

## Airlift

# Bolsters 2 Camps

BU KRAK, Vietnam (OI) — Air Force C130s aided two U.S. Army Special Forces camps near the Cambodian border about 100 miles north of Saigon when they answered an urgent call for defense supplies.

When the camps at Bu Krak and Bu Prang were threatened with attack, 216 tons of barbed concertina wire were dropped. The wire provided a protective shield for the camp.

Aircraft from the 315th Air Div. Hercules fleets at Tan Son Nhut and Cam Ranh Bay made the drops. The wire was loaded at Cam Ranh Bay and rigged by the Army's 109th Aerial Delivery Co.

The first plane over the tiny drop zone was a C130 of the 773rd Tactical Airlift Sq. piloted by Capt. Edmund H. Carpenter Jr. The navigator, whose job was even more vital than usual on this "no room for error" mission, was Capt. John S. Embree. Other crew members were: 1st Lt. William H. Diggins, copilot; S. Sgt. Anthony G. Jones, flight engineer; S. Sgt. James Lopez, instructor loadmaster; and S. Sgt. William L. Fugatt and Sgt. Ralph H. Jacob, loadmasters. Also on board was Maj. Albert A. Doskey Jr., 315th Air Div. liaison officer to 7th Air Force.

Four drops were made at 800 feet which barely gave the chutes time to open before the loads hit the ground. All were on target and the plane returned to Cam Ranh Bay for another load.

While the first plane was reloading, another was over the camp making four more drops. The operation continued for four days with two aircraft flying two sorties each day.

An 8th Aerial Port Sq. combat control team directed operations from the drop zone.

## Mine Trick Didn't Work

TAN TRU, Vietnam (OI) — The 9th Inf. Div. 2nd Bn.'s 60th

## Farmboy to Hero

# Who's Capt. Tan?—A

Special to S&S

SAIGON — Although he is a career soldier, Capt. Nguyen duy Tan has a mild and unassuming manner. This hasn't kept him from becoming one of the most decorated officers in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

His medals are among the Republic's highest: Gallantry Cross with Palm (twice), Gallantry Cross at corps level (twice), Gallantry Cross at division level (five times), Gallantry Cross at regimental level (five more times), and (twice again), the War Wound Medal. These are equivalent to an equal number of the U.S. Army's Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Army Commendation Medal with "V" for Valor and Purple Heart.

Tan, 45, was born in Kien Hoa Province, made up of three large islands in the mouth of the Mekong River, the son of a poor but patriotic Vietnamese farmer. His father named him after Duy Tan, the last Vietnamese emperor to revolt (in 1916) against French colonial rule.

Tan Senior worked long hours to feed his family and help his

son finish high school. At that time a high school education was unusual even in Vietnam's cities, much less for the son of a rural family.

But Tan finished his education at a bad time, just as the Indo-China War broke out in the early 1940s. He was drafted, and since then — by now for more than half his life — has been a fighting man. If his patriotism was inherited, his anti-Communism was acquired from the Communists themselves — in 1945 they killed the captain's mother and in 1951, his brother.

Most of Tan's fame has been won as a company commander of Regional Force troops, militia organized and serving in their home provinces.

Often poorly trained and poorly equipped compared to regular army forces, the RF units long were considered pushovers by Viet Cong insurgent forces. In the case of Tan's 807th RF Co. of Phong Dinh Province, a fertile rice-growing area on the south bank of the Bassac River, this Communist estimate was quickly dispelled.

Also in Phong Dinh is the VC Tay Do, well-disciplined, well-equipped, well-led and consid-

ered one of the units in the D

The Tay Do a canal when, it was partial units of the 21st Vietnamese ducting Open (Nightingale).

With the blocking position were helilifted the Tay Do's challenging 250 the odds, after to-hand combat surgents who hind 92 dead, most of their lost four dead.

The defeat Tay Do Bn., hard way, waiting years to seek

The attempt on July 12, 1967 his 807th militia viding security hamlet.

The Tay Do began with a he rage and grou three sides of battle went on the VC, withre superior number

