

THE HURRICANE

JUNE 1970

NUMBER THIRTY-TWO

A PUBLICATION OF 11 FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

Van Hanh University Coed



The Montagnard

She props her toes within the loom,
Breasts swaying like pendulums
With her fingers weaving
Pieces of years and lives
Running through the rainbow yarn
Like water through her betel-brown
Hands drawing a thousand
Threads together into raiment-
A loincloth for her husband.

THE HURRICANE

JUNE
1970

NO 32

A PUBLICATION OF II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

This month *The Hurricane* looks at education from two points of view. Specialist Ray Anderson takes an in-depth look at Buddhist teaching philosophies in his visit to Van Hanh University in Saigon (story page 19). In contrast, Specialist Mike Tharp explores the problems of backwoods education as he travels to a Montagnard school in Song Be (story page 30).

Starting on page 2, Specialist Andy Dyakon reviews the progress made in bringing industry to Vietnam and cites problems the GVN must face and solve to become industrially self-sufficient.

Looking at combat activities, Specialist Phil Schieber accompanies the big guns of II Field Force Artillery as they move out to support troops in the forward areas (story page 37).

Also in this issue, a look at government in action through two personality sketches, a behind-the-scenes report on the WACs and a perspective on the people of Saigon as seen through the lens of Lieutenant Pete Ginder's Nikon.

The poem on the inside front cover was written by Specialist Mike Tharp from impressions gathered at Song Be. The accompanying photo was done by Specialist Terry Lynce.

The cover photo was shot by Specialist Dean Hawk at Van Hanh University. Specialist John Skiffington caught a 175mm howitzer in action in northern III Corps to make the rear cover.

The Editor

The Hurricane is an authorized monthly publication of II Field Force Vietnam. It is published by the 16th Public Information Detachment and the Information Office, II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Feature stories, photographs and art work of general interest to II Field Force personnel are invited.



Industry

P.2



University

P.19



Saigon

P.25



Police

P.7



Artillery

P.37

II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
LTG MICHAEL S. DAVISON
COMMANDING GENERAL
LTC D.A. PEACE
Information Officer
SSM E.C. BRADLEY
Sergeant Major
16TH PUBLIC INFORMATION DETACHMENT
CPT M.J. VERBONICH
Commanding Officer
Editor, *The Hurricane*
1LT M.F. CLARK
Press Officer
1LT H.P. BROWN
Radio, TV Officer
CPT D.T. GIVENS
1LT P.C. GINDER
1LT W.K. WATSON
Assistant Information Officers
SFC R. Britton Radio-TV Supervisor; SFC S. Schwinn Information Supervisor; SSG J. Van Drew Information Supervisor; SP5 A. Dyakon Information Specialist; SP5 R. Anderson Information Specialist; SP4 E. Parents Broadcast Specialist; SP4 P. Schieber Information Specialist; SP4 J. Naylor Administrative Specialist; SP4 R. Wiesenhutter Administrative Specialist; SP4 S. Atkinson Clerk-Typist 53D SIGNAL BATTALION Photo Support 1LT J. KLEIN Officer in Charge SSG J.F. Principe NCOIC; SP5 T. Fease Photographer; SP5 R. Reimer Photographer; SP4 S. Mancusi Photographer; SP4 P. Finnegan Photographer; SP4 J. Skiffington Photographer; SP5 J. Davis Photographer

■ CONTENTS

- 2 INDUSTRY IN VIETNAM**
- 7 POLICE CHIEF**
- 10 LONGHORN CHINOOKS**
- 14 HURRICANE BRIEFS**
- 16 THE WACS**
- 19 VAN HAHN UNIVERSITY**
- 25 PEOPLE OF SAIGON**
- 30 MONTAGNARD EDUCATION**
- 33 TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF**
- 37 ARTILLERY ON THE MOVE**
- 40 A VIETNAMESE LEGEND**



Gravel crusher at RMK-BRJ construction yard near Long Binh.



Construction of large plants at Bien Hoa Industrial Park (below) has produced an increasing demand for unskilled laborers.



Industry in Vietnam

New Life for the Economy?

by Specialist Andy Dyakon

VAN BAY LIVES NEAR Bien Hoa. During his childhood years a hilly strip of land a half-hour's drive northeast of Saigon was all he saw or knew of Vietnam from dawn to dusk. He was in charge of the family's water buffalo as they grazed in the picturesque countryside near his home.

Now Bay takes one of the many buses that travel National Route 1 to the same area of land. But he is no longer watching over the family herd. He is, instead, one of the 3,000 employees that work at the Bien Hoa Industrial Park which now occupies this hilly area.

Van Bay can still see young children herding some buffalo nearby. But gone is the peaceful countryside he once knew. Long Binh Post, the largest military complex in the world, stretches along Route 1. Directly across the highway from the base stands the Bien Hoa Industrial Park. It is the home of 23 industrial enterprises and the only one of its kind presently in Vietnam.

Of the 23 plants that are operational in the park only two are currently run by foreign management: ETER-NIT, a French-owned company that manufactures roof-

GINDER

ing and pipes, and the Chinese-owned VICASA, Vietnam's first steel rolling mill. Most of the remaining plants, such as the CTY DUONG VN sugar and alcohol plant, which employs more than a thousand people, are government owned. Others, like the small icemaking plant that employs only a dozen, are owned by Vietnamese private investors.

The factories and equipment operating in the Bien Hoa park represent an investment of \$20 million and once the plants are fully equipped the total investment will rocket to \$37 million.

The park is managed by SONADEZI, a government-owned combine. SONADEZI, which was formed in 1963, has allocated space to 23 new companies, and construction for more than half of them is currently underway. The Ministry of Economy and the Industrial Development Center (IDC) are the most important members of SONADEZI.

The IDC, created in 1957, has hired teams of engineers, technicians and planners to explore the possibility of future industrial parks and help encourage industrialization by foreign and local investors.

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam (GVN) is concerned with the need for industrial growth.

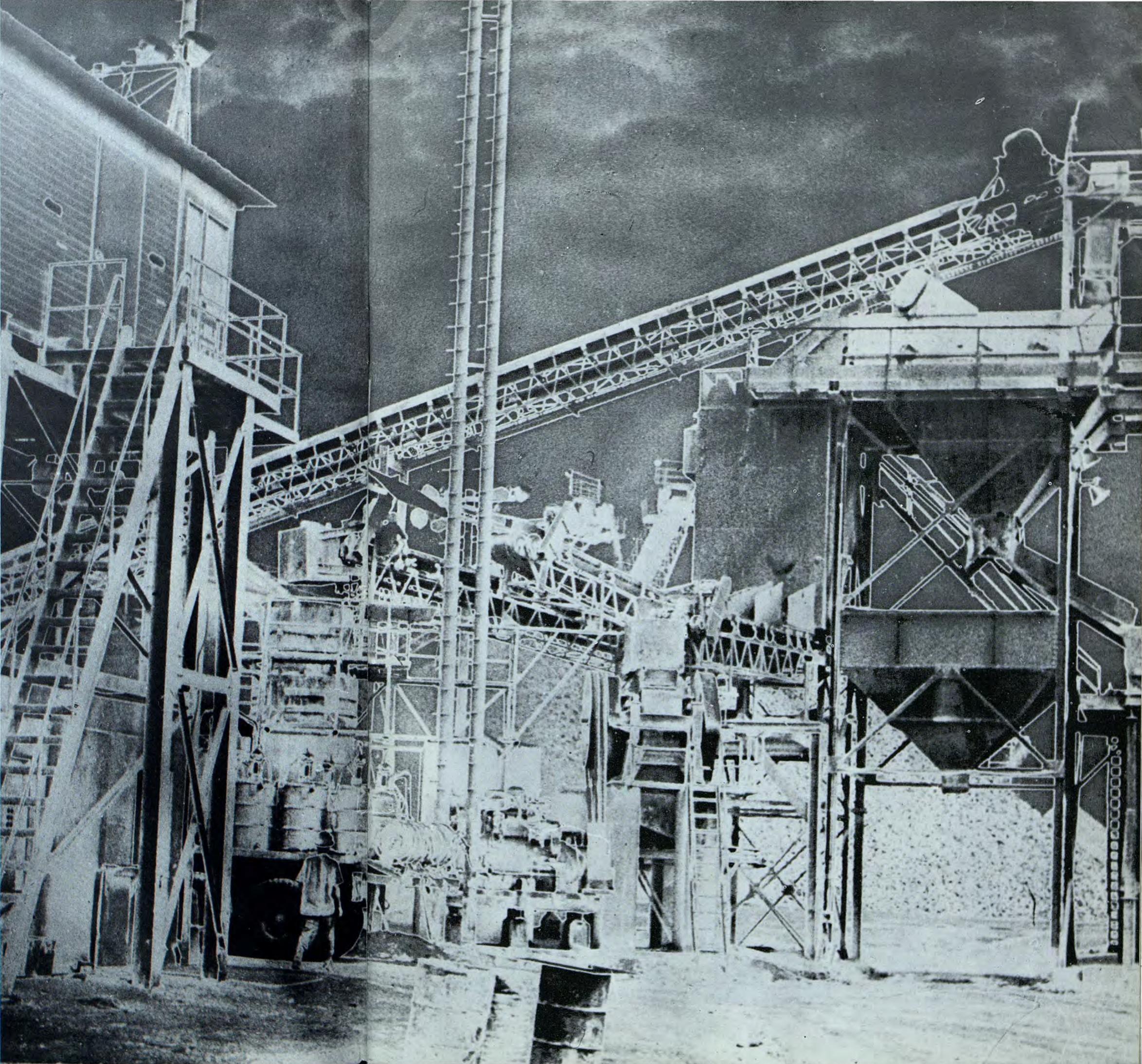
Pham Ninh Duong, Vice Minister of Economy, said recently: "To rely purely on agriculture is to accept the stamp of economic dependency, to remain backwards and perhaps to ask for social disturbances. It is fairly obvious by now that a purely agricultural economy could not make much progress. Industrialization now appears to be the shortest and most effective path out of economic subsistency onto new hopes for a better and more meaningful life."

It is estimated that 1,750 manufacturing and fabricating businesses are currently in operation throughout Vietnam. This number includes small craft shops, but not the numerous repair shops. It would be difficult to keep count of all small repair shops that spring up overnight and may stay in operation only a few months. Although small businesses and agriculture have been the mainstays of the Vietnamese economy for the past century, the government—with the leadership of men like Duong—is now encouraging the creation of larger, more productive businesses. SONADEZI is helping by lending qualified new industries up to 75 per cent of their initial capital requirements.

IDC realizes industrialization must not be limited to the Saigon-Bien Hoa areas. In the planning stages is a new 50-site industrial park just north of Can Tho, in the Mekong Delta. Until more industrial parks are built, the country will rely on the older manufacturing and food processing centers in Saigon and Cholon, and the newer Gia Dinh industrial complex, with its ever-expanding textile mills, to help improve its economic standards.

The GVN also realizes that Vietnam's industrialization is not going to be accomplished easily. A number of American mining companies were interested in a coal-rich area south of Da Nang. However, the coal fields are in a highly contested area, and the companies refuse to take the risk involved to extract the coal. At present the GVN has no insurance policy to protect investors.

The future for Vietnam in the field of oil production looks brighter. Eight foreign companies (seven Ameri-



"It is fairly obvious by now that a purely agricultural economy could not make much progress."

can and one French) have just completed a survey of the Mekong Delta region looking for oil. There is evidence of oil in this region, but because of the war, none of the companies involved have applied for a work permit.

One of the most successful foreign investors has been the Hyland's Toan Phat Company. The company, which is an Australian-Vietnamese joint venture in plywood manufacturing, has taken over a government-owned veneer plywood plant and refitted it to meet the domestic plywood demand.

The most recent addition to the Vietnamese industrialization effort is a Japanese farm machinery factory which is under construction at the Bien Hoa Industrial Park. Other investors have shown interest in the fields of cement, fertilizers, fisheries, petroleum and rubber.

Two major problems face the foreign investor: gaining a work permit from the government and the lack of an adequate insurance policy. There are many government agencies an individual must deal with before he can obtain a license to begin operation. This process may take months.

Once the investor receives his permit to operate in Vietnam, another problem arises: skilled labor. There are not enough skilled laborers in Vietnam to meet the operational needs of the various investors. For that

reason they must often import workers from abroad, usually from the Philippines or Taiwan.

Investors also have had serious problems acquiring enough raw materials to keep their plants functioning. Ten of the 23 companies in the Bien Hoa industrial site import their raw materials.

The problem of bringing foreign investment into Vietnam is reaching the critical stages. Summing up the GVN's goals for industrialization, Vice Minister Duong said that the government of Vietnam, "would prefer to see private entrepreneurs, both local and foreign, go into the lines of industry which consolidate our national economy and foster a healthy development.

"But," he continued, "should no private investors be willing to engage in these activities, the government may find it necessary to undertake these investments itself."

The problem is a large one. If Vietnam is ever to have a balanced economy, industry will have to be encouraged. The challenge is one that will not be met overnight. While Vietnam has taken the first steps—projects like the Bien Hoa Industrial Park—toward industrialization, it will take time and many more similar steps before it can compete with its well developed Asian sister nations such as Japan and the Republic of Korea.



Manual labor—essential to the growth of industry in Vietnam.



The National Police of Binh Duong



and their Chief



by Captain David Givens

POLICE WORK IS A DEMANDING JOB ANYWHERE. IN A COMBAT ZONE IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

In addition to crime fighting and traffic control, the Vietnamese National Police are saddled with a myriad of other tasks, most of which are concerned with counterinsurgency.

The National Police headquarters in Saigon controls police activities through a National Police director in each of the four Corps Areas. Subordinate to these directors is one provincial police department per province under the command of a chief of police.

Ngo Van Hue, the police chief for Binh Duong Province, is one of the



best. His own accomplishments, in addition to the outstanding quality of his department, have made Chief Hue one of the most respected policemen in Vietnam, and to the VC, the most feared.

The Binh Duong Headquarters at Phu Cuong sets a standard for every police force in Vietnam. This is especially significant considering that the majority of the construction was done by Chief Hue and his men with home-made bricks and scrap lumber. Wooden beams were cut by hand with cross-cut saws from huge mahogany logs. Despite these handicaps, all of the buildings in the area resemble the handiwork of professional carpenters.

Chief Hue began his police career with the French *Gendarmerie*. During his five years as a gendarme, he was one of the few Vietnamese to receive a direct commission as a lieutenant.

While working with the French, Hue acquired a passion for cleanliness. Everything in his department is kept spotless. The jail is scrubbed and every vehicle is washed daily. A few months ago when the Chief took command at Binh Duong, the police jeeps appeared to have run their course. They were in bad mechanical shape and had bullet holes or rusted out areas in the body. Chief Hue and his men stripped the entire fleet down to the frame and rebuilt each jeep. To repair the body damage, they first cut the offending areas out of the bodies with a chisel. They flattened artillery casings and cut sections to fit the holes, welded them in, and filed and sanded the area by hand until it was smooth. Then, using an insect sprayer, they completely repainted the entire fleet. Result: every jeep looked and ran like new.

"The National Police used to be the weak sister of the Vietnam Government," said Charles E. Sothan, one of the public safety advisors for III Corps Tactical Zone who was Chief Hue's advisor for several months. "They were popularly referred to as 'white mice.' "

"But not any more," he adds. "During the Tet Offensive of 1968, it was the National Police that stopped the VC in the streets of Saigon. They couldn't beat the VC but they held them until the Army could get reinforcements into the area.

"This was the last thing that the VC expected, they didn't even expect the police to interfere at all.

No longer "white mice".

No one calls them 'white mice' anymore."

Under his command, Chief Hue has 1,146 police men and women working in three branches: the National Police, the National Police Field Force, and the Police Special Branch. The National Police are uniformed policemen who engage in traffic control, routine accident and criminal investigation, and administrative functions. The National Police Field Force (NPFF) is a paramilitary arm of the police force whose function is a combination of military and police work. They patrol within the province looking for information concerning enemy locations and are trained to engage enemy forces that they may find.

The men of the Police Special Branch are trained for difficult undercover investigation. Their primary purpose is to locate and arrest VC working undercover in and around the populated areas.

After the police proved they could fight, the Special Branch had to prove that it could investigate.

In September of 1968, when Chief Hue was police chief of Hau Nghia Province, a routine road check turned up a member of the 83rd Rear Service Group, a highly sophisticated VC supply organization (See Hurricane, July 1969). Chief Hue simultaneously advised Saigon of the find and made plans to round up other members of the group. Saigon gave him the go-ahead primarily because of his reputation, and Chief Hue launched an investigation that in 130 days resulted in the arrest of 100 VC leaders in locations from the Mekong Delta to the Central Highlands, as well as the capture of supplies and equipment valued at 100 million piasters.

Another example of the investigative expertise of the chief and his Special Branch personnel is the apprehension of one of the most effective VC terror squads in the country. On a tip, Chief Hue had a woman brought in for interrogation. During questioning, she denied having any connections with the VC, so she was released. A team of Special Branch investigators were assigned to follow her. After several weeks she made contact with her boyfriend—a known VC. They were both arrested. Under interrogation, they gave the names and locations of the group's other members. Later, they too were arrested. This unit was responsible for numerous terrorist incidents, probably the most notable of which was the bombing of the floating restaurant in Saigon in 1965.

The secret of the Binh Duong Police Department's success is leader-

ship. Every activity is organized in minute detail. On the wall of the operations center is a map of Phu Cuong showing every building. Files give information as to who lives in each house, their occupations and other important details. All filing systems are under constant revision and improvement. Significantly, every facet of these operations is under Chief Hue's constant supervision.

"The Chief's schedule, frankly, drives me up the wall," said Gordon L. Ransom, Hue's American advisor. "He gets up at 4 a.m. and does his mountain of paperwork. By 7 a.m. he starts making his rounds. He visits all of the sections and several districts and village stations every day. "Usually he works until about 11 p.m. and goes to bed. The next day at 4 a.m. he starts all over. I don't see how he does it.

"If at some time during the day he gets some hot information—watch out! He grabs me and whatever resources he considers necessary and away we go. Frequently he doesn't tell us where we're going or why until we're racing pell mell down some dusty road."

One of the resources the chief always takes is a boar's tooth on a gold chain.

"It's his talisman," says Ransom.
"And I swear it works!"

Once Chief Hue and nine other men were in a building that was hit by a rocket. Nine were wounded but there happened to be a supporting pillar directly between the Chief and the rocket. His only injury was bruised shins where he dove over a table.

There have been numerous other attempts on the Chief's life. So far, all have failed—a fact that the Chief credits to his boar's tooth.

"The policemen love him," said Ransom. "He's a harsh disciplinarian, but I don't think I've ever seen him chew out a man without a joke, a word of encouragement and a pat on the back before he leaves.

"And they have to respect him because he is so expert at his job."

The Binh Duong Department is, of course, the show place of National Police activities. Most of the other police departments aren't as good. Many are very bad.

"The National Police have come a long way," says Sothan, "but there is still a long way to go. When the war ends and the Army goes back to the drill field, the police will have to take full responsibility for security. It's a tough job but if they continue to improve as they have been, I have no doubt that they can do it."

Chief Hue questions a Viet Cong suspect



Flying with the **CH-47** "Longhorns"

by Chief Warrant Officer Larry D. McIntosh

IN THE NORTHERN REGIONS of III Corps in the Republic of Vietnam the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) plays a unique cat and mouse game with a very deadly "mouse"—Communist troops in the jungles of Tay Ninh and War Zone C. The Cavalry, in the role of "cat" relies on the speed and responsiveness of airmobility to corner the Communist "mouse." The concept has been developed, refined and executed with success. Today, the 1st Team's mission is proving to be one of the toughest challenges yet to the concept of airmobility—a challenge readily accepted by B Company, 228th Aviation Battalion, the "Longhorns."

Integral to the Air Cav's record of success





along the Cambodian border has been the fire support base, a mini-fortress capable of being rapidly deployed to provide intensive artillery support for far-flung Allied infantrymen. The enemy's movements in the Cav's area of operations require that fire support bases be moved quickly and on very short notice, that a significant number of them are kept continuously in operation, and that they be moved as often as necessary. These bases, sitting as they do astride major infiltration routes, are subject to persistent, determined attack and must be as ready for the defense as for the offense.

The Chinooks of B Company and her sister companies of the 228th bear the responsibility of emplacing these installations, keeping them supplied and, if necessary, moving them in a single day to some other location. Daily, hundreds of tons of equipment are moved by the Chinooks—literally everything from munitions to mail.

The Longhorns of Bearcat, in fulfilling their requirement, have established an enviable record.

In retrospect, the months of September and October 1969, which saw a drastic increase in flight time logged and loads carried, seem now to have been something of a vacation. "The pace has not let up, it has accelerated," according to the company commander, Major Edward M. Hogan. The increased burden falls heavily on pilots, mechanics and aircraft.

The pilots' day begins at 7 a.m. with liftoff from Bearcat; it ends 13 hours later with final touchdown. During that time the pilot has accounted for 12 full hours in flight, with an hour's rest somewhere along the line. There is no guarantee the crew's free hour will evenly divide the duty day, and frequently the pilot will not leave the aircraft for eight hours or more. Resupplying hard-pressed troops, taking off and landing almost continually, nursing an awkward sling-load through the skies, encountering enemy ground fire where none had been anticipated—this is the daily lot of the officers and men of the 228th. The strain is heavy, even for a single day's operations; carried on for a year or more, it becomes unimaginable.

When the pilots return to Bearcat, long after dusk, it is time for a beer, a shower, maybe a letter home. The mechanic's day, however, is just beginning—it is his job to make certain that the Chinooks will fly tomorrow.

There are very few material incentives in the life of a chopper mechanic in Vietnam. In general they are PFC's or SP4's, and are not

Maintenance—all day, every day.



Margin for Error: Zero

THE CH-47 CHINOOK was designed essentially to perform a single task: hauling large payloads over relatively long distance under severe combinations of weather and altitude. Although, since its inception in 1961, it has been used in a bewildering variety of roles and missions, lifting cargo is still the Chinook's forte, and this job it performs superbly. Everything in the design of the aircraft points to a conscious

effort to wring maximum performance from the Chinook, at the expense of lesser considerations. One of the "lesser considerations" subordinated to functional demands has been crew comfort. The Chinook makes extraordinary demands on the skill and stamina of its pilots.

It is during operations involving slingloads that the tension is at its greatest. The load requires delicate balancing and constant positive con-

trol; should it gain control of the aircraft the cargo would have to be dumped to avoid harming the ship—a high price to pay for a moment's inattention. The aircraft commander is not only concerned with ground fire, takeoffs and the myriad other details of controlling the ship, he is also responsible for the payload. The final decisions on where, when, and whether to land are his. This responsibility assumes enormous proportions when the load on his hook is vitally needed in the field.

If all this is not enough, there is the constant noise of the Chinook's engines and rotors. It has been said that "sitting under the forward transmission of a Chinook, you might as well be sitting inside the transmission." Although the helmet affords partial relief from the constant din, it doesn't last long, for the stereo headphones chatter from morning until long past dusk.

What does all this add up to? It simply means that 12 hours in a Chinook are unlike 12 hours in any other aircraft in the world. To pilot this giant bird requires uncommon degrees of skill, patience and professionalism, as well as a considerable amount of "cool."

exactly overwhelmed with the pay; there is no union bargaining on their behalf for better hours, more pleasant working conditions or longer paid vacations. While maintaining a "professional attitude" has become something of a tired refrain in Vietnam, it is apparent that the youthful mechanics of the 228th Aviation Battalion are motivated by something other than tangible benefits. Perhaps it is the knowledge that their efforts directly involve the survival of their fellow soldiers; no other reason is readily apparent in the perpetual dust and heat of Vietnam. Charged with the maintenance responsibility is Captain Richard T. Banks, who deserves a large portion of the credit for the unit's continued effectiveness.

In December of 1969, Company B, 228th Aviation Battalion established a Chinook record in flying more than 1500 hours in a single month in support of the 1st Cavalry Division. In the same month the company completed 12 consecutive months of accident-free flying and was presented an award for this achievement by the assistant division commander of the 1st Cav. There is very little time, however, to rest on its laurels—tomorrow, from one of three locations, the Chinooks will be taking off every ten minutes

Hooking up an external load in Bear Cat.



or so with another 7500-pound load for a fire support base.

The big hook may not be very pretty. At times it may even be something of a nuisance, with its huge rotors whipping sand and dust around a small compound as it powers its way aloft. But to the men of the fire support bases it represents survival on a day-to-day basis.

HURRICANE BRIEFS



Men and women wearing grey mini-dresses and summer polyester army uniforms are not an unusual sight on the streets in downtown Saigon, but when worn in a bridal procession by the bride and groom it's just not traditional.

But that was the setting when Australian Sergeant Allen Clement and U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Christine Matthews marched down the aisle in the small chapel located at the American 3rd Field Hospital near Tan Son Nhut, Saigon's international airport, to take the final vows.

This was the first time in the history of the Vietnam conflict an Australian soldier married an American servicewoman.

It all started at breakfast one morning last July. (A time when most eligible bachelors have trouble finding the snack bar or messhall let alone keeping a sharp lookout for some pretty young female.) This wasn't the case for Sergeant Clement, 24, of Greenacre, Sydney, who met his wife-to-be that morning at the Long Binh Logistic Base snack bar. The base is located 15 miles north of Saigon.

At the time Sergeant Matthews of Evanston, Illinois, was not wearing a mini-dress, but had on a set of green tropical army, fatigues. Neither knew that in a few short months they would become husband and wife.

Sergeant Clement is one of the small group of Australian personnel that are permanently stationed at Long Binh. He is assigned to the Australian Ordnance Corps as a liaison NCO and also represents ADOS (Assistant Director of Ordnance Services). This is his second tour of duty in Vietnam. Before he was stationed at Bien Hoa and Vung Tau.

His young bride arrived in Vietnam March 1968 and extended a number of times because she likes her work and also the many nice people she has become associated with. But she added: "I am looking forward to returning to Australia to live." Sergeant Matthews is an administrative NCO for the US Army Engineer Command Vietnam (Provisional) at Long Binh.

The wedding almost took place in Australia while Allen and Christine were on R & R, but due to certain Australian regulations the occasion had to be postponed.

Upon returning to Vietnam, the couple encountered further difficulties. The required forms Christine had to fill out were designed for male GI's marrying Vietnamese. "I just couldn't answer some of them," Chris said. But after long hours of work approval was given. "I believe that because of us, they are going to change some of the procedures," said the young Negro woman.

The couple spent a two-day honeymoon in Saigon.

Two oranges, an Army helicopter and a cool-headed bus driver saved Vuong Kim Kiet's life in Tay Ninh Province a few years ago when a VC platoon halted a government bus he was riding.

Vuong, who is the able assistant of Mr. Fred Lenz, agricultural advisor for Tay Ninh Province, explained that while riding from Saigon to Tay Ninh in 1964, a Viet Cong platoon (15 to 20 men) suddenly appeared to the bus's front, AK-47's at the ready, forcing the driver to stop.

In the best stagecoach robbery tradition, the bandit leader demanded, "Pile out and stick 'em up." Cautiously, the driver reached into a small bag of oranges at his side. Said Vuong, "You know, he covered them up so the VC couldn't see what they were and said, 'I have two grenades here. You go or I will blow us all.'

"I was scared too, because all in the bus thought they were grenades. Then the driver said, 'You go now!' and the VC, well, they didn't know what to do," chuckled Vuong. "But the driver kept saying, 'Now you go! Now you go!'"

Nervously, the VC commander barked back at the driver and threatened to kill him when suddenly the egg-beater sound of an approaching helicopter was heard. That did it. "The VC just all ran away. When they were gone, the driver turned around and showed us the oranges. We had a good laugh and came on to Tay Ninh."

The pleasant-mannered Vuong feels that times have changed today. The VC have been replaced by regular North Vietnamese troops not familiar with the countryside, and the Viet Cong Infrastructure has lost considerable ground. Viet Cong roadblocks were feared by travellers a few years ago and proved deadly to many. But dramatic improvements in road security have changed all that. On the main roads, "...the VC won't try to stop a bus in daytime. It's too risky for them," concluded Vuong as he drove his American colleagues over a bumpy backroad five miles from the Cambodian border.

Chaining an eagle to the top of a 60-foot tower for surveillance of enemy territory might be a good idea, but it has a number of inherent disadvantages, the foremost being communication. The second is very limited night vision and the third is "minimal" eyesight.

The Army eliminated the problems associated with teaching our national hero by adapting radar, which can "see" moving vehicles, squad-size units and an individual at great distances while being able to pinpoint any of the above to within a few meters. Furthermore, it doesn't need light to function, and it is reliable.

There are a number of these Army-Navy ground surveillance radar units working in Vietnam, but the idea isn't new. The device has been in use since 1954. Staff Sergeant Wesley Anthony, NCOIC of a II Field Force Artillery seven-man radar unit, looked up the 60 feet of portable scaffolding and said, "There are other newer models, but they don't have the range of this job." The newer radar units are more compact, making them easier to transport and somewhat more sophisticated, but when the advantages and disadvantages are weighed the nostalgia surrounding the older model prevails.

Adding strength to his argument, Sergeant Anthony continued. "Our longest move has been 90 miles, and we were able to do that in six hours. That's from the time we began tearing down until it was operational again."

The significance of this move is better understood when one realizes the work involved. The tower is stabilized by guy wires. Driving 10 engineer stakes that support 450 pounds can be a problem, but pulling them out is even harder. The stakes, platform, tower segments, guy wires, generator, radar dome, and other miscellaneous equipment are then placed on a couple of two-and-a-half-ton trucks and moved to the next location where the process is reversed. Transportation is generally by truck, but they have been ferried and occasionally utilize Chinooks. "We don't use helicopters too often because it's a little hard on the equipment; besides, trucking makes it easier to move from spot to spot once there," added Anthony.

The unit's unique service makes them something of a military will-o'-the-wisp. During the last two months they have been relocated 19 times at various Thai, ARVN, Australian, and American fire support bases. "It gets us around," mused one of the five enlisted operators.

OIC, Chief Warrant Officer James McKinzie of Erwin, Pa., explained their mission as simply finding targets. That information is fed to artillery and infantry units which decide the ultimate course of action. "We like to know the results of any follow up. We were responsible for the destruction of a new bunker complex while working out of Phuoc Tuy sometime ago," he concluded.

Cat Lai is a lazy village on the Nha Be River eight miles east of Saigon. The town still feels the French influence with its high protective walls, large two-story structures and two-hour siestas every afternoon.

Inside these walls is a new type of weapon—a group of over 300 students being trained in welding, typing, construction work, plumbing and other blue collar jobs.

The school, known as the Cat Lai Center specializing in vocational rehabilitation, is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Nghiem Quoc My. Students are graduated every three months and sent to the Saigon area for employment.

Colonel My, a 41-year-old veteran of 18 years, reminds one of Horace Mann and his never-ending drive for education. With his knowledge of five languages, French, English, German, Japanese and Chinese, he is a great asset to Vietnamese education.

"We need to train my people so they can be better citizens," said the officer. "I want our country to be ready for the future."

The vocational center is aided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which supplies the center with teaching personnel. Each civilian has a Vietnamese counterpart who acts as a go-between with student and teacher. USAID has devised a system of teaching by the numbers where each number represents a piece of equipment.

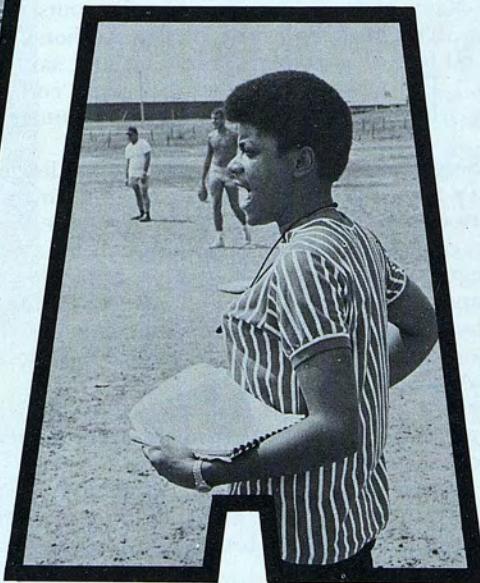
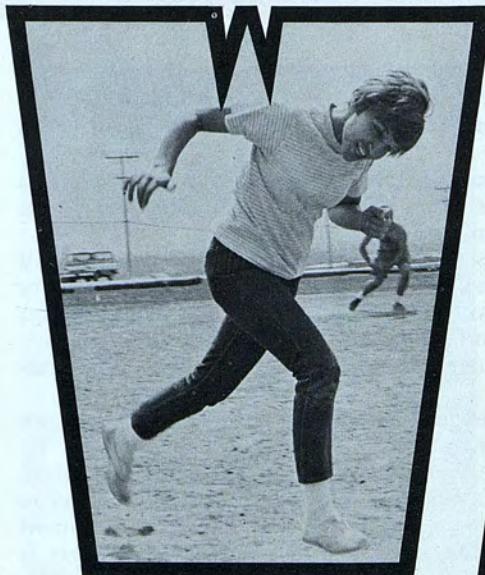
"Theory is taught by the Vietnamese counterpart," said Donald W. Holler, USAID administrator. "Since courses last only three months, more time is spent on practical application than theory." When the student finishes a course, he becomes an on-the-job trainee, the employer sends reports to the Cat Lai Center on his progress.

"This is the first time it has ever been done in this part of the country, and is proving very successful," Mr. Holler continued.

But in this war-torn country there are more injured soldiers, more orphans than Cat Lai can accommodate. "We have the land. We want to expand. But we need to be recognized as doing a service for our country," concluded Colonel My.



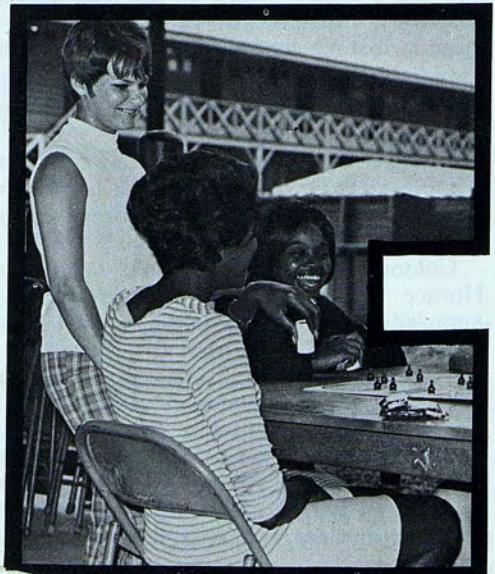
The



by Captain George Cox

TACKED RECENTLY on the Long Binh Women's Army Corps (WAC) Detachment bulletin board was a notice enticing girls to volunteer for an African safari. One girl had just extended six months and wanted to organize a special leave trip to that continent. Unusual? Not at all. While not all WACs pack away on gazelle-hunting sojourns to Mozambique, the variety of personalities living at the WAC compound can only be described as kaleidoscopic.

The 135 women of the detachment live in their own area on post, complete with MP gate guard, near the corner of Long Binh's Honolulu



S

Continued on page 18.

The Woman's Touch

ANYONE WHO HAS HAD occasion to check his financial records at Long Binh Post's Central Finance Center, couldn't help but notice the pert, stunningly attractive lass who was buzzing through the menagerie of financial records in the officers' pay section. Some lucky officers may have even chatted with her a while, as she prepared their soldier's deposit allotment forms. She is Janie Brown, a Women's Army Corps (WAC) specialist 5 who "...reenlisted to come to Vietnam." And except for her beauty, which would make her stand out in any crowd, she is typical of the modern WAC.

"It's nice being a WAC," she said. "I have received a better education, traveled quite a bit, and have seen a lot of cities and places that I wouldn't have seen before.

"I've also learned from others in the service. How to live with other people—with other races—is the best lesson I have learned while a WAC."

In all these things Janie typifies today's WAC woman, who seeks the job training, travel and personal experience offered by Army life.

Originally from McClellanville, S. C., Janie moved to New York and enlisted at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., in January 1967. Then following basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., and before reenlisting to come to Vietnam, she attended advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Since November she has been working at the finance center to the delight of her male co-workers and the officers she pays.

Her work keeps the adding machine and typewriter on her desk clacking steadily from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. She maintains 400 officer financial records, a task that prompts her to remark, "Some officers are paid too much!"

Mornings are for filing the previous month's vouchers; afternoons for preparing for the next payday. Frequent indi-



cox

vidual pay inquiries spice the otherwise monotonous ritual; still Janie doesn't seem to mind it at all. The finance team members work well together, she indicated, and there is always lunch at nearby Loon Foon Chinese Restaurant, a dip in the pool after hours, and a late movie at the WAC compound.

According to Captain Brian Roshong, a finance officer at the center, "her work here at Central Finance has been excellent." About WACs in general the officer added, "WACs help the men's morale a lot. They lighten the surroundings and most are pretty pleasant to be around. And it definitely helps when you have unit parties. It's hard to have a dance with just men."

Certainly with Specialist 5 Janie Brown in attendance, Central Finance's unit parties boost the money man's morale considerably—which in turn does a lot to keep the pay vouchers straight come month's end.

and Georgia Streets, and are commanded by WAC Captain Shirley M. Ohta of Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii.

The comely captain spoke of the Women's Army Corps. "The WAC mission is primarily one of support. There are certain interchangeable job specialties in the Army. That is, positions either a woman or a male can fill. Here at Long Binh the majority of such jobs are administrative."

But why does a young girl join the WACs? Shirley Ohta saw a 1940-vintage movie entitled "Don't Wave at a WAC" a few summers ago, became interested and signed up. "God knows," laugh others spurred by less explicit motives.

However, First Sergeant Mary Manning of Louisville has definite views about it. "Travel, adventure and the many school opportunities are the main reasons for joining," she said.

When asked, most girls agree with Sergeant Manning. But more than a consideration, "travel flu" is a detachment epidemic (example—African elephant hunts). And the girls are perennial volunteerists—a quality that might arouse a few negative comments from the "never volunteer" male-careerist crowd. For not only do they voluntarily join the WACs, they volunteer for Vietnam service as well. Said one, "You've really got to want to travel to do that!"

To the question, "Why to Vietnam?" they usually answer noncommittally, "...to see what it is like."

Christine Marx, a staff sergeant, gave such a reply. Previously she served two years in Frankfurt am Main, West Germany. Eau Claire, Wisc., is her home, and she works in the 18th Military Police (MP) Brigade as an administrative supervisor. Another staff sergeant, Audrey Bergstresser, from Fleetwood, Pa., lists Belgium as her dream spot after a tour at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe). Specialist 5 Carol Johnson of Tampa, Fla., thinks Japan is "out of this world." She works at Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, and intends to continue studying French at the University of Tampa when discharged.

Many WACs leave one with that "all-American girl" feeling. One is Central Finance's Augustina Jones, a Specialist 4, who lists cooking as her hobby, apple pie her favorite, and music her avocation. Originally from Washington, D.C., she plans to study business at the University of Seattle after her current obligation ends.

Audrey Bergstresser has a hobby list that only an American girl could think up: leatherwork, bowling and raising dogs. "I made a lot of extra money back home making boots, handbags and belts and worked part time in hobby shops while I was at SHAPE," she said.

The girls are assigned all over Long Binh Post. Many work at United States Army Vietnam (USARV) Headquarters, while others fill slots for the 1st Log, 18th MP Brigade and other units. But wherever they are found most of the WACs' male supervisors rate their work outstanding. "Many times we get

calls from sections telling us what good typists our girls are," said Captain Ohta. "Another thing to consider," she added, "is that all the women here are volunteers and would normally be expected to do a better job because of it." WACs are seldom detailed additional duties—once every 50 days or so—and naturally section chiefs are delighted at having someone who will never be dragged off to the motor pool in the middle of the workday.

Sergeant Major Conrad Stone, G1, USARV, praised his section's girls and added that throughout his career he had always found a WAC to be an asset. "Women have more finesse and are more meticulous in their handling of correspondence. A male won't see minor errors—a woman will."

Said another G1 sergeant, "Clerical work is more natural for a woman than for a man."

"Women tend to be more accurate," stated Sergeant Manning, "and take more interest in what they are doing than a man does."

Specialist 4 Kathryn Dwyer works for



the G1 executive officer at USARV, and is one of Sergeant Major Stone's "girl Fridays."

"I like service life and am very satisfied with the Army program," she said. Kathy is a trained medic but she "...caught on to the work so quickly," said Sergeant Major Stone, "that we were able to let the girl she replaced rotate early."

Toni Trujillo, recently promoted to staff sergeant, is the chief clerk of the non-appropriated funds branch of the USARV G1. While she doesn't care for the dormitory life off-duty, she enjoys her work and doesn't mind supervising men that are under her in the funds branch.

However, supervising men is not something the girls—or the men—universally accept. "Women do a good job with clerical work, but sometimes they fail to get the 'big picture' of what is happening," quipped one officer.

Officially female supervision of males isn't supposed to happen, but in practice at section level, it often does.

Christine Marx objected to the practice for feminine reasons. She doesn't think women should supervise men. "As a woman I feel I can suggest something,

but it is very awkward for me to tell a man to do it. I don't really think it's right."

Said one officer at the 7th Finance Center, "Initially men resent a woman supervisor, but they usually come around when the WAC proves her competence. And in most cases they do."

Another problem which many girls face when they first arrive is that of on-the-job training. There are no medic slots for WACs in Vietnam, but many medics, like Kathryn Dwyer, have volunteered. These girls are assigned to administrative positions irrespective of their MOS. Reports coming into the detachment orderly room indicate that they adapt very well, but the first couple of months are rough for a few.

Off-duty the girls either walk or take the shuttle bus to the barracks, and prepare for the evening's activities. The Loon Foon Chinese Restaurant is a favorite and even more favored is a detachment cookout. The covered patio serves as a combination lounge, movie theater, basketball court and ping pong parlor if the wind isn't too strong. Trees and green grass—rarities at sizzling Long Binh—keep the patio and barbecue area cool and refreshing. Many girls simply read or talk over the events of the day with other WACs or the multitude of male visitors that throng to the grounds after duty.

One of Long Binh's swimming pools is a short distance away, and on Saturdays there is the big event—the weekly softball game.

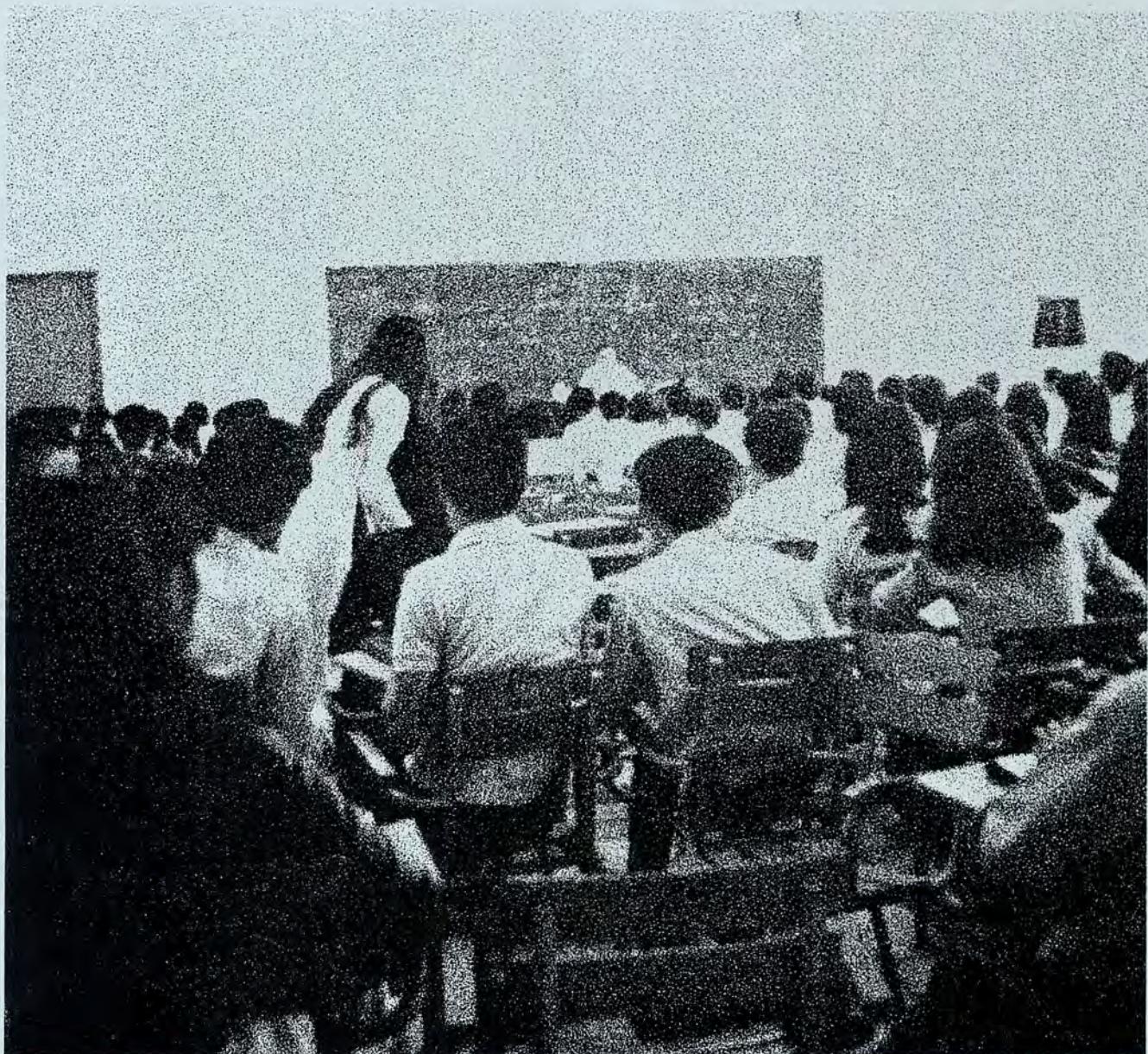
Most of the girls are single and unattached, although a few gold bands and diamonds glitter here and there. After their service time, many have college plans, some will become secretaries, but the majority are like Audrey Bergstresser. Laughed Audrey: "I haven't the faintest idea what I'll be doing."

Christine Marx is engaged to a lieutenant in the Wisconsin National Guard, who is currently in training at Fort Benning. "I guess it sounds funny," she said, "when some guy is back home waiting for his girl to get back from Vietnam, doesn't it?" Christine has been dating him for seven years and the couple plan to wed this November.

Very few of the girls either get married or become engaged to servicemen while in Vietnam. Janie M. Brown, a Specialist 5 working at the finance center is a notable exception. Janie is engaged to one of the first people she met in Vietnam.

One WAC pointed out that, "While in the states, I dated mostly civilians. And most of my friends were the same way." Certainly because the girls have no details or guard, and work an eight-to-five day, they do not completely submerge into the military like their masculine counterparts are obliged to do. "After duty, I'm a civilian again," asserted Shirley Ohta.

But several thousand male troopers at Long Binh Post could care less whether they are civilians on or off duty, where they work or why they volunteered. They only know they are real American women, and they are glad they are here.



HAWK

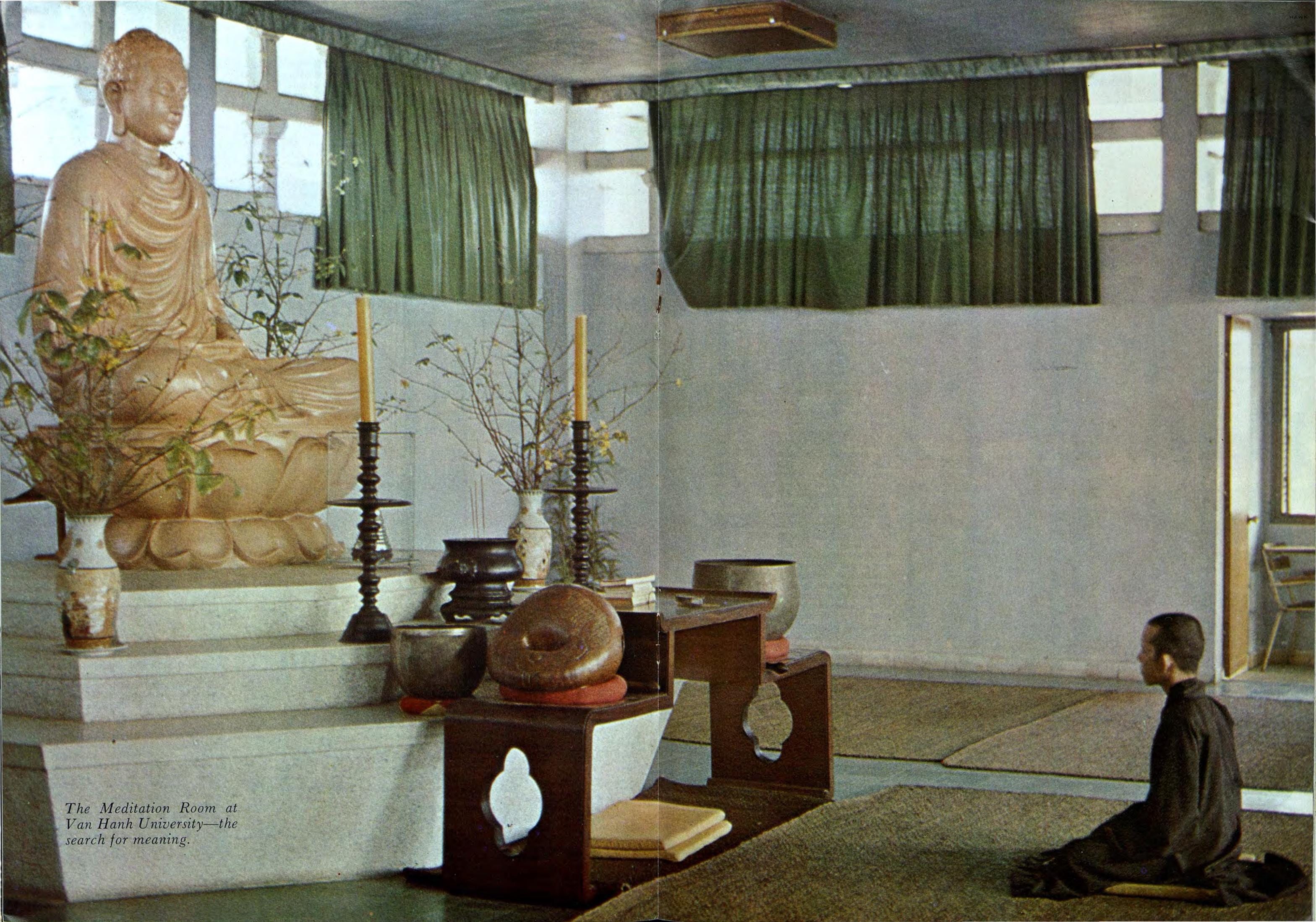
Saigon's Van Hanh University

by Specialist 5 Ray Anderson

FOR MANY OF US in Vietnam, ivy covered walls are a nostalgic memory of the past. Student laughter echoing across marble floors, people pushing into auditoriums, and the studious silence of a library are things we remember.

Vietnamese youth have the same memories found the world over, restricted by the imposition of war and cultural differences, but nonetheless similar. The primary difference between the American and Vietnamese systems is educational philosophy. A private institute in Saigon that is breaking a 20th century tradition of Western scientific and technical oriented studies is Van Hanh University.

Van Hanh University, a private Buddhist school, embodies 12 centuries of Eastern educational philosophy, while incorporating the inquisitive spirit of the West. It is seeking a new direction for



*The Meditation Room at
Van Hanh University—the
search for meaning.*



the universities of Vietnam and Asia based on Indian Buddhist learned institutions that were cultural centers of Asia, centuries before the monastic centers of learning in Europe.

The mission of Van Hanh graduates is regeneration of traditional Asian and national education, one that doesn't rely heavily on Western universities which, they feel, have reached a cultural crisis stemming from reliance on ancient Western values and concepts contrary to the expansion of human dignity.

University Rector, the Venerable Thich Minh Chau, speaking at the school's first graduation exercise in May 1969, said, "The cultural path of Van Hanh University starts from the crisis of Western culture and leads to the restoration of the basic values of Asia. In the present situation of Vietnam and the world, we think that only by returning to ourselves, by returning to our being, can we help the Vietnamese people realize their role in the collective decision concerning Vietnam and the direction of the world's culture."

This brief summary of the university's educational philosophy belies its short history. Founded in 1964 by the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam as a theologically guided liberal arts institution open to people of all faiths, it hopes to instill youth with an appreciation for Vietnamese culture and history, while filling the country's need for qualified graduates.

The six-year-old university was immediately beset with problems, war being foremost. The Venerable Thich Minh Chau has been asked; Why begin a university in the midst of war? "Precisely because of the war a university should be built," he replied. "War is destructive, and a university is constructive. War means killing and sowing of hatred, a university means respecting life and bestowing compassion."

Lessening the effect of war has been a primary consideration but no less important was the alteration of traditional thinking and customs concerning a university's job and function. The university desired a reputation of integrity. Commenting on this Venerable Chau said, "My whole life is dedicated to the progress of education." Van Hanh University was to be a place for learning, not a medium for Buddhist propaganda, or center for political activists.

Degrees are presented by virtue of ability and academic achievement, not as special privileges. This independence has created some difficulty by alienating those who felt the traditional system was better, but the university and students have benefited by the change.

The small campus at 222 Truong Minh Gian stands alone in sharp contrast. Surrounded by dilapidated shanties, the massive contemporary building with its accompanying facilities is a welcome relief from the unsightly streets

Extensive library facilities provide students with ample resources for study and research.

around it.

The single five-story structure contains all the refinements of a large university complex, and its 3,000 students are well served.

Small classrooms line the narrow corridor leading away from the university library and auditorium, which occupy much of the center section. The 15,000-volume library is said to be among the finest in Vietnam. The library's lower level contains 24 research cubicles, a seating capacity for 250 students, plus a periodical section and reference room.

The reference room houses works in nearly a dozen different languages, including English, French, German, Japanese, classical Chinese, Pali and others. Buddhist *Tripiṭaka*'s (three baskets of knowledge similar to the Bible) are present in the same lingual diversity. The upper level accommodates the remainder of the library's large collection of standard and Buddhist works.

When you pass around the library and up two flights of steps, the Buddhist influence becomes increasingly apparent as you reach the Meditation Center—no talking, no excessive walking, and no reading are permitted within its walls. Through the doors, a colonnaded walk, with potted plants and water lily-filled pools on each side, embraces worshippers piously walking through. Pausing briefly, they slip out of sandals before entering the meditation room. A great pink Buddha gazes benevolently at the mat-lined floor where the clergy and others sit in the traditional lotus position. "It symbolizes our attempt to adapt the purely religious practice of meditational Buddhism into mental and intellectual training for both professors and students," wrote Thich Minh Chau.

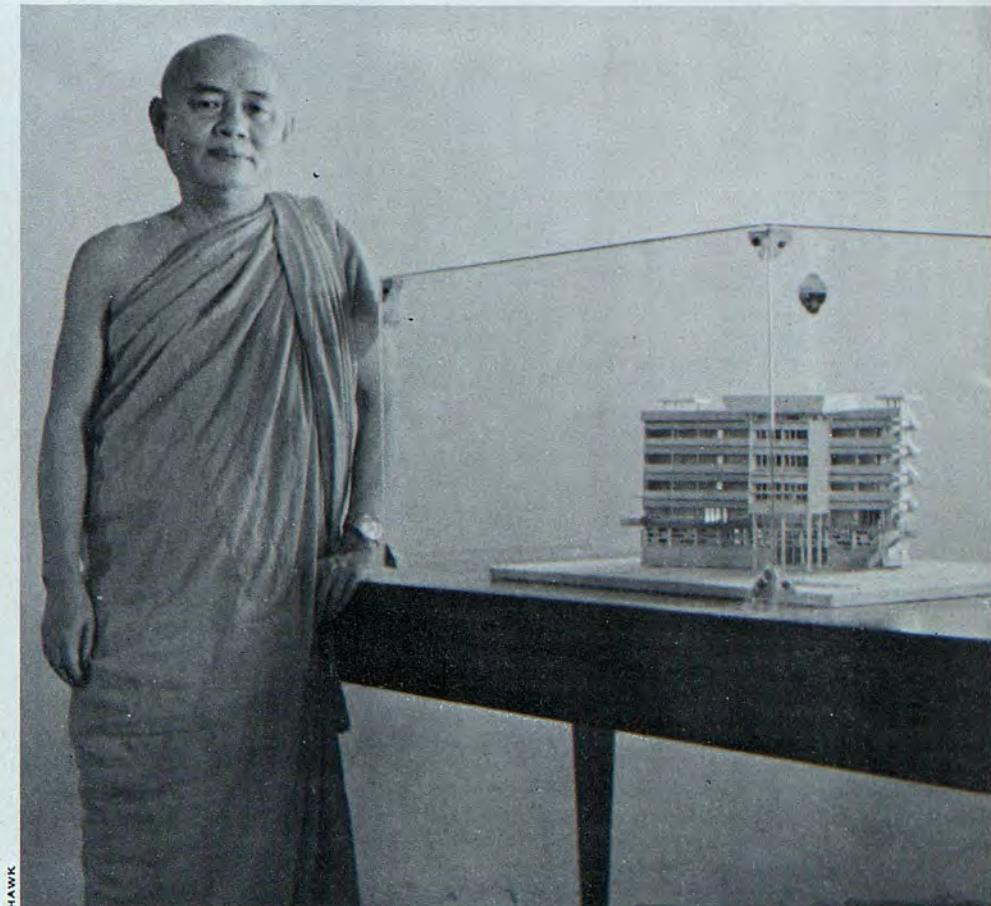
Another aspect of mental and intellectual training is the university's monthly newspaper and magazine printed and edited in the school's workshop.

The newspaper, *Van Hanh News*, is written primarily by the teaching staff and directors and contains information and articles relating to the school's direction. Students may also contribute to the paper, which serves as an outlet for their opinions and thought.

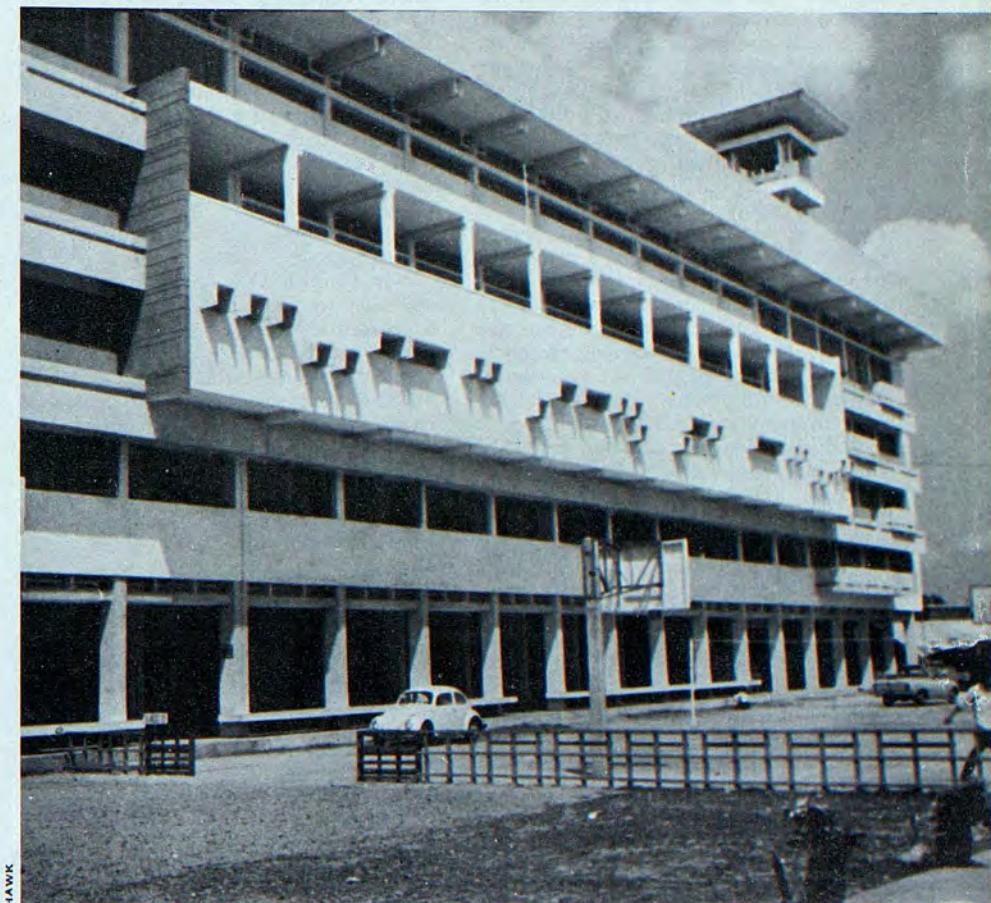
The university magazine, *Van Hanh Bulletin*, is printed in both Vietnamese and English for external consumption. It is the successor of *Tu Tuong* (Thought), which summarizes the university's thinking and research in social, Oriental and Buddhist studies. Its numerous editorials provide an insight as to the direction of Van Hanh's educational programs.

Van Hanh's curriculum is primarily based on Buddhist studies with emphasis on the Mahayana and Theravada schools of thought. The differences can be paralleled with the Protestant and Catholic aspects of Christianity. A unified Buddhist church, they hope, will eventually unify Vietnam. "Our students and others must make the ultimate choice themselves. We cannot force them," commented the school's director.

Students pursuing Buddhist studies are confronted with more than theology. The Faculty (department) of Buddhism studies an entire spectrum of philoso-



"Dedicated to the progress of education"—Venerable Thich Minh Chau (above) and the campus of Van Hanh University.





A pretty coed is an essential part of university life everywhere.

phy: ethics, logic, metaphysics and existentialism. Comparative studies including the relation of science, other religions, communism and sociology on Buddhism provide a challenge for the dedicated student.

The school presently has three other branches of comprehensive study, and plans two additional departments as funds and professors become available.

The Faculty of Letters stresses the beauty of national culture and could be compared to an American university's domestic history program. During this period of war and pessimism, national pride is of grave importance, and Van Hanh is attempting to strengthen the pride with a bond of Vietnamese heritage. The domestic history program is enhanced with a study of foreign history and divergent cultural views.

Political science, economics, sociology, commerce and anthropology are the separate branches in the Faculty of Social Science. The purpose of this department is the formation of an understanding of Vietnamese social structure with the hope that Van Hanh graduates will improve upon it, especially following the war.

The school's language center is presently limited to five languages: English, French, German, Japanese, and classical Chinese (the mother language of Vietnamese). It will also be expanded into a faculty when circumstances permit.

Plans for expansion continue, and work recently began on another five-story building which will house the Faculty of Education and a science center. Student activities are a promi-

nent part of campus life, and the new building will provide better facilities for them. A student union and cafeteria have been incorporated into the first and second floors.

The combination of the school's unique spirit, a wide variety of educational opportunities, and a dedicated president has generated a progressive institute that many consider the best in Vietnam. Opinions, unfortunately, don't solve problems caused by 20 years of war. Qualified instructors and funds are extremely hard to come by.

Van Hanh has overcome much of the adversity by merit of its example. It is supported financially by the Asia Foundation and by government funds. There is a close student-professor relationship. Weekly group seminars encourage a free exchange of ideas between the faculty and student body. Seminars and other gatherings draw dedicated professors from many universities in Vietnam. "They generally stay a week and then return to their parent university," said Rector Thich Minh Chau, "because we can't afford to keep them on a full-time basis." Some come from as far north as Hue to teach in Van Hanh's educationally conducive atmosphere. The school motto, *Duy Tue Thi Nghiep*, (wisdom is our ultimate aim) is appropriate, because Van Hanh University under capable leadership is achieving the improbable.

The students of Van Hanh categorically state, "It is the best school in Vietnam," and explain why they think this is so. The reasoning again relates to Van Hanh's unique spirit: a unity of

purpose and achievement in an educational environment.

The students don't consider themselves rich, but rather members of Vietnam's middle or second class. "The rich," they say, "go to school abroad." Van Hanh's tuition is higher than that of state-owned universities, but not prohibitively so. One year's tuition is 3,600 Vietnamese piasters, or roughly \$30.00.

Acceptance into Van Hanh depends on the applicant's previous academic record. There have been so many applicants during recent semesters that many of the students feel a B+ average has become mandatory.

In addition to their regular studies, male students at Van Hanh also attend military classes. Five days a week are spent on academics; the sixth is reserved for military training. On training days they practice drill and ceremony, weaponry, tactics, and other basic military subjects. By the time the long-awaited summer vacation arrives, the student is once again pushing a rifle. He spends one month every summer in a military training center.

After four years the graduate of Van Hanh dons his jungle fatigues, and nine weeks later he is a lieutenant in the infantry. After graduation he is committed to serve in the military unless his educational background can be used elsewhere.

An institution of many facets, Van Hanh University has matured into a center of new hope and initiative for Vietnamese youth. For 3,000 students, it has become an example of progress in an era of bleak pessimism.

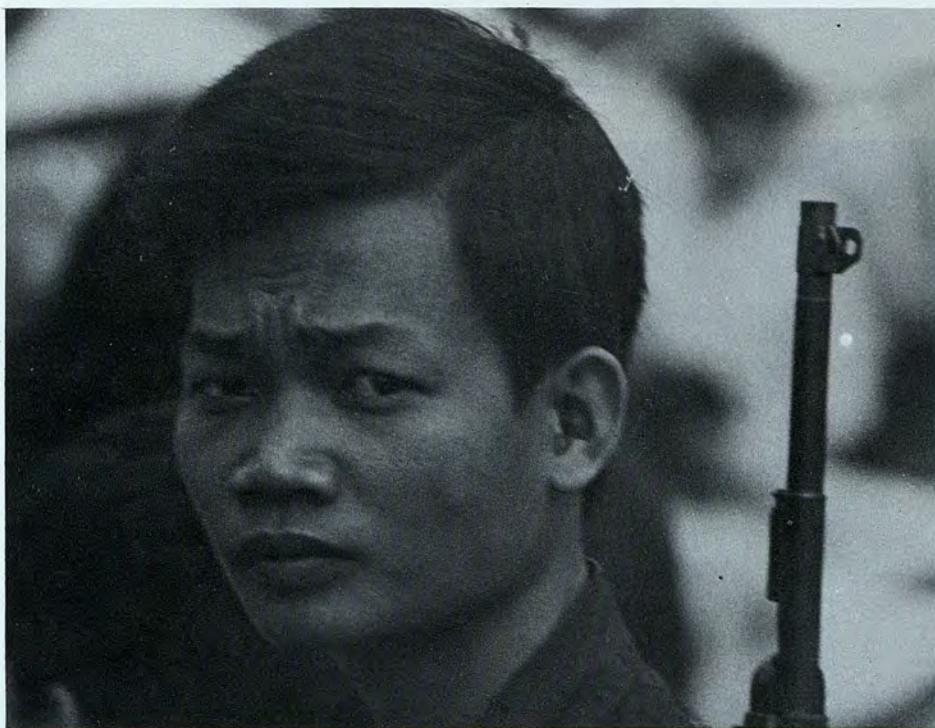


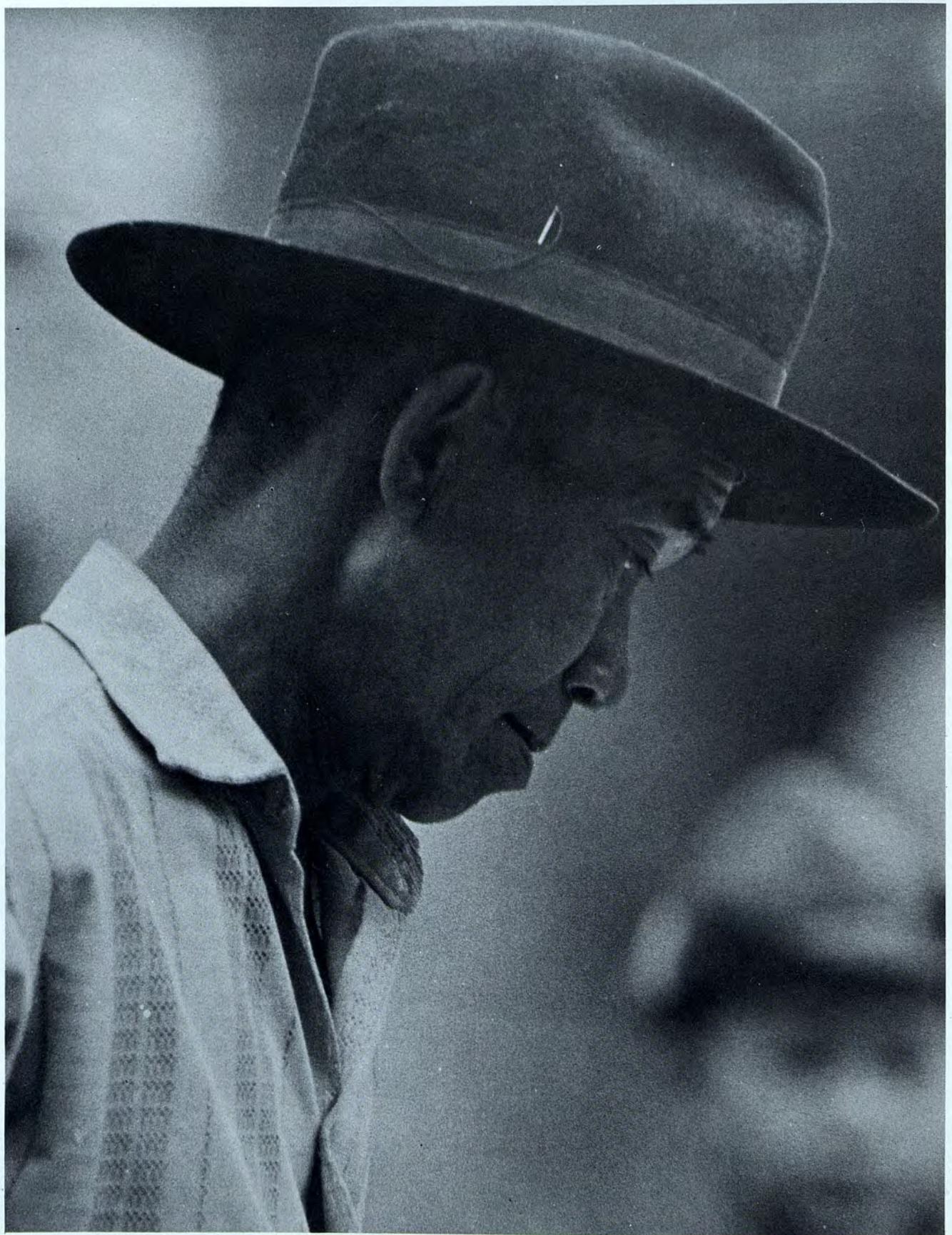
Seven Photographs

The People of Saigon

Photos by Lieutenant Pete Ginder





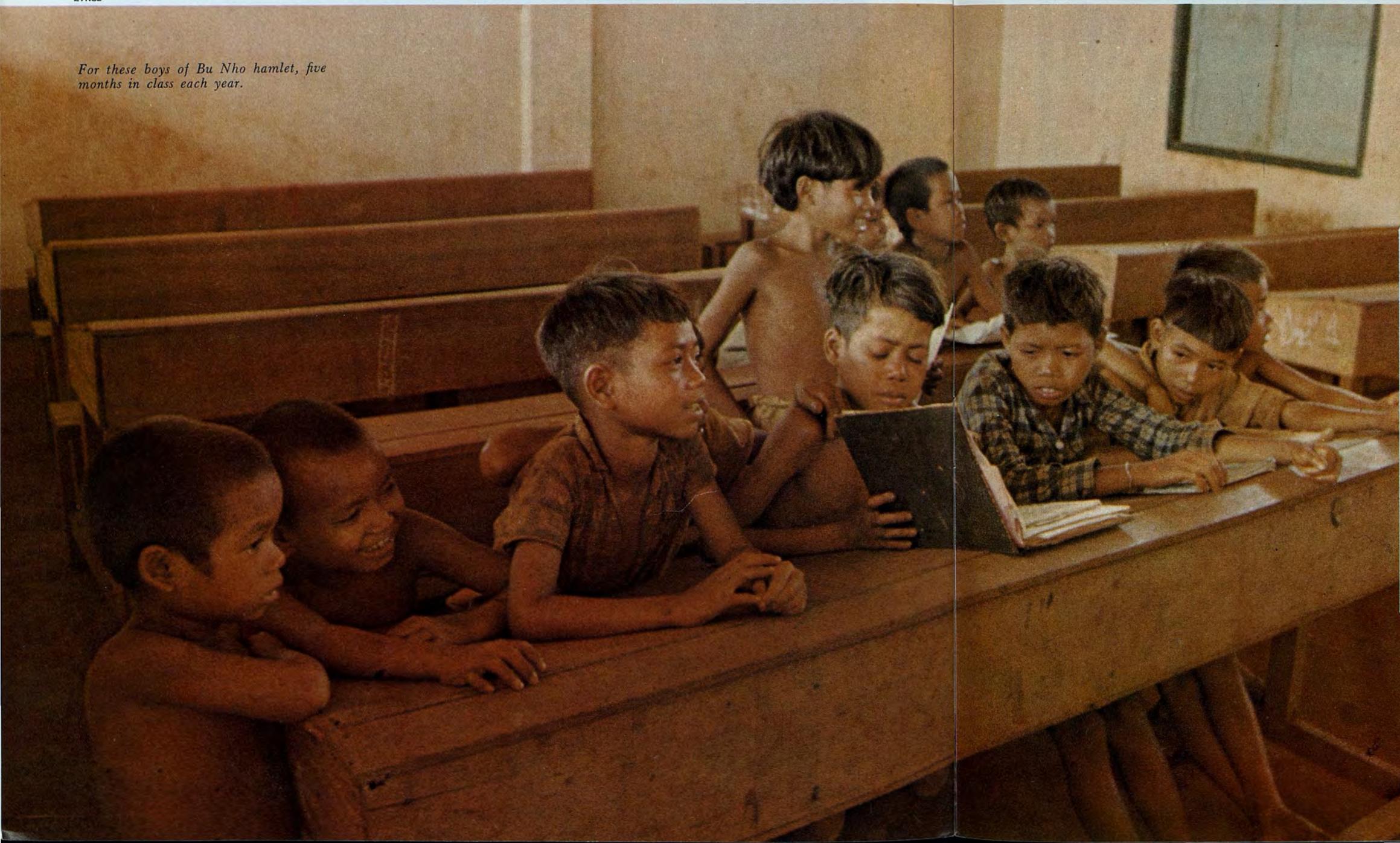


THE MONTAGNARD 3Rs

by Specialist 5 Mike Tharp

LYNCE

For these boys of Bu Nho hamlet, five months in class each year.



take second place to the daily tasks of survival—chopping wood, cutting bamboo, sifting rice to make enough money to eat.

"All of them are eager to learn," says Sam Solomon, Civil Operations and Rural Development Support (CORDS) education advisor for Phuoc Long Province. About 40 per cent of the 45,000 to 50,000 inhabitants of the province are Montagnards.

They comprise an ethnic enclave in the province and a mutual bias exists between them and the Vietnamese. The latter consider the tribe a "most backward class of people," according to Solomon.

Prejudice is only one of the problems confronting a young Montagnard seeking education. Because teachers are hired by a Vietnamese province chief, many do not speak Stieng, the Montagnard dialect, deepening the rift between



the two peoples. Some of the teachers are bilingual Montagnards whom Solomon described as the best teachers. He computed a "rough average" of 40 students to one teacher among schools in his province.

In theory, Montagnards attend school from September to May, five days a week. In practice, Solomon explains, they make it to class four or five months of the year and then must earn a living. One hundred pupils might pack a classroom one day with 20 dribbling in the next. They attend classes when they can be spared from work at home.

Absenteeism is not confined to Montagnard students. On a recent driving tour of some of the district schools, Solomon discovered that more than a few of the teachers were not showing up for class. He has no theory as to why the teachers fail to appear.

When they do make class, Montagnard children, usually ages seven to fifteen, learn the same subjects as their peers the world over: mathematics, reading, writing, geography and health. To help bridge the cultural gap, they also study the pronunciation of Vietnamese.

After age 15 most of the tribal people go to work full time. Few go on to high school, but some attend technical and vocational schools, such as the boarding trade school at An Loc.

Bu Nho is a relocated hamlet of Montagnards outside Song Be. It is similar to scores of other resettlements except for a new school built there in December, 1969 by the provincial government.

In the village women squat and weave rainbowed threads into loincloths for the men and pastel dresses for themselves. Babies run naked among the hollow bunkers, chasing lizards. Old men smoke pipes, chew betel nut and play bamboo lutes on their doorsteps. And young children go to the new school.

"Literacy would be the most significant step in their history for the Montagnards," says First Lieutenant Van Deacon, a psychological operations (PSYOP) officer for the province.

Sister Mary Thomas, Order of Our Lady of the Missions, agrees. After teaching three years in Phuoc Long Province, she opines that the Montagnards "don't appreciate education yet."

She believes the tribes around Song Be are not as advanced as those nearer the Cambodian border, where there was a much heavier French influence. In those other tribes many of the people read, write and speak French.

Sister Mary Thomas, a native of England, and Sister Lawrence, a New Zealander in the same religious order, currently serve as unofficial jobbers, wholesaling to merchants the wooden goods the Montagnards carve. Crossbows, lutes, trays and screens are some of the



Challenging the near-impossible, Sister Mary Thomas (above) and Sister Lawrence strive to bring education to Montagnard children at Bu Nho.

attractive pieces that emerge from the grained wood under their crude adzes and chisels.

Sister Lawrence also lectures up to 20 Montagnard boys daily on bamboo work for mats, tables and chairs, and she runs a woodwork shop for them. "We must pay the boys to get them to come learn a trade here," she says.

Sister Mary Thomas discounts the substandard label attached to Montagnards. "They are of normal intelligence," she says. "Education would bring them to a more standard level. It is the right of every human being to live as such."

She credits the opening of roads and the increase in town commerce and population throughout Phuoc Long Province with helping to promote education for the mountain people. But she sees mandatory class attendance as perhaps a necessary step.

"It will be a long, long process unless the government obliges them to go to school—and I don't see why that shouldn't be done. Compulsory education might be the best thing."

Governing Tay Ninh Province

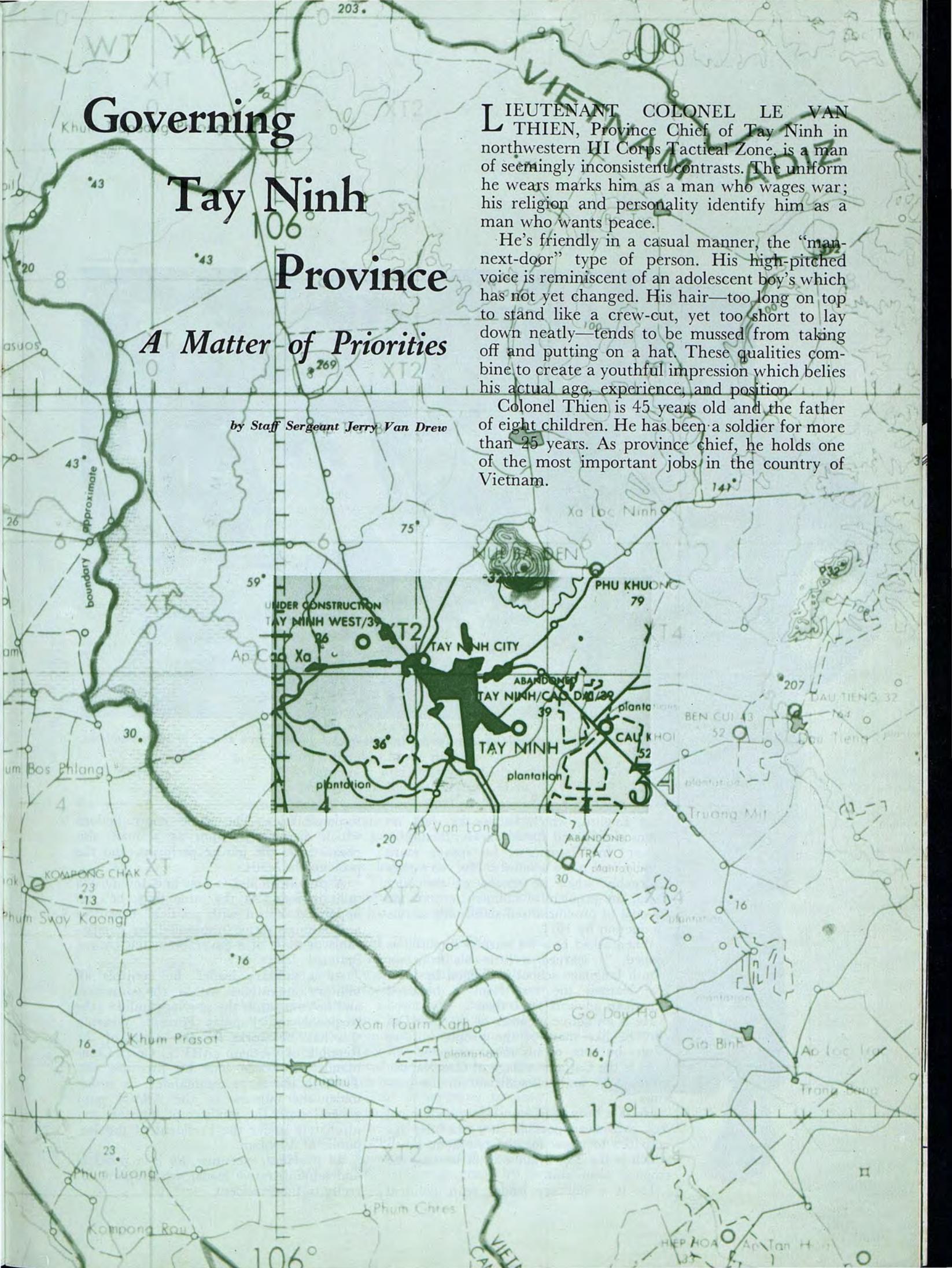
A Matter of Priorities

by Staff Sergeant Jerry Van Drew

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LE VAN THIEN, Province Chief of Tay Ninh in northwestern III Corps Tactical Zone, is a man of seemingly inconsistent contrasts. The uniform he wears marks him as a man who wages war; his religion and personality identify him as a man who wants peace.

He's friendly in a casual manner, the "man-next-door" type of person. His high-pitched voice is reminiscent of an adolescent boy's which has not yet changed. His hair—too long on top to stand like a crew-cut, yet too short to lay down neatly—tends to be mussed from taking off and putting on a hat. These qualities combine to create a youthful impression which belies his actual age, experience, and position.

Colonel Thien is 45 years old and the father of eight children. He has been a soldier for more than 25 years. As province chief, he holds one of the most important jobs in the country of Vietnam.





Daily chats with the people of Tay Ninh Province keep Colonel Thien abreast of local problems.

In English, which he speaks well, he listens closely and speaks slowly, mixing in humor. In Vietnamese, he speaks more rapidly and more seriously. His voice rises noticeably when he speaks of the Viet Cong, the problem of military security, or his goal of provincial self-sufficiency in rice production by 1971.

When asked how he learned English, he replied, "I learned a little bit in a six month language school in Saigon in 1958. I've learned the rest from a hundred American advisors since then."

He is an active member of the Cao Dai church—like most of the people in Tay Ninh—but one of his most respected villages is the Catholic village of Cao Xa, the most secure and self-sufficient in the province.

He is a busy man, constantly on the go. Yet, whenever possible, he schedules his activities to allow for the two-hour lunch which is the Tay Ninh way of beating the tropical noon heat.

He is a military leader with political

responsibilities. The same contradictions which characterize him as a man also characterize the job he performs, and the province he leads.

A province chief is first and foremost a military man. At the same time, he's an appointed official with political, executive and administrative responsibilities comparable to those of a governor in the United States.

As a military leader, he controls all military operations within the province, and he commands the province militia (the Regional and Popular Forces). Wearing this hat, he works for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Corps Commander in whose zone his province lies. Through the corps commander, he comes under the purview of the ARVN joint general staff, the minister of interior, and ultimately under the President of the Republic of Vietnam.

As province executive, he is a political and administrative leader who reports directly to the President.

He is assisted by two deputy province chiefs: a civilian deputy for administration, and a military deputy for sector operations.

"The deputy province chiefs handle the details," says Colonel Thien, "which leaves me free to look after the major things that are happening."

Colonel Thien spends much of his time visiting the people in his hamlets and villages. He holds three hamlet political meetings a week with leaders to discuss national policies and goals, as well as local problems. He meets with province religious leaders once a month to discuss province affairs and goals. He confers frequently with the commanders of the three brigades of Allied forces which operate in insecure areas of the province.

For local trips, he travels by jeep; for longer trips he generally flies by helicopter. Wherever and whenever he goes, his radio operator goes along, maintaining constant communication with province and lower level headquarters.

Tay Ninh is subdivided into four districts, each headed by a district chief—generally an ARVN major—who has a civilian deputy to assist him. The districts are the administrative levels which deal with the 28 villages in the province. Each village is composed of three to five hamlets (119 total hamlets in the province).

The province and district chiefs and their deputies are the last vestiges of non-democratic government in Tay Ninh. All lower level leaders, and the legislative councils in the province, are now elected by the people.

Colonel Thien looks at his job as a matter of priorities. The dominating concern in Tay Ninh is military security. The colonel directs most of his time and effort to this area.

One measure of military security is provided by the hamlet evaluation system (HES), whereby every populated hamlet in a province is reviewed by the American province senior advisor and assigned an alphabetical letter to designate its level of security from communist disruption. (Since January the HES has also taken into account the political and economic developments of the hamlets, but security remains the dominant factor in assigning ratings.) There are six categories in the HES: "A," "B," and "C" (the "relatively secure" hamlets), "D" and "E" (those that are contested by the government and the enemy) and "V" or "VC" (those governed by the VC).



Colonel Thien strolls through Tay Ninh City on an inspection visit.

When Colonel Thien became province chief last July, Tay Ninh had no "A" hamlets, 46 "B" hamlets, 63 rated "C," ten "D," and none in the two least secure categories. The most recent evaluation shows two "A" hamlets; 86 "B" hamlets; 29 "C" hamlets; and only two rated as "D."

Today, very few rocket or mortar attacks are directed against the civilian population. Since last July, there have been only two such incidents in Tay Ninh City. "Our only casualty was a jeep," remarks Colonel Thien. Pictures of the demolished vehicle are posted on the bulletin boards in province offices as a constant reminder.

While security improves, Colonel Thien is able to spend more time emphasizing his second priority, economic recovery and development. During 1969, the year following severe disruptions wrought by the communists throughout 1968, Tay Ninh Province had to import an average of 500 metric tons of rice a month, just to feed its own people. So far in 1970, the monthly average has been reduced to 140 metric tons. Colonel Thien's goal, which he stresses in all his contacts with the people, is self-sufficiency in rice production by 1971.

The rubber and lumber industries have been especially curtailed by enemy activity denying use of the plantations and forests. To date, no large industries have been built to replace them. So industrial development is another aspect of Colonel Thien's second priority concern.

A third aspect, and one in which he takes a special interest, is agricultural diversification. As an example, his three-acre farm near Tay Ninh City raises peanuts, manioc, and watermelon. He proudly tells of his \$800 share of the profit during 1969 (he splits profits three ways among himself and the two farmers who tend the crops for him).

His third priority concern is improving the standard of living of the people. Although improvements in medical and sanitary facilities have been made, progress is slow because of the higher priority problems of military security and economic development.

Beyond his priority problems, Colonel Thien looks to the future. He sees new villages and agricultural lands being carved from the forests and jungles. He sees new industry, better public facilities, and an improving standard of living. He sees peace and prosperity for the pioneering people of Tay Ninh.



SKIFFINGTON



MCCABE



Artillery on the Move

by Specialist 4 Phil Schieber

In past wars and during the early years of Vietnam the basic tenets of field artillery prevailed. It was easy to "move and shoot" by air-lifting the 105's and 155's from rice paddies to jungles to mountain bases. But what about the heavy artillery—the eight inch and the 175? Their weight made airmobility impossible...

BU GIA MAP is an exception to the ill-defined lines that characterize a guerrilla war in the jungles. Until only recently, U.S. commanders would look at the area and scratch their heads. On their maps, Bu Gia Map was abandoned. It was an impenetrable maze of jungle whose vegetation was so thick that in the mornings you had to chop off the vines that laced themselves in your boots during the previous night.

Bu Gia Map was an exception because only one side had abandoned the area. Every time a U.S. commander would point to Bu Gia Map, he could be fairly sure that under the ridges of his index finger, there were several battalions of communists running around in those jungles. For a while, things got so bad that the Bu Gia Map was being referred to as the Long Binh of the NVA. On a good day, a squad of NVA could pick up a few rockets just arrived from trails exiting Cambodia, take a nice afternoon hike through the Bu Gia Map, dine at dusk on the outskirts of Song Be, lob those rockets into allied positions just after dark, and be back in the lush green security of Bu Gia Map in time for midnight snacks.

In 1969, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and the 1st ARVN Airborne Division began operations in Phuoc Long Province, within whose boundaries the Bu Gia Map lies. By early 1970, the allied forces had succeeded in pushing as far as Landing Zone Hung, the pinnacle of the northernmost thrust into the Bu Gia Map.

Supplied completely by air, LZ Hung was manned by several ARVN battalions and Regional and Popular Force units which conducted operations throughout the area. Artillery support was provided by a battery of U.S. 105 and 155 millimeter howitzers.

In March, it was decided that heavy artillery would be employed at LZ Hung. Previously, heavy artillery had been used only in static support roles. The big guns were strategically situated to provide an umbrella of protection for units operating at any point on the map in the III Corps Tactical Zone. The guns seldom moved.

But now heavy artillery was moving, moving into places that had never seen such heavy artillery before. LZ Hung was one of those places.

The only problem was getting the guns up there. An eight-inch gun weighs 58,600 pounds, and a 175 tips the scales at 62,100. A Sky Crane could lift a 155 self-

propelled howitzer, but even that powerful helicopter would never be able to get a 175 off the ground.

The only way for the heavy artillery to reach LZ Hung was to travel on the ground. Super highways are notably lacking in the Bu Gia Map. The guns would have to be moved up to LZ Hung in a convoy, breaking their own trail along the way.

The guns selected to be moved were from II Field Force Artillery's heavy arsenal: B Battery, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery. Positioned in Camp Martin, on the out-

skirts of the 1st Cav's LZ Buttons near Song Be, B battery's guns rested on large circular pads that cost an estimated \$25,000 each to construct. The huge wooden platforms were set in tons of limestone fill which prevented the heavy guns from sinking and shifting in the oozing red mud that always accompanies the rainy season.

In March, though, the weather was still dry, and the earth was like concrete.

On March 15, the guns of B Battery moved out on the first leg of their journey to LZ Hung.

"We moved heavy arty into what normally would have been an airmobile LZ," said Captain William C. Buhmann, commander of Bravo Battery. "We were sent up there because they needed heavy artillery."

The push north involved a convoy of 15 vehicles. The first obstacle was the Song Be River, which was

negotiated after B Company, 8th Engineers found a suitable ford. En route, other streams were crossed with the aid of an armored vehicle launched bridge from the 919th Engineer Company of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. A combat engineer vehicle rode point and broke the trail with a bulldozer blade.

"On the way up the trip took about 12 hours," said Captain Buhmann. "The last people to travel over the trails we used were the French. Most of the way we had to cut our own path."

After reaching LZ Hung, engineers assisted the men of B Battery in building bunkers and firing pits, all of which was accomplished in less than 48 hours.

B Battery was at LZ Hung for 19 days. During that time, the four guns of the battery fired 3,490 rounds.

"We shot a lot of support missions for ARVN contacts," said Captain Buhmann. "We also did a lot of

bunker busting with our eight-inch guns."

Toward the end of March, though, rain began to fall almost nightly, and the guns were beginning to sink and slide in the softening earth.

Although from LZ Hung the heavy artillery could easily range the northern part of the 1st Cav's area of operations, it was decided that they would have to be moved early in April, or else sit out the monsoons at LZ Hung.

And so on the morning of April 3, B Battery began to move right back where it started from, with armored vehicles busting down the jungle and dusters from the 5th Battalion, 2nd Artillery providing security. Trails were swept for mines by elements of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

For the men of B Battery, the whole operation may have proved to be a bit of a grind, with maintenance on their monstrous guns being the primary headache, but the operation demonstrated that heavy artillery no longer plays a static role in supporting the infantry. The big guns are now moving around to wherever the action is, providing close and continuous support for maneuver units.



Big guns and "projo's"—heavy firepower on the front line.

CHUC NU AND THE FERTILE TEARS OF SORROW

A Vietnamese Legend

MANY YEARS AGO in a small village there lived a young man who was very handsome. His name was Nauu Lang and he tended the buffalo.

Now early in the spring when the wind blows free and the land is full of sweet, green smells, Chuc Nu, a maiden from paradise, decided to visit the earth. Disguised as a peasant girl, the goddess roamed the countryside delighting in the verdant spring until one day

she came upon Nauu Lang sitting in the shade of an ancient rubber tree. Her father, who was the ruler of all the heavens, had warned her not to speak with mortals, but seeing only gentleness in the young man's eyes, she rested beside him and soon they began to talk. Before the sun had reached the far hill they had fallen in love and Chuc Nu's heart was full of sorrow, for she knew that her father would be angry.

The next day she returned to paradise to tell her father of her love. At first he was furious and forbade her to return to earth but as the skies filled with her weeping, he too grew sad and called her to him, saying, "My daughter, you may have your love, but in the spring, the time when you disobeyed me, you must part from him and not return until the winter is with us."

Now Chuc Nu and Nauu Lang are together in paradise. But each spring when they part, the wind whips their tears across the land and their sorrow soaks the earth.





Firepower Up Front