

both the military and civilian population.

After stubborn fighting throughout the Christmas holidays and

Two Build Classroom Furniture

BEAR CAT, (9th INF-IO)—The shortage in a Quan Tre elementary school classroom will be shortly relieved because of the efforts of two military policemen of the 9th Infantry Division.

Specialists Four Donald B. Mitchell and Clement M. Rossi are both policemen and assistant squad leaders of the 9th MP Company's security platoon.

When they learned of the severe shortage of desks at the school through Maj. William H. Pratt, assistant division G-5 (civil affairs), and Maj. Joseph A. Barry III, assistant division provost marshal, they went to work.

The two designed individual desk-chair sets and multi-pupil work benches. Then they set to work scrounging surplus material.

Two prototypes of the desk-chair combinations have been completed, and the remaining desks will be completed as spare time allows, according to Rossi.

"We have enough wood cut for eight multi-pupil benches and 12 desks," he said.

Delivery of the classroom furniture will be made as soon as possible after the work is finished.

ready to start.

On opening day, Lt. Col. Charles A. Gillis, the battalion commander, and Capt. Robert J. Murphy, the battalion civil affairs officer, were invited to a ceremony at the school and were personally thanked by Rach Kien's village chief and by hundreds of smiling school children.

Lucky Shot Gets 2 VC

TAY NINH, (196th INF-IO)—Nui Ba Den, the "Black Virgin" mountain, thrusts its jungle-covered head 3200 feet above the flat terrain of Tay Ninh. Although the Special Forces maintain a fortified camp on the mountain summit, the slopes are Viet Cong dominated.

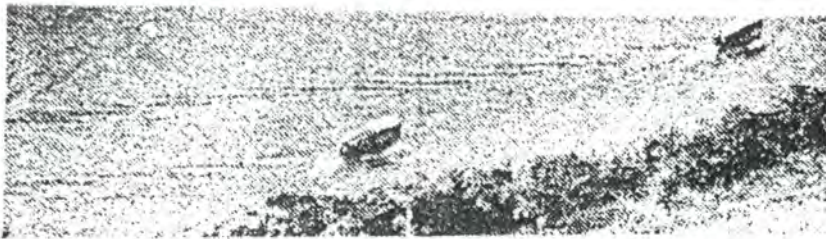
Recently, elements of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade again challenged the VC's hold on the "Black Virgin." Recoilless rifles of Troop F, 17th Cavalry, brought fire on suspected VC cave positions. Specialist Four Brian C. Barker, gunner on a 106mm recoilless rifle, put his first shot into the mouth of a cave. "I didn't think anybody was in there," he recalled.

Later that day, Civilian Irregular Defense Group forces began searching the caves. As it turned out, Barker's shot had entered a cave, killing two VC hiding in it and smashing their weapons.

In commemoration of his lucky shot, Barker painted two small VC silhouettes on the tube of his recoilless rifle.

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AIR COVER—Two UH-1C gunships from the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, provide air cover for Vietnamese assault craft on a river below.

(Photo by Sp5 Todd Darch, 25th INF-IO)

'Keep 'Em Flying' Is Byword

PHU LOI (1st AVN-IO)—How do you turn a generally unglamorous, unappreciated job into one of great personal pride and well-deserved recognition? The men of the 400th Transportation Detachment and the Maintenance Platoon of the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company Boxcars have found the answer.

It is to keep the CH-47 Chinooks of the 178th flying. They constantly pursue the accomplishment of this vital mission with unsurpassed dedication, professional skill, and initiative.

A recent situation well illustrates this. While extracting an artillery unit from a forward area about 60 miles north of Saigon near Quan Loi, a Boxcar CH-47 damaged a rotor blade and was forced to remain in the tactical area.

Repairs of this nature are normally accomplished at the company area in here, where the area is secure and the necessary parts and equipment are on hand. Getting the damaged ship back, however, would tie-up another CH-47, many men, and hours all needed elsewhere.

Taking stock of the situation, Maj. Davis Clark, maintenance officer, gathered together the necessary tools, his repair team, and a 600-pound replacement rotor blade, and flew to the downed ship to repair it on the spot.

On arrival, he discovered that a previously requested five-ton wrecker was unavailable to lift the rotor blade. Undaunted, he organized his 12-man crew and rigged-up available straps. Then using sheer brawn the crew removed and lowered the old blade and hoisted and replaced the new one.

Qui Nhon Exchange Boasts \$1 Million Monthly Business

QUI NHON (1st LOG-IO) — "This is the best post exchange I have seen since coming to Vietnam," praised Lt. Gen. F.J. Chesarek, chairman of the board for Army and Air Force Exchanges and Motion Picture Service, on a recent inspection tour of the 1st Logistical Command's new Qui Nhon PX facilities.

"The PX is well stocked, the goods are attractively displayed and it is neat and clean," the general told Lt. Col. Ernest G. Stolper, the area exchange officer, after a tour of the exchange center.

The Qui Nhon complex, which has been in operation four months, along with the other area exchanges at An Khe, Pleiku and the 4th Infantry Division, average nearly \$2,800,000 gross sales monthly and serve approximately 100,000 troops.

The "Plaza", as it is frequently called, sells more the one million dollars of merchandise per month. "It takes 40 Americans and 100 Vietnamese employees to keep the Qui Nhon PX in business," said Stolper.

Constructed in seven weeks by surrounding units, the shopping center consists of 20 quonset huts and a spacious parking area. Also

R And R At Home

DAU TIENG (4th INF-IO) — Like many other soldiers, SFC Nelson T. Omero left the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade base camp for a five day rest and recuperation (R and R) trip to the Philippines.

For Omero, however, the trip was more than just a chance to get away from combat. It was the first time he had visited his hometown in 20 years.

Arriving at the town of Ilog, Omero paid a surprise visit to the home of his father, whom he had not seen in more than 20 years.

Specialist Five Jesse Bratton Jr., a senior-medical aidman with the unit, said, "Since we have less room than in a regular dispensary, we can only carry enough equipment to sustain life long enough for an evacuation helicopter to arrive and transport a casualty to a better equipped medical facility."

One of the tankmen said of the traveling dispensary, "It's comforting to know that medical aid is so close at hand."

was firing rockets. Bell saw two rocket fire while ed to flee from ing helicopters.

As Bell fired

Ivymen Prefab

TUÝ HOA (4th Viet Cong) are "capitalistic" tri 1st Lt. James B. leader with Com talion, 8th Infar

The officer fro try Division's 1 leading his unit sion when his Sp4 Clyde Th shack hidden in

Checking it found a six-cubic with a thatched prising thing." that the box ha cated. Each en was numbered to a slit cut in one posts."



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK—Special Force work details with Vietnamese employees