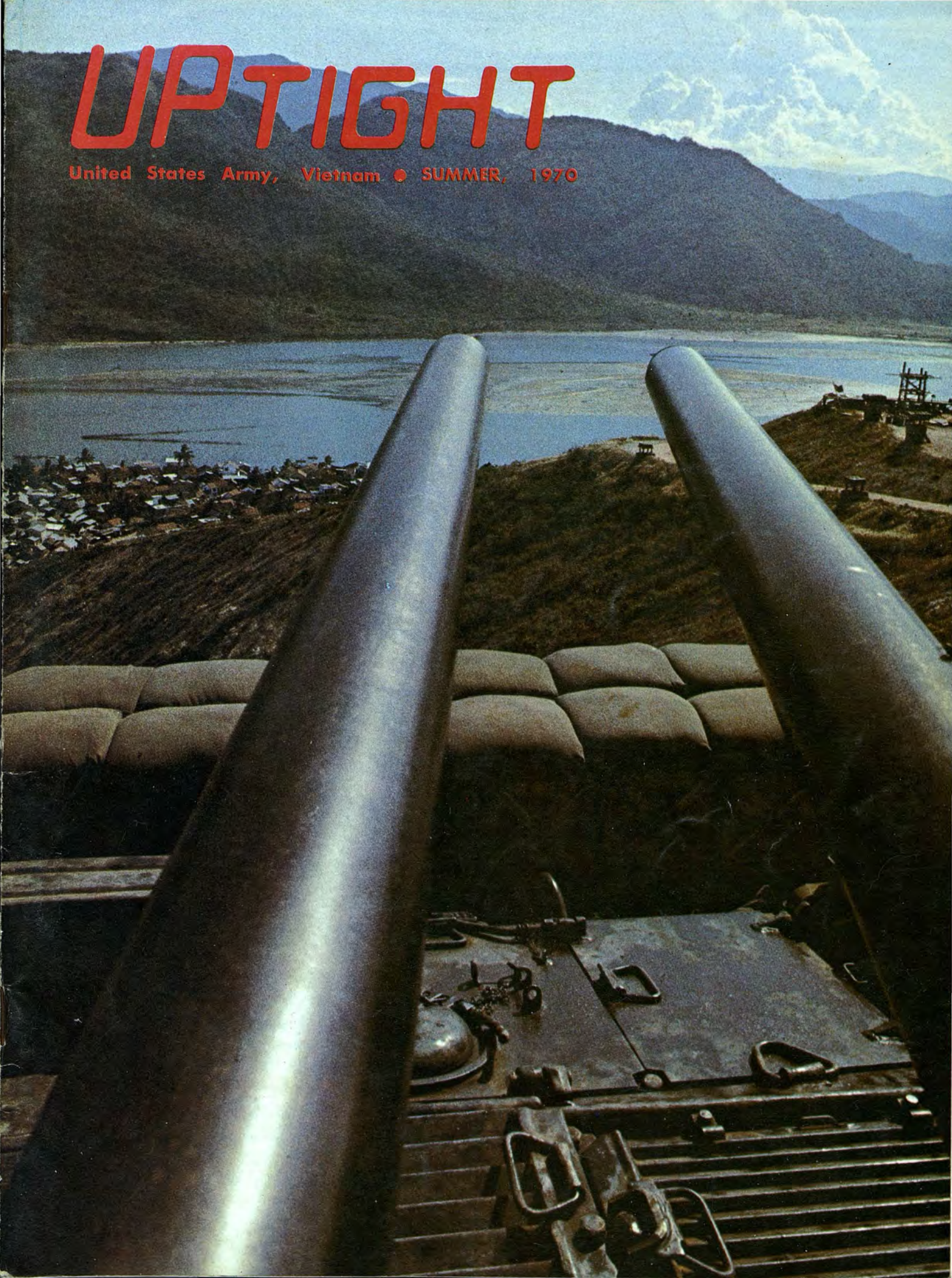
UPTIGHT

United States Army, Vietnam • SUMMER, 1970



Serving With Pride...

Each issue of Uptight will salute a major unit serving in Vietnam, selected randomly, highlighting the unit's historical background and illustrating the unit patch.

Americal Division

Born in the steamy jungles and mountains of New Caledonia during World War II, the Americal Division is the Army's only named division on active duty. It is also the largest infantry division operating in the Republic of Vietnam with three light infantry brigades and a squadron of armored cavalry.

The current Americal Division got its start in Vietnam as Task Force Oregon in April 1967, marking the first time that Army troops were employed in I Corps. The task force initially moved into the Quang Ngai and Quang Tien provinces of southern I Corps to ease the pressure on Marines operating near the Demilitarized Zone. On Sept. 25, 1967, Task Force Oregon was reconstituted and redesignated as the Americal Division.

The rugged terrain of southern I Corps, where the Americal Division makes its home at Chu Lai, runs the gamut from marshy, coastal lowlands to triple-canopy jungle on steep mountain slopes.

On every front Americal soldiers have won significant battles and inflicted staggering casualties on the enemy while capturing tons of Communist supplies. The division has been active in the all-important areas of civic action and pacification, helping the people of Vietnam help themselves toward a free and prosperous future.

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VOL. 3, NR. 1 SUMMER, 1970

THE QUARTERLY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM

In June Lieutenant General William J. McCaffrey became USARV deputy commanding general, replacing Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren who, after serving two years as DCG, received a new assignment as deputy commanding general of the Continental Army Command at Ft. Monroe, Va.

Lieutenant General McCaffrey came to USARV from Washington, D.C., where he served as Director for Civil Disturbance Planning and Operations. He has compiled a distinguished military career, dating back to his commissioning as an Infantry second lieutenant from the U.S. Military Academy in June 1939. General McCaffrey's assignments include combat service in both World War II and Korea, as well as duty with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as Commandant of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. General McCaffrey's decorations include the Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

COMBAT ACTION

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

HUMAN INTEREST

SPECIAL FEATURES

UPTIGHT is an authorized quarterly publication of the U.S. Army, Vietnam. Its mission is to provide factual, timely and in-depth information of interest to members of the U.S. Army, Vietnam. Articles of general interest may be submitted for consideration to: Editor, UPTIGHT, Information Office, Headquarters, USARV, APO San Francisco 95375. Direct communication with the editor is authorized. Unless otherwise indicated material published in UPTIGHT may be reprinted provided credit is given the magazine and the author. Opinions expressed in UPTIGHT are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

CREDITS: Front Cover—"Duster Bluff" on Hawk Hill overlooks the south China Sea near Nha Trang. Back Cover—Study of a Vietnamese nun. Photos by SP4 Brian Kelly, USARV-IO.

GEN Creighton W. Abrams, Commanding General
LTG William J. McCaffrey, Deputy Commanding General
COL Alfred J. Mock, Information Officer
MAJ Richard A. Harman, Command Information Officer
LT Joseph E. Moreland, Jr., Editor
CPT Michael W. Allee, Asst. Editor
LT James R. Rauh, Asst. Editor

An elderly resident of the leprosarium at Ben San gathers sticks from the grass.

Alone Together

By ILT James R. Rauh

UpTight Associate Editor

Uneven rows of tumbledown huts and lopsided haystacks were a blur off the roadside as the jeep bounced along, zig-zagging its way between chuckholes filled with water from the morning rain.

The last Popular Force guard post was miles behind, as were the nearest villagers at Phuoc Khanh. Nothing lay ahead in the distance but a small, isolated forest of mangrove and rubber trees—a forest hiding Ben San from the other villages in Binh Duong Province.

At the sound of the jeep's horn, a Vietnamese boy, clad only in faded green shorts, emerged from a small shack near the entrance to the settlement and shuffled across the road to raise the tree limb that blocked the gate. The boy waved with a smile as the vehicle passed through the narrow opening in the barbed wire fence.

At first sight Ben San looks much like any other rural hamlet in the province—lush green vegetation, confused poultry scurrying by the roadside, a few pigs here and there. It's only when you see the bandaged hands and feet and the painful expressions of the people that you realize Ben San is a leprosarium—St. Joseph's Leprosarium, the home of more than 300 lepers who live, work and pray, alone.....together.

Located approximately seven miles northeast of Phu Loi on Highway 31, St. Joseph's is more than just a home to its residents. It is a refuge, a peaceful place, where lepers are safe from age-old fearful ignorance and superstitious beliefs surrounding the disease with which they are stricken.

Built in 1957 by the lepers themselves and sustained by donations from charitable organizations and aid from the South Vietnamese government, St. Joseph's is one of three leprosariums in South Vietnam founded and operated by the Daughters of Charity, a French-based, Catholic missionary order. And although it is a hospital with a fully-equipped operating room, wards and kitchen, there are two things that keep St. Joseph's from being complete—a full-time, trained medical staff and the money to keep them there. Without these things, it can serve only as a holding facility for the men, women

and children who live there.

The only hope for lepers at Ben San is the weekly, volunteer medical aid and supplies furnished by two Australian doctors and a team from the 3rd U.S. Air Force Dispensary at Bien Hoa Air Base. Dr. (LTC) Jose Martinez, commanding officer of the 3rd USAF Dispensary, has, for the past year, travelled to Ben San every week to provide the lepers with small amounts of medicine and examinations for secondary diseases, such as tuberculosis. "The only thing we can do here is to try to arrest the leprosy before it gets any worse," Dr. Martinez said.

Because there is no known cure for the disease, stopping its spread is the only thing that can be done to combat it. If leprosy continues to develop in a patient and he fails to respond to treatment, amputations are the only answer.

Many of the lepers at Ben San are without fingers, arms or legs, but not all of them are amputees. The nature of the disease itself can cause the loss of extremities over varying periods of time. Due to the deadening of the nervous system on the external surface of the body, those areas first affected by the disease are the extremities—the nose, ears, arms, fingers and legs.

Lepers and leprosy are nothing new to Vietnam. Medical texts trace their existence in Asia back to the early 11th century. Although the disease is not as prevalent as it was then, the World Health Organization estimates that there are still 12 to 15 million lepers in the world today, mainly in tropical climates—and wherever the sickness exists, needless fear and superstition follow.

Dr. Martinez dispelled all superstition about the disease by explaining how difficult it is to contract. "Leprosy has a very low communicability." he said. "Even after extensive contact with lepers for prolonged periods of time, it takes anywhere from six months to 20 years to develop the disease after being exposed to it."

The transmission of leprosy from one human to another is still a mystery to science. It is so difficult to contract that for many decades it was believed to be hereditary rather than contagious.

The ancient fear of leprosy was widespread in South Vietnam in 1957 when Father Abel Garreau, the original chaplain at St. Joseph's and Sister Rose, of the Daughters of Charity, searched the eastern provinces of the country for a suitable leprosarium site. No one would sell them the property for such a purpose.

According to Father Victor Brset, St. Joseph's chaplain since 1959, a plot of land was finally granted by the Bishop of Saigon and ground was broken in the summer of 1957. Construction was slow, but steady, for the next three years. Then the war found its way to Ben San.

Although far removed from the rest of society, the leprosarium was by no means safe from the conflict in Vietnam. Father Brset remembered the hospital in its early years. "Although it is relatively quiet now, in the early 1960s the Viet Cong robbed from us continuously," he said.

"On March 7, 1960, the VC looted the leprosarium and took everything, including the sisters' garments and the chapel altar linen. There were about 200 armed Viet Cong, followed by numerous young men and girls,"

The people of St. Joseph's busy themselves with whatever labor they can perform, such as the making and mending of clothes (left).

St. Joseph's chaplain, Father Brset, speaks with young Vietnamese lepers in their native tongue.

the priest said. The intruders set fire to several of the hospital buildings and "borrowed" two cars to get away in, according to Father Brset. Damage to the leprosarium was estimated at $12,000.

He indicated that because of opposition to the presence of a leper hospital in the area, the local village chiefs "had collected signatures against us" and "forbade the local guards in their command to move up to the help of the leprosarium the night of the attack."

Father Brset was almost taken captive on January 1, 1962, when a band of Viet Cong entered Ben San and tried to take him prisoner. Because the lepers surrounded their chaplain and clung to him, the Viet Cong left empty handed.

Now that the years of struggle in and around Ben San appear to be over, the people there are more concerned with the business of living than ever before. The number of patients has increased from the original 12 in 1959 to more than 300 today. And more lepers find their way to Ben San every week. To meet the demand for increased hospital space, the lepers, with the guidance of Father Brset and the sisters, have embarked on a program of self-sufficiency.

By making their own garments from discarded clothing, growing fruit and vegetables for their table and raising pigs and poultry, the patients of St. Joseph's provide for their own needs and prepare for the arrival of others. Shunned by those in the neighboring villages, the lepers are forced to look more and more to themselves for help in the struggle for survival.

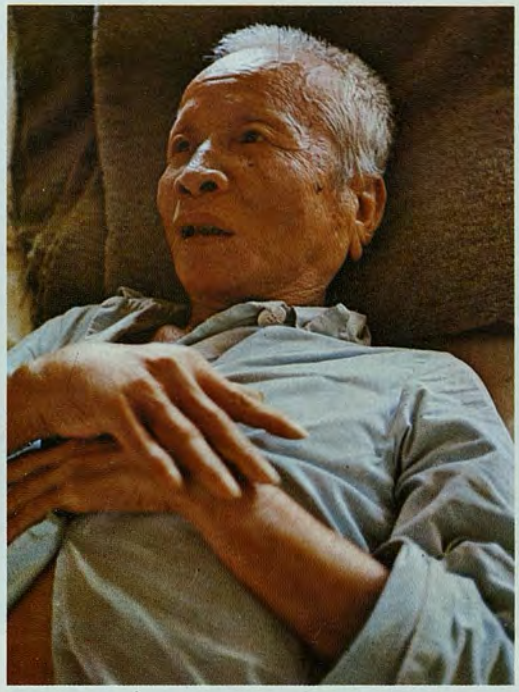
At present there are ten buildings at Ben San, but plans have been made for more additions. "We plan to erect 36 buildings here to house 1,000 patients," explained Father Brset. But the daily work schedule depends entirely upon the physical condition of the patients.

"A patient's ability to work is imperative," he declared. "Many of the patients work two hours each day, but most are so bad they can do nothing at all."

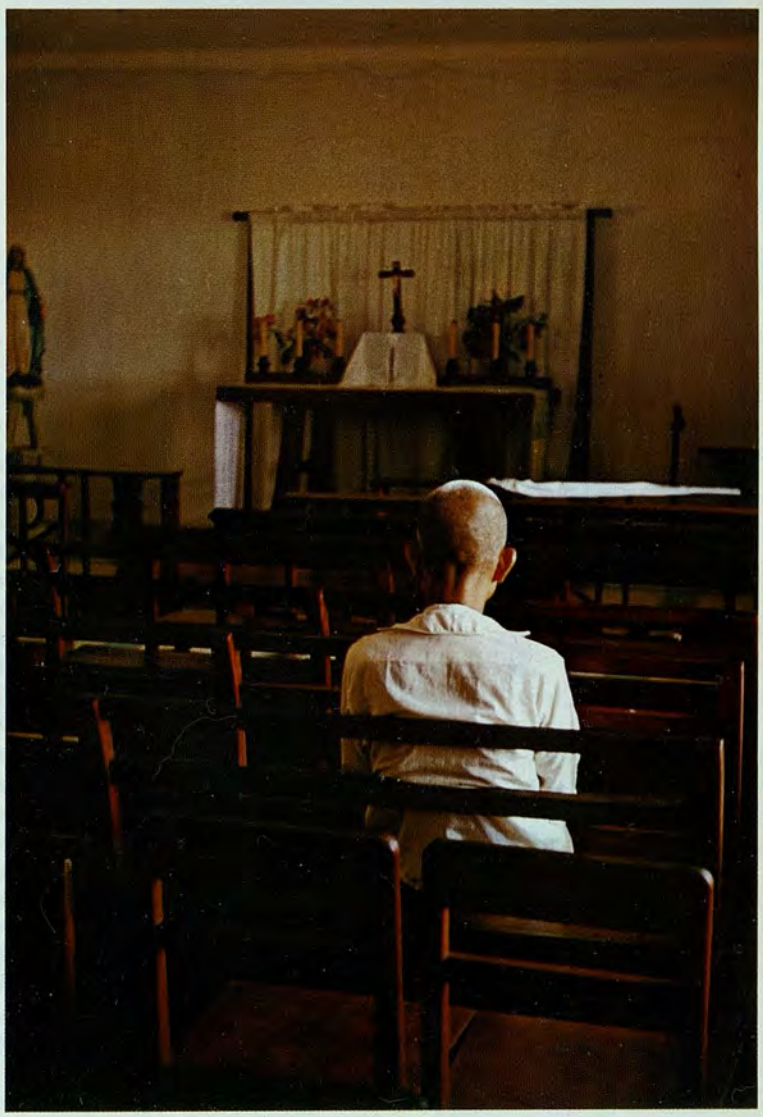
Whether working or resting, bedridden or on crutches, every patient at St. Joseph's can still manage a smile of some contentment, especially the children. Eighteen children, ranging from six to 16 years of age call Ben San home. Their laughter and gaiety, along with the jovial wit of Father Brset and the warmth of the missionary nuns, lends a definite air of happiness to the hospital—a happiness that would not be expected in such a place.

Happiness for a leper may be short-lived, however, because his affliction is unstable, capable of distinct changes from day to day. Consequently, a smile can turn to gloom.

During a Wednesday afternoon visit to St. Joseph's, Dr. Martinez examined several patients for signs of change in their condition and response to treatment. After examining one 15-year-old boy, the doctor explained to the boy that his leprosy had worsened. The youngster wept openly—not because of what he had been told, but because he knew what was to come. ▲



Transportation at Ben San is usually by foot, but sometimes by bicycle (above). And old man rests in bed (above right). Sitting in silent meditation (right), a leper prays in the leprosarium chapel. Father Brset cheers an amputee, now confined to a wheelchair (below).



Recondo!

By SSG Ron Taylor
UpTight Staff Writer

A pair of Recondo students on a jungle training patrol snake their way through vegetation on Hon Tre island (top left). At top Allied soldier-students learn more about long range reconnaissance in a Recondo classroom. Recondo candidates practice rappelling from a 40-foot tower (above).

With only the stars and perhaps a few nocturnal jungle animals as witnesses, a team of men slid silently down the rappelling ropes into the deeper canopied darkness. Once all men were down, the Huey pulled away and left them. It would return in several days to retrieve them. The mission: to obtain the very latest and most accurate information on enemy activity in the area. The men: Recondos!

Nestled between the white beaches and the hills that compose the picturesque scenery of Nha Trang is one of the most unique schools in the world today. It is a school whose instructors and staff are combat-seasoned Green Berets. The students are highly motivated volunteers. And the subject is the skilled and refined art of reconnaissance. The MACV Recondo School trains its students in the skills necessary to perform as long range reconnaissance teams. Upon graduation, the student is authorized to wear the distinctive Recondo patch and is fully capable of carrying out the difficult task of long-range recon patrols. Upon graduation he is a Recondo.

The Recondo school had its beginning in September of 1965 when Detachment B-52 of the 5th Special Forces Group (AIRBORNE), known as Project Delta, began a unit training program initiated for the purpose of training its replacement personnel. The conventional U.S. forces in-country learned of this program and requested that they be allowed to send selected personnel to attend the courses. As its potential value became apparent to major unit commanders, interest in reconnaissance training developed starting with 10 troopers from the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, in September of 1965. Their success in the program prompted other units to increase student participation to a total of 52 per class by August 1966. In mid-1966 General William C. Westmoreland, then COMUSMACV, directed that a study be made of the long-range reconnaissance patrol capabilities of U.S. units in Vietnam. As a result of this study, General Westmoreland directed that a three week program of instruction on long-range reconnaissance patrolling be conducted, and that the instruction be based upon the Project Delta concept of operations. The 5th Special Forces Group (ABN) was tasked to organize and conduct the school and the commanding officer of the 5th Group was designated as the commandant.

The school was officially opened by General Westmoreland on Sept. 15, 1966. The title given the school was "Recondo." The word "Recondo" was coined by General Westmoreland and is a derivative of three well-known terms long associated with soldiering—"reconnaissance," "commando" and "doughboy."

The 20-day course is divided into three phases. Phase I consists of academic subjects taught in the classroom and adjoining outdoor training areas. During the second phase, practical exercises in helicopter operations are conducted in conjunction with a four-day field training exercise (FTX) on Hon Tre island, located five miles off the coast from Nha Trang. During Phase III, six-man teams are deployed on three to four day recon patrols in hostile areas west of Nha Trang.

In Dewey Hall, the main classroom of the Recondo school, the instructor in the front speaks with a loud, clear and natural voice. Students give him their undivided attention. The instructor is Sergeant First Class Jerome Hampton of St. Louis, Mo., and his class is Patrol Preparation.

"We teach the tried and true methods of reconnaissance," said Sergeant Hampton. "The tips and tricks of the trade have been tested and proven in the field. What they learn in the classroom will eventually be put to use

A Recondo student rappels his way down to earth from a hovering Huey.

in a hostile environment," he explained.

"Our goal is the training of highly skilled and sophisticated Recondo teams." The classroom was sprinkled with various types of jungle fatigues. Members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines were present in addition to teams of Thais, Koreans and ARVNs. Except for one U.S. Army lieutenant, the majority were enlisted men or junior NCOs.

"We teach both point and area recon," Sergeant Hampton emphasized. "The Recondo teams do not try to engage or make contact with the enemy. Their mission is to infiltrate, perform reconnaissance and suveillance and then exfiltrate," he concluded.

One of the students at the school is Staff Sergeant Bill Hommey of Monongahela, Pa. "It's a pretty demanding school," the young sergeant declared, "both physically and mentally." Air Force Sergeant Mike Wood of Phoenix, Ariz., agreed saying "It's really a good course, and it takes both brawn and brains to cut it here."

The academic subjects of Phase I range from intelligence and map reading to communications and first aid. A swimming test is also part of the first phase.

The class had gathered in a small grassy area to receive last minute briefings and instructions before each man boarded the chopper for his slide down the rappelling rope to the ground. A pair of Hueys arrived moments later and several cadre members went up first to demonstrate rappelling, the use of rope ladders and the harness method of exfiltration. The instructors made it look easy. Each candidate would soon be required to put all the classroom tips and tower practice to use.

After the first few loads of students rappelled without a bit of trouble, the whole process became routine and the ambulance that had been standing by several yards away would fortunately leave without passengers. It was still an exciting moment as each man pushed himself away from the safety of the helicopter and slid rapidly to the ground. Once down, each man received a critique from the class instructor. The afternoon passed without a single injury. A few men were given pointers on form but most showed they had learned the very critical skill necessary to their trade.

"It's a damn good course," said Lieutenant George Haskins of Haverhill, Mass., as he paused to adjust his pack, "but get in good shape before coming"cause it sure can wear you down!" Lieutenant Haskins was the lone officer in a class of about 50. "Here at the school everyone is just the same—no special treatment for officers or NCOs," said Lieutenant Haskins. "We work in six-man teams and teamwork is the key word to being a successful Recondo."

A Recondo has to be tough and in excellent physical shape. The pace of physical activity during the course is fast and furious. "The only slack a student will get here is at the end of a rappelling rope," an instructor chuckled.

It was drizzling rain in the predawn darkness when the trucks grouped together to begin the short drive to the ferry. The destination: Hon Tre island. The truck column snaked its way down the dusty road with headlights ablaze, carrying the students toward their second week of training. The day was just breaking, painting the sky with a shade of gray that almost matched the colors of the huge ferry that sat waiting. One by one the

jeeps, deuce and a halfs and a massive water truck rumbled onto the deck. The sun was up when the ferry began it's half-hour voyage to Hon Tre island.

The island serves as a patrol base training area, as well as a site for field training exercises and classroom work. Recondo students learn to work with forward air controllers, adjust artillery and mortar fire, track the enemy and techniques of survival, escape and evasion. Marine Private Robert J. Eisbach, assigned to the 1st Force Recon in Da Nang, pretty well summed-up the second week of training: "They teach you so much of everything. For me, patrolling is about the most important subject."

The terrain of Hon Tre is rugged, made up of a series of small steep hills that make the going rough. The prospective Recondos participate in the FTX on the island and get a chance to put all their classroom instruction and techniques into a simulated combat situation. Most of the classes on Hon Tre are held in the open air and some of the tension of the first week has drained off. The candidates now know their instructors better and know what the instructors expect from them. In turn, the instructors realize the students who have made it this far are serious and want to learn.

What does it take to become a Recondo school candidate? Each soldier sent to Recondo training must possess certain prerequisites. The man must: 1) be a volunteer, 2) possess a combat arms MOS, 3) be in excellent physical condition, 4) have served a minumum of one month in Vietnam, 5) have six months remaining in country, 6) have an actual or anticipated assignment to a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) unit, and 7) be proficient in military subjects. The standards for student selection are set forth in USARV Regulation 350-2. Air Force Staff Sergeant Thomas H. Botts of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., explained why he volunteered for Recondo training. "I'm all for anything that can benefit you. This training, both the actual recon instruction and the physical training, will benefit me in many ways."

Phase III of the course involves an actual long-range reconnaissance patrol in the mountainous jungle areas west of Nha Trang. The three-to-four-day mission requires the candidates to exercise their newly acquired skills of the previous two weeks. The teams are assigned a reconnaissance zone, conduct a map study of this area, and with the aircraft commander that will actually infiltrate their team, perform an overflight to select infiltration landing zones and probable exfiltration landing zones.

Under the guidance of Recondo school advisors, the teams conduct patrol planning and preparation, briefings for teams and aircraft commanders, and are then infiltrated into their assigned reconnaissance zones. A man may be required at any time to call for and adjust artillery fire or air strikes, guide in reaction forces, evade and escape, or undergo emergency extraction. A school cadre advisor accompanies and evaluates each team throughout the combat operation.

With only the stars and perhaps a few nocturnal jungle animals as witnesses, the six-man team slides silently down the rappelling ropes into the deeper canopied darkness. The mission: long-range reconnaissance. The men: Recondos! ▲

The Recondo pocket insignia, an arrowhead pointed downward, symbolizes the air-to-ground methods of infiltration into enemy territory and is further representative of the Indian skills of field craft and survival. It is dark with a light background, indicating the capability for both day and night operations. The "V" stands for both valor and Vietnam. Each Recondo School graduate is authorized to wear the insignia while in Vietnam.

Chopper Garage

New Chinook arrives via transport.

The sign that overlooks men at work in the 166th Aviation Maintenance Detachment's main hangar at Tan Son Nhut Air Base reads,"Honest John's New and Used Choppers, E-Z Terms, Federal Financing Available."

Considering that 17 cents out of every dollar appropriated by the U.S. Army in Vietnam is spent on aircraft, it would be safe to assume that Honest John does booming business.

Honest John is Lieutenant John W. Grow Sr., commanding officer of the 166th Aviation Maintenance Detachment of the 34th General Support Group. The mission of his detachment involves the processing of approximately 70 per cent of all helicopters and small fixed wing aircraft that enter and leave Vietnam.

Men of the detachment offload aircraft arriving at Tan Son Nhut, transport them to one of three hangars in the Saigon area, assemble them and issue them—new or rebuilt—to Army units in-country. But this is only half of the detachment's job. At the same time Lt. Grow and his men receive, disassemble, preserve, decontaminate and load retrograde aircraft for shipment back to the United States.

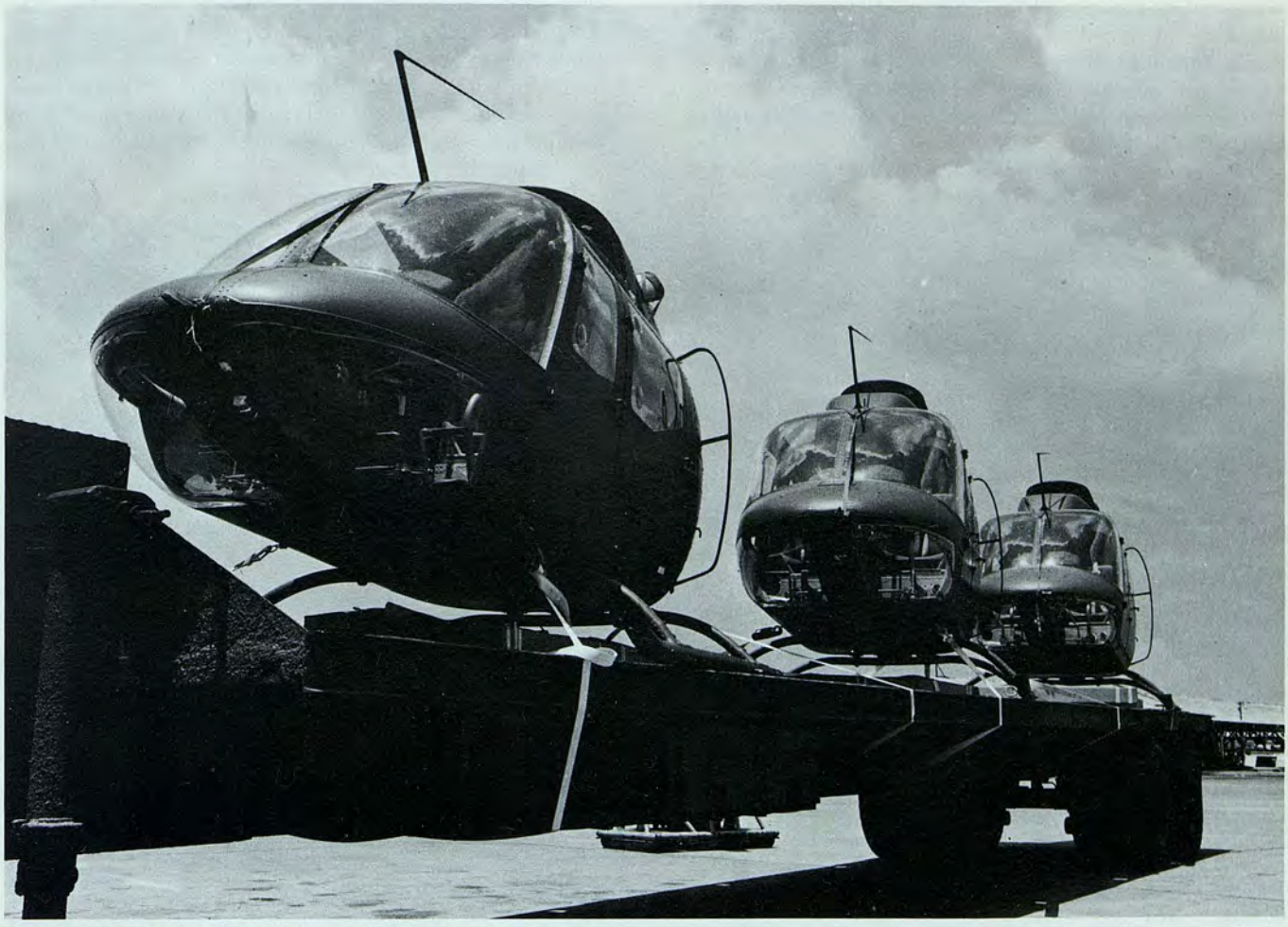
The detachment has been able to build its booming business in Vietnam in a relatively short time. The unit was activated at Fort Eustis, Va., in June of 1969 and came to Vietnam in July. According to Lt . Grow, all personnel attend the Rotary and Fixed Wing Maintenance Course together at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The detachment has assumed the task formerly handled by the 520th Aircraft Processing Detachment at Tan Son Nhut.

Currently, four officers and 65 enlisted men are involved in the detachment's mission. In addition, much of the work is performed by 79 civilian employes from Lear Siegler, Inc., Services Division, which has been contracted by the Army to supply technicians for the processing of aircraft. The civilians are divided into two work shifts, which allows the work load to be carried on 24 hours a day. This is necessary since the detachment may handle as many as 175 aircraft a month, each of which requires from 20 to 250 man-hours to process.

Control of the type and quantity of aircraft arriving in Vietnam during any given month is exercised by the U.S. Army Aviation Materiel Managment Center in Saigon. At the beginning of each month, the 166th is provided with a shipping list indicating the dates and mission numbers of transport aircraft bringing new helicopters into Vietnam.

Lt. Grow explains that personnel working with the 166th think of aircraft in terms of life cycles. All new or newly rebuilt aircraft that are processed through the detachment for issue to units in Vietnam eventually return to the unit as retrograde choppers for shipment back to the United States. All aircraft that accumulate a maximum number of hours in the air are required to be returned to the States for complete repair and rebuilding. Aircraft damaged by crash are of course returned home as soon as possible for repair.

The life cycle of an aircraft in Vietnam begins on the Tan Son Nhut flightline. New aircraft arrive in country aboard several types of Air Force planes of the 616th Military Airlift Support Squadron. The C133 can carry five disassembled Hueys (UHls). The C141 can transport three Hueys or six Cayuses (OH6As) or Kiowas (OH58s).



Recently unloaded Kiowa helicopters are moved to hangar for assembly.

The giant Chinooks (CH47s) or Cranes (CH54s) are carried, one at a time, in C133B's.

A special crew from Lear Siegler, Inc. handles the offloading of helicopters from transport aircraft. Choppers with wheels, like the Chinook, are carefully removed from the planes by a towing tractor with a safety chain attached. Wheels are affixed to choppers with skids and they are extracted in the same way.

Helicopters are shipped in various states of disassembly in order to save space and to allow as many aircraft as possible to be transported aboard one plane. Hueys, Cayuses and Kiowas, for instance, arrive at Tan Son Nhut with the rotor blades, the mast from the transmission and the tailboom removed. Tailbooms are shipped in "piggyback" fashion on top of the chopper body; the rotor blades are packed and stored separately inside the transport plane.

Because of its height, the Chinook arrives with its transmission removed. Its rotor blades, like the Huey's, are removed and stored for seperate shipment.

Once offloading has been completed, the new craft are taken to one of the 166th's three hangars at Tan Son Nhut. Most of the helicopter processing is done at the detachment's Hotel Three hangar. Kiowas and Cayuses are usually loaded onto flat-bed trucks and carried to the hangar soon after offloading. Larger craft have to be towed through the streets of Tan Son Nhut at night.

Once transported to the hangar, an inventory of the chopper's parts is made to insure that no essential mechaanism is missing. According to Lt. Grow, inventorying parts can be a very complex matter, especially in the case of newly rebuilt helicopters coming into country. Papers must accompany each and every part indicating, for example, how many flight hours a part has seen and any modifications made to the part. Just as the choppers themselves, parts are replaced or overhauled after a maiximum number of hours. Usually each craft is accompanied by two log books which contain a complete history of the machine.

The 166th utilizes 12 inspectors who do nothing but insure that the history of each chopper is correct and up to date. If a part on a newly arrived craft has no history with it, then a replacement part must be found. Lt. Grow affirmed, "We cannot risk somebody's life because we don't know whether an aircraft has an operable part."

When the inventory is complete, aircraft assembly begins. The rotor blades and tailboom are affixed to the

craft, and, in the case of the Chinook, the transmission is installed. While the Kiowas and Cayuses required only about 20 man-hours to assemble, the Chinook may require as many as 250 man-hours. The Crane can be put together in approximately 150 hours, while Cobra assembly requires about 38 hours.

Throughout the assembly process, the Production Control section conducts inspections of the craft mechanism to insure that it is completely operable. The final test comes during the actual flight. All test flights, approximately 40 per week, are performed by Lt. Grow, CWO Richard E. Myers and CWO Paul E. Gowan. Between them, they can test-fly any aircraft used by the Army. Any in-flight deficiencies are noted and corrected before the ship is released for field use.

After the ship is approved, Production Control notifies the Army Aviation Materiel Management Center which consults USARV headquarters for a decision on which unit will receive the aircraft. The 166th supplies choppers to all four corps areas.

Personnel from the receiving unit come to Tan Son Nhut, inspect the ship, pick up the log books and then fly it back to their unit.

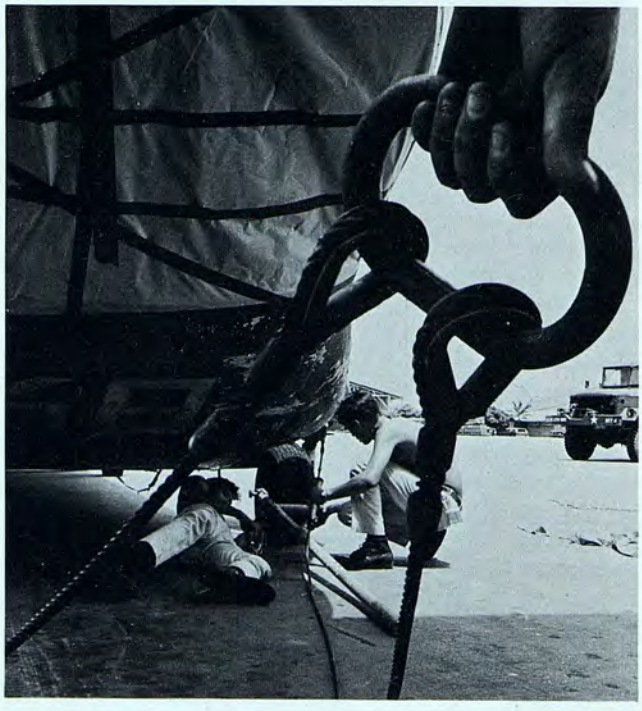
At the other end of the craft life cycle in Vietnam is its shipment back to the United States. Two kinds of airships are retrograded by the 166th—damaged ships and aircraft which have logged the maximum number of flying hours.

Damaged aircraft are delivered to Tan Son Nhut by sling load, others are usually flown to the 166th. The Aviation Materiel Management Center keeps a log of the flight time of all Army helicopters. When a Huey, for example, with a maximum flying time of 2,200 hours reaches a flight time of 1,900 hours, the center notifies the owning unit that the ship should be turned in within a certain number of hours.

Preparing retrograde craft for return to the States amounts to the reverse of readying them for issue in country. They are disassembled, packed, transported to the flightline and loaded on the same types of transport planes that brought them to Vietnam. In addition, the U.S. Department of Health requires that all helicopters returning to the States be thoroughly cleaned to prevent the spread of contamination in the country. Lt. Grow noted that each ship is steamed and washed three times to insure complete decontamination.

Like any dealer operating with a monopoly in new and used vehicles, Lt. "Honest John" Grow keeps close tabs on the status of his helicopters. He can walk through the yard at Tan Son Nhut's Hotel Three, point to any bullet-riddled or otherwise damaged chopper and say, "Yes, we processed that chopper as a new aircraft eight months ago."

One thing can be said about him as a chopper dealer: He is as certain as possible that his helicopters are free of "bugs" when they leave his hands. But that's part of the job for the 166th Aviation Maintenance Detachment. It enables Lt. Grow to advertise in bold letters at the bottom of his dealership sign: "All Peaches, No Lemons." ▲



Vietnamese prepare retrograde Chinook for loading on transport plane by attaching cables to front wheels (top). Workmen line up rotor blades in hangar, where new choppers are being assembled (right).

A pair of the Army's newly-developed Air Cushion Vehicles skim across the Plain of Reeds in search of enemy movement.

Delta Dinosaur

The Command and Control ship banked sharply to give a good view out the door, straight down to the Plain of Reeds wheeling below.

"See, there they are," shouted Major John Root, "those little crooked lines wandering off to the east."

At first glance no lines could be seen. The land looked even and unbroken, covered with dry brown reeds from here to the horizon. To the west the Plain of Reeds stretches across the border into Cambodia. To the east it reaches within a few miles of the Delta's primary highway. Canals dredged by the French have made it a favored route of infiltration.

The major pushed the intercom button, "Let's drop down for a closer look."

Now, from about 50 feet, the pattern was obvious. The waist – high reeds had been pushed aside and mashed down, leaving an irregular trail about two feet wide. When the chopper passed at a certain angle the sunlight flashed along the trail, reflected from the foot-deep water beneath the reeds.

"That's the wake left when a sampan is paddled through the reeds," said Major Root. "With a little practice you can tell a fresh trail from the old ones because the flattened reeds gradually straighten and dry out. Our job is to keep new trails from appearing."

The ARVN and American blocking forces in the Plain of Reeds are being supported by a new Army vehicle, the hovercraft or Air Cushion Vehicle (AVC). The ACVs were introduced into the Delta two years ago to test the combat effectiveness of hovercraft. It was soon obvious that their ability to move rapidly over land, water, mud—any flat surface—would be valuable in the Delta.

Mechanically, the ACV has more in common with aircraft than conventional land vehicles. A 1,200 horsepower engine spins a large ducted fan that inflates the "cushion." A heavy rubber skirt helps contain the air pressure under the vehicle, permitting it to rise several feet above the

terrain. A variable-pitch aircraft propeller provides foreward thrust; a pair of rudders behind the prop are used to steer the vehicle at high speeds.

"It takes about 40 hours of driving to get the hang of this thing," says Sergeant John Crouch. "This lever at my side is raised or lowered to change the pitch of the propeller and twisting it controls the throttle, like in a helicopter. The rudder is operated by pedals and the joy stick will raise the skirt on one side to make the vehicle bank."

As if that isn't enough, the ACV has two "puff ports" on each side, one near the front and one near the rear. When the driver flips a toggle switch a jet of air spurts from a port, pushing the end of the vehicle sideways. By using the puff ports in combination, the driver can move the vehicle sideways or spin it around in its own length.

Working from a small fire base a few clicks from the Cambodian border, the ACVs shuttle supplies and conduct search operations during daylight hours. At dusk they insert ambush patrols along likely routes of infiltration. Returning to the fire base at dark, the crews hit the air mattresses to catch a little sleep—or just wait.

"Scramble! Scramble!" A figure runs from tent to tent, pokes his head inside and cuts loose with a D.I. baritone. "Let's move. The 'bush beside the canal spotted a dozen Charlies!"

A mortar tube pops and the harsh light of an illumination round silhouettes men running for the hovercraft. The large, three-blade prop begins turning; the turbine starts to whine. The infantrymen—a squad to each vehicle—come clambering aboard. Air fills the skirts and the machine begins to lift, the rear first and then the front, like a dinosaur awakened in the night rising slowly to its feet.

The two gunners on top are in control—they have the best vantage point. One is firing parachute flares and star clusters, sending them arching out ahead of the craft. The other keeps a steady chatter on the intercom, directing the drive.

Approaching the tree line where the enemy was last seen, the ACVs drop off the troops and move aside to block escape routes. Now the monsters lash out, mini-guns barking, 50 calibers pounding, the grenade launcher thumping rounds into the target. When the area is softened up the infantry begin their sweep. They find hastily abandoned supplies and a blood trail which leads to a wounded enemy soldier.

The Air Cushion Vehicles, while slower than helicopters, often hold an advantage over them when working in bad weather or darkness.

The ACVs can take a lot of fire without being disabled. Bullet holes in the hull and rubber skirt have little effect and are easily patched. If the engine quits there's no crash landing to worry about. Crew members simply jump off and become foot soldiers again. ▲

A hovercraft bulls its way across a swamp, leaving a wake of twisted reeds and water in its path (far left). Like a giant winged insect, an ACV hovers over water and vegetation, ready to "fly" (left). Mission complete, an ACV crew returns to their ship, hovering in the distance (below).

Street Without Joy

By SP4 James Greenfield
101st Abn Div-IO

An elderly Vietnamese woman shapes a bamboo stick for the frame of her new home (left). Returning to their abandoned homes on the "Street Without Joy" after two years (below), refugees stand amidst ruins now being reconstructed for resettlement. Located in Phong Dien District, the "Street" is now seeing new life through the efforts of the district chief and American military units.

HUE, Vietnam (SPECIAL, July 28, 1953)—French armour and infantry troopers are in the midst of a massive cordon—"Operation Camargue," designed to trap a communist regiment operating in the northeast corner of Annam, Indochina.

More than 30 battalions are concentrated in this effort to eliminate a Viet Minh unit which has successfully ambushed several French convoys between Hue and Quang Tri.

CAMP EVANS, Vietnam (101st 10)—The insurgent Viet Minh regiment survived the massive French cordon of 1953, but the fierce battle between the two forces left the land and its people scarred and torn.

Years later, this 20 mile long strip of sandy flatland still reflected the devastation left by the French-Indochina War, its inhabitants bore the burden of ruin that covered the land, and it became known as the "Street Without Joy".

By the mid-1960's, much of land had been reclaimed and the population had increased slightly, but then the area was drawn into the struggle between the Viet Cong and the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

When the Communists staged their Tet Offensive of 1968, the "Street Without Joy" again became the victim of war as the NVA pushed their forces through the area, forcing the inhabitants to flee their homes, leaving their possessions behind to be destroyed or confiscated by the advancing communists.

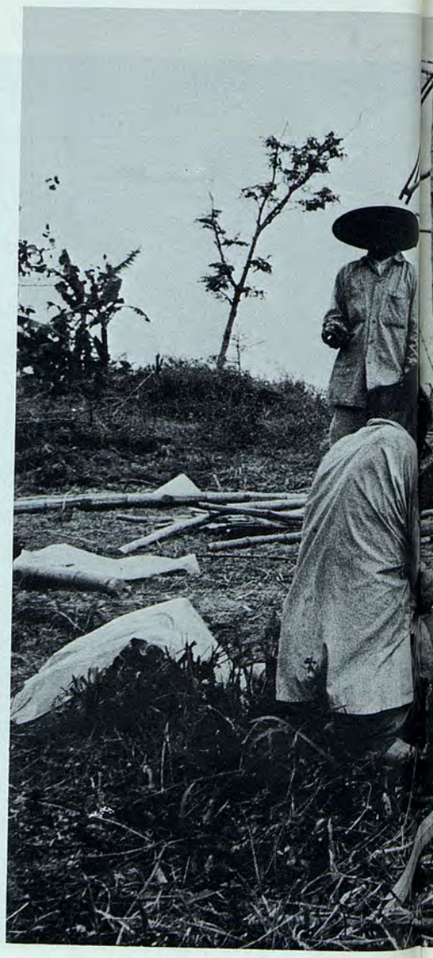
For two years the people were refugees, housed in government-supported camps set up along National Highway One, northwest of Hue, just west of their ancestral homes, while joint Vietnamese-American military operations flushed the enemy from the swamp-lands of the "Street Without Joy."

By early 1969, the main force communist troops had been driven from the "Street Without Joy" and, with security provided by the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), the outlying sections of the area were resettled. The once heavily populated districts of Huong Dien and Quang Dien were re-populated later in the year.

In October, Screaming Eagles of the 3rd Battalion (Airmobile), 187th Infantry, of the 101st were sent into Phong Dien District, which stretches throughout the heartland of the "Street Without Joy," to root out the remaining Viet Cong infrastructure through combined operations with the Regional and Popular Force Viet-

An American soldier helps district residents put up a new home.

Supply, construction and planning are all a part of resettling the "Street Without Joy." Straining from the weight of a rice sack, a woman helps unload supplies on resettlement day (below). At right villagers gather in a bombed-out building to discuss plans for the settlement of their hamlet. Vietnamese refugees (bottom right) work to complete another new home on the "Street."



namese. In addition, they began the arduous task of clearing the hundreds of communist mines and booby traps scattered over the district.

While the men of the 3/187th were involved in pacification, engineers from the 326th Engineer Battalion started repairing and constructing roads which would connect the interior of the "Street Without Joy" with Highway One and its centers for commercial outlet.

Removing the mines from the old roads and the booby traps from the overgrown pathways proved to be a slow and painstaking process. However, by mid-January 1970, the Screaming Eagles had neutralized the majority of the deadly impediments.

While the 101st soldiers were busy with pacification and security efforts, MACV advisors to Phong Dien District and the District Chief, Thieu Ta (Major) Le Phu, were completing the final logistical plans for the resettlement of the district.

Plans called for the movement of more than 11,000 people back to their ancestral homes in the district's interior. Actual resettlement would take place in two phases: the first lasting until June, the second until the end of October.

A few weeks before resettlement began, members of each family returned to their hamlets to begin clearing the land and rebuilding their homes. Each Vietnamese family was given ten sheets of tin roofing and 7,500 piasters in resettlement allotment by the District and Province governments. Three months rice allotment also was given to each family to feed them until the first rice harvest.

Hamlet governments were organized and briefed prior to the move and each hamlet's defense was strengthened by the assignment of revolutionary development cadre to each of the five hamlets of Phong Bien village, which was selected to be the first resettlement village due to its proximity to the center of the district.

American and Vietnamese trucks, loaded with more than 900 villagers, returned to the "Street Without Joy" in mid-February, making resettlement of Phong Dien District a reality.

Although the Screaming Eagles of the 101st had played a major role in planning and initiating resettlement by providing security, training defense cadre, building roads and carrying supplies into the area, actual resettlement of Phong Dien District was directed solely by the Vietnamese. The entire operation was controlled by the District Chief and his staff.

An air of happiness drifted into the "Street Without Joy" on resettlement day. The refugees had returned home after more than two years absence. Ancestors were appeased.

Resettlement of Phong Dien District worked more smoothly than anticipated. By late April, more than 8,000 people had returned to their homes. Phase II, originally scheduled to begin in July, was underway in May with an estimated 2,000 former refugees living in their old homes within the district.

Although security of the area was once a problem, the Popular and Regional Forces of Phong Dien District are well armed and trained, ready for any test of strength that the communists might throw against them. ▲

Push Into Cambodia

Photographs by
SP4 Henry C. Eickhoff III
UpTight Staff Photographer

On April 30 President Nixon made a decision which some military analysts believe will be a key turning point in the war in Southeast Asia. Speaking to the American public over nationwide television, the President announced that he was ordering United States troops into Cambodia.

His announcement resulted from a study of intelligence reports which revealed that many North Vietnamese artillery bases and supply depots were located in Cambodia and being used as bases of operation against allied forces fighting in Vietnam.

North Vietnamese activity in Cambodia was first reported last September when Prince Norodom Sihanouk, then ruling head of state in Cambodia, signed an agreement with the North Vietnamese allowing them the use of supply routes in Cambodia. Sihanouk's fall from power March 18 was partly due to his permissiveness in allowing the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese to occupy the provinces along the South Vietnamese border.

Soon after General Lon Nol, premier and chief of Cambodian military services, replaced Shianouk, he took steps to regain occupation of the border areas and fighting intensified. South Vietnam sent troops across the border to support the Cambodians, but during this time the NVA continued their build-up of men and supplies. U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers told the press that 40,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers had invaded Cambodia.

Through April the fighting increased. American soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division moved to the Vietnamese side of the border on April 7 to support ARVN elements. Not until President Nixon's announcement did United States ground units set foot inside Cambodia.

The first American units entering Cambodia were the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Elements of the 25th Infantry Division followed. Tropic Lightning troopers from the 25th cut off enemy escape and supply routes May 6 while tanks from the 11th ACR thundered along Highway 1 to Svay Rieng.

During the first four days of the Cambodian campaign, the combined forces reported 685 enemy killed, 274 tons of rice destroyed and 38 Communist vehicles captured.

American troops began achieving May 6 one of the main goals of the Cambodian offensive—uncovering massive Communist supply depots. The 11th Armored Cavalry was the first unit to find a large cache. In an area 80 miles from Saigon, the men discovered 500 hootches beneath a blanket of thick forest containing 700 rifles and numerous 250-pound bags of rice.

The 1st Cavalry soldiers uncovered "The City," a huge Communist logistics depot hidden in thick jungle. Officials estimated that 1,000 rifles were found there. Several days later, the 1st Cavalry found another cache containing 327 weapons, and 258,000 rounds of ammunition.

Presiden Nixon announced May 7 his satisfaction with the progress of the Cambodian operation and told the nation he would withdraw all American troops from Cambodia by June 30. The mission of cutting off the enemy supply routes, said the President, was succeeding.

The capture of supply depots and contact with enemy forces continued, so that by May 28 American and ARVN forces had captured 11,990 individual weapons, 2,101 crew-served weapons, 4,972 tons of rice, 316 vehicles and 5,487 bunkers. Over 8,000 enemy soldiers had been reported killed. One American official estimated that enough rice was found to feed thousands of troops for months. The allied forces captured Communist mortar shells and rockets which could have resulted in innumerable indirect fire attacks. Thus, the objective of preventing further American losses was achieved.

A secondary purpose for American entry into Cambodia was to locate and destroy the nerve center of the headquarters of the entire Communist command operation in South Vietnam, known as COSVN. Situated in the Fishhook area, where Cambodia juts into South Vietnam, several captured caches and enemy defectors revealed that portions of COSVN were in an area hidden beneath dense patches of jungle. But the density of the forests and the mobility of the enemy made it difficult to locate.

Lieutenant General Michael Davison, commanding officer of all American troops operating in Cambodia, said that the soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division found part of COSVN during an operation four to five miles northwest of the Cambodian rubber plantation near Mimot, roughly ten miles inside the Cambodian border.

Tropic Lightning troopers found telephones, mimeograph machines, generators for providing electric power and modest amounts of medical supplies, arms and ammunition.

"My personal opinion is that the impact has been substantial . . . and I'm sure that it's causing some strain and pain in the Politburo in Hanoi," General Davison said.

The photographs on these pages were taken during those first few days of the push into Cambodia. ▲

Cambodian villagers line the roadside to greet an American armored assault vehicle (left). In search of the enemy, American tracks rumble deeper into Cambodia, one by one, through dense jungle (below).

A Cambodian rallier undergoes questioning at an Allied base camp just after his surrender (top left). Local villagers gather together to divide rice discovered in an enemy cache near their homes (above). At left an American "tunnel rat" emerges from an enemy bunker.

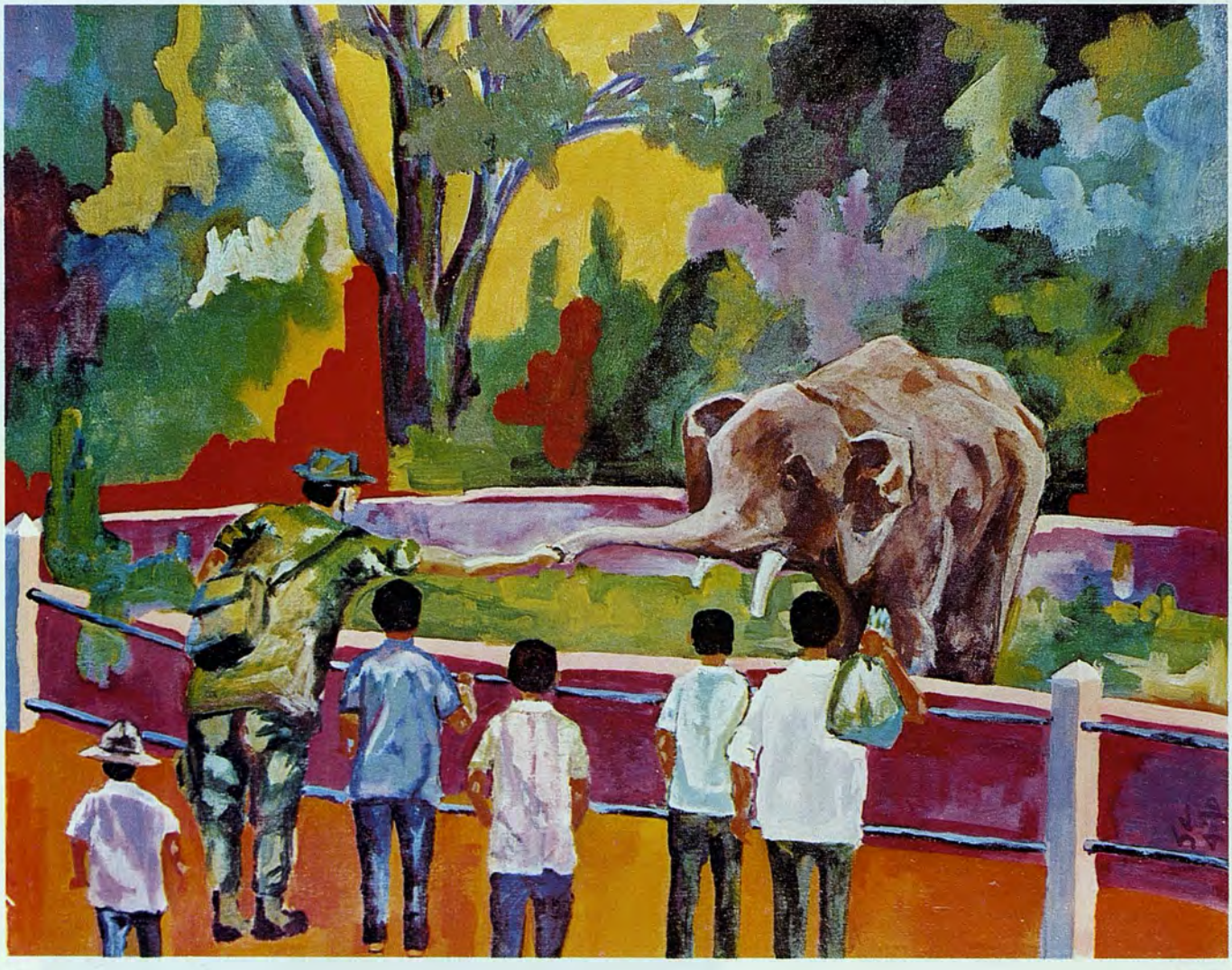
An NVA ammunition pack (above), one of the hundreds of pieces of equipment found in enemy supply caches. Silhouetted by the blazing jungle nearby, an American soldier waits in the darkness for sign of enemy movement (left). Caught in the middle of the Cambodian struggle, a young girl and her infant brother present a grim visage of confusion and despair (below).

Combat Art:

Making Friends

Paintings by
SP4 David Rasweiler

▼Saigon Zoo



◀Medic

Tire Swing▼

On The Beach ▶

▲ Dolls

Parade ▼

Major Unit Locations

Battle Report — a quarterly summary of major unit actions

An American thrust into Cambodia, another troop cutback from Washington, and the farewell of the Big Red One were the major highlights of the spring in Vietnam.

On April 29 the United States announced that it would provide military support for Cambodia. Strategic North Vietnamese positions were discovered inside the Cambodian border, and President Nixon felt that more American lives could be saved by destroying the key enemy compounds.

As soon as the President made his Cambodian decision, troops from the 1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the 25th Infantry Division, and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment stormed across the border May 1 to participate in "Operation Fishhook," a probe of an area 65 miles from Saigon.

Shortly after "Operation Fishhook" began, American troops seized two massive supply depots hidden under a blanket of thick forest. Helicopter pilots reported seeing at least 500 hootches in a two square mile area, rice in 250 pound bags stacked eight feet high, and numerous long wire radio antennae. The second depot was a weapons transfer point where more than 700 rifles were kept.

A few weeks before the Cambodian campaign, the 1st Infantry Division left Vietnam after 57 months in the country. Some 340 Big Red One soldiers participated in a ceremony during the middle of April in which the division's colors were furled and cased for the last time in Vietnam.

Big Red One, the first full Army division to be deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, fought in III Corps and had its headquarters in Lai Khe. While in Vietnam, seven of the 1st Division's soldiers earned the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor. The unit's new home is Fort Riley, Kansas.

President Nixon ordered a 150,000 man pullout of U.S. troops in Vietnam on April 20. All of the specified men will be withdrawn by May 1971. Speaking to the American people about Vietnam, Nixon said, "We finally have in sight the peace we are seeking. We can now say with confidence that South Vietnamese can develop the capability for their own defense. We can say with confidence

Laden with ammunition, a 25th Infantry Division soldier returns enemy fire while on a search-and-clear operation southwest of Trang Bang.

A well-equipped ranger from the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division maintains close radio contact with his air support.

that all American combat forces will be withdrawn."

I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

The early stages of March were relatively quiet in I Corps. During the second week of the month, Americal Division artillerymen trapped an estimated reinforced platoon of NVA soldiers moving through the flatlands of southern I Corps and reported killing 47 Communists in three related high explosive barrages. An Americal artillery team sighted the enemy elements moving through an open area 11 miles west of Quang Ngai City and radioed for a combined strike. The cannoneers responded almost immediately, saturating the area with heavy artillery rounds and killing 35 of the enemy.

On March 12 gunners of the 108th Artillery Group who manned a combined outpost six miles west of Cam Lo repulsed a NVA ground attack against their position near the Kne Gio bridge. The undetermined-sized enemy unit opened up on men of the 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery and the 2nd ARVN Regiment with RPG fire. The gunners returned fire with 40mm cannons mounted in their Dusters as the ARVN infantrymen countered with small arms fire. A sweep of the area found the bodies of 30 enemy soldiers.

Cobra gunship crewmen of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) killed 55 NVA soldiers March 14 after being alerted by an ARVN ground liaison. The clash occured March 14. Battery B, 4th Battalion, 77th Aerial Rocket Artillery pilots were called in by an element of the ARVN 1st Infantry Division five miles west of Cam Lo. The Cobras arrived over the target area immediately after they received the call, and while talked in by an ARVN ground liaison officer, they expended rockets, 40mm grenades, and minigun fire on the enemy positions.

During late March and early April activity increased in I Corps. On March 24 Americal Division soldiers were on patrol in the Tam Ky area and reported finding two sizeable rice caches totaling 33 1/2 tons.

The Red Devils from the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) reported killing 28 enemy soldiers during weekend fighting April 4 and 5. The engagements took place just below the Demilitarized Zone in Quang Tri Province. On the first day elements of the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry assaulted a suspected enemy location 6 miles northwest of Cam Lo. Twenty-four enemy soldiers were killed in the action. The second day an element of the same unit received an early morning attack by mortars, RPGs and small arms. The shelling was followed by a ground probe. In the same area on April 3 brigade elements, led by two tank companies, assaulted an enemy held knoll, killing 27 enemy soldiers.

The First of the Fifth engaged in contact once again on April 8–9 and reported killing 27 enemy soldiers. Brigade elements were in a night defensive position on the first day, four miles east of Gio Linh and engaged 10 to 15 enemy soldiers. The men from the 4th Squadron, 12th Armored Cavalry were supported by artillery from the 108th Artillery Group and helicopter gunships. Seven enemy soldiers were killed in the action and four individual and one crew served weapon were captured.

The following day, troopers of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry were in night defensive positions 10 miles southwest of Quang Tri City when they received grenade, small arms, and RPG fire. The Cavalrymen returned the fire with artillery support and killed 33 enemy soldiers.

XXIV Corps Artillery received approximately 20 rounds into Fire Base Nancy on April 14. The enemy then launched a ground attack on the fire base, located nine miles southeast of Quang Tri City. The enemy attackers were warded off, and later a sweep of the area disclosed 71 enemy bodies.

May opened with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) repelling a furious enemy attack on Fire Base Henderson, 10 miles south of Cam Lo in Quang Tri Province. With assistance from gunners of the 11th Artillery, the 101st troopers killed 29 enemy soldiers.

Fourty-eight enemy invaders were killed by the Americal Division during scattered contacts in southern I Corps on May 8. In Quang Ngai Province 105mm howitzer crews of Battery C, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery reported killing at least 20 soldiers. The enemy first struck at 11 p.m., advancing from the southwest. At midnight more sappers tried again, this time from the northwest. Six satchel charges, three rifles, and three RPG launchers with 10 rounds were captured in the assaults. In the most significant incident, an enemy rocket launching site with 43 122mm rockets prepared for firing was discovered by

With the help of a 101st Airborne Division infantryman, an ARVN soldier climbs over an obstacle during a joint U.S.-Vietnamese operation.

men of Co. C, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry in an area south of Chu Lai.

II CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

U.S. action in the II Corps area of operations remained comparatively light during the first two months of the year's second quarter. However, the pace changed abruptly during the first week of May, as soldiers from II Corps were called upon to play a vital role in the Cambodian thrust.

Light action was reported throughout March, with 4th Infantry Division soldiers killing nine of the enemy in scattered fighting west of An Khe March 26 and 10 more three days later throughout the division's AO.

On April 5, armored personnel carriers of the Fighting Fourth received small arms, B40 rocket and recoilless rifle fire while securing a convoy on Highway 19, 18 miles west of An Khe. The vehicles' crews from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry returned the fire with their machine guns and an aero-rifle platoon was inserted above the enemy position. Eleven enemy soldiers were killed in the ensuing cross fire.

The men of the Fourth Infantry Division met little enemy resistance throughout the remainder of the month, but it was a different story when the Fighting Fourth went knocking at the Communist soldiers' door inside Cambodia.

The division's soldiers by May 10 had reported killing a total of 87 enemy soldiers since elements of the unit moved into the Se San base area of Cambodia west-northwest of Pleiku May 4. The infantrymen also reported finding a total of 561 tons of rice. During their first three days of operations in Cambodia, division soldiers killed 20 of the enemy and uncovered 27,800 pounds of rice. Continuing their sweep May 8, the infantrymen reported finding 20,000 pounds of rice, 177 structures and an X-ray machine and generator, and killing nine soldiers. During their sixth day of operations May 10, airborne infantry elements of the division found 500 more tons of polished rice west of Kontum Province about 25 miles northeast of the Cambodian city of Plei Djereng.

Six sporadic contacts on May 11 with the enemy in Cambodia marked the day for the Fighting Fourth once again as the soldiers collected 14 enemy kills in the Se San base camp area.

III CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Little rest was afforded the men on operations in the III Corps tactical zone, as bitter fighting continued through the second quarter of 1970. On May 1, following an order that would make headlines around the world, the soldiers of the III Corps units assumed an added responsibility as the decision was made to launch an offensive into Cambodia. The Viet Cong and NVA had long enjoyed their sanctuary—it would exist no longer.

One mile from the site of a massive rice cache being evacuated by 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) troops,

division elements March 4 repulsed an abortive enemy attack on their night defensive positions. At about 6:15 a.m., Communist gunners lobbed between 50 and 60 rounds of 60mm mortar fire into the night locations 10 miles northwest of Katum occupied by troopers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. The cavalrymen opened fire with small arms and automatic weapons and called in tube and aerial-rocket support. An after-action sweep disclosed the bodies of 37 enemy soldiers killed in the day's fighting.

Track-mounted 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment soldiers March 6 locked up with an undetermined-size enemy element of the 95th NVA Regiment about seven miles southeast of Katum and reported killing 31 enemy soldiers in a 25-minute clash.

The next day, Redcatchers of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade uncovered a 7 1/2-ton cache of flour in an area 20 miles north of Ham Tan.

Go Devils of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division reported killing 14 Communists in an afternoon of scattered fighting three miles south of Ben Luc along the Vam Co Dong River March 10. Men of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry were patrolling the banks of the river shortly before 2 p.m. when they observed and subsequently engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers in a bunker complex.

Amid clouds of smoke, a Duster concentrates its firepower on an enemy position near Tay Ninh.

Tankers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment battled an estimated NVA battalion for one and a half hours near the Vietnamese-Cambodian border the same day killing 52 Communists and detaining another five. The clash began shortly after sunup when a dismounted patrol from the regiment's 3rd Squadron skirmished briefly with a small party of NVA regulars about four miles southwest of Loc Ninh and reported killing one. The Blackhorse troopers, working under the operational control of the 1st Air Cavalry Division followed blood trails from the contact area through heavy jungle to a small hill where they encountered what turned out to be the main body of the enemy battalion.

Action remained hot as First Team soldiers reported killing 68 enemy soldiers in sporadic contact with Communist forces March 18–19 in an area of light jungle 20 miles northwest of Tay Ninh City. Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry while on a routine reconnaissance patrol made contact with the unknown number of enemy soldiers in that area.

March 22 found helicopter gunships of the 227th Assault Helicopter Company killing 30 enemy soldiers in Binh Long Province. The action occurred eight miles west of Loc Ninh, when the 227th's gunship crews engaged an estimated 30–35 enemy soldiers in the heavily jungled area after receiving ground fire from enemy organic weapons.

After a five-day lull, soldiers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division reported killing 88 enemy soldiers in a battle in thick jungle 25 miles north-northwest of Tay Ninh City. The bodies were not found until the next day. Skytroopers from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Air Cavalry engaged the undetermined-sized enemy force from 11:45 a.m. until 7:10 p.m.

Troopers from the same division smashed an enemy ground attack on their fire support base in the same general area two days later. Men of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry repulsed the attack with withering fire from their defensive positions. Seventy-four enemy soldiers were killed in the battle.

Men of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment reported killing 30 enemy soldiers and detaining 16 during a heated engagement 24 miles northwest of Tay Ninh City. There was no joking on April 1 as Fire Base Illingworth in the 1st Air Cavalry Division's area of operations received an estimated 220 rounds of mixed rocket and mortar fire beginning at 2:20 a.m. The base, situated in lowland jungle 22 miles north-northwest of Tay Ninh City, was then attacked by an estimated two enemy companies. Only one of the charging Communists reached the defensive berm during the assault which resulted in 64 enemy soldiers killed.

In other action later that day, troopers from an armored cavalry element of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade patrolling in Binh Tuy Province, received small arms fire from an unknown-sized enemy force about five miles northeast of Vo Dat. In the ensuing battle, seven enemy soldiers were killed.

Fighting tapered off for over a week, but on April 11 elements of the 25th Infantry Division reported killing 26 enemy soldiers during a six-hour battle some 17 miles northwest of Tay Ninh City.

Elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment fought a four-hour battle 29 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City April 13. The Blackhorse reconnaissance unit was operating in heavy jungle when it engaged an unknown-sized enemy force equipped with small arms, automatic weapons and RPGs. Artillery, gunships and tactical air strikes were called to support the troopers during the contact in which 31 enemy soldiers were reported killed.

North Vietnamese Army gunners April 16 shelled the 1st Air Cavalry Division's Fire Base Atkinson 17 miles northwest of Tay Ninh City with mortars, recoilless rifles and rockets. The enemy then launched a ground attack from the triple-canopy jungle surrounding the base. Skytroopers of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry and gunners of the 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery engaged the foe with a withering barrage of fire and were supported by helicopter gunships and U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers. The bodies of 55 enemy soldiers were found during an early-morning sweep of the contact area.

Two weeks of relative calm then befell III Corps, but for many of the men in III Corps, it would prove to be the lull before the storm that would break in Cambodia.

Men from the 25th Infantry Division killed 75 enemy soldiers May 9 as Tropic Lightning troopers conducted their fourth day of sweeps in Cambodia. A total of 58 Communists were slain during a fierce late-afternoon contact sparked when division gunships spotted the group in a clearing 30 miles northwest of Tay Ninh in the border region of Cambodia known as the Dog's Face.

Go Devils from the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division combing an area five miles inside Cambodia May 10 encountered pockets of enemy resistance in the southern Parrot's Beak region. Men of the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry and Vietnamese CIDG units engaged enemy soldiers lurking among the remains of a base camps at Ba Thu.

The tally of captured weapons and ammunition mounted May 10 when skytroopers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry uncovered more arms within the huge cache called "Rock Island East," 22 miles northwest of Song Be.

A cavalry "hunter-killer" team from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry drew ground fire late in the afternoon on May 11 from the densely jungled foothills 30 miles north of Song Be. Combing the area, the helicopter crew spotted a large North Vietnamese Army force running across an open field and opened up with minigun and rocket fire, killing 37.

Continuing to search the treacherous Cambodian border area known as the Dog's Face 25 miles northwest of Tay Ninh, 25th Infantry Division soldiers netted 75 enemy kills and found 17 tons of rice in intermittent action on the same day.

Not to be left out of the May 11 action, helicopter crews from the 164th Combat Aviation Group's 144th Assault Helicopter Company combined with crews from Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry and killed a total of 52 enemy soldiers five miles northwest of Svay Rieng in Cambodia.

U.S. Army units continued their search for enemy supplies meeting occasional stiff resistance. Elements of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division reported killing 57 enemy soldiers and finding the bodies of 10 more killed by artillery fire on the 12th. In other action the same day, First Air Cavalry Division soldiers reported killing 43 enemy during action north of Phuoc Long Province. ▲

Machine gunners prepare for more action following an NVA ground attack from the woodline surrounding their position.

Pooches With A Purpose

A Soldier's Best Friend

BY SFC James E. Klett
18th MP Bde-IO

Ninety pounds of taut, powerful muscle behind a mouthful of slashing teeth anxious to rip apart anything that moves is not likely to walk away with the "congeniality" ribbon at the American Kennel Club's annual show. Yet, despite their ferocious nature, each of the attack-trained German shepherds in the 18th Military Police Brigade's sentry dog companies has forged a special bond of trust and companionship with his handler.

This bond takes shape when the dogs and masters meet at the sentry dog school in Okinawa. Both man and animal go through a six-week training course, learning together and laying the foundation for a relationship based on trust and respect.

Throughout the training period man and canine spend a great deal of time together, adapting to each other and building a mutual trust. The soldiers are taught how to care for their dogs, how to use an individual dog's habits to their best advantage and how to effectively control their animal.

Currently there are three sentry dog companies in Vietnam. The 212th Military Police Company, organized at Long Binh in 1966, is situated south of USARV Headquarters in a small compound close to the perimeter called Snug Harbor. The 212th keeps about 90 dogs at Long Binh, with additional detachments spread throughout III and IV Corps. The 981st Sentry Dog Company at Cam Ranh Bay exercises control of dogs in the northern II and I Corps area. The recent establishment of the 595th Sentry Dog Company at Da Nang is indicative of the general success enjoyed by the sentry dog program in Vietnam.

Captain Peter J. Shea, company commander of the 212th, is a graduate of Providence College, R.I., and the U.S. Army Ranger School. He is concerned with the welfare and care of the dogs and emphasizes that they are regarded as "an extension of the the individual soldier."

"We don't treat a dog with meanness here. No. Just try it and you'll have everyone here down on you," he explained. "Cruelty is absolutely out. I defy anyone to say our sentry dogs aren't well cared for," he declares with conviction. "Our kennels are open for inspection and we have no secrets."

After the soldier and his dog arrive in Vietnam and complete inprocessing, they are assigned to a post where they work together through the long, wearisome hours of darkness. The bond between man and animal begun in Okinawa continues to grow throughout the long months of duty. Man and dog share a mutual dependency, but during the night it is the dog who carries the greatest share of the burden. Once the sun sets, it is man who must depend on animal. The dog has a sense of smell estimated at 40 times greater than man's, a sense of hearing estimated at 20 times superior and much keener vision. When night descends upon the jungle, then it's a man and his dog against the darkness.

"When the sun goes down you're out there alone," said one MP.

Except for his master, the only man he obeys, the sentry dog is hostile and vicious to all human beings, be they friend or enemy. "We don't like to confuse our dogs," Captain Shea said. "That they have loyalty to only one man greatly simplifies things."

"There was one dog that used to attack his handler regularly, every day at feeding time," said a member of the 212th. "Of course the handler knew how to deal with the attack, but he always had scratches on his hand. Then the remainder of the night the dog worked fine. You'd be surprised at the way MP's take to a dog like that. It is a challenge for them to master a vicious dog. The tougher and more violent the dog, the greater the challenge and the better they like it."

A normal work day for sentry dog and master lasts six hours. Six hours alone in the darkness can be torture for a man. Fatigue, fear and loneliness team together for control of a man's mind and body, but the bond between man and dog does much to ease the pressure of these long hours. Some of the handlers talk to their dogs, rub their ears and tell them about the folks and home and girlfriends. The dog doesn't understand, but he always listens. And the handler returns the favor—when the dog talks, he listens. Each dog is different. Each warns his master in his own way. It may be a cocked ear, maybe a low growl or a stiffening of the body, but there is no mistaking a dog's alerting to his master that something is alive and moving in the darkness.

It is in these alerts, however, that the sentry dog's success story lies. With one exception, during Tet of 1968, there has never been a successful sapper penetration of a perimeter where sentry dogs were utilized.

With daylight comes the end of the day on the perimeter, but not the end of the work. Dogs must be fed and checked for fleas, rashes and signs of disease. There is kennel call and continual daily training.

"It all adds up to about 14 hours a day," commented Captain Shea. "It's no easy job."

When a handler's DEROS date arrives he and his dog must part. The bond that has been forged between man and animal against the enemy must be broken. The last sight of a caged sentry dog ready for the night patrol has brought tears to the eyes of more than one burly MP.

For a long time after his master departs a dog won't eat.

"We let the dog alone after his master leaves," Captain Shea explained. "Then when he settles down in a few days, we begin to acquaint him with his new master."

Dogs have played a key role in military activities for some time. In Vietnam, in addition to the sentry dog, the Army utilizes scout dogs and tracker dogs. And then there is Khan. Khan is a very different dog . . . a marijuana dog. Two years old, of mixed breeding—part German shepherd, part Collie—Khan has been trained to detect marijuana in troop billets, baggage shipments, motor pools and elsewhere. Khan's sense of smell points the way and criminal investigation teams follow.

Assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade at Long Binh, Khan is the sentry dog's opposite—gregarious, playful and anxious to please.

Khan is a graduate of the MP School's special training detachment at Fort Gordon, Georgia. The use of dogs to detect marijuana is a recent innovation. At present there are seven other dogs within the Army trained to sniff out "pot."

Specialist Four Donald D. Thomas of Wichita Falls, Texas, is Khan's master. Khan's ability to detect marijuana gets an excellent rating from SP4 Thomas.

"Khan can smell marijuana on the steps of a hootch when the stuff is on the other end," he boasts. "One day he sniffed out 11 grains of marijuana wrapped in a laundry bag inside a closed metal wall locker. He can even tell where the stuff was stored after it has been removed. This means that the word got out that we were coming," he said. "We know where it was, but it's just not there when we get there."

But the only reward Khan gets for

An MP and his sentry dog sense danger and stand alerted.

his efforts is a friendly pat on the head.

Despite the rigors of work, Khan maintains a playful, good-natured disposition. Specialist Thomas attributes this to "the Collie in him."

When a commander suspects marijuana and requests an investigation, Khan and his master are called to help out. Consequently, Specialist Thomas and his dog travel extensively and have probably seen more of Vietnam than most soldiers. Specialist Thomas usually works Khan five days a week —two days in the Long Binh-Saigon area and then three days at other units throughout the country.

"Khan loves to fly. In the chopper he travels with his head out the door and barks into the slip stream." Specialist Thomas says Khan's only fault is that he likes to play too much. He'll get angry and sulk when he hasn't been receiving his quota of attention.

As with the sentry dog handlers, Specialist Thomas is going to miss his dog when he leaves Vietnam. "In some ways I hate to leave him," he said. "But I know he's got to stay behind and keep working. The Army has invested a lot of money in him. I guess when I get home I'll have to get another dog." ▲

Sentry dog and master present a sapper's eye view of perimeter security (above). Khan, an Army marijuana dog, digs out a hidden supply of the drug as part of his daily work (below).

Miniature Soldiers

BY SP4 Richard Strauble

U.S. Army SUPCOM-Camh Ranh Bay

Mission accomplished, safety patrol heads for class.

The blazing rays of the sun beat down on the yellow-tinted sands as the patrol advanced relentlessly towards the rough, black macadam road. The security of several hundred children depended on their performing the mission flawlessly.

Flawless performance is the mark of the safety patrol at Ba Nhoi's Cam Linh Elementary School. This elite group consists of 39 well-trained and disciplined troops who make-up the three teams organized to protect more than 400 Vietnamese school children who must cross a heavily traveled highway three times a day.

The unique aspect of the safety patrol is that it is totally comprised of other boys and girls from the Cam Linh school.

Through the tireless efforts of the local villagers and funds provided by the United States of America International Development program (USAID), the school was erected in 1963. The safety patrol didn't come into existance, however, until September of 1969. As time passed, the need arose for a larger school to compensate for the ever-increasing number of children. With further aid an addition was built across the highway.

The steadily growing volume ot military and civilian traffic soon presented a critical problem for the school superintendent, Ngo-Bong. Children were in danger each time they crossed the road separating the buildings comprising the school. To cope with the problem, Ngo-Bong contacted the Civil Military Operations Office at the U.S. Army Support Command, here.

The C.M.O. people found the solution in the students themselves. Safety partrols consisting of students from the fourth and fifth grades who displayed good behavior along with strong scholastic averages and leadership traits were formed. Each was elected to serve for one year and the teams alternate daily. In each of the three teams, a leader was selected to provide guidance for the other twelve students.

But each member of the safety partrol must receive

Safety patrol "falls in" for important job of guiding fellow students across the busy streets of Ba Nhoi (top). Almost disappearing beneath his helmet, this Cam Linh elementary school safety patrol member has the pleasure of escorting two girls safely through intersection (below).

training in order to perform his job efficiently. It is an honor to serve on the team and no one seems to mind giving up a few hours each evening for two weeks to learn the safety procedures and practice dismounted drill.

After the first training course, the students were very capable of accomplishing the tasks assigned them but one further problem arose. The uniforms were not ready. With monetary assistance from the school fund and through the cooperation of the children's parents, the basic essentials of the uniform-shirts, shorts, socks, and shoes-were acquired.

Completely trained and outfitted, the team leader shouts his commands to his "troops" and they proceed in an orderly fashion toward the crosswalks, followed closely by the students. Arriving at the hazardous intersection, the first members of the patrol extend their circular red and white stop signs toward the oncoming traffic. As the tide of cycles, jeeps and trucks grind to a halt, the members of the patrol assume their respective postions and the children, closely supervised by Ngo-Bong and their teachers, cross over safely to continue with classes.

As the patrol withdraws, the happy sounds of children laughing and the clatter of small feet walking on macadam is soon replaced by the roar and squeals of vehicles as they fly off down the highway.

But the gaiety of children's laughter is heard once again as the members of the safety patrol are released to continue with their studies.

Brief Bursts — late information affecting you!

A NEW POLICY pertaining to the reassignment of servicemen wounded in Vietnam has been announced by the Defense Department. As of January 14 of this year, persons hospitalized outside of Vietnam for 30 days or more as a result of combat wounds will not be returned to the country and will be reassigned elsewhere. In the past, they generally went back to duty in Vietnam upon recuperation unless they had been medically evacuated to the United States.

People in this category are eligible for further tours in Vietnam, like others who have recieved RVN tour credit. They may also volunteer to return if they are medically qualifed.

This new reassignment rule does not pertain to servicemen hospitalized because of accident, injury or illness in non-combat wound cases.

TO HELP ALLEVIATE law enforcement problems in Washington, D.C., the Defense Department has authorized a special early out program for police recruits in the nation's capital. Enlisted men from all overseas commands as well as stateside can apply provided their ETS falls between 1 February and 27 November, 1970. Persons accepted by the D.C. Police Department may be released from the service up to 150 days in advance of their ETS.

All applicants must be in the 21-29 year age group, weigh 140 pounds or more, stand between 5'7'' and 6'5'' and have 20/60 vision which is correctable to 20/20 with glasses. A high school diploma or equivalency certificate is also required.

THE U.S. ARMY Recruiting Command is seeking qualified enlisted personnel for recruiting duty. Vacancies are primarily for field recruiters in pay grades E6 and E7 in many locations throughout the United States, particularly in the New York City, Chicago and Detroit areas. Interested individuals should be between the ages of 24 and 36 and have a broad knowledge of the Army. Salesmanship, interviewing or personnel management experience is also helpful.

IF YOU'RE READY to PCS out of Vietnam and are curious to know about your next duty station, the Armed Forces Hostess Association will send you infomation on duty stations and cities anywhere in the world. Operated by wives of Washington, D.C,-based officers, the association provides brochures on housing, recreational and school facilities, highway maps and other information needed for an in-coming soldier. For more information, write the Armed Forces Hostess Association, Room 1A736, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310.

NEXT DA CENTRALIZED Selection Board to consider individuals in pay grade E8 for promotion to Sergeant Major (E9) is scheduled to convene on 22 September 1970. It will be composed of a general officer, 10 field grade officers and six command sergeants major.

Number to be chosen from the secondary zone, which is set up to give those who have demonstrated exceptional ability the opportunity to be considered in advance of their normal eligibility, is limited to a maximum of 10% of total selections. Secondary zone nominees must be deemed by the Board to be better qualified than those who otherwise would be selected from the primary zone.

Hong Kong

Orient's Bargain Mart

By SGT Ladd Kelley

UpTight Staff Writer

Hong Kong is a bargain—whether you're a shopper, a camera bug, a connoisseur of international cookery, a dilettante of culture, or just a pleasure seeker.

By night Hong Kong is a dazzling circle of lights surrounding the black night water of its magnificent harbor.

By day from the air it looks like a travel poster—a cluster of tall mauve hotels and apartment buildings around the brilliant blue of the bay. Freighters, ocean liners and warships—Russian or Greek or British or American—ride at anchor and above them towers the Peak, the city's major landmark and the setting of "The World of Suzy Wong."

For decades world travelers have come here, attracted by the blending of Eastern culture with that of the modern West and by the restaurants, the night life and what is probably the world's largest international marketplace.

The British Crown Colony of Hong Kong is a 398-square-mile enclave on the southeast coast of China—1,850 miles southwest of Tokyo, 650 miles northwest of Manila and only 91 miles southeast of Canton, Communist China's sixth largest city.

Hong Kong is actually the name of the principal island in the colony which was ceded to the British by China in 1842.

Across the harbor from Victoria is the city of Kowloon, a three-and-a-half-square-mile area ceded to the British in 1860. With its numerous hotels, smart shops and night-life places—all set in a crowded Oriental bazaar-type atmosphere—Kowloon is the center of tourist activity in the colony. The city is the location of the airport, the large piers for ships from all nations and most of Hong Kong's commercial establishments.

The principal language spoken in the colony is Chinese, but English, the language of world trade, is widely understood in hotels, restaurants and shops. Of Hong Kong's four million people, ninety-nine per cent are Chinese.

Hong Kong knows how to treat guests. Both Hong Kong Island and Kowloon have tourist-type, air-conditioned hotels which offer everything from modest single rooms to luxury suites with spectacular views of the harbor and surrounding area.

After arriving in Hong Kong, you are required to pick up a hotel reservation card. The choices available are listed and prices range from $5 to $13 US for a single room and from $7 to $16 US for a double. This card guarantees you a room at an approved R & R hotel at a special R & R rate.

For the adventuresome gourmet, Hong Kong is a bargain center of good food. Whether you like exotic Oriental food or French, Portuguese, Spanish, German, or Russian cuisine, there is a restaurant for you. But if you hesitate to experiment, you will find delicious American-style foods in the hotels. Because of the low cost of dining, you can afford the very best. A first-rate luncheon or dinner will cost you as little as $1–$5 U.S.

Chinese food, of course, is the specialty of the colony. There are four basic styles of Chinese cooking offered to you, each originating from a different geographic locality. The saucy Cantonese specialties from southern Kwangtung are probably the most familiar to the Westerner. Shark's fin soup and bird's nest soup are the best known Cantonese dishes. In Hong Kong's Cantonese restaurants you will find these specialties, as well as seafoods, fried rice, diced pork, sweet and sour chicken and spareribs.

As a special Oriental treat for lunch, you might try Cantonese high tea, known in the colony as *yum cha*. By paying a "cover charge" of about ten cents per person, you are entitled to as many refills of tea as you can drink. In addition, the waitress will bring you plates of luscious tidbits and the price of the whole meal will be determined by the number of plates you accept.

Jasmine is the most popular flower-scented tea served in restaurants. Delicacies served include shrimp roll, barbecued pork roll, steamed bread, chicken and vegetables, pastries, cakes and many others.

The best known dish served in Pekingese restaurants is of course the salty, succulent Peking duck. The ducks are annointed with oil, suspended in a cylinder-type oven and roasted over charcoal.

Szechuenese-style Chinese food is preferred by people who like highly spiced foods. These dishes from western China include *ban yui*, a peppery fish, and *feng cheng you*, red-peppered pork, beef or chicken rolled in soybean flour and steamed.

Shanghai cookery, a must for anyone who likes seafood, is often served in Cantonese restaurants. Specialties are fried eels and fish tails in sauce. Other delicacies include noodles cooked in chicken broth and combined with slivers of chicken or served with a pork chop sprinkled with green onions, and "beggar's chicken," chicken wrapped in lotus leaves and baked in a mud casing.

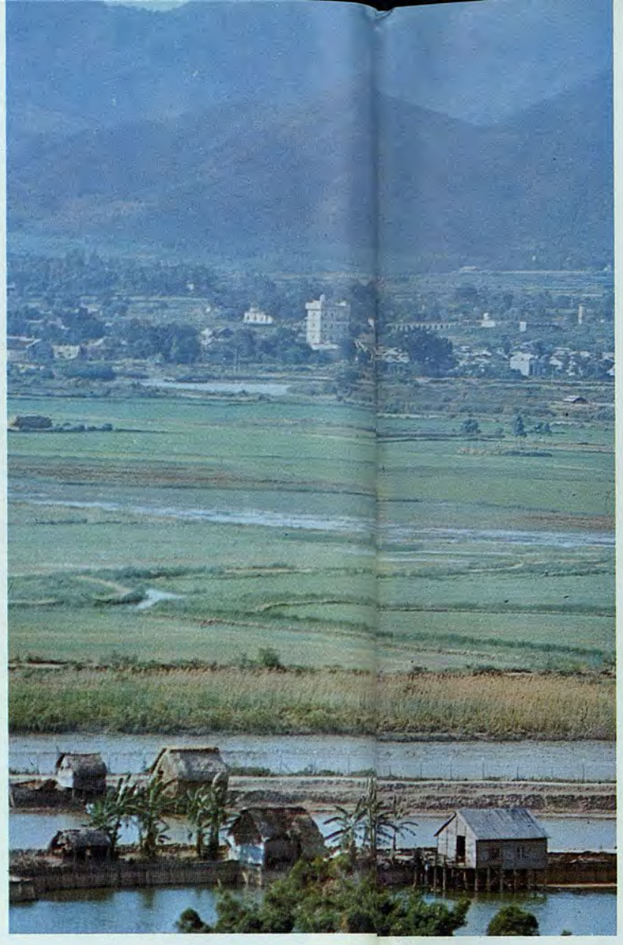
The main form of transportation in the colony is the taxi. On Hong Kong Island the first mile is $1.50 HK (25 cents) and $.20 HK (three cents) for each additional one-fifth mile. In Kowloon taxis are slightly cheaper. Although many taxi drivers understand English, it is best to have someone at your hotel write in Chinese the address to which you're going. This will save you time and money.

There are illegal taxis in Hong Kong which usually do not have meters or insurance. To save yourself money, avoid them. They may be identified because they have the white license plates of a private car, rather than the red plates used by registered taxis.

The major mode of transportation between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon is the Star Ferry which has 10 boats shuttling between the two points every seven minutes from

Downtown Kowloon is a shopper's and fun-seeker's paradise (top). Left, a pleasure junk carrying tourists plies the waters of Hong Kong harbor.

These sampan dwellers spend their lives in their floating village (below). Lok Ma Chau police station offers this view across border into Red China (center). Chinese Theater performance is part of varied nightlife (far right). New housing complexes are constantly going up in crowded Kowloon (right bottom).



6 a.m. to 3 a.m. The fare is $.25 HK (four cents) for first-class travel. Motor boats, called *walla-wallas*, will take you across the harbor around the clock for $1 HK (16 cents).

Hong Kong is an international bazaar. Shopping in the world's largest marketplace requires time, know-how, good humor and money. But the bargains you get make any energy expended well worth while. Many items are a third to half as costly as elsewhere, and some items are even less expensive in Hong Kong than in the country of origin. Japanese cultured pearls are actually priced lower than in Japan and the selection is almost as wide. A strand may be purchased for $25 or $5,000 US.

While the choice of merchandise is almost endless, there are items which may be classified as best buys. Besides cultured pearls, tailored clothing, optical products, stereo equipment, watches, embroidered linens and table cloths, jade and rose quartz, jewelry, ivory and numerous silken goods are usually readily available at low prices.

The China Fleet Club is an excellent place for you to begin shopping. At the club's U.S. Navy-sponsored display rooms in Victoria, you'll find 65 contract firms and more than 15,000 items marked at fair prices. All merchandise there is sold under government contract which specifies quality and price. The merchants have been carefully selected on the basis of their reputations for reliability and honesty. If they don't have what you want on display, they will give you a slip which you can take to their main stores.

On the Hong Kong open market, you'll find that most shops do not have fixed prices. The price you pay depends on your knowledge of the worth of an item and your ability to "haggle." Shopping on the open market can be an adventuresome experience, but if you don't know your product and its worth thoroughly, you can be taken. It is better if you acquaint yourself with the quality and price of items at the China Fleet Club; then you'll be able to compare them with merchandise on the market.

If you buy at the club, your shipping problems are solved. The packing service is located right in the shopping area and the Fleet Post Office is just around the corner.

Another good reason for shopping at the club is that the contract sales receipt you receive from merchants there is good for your comprehensive certificate of origin required by U.S. Customs officials. The U.S. Treasury Department Foreign Assets Control Regulations prohibit the purchase or importation of any article produced in Communist China or North Korea. Also prohibited are "Chinese-type" goods—goods of types traditionally produced in China—unless you can obtain a certificate declaring that they were not produced in Communist China.

Obviously, if you shop on the open market, you should buy only from shops privileged to furnish comprehensive certificates of origin.

One of the most popular items among servicemen visiting Hong Kong is tailored clothing. A first-rate tailor there can produce work as good as the finest in the world. But it is imperative that you select a reputable shop. Your R & R center can provide you with a list of recommended establishments, but if you do not choose from this list, you should select a shop which displays the emblem of the Hong Kong Tourist Association. Hong Kong's tailor shops are concentrated along a few Kowloon streets, so it is easy for you to compare stock and prices.

You'll find that the stock of fabrics available almost defies you to select the one just for you. Materials include everything from British woolens to Italian silks, wash-and-wear fabrics, linens, cashmeres and camel hair. You should order your tailored suits, topcoats and shirts as soon as possible after you arrive in Hong Kong. The longer the tailor has to complete the job, the better the workmanship and the fit. Most tailors give you three fittings; take advantage of all of them.

As a word of warning, stay clear of persons who may approach you on the streets, sometimes claiming to be employes of the R & R center. They may offer to take you to a shop where you can get a "real bargain." But

Luxury hotels on Victoria dot Hong Kong harbor.

remember that these people don't work for nothing. You pay for any commissions they receive in the form of higher prices.

Hong Kong is a fun-lover's den. Once your shopping is completed, you can find any number of diversions in the Crown colony, whether you're out for some memorable photographs or just out for a good time. The Lotus Tour Company has a government contract to provide an R & R tour service for servicemen. For about $7.50 US you can purchase a special package tour book which entitles you to three of the seven tours offered.

One of these is an all-day tour, with lunch included, throughout the New Territories north of Kowloon. The territories are so named because they were the last piece of land acquired by the British. This trip will take you through walled villages where life has changed little in hundreds of years.

The sunset tour of Hong Kong Harbor puts you aboard a motorized replica of an old Chinese junk. The excursion takes you around the harbor, past the waterfront of both Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, and then through a floating village of junks and sampans. These "villagers" have lived and worked all their lives on the water. From there you'll move on to the fishing village of Aberdeen, where a floating restaurant and a seven-course Chinese dinner await you.

For the camera bug, a trip to the top of the Peak is a must. A cable car takes you high up on the side of the mountain to the world of Suzie Wong and a magnificent view of the city, the harbor and Kowloon Peninsula.

After a day of sightseeing, Hong Kong's neon-lighted streets offer a brilliant call to night life. Whatever your taste in entertainment, you can probably find it there. The colony has more than 30 outstanding night clubs where you can be exposed to everything from mellow dinner music to mind-bending psychedelia.

The colony has 72 movie theaters, 16 of which show English-language films with Chinese subtitles. A number of these are first-run houses where films are shown as soon as they appear on the world market. In Kowloon, most movie houses are located on Nathan Road. All seats are reserved; you choose from a seating chart at the box office. If you desire a bit of Oriental culture, you might attend a Chinese opera, in which costumes, dance, music and stage technique have remained the same through hundreds of years.

For you who never tire of exploring, the glittering streets and nighttime bazaars of Kowloon can hold untold adventures. Hong Kong is a bargain, even during late evening hours. ▲

Nighthawk

By 1LT Joe Walker

Americal Div IO

The Nighthawk has very unusual eyes. It sees through the night and turns darkness into light when it detects enemy movement on the ground below. The "eyes" work both ways.

The Nighthawk helicopters of F Troop, 8th Cavalry, 123rd Avn. Bn., Americal Division are each equipped with a night observation device mounted above a powerful 50,000 watt Xeon searchlight. These are the Nighthawk's "eyes." With the keen eye of a bird of prey, the helicopter soars invisibly in the darkness, while its eyes relentlessly search the ground for enemy below.

When movement is detected through the observation device, a switch is flipped and the Xeon searchlight pierces the blackness with a beam of light, illuminating a patch of the dark ground, transforming night into day. As the light marks the target, a 7.62mm mini-gun mounted beside the searchlight erupts with a stream of lead, spitting streaks of fire down the beam of light onto the target below.

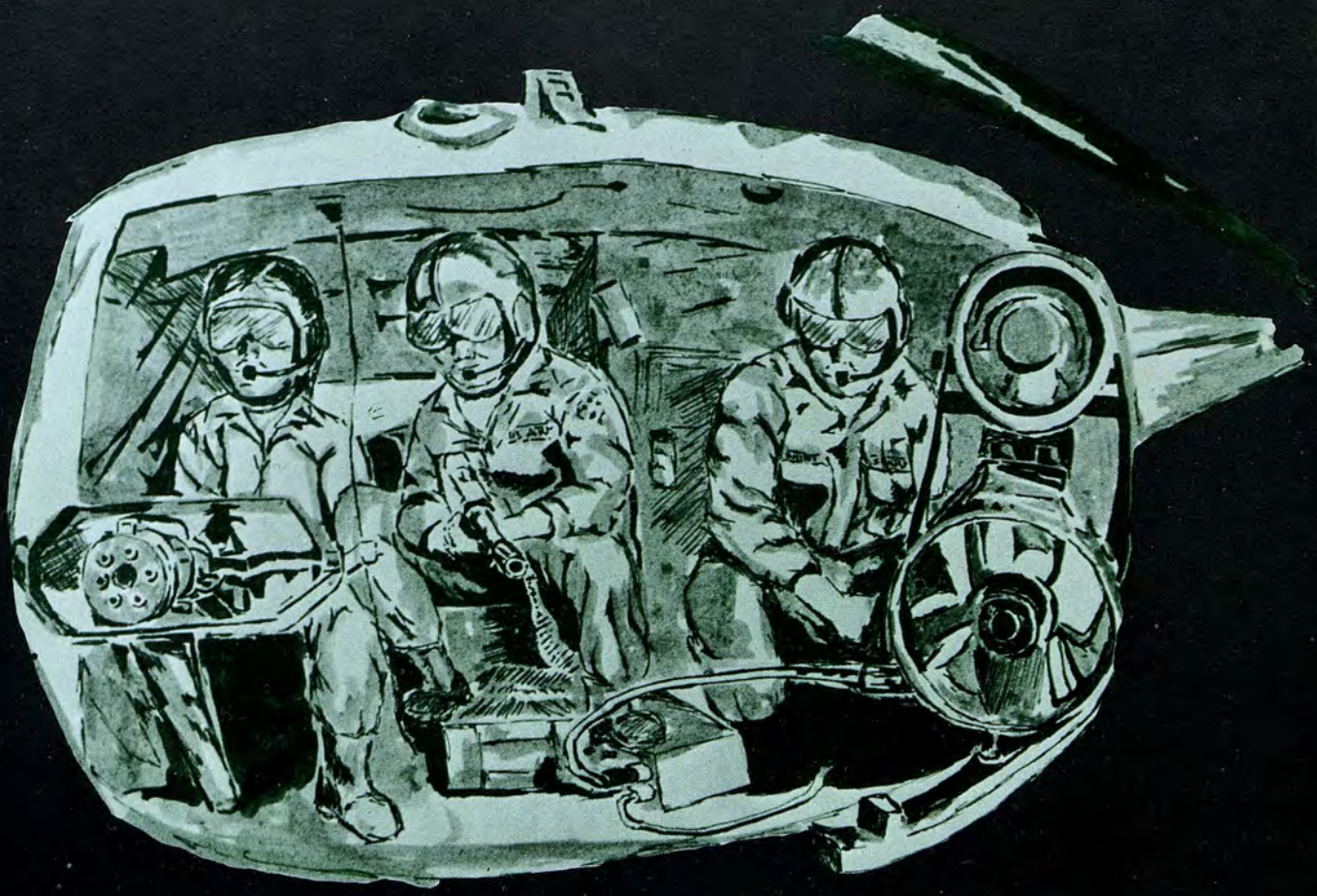
The mini-gun stops. The light is extinguished, and the Nighthawk resumes its nocturnal search, its "eyes" working in continuous motion.

The Nighthawk saw first flight in the Americal Division late last year. The "Blue Ghosts" of F Troop, 8th Cavalry, were chosen to check out the Nighthawk and to determine which of its systems was best suited to the climate and terrain in the Americal TAOR.

The first of the Nighthawk crews was a number put through a training program with missions such as perimeter defense, surveillance around the night defensive position of an infantry company, fire base support and general surveillance missions. The training also included familiarization with the new equipment. The Nighthawk itself is fitted with two mini-guns, two M-60 machine guns, plus the "eyes" of the observation device and searchlight.

During the training period several configurations of the Nighthawk were tested.

"We had the most success flying the Nighthawk ship low, with a Huey flying recovery above," explained Captain



David Owen, F/8 operations officer. "The chase ship or recovery ship carries a couple of people on board to help evacuate the Nighthawk if it gets into trouble.

"We tried chasing the Nighthawk with a pair of Cobras for a while," he continued. "The problem was that the Nighthawk flies low and slow, while the Cobra flies high and fast. So they ended up making strange bedfellows.

"But we still keep Cobras on station so the Nighthawk can call back for them if the going gets rough," said Captain Owen.

And the going does get rough. Shortly after the Nighthawk became operational, it killed 17 enemy soldiers in one night.

The Nighthawk searches only carefully chosen areas. Based on intelligence reports from several sources, a block of land (called a box) is marked off on the map. The "box" is then cleared for fire through channels, and, after checking for friendlies and the clearance is given, the area becomes a hunting ground for the Nighthawk.

The helicopters take to the air just after dark, flying out in formation to the "box." Once on the scene, the Nighthawk ship cuts off all lights and flies blacked-out. It is virtually invisible to the chase ship above until the powerful searchlight is switched on and its beacon bathes the ground in a circle of light. From the chase ship above, the sight of a searching Nighthawk is a weird experience—a beam of light from nowhere appears to pivot from a circle of light on the earth's surface.

But the action in the Nighthawk ship tells another story.

"Light-on" says the team commander's voice in the head phone. "Shift left. More. There he is! Fire!"

The mini-gun speaks as 4,000 rounds scream from its flaming muzzle every 60 seconds.

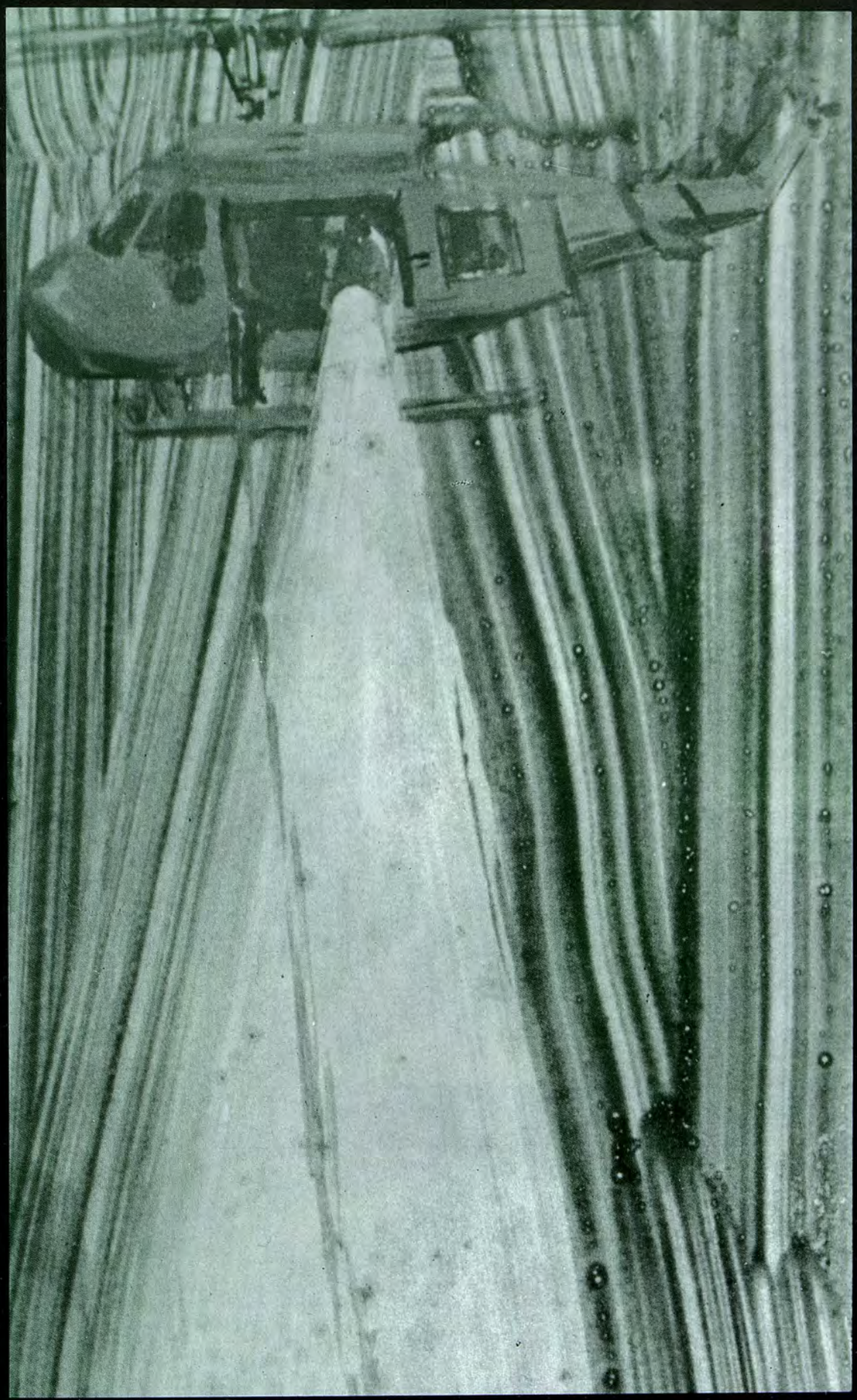
"Light-off."

"Did you see the muzzle flash from his firing up at us?" asked mini-gun operator Sp4 Ronald Bennett.

"Roger that," replied Sp4 George Brown, an M-60 machine-gunner.

The concept behind the Nighthawk is a sound one. Deny the enemy free movement during the hours of darkness. The Nighthawk does just that.

As one Nighthawk crew member put it, "The enemy moves at night, and it gives you a feeling of accomplishment to know you can stop him." ▲



Nevah Hoppen!

Only in the strange world of the combat soldier can humor come from the sources that "Nevah Hoppen!" If you have some ideas for funny captions for this picture, send them to "Nevah Hoppen," USARV-IO, APO 96375. If we use one of your ideas in the follow-up to this issue's picture, you'll receive personal copies of the next six editions of UpTight (sent to you anywhere in the world). Some of our gaglines for this picture:

- Nothing like a topless shave to start the day off right.
- Camping in the great outdoors is one thing, but this is getting a little ridiculous.
- I don't remember the TM saying anything about which hand the razor should be in, but I guess this will do.

Fresh from the California surf, our Hollywood starlet sends a warm smile to all the men in Vietnam and wishes they could be with her to share the sunshine.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS

"Hey sergeant, how long have you had this elephantitis?"
—PFC Douglas D. Burford, 198th LIB
"That's final. Either you quit peanuts or you're through."
—1LT Richard T. Klein, 101st Abn Div
"Personally, I think the Army has carried first echelon maintenance too far!"
—CPT Donald D. Potter, 179th MP Det

IN THIS ISSUE: