swoop down, while Scout helicopters and Cobra gunships circle overhead, providing cover.

An infantry fire team alights from the Huey along with an ARVN interpreter and a member of the National Police Force. Groups of people are checked for proper identification and questioned about any local enemy activity. When the questioning is over and the mission completed, the Huey swings back in, extracts the troops and darts off to another location.

Performing up to 15 such insertions per day, the "Dutchmasters Rifles," commanded by

Captain James P. Connell, have accounted for five confirmed enemy detainees, 12 draft dodgers and two deserters. In the operations of one particular week, they conducted 68 insertions while checking off Vietnamese.

Major Pat Doyle, troop commander, states, "Operation Checkmate frequently has provided timely intelligence. Its psychological impact is winning many Viet Cong over to the government simply by removing the communist influence from the people."

The troops themselves enjoy their work, especially the opportunity to work closely with their Vietnamese allies. Platoon Sergeant James R. Sedante feels that the Vietnamese National Policemen are of the highest professional caliber. "No doubt about it. They know their job well and my men enjoy working with them."

IS THIS ANY WAY TO RUN AN AIRLINE?—"Ruthless Rider" scouts from Alpha Troop, 7/17th Air Cavalry Squadron step up their air reconnaissance skills while performing in-the-field refresher training. The 7/17th is the only unit within the 17th Combat Aviation Group's air coverage of the II Corps area that carries its own ground troops. (USA PHOTO BY: SP5 JOHN T. STIDHAM)

Kriss Kringle Speeds Parcel Mail

SAIGON (MACV) — The Military Postal Service has begun "Operation Kriss Kringle" to facilitate Christmas mailing for members of the U.S. armed forces and other authorized personnel.

The Postal Service provides three ways for packages to be mailed home which will insure their arrival before Christmas, provided that mailing deadlines for each are met.

Money can be saved by mailing Christmas packages by Space Available Mail (SAM). SAM includes parcels mailed at the surface rate of postage which do not weigh more than five pounds or measure more than 60 inches in length and girth combined. These parcels receive space available airlift to the West Coast of the United States and then to their destination by surface means. The deadline for mailing SAM parcels is December 4.

Parcels which weigh not more than 30 pounds and measure not more than 60 inches in length and girth combined may be mailed by Parcel Air Lift (PAL). Like SAM, PAL receives space available airlift to the

West Coast. It then travels by space available airlift to its destination. The sender must pay the surface rate of postage plus a special fee of \$1 to cover domestic air transportation. Parcels which meet the requirements for SAM may, of course, be shipped by PAL if the \$1

fee is paid. The Christmas deadline for PAL is Dec. 10.

For packages weighing two pounds or less, air parcel post costs even less than PAL. To insure that a parcel sent by air parcel post arrives in time for Christmas, it must be mailed by Dec. 13.

Teenager Traces Treed Trap

LONG BINH (USA) — A teenage student from Bien Hoa who recently saw several Viet Cong install a booby trap that could have taken a dozen lives was given a 1,000 piaster reward for reporting his find to the MPs.

"We were at one of our checkpoints when a boy who spoke good English came to our jeep and told us he knew where the VC had planted a mine," recalled Sergeant Johnnie R. Wilson, who heads a mobile MP patrol in the 720th Military Police Battalion's tactical area.

The boy said the mine was installed along the banks of the Dong Nai River. He volunteered to accompany a squad of MPs which moved out immediately in a River Patrol Boat to search

for the explosive. Meanwhile, helicopter-transported MPs swept the surrounding area.

Clearing the way to a tree overhanging the river, the waterborne MPs found an eight-inch artillery shell perched in the tangled branches, armed and deadly.

"The boy was pointing at it. He was the only one who spotted it from the Patrol Boat," an MP said.

Fragments scattered across the 40-foot stream, shearing foliage on the opposite side when the demolition team from the 3rd Ordnance Battalion exploded the shell.

"It would have cut one of our boats in half," remarked Sergeant Wilson.



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER is printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, using material from the Armed Forces Press Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO 96222. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

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Exchange Serves Gls From DMZ To Delta

SAIGON (VRE)—The Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE) attempts to put a little "home" into the daily lives of U.S. servicemen and their allies.

The Exchange operates more than 400 retail and food outlets from Con Thien near the DMZ to Bac Lieu deep in the southern Mekong Delta.

Despite an environment that is anything but favorable to effective retail operation, the VRE seeks to accomplish one goal: service to the fighting man.

Some examples of the Exchange's success are:

During the Tet offensive this year, Exchanges throughout the country remained open to serve the troops. In some cases, battles were being fought less than 100 yards from a store.

A rocket exploded one night near an Exchange in Phan Chu Trinh, breaking beams and rafters and scattering merchandise. The next morning, the Exchange was operating, on a somewhat smaller scale, from a makeshift 10 by 20-foot lean-to while Sea-bees repaired the wrecked store next door.

Once a week a Marine lance corporal has been driving a 2½-ton truck up and down a 12-mile stretch of road between Dong Ha and Con Thien, selling Exchange merchandise to fellow Marines along the way. It is a hostile area — the mobile Exchange has been ambushed already—but the supplies continue to go through.

The war, however, is not the greatest source of concern to Exchange officials, nor are weather conditions that play havoc with Exchange merchandise, power failures that force outlets to operate by candlelight and hand-cranked cash registers, nor transport trucks that break down as they travel over pockmarked roads.

The greatest problem for the Exchange Service in Vietnam is the control and security of the huge inventory necessary to support more than 600,000 Free World Forces it serves.

Recently Vietnam Exchange merchandise began arriving in tamperproof vans. Now 85 per cent of the line items shipped from the United States are now transported to Vietnam by this method, which minimizes the

number of times merchandise must be handled while in transit. The remaining 15 per cent of U.S. merchandise arrives in Vietnam on pallets, which are secured to trucks with large steel bands or chains. Military Police escort the trucks from the dock to the warehouse area. (In Vietnam, the Army has responsibility for shipping Exchange goods from port to depot and from depot to store.)

Once the merchandise passes through the well-guarded gates of an Exchange depot, the small, expensive items such as watches, cameras and radios, are placed in a high-security cage to await distribution.

Recently the Exchange has employed a sophisticated documentation system at both the warehouse and store level to reduce losses resulting from bookkeeping errors and theft.

In addition, physical facilities at Exchange warehouses have improved. Open storage areas have been covered, protecting merchandise from monsoon rains and the dry season's hot sun. More secure fencing has been built, too. Improved lighting of storage areas aids the security guards who are on duty 24-hours a day.

Whenever possible Military Police accompany convoys when merchandise is moved from depots to Exchange stores.

Once in the store, security and control of merchandise stocks does not stop. Customers in civilian clothes must show proper identification before entering the facility. Employees are cleared through a checkpoint before they enter or leave the building.

These measures among others—at both the storage areas and in the stores, have been adopted by Exchange management to assist in the security and control of merchandise stocks.

Exchange officials point out that losses because of theft, war, weather damage, and spoilage are not excessive, considering the distances the merchandise travels and the number of people who handle it prior to selling.

Any loss, however, is a problem since the intended customer can't get the items he needs. It is a problem Exchange management continually seeks to minimize in the Exchange's mission of service to the fighting man.



"Easy does it" as a ship offloads tamper-proof vans of PX merchandise onto a semi-trailer.

Village Medical Students Get Chance To Practice Lessons

BONG SON (USA) — A group of South Vietnamese teenagers listened raptly as "Vinh" — a former Viet Cong medic — answered their questions on how to treat wounds.

"Vinh" is now working as an interpreter and part time medical instructor with the 173d Airborne Brigade. He was participating in the first day of classes in a unique experiment conducted by the 173d.

The experiment was a Health Workers School and Dispensary, designed to give local Vietnamese residents a chance to attend classes on medical treatment, preventive medicine and sanitation.

The initial class of 10 students had a three-hour class on the care and treatment of wounds and bandage application. Then the students were given a chance to see their instruction in practice as Army doctors and medics treated Vietnamese patients in the new dispensary.

"These kids were really eager to learn," said Captain Elliot M. Finkle, who is coordinating the project.

The students who have been selected from local schools to attend will be given certificates upon completion of the course.

"The course will run in two week cycles," explained Captain Finkle. "When one group of students finishes, another will just be starting the course." He indicated that as the demand increases more advanced curriculum will be added.

Some of the lesson plans scheduled for the Health School include the explanation and prevention of diseases that are prevalent in the area, the importance of sanitation in combating disease and emergency first aid.

The Health School is one part of a vigorous new approach to Civic Action by the paratroopers. "We are trying to get more Vietnamese actively involved in our programs," explained Major Ronald Lawrence, the Brigade's Civic Action Officer. "In conducting these classes we will perform the double purpose of teaching and healing."

The exemption is allowed all authorized users of the Military Postal Service on bona fide gifts purchased on the economy, if their value doesn't exceed \$10. Values exceeding \$10 subject the gift to custom duty on its entire retail value.

Another exemption of \$50 is applicable only to merchandise purchased in U.S. Armed Forces agencies. Unlike the \$10 exemption, this one is applicable to the first \$50 of the aggregate value in the country of mailing, regardless of the total retail value of the article mailed. For example, an article with a retail value of \$200 is subject to duty on \$150 only.

The \$50 exemption is authorized to active duty military personnel in Vietnam, to personnel on R&R or TDY in other countries, to hospital patients, and to those in transit to or from Vietnam assignment.

Those interested in further information should contact Mrs. L.A. Arneson, 5109 Marchilus, El Paso, Texas, or Lieutenant Colonel L. A. Arneson, 9th Medical Laboratory, APO 96307.

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MEDCAP Aids Nam Dong Village

SAIGON (MACV) — The group of people who gather each Thursday at the church in the refugee village of Nam Dong are not there for religious services. This is the day of the week which is set aside for the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) at the small community just outside Vung Tau in Phuoc Thuy Province.

The weekly MEDCAP is sponsored by the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company. The "Hillclimbers" program is carried out by the 85th Medical Detachment of the 222nd Combat Support Aviation Battalion, assisted by the 36th Evacuation Hospital.

The village priest, Father Vincent Nguyen Hoa Dinh, coordinates the program for the 4,000 villagers of Nam Dong. He

gathers those in need of treatment to his church. There, he divides the patients into three groups—one group to see the doctor, some less serious cases to see the nurse and the last group to see the dentist.

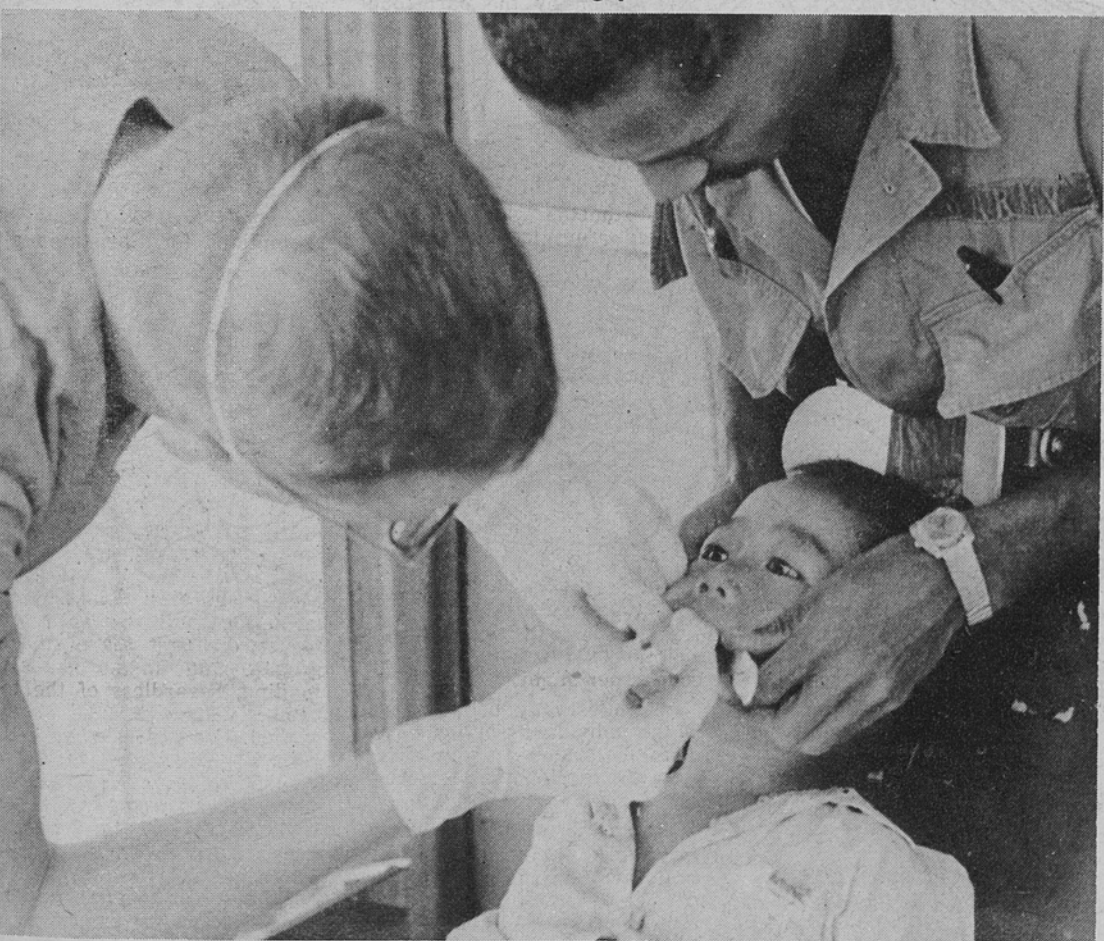
Many different doctors have the opportunity to participate in the recurring Nam Dong MEDCAP. In a recent visit to the village, the medical and dental aid was rendered by Major Arthur Reinhard, doctor; Captain Clyde Barson, a dentist from the 345th Medical Dispensary; First Lieutenant Jean Phillips, a nurse; Specialist 6 Arthur Massey, also from the 345th, and assisting Captain Barson; and Specialist 5 John P. Lee, a medical aid man from the 85th Medical Detachment. Miss Nguyen Thi, an interpreter, assisted the team.



Father Vincent Nguyen Hoa Dinh talks to young patients.



CPT Barson readying for work.



SP6 Massey prepares dental equipment and supplies.

Story & Photos By
TSgt. Jerry Fears (USA)
&
SP4 David M. Gerrol (USA)

Assisted by SP6 Massey, CPT Barson gives dental aid to this Nam Dong Village youngster.

Thanksgiving Keeps Mess Halls Buzzing

SAIGON (MACV) — "My cooks will be buzzing all night," said Sergeant First Class James R. Dale, mess steward at the Headquarters Area Command Field Ration Mess at the MACV Headquarters complex.

U.S. Armed Forces mess halls all over the world have been buzzing in preparation for one of the biggest meals of the year, Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Sergeant Dale said he expects to serve dinner to some 1,800 people. This will account for a small portion of the 185,000 pounds of roast turkey that will be served to Army personnel alone in Vietnam. Add to that the many thousands of pounds of gobbler to be served at the other service messes.

The Army-wide breakdown on food amounts for Thanksgiving is as follows: 16,500 gallons of giblet gravy; 245,000 pounds of bread and cornbread dressing; 130,000 mincemeat and pumpkin pies; 182,000 pounds of mashed potatoes; and 81,000 cans of

glazed sweet potatoes.

The 1st Logistical Command reported that it is arranging for an extra supply of turkey so that the traditional American dinner can be offered to members of the Free World Forces serving in Vietnam.

Eligible passengers include all active duty military personnel and their dependents.

Round Trip
Round trip fare, to include meals en route, is \$425.

The aircraft is a Boeing 707-320, with a cabin crew of six.

Connecting flights
Connecting flights to Hong Kong or Korea from Tokyo can be arranged. Hotel reservations

can be made individually or will be made by Sun Travel of El Paso upon request. The average rate with military discount should be \$10 to \$15 per couple per night.

Insurance may be purchased at the individual's option for an additional \$12, but the purchase must be made at least 21 days before departure date.

For Americans, A Time For Prayer And For Thanksgiving

SAIGON (MACV) — The religious significance of the Thanksgiving season is explained in the pages of the Old Testament, more specifically in the book of discourses by Moses concerning the civil and religious laws of the Hebrews. The following excerpts are from the fifth Book of Moses, commonly called Deuteronomy:

"And Moses summoned all Israel, and said to them, 'Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I speak in your hearing this day, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them. All the commandments which I command you this day you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers.

"... And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart... And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know; nor did your fathers know; that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

"Your clothing did not wear out upon you, and your foot did not swell, these forty years...

"For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks and water, of fountains and springs, flowing in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing...

"And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

"Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God, by not keeping his commandments and his ordinances and his statutes... Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth.'

"When you come into the land which the Lord your God gives you... you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land... and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place which the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.

"And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'I declare this day to the Lord your God that I have come into the land which the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket... and set down before the altar of the Lord your God... A wandering Aramean was my father; and he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty and populous."

"And the Egyptians treated us harshly, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage. Then we cried to the Lord the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice... and brought us out of Egypt to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

"And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground which Thou, O Lord, hast given me. And you shall set it down before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God; and you shall rejoice in all the good which the Lord your God has given to you..."

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Almighty God, Creator merciful Father, we join with our countrymen this to offer you thanks for the heritage of our good land and the many blessings received. Help us to prove ourselves a people mindful of these favors.

We thank you for the bountiful harvest and for the many opportunities which allow us to share the richness of this bounty with others. Thank you for the very life we live, our minds and ability to reason, and for all other endowments and gifts of soul and body. We thank you for our government President... the Governors of our several states... and for the ballot to elect them. And for all other blessings which so richly endow our land, we thank you, O God.

On this happy day we really thank you for our families and loved ones and you to protect them with your loving care. Through communion of your Holy Spirit, O God, bind us in love to each other, and so rule our hearts in love that we may show our thankfulness by sincere obedience to your laws throughout the days of our life. Amen.

SAIGON (MACV) — Thanksgiving in America had its inspiration from several sources. The best known source was the proclamation issued by William Bradford, the Governor of the Plymouth Colony in what is now Massachusetts. The original members of this Colony came on the Mayflower from England.

Governor Bradford issued the call for a day of prayer and Thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest in the Autumn of 1621. This custom was celebrated sporadically for many years.

A lesser known day of Thanksgiving was proclaimed several years earlier than the famous 1621 New England celebration. In 1607 the Jamestown, Virginia, ruling body, the Council, had proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving.

For many years these proclamations were issued by governors, ruling bodies of states and lesser municipal governments with the celebrations generally confined to a region, state or locality.

Days of National Thanksgiving were celebrated during several years of the Revolutionary War. After the establishment of the United States, the first President, George Washington, proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving for the adoption of the Constitution of the United States in 1789.

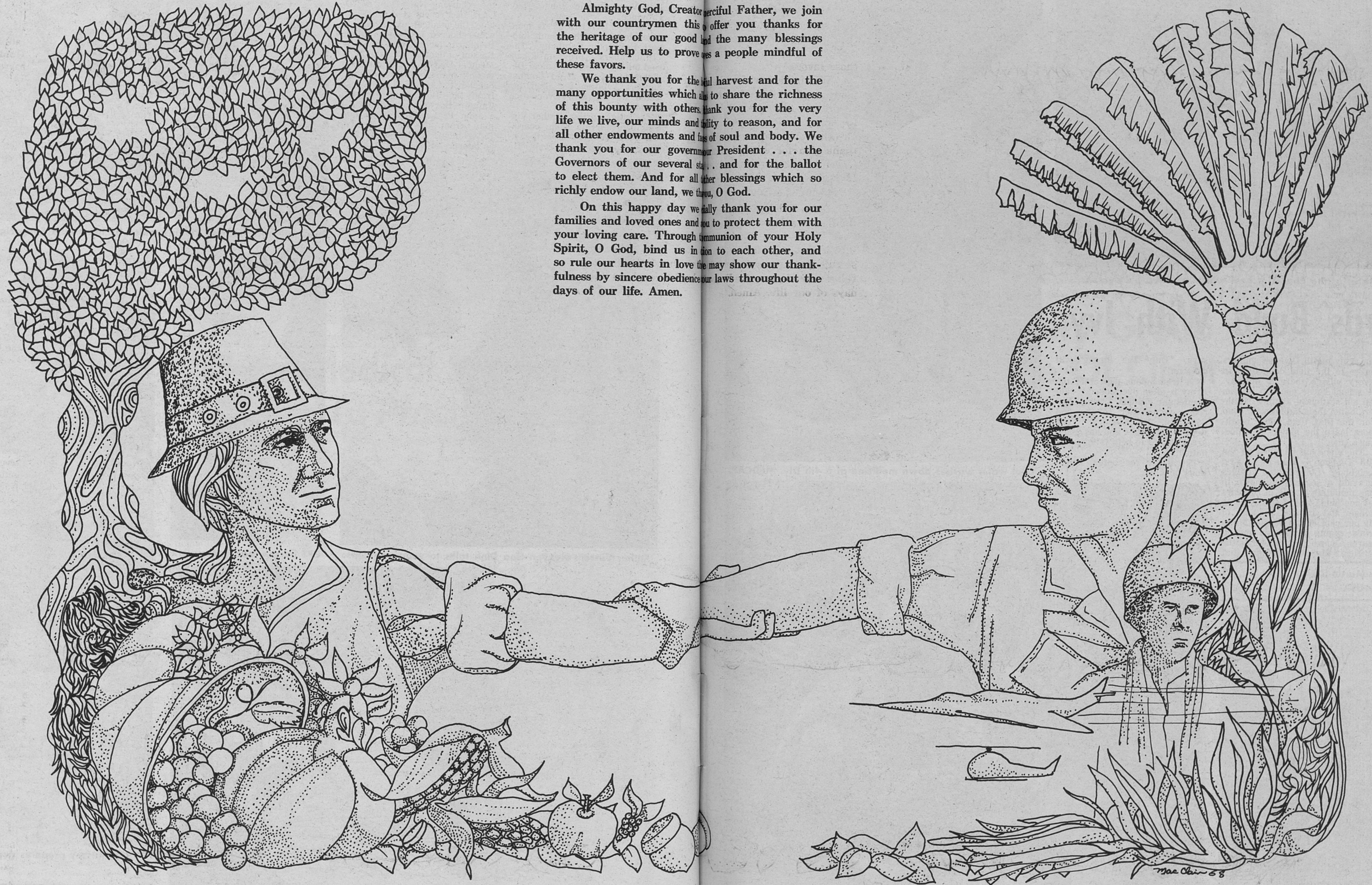
The observance of Thanksgiving Day as a National holiday was due in part to the activities of Sarah Hale, who was editor of two ladies' magazines from 1828 until 1859. She wrote editorials and letters and urged the adoption of a Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday of November. By 1859 the day was celebrated in 30 states.

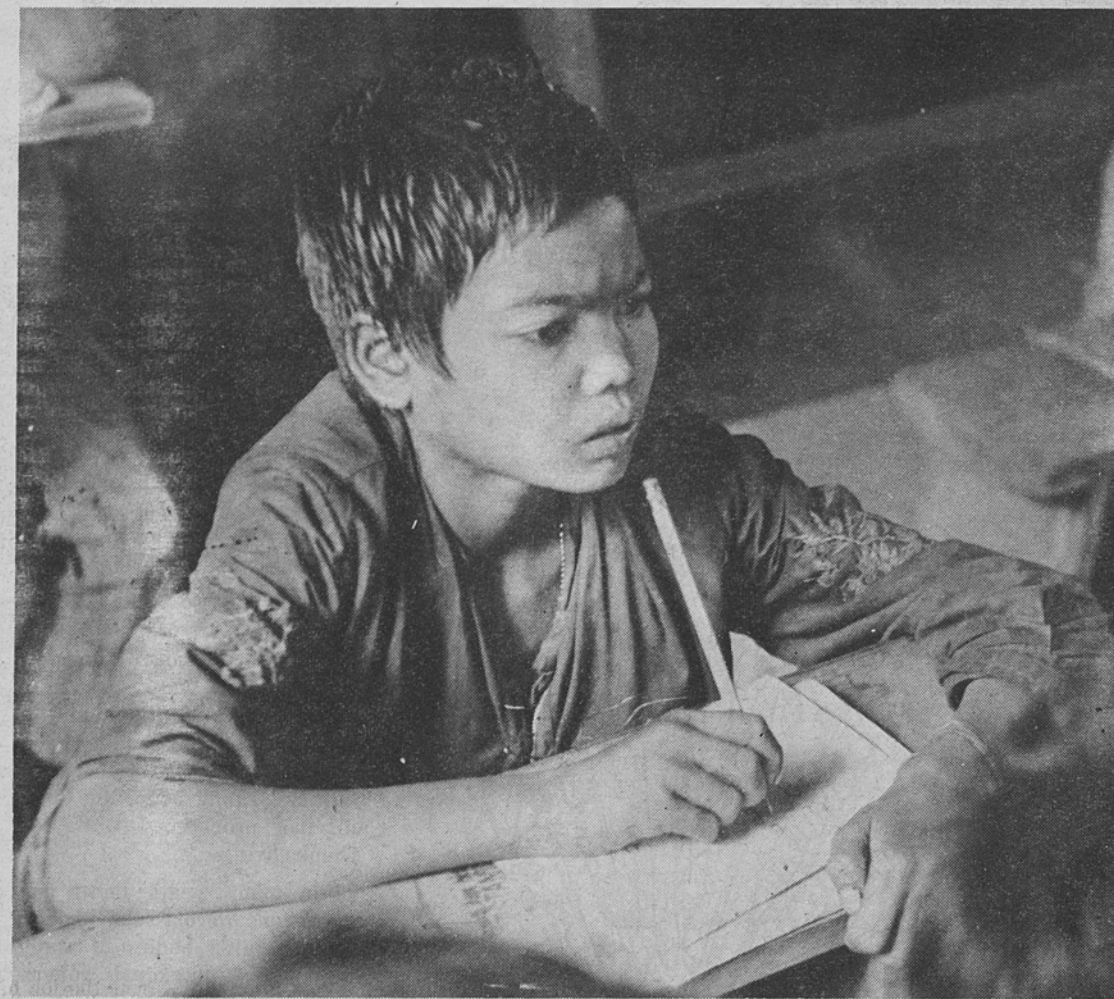
President Lincoln was the first to establish the day as we know it. In 1863 he issued a call for a day of "praise and thanksgiving to our beneficent Father" on the last Thursday of November.

The day has had a religious significance since its earliest beginnings. It has been marked through the years by special church services of all denominations. It has been traditionally a day of family reunions, a feast day on which the harvest bounty is liberally served up in prize recipes, the central item on the menu being roast turkey.

In recent years many of the largest cities have had parades and elaborate celebrations for the children. The adults often become involved in football activities that are attended in person or, more frequently, observed from the peace and contentment of an easy chair in front of a TV set, while digesting the bounteous meal.

Thanksgiving is now a reflection of the close ties that our nation has always had with our religious heritage.





A Montagnard boy concentrates at the Phu Mi school which is aided by Ivymen.

Montagnards Build With Ivy

CAMP ENARI (USA)—The 4th Division "Ivymen" in Vietnam's Central Highlands are fighting two wars. The first is a war of bullets and death. But in the hundreds of Montagnard villages dotting the highland landscape another battle rages. The Montagnards have roamed Vietnam's highlands for hundreds of years, growing rice until the land will yield no more, then moving on. Their nomadic ways have brought them disease, and endless suffering. In an economy based on rice and bamboo there are few medicines, few reliefs from pain.

Mounting trucks, armored personnel carriers and choppers,

an army of 4th Division soldiers takes to the field each day. In every village there is activity. A school house goes up in one, an aid station in another. Mothers bathe their babies with soap for the first time while neighbors learn the magic of a doctor's cure.

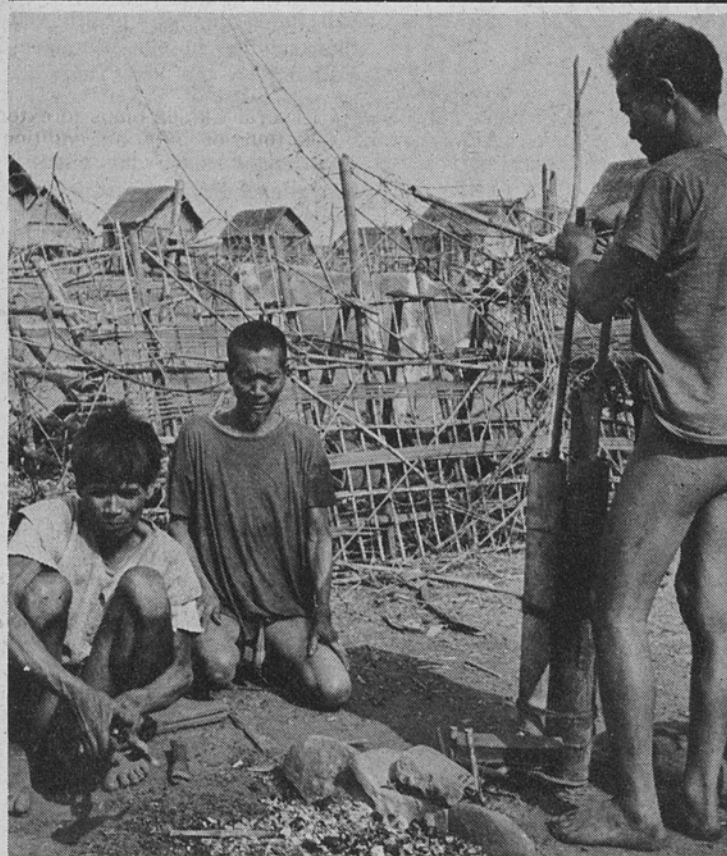
The scene has changed for the 4th Division's Montagnard neighbors. Consolidated villages provide a security unknown to the mountain people in 20 years of continued war. Leprosy is no longer the dreaded sickness of 10 per cent of the people. Malaria's raging fever has met a cure. A newborn child defies the ancient Montagnard law that

says, "Only the strong will survive."

"A tremendous aspect of the Army is often overlooked," said Lieutenant Colonel Donald Moreau, commander of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry. "The Army is for peace and has taken great strides to help rebuild this nation."

The battle for better conditions goes on.

Story by 1Lt. Gary Martin (USA)
Photos by USA



Montagnards make tools, using a bamboo bellows.



Cool water washes down medicine at a 4th Div. MEDCAP.



A pig is prepared for market. Ivy civic action teams taught Montagnards about business.

Recovering Gl's 'Take The Cure'

CAM RANH BAY (USA)—It's the largest military hospital in Vietnam, but it's really not like a hospital.

Instead of nurses pumping patients' arms with hypodermic needles, they are more likely to entice patients to go swimming or surfing. And instead of sitting in bed all day staring at the walls, a patient could find himself painting them.

At the 6th Convalescence Center, 44th Medical Brigade, a patient's road to recovery is a mixture of work and play.

Captain David M. Gunn, commander of the Reconditioning Battalion at the Center, describes it as a "halfway house" where patients evacuated from other hospitals recuperate from their wounds or illnesses before returning to duty.

For patients not on bed rest, reconditioning means starting the day with the Army's "Daily Dozen" exercises and a mile-long run.

Captain Gunn explained that the object of the reconditioning program at the 1,300-bed facility is to help patients "get into good enough physical condition so they are 100 per cent healthy when they return to their normal duty."

Reconditioning means swimming, surfing or water polo at the Center's private beach on the South China Sea, where five lifeguards and physical reconditioning specialists overlook the patients' activities.

It also means workouts in the gymnasium and volleyball, basketball or softball games. Sometimes, it means work.

Captain Gunn explained that one aspect of the program is designed to reorient the patients to manual labor, which may mean work on a sandbag or paint detail.

Often the patient can work at the same type job he had at his regular unit. Thus, a mechanic

may be given limited duties at the motor pool or a medical corpsman may help out in the hospital wards.

During their average two- to three-week stay at the Center, the patients have a chance to take care of any personal, financial or disciplinary problems. Captain Gunn stated that eight to 10 liaison NCOs from various major units stay at the center to assist patients from their units with any problems they may encounter.

Has Fun Teaching

DA NANG (USMC) — Teaching a foreign language can sometimes be a frustrating chore, but for one Force Logistic Command Marine the job has its attractive points.

Corporal Thomas Larson, a member of the First Military Police Battalion Civil Affairs team, teaches English to a group of young Vietnamese girls at the Sioovina textile factory near Da Nang. The factory employs more than 700 Vietnamese, 250 of whom are girls residing on the factory compound.

Corporal Larson has been teaching at the factory since June, in addition to his regular work with the Civil Affairs section.

"The girls are eager and interested to learn, which makes teaching very easy," said the corporal.

"The students can read English well, but often have trouble pronouncing the words," he explained.

To overcome this, the Marine instructor has his students repeat complete sentences over and over.

A fluent speaker of the Vietnamese language, Corporal Larson has no problem communicating with his students. He learned Vietnamese during a 12-week course in the Defense Department Language School in Monterey, Calif., prior to arrival in Vietnam.

A 10-month Vietnam veteran, Corporal Larson plans to extend his tour of duty an additional six months. "I want to get into the Combined Action Program which allows greater contact with the Vietnamese people," he said.

men's concern for the Viet Hoa orphanage in a paper and sent a carton of bandages to the group, asking that they be delivered to the home.

Their letter read in part, "If possible, we would like to correspond with these children and learn about each other."

Before too many months, the Brownies will have their wish, thanks to the U.S. Air Force rescuers stationed in Saigon.

Rescue And Recovery Group Saves A New Type Of Client

TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE (USAF) — At the headquarters of the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group here, where the normal daily effort of the men is to assist in rescuing downed airmen throughout Southeast Asia, off-duty hours are being turned to assisting a needy orphanage.

The men of the 3rd Rescue Group have "adopted" the Co-Nhi-Vien Viet Hoa Orphanage in the Cholon district of Saigon and are doing all they can to assist it.

When entering the orphanage, one's eyes shift quickly from war surroundings to the happy faces of 160 homeless children lovingly cared for there. The orphanage was founded in 1869 by French nuns, but it is now run entirely by Vietnamese sisters of the Catholic Congregation of St. Paul de Chartres.

As one walks throughout the orphanage, he sees another side of Vietnam. In the baby ward, more than 60 infants lie in rows

of well-worn but clean baby beds.

As a result of weekly English language classes being conducted for the Vietnamese nuns, English instruction will soon begin in the orphanage school. And when the children learn to write, they will have some state-side pen pals to correspond with.

Brownie Troop 847 in Southampton, Pa., read about the air-

Charlie Can't Stop 'The Voice'

SAIGON (USA) — Viet Cong threats notwithstanding, reconstruction of the 50,000-watt Pleiku radio transmitter, as powerful as any commercial station's in the United States, is well on its way to completion.

The transmitter, which was destroyed by a VC sapper unit in March, had been the powerful "Voice of the Army and the People of Vietnam." After the sabotage, broadcasting was quickly resumed on an alternate, less powerful transmitter, but the coverage area was reduced.

The radio station airs two programs on separate frequencies. One program is directed toward VC and NVA soldiers while the other is designed for the local civilian populace.

The civilian program carries news and entertainment which projects the image of the Government of Vietnam and denounces the Viet Cong. Broadcasts to VC and NVA units urge them to rally to allied forces.

Numerous enemy soldiers who have defected to the allies have said they listened to the Pleiku station and were strongly influenced by what they heard. Reception in enemy areas has been made possible by small radio receivers, pre-tuned and fixed to the station's frequency, and distributed by allied forces.

The local civilian population

around Pleiku reports that VC have sworn to destroy the new transmitter as soon as it begins operating. Several probes have already been made against the installation.

If the VC do try to overrun the transmitter site again, however, the story will be far different than it was in March. Security forces and fortifications have been substantially increased and virtually the entire complex will be located in

underground bunkers. A reaction force and artillery support are ready to offer quick assistance to the defenders, if needed.

The station and transmitter are operated by the 4th Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Group. A joint ARVN staff under the General Political Warfare Department determines the actual programming, assisted by advisory teams from MACV and I Field Force.

They Help Villagers Bridge Problem

LONG BINH (USA)—The peril of Ninh Thanh Village is no more. A bridge across a small stream has brought new life to inhabitants of this farming community 60 miles northwest of Saigon.

For years a bare trickle of water during the dry season became a raging torrent when the monsoons arrived. Villagers trying to ford the stream were drowning at a rate of 10 a year. Sadly, the majority of casualties were children.

The villagers banded together and constructed a wobbly foot-bridge. The span was dangerous at best, and roaring currents quickly tore away the shallow pilings.

Still, the adults and children continued to challenge the cur-

rents afoot. Their only avenue to the market in nearby Tay Ninh City was bisected by the stream, so there remained the never-ending string of over-laden oxcarts fighting nature's violence.

Early in July, when the stream subsided from a depth of 14 feet and a width of 150 feet to its normal dimensions of two feet deep and 18 feet wide, the wheels of progress began to turn.

Coming to the rescue were Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) community development officer Peter Rodriguez and Captain Robert A. Lynch, commander of the 2nd Civil Affairs' 6th Platoon, stationed in Tay Ninh.

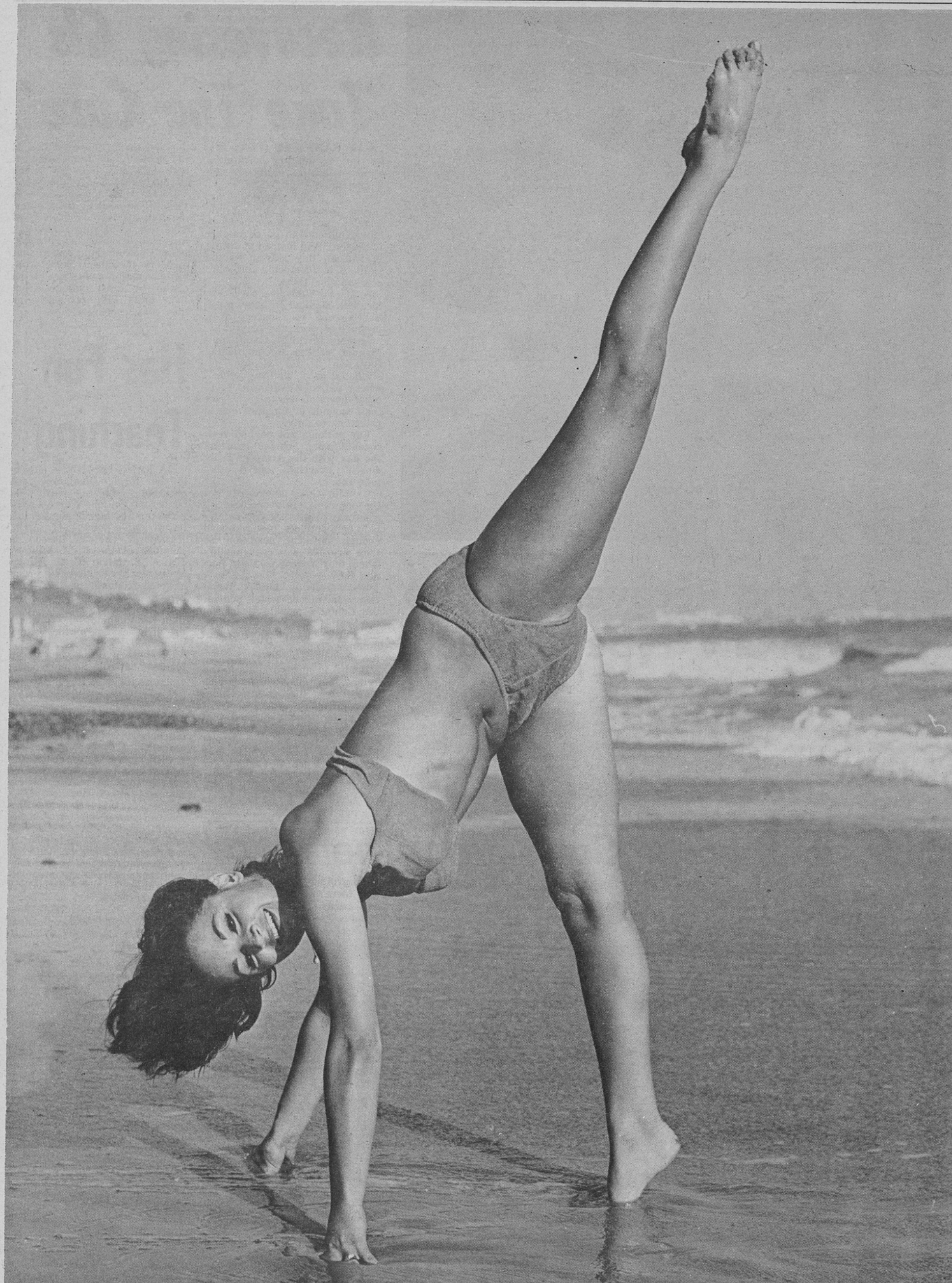
Lieutenant Colonel Coleman C.

Clement and his 588th Engineer Battalion were called in, and the project was turned over to Bravo Company commander Captain Billy L. Hilton.

Captain Hilton's men made a scale model bridge and moved it to the bridge site. Under the engineers' supervision, the villagers took over. "We had so many people willing to help out here, they were falling all over each other," said Captain Lynch.

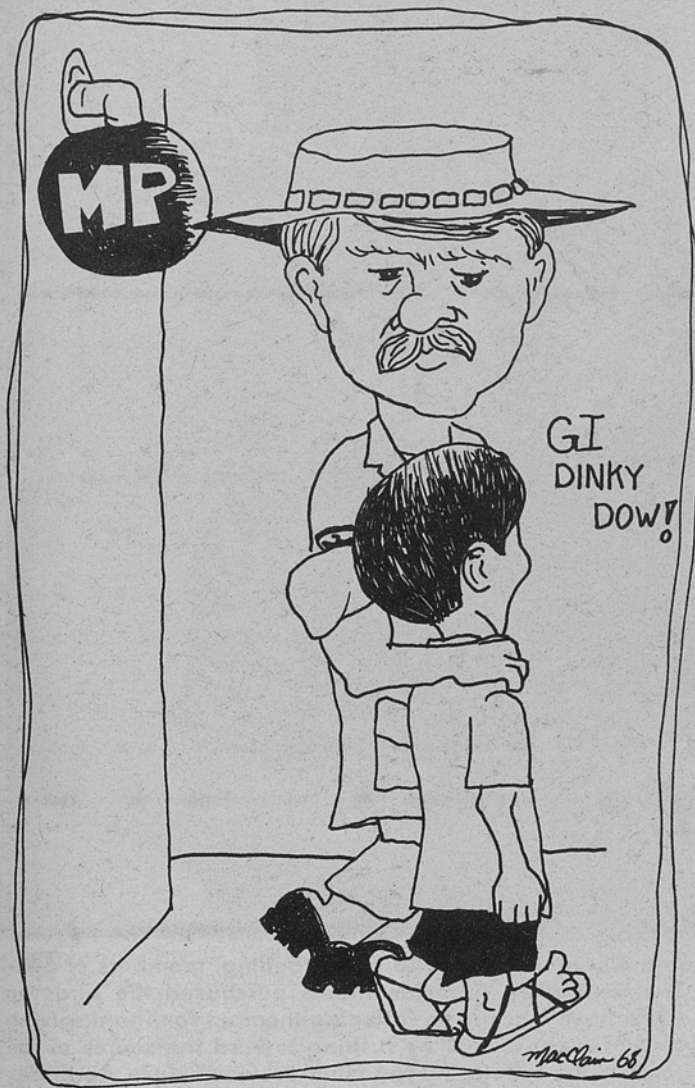
When the dust cleared in late October, an impressive structure, 36 feet long, 13 feet wide and able to withstand 16 tons on its awesome pilings, stood in the shadow of Nui Da Nang Mountain.

To the villagers of Ninh Thanh, it's the most valuable structure in the world.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Instead of ringing the traditional dinner bell, our Bunny decided that maybe by doing a few cartwheels she'd be able to momentarily distract you from whatever you are doing in "Nam at least long enough to get you to partake in the tremendous Thanksgiving dinner "Uncle Sam" has provided for the servicemen all over the world. Sorry our Bunny isn't part of the Thanksgiving "trimmings;" however, if you can tear yourself away from this luscious bit of morsel, what's really on the menu for Thanksgiving is on page 4 of this issue. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN



I'M AWFUL SORRY MISTER, BUT
CHOI OI SOUNDS ALOT LIKE
CHIEU HOI!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1-Swiss river
- 4-Skid
- 9-Crimson
- 12-Falsehood
- 13-Puzzle
- 14-Period of time
- 15-Talks idly
- 17-Public official
- 19-Hinder
- 21-Distress signal
- 22-Held on property
- 24-Male sheep
- 26-Fee
- 29-Mistake
- 31-Sweet potato
- 33-Born
- 34-Parent (colloq.)
- 35-Outfit
- 37-Openwork fabric
- 39-Parent (colloq.)
- 40-Unusual
- 42-Pigeon pea
- 44-Memoranda
- 46-Roman tyrant
- 48-Tibetan gazelle
- 50-Fruit cake
- 51-Before
- 53-Cry of goat
- 55-Mouth of volcano
- 58-Slanted
- 61-Dress border
- 62-More crippled
- 64-Falsehood
- 65-Possessive pronoun
- 66-Look fixedly
- 67-Sea eagle

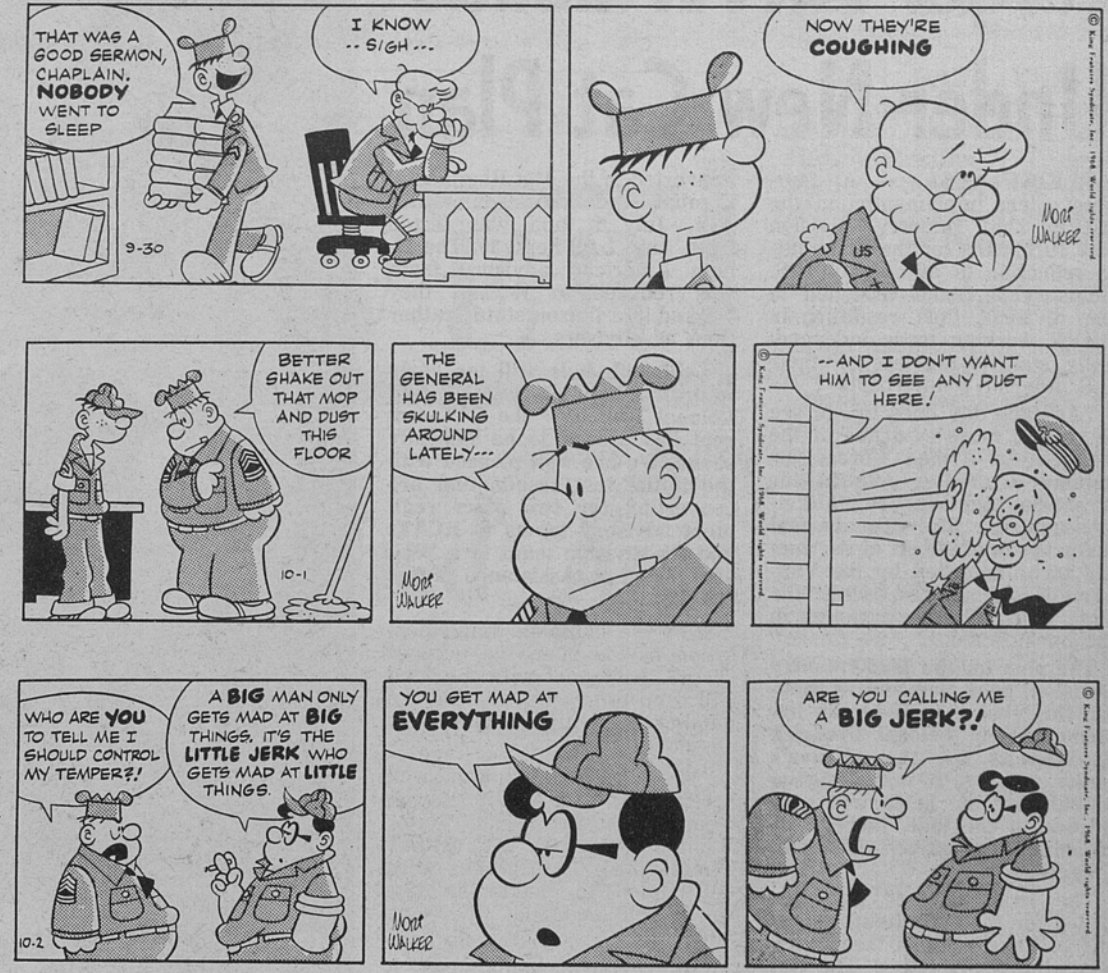
DOWN

- 1-High mountain
- 2-Ventilate
- 3-Schoolbook

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
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By Mort WalkerBeetle Bailey



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Larger ARVN Load Under New Cat Plan

PLEIKU (USA) — A four-point plan, implemented in the ARVN 22nd Infantry Division last July, calls for the systematic reduction in number of U.S. Advisory personnel assigned to the division, thus resulting in ARVN working more independently and relying less on their U.S. Advisor counterparts.

"As each day goes by we see more and more evidence of the Vietnamese Armed Forces assuming a greater role in the day-to-day fighting," said a division advisor. "The ultimate goal is for the final defeat of the enemy to be achieved by the Vietnamese themselves, with the Free World Force remaining in the background."

The plan for the 22nd Infantry Division, as a step toward making this goal a reality, was implemented by Colonel Fredrick E. Tibbetts III, the division's senior advisor. It was designed to enhance the pride and confidence of the unit, thereby increasing their initiative and self-reliance.

The first part of the plan called for the reconfiguration of one of the division's three regimental advisory teams. The 41st Regimental Advisory Team was

converted to the 41st Regimental Combat Assistance Team (RCAT), July 1, and was tested from Aug. 1 till Sept. 30. The 19-man American advisory team was reduced to 10 and they worked in a liaison status rather than as advisors.

"Although it is still too early to draw a final conclusion," said Colonel Tibbetts, "the CAT concept has proved to be basically sound. We are well pleased with the initial test results and are converting the two other regimental advisory teams to RCATs and the division team to a Division Combat Assistance Team (DCAT)."

With the complete implementation of the plan, the number of U.S. personnel with the 22nd will drop to nearly one-third the number currently authorized as advisors.

"The CAT concept was well received by both ARVN and advisory personnel," said Major William Johnson, 41st RCAT commander. "Both groups were determined to make the test work well and they did," he added.

The regiment maintained a high level of operations, ranging from company to regimental size and lasting from one to 38 days. During the testing period, the 41st Regiment operated independently of the division in the Phu May Valley area just south of the Bong Son plain. Their operations resulted in 200 enemy killed and 21 detained with only light friendly casualties. According to Major Felipe H. Galaviz, RCAT operations officer, "There was no decrease in the use of U.S. combat support during the test. The regiment used tactical air, gunships, artillery, combat resupply and medical evacuation with good results."

Captain Joseph C. McMullan, a member of one of the three Battalion Combat Assistance Teams (BCAT) that rotate among the four battalions in the regiment, said, "The quality of leadership in the regiment did not deteriorate; in fact, there was a noticeable aura of pride in being able to operate independently, particularly down at the battalion level where I was."

The test results showed no decline in aggressiveness. What was noticeable was the considerable increase in the regiment's reliance on and use of its own supply system.



WHISTLE FOR DINNER — UT3 Kenneth Abernathy and EA3 Ernest Belling, members of Seabee Team 0408, size up Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Turkey. Team members purchased the birds on the local market several months ago and have since been fattening them up for Thanksgiving dinner. The turkeys respond to a whistle for chow time by rushing toward the source of the sound. The Seabees, deployed at Go-Dau-Ha Village in Tay Ninh Province since April, depart in December. (USN PHOTO)

Free Calls For Patients

SAIGON (MACV) — Patients at the 6th Convalescence Center, 44th Medical Brigade, in Cam Ranh Bay, now have the opportunity to assure their loved ones they are well, by telephone. And it's free.

Miss Josephine (Jo) Nicholson McDonnell, who operates from a small office in Michigan, is making it possible. She solicits donations from private citizens in the states and forwards them to commanders of units in Vietnam to finance projects such as "Jo's Telephone Home Service."

Patients — E-5 and below — at the 6th Convalescence Center can place a Military Affiliates Radio Service (MARS) call home and be reimbursed for the "patch" by the commanding officer of the center, Lieutenant Colonel James E. Lindhall.

The service will be on a trial basis until the end of December. It will be continued if response is great enough.

USO Activities Announced

Thanksgiving Day Formula

SAIGON (MACV) — "Good times, companionship, delicious food," said Miss Marsha McMoran, Tan Son Nhut USO director recently. "These are things I think of when I think of holidays. The holidays are upon us," she noted, "and if you put these three ingredients in the same bag and shake them well, chances are you will come up with what every USO program director likes to call hospitality."

She cordially invited servicemen in the Tan Son Nhut area

to the USO. The local club — a white, four-story, former French villa — is located outside the Tan Son Nhut main gate just past the 3rd Field Hospital.

The day's agenda includes a turkey or ham dinner with all the trimmings at 1 p.m., a continuous supply of coffee, and free gifts. One person will win a free phone call to the U.S.

"Remember, the USO is the expression of the gratitude of the American people who finance all of our operations through their donations to the

United Fund Community Chests, Combined Federal Campaigns and other voluntary donations," said Miss McMoran. "Who cares? We care."

For information concerning Thanksgiving Day and other Tan Son Nhut activities, telephone MACV 3064.


Different Pass For Hoi Chanh

AN HOA (USMC) — A 25-year-old private in the North Vietnamese Army wanted to turn himself over to American Marines. The trouble was that he didn't have a Chieu Hoi or safe conduct pass. Enemy soldiers who present the passes are detained by American forces and turned over to the Government of Vietnam under the "Open Arms" program.

A squad of Marines from Company B, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, were coming uncomfortably close to the enemy private's position. He started to run, then changed his mind. He stooped and picked up a piece of paper, believing it to be a Chieu Hoi pass.

With a big grin and a wave of the "pass," he turned toward the Americans. They smiled back — then laughed.

Major Patrick E. O'Toole of the Regimental Intelligence section said, "I couldn't believe it at first when I read the 'freedom pass.'" It turned out to be a renewal subscription blank for a U. S. magazine.



FROM ME
AND
THE REST
OF
MACV

"**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**"