

ATER PATROL—Military Policemen from the 560th M.P. Company patrol the Tau harbor 24 hours a day in their Boston Whalers looking for enemy saboteurs and saboteurs. (Photo by Sp5 Charles Twiet, 1st SIG-IO)

Edap Enang Gives Refugee Montagnards Brighter Life

OASIS, (4th INF-IO) — Edap Enang, a city of 48 separate Montagnard villages, has given residents a better and brighter life and has also put a stop into the enemy's style of forced labor and obtaining food.

Translated from the Jarai dialect as "Peace and Security," Edap Enang sits along both sides of Highway 19W, 15 miles from the Cambodian border. Residents, members of the Mai tribe, boast a school, a meeting hall, a clinic, and a market place.

The 48 villages were originally

scattered throughout the remote jungles in the western and southern areas of Pleiku Province. When the Viet Cong needed laborers, they forced the able-bodied men and women into VC labor gangs.

The villages were also a source-of-food-supply and base camps for the enemy. They had also become his sanctuary from American bombs and artillery.

Working for almost three months, the division relocated more than 7000 villagers, their carts, dogs, chickens, personal belongings, and even parts of their former huts to Edap Enang.

The men of the division also drove more than 200 head of water buffaloes 25 miles during the move.

Each family was provided with sheets of aluminum roofing and 5000 piasters to compensate for the construction of a new home.

Thus far the division engineers have cleared about half the land needed by the Montagnards for farming. Until all the land needed is cleared and the first crops harvested, the Vietnamese Refugee Service is distributing rice, fish and salt to the villagers.

The men of the 41st Civil Affairs Company and South Vietnamese soldiers have constructed concrete spillways from

which the Montagnards can obtain drinking and washing water. Seven wells have been dug with three more now under construction.

A model pig pen has been set up in which the civil affairs men hope to breed Yorkshire pigs to improve the Montagnard strain, and to teach the hygiene importance of keeping the live stock out of the homes.

Edap Enang's five-room school was opened last July with five teachers. Two hundred and ninety children attend the morning session, and 250 the afternoon one. Construction has started on a second school and a third is planned.

The singing of Montagnard children, as they attend school for the first time in their lives, makes the sounds of war more distant. All this, and the two rubber tires used for swings, hanging from trees in the school yard, the Viet Cong would like to destroy.

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DUC PHO, (AMERICAL-IO) — Working in an area south of Duc Pho, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry killed 24 enemy in as many days and all on night ambushes.

During the month of September, the Americal's 4th Infantry Division unit has set up at least two ambushes every night. With very few exceptions, they have made contact each night.

Most of the enemy were on rice-carrying missions from the

sun set by the military police. According to one MP, "It's what you can't see that worries you. You never know when Charlie might hit."

Benjamin R. Moon, Jr., captain of the commercial freighter SS Steel Admiral, remarked that it gave him a feeling of security to know the MPs are aboard.

He said his ship has never had any trouble with the guards aboard the ship as a deterrent to enemy fire.

Ship security and harbor patrol are not new for military police, according to Moon. He said that plans call for new and bigger patrol boats early next year providing even greater shipping security for Free World forces in Vietnam.

Bubbles Flush 3 Cong

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO) — Two OH 23s from D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry found three men hiding in a rice paddy recently.

Flying the daily patrol, WO Mackie Webb spotted the men just north of Highway 1. He pushed the stick on his "Bubble" and went in for a closer look.

Two armed men started running across a paddy. Webb called back to base camp for permission to fire. Permission granted, his doorgunner fired at fleeing figures.

Warrant Officer Daryl Gunn, flying security several hundred feet above, swooped down for a better look.

A third suspect was spotted near the action. He came into the open with his hands in the air.

Both ships landed and Webb and his doorgunner looked for the two men in the paddy. He found one body but the other man had disappeared into the water of the rice paddy and could not be found.

The detainee was brought back to the 25th Division's base camp at Cu Chi.

Co Kills 24 VC In Ambushes

coastal plains into the mountain hideouts to the west.

On two occasions the enemy were caught while returning to the mountains and their packs were full of food and cooking utensils. Also two ambushes caught Charlie on other than rice-carrying missions, and a pistol and rifle were captured.

The largest catch was made by the 1st Platoon when they killed six enemy in two different actions.

Dec 2, 1967

Poor Marksmen

VC Miss Outpost; Mortar Own Lines

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-10)—A Viet Cong attempt to destroy a tactical command post of a 101st Airborne battalion during Operation Wheeler aborted when the enemy mortared his own forces.

While the men of 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry manned their positions atop a grassy hill, enemy soldiers were inching their way up a steep slope toward the barbed wire encircling their location.

Quietly, the Viet Cong cut the protective wire and began throwing concussion grenades into the American positions.

"Everything happened so fast," said Capt. Stanley Gorski. "Grenades were exploding everywhere."

Pre-planned artillery fire blasted away around the command post. Flares lit the night. Gunships were on the way.

The men of the unit laced the dark with red tracers as their bullets cut interlocking paths around the perimeter.

Suddenly, mortar shells began falling on the hill, forcing the enemy to retreat.

Gunships raked the fleeing enemy as they sought sanctuary in the valley below.

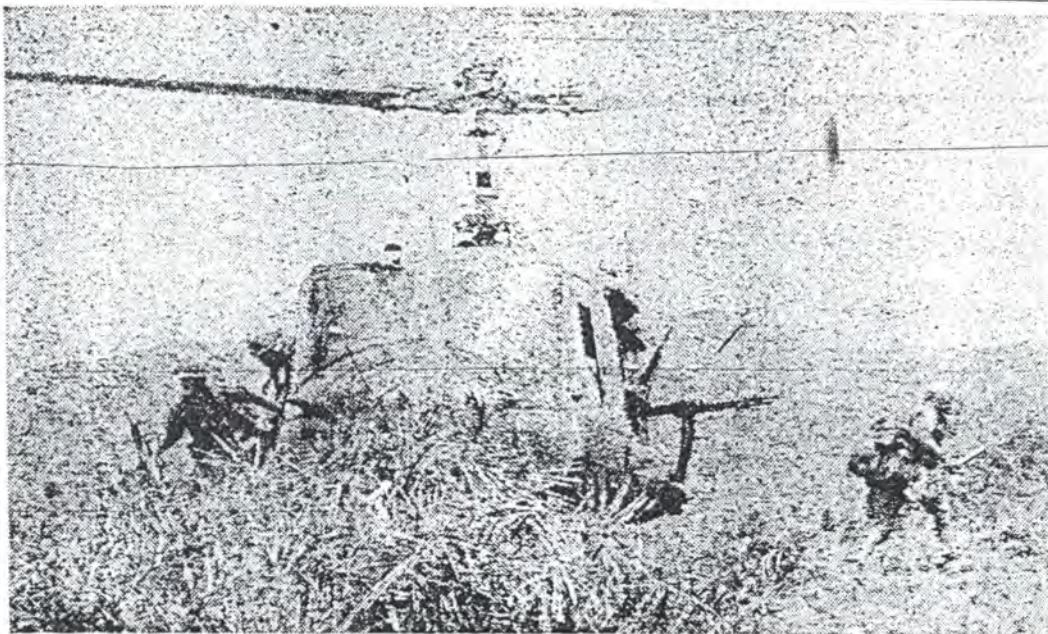
At dawn, the paratroopers searched the perimeter. They found numerous blood trails, blood-soaked bandages and places where bodies had fallen.

There were no paratrooper losses.

Four days later the men of the 502nd learned the results of the encounter when a Hoi Chanh walked into the battalion lines.

He told this story: "Eighteen VC were given the mission of attacking the American unit. They carefully worked their way to the perimeter and hoped to make a penetration.

"If the attack was successful, the invaders were to withdraw under the cover of a mortar attack. As it turned out, the mortars fell on the attackers. When they got back to their base," the Hoi Chanh continued, "many men were wounded seriously. They were quite angry for the failure."



ALL OUT—Riflemen of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, hit the ground ready for trouble during a combat assault near Duc Pho.

(Photo by Sp4 Lyle Larson, 4th INF-10)

22 Cong, 7 Bunkers Destroyed

Recon Pilot Hits VC In Binh Thuan

PHAN RANG, (1st AVN-10)—An Army Bird Dog pilot of the 183rd Reconnaissance Airplane Company directed airstrikes on enemy positions recently resulting in 22 Viet Cong killed and seven bunkers destroyed.

While flying a reconnaissance mission in Binh Thuan Province,

115 miles northwest of Saigon, 1st Lt. Fred C. Hankinson spotted seven VC in foxholes.

The foxholes were camouflaged, with dark vegetation blending in with the terrain, but movement caught Hankinson's eye. He immediately called in an air strike.

Hankinson marked the enemy positions with rockets as the Air Force fighters came into make their strike. Results of the strike were seven VC killed and three enemy bunkers destroyed.

Hankinson's second mission that day placed him flying low ship with an Air Force forward air controller as high ship over enemy terrain.

Flying over a suspected VC bunker complex, his Bird Dog took ground fire and one round hit the left wing flap. Airstrikes immediately called in and the

activity.

The next morning a ground force found a total of 15 VC dead and four large tin-covered enemy bunkers with huge, storage cellars completely destroyed.

84 Rockets Uncovered By 1st Inf

PHUOC VINH, (1st INF-10)—While conducting a search and destroy mission 23 miles northwest of Phuoc Vinh during Operation Shenandoah II, the 1st Infantry Division found a large Viet Cong rocket cache.

9th Infantry MEDCAPs Treat 250,000 In Previous Year

LONG THANH, (9th INF-10)—More than a quarter of a million villagers have been treated by MEDCAP teams of the 9th Infantry Division since its arrival in Vietnam last December.

"MEDCAPs have helped the

Division establish a rapport with local government officials and Vietnamese people in the division's area of interest," said Lt. Col. William G. Riggs, 9th division civil affairs and psychological operations officer.

"The 9th Division has been able to assist the government of Vietnam in training local personnel in its tactical area of operation through the Medical Civic Action Program," continued Riggs.

Chopper Performs Rescue

CU CHI, (1st AVN-IO)—An air rescue within 100 yards of the Cambodian border was performed recently by two aviators from the 187th Assault Helicopter Company.

Warrant Officers Daniel Webster and John Jordon were conducting a general resupply mission when they received an emergency call from a Special Forces ambush patrol for a medical evacuation of two wounded men.

The Special Forces team, surrounded by Viet Cong, had fought their way to a small clearing in extremely dense jungle, but the 1st Aviation Brigade pilots still did not have enough room to set their craft down.

Realizing that darkness was approaching, Webster returned his craft to his base at Quan Lio and devised a sling to use to extract the men. Returning to the area, the pilots called for flares to illuminate the area.

Hovering only 25 feet above the jungle growth, the chopper crew lowered the sling with a basket device hooked to it. Though running low on fuel, the crew remained hovering over the team's position until both wounded men had been brought on board the craft.

Sandals Don't Fly For 1 VC

JUNK'S YARD, (4th INF-IO)

Their Ho Chi Minh sandals flying as they moved, two North Vietnamese Army soldiers tried to escape from a platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, who were searching south of Pleiku.

As the platoon moved up a small trail, the point man spotted the two enemy soldier moving rapidly in the other direction. The platoon gave chase to the crest of a hill to survey the area.

As the point man reached the crest of the hill, he opened fire with his M-16 and killed one of the fleeing NVA soldiers. The other melted into the thick elephant grass.

The dead enemy's pack contained a pistol and documents.

it possible for one of these ships to unload, reload with returning trailers and be on its way back to the U.S.

It takes 10 average cargo ships over five days in port to handle as much cargo as this single ship can in two days.

Two 130-foot-high gantry cranes were installed on one of the Cam Ranh piers to accomplish the off-loading of the trailer ships. The ships, which operate between Cam Ranh Bay and west coast ports in the United States, have a capacity of 609 trailers.

The 35-foot trailers, with a 2,880 cubic foot capacity are lifted from the ships by the gantry cranes one at a time and placed on tandem axle chassis pulled by conventional highway tractors.

Some of the trailers will be hauled via highways to units within short distances of Cam Ranh. Some trailers will be immediately reloaded on smaller shuttle trailer-ships for water shipment to Saigon or Qui Nhon. Others remain at Cam Ranh, where their contents are removed for further distribution.

25th Infantry Div Kills 28 VC, Detains 7 In Six-Hour Battle

DAU TIENG, (25th INF-IO)

Five miles northeast of Loc Ninh, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division soldiers killed 28 Viet Cong in a pitched battle lasting over six hours.

Seven suspects were detained and there were three Americans killed and 30 wounded in the fight.

The heated battle began near midnight with mortar and rocket fire preceding the main three-pronged ground attack. Several probes of the battalion perimeter had been thwarted earlier in the evening.

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry was pulled out of the Bol Loi Woods on the morning of the battle and trucked here. The last of the huge transport planes landed at the small Special Forces Camp, 70 miles north of Saigon, late in the afternoon.

From Loc Ninh, the battalion was heli-lifted into a small egg-shaped landing zone big enough for only three choppers at a time.

The 2nd was to set up a defensive perimeter on the reverse slope of a hill just south of one of the huge rubber plantations which dot the area.

Almost before the men had a chance to dig in, the proings of the perimeter began. Eight Viet Cong moved through the perimeter until they were detected and killed.

The main attack began shortly after midnight when 30 rounds of mortar fire and rocket rounds pounded the battalion's perimeter. A ground attack followed.

"They came out of the rubber at us from three sides," said Capt. Richard Newport, Com-

pany D commander. "I would say there were two companies or one very heavily reinforced company."

Fighting at hand grenade range, the infantrymen repelled attackers throughout the night.

Artillery and airstrikes pounded the surrounding area with one airstrike as close as 75 meters from the eastern edge of the perimeter. Gunships also blanketed the area with their deadly rain of fire.

Contact was broken early the next morning only to have the Viet Cong attempt a probe again while using villagers from the rubber plantation to screen their movement.

Men of the battalion pulled the villagers into the perimeter to save their lives and returned the fire.

Phu Sen Villagers Relocated

PHU HIEP, (173rd ABN-IO)—The village of Phu Sen had long been exploited by the Viet Cong who came into the village every night to take food supplies and tax the villagers.

Paratroopers from E Troop, 17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade recently took position around the village during Operation Bolling.

Assisted by a platoon of Vietnamese National Police, the troop gathered the villagers and their belongings together at one end of the village and transported them by Chinook to the Tuy Hoa North refugee center where the people could begin a new life.

On arrival at the camp, the people of Phu Sen were assembled for medical treatment and food distribution. Soon they were resettled in the new village, but this was only one of the problems the paratroopers faced.

A search of the Phu Sen area produced 358 head of cattle which were rounded up and distributed to the civilians.



ON GUARD—A member of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry watches a woodline to make sure that rear security is tight as he and other members of the Big Red One conduct a patrol five miles north of Phuoc Vinh.

(Photo by Sp4 George Pawlacyk, 1st INF-IO)

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sweeps of the villages, driving the VC out. To prevent the re-occupation of the area by the Viet Cong, elements of the 34th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Rangers were brought in to establish a permanent base camp and outposts.

As the road work progressed, MEDCAPs were held by the division. Psyops personnel conducted daily leaflet drops advertising the new road, welcoming the ARVN, and encouraging the VC to defect.

The final problem for the engineers was the constant dust on the road.

One hundred barrels of asphalt material and 5000 gallons of diesel fuel each day made the highway a tight water-seal.

Bong Son Radio Station 'Gets With Program'

BONG SON, (1st CAV-IO)—A night time radio station here is giving the 1st Cavalry Division's station some stiff competition.

Members of the communications platoon of Battery A, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery, run the station through their switchboard to the observation posts by battery runs.

"One night PFC Fredrick Bannel called in from the outpost and requested some sounds to relieve the boredom," said Sp4 Charles Barney.

Barney was working the switchboard at the time. "I got a record player and records, put the headset on the speaker, and piped them some music."

The men in the five outposts said that the battery men liked having the music and it helped

MAD DASH—Members of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry make a bee-line for the nearest rice paddy dike on a recent 173rd Airborne Brigade assault during Operation Bolling. (Photo by Sp4 Paul V. Butler, 173rd ABN-IO)

For Friend And Foe

Army Hospital Service I Corps

CHU LAI, (USARV-IO) — Friendly forces, the enemy, innocent victims of an indiscriminate war—all receive the medical attention of the 2nd Surgical Hospital located on a plateau overlooking this city and the South China Sea.

Major Juanita M. Atchison, chief nurse, seeing another injured 12-year-old Vietnamese boy brought in, shook her head as she noted the extent of his condition, caused by an exploding mine.

He will live, she said, but he has lost a leg, an arm, and an eye. The hospital personnel give him the same personal attention and care as they do all their patients.

The 140-bed hospital moved here from An Khe last April to support units of the then new Task Force Oregon, now American Division. It is the northernmost Army hospital and the only one in the I Corps Zone.

Not only does the hospital perform medical and surgical care, it also serves as a medical supply outlet for 18 organic medical units in the area.

"When we arrived here we were equipped with only 60 beds," said Maj. N. M. Nacheff, a general surgeon and commanding officer of the unit. "Since then we have added the 563rd Medical Evacuation Company and that gave us an additional 80 beds."

With an average of 750 patients a month, the hospital staff is kept busy keeping an up-to-date in-country evacuation plan. The patients must be kept in the hospital until they are medically ready to be evacuated. This figures out to approximately 436 evacuees a month.

"We still must do some real shuffling, though, to keep beds available in case of any emergency," said Atchison.

gency," continued Maj. James A. Hubbart.

The Viet Cong are also afforded bed space until they are medically ready to be evacuated, "and we do receive a lot of them," Hubbart said.

At the 2nd Surgical Hospital the injured arrive in all sizes and types, and they arrive fearful. But thanks to the efforts of the staff of this hilltop outpost in the northernmost part of the Republic, they leave grateful.

Conn Girls, Signalman Aid Orphans

CHAU DOC, (1st SIG-IO) — About 70 children, orphans of the Vietnam war, are living a better life these days because of a signalman from the 1st Signal Brigade's 52nd Signal Battalion and about 200 schoolgirls at the Forman School for Girls in Litchfield, Conn.

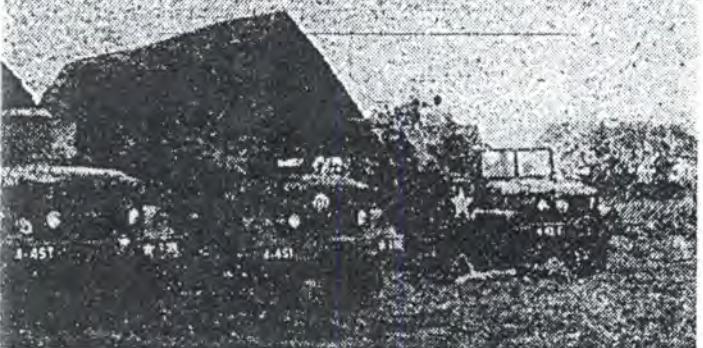
When Sp4 Noel Fisher, who helps provide communications for a Special Forces B Team here, arrived several months ago, he heard that his 5-man detachment was helping the Catholic orphanage by giving scrap lumber, soap, and other items to the children each month.

In one of his letters home, he mentioned the children to his mother, Mrs. Lillian Fisher of Litchfield. Mrs. Fisher, who works at the Connecticut school, showed her son's letter to the dean, and an idea quickly developed. The dean, who worked in Vietnam with children about 10 years ago, appealed to her pupils and they responded.

Fisher now is awaiting the shipment of "I don't know how many boxes of soap, clothes, and other things."

The girls have written to Fisher asking for pictures of the orphanage and the children. They want to adopt the youngsters.

"I sent them the pictures the other day," Fisher said. "Now I'm just waiting for the boat to come in. It's going to be a pretty nice Christmas for those kids."



at first appears to be a new-type quarters for Army supply trucks of the 4th Supply and Transportation Battalion. Local Montagnard villagers loaded aboard. The 4th is relocating the villagers to a more secure area.

(Photo by Sp5 O. B. White, 4th INF-IO)