

Chinese assault rifles after the battle, but the Communist leaders managed to escape.

Father is a member of an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) unit fighting the enemy in the jungles near Chu Lai.

After recovery, he will be sent to the orphanage at the Tam Ky refugee center to await his father's return.

Dec 30, 1967

Vietnam Communiqué

1st Cavalry Division—Units of the division encountered heavy enemy resistance in two battles in the Operation Pershing area. The 41st ARVN Regiment and the Cav's 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry, made contact with the enemy along the Chanh Thien River on the coastal plains. Heavy barrages of tube artillery pounded the enemy locations before the ground units advanced. South Vietnamese forces accounted for 60 enemy killed in the battle. Four companies of the Cav. made contact with a large enemy force of NVA sol-

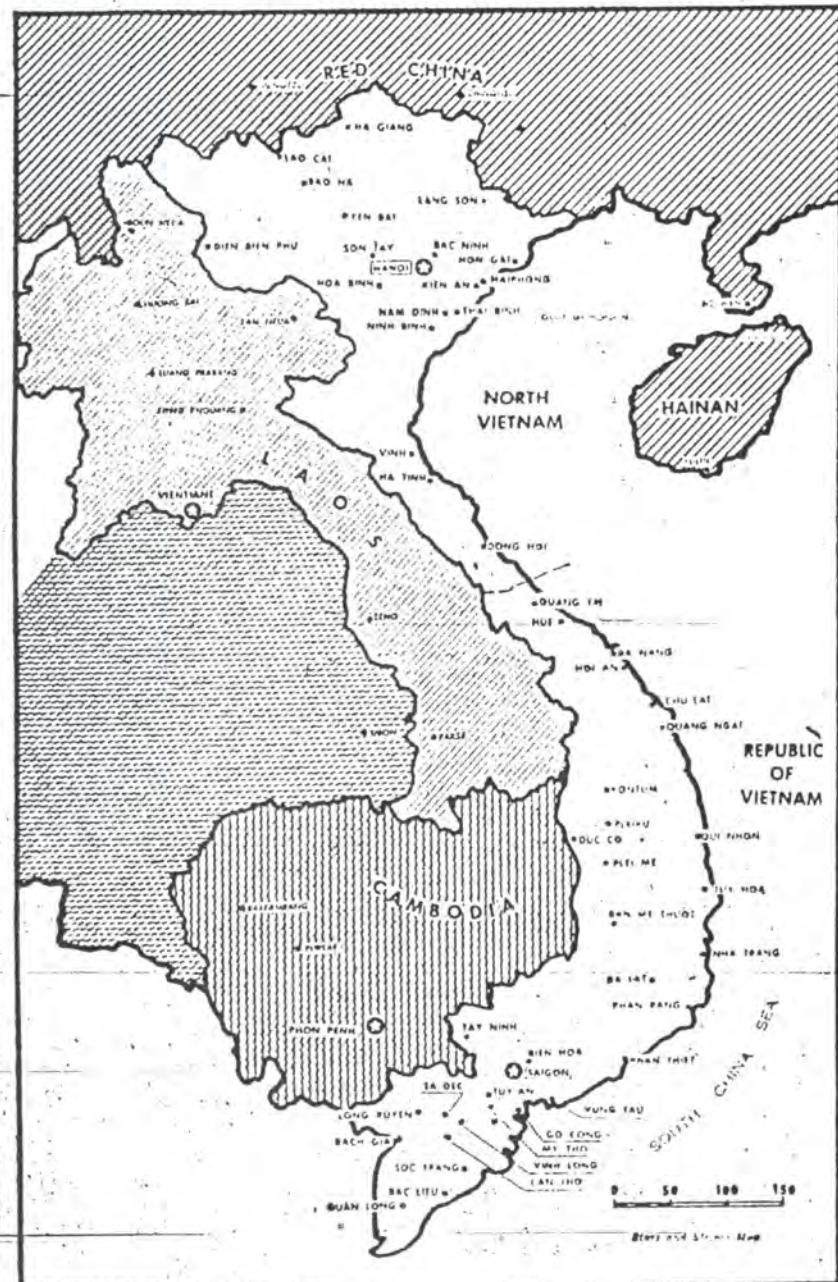
diers from the 22nd NVA Regiment around the village of My An, eight miles north of Bong Son. During three days of heavy fighting, 128 enemy were killed and 31 weapons were captured. Nineteen U.S. soldiers were killed in the action and 56 were wounded. The enemy body count for Operation Pershing, now 321-days old, has gone over 4800.

23rd Infantry Division—Operation Saratoga forces broke a human wave assault by an estimated reinforced NVA company in an attack on a forward base camp. After two hours of fight-

ing, 39 enemy were killed, some within the perimeter of the camp, and 11 weapons were captured. Six soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry were wounded in the fighting. Troops of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry participating in Operation Yellowstone, discovered a cache of VC grenades in six 55-gallon drums. They found 6000 potato-masher-type and 9000 baseball-type grenades in the VC factory. Operation Atlanta forces, providing security for engineers, searched a tunnel complex which officials believe is a main enemy underground route through the Iron Triangle. Some 2000 yards of tunneling have been searched and plotted.

America Division—Units of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, operating along the Truong Giang River, engaged a company-size combined NVA and VC force in a fierce battle that lasted for eight hours. The action began when three companies from the brigade were conducting air-assaults into rice paddy landing zones. After being inserted into the zones, the infantrymen immediately began receiving heavy small arms fire. Gunships of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry accounted for 30 enemy kills as the engaged enemy soldiers fled from the infantrymen. Fifty-six enemy were killed in the battle. Two days later, in the same location, units of the brigade killed 23 more enemy soldiers. A detainee of the battle led a company to a 250,000-pound cache of rice located near the battle area.

5th Special Forces Group—A CIDG company and their Green Beret advisors conducting search and destroy operations near Camp Tra Bong made contact with an armed VC squad. Five enemy were killed in the initial contact. The patrol pursued the fleeing enemy and engaged them a second time. In that action, eight VC were killed and 56 suspects were detained. Another patrol from the camp, located in the III Corps Tactical Zone, contacted the enemy in a brief fire fight. Twenty enemy soldiers were killed.



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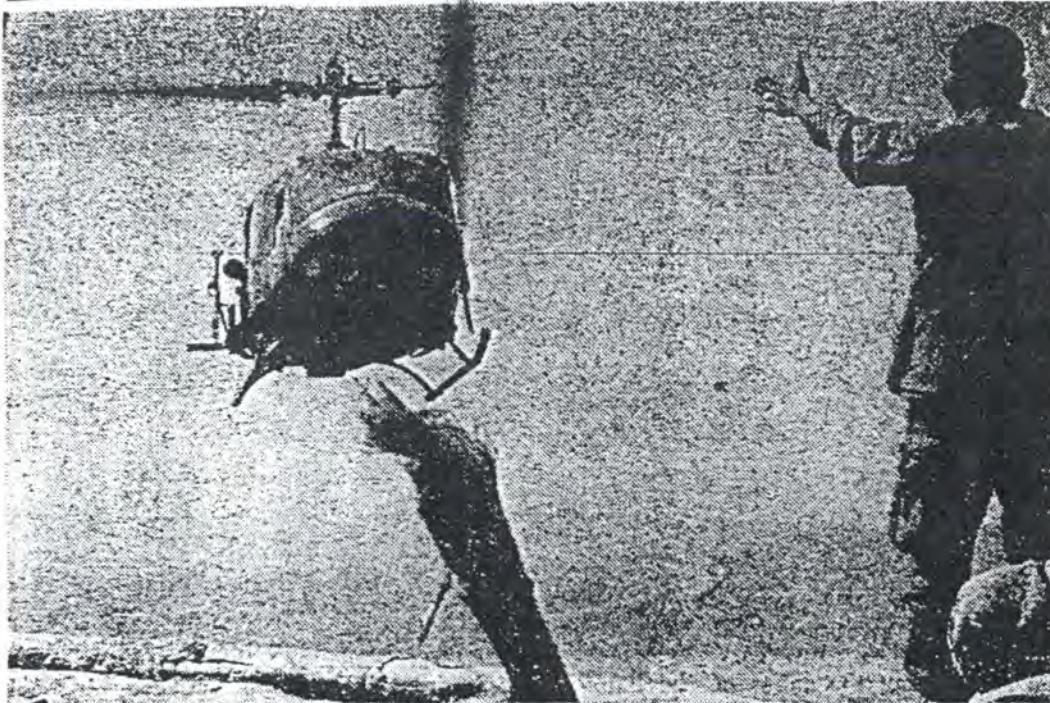
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COMING IN—On a mountaintop landing zone cleared from dense jungle by air strikes, a resupply helicopter is guided in to the men of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry.

(Photo by Sp4 Richard Hawkins, 1st CAV-IO)

Twice In One Fight

Scout Dog Saves Master

CU CHI, (25th INF-IO) — A 25th Infantry Division scout dog saved his master's life twice in the course of one fight, when he first alerted him of an impending Viet Cong ambush, then warned him of an approaching enemy in the fight that ensued.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry further credited the scout dog with enabling them to kill eight communists in a fierce 1½-hour battle.

The action took place recent-

ly during the 2nd Brigade's Operation Atlanta in the Iron Triangle.

The infantrymen had been following a trail when the dog, Charlie Brown, alerted.

Specialist Four Patrick Mitchell, a member of the 38th Scout Dog Platoon, warned the men behind him something was in the treeline to their front.

The patrol continued on, growing more cautious as Char-

lie Brown continued to alert, Mitchell reported. Then the lead elements ran into an enemy force which opened fire from bunkers and tunnels.

"When the VC first opened up on us," Mitchell recalled, "Charlie Brown and I were pinned down right on the trail. Then we had enough fire going so we could maneuver, and I moved off the trail into some brush."

"I had to hold onto Charlie Brown to keep him down. He's been wounded before and gets scared in a firefight."

"As I was holding on to him, he started in the direction I'd

Aviators Battle NVA In Air-Ground Action

PLEIKU, (1st AVN-IO) — During the course of one day recently, seven aviators from the 1st Aviation Brigade's 219th Reconnaissance Airplane Company were directly involved in aerial and ground action against North Vietnamese Army (NVA) forces in three locations of Pleiku Province.

The day-long contact began on an early morning mission 35 miles west of here near the Cambodian border.

There, Capt. Charles W. Barnes and 1st Lt. Hansford L. Bohanen sighted one armed NVA soldier and began receiving automatic weapons fire.

Barnes marked the target with a spotting rocket while Bohanen plotted the enemy position and called into nearby artillery unit.

The artillery fire resulted in seven confirmed enemy dead:

Meanwhile CWO Bobby J. Fray was covering ground forces 12 miles southwest of here when he spotted enemy movement and fired rockets into the area of movement. A sweep of the area by ground forces resulted in four NVA soldiers killed.

Later in the morning, an element of the 4th Infantry Division requested air cover at the site of a convoy under attack along Highway 19.

Captain Joseph S. Davis and 1st Lt. Joseph E. Thornton were airborne immediately and began visual reconnaissance in the vicinity of the convoy.

Davis also called in med-evac helicopters and helicopter gunships to cover rescue operations.

Thornton was first to spot elements of the enemy force. He located two armed NVA soldiers running from the area, fired a rocket at them to halt their movement, and notified Davis.

Once the enemy knew they had been detected, both aircraft came under heavy automatic weapons fire.

Davis then brought helicopter gunships under his control onto the enemy. During the lull between gunship attacks, Davis and Thornton received assistance from Capt. Royal D. Petersen and Capt. Stanley M. Irvin.

Together, the four aircraft kept the enemy pinned down until the gunships had rearmed and refueled at nearby Hoo Way Army Airfield.

Upon the arrival of an Air Force forward air controller (FAC), Davis briefed the FAC who put two airstrikes onto the enemy.

At times during the long action, Davis was controlling as many as 21 aircraft coming in and going out of the area of contact.

300 Packages Go To 4th Inf Chaplain

DAK TO, (4th INF-IO) — "I was a little girl in Norway in

Brigade, but there were many destined for the local Mont-

Clothing For Orphans

Patrol Drops Into, Out Of Enemy Nest

DAU TIENG, (23d INF-10)—A 15-man reconnaissance patrol dropped into a Viet Cong horizon's nest near here recently and dropped out again after killing four of the enemy.

The 23d Infantry Division troopers, part of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 22d Infantry, were dropped into the area west of here to set up daylight ambushes and check enemy movement in the area.

Moving to their first position, a small enemy base camp was discovered.

"The floor of one of the bunkers just didn't feel right," related 1st Lt. Richard J. Prairie, the patrol leader, "so we decided to dig."

Seventeen bolt-action rifles were found concealed under the false floor. A two-ton cache of rice was found under another bunker in the complex.

Carrying the captured weapons with them, the men moved on. Moments later the chattering of about 15 Viet Cong halted the infantrymen.

Down the trail came a patrol of khaki-clad VC armed with automatic rifles. Waiting until the VC were only a few feet away from point man Sp4 James E. Boggess, the soldiers opened fire and killed four of the enemy patrol.

Suddenly the jungle was ablaze with tracers, which Prairie described as "at least 20 automatic weapons" opened up on his small unit.

"We soon realized they were all around us," added the lieutenant.

"The choppers wanted us to mark our position with smoke but we had thrown all our smoke grenades for the jets," said Prairie. "Then Lt. Col. Thomas U. Harrold came in low over the treetops in his helicopter and dropped us some grenades."

With the air-dropped smoke grenades, the patrol marked its position, and three helicopters swooped in and pulled them out as 105mm artillery began to pound the area.

ly on top of them.

Sending their men against the Americans under cover of a barrage of grenades and mortar fire, the enemy force launched a large assault force to attempt to overrun the perimeter.

Machinégun and rifle fire stopped the assault but not before a number of VC crawled to within 20 yards of the bunkerline. Hand grenades were used along one section of company D's perimeter as Big Red One soldiers

1st Cavalry Has Real Veteran Finding Out About Real Action

LANDING ZONE BALDY, (1st CAV-10)—Specialist Four Edvins Bietiks, a 22-year-old 1st Cavalry Division soldier was a "combat" veteran before coming to Vietnam.

Bietiks' experience under fire came on the television show "Combat," on which he played a German corporal for a few brief, inglorious minutes.

"As German soldiers on "Combat" are likely to do," he recalls, "I made a mad charge at Morrow's squad and got shot. I fell against a tree. It was just a dying part."

Bietiks also did a bit part on "Gunsmoke," but his ultimate aspirations are to more serious acting. A drama major at Long Beach State College before he entered the Army, he spent a semester at Dublin University studying with Dublin's Trinity Players.

As a member of the 1st Cav's 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, Bietiks uses his acting experience to keep his company laughing during tough moments. He is famous within the company for his imitations.

"When I get going, I do Jimmy Stewart, hillbillies, U-boat commanders, anything."

"It's just something to laugh at," he says, "because you need laughter so much out here."

Bietiks has found the war differs from his expectations.

"I thought it was going to be pretty awful, that you would have to grit your teeth every day and night to keep going. But these men don't let the war

conquer them. Some of the nights we spend in hootches, playing cards and laughing until you just can't laugh any more; you can hardly believe it."

ion maintenance or motor officer positions. Currently, such positions usually are filled by combat arms officers in combat units and technical service officers in support units.

The change results from a study of the roles and missions of the Signal, Transportation, Ordnance, Chemical, and Quartermaster Corps. The study considered the missions of these branches within the environment created by COSTAR II and TASTA 70 functional alignment. Although there will be no major changes in the functions and responsibilities of these branches, the Army Staff will review and update the roles, functions, and responsibilities of technical service officers to reflect what they are actually doing. The review will also include Engineer officers.

The decision will result in

service officers with first-hand knowledge of logistical functions at the lower levels, thus increasing their ability to function at higher levels during later assignments.

The Army will also review career ladders for technical service officers with a view toward developing revised ladders to improve career opportunities and broaden experience and schooling. This will be accomplished in order to enhance the officers' possibilities for assignment to the highest command and staff positions.

Steps will also be taken to improve the Logistics Officer Program. This voluntary career program includes both technical service and combat arms officers who serve in command, operations, and staff logistical positions on a recurring basis.



TAKING CHARLIE'S DINNER—A soldier with the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, Americal Division takes a sack of captured enemy rice from a hut during a search and destroy operation north of Duc Pho. (Photo by Capt. Jerry Harkavy, AMERICAL-10)

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Anniversary

LONG BINH, (USARV-IO) — The 44th Medical Brigade will celebrate its second anniversary on Monday. Activated at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, just two years ago, the unit's advance party arrived in Vietnam in March of 1966. It was followed by the main party a month later.

In May of 1966 the unit was fully operational and assumed command and operational control of all 1st Logistical Commandal units.

The unit was formed to provide medical support to units with assigned medical capability, provide dental service, veterinary inspection and animal veterinary service, and to provide medical services for U.S. forces and designated Free World Military Assistance forces.

Combat operations are supported by assigning one or more air ambulances in direct support of combat troops as well as ground ambulance support.

On average, a wounded man is in the hospital or being treated by a clearing station surgical team within 30 minutes after being wounded.

The Viet Cong do not always respect the Red Cross and the medical air ambulance helicopters are frequently fired upon. Crews of air ambulances are as decorated as any combat helicopter crew in Vietnam.

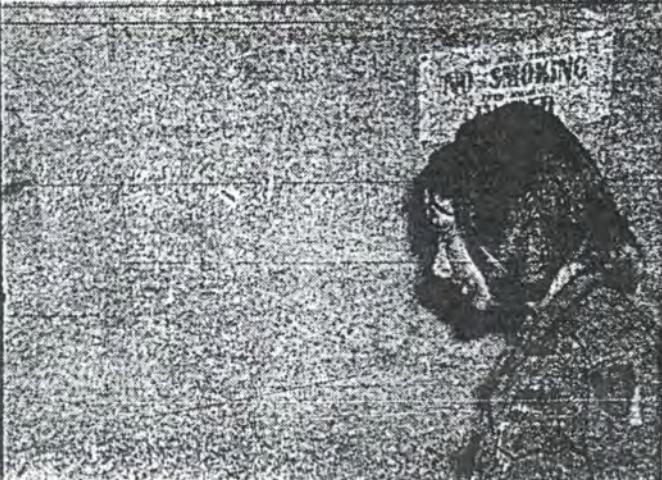
The brigade's hospitals maintain more than 3000 beds at their evacuation, five surgical and three field hospitals, plus the on-country convalescent medical center at Cam Ranh Bay.

HANDS A



JUST-OFF.

(Photo by 25th INF-IO)



National Railway Is Reconstructed With 1st Log Aid

TUY HOA, (1st LOG-IO) — Troops from the Support Command's Tuy Hoa Sub-Area Command are assisting with the rebuilding of the Vietnamese National Railway.

The 1st Logistical Command soldiers are working with Vietnamese civilians in replacing track and repairing bridges which have been damaged by enemy activity. The goal is to extend the railway from Hao Son, north into the major city of Tuy Hoa.

Coordination for the project was accomplished by Maj. William G. Nichols, chief of the logistics branch, Tuy Hoa Sub-Area Command (THSAC) and Mr. Do Duc De, regional representative of the Vietnam Railway System.

The language barrier proved no problem for the two men. Major Nichols speaks no Vietnamese. Mr. Do Duc De speaks no English, but both men speak French fluently and all negotiations were conducted in French.

Captain Daniel O'Brien, commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 26th General Support Group, was the project officer responsible for the direct supervision of the project.

Once a vital traffic artery, the railway will again become of prime importance to Phu Yen Province when the rebuilding is completed.

Passenger travel will be possible even further north than at present, but the biggest benefit to the people will be the movement of freight. Tuy Hoa farmers will once again be able to ship their rice and other produce to major markets by rail, increasing both their income and

Copters Provide 100,000 Rides

LONG THANH, (9th INF-IO) — The 200th Assault Helicopter Company recently transported its 100,000th passenger since arriving in Vietnam last March.

Chinooks of the company, which regularly supports the 9th Infantry Division can haul as many as 44 passengers.

the availability of their products.

U.S. forces at Tuy Hoa will also gain from completion of the project.

One of the principle missions of the Tuy Hoa Sub-Area Command is to provide fuel and support for the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at the Tuy Hoa Air Base. A 16-mile pipeline from the port of Vung Ro runs to the air base. Security for the pipeline will be improved upon completion of the railway for it will enable THSAC security forces to use armored railcars to patrol the pipeline which parallels the track.

Also the railroad will allow more immediate repair of enemy inflicted damage.

This unusual project, a joint effort of American soldiers and Vietnamese civilians, promises joint benefits to everyone.

Trained In Tracking

Teams Hunt VC

LONG BINH, (USARV-IO) — In the dense jungle a broken twig, a turned leaf or skinned bark on a tree may go unnoticed by the average soldier, but to a small unit of highly trained men in Vietnam these are road signs leading to the enemy.

Borrowing from both the Indian scouts used by the U.S. Cavalry in the Old West and the bloodhounds of Scotland Yard, the Combat Tracker Teams (CTT) are proving to be a great success in their mission of re-establishing lost contact with the enemy.

The team's men are trained in visual tracking and in handling a Labrador Retriever, an integral part of the team.

To the visual tracker, the enemy's trail can often tell him not only what direction of travel the enemy has taken, but whether the pursued soldiers are Viet Cong (VC) or North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars, how many there are in the group, what type of load they

DOD Helps To Fill Law Enforcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense Department plans to assist civilian law enforcement agencies in filling thousands of vacancies in state, county, and city police departments. The Department of the Army has been designated executive agent.

Under the program, servicemen who receive a firm employment or training offer from a legally constituted city, county, state or Federal government law enforcement agency can be released up to 90 days earlier than their scheduled separation date.

In a test program now underway, representatives from the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department have been invited to visit military bases to interview men who will be leaving the service. The department has about 300 vacancies.

The program is being implemented at the request of

President Johnson in an effort to help fill some 15,000 vacancies in police agencies throughout the nation.

Officials of police agencies will be permitted to interview and examine prospective candidates at military installations, but a serviceman can make direct arrangements with qualified police agencies of his choice.

Although the program was initially aimed at filling major metropolitan city police forces, provisions have been made to include smaller constituted public safety agencies in the nation. No exact dates will be made to determine when desire private placement.

Those interested in



WHOA—Blaze, a tracking dog, and his handler, Sp4 Walter, are the first German Shepherds to be used in the Army.

When they approach the enemy, the dog usually will alert the handler either by holding up his head, perking his ears or giving some other signal usually known only to the handler.

When they sense this, the supporting unit is called in to make contact, or, if warranted, airstrikes or artillery are called in.

11th ACR Trooper Aims For Olympics

LONG GIOI, (11th CAV-IO) — Private First Class Raymond J. Sheppard, a machinegunner for the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's E Troop, is working for a medal strange to a combat zone, the Olympic Gold Medal.

Sheppard, already the World Interservice Wrestling Champion in his class, wants to defend his title in next year's tournament and gain a berth on the 1968 U.S. Olympic Team. Winning the tourney would qualify him for the Olympic trials.

The cavalryman began wrestling on his hometown high school team. For three years he held the Central Athletic Association championship. In 1965 he placed fifth in the National Amateur

Athletic Union, and the next year he placed second in the National Junior College Tournament.

More recent honors came after he entered the service in November, 1966. He won the All-Army Tournament and followed that up with top honors in the World Interservice Tournament.

Since then Sheppard has applied his talents along military lines. He attended Drill Corporal School at Fort Knox, where he was once named Soldier of the Quarter. Then, after training as an armored cavalry scout, he came to the armored regiment.

In the future he intends to attend the Army Warrant Officer Flight Training School and make a career of the service.

1st Division Engrs Train ARVN Unit

DI 2, (4th Inf-IO) — The 1st Infantry Division engineers recently conducted an eight-week training program with the 5th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Engineer Battalion at the unit's Phu Cuong headquarters.

The 1st Engineer Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Thorwald L. Peterson, instructed the ARVN unit in the American methods of bridge building, mine detection, demolitions and a variety of other engineering functions.

Major Ronald Trauner, an American advisor to the Vietnamese unit and Capt. Richard

practical application of the instruction.

Classes on float bridging, light tactical bridges, foot bridges and rafting were given by Lt. Carl J. Gatlin. Gatlin also instructed on the erection of water purification points and the various uses of American hand tools.

"The purpose of our instruction was to familiarize them with the American techniques of accomplishing an engineer mission," Gatlin said.

A major segment of the training was concerned with the use of demolitions in aiding construction projects. The ARVN



KID STUFF — Eager to play, a Montagnard boy makes off for the game with a new mitt and kickball given to him by the 4th Infantry Division's 4th Aviation Battalion. (Photo by Sp4 Al Oliver, 4th INF-IO)

4th Inf Gives Equipment

Viets 'Playing Ball'

CAMP ENARI, (4th INF-IO) — Ball games are unusual activities for the Jarai Montagnards, a race of primitive people in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Recently, however, the children of a local Montagnard village were presented with a variety

organizations in the Downey, Calif.

One of the people most instrumental in the success of the project has been Arbenz's wife Carole, who has worked many hours to help realize the project's success. During the past few

Viet Cong Attack Thwarted

DUK HOA, (1st AVN-IO) — Army gunships from the 118th Assault Helicopter Company joined Air Force jets in thwarting a suspected major Viet Cong attack against a South Vietnamese compound six miles west of here recently.

The Vietnamese outpost of Duk Hue, an old colonial French fort only 1000 yards from the Cambodian border, was attacked by a large force of the Communist guerillas. The Viet Cong withdrew at dawn.

The next morning an uneasy calm prevailed over the area as armed choppers combed the suspected bivouac sites of the enemy. Apparently hiding their numbers and position, the Viet Cong force refused to fire on the low-flying helicopters participating in the search.

At noon a reconnaissance element from the fort began combing the area. Contact was made within minutes of the team's departure from the fort.

The Bandit gunships platoon of the 118th was scrambled to the area of contact with reports that "more than 50 of the VC had been flushed into the open."

According to Capt. James Thorne, leader of the Bandits, "The nearer we came to the battle area the higher the estimate of Viet Cong. Three hundred enemy was the last figure given."

The gunships pumped the enemy with rockets and grenades for more than four hours. While the choppers worked out on part