

# Joint Operation Slays 202 Enemy



FIRST IN VIETNAM

## THE OBSERVER

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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.

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.

## If Not For Bad Luck, No Luck At All

for each wound. He has also been awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device.

Sergeant Padilla is presently recuperating from his latest wounds in the 6th Convalescent Hospital in Cam Ranh Bay. What does he really think of good luck charms: "They may work for some people," he said at the hospital, "but at this point, if I had one I would throw it away. I think it's time for me to get out of the war zone until my luck changes."

## 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

(Continued on Back Page)



Space Available  
Mail Days Left

## Editorial

**A Cornerstone**

We, the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Almost two centuries ago our Constitution was laid as the cornerstone of the building which in our day and time houses the greatest hopes for the freedom of all mankind. Many stones have since been added to that great foundation to more perfectly reflect the goals and desires of the builders.

They are the 23 amendments, amending stones which have broadened the base upon which the building stands. Some of those stones were not perfectly square. They have since been set aside, and other more perfect stones have been put in their place.

But no building "builds" itself. Someone must plan the work, others must supervise it, and still others must spread the mortar and lay the stones in their proper order. Once laid, an inspector must check the bricks and stones to make sure they fit in the overall plan and are of quality workmanship.

It is our Congress that plans the work, the Executive Branch which supervises it, one-and-a-half million civil servants who maintain the building, and the Judicial Branch which inspects the work to insure that it follows the master plan, our Constitution.

What do you know about the plan for that structure? The blueprints are available for us to study, but few of us ever bother to look at them to find out the strengths and weaknesses of the structure which is designed to preserve our individual freedoms.

**READ YOUR CONSTITUTION**

Take the time to read what it says on the cornerstone of your nation's government, and then do your part in making it a better one.

**(EDITOR'S NOTE:** A copy of the Constitution is included in your unit's copy of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Also read the article on page 3 of this issue.)

**Just In Case You Have Not Heard****Mail Orders Overwhelm PACEX**

**HONOLULU** — Headquarters Pacific Exchange System (PACEX) officials announced the distribution of another 50,000 Mail Order Catalogs to authorized customers in the Pacific. The majority of the catalogs, distributed to troops in Vietnam and Thailand, were necessary to satisfy increased customer demand which has already resulted in doubling sales since the first of the year.

"A sharp rise in orders from the PACEX catalog placed an extremely heavy workload on the APO, mail order section personnel, manufacturers, and wrapping and packing facilities," said Colonel E.H. Thomas, Jr., U.S. Army commander, Pacific Exchange System. While these difficulties are rapidly being overcome with additional personnel and increased production by manufacturers, the backlog of orders is not expected to be eliminated for one or two months.

As a result of increased catalog sales, PACEX officials alerted customers to an anticipated delay in filling orders of from 30 to 60 days.

Customers were advised not to depend upon the arrival of merchandise ordered from the catalog to satisfy Christmas needs. Because of the delay, PACEX officials recommend that customers buy items available through local Exchange outlet or the new Mail-A-Gift catalog which offers Stateside delivery. (HQ PACEX)



**THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE** — Don't miss the opportunity this time. After all, it doesn't come around very often. You qualify to do it if you're over 21 years of age. Keep your country in good shape — send in your ballot. Speaking of shapes, Miss Yutta D'Arcy can be seen in the flick "Star".

(PHOTO COURTESY OF 20th CENTURY-FOX)

**viewing vietnam**

By 1LT David E. Boudreux

**Propellant Real "Cool"**

**WASHINGTON** — A new type of gunpowder is helping the Navy keep its "cool" and prolong the life of its rapid-fire guns.

The unique propellant, known as NACO (for Navy Cool), burns at a temperature 300 degrees cooler than standard gunpowder. The reduced heat helps lessen gun barrel wear by more than 50 per cent.

Since the liners inside the barrels of naval guns must be replaced periodically because of erosion primarily caused by heat, the development of NACO means that combatant ships can stay on the firing line for longer periods.

Another important characteristic of NACO is that the powder eliminates most of the muzzle blast and smoke usually associated with gunfire.

Firing ships will no longer have to employ two kinds of gunpowder to prevent detection: a smokeless-type, for daytime missions and a flashless-type, for nighttime use. NACO will serve both purposes.

NACO propellant is presently being used by the Navy's 5-inch .54-caliber shipboard guns. Development and production of NACO powder for the Navy's other weapons — including the 16-inch guns of the battleship NEW JERSEY, is in progress.

NACO was developed after extensive research and testing by the Naval Ordnance Station at Indian Head, Md.

Last week we looked briefly into the diets of the Vietnamese, giving particular attention to the variety of foods available to them. This week we shall look at the eating customs and table manners of the Vietnamese.

Like any other nation, Vietnam has its different economic classes, ranging from the rural, hardworking peasant to the more affluent businessman. The differences in eating facilities vary in accordance with the family's means.

**Dining Room**

A rural family rarely has enough space for a dining room. Instead, one main room is used for taking meals, the family sitting on mats on the floor or on a wooden platform which also serves as a bed. City families, especially wealthier ones, use a dining table.

Chopsticks are always handled with the right hand. The use of the left hand is regarded as a handicap among the Vietnamese. They do accept the fact that it is considered normal for Americans.

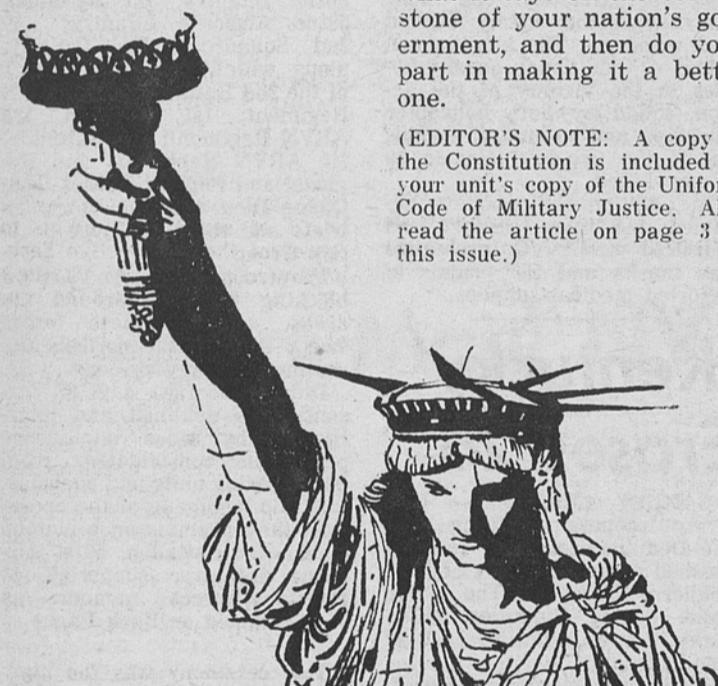
In the villas, which closely resemble the typical Western home in floor plan, there is a separate dining room rather than a multi-purpose room.

At a traditional Vietnamese meal, each family member has his own bowl and set of chopsticks. The number of serving dishes placed on the table may vary from one to many, depending on the occasion as well as the family's budget.

Page five of this issue features a full page feature introducing Vietnamese arts and crafts. In the coming weeks the arts and crafts will be treated individually.

*God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.*

DANIEL WEBSTER

**THE OBSERVER**

**FIRST IN VIETNAM**  
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DANIEL WEBSTER

**U.S. Constitution Sets Rules For Elections**

*The executive power shall be vested in a president of the United States of America.*

Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution deals with these requirements, electoral procedures and length of term for the office of President. He must be a natural-born citizen, at least 35 years old and for at least 14 years a resident of the United States. Requirements for the Vice President are the same.

The United States Constitution establishes definite requirements which must be met in order to hold a federal office. It also establishes procedures for the election of candidates and terms of office so that the people may express their satisfaction or displeasure by means of their vote as often as possible.

The President and the Vice President are the only elective federal officials who are not elected by a direct vote of the people. Technically, they are chosen by the electors in each state.

In the November election, the voters vote for electors who actually choose, by ballot, the President and Vice President.

The number of electors in each state is equal to the number of Senators and Representatives to which the state is entitled. Presidential elections are held every four years.

*An election power is granted to be vested in a Congress of the United States which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.*

The Senate is known as "The House That Never Dies." Although congressional elections are held every two years, only one-third of the Senate stands for election at two-year intervals.

Senators are elected to six-year terms which overlap. Consequently, in any election year, only one-third of the Senate is affected, the remaining two-thirds being members whose terms have not expired.

A member of the Senate must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States for nine years and a resident of the state in which he is elected. Each state is allocated two senators.

Members of the House of Representatives are elected to a two-year term of office. A representative must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years and a resident of the state from which he is sent to Congress.

Representatives are apportioned by population. Each state is entitled to at least one representative. An additional representative for each 30,000 residents is authorized.

**Command Maconomy Delegates**

**SAIGON (MACV)** — President Lyndon B. Johnson presented citations recently at a ceremony in Washington to individuals and to representatives of six organizations, including four participants in PROJECT MACONOMY, the cost reduction program of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV).

The individuals and organizations received the citations for contributing significantly to the Department of Defense Cost Reduction and Management Improvement Program during Fiscal Year 1968.

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford reported to President Johnson that more than 27,000 verified management improvement actions resulted in cost reductions of more than \$1.2 billion under the regular program in Fiscal Year 1968. An additional savings of \$512 million was achieved during the same period under PROJECT MACONOMY, a separate program. The project was initiated in Vietnam by General William C. Westmoreland and carried forward by General Creighton W. Abrams.

Envoy from PROJECT MACONOMY were chosen by a board of senior officers to represent their respective Services as recipients of citations for achievements under the program.

The representatives were First Lieutenant Lee E. Grimes, USA, delegate from the United States Army, Vietnam; Chief Storekeeper Charles W. Cutright, USN, on behalf of the United States Naval Forces, Vietnam; Captain Robert E. Beaver, USAF, representing the Seventh Air Force; and Sergeant Major Elmo A. Burns, USMC, the delegate from the Third Marine Amphibious Force.

This ceremony was the highlight of Cost Reduction Week established to honor the thousands of defense employees who have contributed to cost reduction actions since the inception of the program in 1962.



**IN THE TIME OF NEED** — Sergeant John Frazier (right), a squad leader, helps Specialist 4 Robert McGraw, a medic, treat troopers. The 101st Airborne Division's Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Airborne Infantry, was on a sweep operation in Vinh Loc Province, southeast of Hue.

(USA PHOTO by PFC Doug Smith)

**Plow Razes Tree And Raises VC**

**DAU TIENG (USA)** — Driving a Rome plow is generally a routine task, but Specialist 4 Richard Strubberg recently had a little variety added to break up the boredom.

Three additional caches were sent to Trieu Phong District.

Working with the 588th Engi-

neer Battalion from here, Specialist Strubberg was cutting down rubber trees with his plow near a village in the Ben Cui Rubber Plantation, clearing a night location for the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry Bobcats.

"We had been cutting down rubber trees there the day before," said the specialist. "We had left a row of trees standing near the villagers' garden.

"We planned to cut down the rest and then cut that last row without damaging the villagers' crops. I started plowing down the row when I pushed over one big tree. It came out of the ground, roots and all. Then I saw a hole in the ground underneath the tree. I raised up in my seat and saw that it was a well-made bunker and noticed a leg sticking up."

Specialist Strubberg grabbed his rifle, dismounted and went to investigate both bunkers and extending leg.

"I thought it was a dead VC," he continued. "All of a sudden, it moved!"

**Calls For Aid**

Greatly surprised, the specialist called his platoon leader, First Lieutenant Ward Hamlin. The lieutenant did some calling of his own: to a security team and a recon platoon.

Meanwhile, Specialist Strubberg began to dig the man out.

"I had caved in the bunker, almost suffocating him. When I got him out, I waved my shirt over him to give him air,"

**BEYOND THE CALL**

**SILVER STAR**  
Costello, Paul J. 1LT USA  
Wilson, James F. MSG USA \*1/ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Carvalho, Raymond P. Jr. SFC USA \*2/Condit, Robert E. CPT USA

Crittenden, John W. 1LT USA  
Dodson, Clyde N. Jr. MAJ USA

Clark, Roy L. Jr. SSG USA \*1/Delaney, Michael C. 1LT USA

Hearn, Frank C. CPT USA \*1/Hegeman, Vincent E. PFC USA

Iriarri, Ruben SFC USA  
Jorgenson, Knud B. CPT USA

Kramer, Welby F. SFC USA  
McInnally, Leroy C. SSG USA  
McInnally, Robert H. Jr. CPT USA

Norris, Cedric S. 1LT USA

Sabatini, John J. CPT USA

Sanchez, Desi J. CPT USA

Smith, James H. SFC USA \*3

Thorn, Harold A. MAJ USA

USA

Walker, Aldrin L. SFC USA

Wilson, James F. MSG USA \*1/ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

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Sanchez, Desi J. CPT USA

Smith, James H. SFC USA \*3

Thorn, Harold A. MAJ USA

USA

Walker, George E. Jr. SFC USA</



**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 zirconia with stannous fluoride that not only makes teeth resistant to cavities but also retards existing cavities.

## 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 killed 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

## 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 1958. 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.

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.



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.

## Viet Art Heritage

By  
1LT David E. Boudreax

**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.

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.

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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.

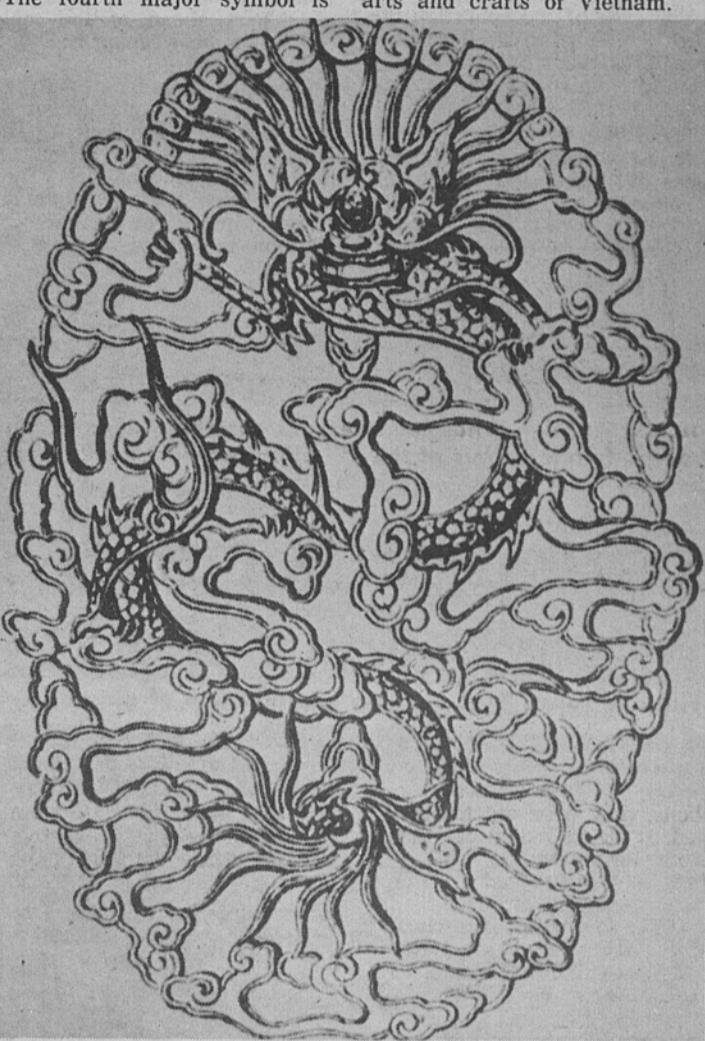
The tortoise is the symbol of long life. On his back he carries a stone tablet on which are recorded all the good deeds of man. Good deeds lead to Nirvana, the Buddhist's ideal state.

The fourth major symbol

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.



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 down-river 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 down-river 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 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 Chaot 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 immediately

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

Char didn't elect to fight this day.

The Riverines cleaned their equipment and made ready for the negotiation and another possible confrontation with Victor Charlie.

## Story & Photos

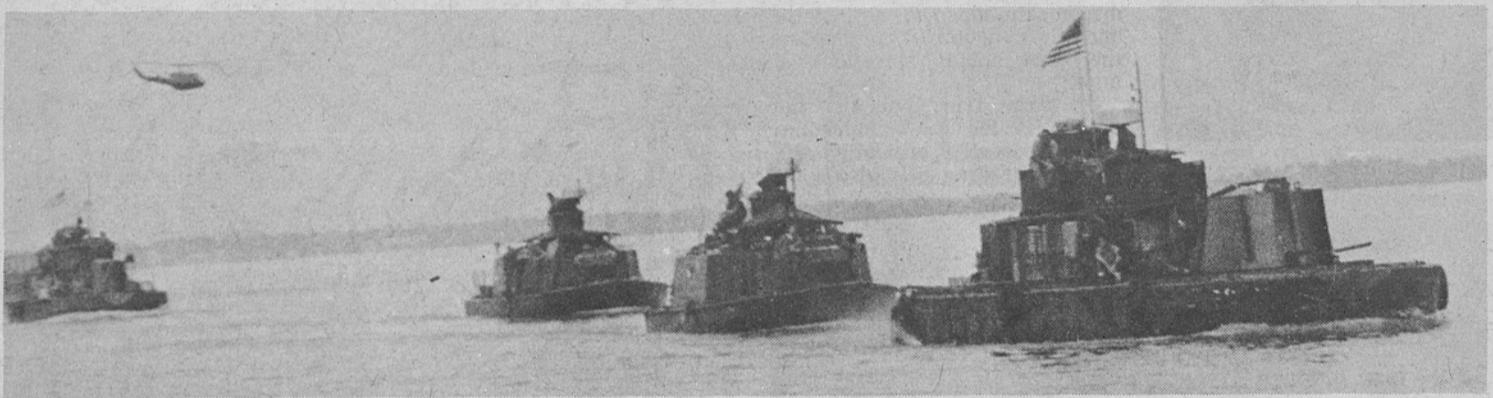
By  
TSgt. G. K. Fears  
&  
Sgt. E. J. Sargent



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.



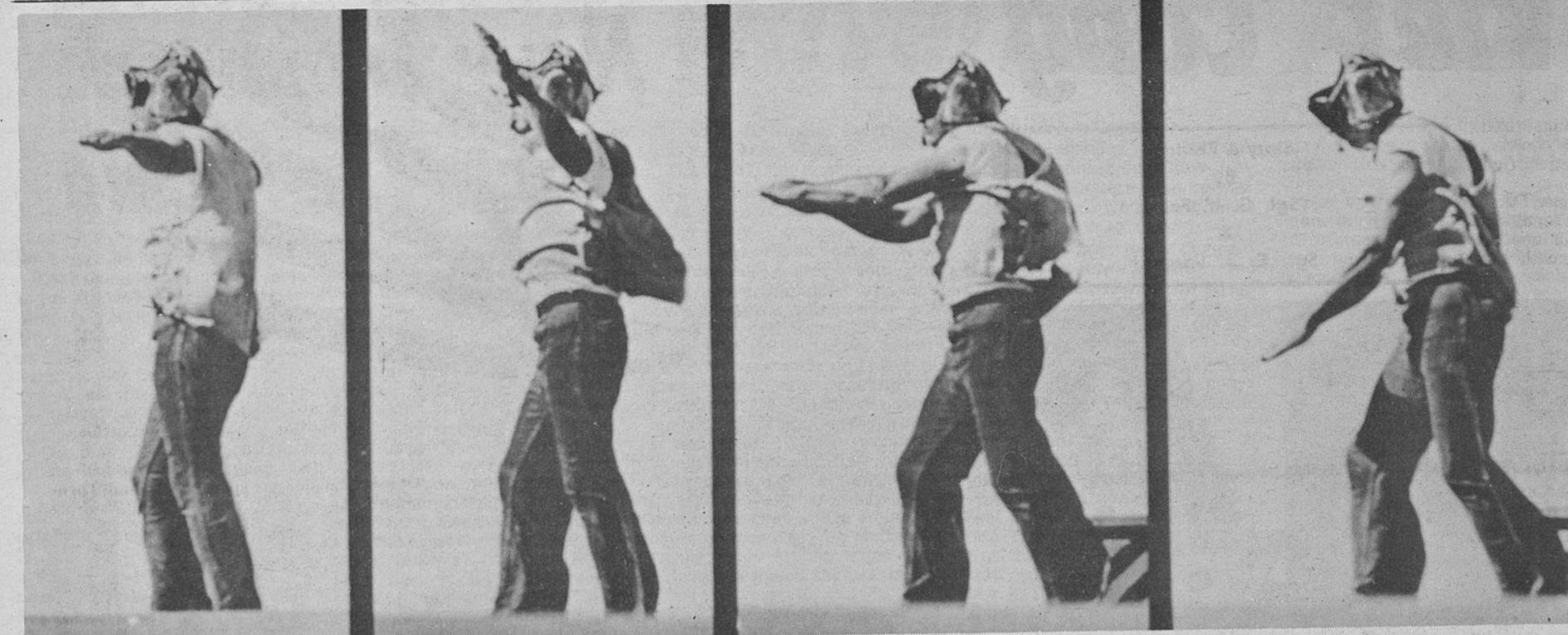
With one Tango Boat carrying one-third ton of plastic explosive, the waterborne force gets under way to the "Crossroads."



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



A 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

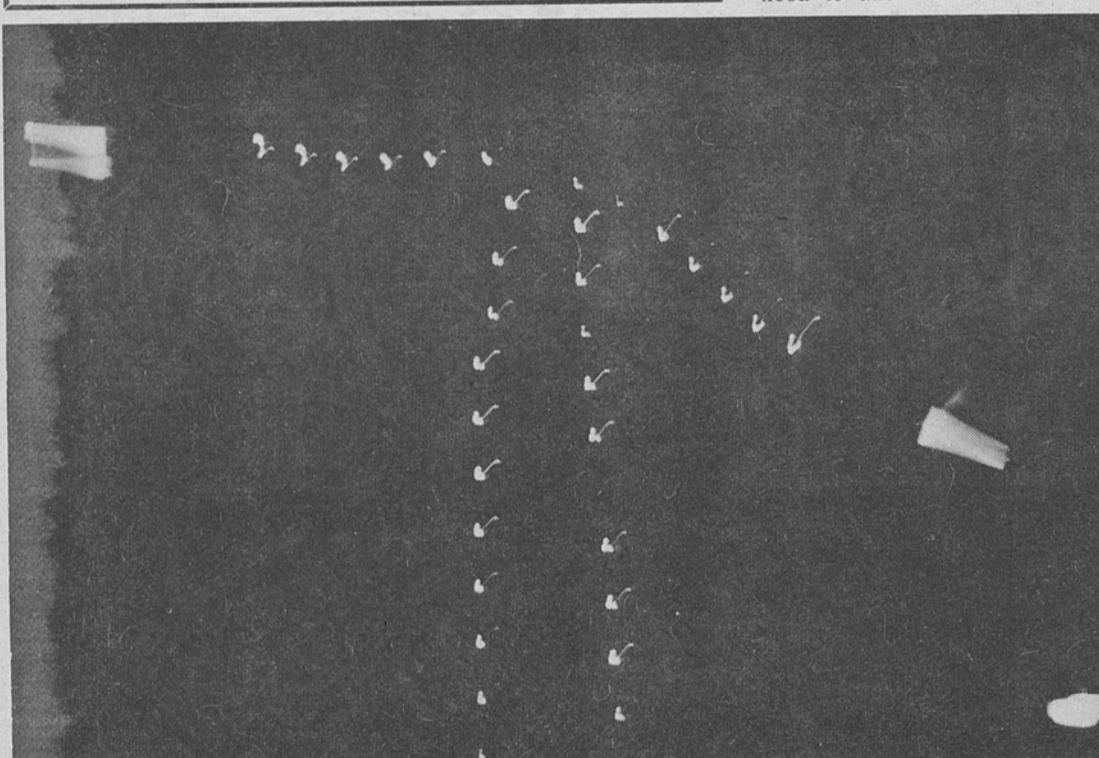
SAIGON (USN) — Helicopters have become a new landing craft for amphibious assaults.

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

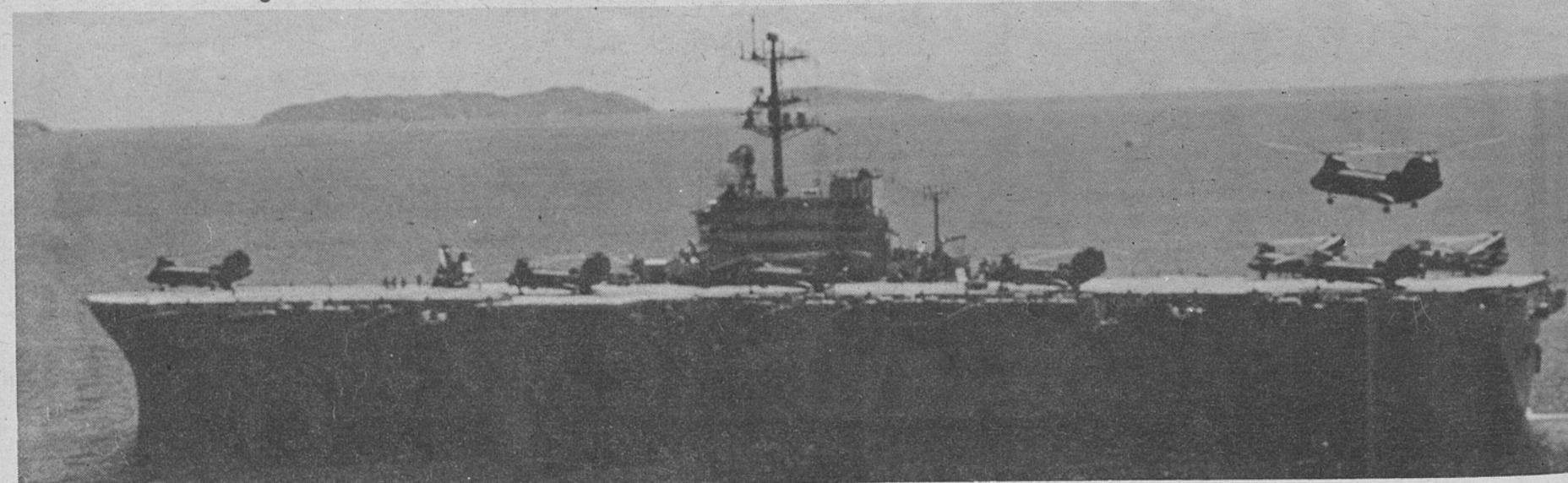
changed and some Marines no longer have to get wet. As helicopter landings become more typical, the Leathernecks can be seen running crouched low under the slicing whip of rotor blades as they dismount from their choppers.

The USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10)

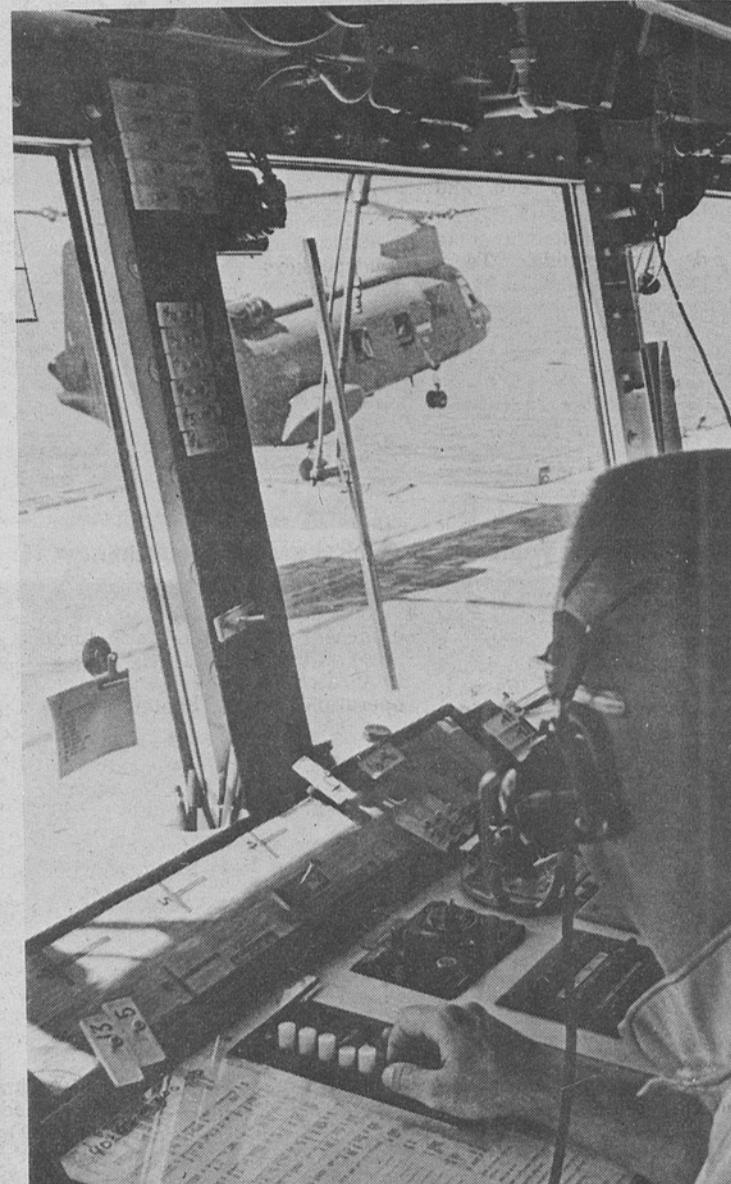
Story & Photos by JO3 Ralph Feliciello



Light-suited "Yellow Shirt" directs night flight.



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



Primary Flight Control checks Sea Knight's descent.



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)

## 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.

## 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."

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.

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

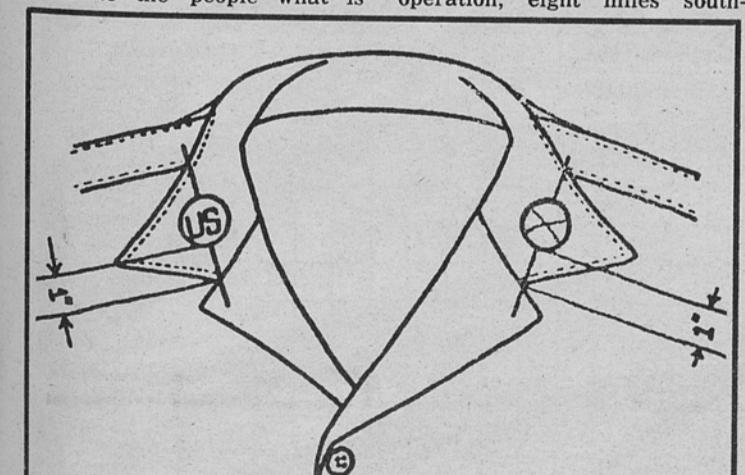
Supplementing the Chieu Hoi leaflet drops are aerial broadcasts explaining how enemy soldiers can become Hoi Chanh. In addition, voluntary tape recordings made by recent Hoi Chanh urge former comrades to turn themselves in. They often appeal to individuals by name.

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 habitants.

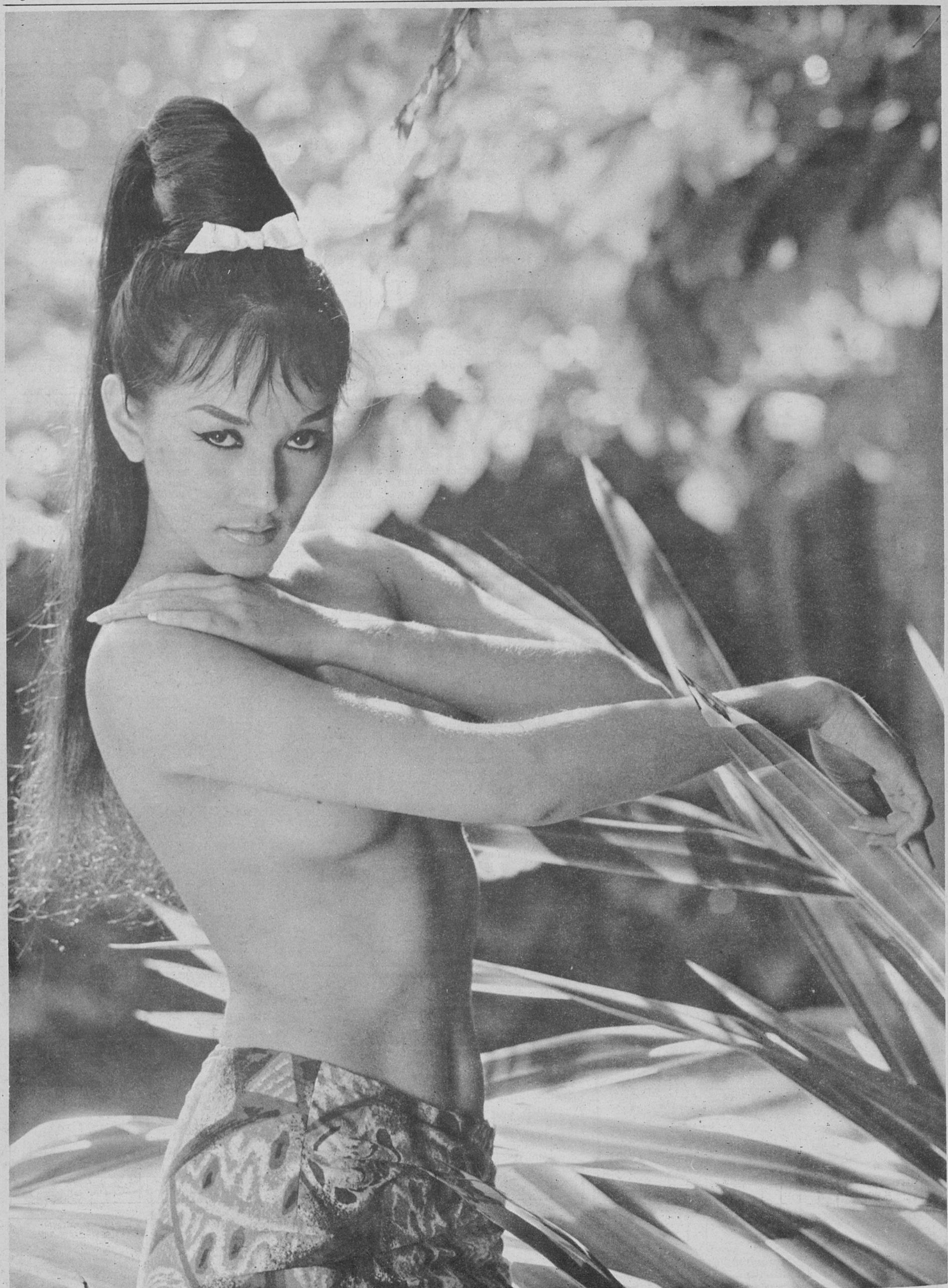
Through a combination of the airborne infantrymen's aggressiveness, initiative and genuine concern for the Vietnamese people, the paratroopers have taken great strides in winning the "other war," for the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people.



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.



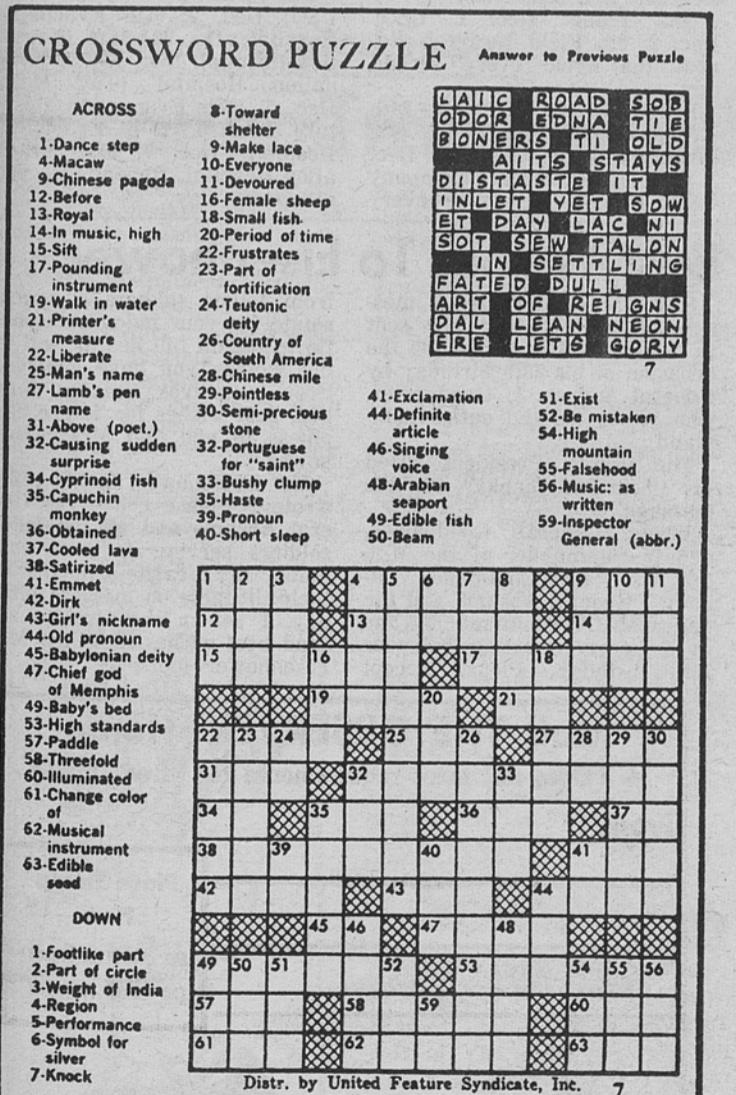
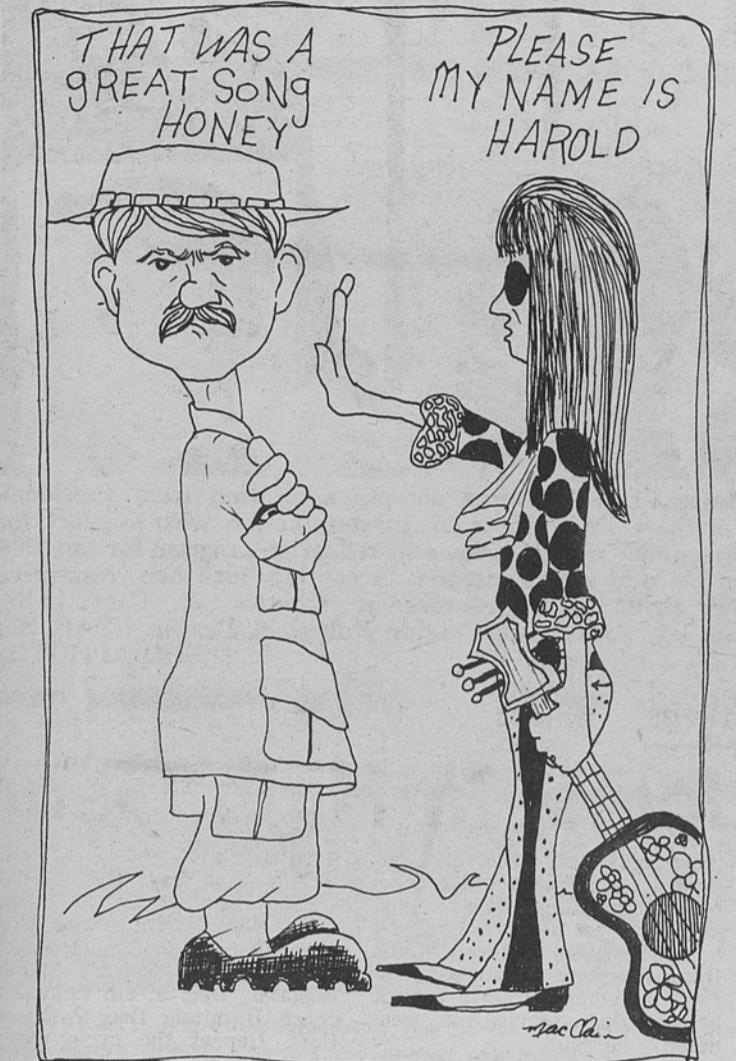
An ARVN makes a last offer to surrounded enemy to rally.



**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?" (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

# ON TOUR

BY SPS  
MACLAIN

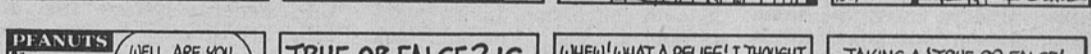
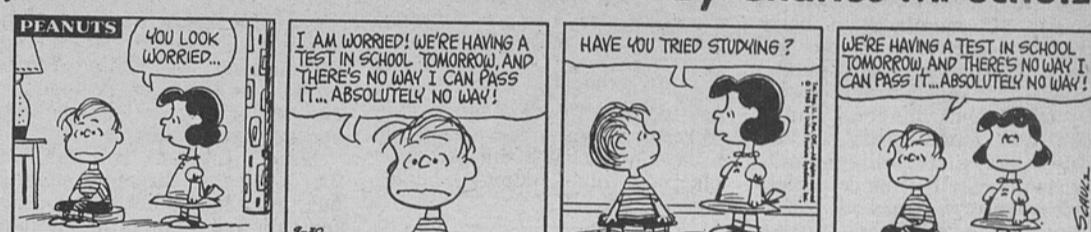


**Time Is Running Out  
Mail Your Ballot**

## Beetle Bailey



## Peanuts



# 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

## Allied...

(Continued From Page 1) they took positions around a suspected enemy-held village in Phu Vang.

Six of the PFs dressed as typical VC members in black pajamas and entered the village, mingling with its inhabitants. The masquerade fooled the frightened villagers, and it soon was learned that 12 VC were holding the village mute and watching the allied soldiers taking their positions.

Noting the VC hiding places, the PFs slipped back to the secured area and reported their findings. Knowing that the allied positions were being constantly observed, 24 PFs remained behind as decoys while 18 ARVN soldiers surrounded the village and closed in on the VC hideouts. The initial contact resulted in six VC killed and the other six detained.

Several days later, the same recon platoon, operating with a ratio of one U.S. paratrooper to five Vietnamese PFs, swept another village. They found some heavily-camouflaged enemy bunkers containing valuable documents and substantial supplies.

Hiding inside one bunker were two enemy soldiers, one of which turned out to be an NVA captain. He had many enemy documents, NVA currency, pictures of Ho Chi Minh and a 9mm Chicom pistol.

During the operations, 98 of the detainees were identified as members of the local Viet Cong power group. More than 880 suspects were detained and screened, and combined intelligence teams classified and confirmed 174 as hard core Viet Cong.

## 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 interro-

gation 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

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 afire," 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.

One imaginative Vietnamese National Policeman yelled, "All members of the K-4 Battalion over here; those with the C-118 over here!"

There was a quick shifting of personnel, and when the dust settled, an amazed group of paratroopers found 63 of the suspects had fallen in as directed in a military formation.

Interrogation proved all 63 to be enemy soldiers.



**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.

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

## 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 Kommer To Turkey



FIRST IN VIETNAM

## THE OBSERVER

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 gunship 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.

**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 repelled 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 repelled 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.

## 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."



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.

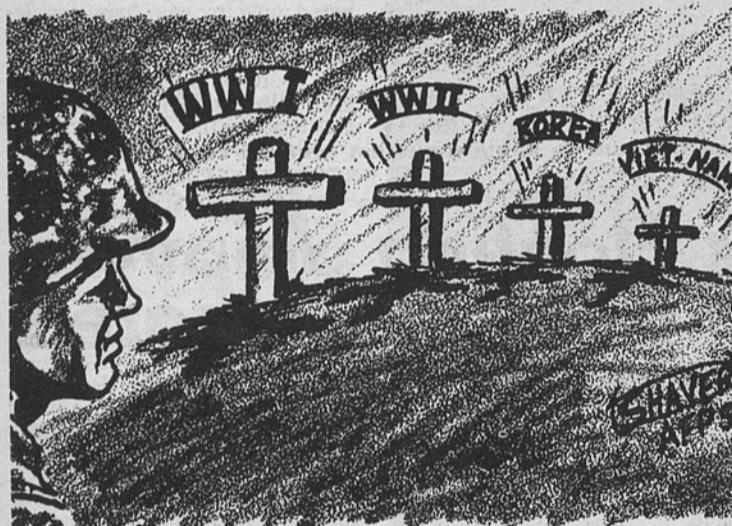
At 11:00 a.m. that same day, the battlefields fell silent, hostilities ended, and the first time in four years, the world was peace. World War I was over!

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.



## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### Santa 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)



## viewing vietnam

By ILT 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**  
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 EARL G. WHEELER  
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

## FIRST IN VIETNAM The OBSERVER

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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 battal-

ion's artillery section.

The Vietnamese are instructed in the cleaning and care of weaponry, then taught to tear down, repair and assemble any item brought into the shop. Repairing anything from 4.2mm mortars to 8-inch howitzers, the artillery section exposes the students to a wide variety of armament.

The Vietnamese have all come from artillery units and therefore have basic knowledge of the field. What they don't know, they learn very quickly," Sergeant Bishop explained.

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

cency 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."

## 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. Sneed, 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 Sneed 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.**

## 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 unsecure 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.

**VC Food Source**

"We fly into the area with some apprehension," Chief Warrant Officer Philip C. Jeszcek, assistant operations officer for the 178th, remarked. "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."

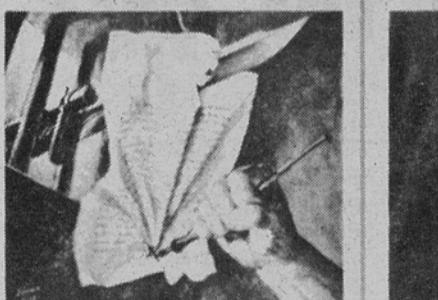
### Dividend

An unexpected dividend has cropped up since the operation began. Mr. Jeszcek 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."

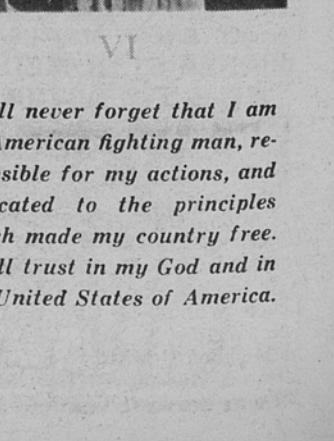
### CODE OF THE U.S. FIGHTING MAN



**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.**



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

## 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, gawking 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 guardsman.

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 interrogated him, 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.

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 that 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 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.



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

The traditional yellow background symbolizes the golden rice grains of Vietnam. The three red bands represent North, Central and South Vietnam, reunited in the national community. Red is symbolic of success.

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# Leathernecks The World Over Honor 193rd Anniversary



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

## 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.

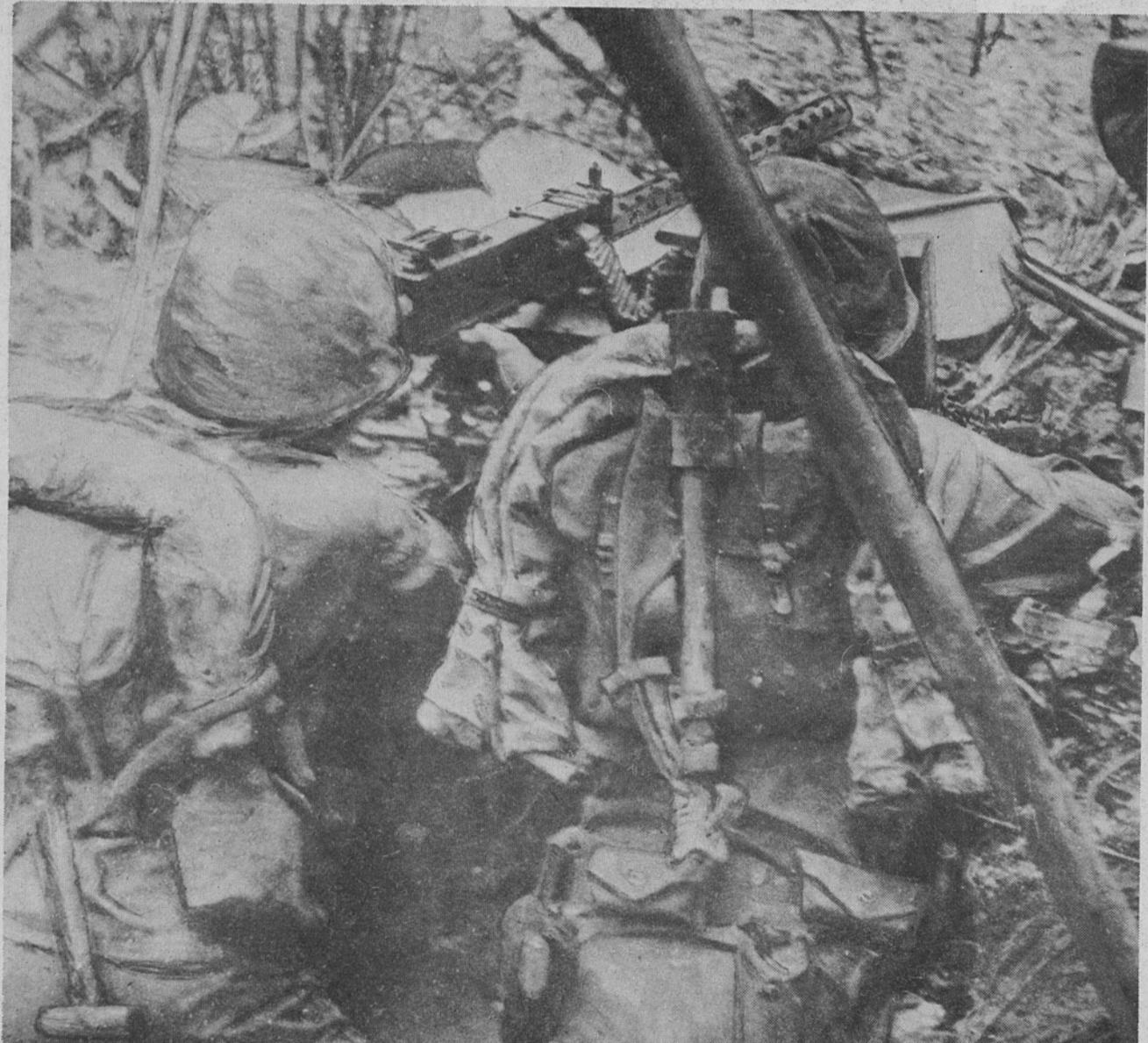
Our success derives from the sweat and blood of the Marines who preceded us. We see the value of this heritage reflected in the combat record of our forces in Vietnam.

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*  
LEONARD F. CHAPMAN, JR.  
General, U. S. Marine Corps

Photos/USMC



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 10-pound, cast iron bell. The bell was accepted on behalf of the regiment by Lieutenant Commander Richard P. Beck, chaplain for the 5th Marines.

"The Allied forces and our

# Education Week Proclaimed

SAIGON (MACV) — Nov. 10-16 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 (USAFA), Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

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 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.

"Laborers don't usually have valuable information," said First Lieutenant Thomas Grieme, of the brigade's 52nd Military Intelligence Detachment. "The VC used them six times as forced laborers and were planning to indoctrinate them as guerrillas before they decided to seek allied protection."

"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."

"Do you know the location of any weapon?" 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-

governments 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.

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.

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.

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.

## 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."

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

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

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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 Ho

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) cere

mony, 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 Ser

vice, working with the citizenry,

and the General Pol-War De

partment, working with ARVN

forces, dependents and the en

emy, are all involved.

The plan, aimed at the VC

infra-structure, is actually a

rewritten, updated and greatly

expanded psy-war program, ac

cording to Major Skidmore.

"The goal is to get the people

to work with the government

by reporting VC activi

ties.

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

(USA PHOTO)

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.

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five-month extension of his just

completed 12-month tour. He is

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specialist has recently begun

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His attitude and accomplish

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his unit.

New members must be in

roduced by two sponsoring

members of the Association and

his application accepted by the

Board of Directors. An annual

membership fees are 200 piasters

for individuals and 400 piasters

for a family.

Anyone interested in the org

anization is invited to contact

the office of the director, Viet

namese-American Association,

55, Mac-Dinh-Chi, Saigon.

SAIGON (MACV) — The Viet



**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 SPS  
MACCLAIN



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

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE Answer to Previous Puzzle

For Use In Authorized Service Newspapers Only.

## Beetle Bailey



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 an 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.

"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."

## Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

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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. Navymen.

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.

## 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.



Released North Vietnamese head for their homeland.

# ARVN Battalions Win U.S. Awards



FIRST IN VIETNAM

## THE 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 Navymen 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)



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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 leadership

(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."

## 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

along the demilitarized zone.

Previously, the oversea bar for Korean service was authorized only for duty in Korea from June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954.

The message says that AR 670-5 will be revised to state that both the month of arrival in the hostile fire pay area of Korea and the months of credit toward an area will count as whole months of credit toward a service bar.

The oversea service bar is authorized for duty in Vietnam since July 1, 1958. The DA message adds this statement to the regulation: "Both the month of arrival in Vietnam and the month of departure from Vietnam will count as a whole month for credit toward the oversea service bar." (ANF)

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.

**Introduction Of Characters**

Perhaps one of the most interesting and unusual aspects of the Hat Boi is the manner in which the characters are introduced to the audience. The individual actor introduces the character he is going to portray when he makes his initial entrance on stage. He does this by reciting a "Bach," a two-line verse with each line containing seven syllables.

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



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GEN C.W. Abrams, USA

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Numbers Ok'd

WASHINGTON — Oak Leaf Clusters indicating additional awards of the Air Medal are out.

The Department of the Army is sending instructions to the field to use numbers in lieu of Oak Leaf Clusters. For example: 15 awards of the Air Medal is equal to the basic medal and one 14.

No change is expected in the use of clusters for other decorations. (AD)

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Just In Case  
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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 "Freedom Shares" or "Savings Bonds." On the other hand, if you do have assets like Miss Sommer, we recommend an immediate curtailment of your 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.

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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.



**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)

## 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

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.

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

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.

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**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 (USA)** — "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, 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.

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

"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.

## 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 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

# 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 O-1E "Bird Dog" lifted from the concrete strip and soon became a speck in the sky.

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

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 O-1E 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.

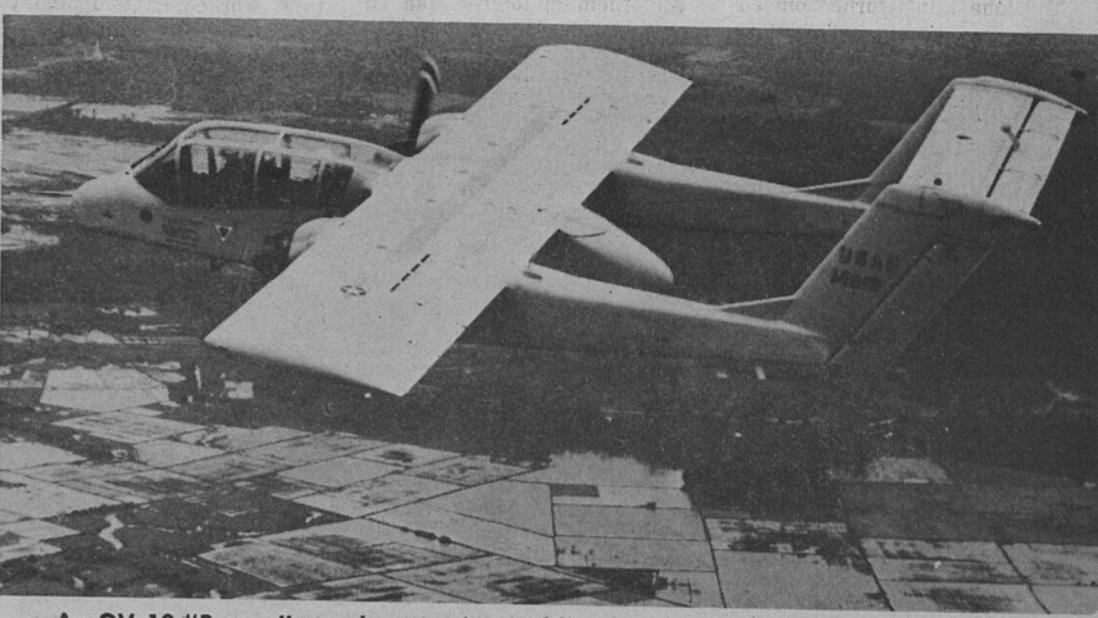
The Supersabres swung in again for their bombing runs.

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

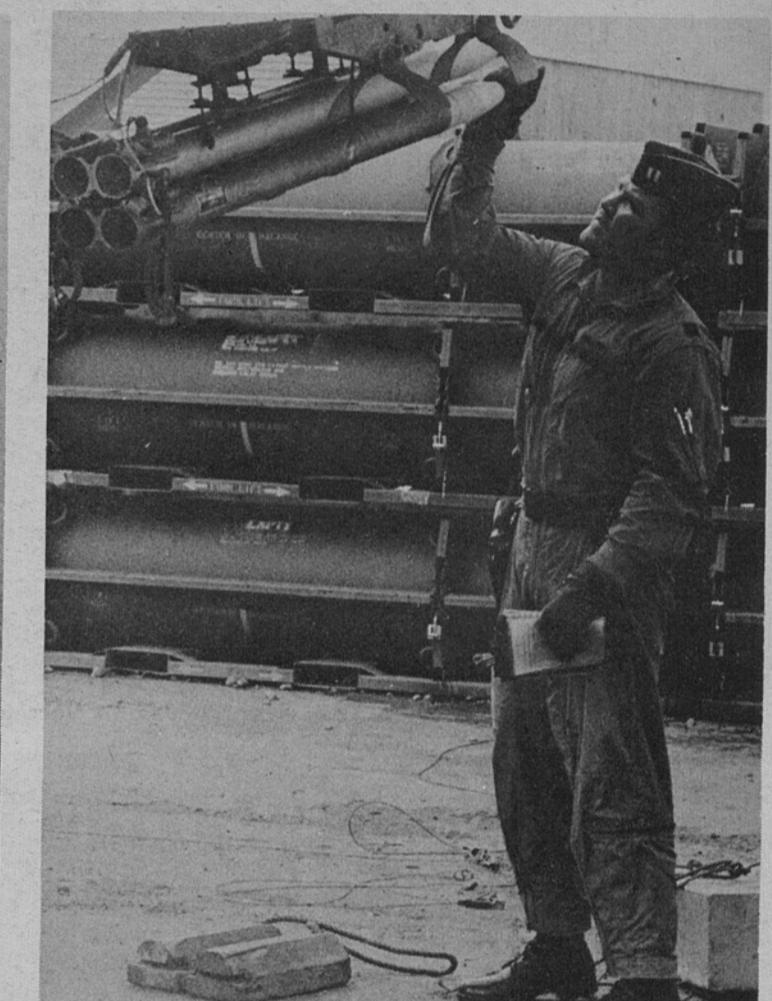
As they started a sweep of the area below, an infantryman radioed the aircraft. "Thanks a lot," he said, "you guys do good work."

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.

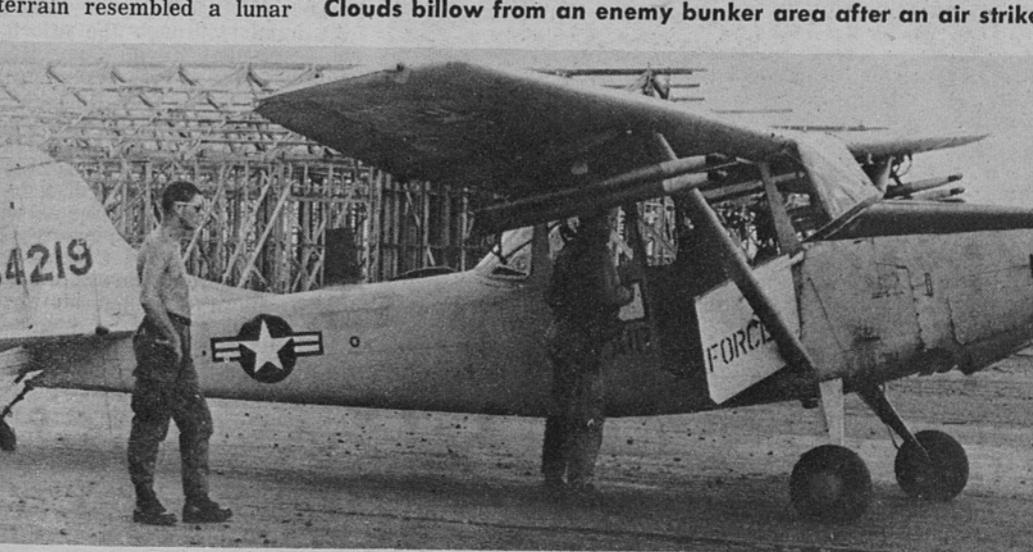
If there was anything changed in the landscape, he would spot it immediately. Below him, he watched a flight of six helicopters insert infantrymen into an area crisscrossed by canals. The terrain resembled a lunar



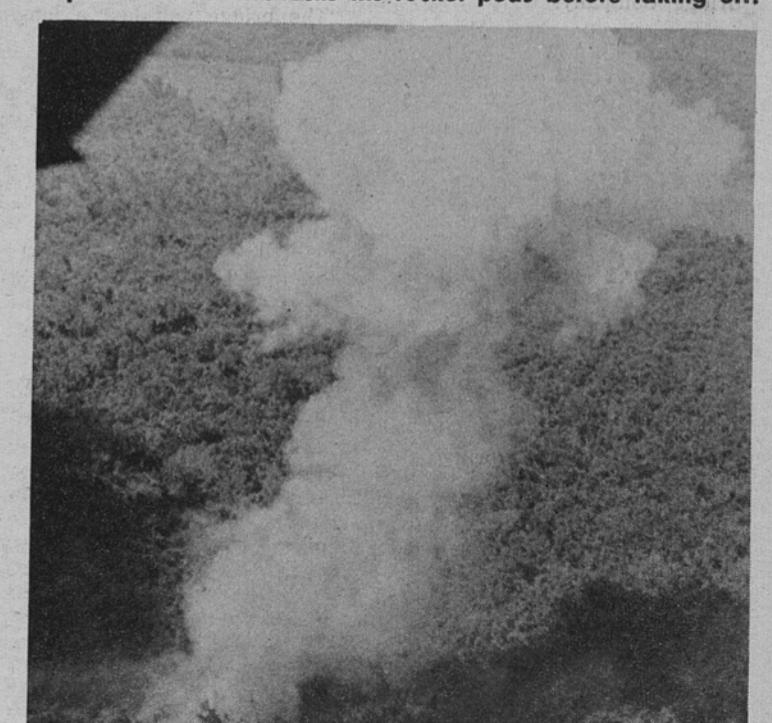
An OV-10 "Bronco" streaks over rice paddies looking for signs of enemy activity.



Captain Ashworth checks his rocket pods before taking off.



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

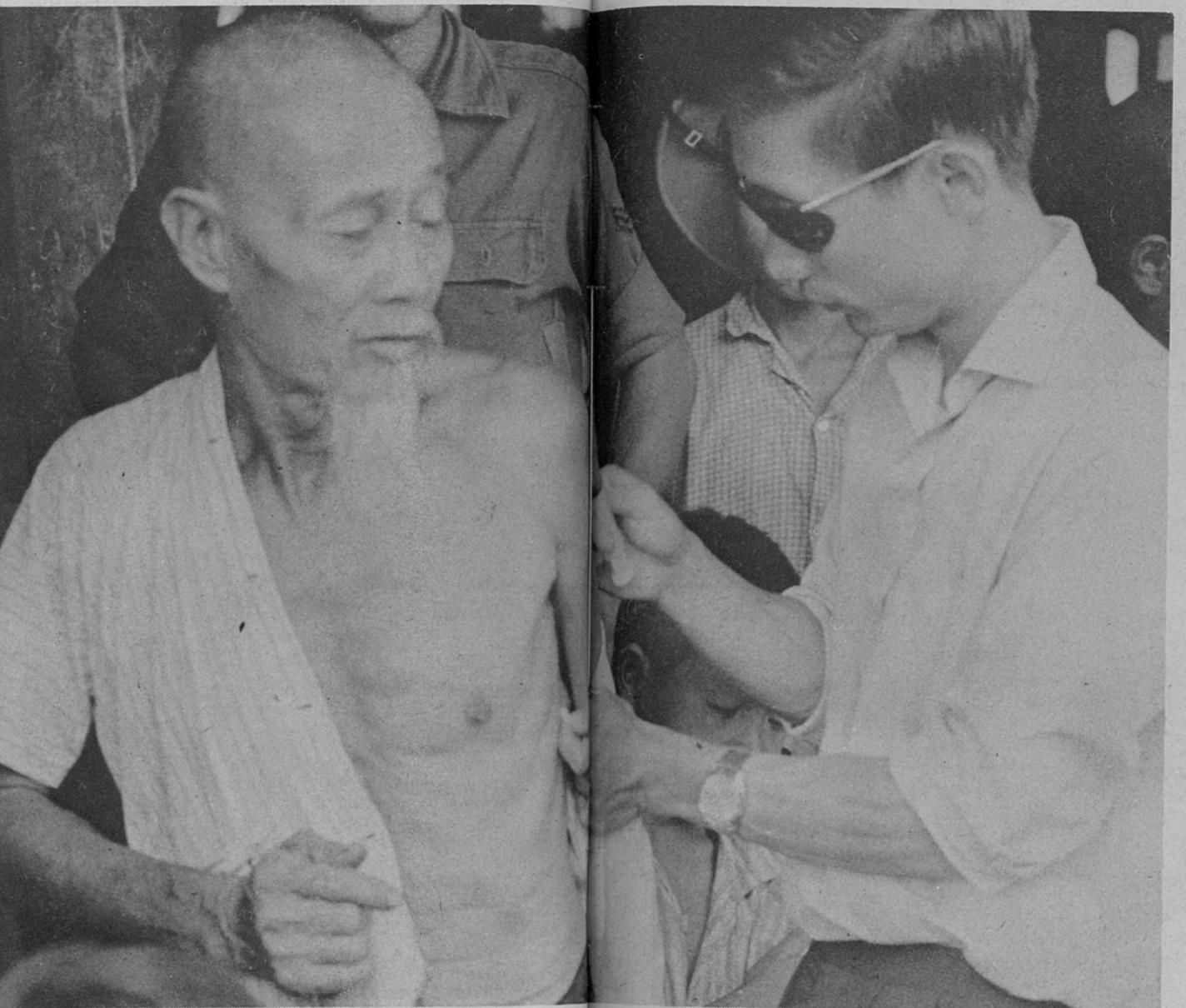


Smoke from a white phosphorous rocket marks a target.

# Joint MEDCAP Aids Villagers In Tiny Hamlet



A youngster receives his vaccination.



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

**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 avalanche. The crowd fed lines before the doctors' aid.

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

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."

Little children with their  
Story photos  
Sgt. E. J. Bent, USMC  
SP4 David Garrow, USA



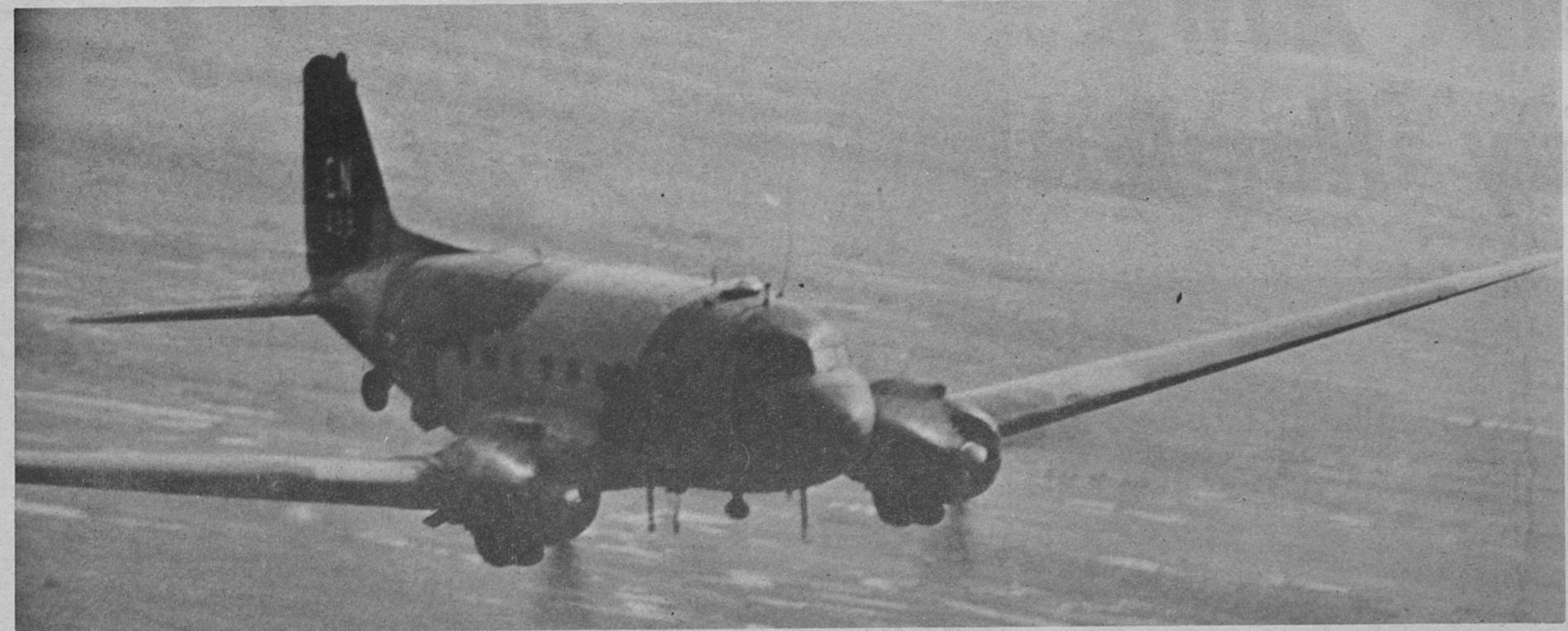
U.S. Army doctor, Captain David M. Montgomery, treats an ailing village child during the MEDCAP operation.



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



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.

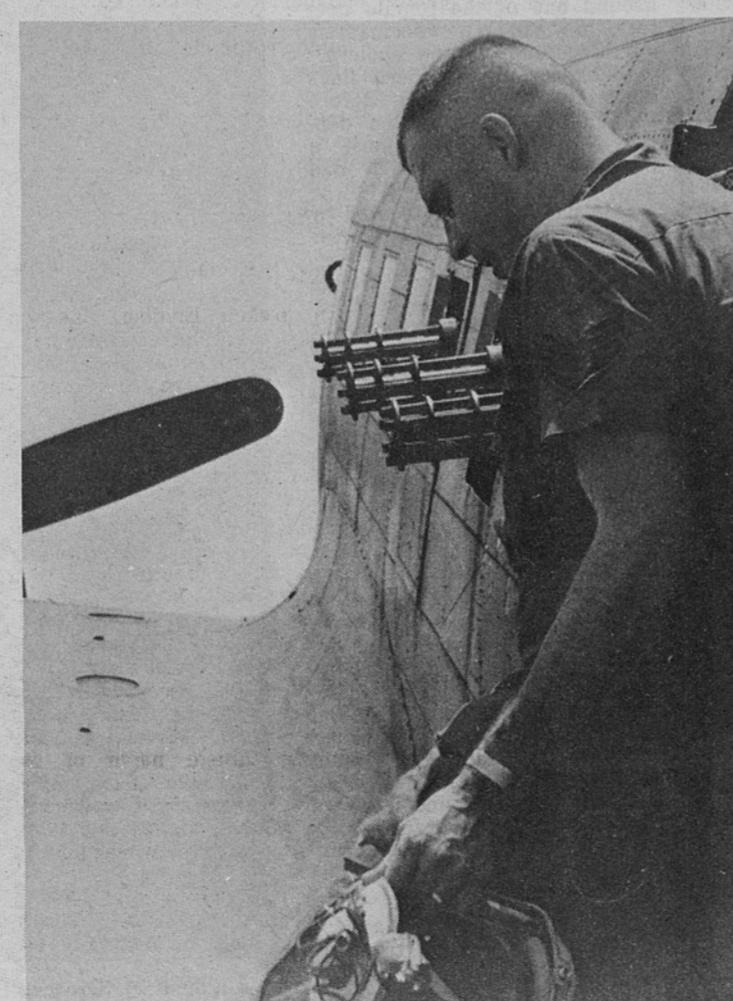
During the Tet offensive, the number of sorties flown and amount of ammunition used hit their peak, with 571 hours of flight time logged, over one million rounds of ammunition expended, and 5,000 flares dropped.

"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.

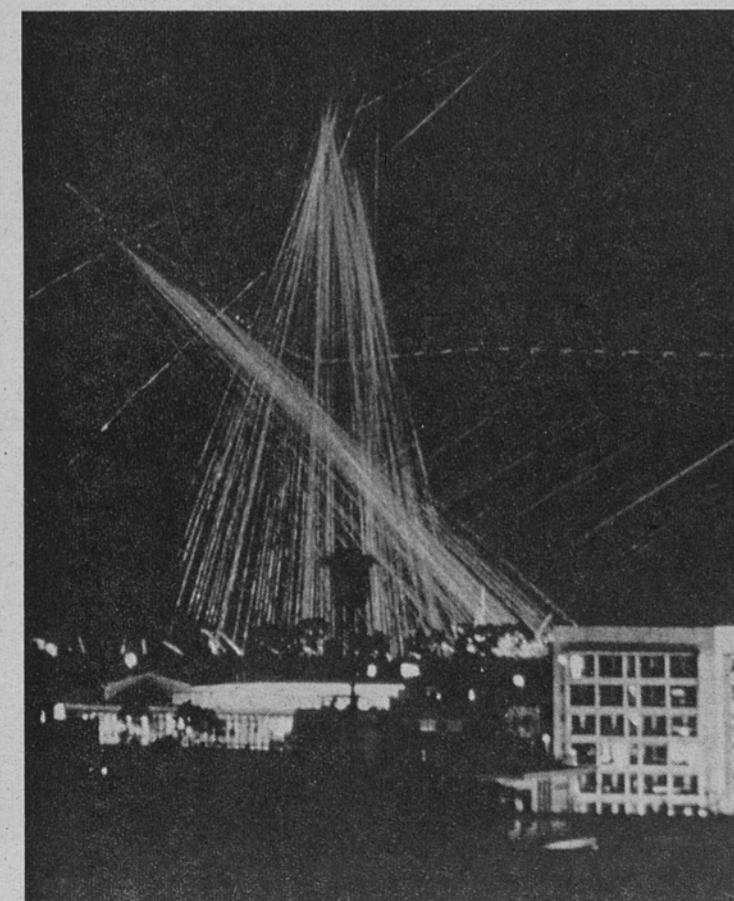
**Story & Photos**  
By  
Sgt. E. J. Sargent (USMC)  
SP4 John L. Klop (USA), and USAF



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



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



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.

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 work.

Today, "Theo," is called by his proper name. The operation which Specialist Cox arranged rid the boy of his disfigurement and also changed the villagers' attitudes.

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert H. Ray, battalion commander, said, "Before this operation, the villagers were suspicious — even afraid — of us. Now they're happy and outgoing when they see us."

**Provided Transportation**  
Captain Fulmer introduced the couple to Vietnamese officials and provided transportation to orphans 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.

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 medicals of 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 1,000 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 Phu 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

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 Muller.

Through the company's civic action efforts, students in the local school now enjoy swings, seesaws and volleyball. 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.

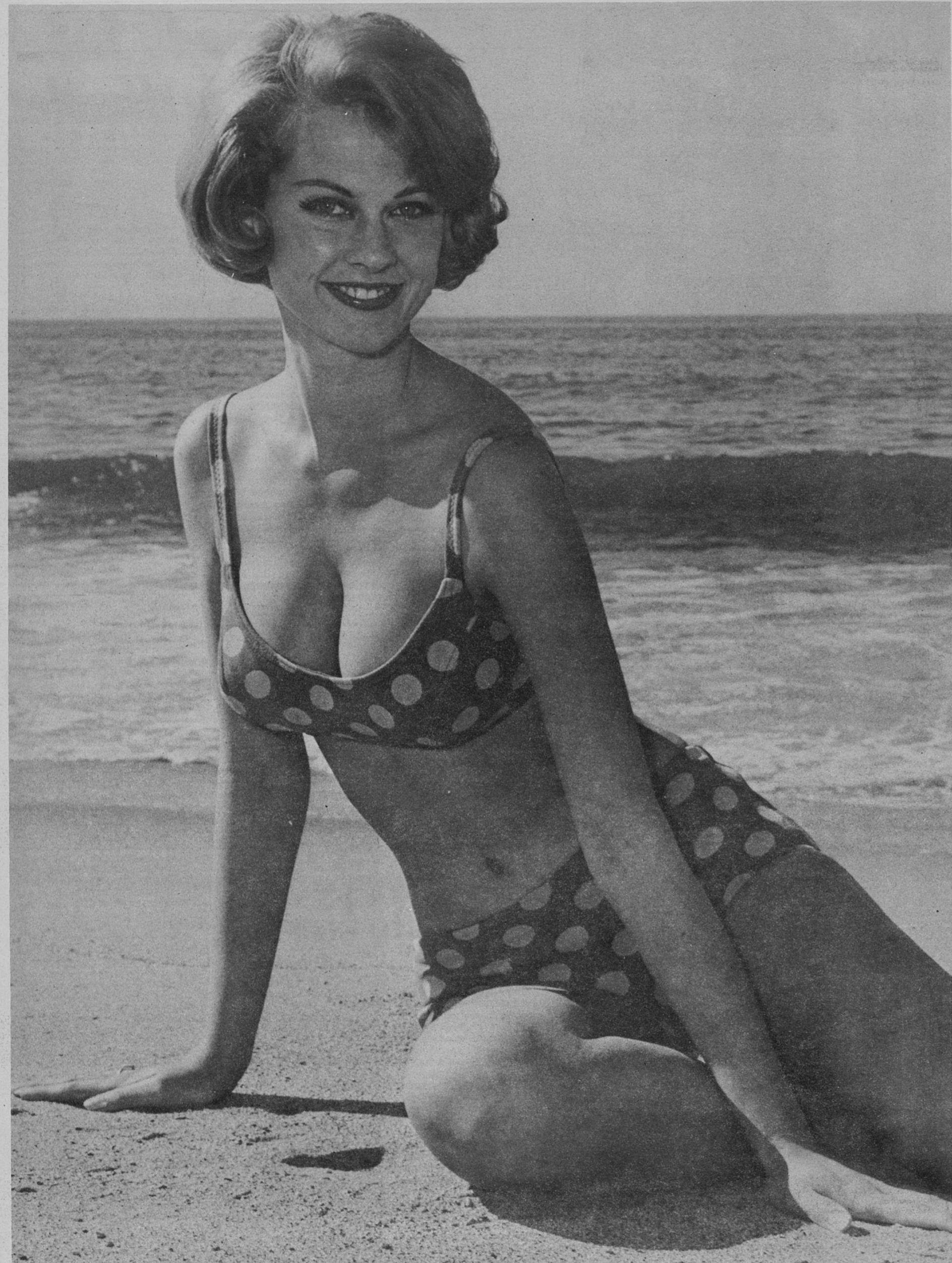
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Thanks to the U.S. Army civic action program and the laundry service profits, plans are underway to expand the three-year-old orphanage to accommodate an additional 50 children.



**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 SPS  
MACCLAIN



YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL THE GIRLS  
WHO WORK AT THE RUBBER  
PLANTATION . . .

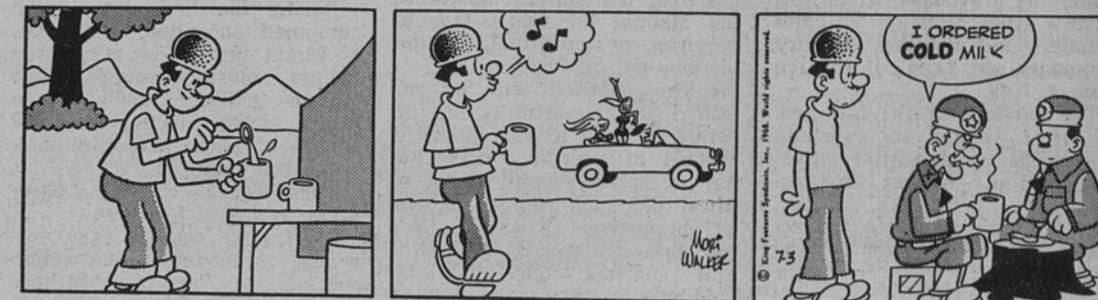
**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** Answer to Previous Puzzle

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DOWN														
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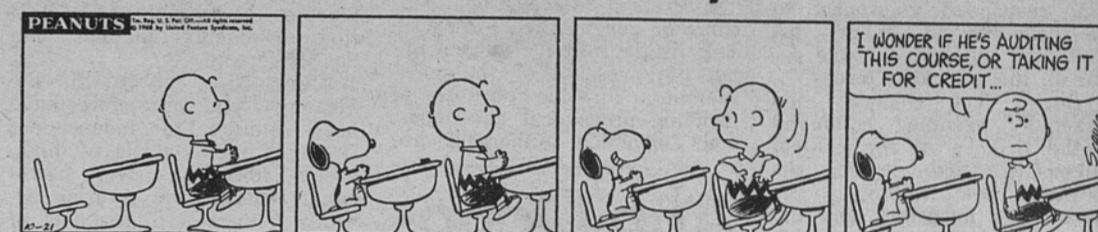
1-Insect 3-Ocean 33-Nosegay 48-Animal's coat  
5-Unlock 4-Punctuation marks 36-Swiss river 49-Great Lake  
9-Nod 5-Greek letter 37-More in want 50-Part of face  
12-Toward 6-River in Italy 40-Rabbit hutch 54-Born  
shelter 7-Man's name 43-Indefinite article 56-Greek, as written  
13-Burrowing 8-Seines 45-Symbol for 58-Mourful  
animal 9-Fruit 11-Walk in water 50-Nickel 61-Initiate of 26th  
14-Wine cup 16-Menservants 47-Plague President  
15-Be in need 20-Speech 9  
17-Pronoun 22-Preposition 33-Nosegay 48-Animal's coat  
18-Man's nickname 23-Cian 36-Swiss river 49-Great Lake  
19-Shakespearian 24-Muse of history 37-More in want 50-Part of face  
character 25-Greeting 40-Rabbit hutch 54-Born  
21-Look fixedly 27-Preposition 43-Indefinite article 56-Greek, as written  
23-Students 28-Omit from 45-Symbol for 58-Mourful  
pronunciation 29-Perform 30-Walk unsteadily 50-Nickel 61-Initiate of 26th  
31-Shake 32-Part of 47-Plague President  
34-Greek letter 33-Nosegay 48-Animal's coat  
35-Pest 36-Swiss river 49-Great Lake  
38-Maiden loved 40-Rabbit hutch 50-Part of face  
by Zeus 43-Indefinite article 54-Born  
39-Haul 45-Symbol for 56-Greek, as written  
41-Capuchin 50-Nickel 58-Mourful  
monkey 52-Be mistaken 61-Initiate of 26th  
42-River ducks 53-Preposition 54-Born President  
44-Indefinite 55-Greeting 56-Greek, as written  
article 57-Greek letter  
46-In a corrupt 58-Mourful  
manner 61-Initiate of 26th  
48-Danger 62-Girl's name 63-Number  
51-Want 64-Withered  
52-Be mistaken 65-Electric  
53-Preposition 66-Fried  
55-Gets up 67-Girl's name  
56-Fried  
57-Girl's name  
58-Fried  
60-Fried  
62-Girl's name  
63-Number  
64-Withered  
65-Electric  
catfish

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## Beetle Bailey



## Peanuts

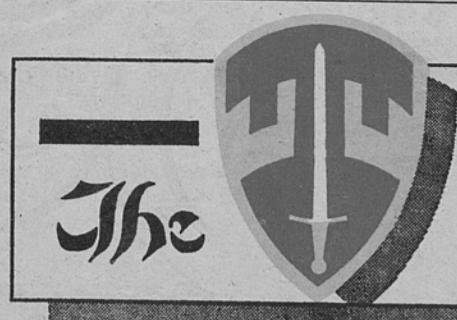


## By Charles M. Schulz





# 1st Cavalry Div In Action In III Corps



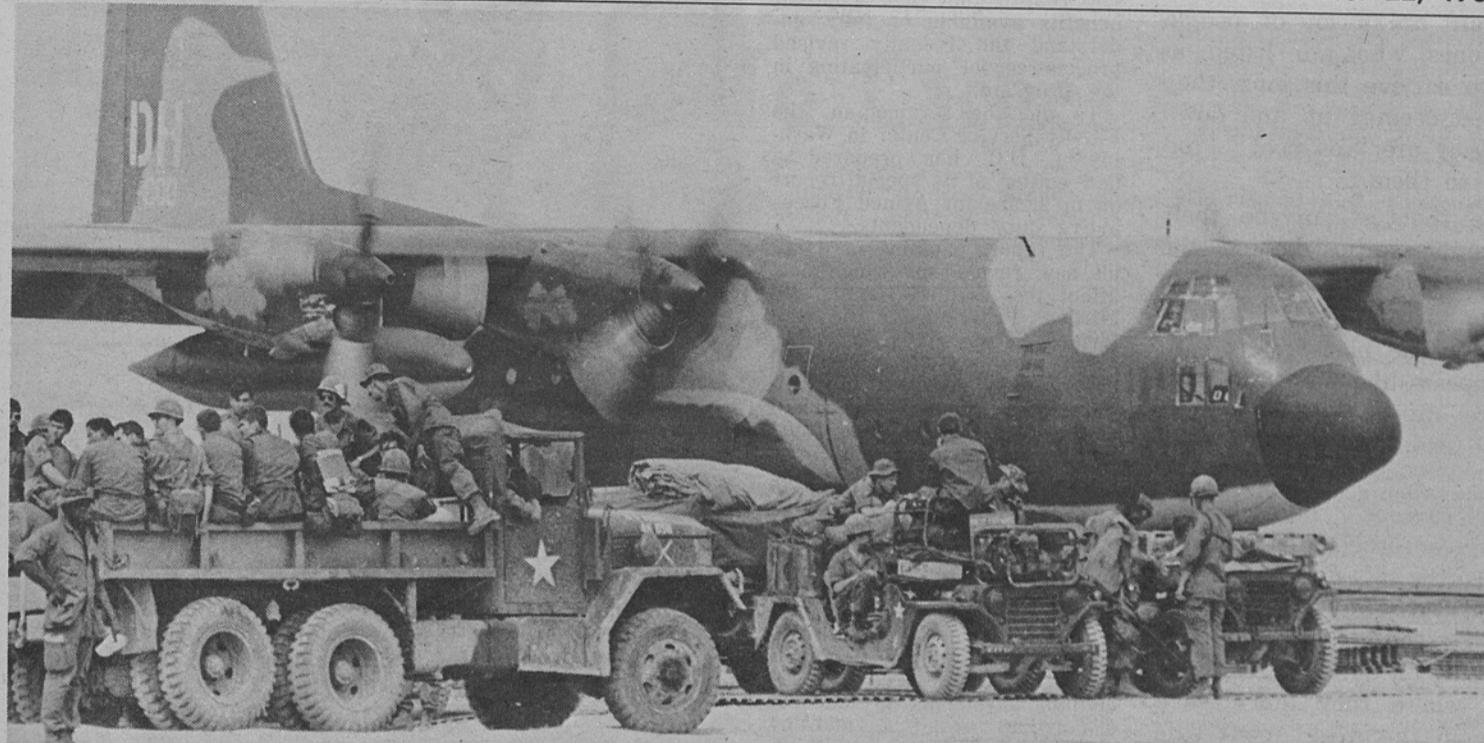
FIRST IN VIETNAM

## THE OBSERVER

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 revving up 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 dubbed "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."

**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, American 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 American 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 American 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.

**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.

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 cavalrymen 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 cavalrymen 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-action	pages 6&7
ARVN Rangers	page 8



Parcel Airlift Days Left

## Honored Himself, He Gives Awards

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

Tho fearlessly directed his aircraft to land in the battle zone to confer with his commanders.

After receiving his decoration, Lieutenant Colonel Tho, on behalf of the Republic of Vietnam, presented 13 Gold, 7 Silver, and 18 Bronze Crosses of Gallantry to members of the American Division for an action west of Tam Ky in late August.

In that action, elements of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, spearheaded a three-day battle against two regiments of the 2nd NVA Division.

## 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 careers "Harry Heavyfoot" 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.

### 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)

"We continue to believe that our responsibilities toward others are as important as our responsibilities toward ourselves."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER  
Ambassador



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### Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### Free Military Medicare Pam Explains All

WASHINGTON — 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.



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-

NEXT WEEK: Music in Vietnam.



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)

## "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 quarries are AK-47s, .50 caliber Chicom machine guns and 82-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 and a dozen troop-carrying Hueys deposit enough paratroopers to secure the LZ for the main

Officer Charles W. Patison. To lay the best possible smokescreen, Smokey pilots must fly slower than usual and as low as possible.

"Other pilots worry about anti-aircraft fire," said Mr. Patison. "We have that problem too, but we also watch out for such things as rocket-propelled grenades and water buffalo."

Smokey is lightly armed and by no means harmless. As the pilot drops the chopper down to begin the smoke run, he gives the word for his door gunners to begin suppressive fire.

Swiveling their Pedestal Mounted M-60 machine guns, the door gunners spray bushes, hedgerows and creek banks to discourage snipers.

The co-pilot, always ready to take over in case of emergency, searches the area ahead to spot targets for the gunners.

"We don't usually get shot at," said the chief warrant officer. "The noise, the wind, the smoke and all those M-60 tracers flying around shake Charlie up a bit."

Smokey's type of "air pollution" is greatly appreciated.

landing zone (LZ), skimming and likely enemy gun positions. Before the smokescreen has had a chance to disperse, half

landing force.

There is no way to gauge how many possible Screaming Eagle casualties have been prevented by Smokey's cover, but many infantry officers and troops have said they feel much safer on combat assaults when the smoke-billowing bird leads the way.

The handful of pilots and crewmen who fly the Smokey missions for the 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion have become aviation's equivalent to the infantry point man.

"If it turns out to be a hot LZ, we're the first to know about it," said Chief Warrant

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 Chanh 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 packets.

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.

## 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

explosives.

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, one Air Medal with "V" Device and three Army Commendation Medals with "V" Device.

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.

## 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.

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## BEYOND THE CALL

SILVER STAR  
Kendall, Floyd W. SFC USA  
Miles, Peter D. MAJ USA  
Pacheco, Robert S. 1LT 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  
Maples, David C. SSG USA  
Riddle, Walker M. Jr. CPT USA

\*/denotes Oak Leaf Clusters

BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE  
Bouknigh, Bobby R. SGT USA  
Copeland, J. B. 1LT USA  
Eads, Samuel H. SSG USA  
Hoff, Laurence B. 1LT USA  
Jameson, Victor E. SFC USA  
Maples, David C. SSG USA  
Riddle, Walker M. Jr. CPT USA

ARMY  
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Eads, Samuel H. SSG USA  
Hoff, Laurence B.

# 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 that 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, Boatswain's Mate Third Class Eugene Burris, Signalman Seaman John Rinehart and Seaman Walter Marling.

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 underway 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 Marling said. "Then we knew that we had been accepted."



## 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.

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.

#### 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.

## 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.

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-

ness of units within the II Corps Tactical Zone.

"The officer exchange program will be very useful to give a free flow of information on how we operate, plan our fires, and position and control our artillery to insure the safety of the ground troops," said Colonel Maurer.

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."

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## 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 bazaar.

The rules governing PX and Commissary purchases protect and preserve the privilege of using those facilities. Abuse of the military resale system is illegal and results in shortages of hard-to-get items.

It is illegal to receive money or other goods in return for PX items. Offenders risk losing PX and Commissary Store shopping privileges.

Regulations applying to Commissary purchases are even more strict than PX regulations. Commissary purchases must be for the use of authorized patrons and they cannot be given or sold to anyone else.

The rules governing PX and Commissary purchases protect and preserve the privilege of using those facilities. Abuse of the military resale system is illegal and results in shortages of hard-to-get items.

# South Vietnam—Nine Months Later



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



in rice production is being reversed.

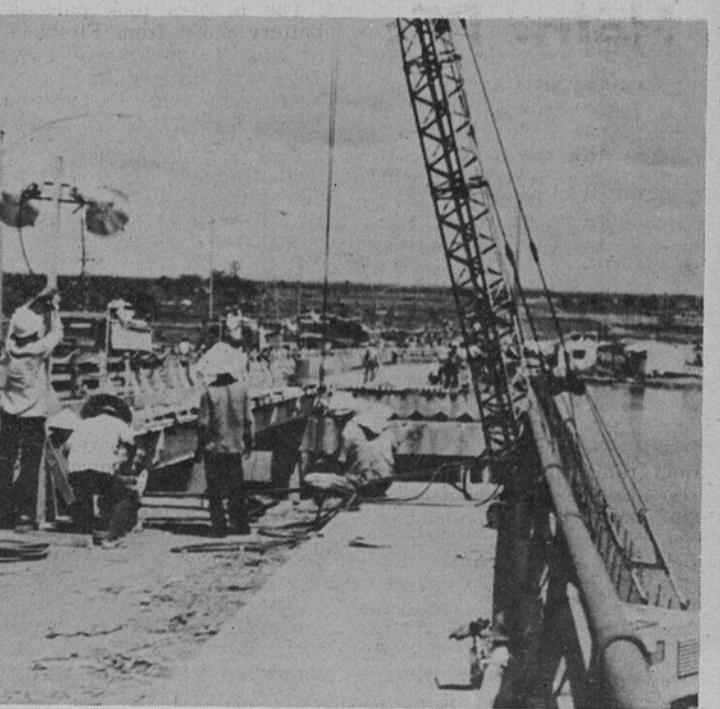
Unemployment has virtually vanished. Peasants get more for what they produce and generally pay less for the essentials they consume.

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 to 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.

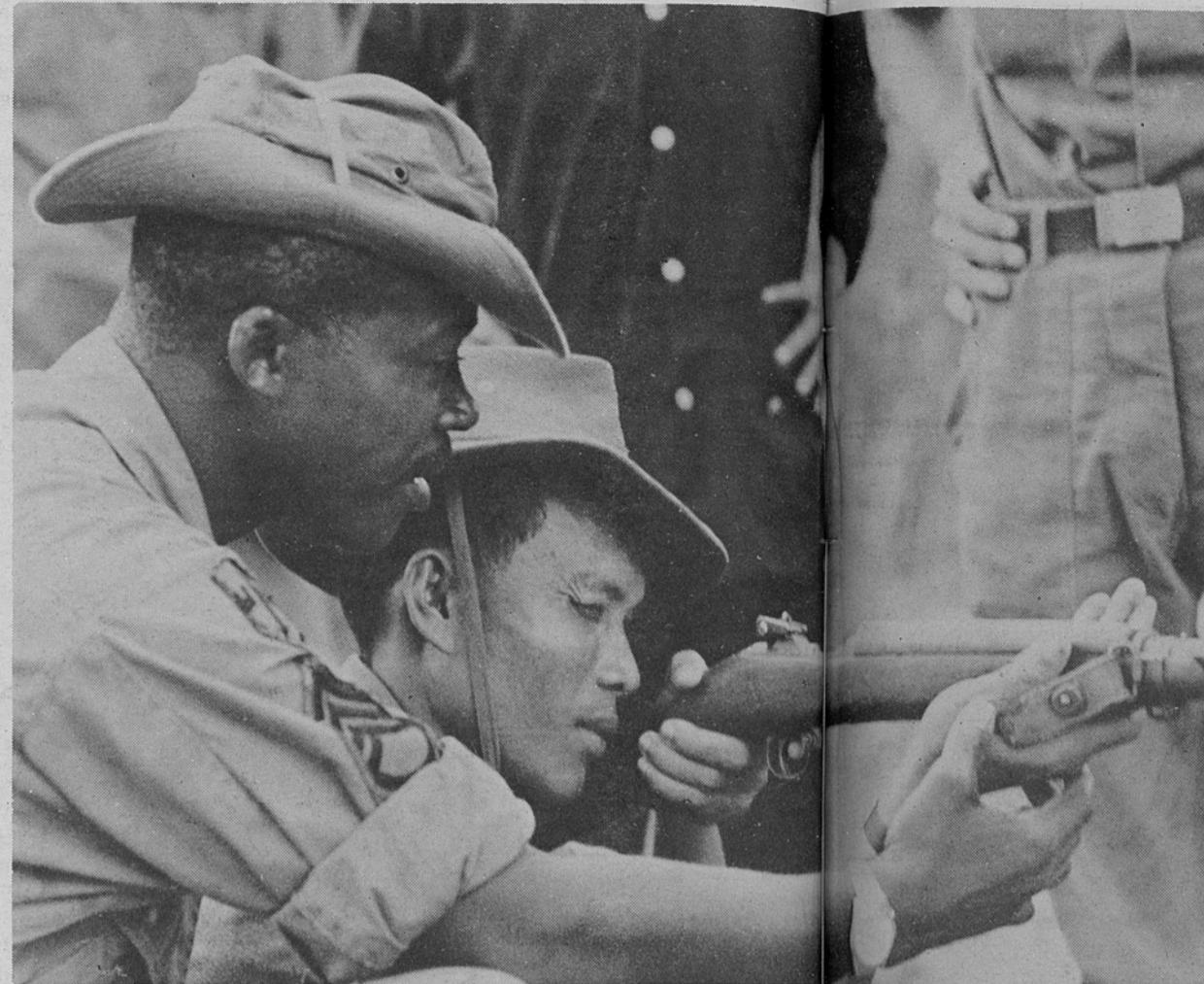


Following restoration of mainlines of communication, food again flows into markets.

# 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.



A PF soldier field strips an M-16 under the supervision of Lt. Kron's watchful eye.

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.

Story & Photos By  
SP5 Joe De Priest, USA  
&  
Sgt. E. J. Sargent, USMC

"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 implacement 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.



The women sew and make clothing while the men defend.



Village children listen attentively in school where Rangers serve as part-time teachers.

## 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.

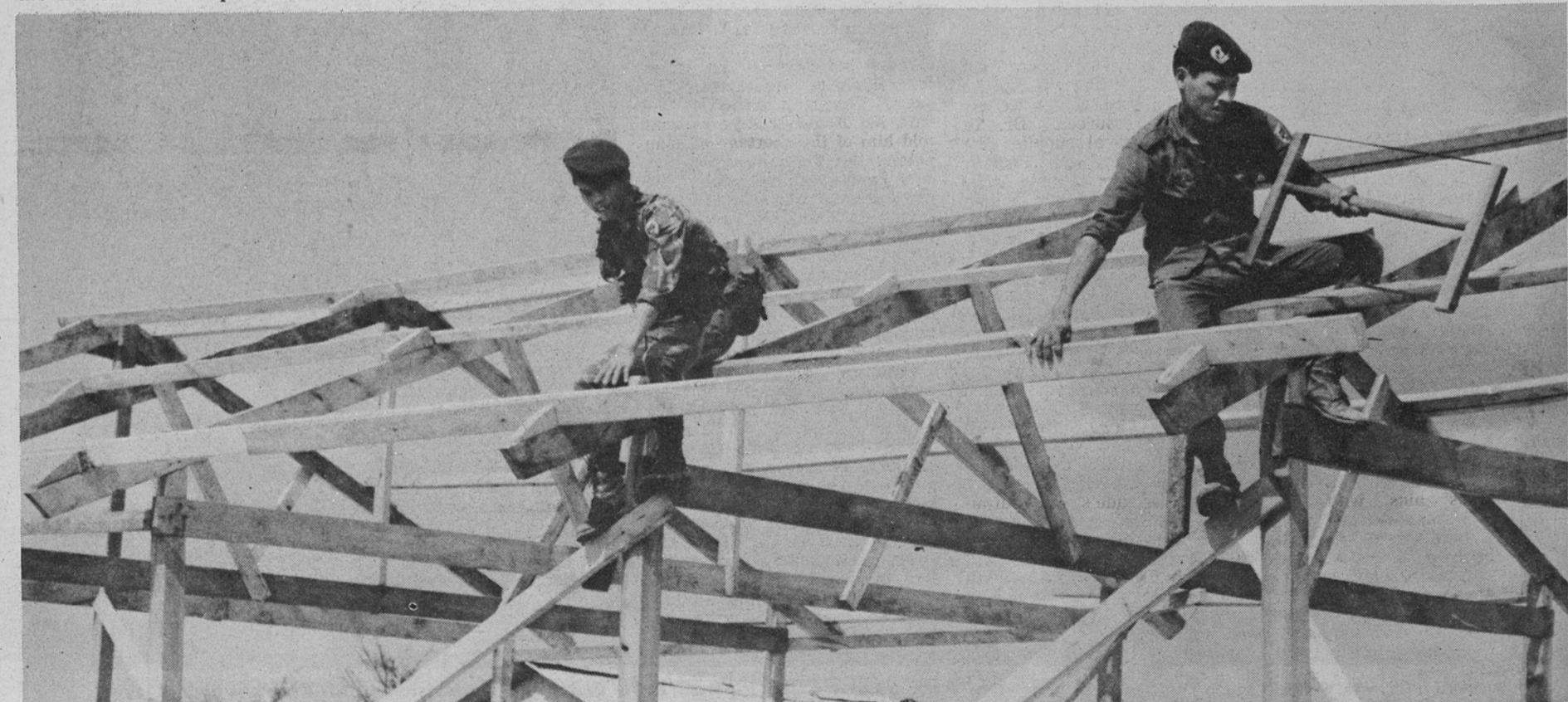
The company commander having local security duty for the day is responsible for giving instructions for sweeps around the hamlet and for posting of the night sentries.

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.

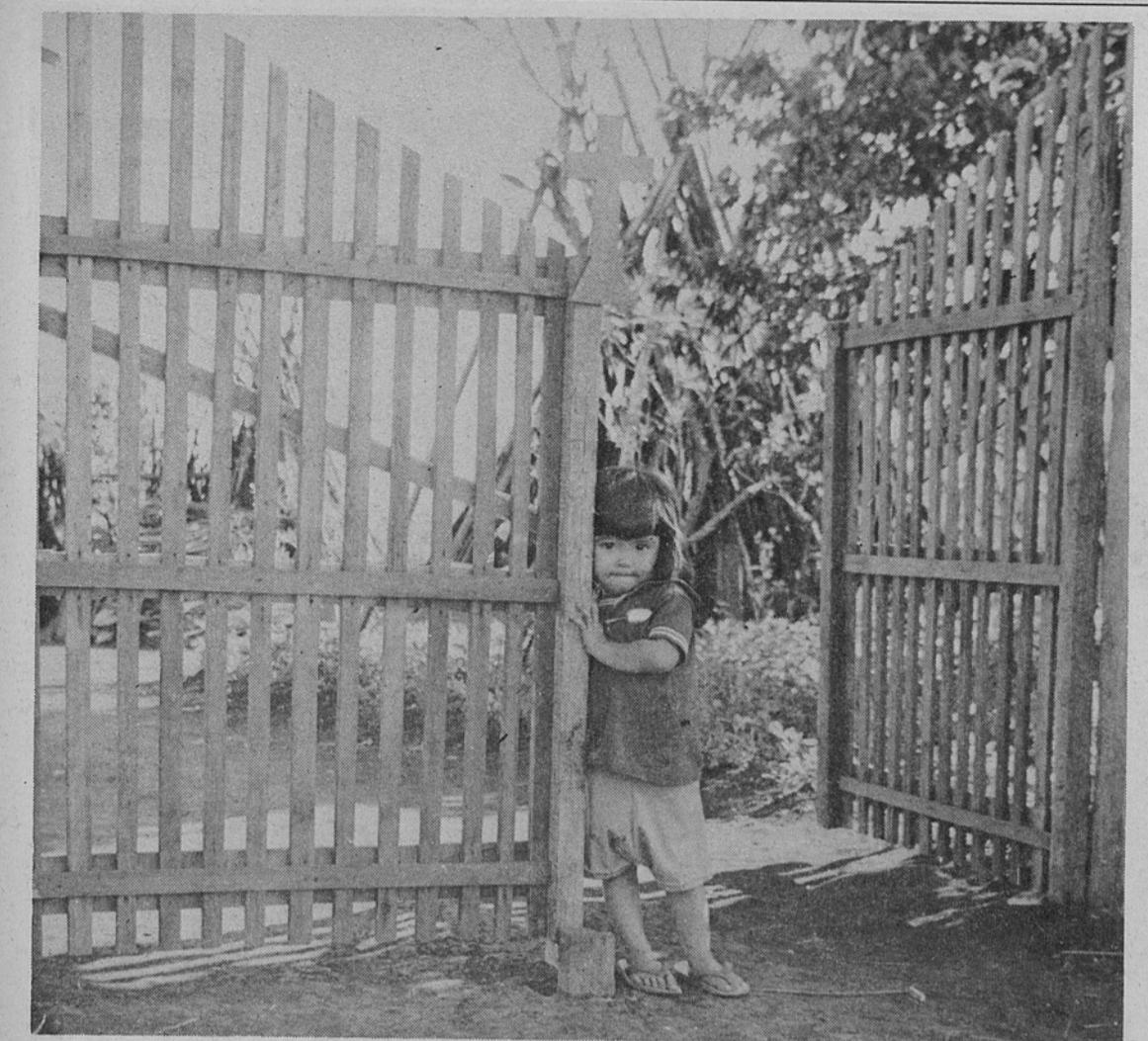
Story & Photos  
By  
GySgt Harold Shipp, USMC



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.



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 orphans.

"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.

## 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 Infantry men 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.

## 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.

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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.

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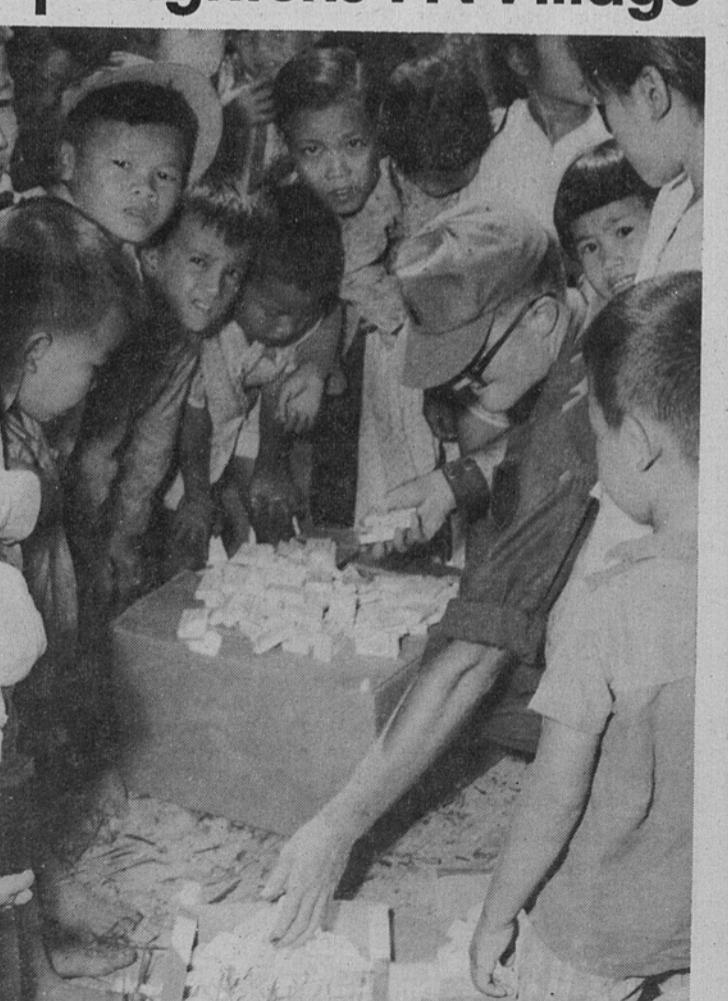
only one phase of an extensive

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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 SPS  
MACCLAIN



ISN'T THAT CUTE *ooo*  
10 LBS OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** Answer to Previous Puzzle

1-Wine cups	5-Crony (colloq.)	WASP	OPEN	BOW
5-Equality	6-War god	ALEE	MOLE	AMA
8-Philippine Moslem	7-Kinfolk	STARVE	IT	NEED
12-Clan	8-Command	IAGO	STARE	SCHOLARS
13-Exist	9-Spoken	SCHOLARS	ON	ON
14-Island off Ireland	10-Rant	ELDIE	ACT	ASP
15-Correspond to	11-Units	PIL	STATION	10
17-Part of church	16-Dregs	TOW	SAIL	TEALS
18-Gravestones	20-Lair	AN	ROTTELY	PERIL
19-Seats on horses	22-Frollicking in water	PERIL	NEED	NEED
21-French plural article	24-Ancient (poet.)	ERR	IN	ARISES
23-Afternoon party	25-Spanish for "river"	LIE	PETS	ETTA
24-Silkworm	26-Doctrine	ETTA	TEN	SERE
32-Speech impediment	28-Illuminated	RAAD	SERE	RAAD
34-54 (Roman number)	29-Period of time	10		
35-Great Lake	30-Tear	33-Buccaneers	46-Lamb's pen name	
36-Controls	31-Place	37-Openwork	48-Assistant	
39-Suitable		38-South Sea islanders	49-Accomplished	
40-Things, in law		42-Hebrew prophet	50-Break	
41-Total		43-Ancient Semite	suddenly	
43-Inhale and exhale		44-Regulation	53-Measure of weight (pl. abbr.)	
47-Burdens		45-Man's name		
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	5	6	7	8
2-Flesh	13		14	
3-Land measure	16		17	
4-Bog down	19	20		
	21	22	23	
	25	26	27	28
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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

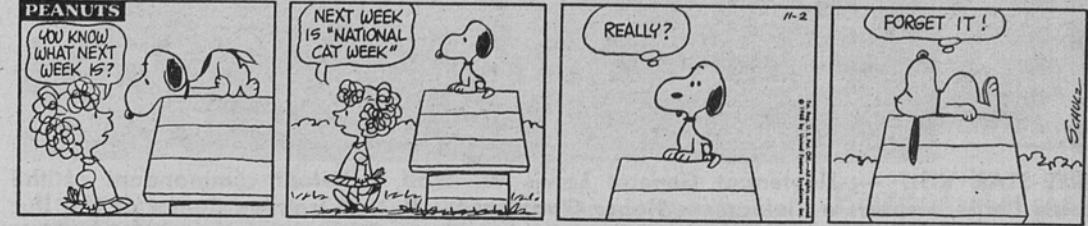


SIR, DID YOU HEAR A—

By Mort Walker

By Charles M. Schulz

## Peanuts



# 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

## 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.

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.



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 educations 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.



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.

## 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 endorsement 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.

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FIRST IN VIETNAM

The

# THE 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 south-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.

### 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."

### 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 TAN (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 LRP 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 LRP and pounded the area with rockets and mini-guns, killing eight more fleeing VC.

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

**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 infantry 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.



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 transhipment to their area of permanent residence.

**FIRST IN VIETNAM**  
**The OBSERVER**

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SP5 Mc Clain, USA

**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.

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.

The handbook 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 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."

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, especially



"LET IT COOL OFF—Before you pass it on to someone else," says Miss Jacceline 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.

The handbook sets out a brief historical view of drug abuse, distribution methods, penalties for illegal drug traffic and technical 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; NAVFERS 15234; AFP 34-2; NAVMC 2620; CG-173) (AFPS)

"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 ARVN. 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-47 ammunition left, but none of the rockets that each member of his squad carried.

Performing up to 15 such

operations per day, the "Dutchmasters Rifles," commanded by

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."

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."

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**

DIAN (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-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.

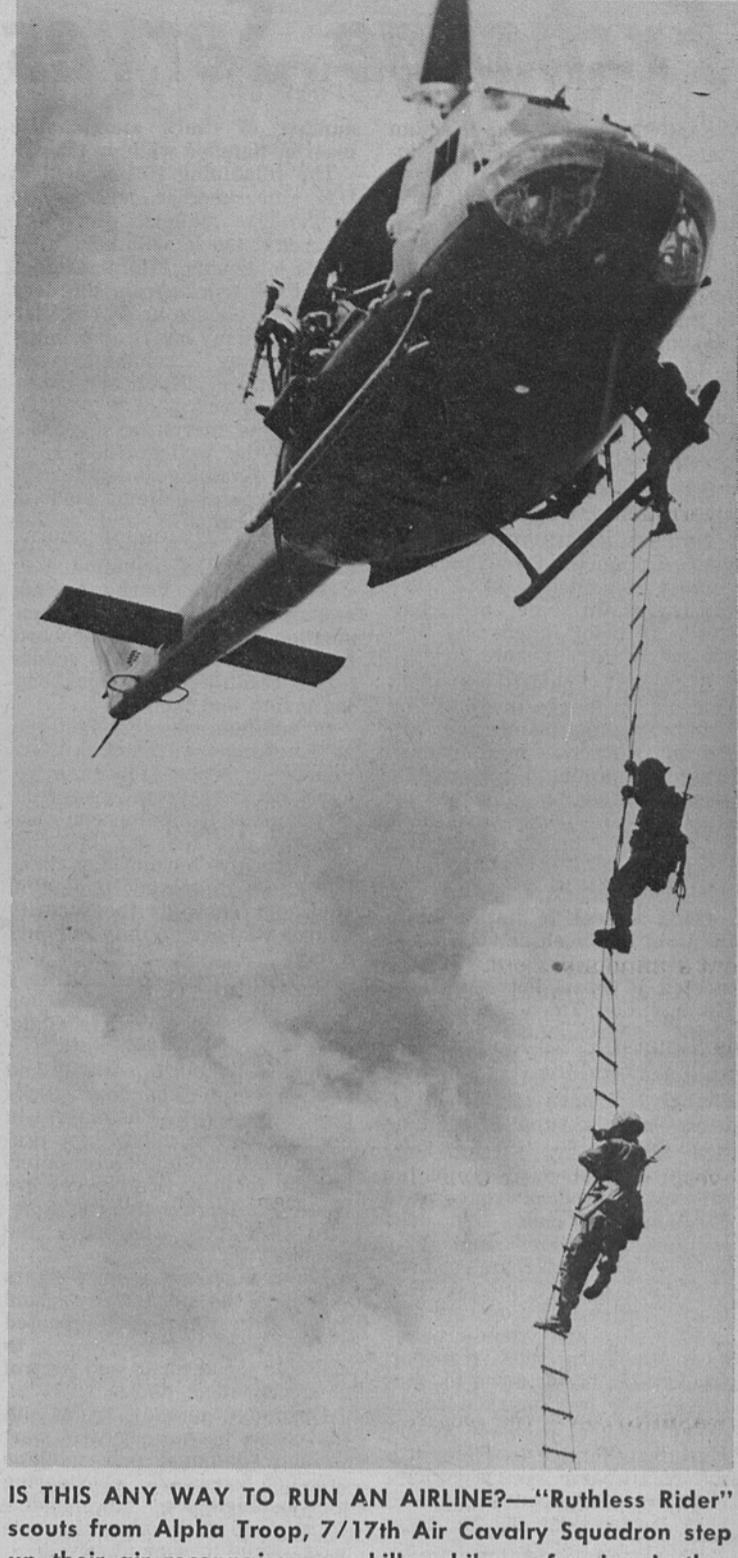
The troops themselves enjoy their work, especially the opportunity to work closely with their Vietnamese allies.

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."

Performing up to 15 such

operations per day, the "Dutchmasters Rifles," commanded by



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**

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**

for the explosive. Meanwhile, helicopter-transported MPs swept the surrounding area.

Clearing the way to a tree overhanging the river, the water-borne 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.

**SILVER STAR**

Bradbury, Larry V. CPT USA  
Campbell, Malcolm SGT USA  
Rutte, Thomas E. CPT USA  
Cook, John L. 2LT USA  
Dupis, Bruce E. 1LT USA  
Rodriguez, Sixto Jr. SSG USA

**ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE**

Deen, Don E. CPT USA  
Herrington, Darrell L. MAJ USA  
Hicks, Richard L. CPT USA  
Holley, Clifton E. SSG USA  
Jones, Lemuel D. CPT USA  
Miller, James L. SSG USA

**BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE**

Deen, Don E. CPT USA  
Black, Richard J. 1LT USA  
Britton, Carl E. SGT USA \*1/  
Buckingham, Patrick W. CPT USA  
Crumm, James R. MSG USA \*2/  
Glover, Lawrence W. CPT USA  
Hall, Billy L. SFC USA \*1/  
Hatchett, Joseph A. SSG USA \*1/  
Hedgpath, Dale L. 1LT USA  
Kearney, Frederick A. CPT USA  
Weaver, Wallace D. PFC USA  
Leach, William G. CPT USA \*2

\*1 denotes Oak Leaf Clusters

# Exchange Serves GIs 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 Seabees 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 pock marked 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.

## 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 tom 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.

"These kids were really eager to learn," said Captain Elliot M.

## Jet Flight Takes Wives To Japan

**SAIGON (MACV)**— Like to have your wife join you for R&R in Japan?

Reservations are now available for the Far East charter flight leaving El Paso, Texas, March 10, and returning from Tokyo March 25.

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.

## Jet Flight Takes Wives To Japan

The flight will depart from El Paso and will make one refueling stop in Anchorage, Alaska. The trip to Tokyo should take approximately 17 hours of flying time.

The charter, which allows a discount over regular commercial flight fares, is being made with the full approval and in accordance with Civil Aeronautics Board and Federal Aviation Association regulations.

### 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.

Those interested in further information should contact Mrs. L.A. Arneson, 5109 Marchius, El Paso, Texas, or Lieutenant Colonel L.A. Arneson, 9th Medical Laboratory, APO 96307.

# 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 22nd 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.



MAJ Reinhard and 1LT Phillips, aided by interpreter Sang Nguyen Thi, talk to a youngster.



Father Vincent Nguyen Hoa Dinh talks to young patients.



CPT Barson readies for work.



Assisted by SP6 Massey, CPT Barson gives dental aid to this Nam Dong Village youngster.

Story & Photos By  
TSgt. Jerry Fears (USAF)  
&  
SP4 David M. Gerrol (USA)



SP6 Massey prepares dental equipment and supplies.

# 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.

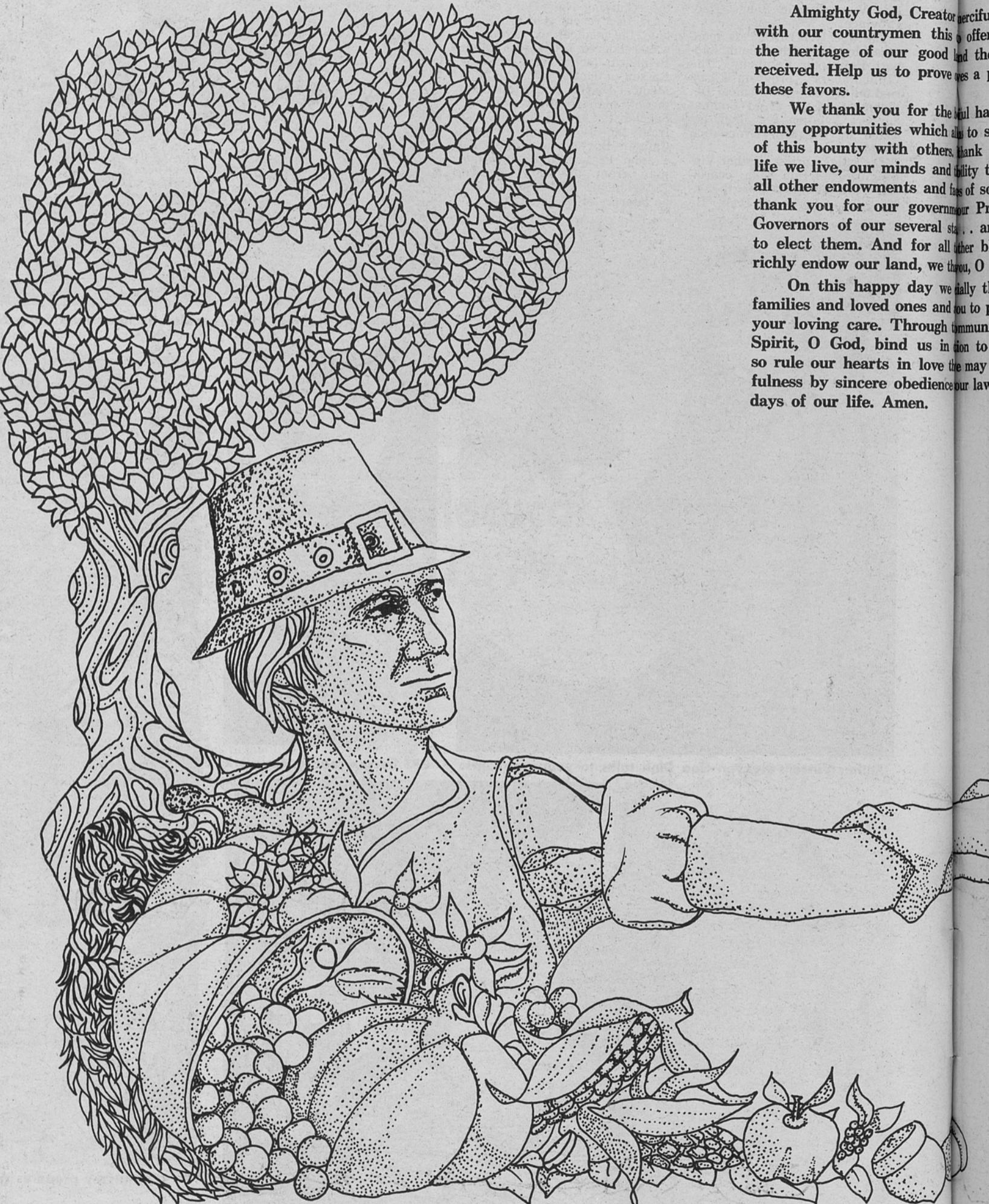
"Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God, by not keeping his commandments and his ordinances and his statutes . . . Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth.'

"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 . . ."

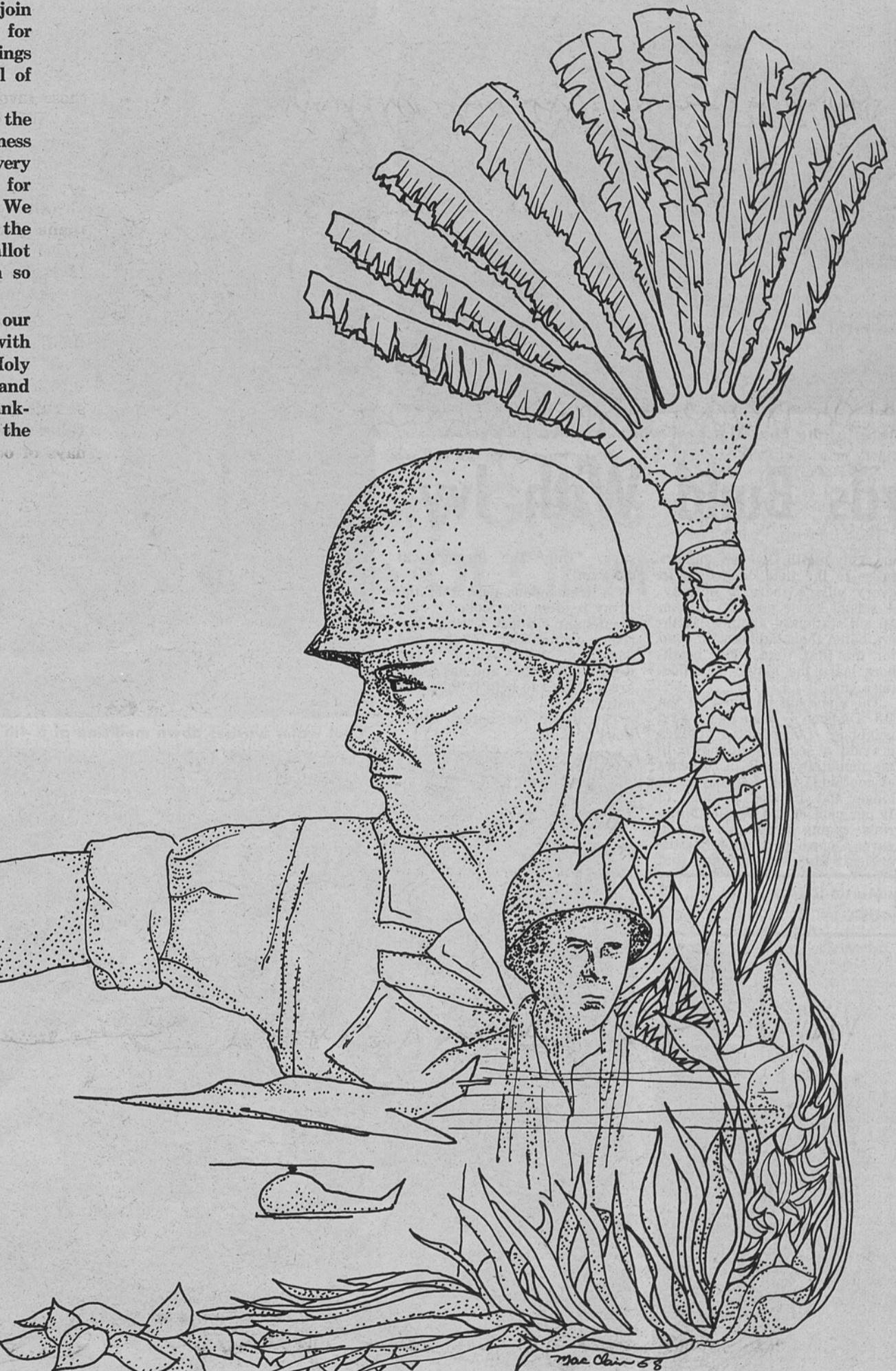


## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Almighty God, Creator merciful Father, we join with our countrymen this day to offer you thanks for the heritage of our good land and the many blessings received. Help us to prove to a people mindful of these favors.

We thank you for the great harvest and for the many opportunities which are 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 governors and 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 daily thank you for our families and loved ones and 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.

Moving 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.

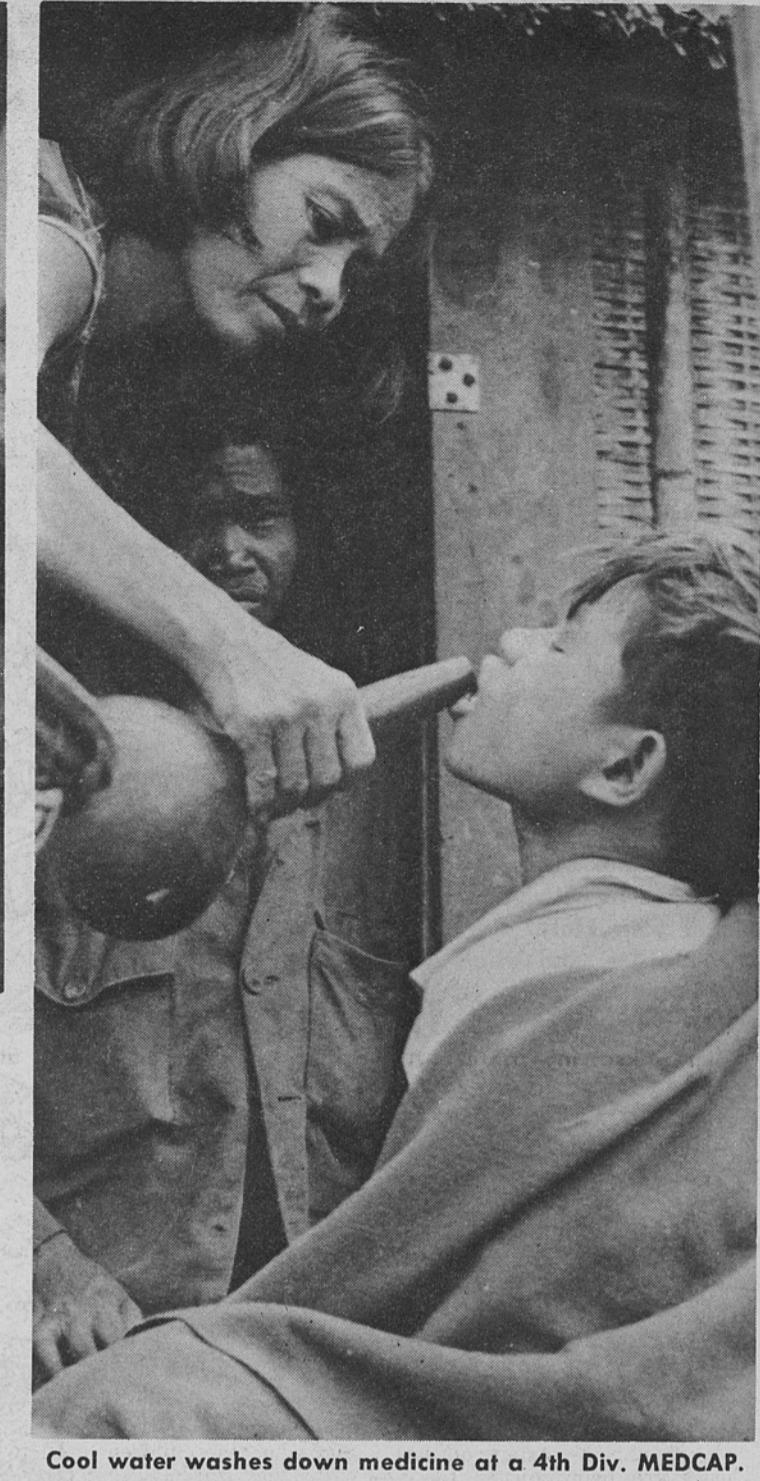
The scene has changed for the 4th Division's Montagnard neighbors. Consolidated villages provide a security unknown to the mountain people in 20 years of continued war. Leprosy is no longer the dreaded sickness of 10 per cent of the people. Malaria's raging fever has met a cure. A newborn child defies 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.

**Cool water washes down medicine at a 4th Div. MEDCAP.**



Story by 1LT. Gary Martin (USA)  
Photos by USA



Montagnards make tools, using a bamboo bellows.



A pig is prepared for market. Ivy civic action teams taught Montagnards about business.



Thanksgiving came early for this Co-Nhi-Vien orphan, at a 3rd Rescue Group picnic.

## 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-

men's concern for the Viet Hoa orphans 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.

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.

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.

## Charlie Can't Stop 'The Voice'

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.

## Another First!

**ABOARD THE USS BENEWAH (USA)** — The first MEDCAP ever held in the village of Mo Cay, 20 miles south of Dong Tam, was carried out by medics of the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry recently.

The 9th Infantry Division team treated Vietnamese from three months to 74 years of age, with ailments ranging from minor coughs to a possible case of appendicitis.

Mo Cay was completely overrun during Tet and much of the surrounding area now is considered to be highly infiltrated by the VC. Team leader Captain Joseph B. Burger said, "We don't believe the majority of the people that came to the MEDCAP were directly involved with the VC. In any case, the people who were treated left with

Sadly, the majority of casualties were children."

The villagers banded together and constructed a wobbly footbridge. The span was dangerous at best, and a roaring current 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 overloaded oxcarts fighting nature's violence.

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 footbridge. The span was dangerous at best, and a roaring current quickly tore away the shallow pilings.

The local civilian population

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 overloaded 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.

# Recovering GIs '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 recuperate 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 Sicoiva textile factory near Da Nang. The factory employs more than 700 Vietnamese, 250 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.

## They Help Villagers Bridge Problem

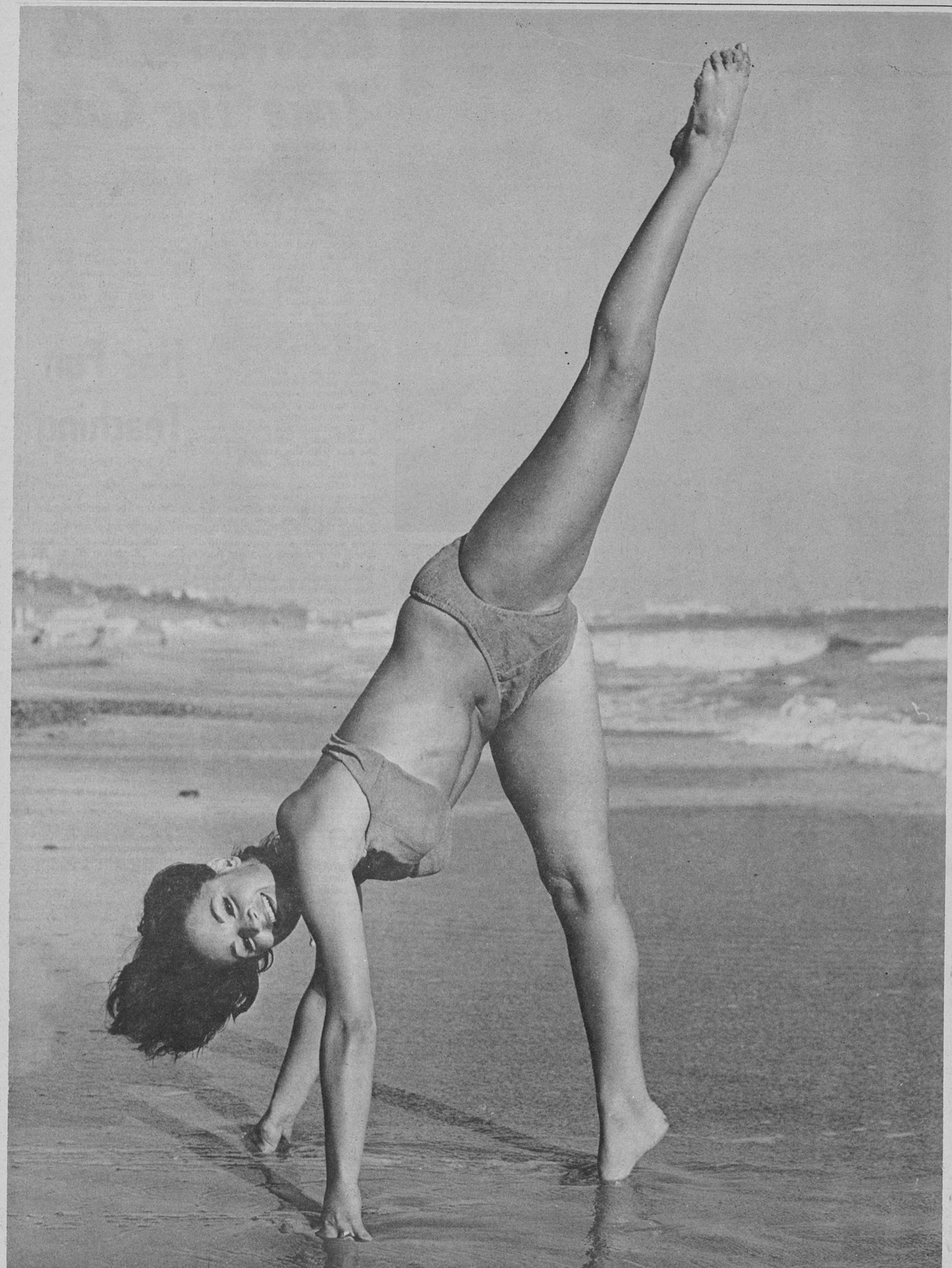
underground bunkers. A reaction force and artillery support are ready to offer quick assistance to the defenders, if needed.

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.

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.

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 SPS  
MACCLAIN



I'M AWFUL SORRY MISTER, BUT  
CHOI OI SOUNDS ALOT LIKE  
CHIEU HOI 6

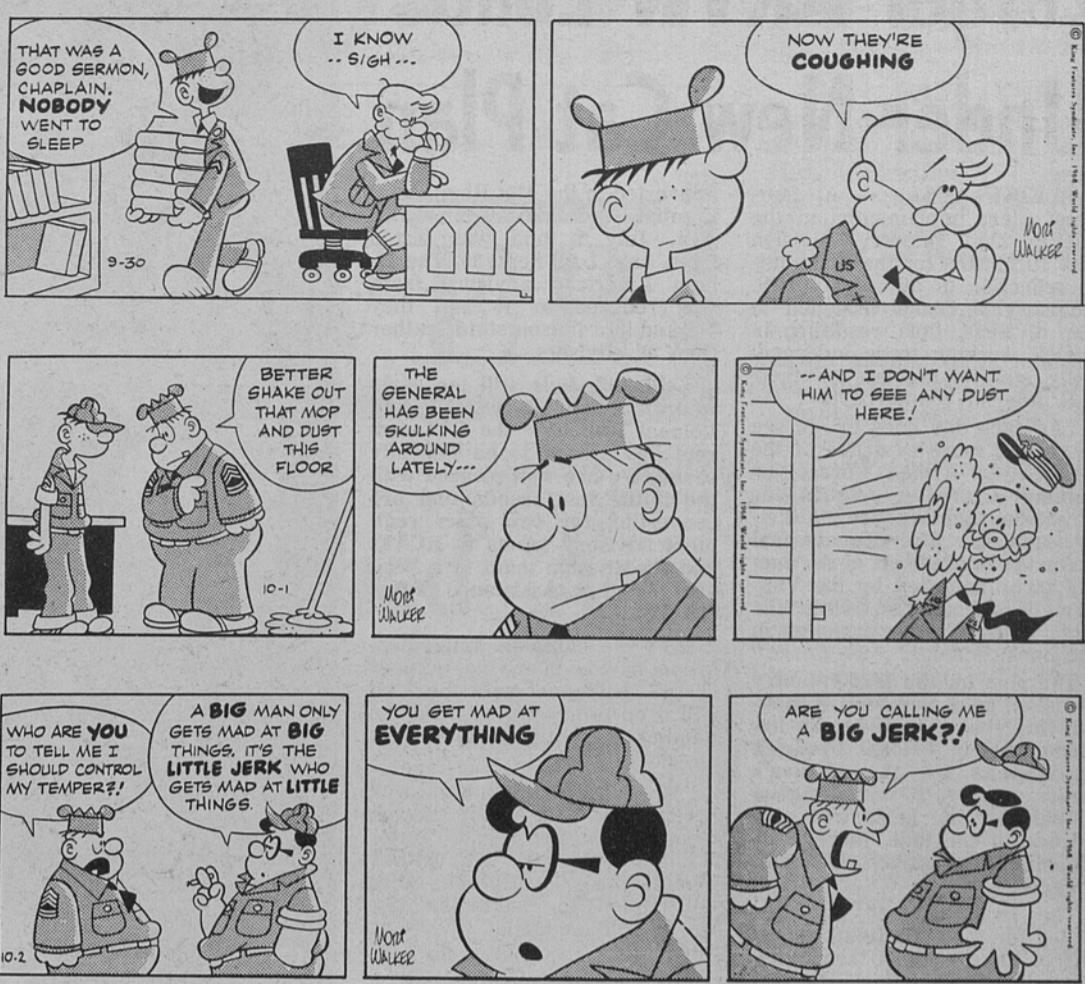
**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS	4-Barracuda	15-Sum	38-Sum	54-Ireland
	5-One defeated	41-Visions	41-Tennis stroke	55-Greek letter
	6-Exists	43-Tennis stroke	56-Soak	57-Rodent
	7-Lair	45-Gossip	58-Goddess of	59-Goddess of
	8-God of love	47-Worthless	60-Lair	61-Healing
	9-Cause	48-leaving	62-Lampreys	63-Pareid (colloq.)
	10-Be mistaken	49-Change		
	11-Period of time	52-Lampreys		
	15-Talks idly			
	17-Public official			
	19-Hinder			
	21-Distress signal			
	22-Held on property			
	25-Male			
	26-Fee			
	29-Mistake			
	31-Sweet potato			
	33-Born			
	34-Parent (colloq.)			
	35-Outline			
	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	13	14	
	2-Ventilate	16	17	18
	3-Schoolbook	19	20	21
		23	24	25
		29	30	31
		34	35	36
		40	41	42
		46	47	48
		51	52	53
		55	56	57
		61	62	63
		65	66	67
				59 60
				64
				67

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## By Mort Walker Beetle 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. Tibbets 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

## 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.

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 Tibbets, "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)

## 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.

