

For general medical patients, many of them malaria cases. It is scheduled to be completed soon and will then be able to care for surgical patients.

Following this unobstructed action, infantrymen entered the area to search for any obstacles, booby traps, or VC that the artillery and air barrage might

Chopper Crew Saved Amid Dense VC Fire

BIEN HOA, (1st AVN-10) — What started off as a normal armed helicopter reconnaissance mission almost ended in tragedy for a crew from the Mustang Platoon of the 1st Aviation Brigade's 68th Assault Helicopter Company, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion.

Operating west of the Oriental River in the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta, the fire team leader, 1st Lt. James Buchan, spotted some signs of Viet Cong activities and doubled back to check the area out more closely.

Almost as soon as he began to turn back to the target area, his ship was riddled with five direct hits from a well-camouflaged .50 cal. machinegun position, instantly knocking out the tail rotor controls and the turbine engine.

Buchan executed a near-perfect, zero air speed autorotation about 500 yards from the enemy position.

His wingman, WO Peter Mis-

ner, made suppressive firing runs over the Viet Cong position while the downed crew positioned itself for evacuation.

Misner and his pilot, WO Leslie T. Hansen Jr. decided to attempt a rescue of the downed crew.

On the second run over the VC position, the doorgunner, Sp4 David W. Henderson, destroyed the machinegun.

They jettisoned their external ammunition pods, dropped into the bullet-spattered landing zone, and pulled out the crew amid increasing fire from Viet Cong positions in the area.

An Air Force Forward Air Controller (FAC) arrived on station and relieved the gunship which proceeded to Cu Chi to drop the additional passengers.

The Air Force called in fighter-bombers to destroy the downed helicopter which was in danger of being captured with its weapons.

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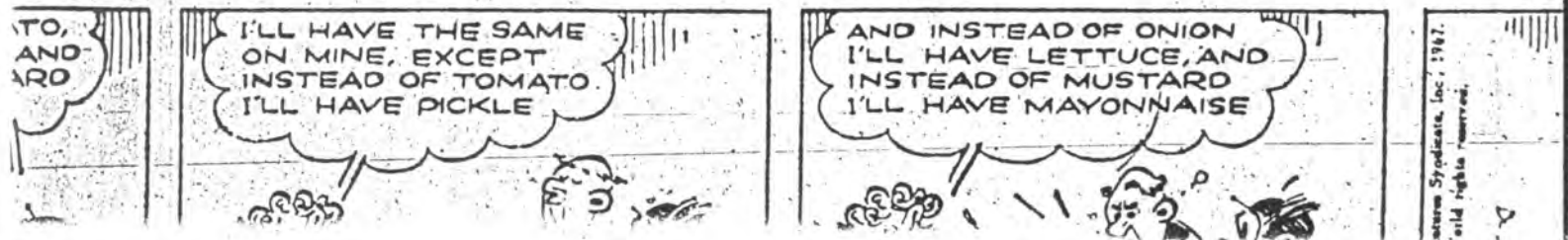
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IMAGERY—A 4th Infantry Division soldier is reflected in the still waters of a central highlands pond as he crosses a make-shift log bridge during a search and destroy mission. (Photo by PFC John Kaston, 4th INF-10)

Four Chopper Crash Victims Rescued From Dense Jungle

DAK TO, (1st AVN-10)—The quick decision of a helicopter crew from the 355th Assault Helicopter Company was responsible for saving the lives of four crewmen of a downed 173rd Airborne Brigade Huey helicopter.

The helicopter, assigned to the 173rd's aviation platoon, had just taken off from a confined jungle landing zone when it ex-

perienced tail rotor failure and crashed into the dense jungle growth.

Warrant Officer James E. Burke was on the helipad here preparing to take off on a 355th mission when the Mayday call came through from the crashed Huey.

Disregarding the assigned mission, Burke and his pilot, WO Fred B. Ungerer proceeded to the crash site about six miles from here. When the chopper arrived at the scene, the wrecked helicopter was found blazing in the trees with ammunition exploding from the fire.

Because of the nature of the terrain, Burke was forced to land some 200 yards from the crash. His crew, PFC Kenneth L. Erickson and PFC Joe B.

Soldiers Help Viet Refugees

TAN SON NHUT, (31st SPT-10)—A self-help project is now underway at the 520th Transportation Battalion, 34th General Support Group for the members of the unit's refugee civic action project, Camp Columbus.

In an effort to provide continuing medical assistance, the men of the 520th are providing raw materials and advice for the construction of 250 first aid

throughout Binh Dinh Province. This picture changed in 1963 when a regiment of hard core Viet Cong set up a headquarters in the town.

With their arrival, the people fled to neighboring villages.

In March of 1966, American bombers and infantry units conducted sweep and destroy operations to flush out the enemy. When they finished, both the VC and the population was gone from the town, leaving only the rubble of shattered buildings.

Early in 1967, Maj. Eldon H. Wright, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) advisor in the Tuy Phoc district, realized that an attempt should be made to encourage refugees to return to Go Boi and restore its former position of wealth and prosperity.

Wright believed that, if the road was repaired, the town's

36-inch culvert.

By early July, the first bridge over a 64-foot gap was ready.

and the Vietnamese are slowly starting to drift back into the former VC headquarters.

1st Inf Helicopters Engage Enemy Unit

PHU LOI, (1st INF-10)—Two low-flying choppers from the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division recently engaged elements of the 273rd Viet Cong Regiment in a fierce fire fight during low-level surveillance of a suspected insurgent location.

The 1st Inf. gunships of D Troop were checking the suspected VC location north of Saigon, using one ship to skim at tree-top level and the other above for security.

Warrant Officer David E. Dorsner, commander of the low-altitude ship, spotted numerous trails scattered along the jungle floor and was following them when his craft suddenly came under heavy automatic weapons fire.

Due to poor visibility, 1st Lt. Ronald W. Dobson, commander of the support ship, was flying low and quickly rolled his gunship in on the position and halted the enemy fire.

First Lieutenant Charles J.

Manfordenia, co-pilot of the support ship, flew over the VC position as the door gunners of both ships placed a blanket of fire on the enemy emplacement, while Dobson plotted the coordinates on his map. Artillery and airstrikes were then called in.

Following the airstrikes, the choppers once again swooped over the area.

Dobson's chopper now took over the low-flying position. Warrant Officer Sammy J. Ellerbee, co-pilot of Dorsner's ship, directed his craft to an area some 1000 yards north, hoping to see the fleeing guerrillas and determine the size and movements of the unit.

The gunship had only been searching for seconds when the enemy once again opened up on Dorsner. Immediate reaction by the ship's gunners, Sp4 Thomas A. Weweka and Sp4 Douglas Morris, stopped the hostile fire.

Marriage Counselor, Police Advisor Are Roles Of 25th Inf Div Sergeant

CU CHI, (25th INF-10)—Marriage counselor, financial expert, and police advisor are but a few of the responsibilities facing a 25th Infantry Division sergeant in the little village of Vinh Cu in Binh Duong Prov-

ince.

The assignment started out three months ago as an advisory mission to Vietnamese security forces in the Vinh Cu sector, but has turned into a job that SSgt. Warner Orlandi describes

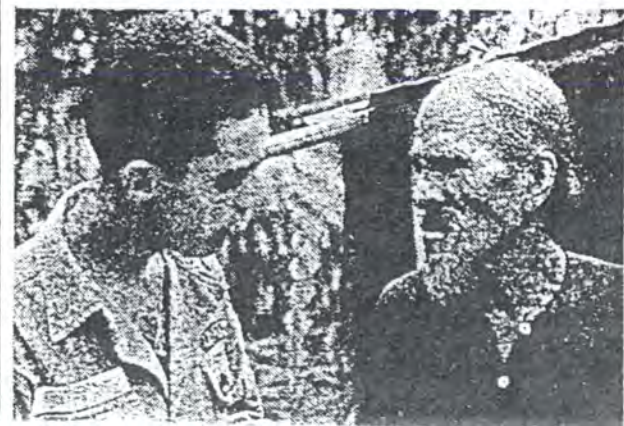
as one that, "requires the finesse of a statesman and the wisdom of Solomon."

Orlandi learned Vietnamese at the Army's language school in Monterey, Calif., and has been in Vietnam for eighteen months. The first year was spent at the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) headquarters.

Orlandi was then transferred to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry because, "I wanted to get into the field and put my language training to work."

At the start of the battalion's pacification program, Orlandi was sent to the Vietnamese garrison in Vinh Cu as an advisor — coordinating sector defense between Popular Forces and his parent unit.

With the ability to speak Vietnamese and a healthy respect for the people and their way of life, Orlandi has become a prominent figure in the village because, as he says, "If you show respect for their way of life, and



blow leaflets dropped from high altitudes completely off target. Though the Front Door Delivery system is still in the experimental stages, more than 750,000 leaflets have been distributed during four tree-top level drops.

Plan Will Save US \$2 Million

SAIGON, (1st LOG-10) — An estimated two million dollars annual savings to the U. S. Government has resulted from the successful implementation of the Saigon Port Decongestion Plan.

Surcharge rates on cargo transported by American ships have steadily declined since the decongestion plan was implemented by Vietnamese port officials and units of Saigon Support Command's 4th Transportation Command.

The old surcharge rate of \$8.25 per ton has recently been reduced to \$3.50 per ton.

Surcharge rates are dependent upon the length of time a ship has to wait for docking and on how long to unload and load a vessel.

The decongestion plan has reduced the number of deep draft ships in the Saigon Area from 80 to 30 during the first six months of 1967. Loaded barges awaiting Vietnamese customs clearance declined from 973 in February, 1967, to 32 at the present time.

Successes Of Open Arms Program Causes Attacks On Bao Trai Chieu Hoi Center

BIEN HOA, (III CORPS-10)—Successes in recent months of the Chieu Hoi, or Open Arms Program, in Hau Nghia Province precipitated an attack earlier this month by the Viet Cong on the Bao Trai Chieu Hoi Center.

Shortly after midnight the VC probed to within 400 yards of the center perimeter and launched two 40mm rockets. The returnees' sleeping quarters were hit, while civilian housing behind the center was untouched.

Four Hoi Chanh, former VC, were killed, and 54 wounded. Eleven of the wounded were taken to the 12th Evacuation Hospital at Cu Chi, three of them in serious condition.

Douglas Harding, Chieu Hoi advisor in Hau Nghia Province, said the attack showed the effect of the program on the VC.

"Last month we had an estimated 260 returnees in this province. What it boils down to is this is about a battalion, and I feel that, in this province at least, the VC can't afford to lose this number of people and are thus worried about our program."

united in a 25th Medical Battalion Ward after both were wounded in an ambush patrol of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

(Photo by 25th INF-10)

Architecture Tells Symbols Of Faiths

CAMP ENARI, (4th INF-10)—The newly dedicated Chapel of Dragon Mountain rises above the surrounding, tin rooftops of the 704th Maintenance Battalion, and takes the shape of a triangle—symbolic of the Holy Trinity, or a hexagon—symbolic of the Star of David.

Seen from the front, the chapel is shaped like a triangle. Viewed overall, it appears to be a large hexagon.

First Lieutenant Harvey A. Shapiro S-5 officer of the 704th Maint. Bn. and architect for the new chapel, said the building's design was determined by a desire "to bring nature into the facility."

According to Shapiro, the main inspiration for the chapel came from the surrounding landscape's dominate feature—Dragon Mountain. Hence, the building has sloped slides, reflecting the sloped sides of the mountain. Its steeple rises to twin peaks, also like the mountain.

Early planning for the building began last October. Chaplain (Maj.) Duie R. Jernigan, whose idea it was to build the chapel "so it would remind the troops of stateside life", had secured 100, twenty-foot long, mahogany beams by February when construction was started.

Since then, approximately 500 enlisted men from the support command contributed to the chapel's construction. The building was first used last May.

bush.

"Duke didn't give an alert," Monger explained, "because he relaxes unless he's out on point. That's the way they're trained."

"The first round, from an M-79, killed the man in front of me," Monger said. "Then they detonated a claymore between the two files, killing the point man and hitting me in the left arm and right thigh."

Man and dog dove into a trench off to the left and were pinned down for twenty minutes.

"It was a three-ring circus in there for a while," the handler said. "I was trying to stop the

again in about two months."

43rd Sig Defies Mountain

LANG BIAN MT., (1st SIG-10)—Using John Dewey's philosophy of "If it works, use it," the men of Company E, 43rd Signal Battalion on this mountaintop, 7216 feet above sea level, have come one better than the normal 30-mile, line-of-sight limit for very high frequency (VHF) transmitters.

The signalmen are making one 90-mile transmission in this southern highlands location, and another transmission that is going through two mountains.

"We don't know who, but on the 90-mile transmission to Phan Thiet reception is 'four by' (about 80 percent) and sometimes perfect," said SSgt. Herbert Harrison, NCO in charge.

On the other transmission, the radio waves apparently skim the top of the first mountain and hit the second peak about 200 feet below the top. "As it stand now, you can tell from the sounds on the connection just how much rain that second peak has been having," Harrison continued. "When it is damp over there, it sounds like a swarm of bees on the line."

Avn Uses New Cranes

LONG BINH, (1st AVN-10)—A recent artillery lift 20 miles south of Saigon gave the 12th Aviation Group a chance to use its three new Skycrane helicopters.

The cranes were used to lift three 155mm howitzers and a two-and-one-half ton truck to a deserted French fort on the Saigon River.

The three cranes, recent additions to the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company at Vung Tau, can carry normal loads of 14,000 to 16,000 pounds or 18,000 pounds with special planning. With a special module attached, it can carry 67 men.



WITHOUT POWER—A Chinook helicopter seems suspended over the landing zone atop Hill 837 bringing in a new generator. The men on the remote hill, manning a VHF-relay tower in the II Field Force communications system are resupplied three times a week, weather permitting. (Photo by Sp4 Evans King, II FFV-10)

4 the 106mm recoilless rifle, an infantry weapon, as a supplemental artillery piece for indirect fire support of combat operations.

The weapon, designed for direct fire against armored vehi-

cles, suspected enemy locations, and to destroy bunkers, sampans, and other enemy fortifications.

New use of the weapon came about last March when Brig. Gen. John F. Freund, brigade

commander, initiated an intensive training program to teach artillerymen how to operate the 106mm recoilless rifle effectively. It takes a crew of three to operate the weapon—a gunner,

signer, found them unsuitable for normal use in the muddy delta region surrounding Saigon.

The jeeps on which the weap-

on. However, there were other problems, the most puzzling of which was how to fire the weapon indirectly and still maintain a high degree of accuracy.

Their solution was to anchor a row of aiming stakes in the ground at set distances apart and use them to compute azimuth. A gunner's quadrant was used to calculate the proper elevation.

As a direct fire weapon, the 106mm recoilless rifle has a maximum effective range of 1100 yards. As an indirect fire weapon, however, it can shell the enemy effectively up to a distance of 7700 yards.

In a series of tests, the men found the most effective range for the rifle, when used for indirect fire support, is between 2000 and 5720 yards.

When fired under 3000 yards, the flat trajectory caused some of the rounds to ricochet off target, especially when they hit water. When fired at an enemy fortification further than 5720 yards, the weapon was found to be less accurate.

Using an aerial observer, the men learned an anti-tank round from the rifle was similar in shrapnel effect to a 105mm high explosive round with a quick fuse.

The 106mm recoilless rifle is also being airlifted to the field today by Huey helicopter using an artillery sling. Once there, tests have proved rice paddy dikes will support the weapon, which only weighs about 450 pounds.

Each of the three firing batteries in the 2nd En., 40th Arty., is making daily use of its six new recoilless rifles to supplement the six 105mm howitzers for indirect fire support missions.

The 106mm recoilless rifles are being used mainly to fire landing zone preparations and to probe suspected enemy locations.

Army Mail Hunts Down Its Man

CAMP HOWZE, Korea — Just like its civilian counterpart, Army mail goes through despite all obstacles. Sgt. Richard M. Wunder received a letter which had 12 postmarks, five directory service stamps, five "no record" notations, and seven "forward to" addresses. It went to 31 different addresses.

It was a bill!

11th Cav Engineers Replace 2 Bridges; Third Is Repaired

LONG GIO, (11th CAV-IO)—

The 819th Engineers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment replaced two bridges and repaired a third in one day recently.

The engineers, secured by a platoon of the regiment's 3rd Squadron, carried pre-cut beams and lumber into an area north of Route 1, between Nuan Loc and Long Binh in Long Khanh Province.

The convoy included a rough terrain crane furnished by the 591st Light Equipment Company, and a generator-powered tool trailer. By using this work-

shop on wheels, the 819th was able to employ pavement breakers, nail drivers, chain saws, planers, and a skill saw to help complete the bridges quickly.

The engineers tore out and rebuilt the two bridges in less than six hours. The third bridge was repaired while the second one was being completed.

The reinforced structures will provide a commercial route for logging trucks from mills in the area. In addition, the bridge will provide access for earth-clearing machinery to move north to clear an area for a Popular Forces outpost.

196th Patrol Members Narrowly Miss Death From Hidden Charlie

CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO)—Several members of the 1st Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, narrowly escaped death several miles from their base camp at Chu Pho.

"I was leading my squad on a search and clear patrol when we spotted two VC running through the brush," stated Sp4 Norman Grove. "I had the squad fan out to look for the two Charlies.

"As we searched through the bushes, a VC opened fire on some of my men with a Chinese automatic rifle. He opened up when they were only 20 yards away. PFC John Gardner did a really fine job — he charged the VC and dispatched him.

"Afterwards, Gardner found that he had a bullet hole through

his shirt, just under his armpit, and PFC Bill Gaskins had bullet holes through his ammo pouches and canteens on his belt. It was really a close call for the men."

3000 Vietnamese School Children Receive Canned Milk Distributions

LONG THANH, (9th INF-IO) — The milkmen come once a week to children in 17 Long Thanh District schools.

Two of them set out each Thursday from the headquarters of the 9th Infantry Division with a jeep piled high with as many as 40 cases of canned milk.

The milk run stops at nine district schools for distribution that puts milk into the cups of more than 3000 children.

One of the milkmen is SSgt. Levin U. Ashby, a member of the 2nd Civil Affairs Company, II Field Force, Vietnam. Ashby is attached to the civil affairs section of the 9th Division's 1st

Brigade.

Ashby's partner on the weekly milk route is SFC Lige M. Kinman, a medic with the Military Assistance Command's Advisory Team 98.

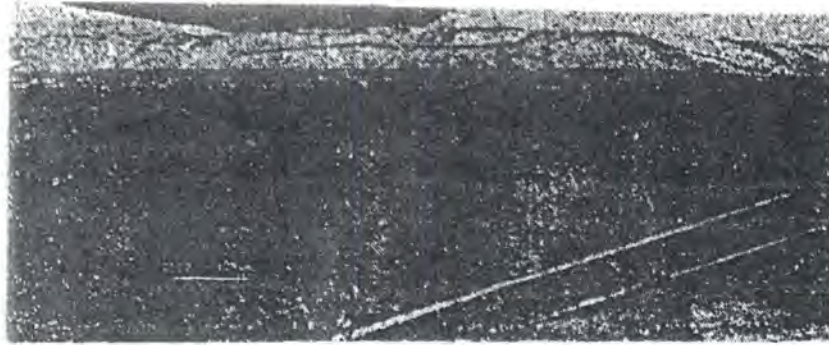
They pass out enough milk each week to provide, at least two cups for each child six days a week.

NEW USE FOR 106MM RIFLES—Artillerymen of the 2nd Battalion, 40th Artillery, 199th Light Infantry Brigade are using the 106mm recoilless rifle, an infantry weapon, as a supplemental artillery piece for direct fire support of combat operations. Once heli-lifted to the field, the weapon can be supported on a rice paddy dike while it fires nightly harassment and interdiction missions.

(Photo by 199th INF-IO)



Covered VC Resupply Vessel Attacked On Song Lagn River



PAD—Fort Rach Cat, built by the French in 1910, was turned into quarters, and a helicopter pad by the men of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 35th when the battery supported the 9th Infantry Division in Operation Coronado. (Photo by 53rd SIG)

Snake Foils Birthday Shower

(1st CAV-10) — A Division radio-teleoperator, PFC James L. Frazier, had a nice celebration of his 21st birthday. He stepped into the room to receive an unexpected birthday surprise. As this big green snake appeared, Frazier looked at the snake. They both made a hasty exit. When he heard Frazier yelling, Sp5 Billy D. Adams came to give assistance. Adams, a medic, killed the snake with a

stick. "It wasn't really a big snake, maybe 15 inches," said Adams. "But he had his head puffed out and didn't act friendly at all." The medic identified the snake as a baby bamboo viper, a poisonous reptile common to Vietnam.

Abn Bde Helps Defenses Fortify Tri Le

(173rd ABN-10) — Members of the New Life Tri Le are pitching in to help fortify the village. For the past seven weeks, the people of Tri Le labored steadily to make their village safe from enemy marauders. Tri Le now has a complex series of fences around the platoon headquarters. The villagers are currently expanding their efforts to set up other defensive positions around the hamlet.

Infantryman Has Bolt Shot From Rifle

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — "I could hardly believe my eyes," remarked Sp4 Roger D. Burke as he looked at his ruined M-16. During a helicopter assault into the southern portion of the Iron Triangle, Company D, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Division came under sniper fire as they started a sweep through the area. "As I scanned the area," Burke continued, "I saw a Viet Cong off to my left wearing a steel helmet and flak jacket and heavily armed with hand grenades. I alerted the squad and everybody opened up on him. The VC dropped as he started to duck behind a rice paddy dike but at the same time something slammed into me and knocked me into the knee deep water of the rice paddy. I got up and tried to fire my rifle but it wouldn't work. I started to check it and found that a bullet had knocked out the bolt."

Americal Division—Operation Cook was initiated recently by a multi-brigade force from Americal Division in the southern portion of Quang Ngai Province. The first phase cleared enemy forces from the general vicinity of polling sites south of Quang Ngai City. The second phase set up a security screen during the voting in the recent national elections. The third phase, now underway, calls for a sweep in the assigned area of operations to search for and clear all enemy from the area. The cumulative results thus far in the operation are 34 enemy killed, Eight of the enemy were killed by units of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in scattered actions near Due Pho at the beginning of last week.

25th Infantry Division — Nui Ba Den, the Black Virgin Mountain, figured again in recent operations of the 25th Infantry Division. A company from the 22nd Infantry made the initial contact with a well-fortified enemy. Enemy fire consisted of small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket fire while the 25th Inf. struck back with artillery, helicopter fire teams, and air strikes. In other action, in Binh Duong Province, a booby-trapped cache was discovered by a company of the 25th's 1st Brigade. The cache, containing 23 artillery rounds, one claymore mine, and 15 quarter-pound blocks of TNT, was found nine miles northwest of Saigon.

9th Infantry Division — Two major enemy caches were uncovered recently by the 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division. The first was found 14 miles southeast of Saigon in Long An Province. It contained 4000 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 2050 rounds of small arms ammunition, 680 rounds of .30 cal. ammunition, twenty 60mm mortar rounds, and eight pounds of TNT. The second cache was un-

missary and Post Exchange items will remain here as shelter for 80 homeless Saigon families. A recent fire in the capital's third district, caused by an overturned kerosene lamp, gutted the 68 structures housing the families, leaving the inhabitants without shelter, food, or clothing.

District Chief Nguyen Huu Cong made an urgent plea to Army Headquarters Area Command (HAC). Captain Melvin R. Chatman, of the civic affairs office, appeared on the scene the same day.

Chatman realized that a coordinated community effort would be necessary to rebuild the neighborhood, and he helped form a fire relief committee among the families.

"This gave us a central point of contact from which we could determine what supplies were needed and in what amounts," Chatman said.

Food, clothing, and sleeping mats arrived from local Vietnamese religious groups and district officials. Members of Saigon's city council toured the stricken area and donated 2,000 piasters as an emergency grant.

Still unsolved was the problem of construction materials to rebuild the charred homes.

HAC civic actions chief, Maj. James F. Bodine, had the solution. Huge shipping crates which had brought canned goods and soap powder to HAC's commissary and the Cholon PX each contained some 500 feet of solid, usable lumber. Dismantled, the crates could provide shelter for the fire victims.

Trucks from Saigon's sanitation department, backed up by vehicles from HAC's motor pool, started hauling the crates to the area. To date, 52 of them, comprising more than 26,000 board feet of lumber, have been delivered.

Bodine pointed out that 27 tons of cement and more than 1400 sheets of metal roofing have also been delivered on site by U.S. and Vietnamese workers, to become part of the rebuilt houses.

"We were fortunate in having the right materials on hand," Bodine said. "The Vietnamese families from the neighborhood are off-loading the wood and cement from the vehicles and pitching in to build themselves a decent place to live again."

Vietnam Communiqué

turned in an unoccupied enemy base camp 24 miles southeast of Saigon. This cache held 95 individual weapons, eight machineguns, 162 grenades, 65 pounds of TNT, 23,500 rounds of small arms ammunition, 50 rounds of 75mm ammunition, and 30 rounds of 60mm mortar

ammunition. The infantrymen discovered the haul concealed in two mounds of soft dirt covered with dense vegetation. Later, an abandoned enemy hospital was discovered two miles west of the munitions. The hospital contained a large quantity of medical supplies.

