

Infantrymen Kill 107 Near Cu Chi



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Big Guns Repel Enemy Attackers

CHU LAI (USA) — Sappers from NVA units operating in the Hiep Duc Valley made an unsuccessful attempt to overrun an Americal Division fire base and pave the way for an attack on the refugee center at Hiep Duc, 20 miles west of Tam Ky.

The enemy left behind 32 dead on the slopes of Landing Zone Siberia in their bid to tie up artillery gun crews in their own defense, so that another NVA force would not have to face the guns in their attack against the refugee center.

An early morning attack

Eyes of A Cobra

DA NANG (USMC) — Two radiomen attached to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, recently served as the eyes for two Cobra gunships and were credited with the death of 10 NVA soldiers when they skillfully directed the gunships to well-hidden enemy positions 16 miles southwest of Da Nang.

Private First Class Larry S. Miles of Gales Ferry, Conn., and Private First Class Ken Forbis of Glasgow, Ky., were attached as a helicopter support team (HST) while their battalion was operating in the area known as the "Arizona Territory."

The action began when a CH-46 Sea King chopper, preparing to pick up enemy weapons and unused supplies, began to receive heavy small arms fire from a village approximately 800 yards from the battalion's position.

"From our location, we could not see the enemy positions," recalled Forbis. "So Miles and I climbed a knoll to get a better view."

When the two Marines got to the top of the knoll they spotted three enemy soldiers running across a rice paddy. Quickly they both opened up with their M-16s, forcing the enemy to retreat. At this time Forbis established radio contact with the gunships that were in the area, informing them of the situation.

"When the gunships arrived, I let them know we could see various targets from our hill-top vantage point," related Forbis who then started pin-pointing targets for them.

And pin-point targets they did. One by one the targets were destroyed.

A sweep through the village revealed 10 dead NVA and an assortment of individual weapons and combat equipment.

started when LZ Siberia was hit by rocket-propelled grenades, recoilless rifle fire and intense automatic weapons fire. Sappers carrying grenades, satchel charges and flamethrowers moved up to the perimeter wire.

Their advance was slowed down by artillery fire from the battery on the hilltop base and support from LZ West, a nearby fire base. Air support was also called in and the fire power of Army and Air Force gunships slowed the enemy in their advance on the fire base.

The defenders of the hill, a company from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Brigade, poured small arms fire on the advancing NVA units, stalling their attack on the outer perimeter. The effect of the howitzers from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery firing point blank into the NVA force, sent the enemy back down the hill.

Meanwhile, the enemy's push toward the refugee center was foiled by the combined efforts of U.S. artillery and units of the Regional Popular Forces based at Hiep Duc. Combined air strikes and ground forces met the enemy head-on, breaking up all coordination in their efforts, sending the scattered enemy force into retreat.



FREEZE—Lieutenant Robert A. Duclos of Manchester, N.H., comes to a halt as he senses possible enemy movement while leading his platoon on a sweep near Lang Co, south of Camp Eagle, the 101st Airborne Division headquarters. (USA PHOTO By: SP5 E.P. Boice)

Politics Stepped Up in Long An

Villagers Elect Candidates

LONG AN (USA) — A significant trend of increased grass roots political participation has been noted by officials in Long An Province.

Comparing village and hamlet contests held last March with the most recent one in September, they testify to an increase in voter interest.

In the hamlets, 143 candidates competed for 59 positions last month, while 59 fought for 42 positions at the village level. On an average 2.43 candidates contested each office, while last March the ratio was 1.76 candidates to one office.

Two possible explanations for this increase in political activity were offered by John W. Zerolis of Berkeley, Calif., province political advisor.

1) The impact of the Village Self-Development Program which provides for a budget addition of 400,000 piasters to villages with elected governments.

2) The continuing interest in the forthcoming political struggle with the Viet Cong.

Now, according to Zerolis, "We're very, very 'up-tight' in our village program. What happens when the Americans leave is what the people are

talking about," Zerolis says. A lot of people are very heavily committed to Government of Vietnam programs already and have a vested interest in the GVN's policies continuing."

Zerolis also cited increasing military security in the province as an incentive toward greater political activity. "Being a village or hamlet official now is no longer a great personal risk," he said.

Community Development Assistants (CDAs) from each of Long An's seven districts, who first brought the political situation to the attention of province officials, made their own analyses.

The picture they present is one of increasing confidence in the government, linked to the Village Self-Development Program and its ability to provide security. According to one CDA official three-fourths of the land is now pacified.

A CDA from Ben Luc claims that the candidates who won elections were those who urged the people to succeed in the 1969 Village Self-Development Program which promised more money for local projects next year.

CU CHI (USA) — Recent activities by units of the 25th Infantry Division operating in the Cu Chi area inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy with intense ground, air and artillery fire, killing 107.

Action in the northwest area, better known as the Citadel, buzzed to the tune of miniguns, small arms fire and armored personnel carriers as infantrymen, mechanized units and gunships combined fire power to crush an already scattered enemy force.

Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry were airlifted into the area after enemy movement was sighted by gunships of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company and a light scout team.

Immediately following the first engagements, an on-line sweep of the area by the 2nd Battalion, aided by units from the 1st Battalion (Mech.), 5th Infantry, produced 35 enemy bodies, 12 AK-47 rifles, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers and other miscellaneous equipment.

Activity continued elsewhere, when Company A of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry combined forces with an element of the 49th ARVN Regiment and came in contact with the enemy near Fire Support Base Patton.

Evidence of recent enemy activity was found in the area when the Dragons found strings from hammocks tied to trees. The NVA unit apparently did not have time to untie the hammocks and instead just tore

(Continued on Page 12)

ARVN's Uncover VC Cache

LAI KHE (USA) — The Viet Cong have discovered that their food supply has diminished lately, and unless they can secure additional supplies soon, they will find themselves operating on empty stomachs.

During recent operations in the area of Lai Khe, soldiers of the 6th Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th ARVN Regiment working together with the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, discovered an enemy cache containing more than six tons of food and other provisions.

The operation began when the combined forces were eagle-flighted by Army helicopters into the area, and soon after they started their sweep of the area, the ARVN element spotted three VC and engaged them with small arms fire.

The enemy ran without returning the fire, and an immediate check of their retreating path revealed an AK-47 rifle, blood trails, and a piece of paper describing the food storage areas.

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Marines Zap NVA Troops In Battle At Barrier Island

BARRIER ISLAND (USMC) — Due to a company of uncooperative Marines from "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 27 NVA soldiers will no longer be using Barrier Island as a "resort by the sea."

The island, 18 miles southeast of Da Nang, was formerly used by enemy troops as a staging

area from which they infiltrated Dien Ban and Hoi An, capital of Quang Nam Province.

A Marine platoon, under the command of Second Lieutenant Lawrence Brent of Chicago, was conducting a sweep on the island when they received enemy automatic and small arms fire from a nearby treeline. The Marines countered the attack by calling

in naval gunfire and an AC-47 Spooky gunship.

The Marines began moving west and suddenly spotted six NVA in the treeline. A brief fire-fight took the lives of all six enemy. Later, in their night defensive position, the Leathernecks spotted 20 to 30 enemy troops moving on line toward their position. "Spooky" was called in again and her mini-guns routed the attackers.

Early the next morning, as the Marines continued their sweep farther west, they received enemy sniper and small arms fire from a concealed knoll.

The battle was on as the Marines forced a cordon around the area and closed in. The enemy elected to run rather than fight, leaving 21 dead NVA and a number of individual weapons around the area. The Leathernecks sustained light casualties during the encounter.

During a search of the area, they discovered a small cove. "It looked as though the enemy had set up a place to relax and take it easy between engagements," Brent concluded.

Viet Airpower Swells As Pilots Fly A-37s

DA NANG AB (USAF) — Pilots of a Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) unit here recently began flying combat missions in the U.S.-built A-37 jet fighter.

In doing so, the 516th Fighter Squadron, 41st Tactical Wing became the third VNAF squadron to employ the jet aircraft.

Pilots and maintenance specialists of the 516th FS began transition to the jet fighter more than a year ago. Pilots, who previously flew the propeller-driven A-1 Skyraider, went to England AFB, La., in the summer and fall of 1968 for transitional training in the A-37.

Following the six-month course they returned to Viet-

nam, where some were upgraded to instructor pilots at Nha Trang Air Base. Meanwhile, a team of USAF advisors were instructing maintenance personnel in the care of the aircraft.

Following the aircraft's arrival here, the pilots began refresher training under USAF Major George A. Lasley of Kansas City, Kan., a former T-37 instructor and now advisor to Major Nguyen Van Vuong, commander of the 516th FS.

"Assisting in upgrading the pilots was a pleasure," Lasley said. "Practically all of them had their initial pilot training in the United States and all have considerable combat experience."

VC Propaganda Factory Yields Political Leaflets

CHU LAI (USA) — Americal Division troops recently sifted through a deserted Viet Cong training base camp located six miles south of Tam Ky and uncovered an enemy propaganda factory, from which leaflets had been circulated in the division's area of operations.

The factory, found by Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry during a combat patrol, contained a crude printing press and a Russian flag. Beside the press were large stacks of mimeographed propaganda leaflets of three types, written in Vietnamese and in broken English.

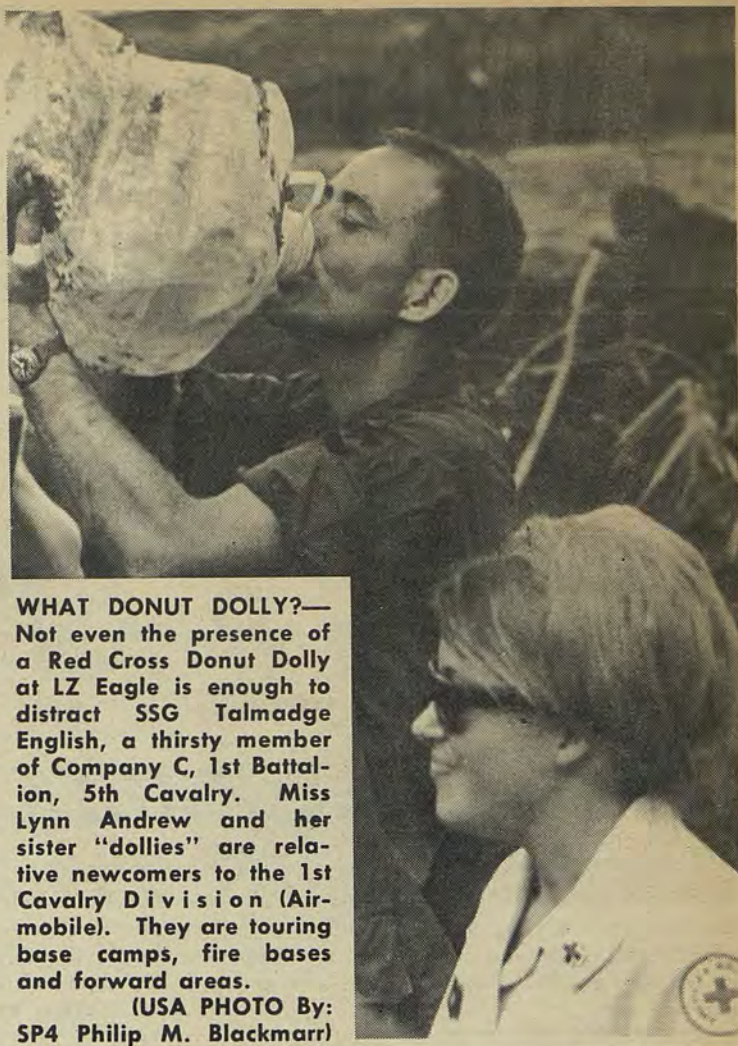
Some of the leaflets (written with every English word misspelled) mentioned several leaders and places of political rallies held in the United States. Others described medical care of American captives at the hands of the Viet Cong and quoted statements allegedly made by freed American servicemen.

The distribution list of the leaflets covered a wide area. Americal troops found them as far as 7½ miles south of the division's Chu Lai base camp, about 90 miles away from the jungle factory.



SILVER STAR MEDAL
Butcher, Homer E. SP4 USA
Richardson, Douglas J. CPT USA
BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE
Adkins, James O. SFC USA
Alvarez, Robert L. 1LT USMC
Bowen, Johnnie F. SSG USA
Collins, Freddie R. SFC USA 1st OLC
Corrigan, Robert L. SGT USA
Cruikshank, Ralph H. Jr. CPT USA 1st OLC
Ferguson, Ronald E. SFC USA
Howard, John D. LTC USA 2nd OLC
Montes, Louie M. SSG USA

Moser, Carl H. III MAJ USA
Quinn, Edward J. Jr. 1LT USA
Reed, Edward T. CPT USA 2nd OLC
Ross, Edgar J. MSG USA 2nd OLC
Scott, Richard P. Jr. CPT USA
Self, John J. MSG USA 3rd OLC
Wild, John W. CPT USA 1st OLC
Wood, Donald J. SSG USA 1st OLC
Zimmerle, Harvey L. MAJ USMC
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE
Bryant, Mark A. CPT USA
Coates, Dennis E. CPT USA
Torres-Mills, Ramon SFC USA



WHAT DONUT DOLLY? — Not even the presence of a Red Cross Donut Dolly at LZ Eagle is enough to distract SSG Talmadge English, a thirsty member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. Miss Lynn Andrew and her sister "dollies" are relative newcomers to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). They are touring base camps, fire bases and forward areas.

(USA PHOTO BY: SP4 Philip M. Blackmarr)

It's No Fairy Tale

This 'Duck' Pulled A Truck

LAI KHE (USA) — For the first time since World War II, an armored car is being used in a war zone.

The so-called "V-100 Commando Car" features large wheels, armor plating, two machine guns mounted on a turret — and the identification, "Military Police." And the enemy doesn't like the V-100, which recently started making the rounds with troops of the 1st Infantry Division.

Proprietors of the new vehicles are members of the 1st Military Police Company. "I swear by it," enthused Specialist 4 Harold J. Whitcomb of Ramburne, Ala., a V-100 driver. "It's a good vehicle; it drives well and it's strong. When you put it in a bind, it comes through."

MP First Lieutenant Timothy D. O'Toole of Venice, Fla., noted, "We can give a man either a jeep with a machine gun or a V-100." He said the Commando Car has "much greater protection and fire power" as well as recovery capability.

Also employed by the 720th MP Battalion for convoy duty, the military police use the V-100

principally for mobile resource control.

Commonly called "Duck" by troops because of its amphibious capability, the V-100 can travel at a speed of more than 60 miles per hour and can run more than 50 miles on a flat tire.

Powered by a 191HP engine, the Duck is outfitted with dual M-73 machine guns and can carry either an M-60 or a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on its

rear deck.

Designed specifically as either a police vehicle or a convoy escort vehicle, the V-100 is also used as a command and reconnaissance vehicle and as a personnel carrier (since it can haul 11 fully armed infantrymen).

"It's powerful," Whitcomb declared. "I've pulled out a fully loaded five-ton truck with this vehicle and didn't even strain it."

Shears Replace Bullets In Battalion 'Clip Joint'

LZ GRANT (USA) — Two Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) are running a clip joint here.

But it's all on the level. Specialist 4 David Payne of Osseo, Minn., and Specialist 4 Douglas Perry of Alliance, Ohio, are barbers for the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry and its support elements.

Although the two men serve as machine gunners in the field, "grunts" need not fear that machine gun tactics will be used on their heads. Both

men are professional barbers, having plied their trade Stateside before entering the Army.

Their shop consists of a tent, but the men aren't complaining. "We have all the comforts of home except for air-conditioning," Payne said.

The chairs and tables were constructed from 155mm howitzer ammo boxes. Listening to a ball game on AFVN radio, however, has given the place a touch of home.

Conversation, though, is a little different than it is "at home."

"Back in the States, the customers talk mostly about sports and community activities," Payne noted. "Here we all share war stories."

27 Mines Found On Hwy. 4

CAN THO (USA) — A two-ton Vietnamese truck blew a mine recently, snowing rice over National Highway 4, three miles north of Can Tho. Shortly afterward, a tense 19-man mine-sweep team from the 20th Engineer Brigade's 69th Battalion found that a cunning enemy had used both timed and pressure detonators in burying 27 mines in the road.

"The worst part," declared PFC Terry Gearin, a medic from St. Paul, Minn., "was that some of the mines were self-

timed. We never knew when another one would go off. One exploded while the CO (commanding officer) was placing a charge on another."

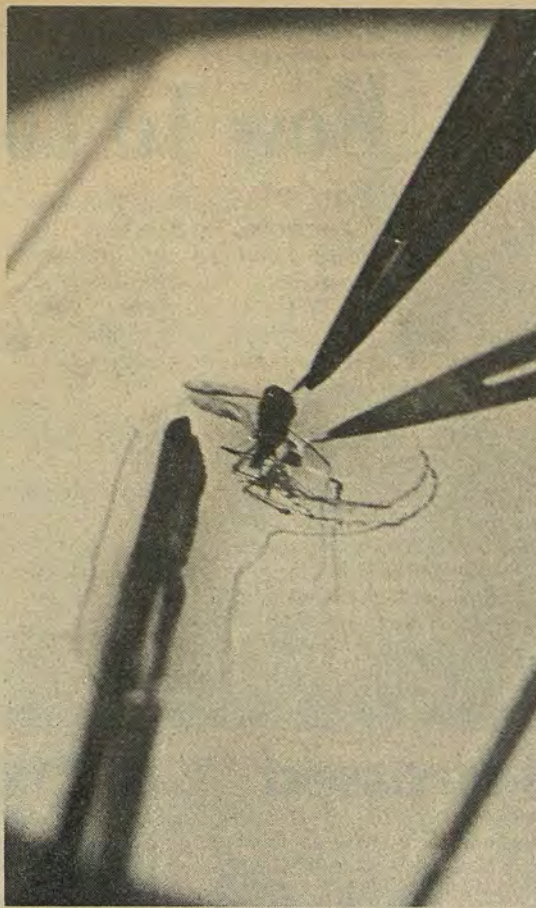
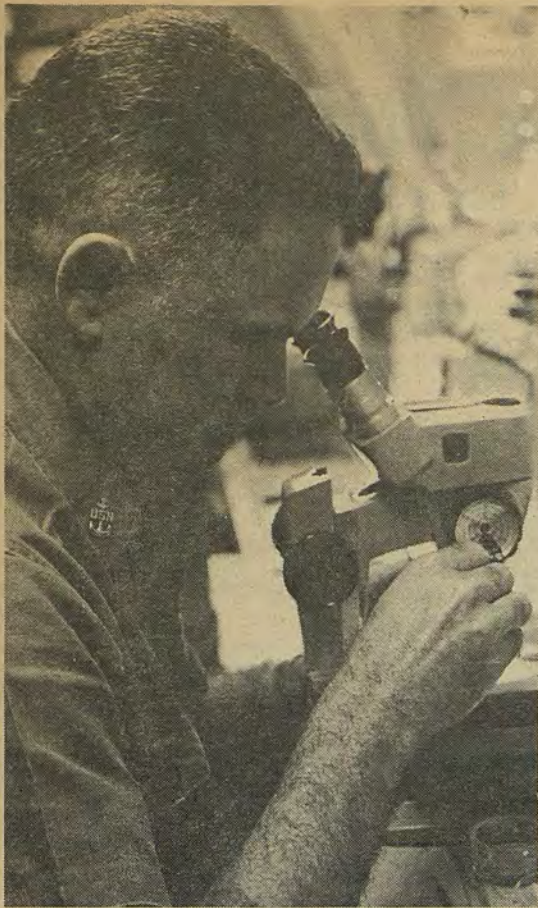
Two anti-tank mines, a foot in diameter and 5 inches thick, were well concealed in muddy pot holes. About 10 anti-personnel mines surrounded each of the anti-tank mines.

"The anti-personnel mines were very crudely buried," said First Lieutenant Ivan Johnson of Tallahassee, Fla., officer-in-charge. "We could usually see

the tops of them. It looked like they were hoping a vehicle would hit an anti-tank mine and then the anti-personnel mines would be detonated by anyone trying to help."

The mines were blown in place. The anti-tank mines left craters nearly large enough for a jeep, and the anti-personnel mines blew holes three feet in diameter.

The 27 mines were found in a 300-yard stretch of Highway 4, the same area where the enemy had planted mines in July.



Suspended in a drop of saline solution, a mosquito is flawlessly dissected and its salivary glands and gut removed intact by a member of the U.S. Navy Preventive Medicine Team at Da Nang. The tiny organs are magnified 800 times to determine if malaria parasites are present.

(USN PHOTO By: PH1 L.D. McLendon)

Marine-PF Unit Secures Area

VC Terror Lifted From Village

HUE (USMC) — More than six months ago Marine Sergeant Robert Eaton, 24, wrote his family in Pacific Grove, Calif., that he wanted to stay in Vietnam another six months. He felt he still had a job to do.

Eaton just finished his extended tour recently, walking out of the rice fields of Van Sa village north of here after his last night ambush. He left the village with a feeling of satisfaction. Van Sa village, he said, was all-out pacified.

For the previous eight months, Eaton had been commander of Combined Action Platoon (CAP) 3-4-4, an integrated group of U.S. Marines and Popular Force (PF) militiamen who set ambushes during the night and patrol during the day to provide security for the farmers while routing out the enemy's grip on the people.

"When we first started operating in this area, 1,500 farmers lived in one-third the area of my responsibility," Eaton said, as he began his last evening walk through Van Sa. Now 2,500 farmers are spread out through the entire village area, living here day and night where eight months ago, they wouldn't even go out during the day.

Eaton strolled down the commercial area of his most prosperous village hamlet with obvious pride. He pointed out a new well, a blacksmith shop, a better set of tools for a carpenter, a rice milling machine run by a gasoline engine and used by the entire village.

"As further testimony to our success, the people are building permanent homes. They have faith in the future."

Dusk was approaching as the sergeant made his last stroll through the now deserted market place.

"When we first arrived here, the women were afraid to go to the market place," Eaton commented. "Now 500 women gather daily to sell their produce. You should see them in the morning!"

The sergeant stopped and inspected one of the stalls still open as night approached.

"Our help-the-people program is not a series of handouts," he continued, as he passed a girl operating a sewing machine under a tin porch.

"For example, I could have come out here and given these people their sewing machines. But we used a different approach. Their own district headquarters distributes them and the people gain further respect for their government's ability to help them."

"They also get materials to rebuild homes and schools from the district government."

As night set in, the sergeant returned to his platoon which had used a schoolyard as their command post that day.

"Saddle up," Eaton bellowed. And his Marines and PFs headed out on the sergeant's last night ambush.

"This platoon will probably move to a less secure area after I'm gone," concluded the sergeant with a look of satisfaction.

The patrol moved out into the darkness for their night positions. In the morning Eaton was heading for home, his job completed.

Vietnamese Boy And Girl Scouts Get Big Boost From Big Red One

LAI KHE (USA) — Many new arrivals in Vietnam are surprised to find that two organizations with which they were familiar back home — and possibly belonged to at one time — are also very much alive in this country.

They are the boy and girl scouts.

DA NANG (USN) — Deft hands worked swiftly with the miniature scalpel. A drop of saline solution fell from the bottle overhead. Even under the powerful microscope each incision was flawless. Soon the salivary glands were removed.

Sound like major surgery at a hospital in the United States? Not quite! In a quonset hut at the station hospital of the U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA), Da Nang, the Preventive Medicine Unit (PMU), had completed dissecting one of the thousands of mosquitoes it will study this year.

Part of the PMU research on the major carriers of malaria, this skillful dissection, followed by microscopic analysis, may prove the turning point in the battle against one of the most persistent diseases in Vietnam.

Major Disabler

In the last several years, there have been times when 80 per cent of the hospital beds in Vietnam were filled with the victims of disease, not war, and the major disabler has been malaria.

Commander W. F. Miner, officer in charge of the PMU, explained, "Since we had not, as a country, been exposed to malaria before we came to Vietnam, we had not expended the tremendous research time necessary to overcome it." The six members of the team, doctors, entomologists (specialists in the study of insects), and highly trained laboratory technicians are working hard to make up for lost time.

Mosquitoes are most vulnerable to sprays at feeding time and in the places where they breed. Because these habits vary so greatly among different types of mosquitoes (one feeds at night and breeds exclusively in swamps, while another feeds only during daylight hours and breeds in tin cans), extermination of all types with a single generalized program is not possible.

"Although other types carry yellow fever and other viruses,

only the female anopheles mosquitoes transmits malaria," Lieutenant Roger H. Grothaus, director of the Entomology Laboratory, said.

"The question is, which of the 25 known types of anopheles (and possibly some yet unidentified) are carriers of malaria in this area," Grothaus continued.

Once this is determined, a spraying program many times as effective as the present one can be initiated by striking at the carriers when they are most vulnerable.

One of the identification procedures requires PMU members to sit up late into the night in areas where malaria is prevalent, and allow mosquitoes to land on them. By capturing and identifying these mosquitoes, the PMU can determine which types are man-biters in the area, and thus most likely to be malaria carriers.

Live trapping is accomplished by "baiting" traps with dry ice flown in from Taipei. Dry ice gives off carbon dioxide as it melts, and mosquitoes are drawn to the trap believing the carbon dioxide to be a man's breath.

Trap Mosquitoes

Traps drawing mosquitoes to light bulbs are used at facilities where electricity is available. Operating traps in areas where malaria is most common increases the chance of finding carriers.

Two team members of the PMU reactionary force, which goes to the field to collect mosquitoes in areas of high malarial rate, have contacted the disease as a result of their increased exposure, and most of the men have been sniped at while collecting.

One member of the PMU candidly stated, "Our hours are long, hard and sometimes dangerous; and we are rarely rewarded with positive result in our efforts. But we look forward to making a decisive step in controlling malaria, and that will be compensation enough."

Refugees Receive School Supplies

CU CHI (USA) — School started for 80 children of Loc Cua village thanks to some help from the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry civil affairs group and the American CARE program.

Loc Cua, seven miles west of Cu Chi, has one school, which is run by Catholic nuns. A private institution, the school must rely on tuition payments from the students' parents.

The village is made up mostly

of war refugees. Most of the families have a hard time getting money to pay tuition costs. They are also faced with the problem of providing their children with classroom materials.

The 2nd Battalion's civil affairs section, as part of its civic action program, distributed school supplies made available through CARE. The Wolfhound mercy team also provided medical supplies for the school nurse so attention could be given to the children's medical needs while the Wolfhound MEDCAP

team was working elsewhere.

Captain Jerry Parks from Sioux City, Iowa, battalion civic affairs officer, has visited the school many times to help the nuns aid the villagers.

"The school mistress told me that without the assistance we gave these people, many of the children would be without school supplies," Parks said.

"Helping these people provide an education for their children is a very satisfying experience and it shows the people that we care."

In this village adjacent to the main 1st Infantry Division base camp, a group of 90 boys and girls work and play in the spirit that characterizes scouting all over the world.

"Most of the children are between the ages of 8 and 12," said Staff Sergeant Ho Van Thach, an Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldier who works with the kids during his time off. "But some are younger. Their parents work during the day, or are off fighting the war. I look after the kids in their absence."

Thach is not alone in his efforts to help. Big Red One soldiers are doing their share to see that the youngsters do not miss out on the fun and benefits of scouting. Members of the 121st Signal Battalion, 6th Artillery contributed funds and candy for a recent autumn festival.

"The guys are more than willing to contribute to this project," asserted Private First Class Dennis Gingery of Springfield, Ore. "They get a kick out of it all."

Gingery, along with Private

First Class Robert F. Aldinger of Brooklyn, have been assisting Thach in advising the scouts.

Personnel from the 3rd Brigade have pitched in to help. Major Jesse Short, Maplesville, Ala., has seen to it that the youngsters have not lacked medical and dental care. Where necessary, the children are referred to Iron Brigade medical units.

The scouts participate in the same activities as their American counterparts. They are taught to live and work both together and independently, emphasizing the spirit of friendship and the ability to be self-sufficient.

There is a difference in their overnight camping procedures, however. "The Lai Khe Scouts do not camp out beyond the confines of the village," explained Thach. "It's not too safe out there!"

Otherwise, as elsewhere in the world, scouting continues. Here in Vietnam, children run and play with abandon — a spot of youthful innocence amidst encircling adults who have the burdens of war on their minds.

THE OBSERVER

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All About Interest

How To Lose Your Money

WASHINGTON — The Navy has seen fit to help its personnel understand the lingo of the lending business, and perhaps members of all services can benefit from this knowledge. Without knowing what various types of interest terms mean, a borrower can and often will be stuck. Here's how the Navy defines:

ADD-ON INTEREST: You ask for \$100, and you immediately owe \$106 (possibly more).

DISCOUNT INTEREST: You leave the place with \$94, but you'll repay the \$100 you originally wanted.

SIX PER CENT: A standard term for true interest rates ranging from 7 to 18 per cent, or even more.

FOUR PER CENT: Another way to state the same interest charges, making them sound still lower.

REFINANCING: Your golden opportunity to owe more money, and pay a higher rate at the same time.

BALANCE: Large sum you still owe after several monthly payments.

LOW DOWN-PAYMENT: The finance charges will probably be high.

LOW SERVICE CHARGE: Store charges you 1½ per cent each month on the balance maintained since last Christmas.

TIME-PRICE DIFFERENTIAL: A name used for financing costs which are above the legal limit for interest charges.

INVESTIGATION FEE: They telephone your neighbors and it costs you about \$2 or more.

PENALTY: The prepaid interest you don't get back if you pay off a loan ahead of schedule.

Beware Of Being Doublecrossed

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — The United States Government has a long list of subversive-type organizations which constantly seek new members through various forms of recruitment. Some of these groups are outright candid in stating their goals. Others conceal them in order to carry out deliberate and detrimental ideals contrary to our form of Democratic society. They ALL

seek to destroy, or drastically change, our system of Government!

Fortunately, our Government knows the names of these groups and their aims. In many instances, they know the names of those who are or have been members. But, ironically, the list is long and memberships are startling and realistic.

Communism is the system of

government avowed to destroy all other forms of government. It is sworn to strangle countries one by one until it emerges as the world's system. No nation on earth is too large (as in the case of the United States) or too small, notably Cuba. Its encroachment begins menacingly unnoticed. Sometimes it begins within the ranks of the less fortunate; often within the realms of the intellectual strata.

Where and how do we fit into the picture? It's simple. We are all potential members! There are hundreds of members of these groups who may be completely unaware of their dangers. Innocent individuals may be "conscripted" every year without realizing the initial intent of the group. Dormant cells of Communism are being formed with each new cell becoming a greater threat to our Nation.

The fact that a close friend asks you to join an organization does not mean it is a good one. Check it out with your security officer. Your friend may have been "sucked in" the same way he is trying to convince you of the group's laurels. In all honesty, he may sincerely believe it is a worthwhile organization. That's how these memberships build.

Be aware of the dangers of becoming affiliated with any group; — fraternal or otherwise. Study its charter and see if it is "on the list." Careers have been ruined by joining organizations that were "thought" to be "American as apple pie."

The doublecross comes after you have joined, paid dues, made friends, and then learned of your tragic mistake.

Don't be a sucker for Comrade Doublecross. Be an American. That's where the "apple pie" really is.



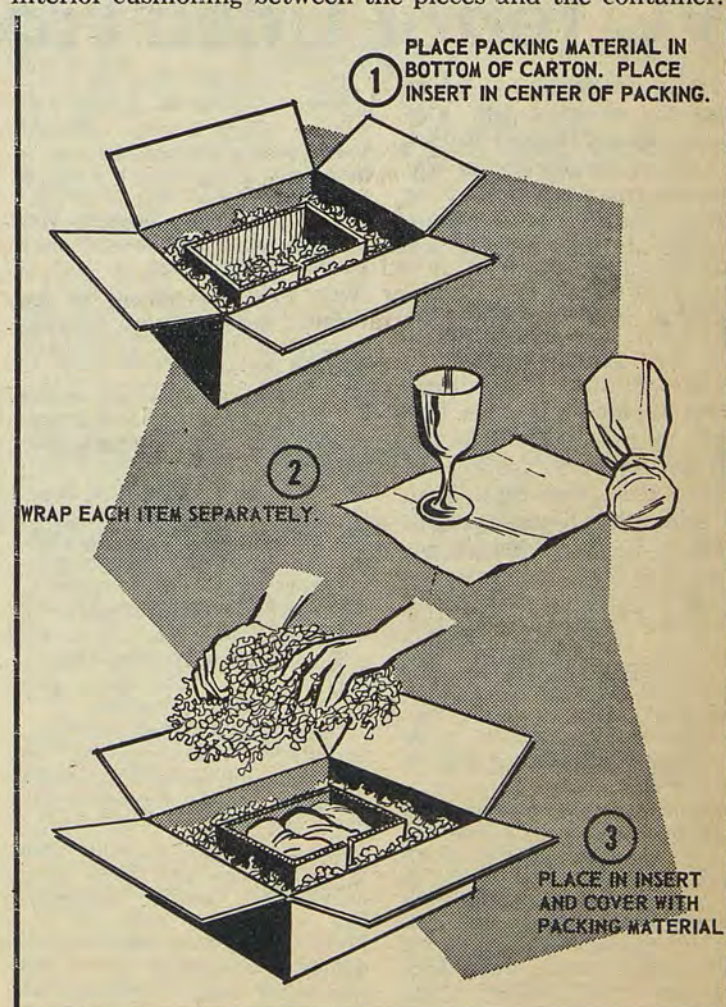
To Insure Visibility

Golden-tressed Shay Knuth of Milwaukee wants you to know that a recent DA message directs that name and "U.S. Army" tapes on the tropical combat uniform be worn parallel to the tops of the slanted pockets instead of the current parallel-to-the-ground position. Purpose is to insure their visibility. This change will be accomplished through attrition and no individual will be required to modify the position of the tapes at his own expense. Details are in DA Message 051718Z, September '69 and also will be published in the next change to AR 670-5. Shay made her debut as Playmate of the Month in the September issue of Playboy.

(PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)



GLASSWARE, CHINAWARE, CERAMICS, RADIOS, AND OTHER SIMILAR ARTICLES are very fragile and require both a strong container and adequate interior cushioning between the pieces and the container.



Jinx Removed From Freedom Hill

DA NANG (AAFES) — The jinx that has plagued the giant Freedom Hill Exchange in Da Nang, about 350 miles north of Saigon, should be at an end. At least that's the opinion of the Vietnamese employees of the store following an "offering to Buddha."

Since it was opened in 1967, the huge retail facility has had two big fires, plus being crippled totally in April of this year by the ammunition dump explosions.

"Our folks and many Da Nang townspeople explained to us why the store had gone through many misfortunes," said Miss To Phi Yen, assistant manager of Freedom Hill Exchange. "The site was formerly a place for holding rituals for the dead."

The site was in effect a cremation place, a sort of sacred ground many years ago, and the erection of the store, according to folklore, in-

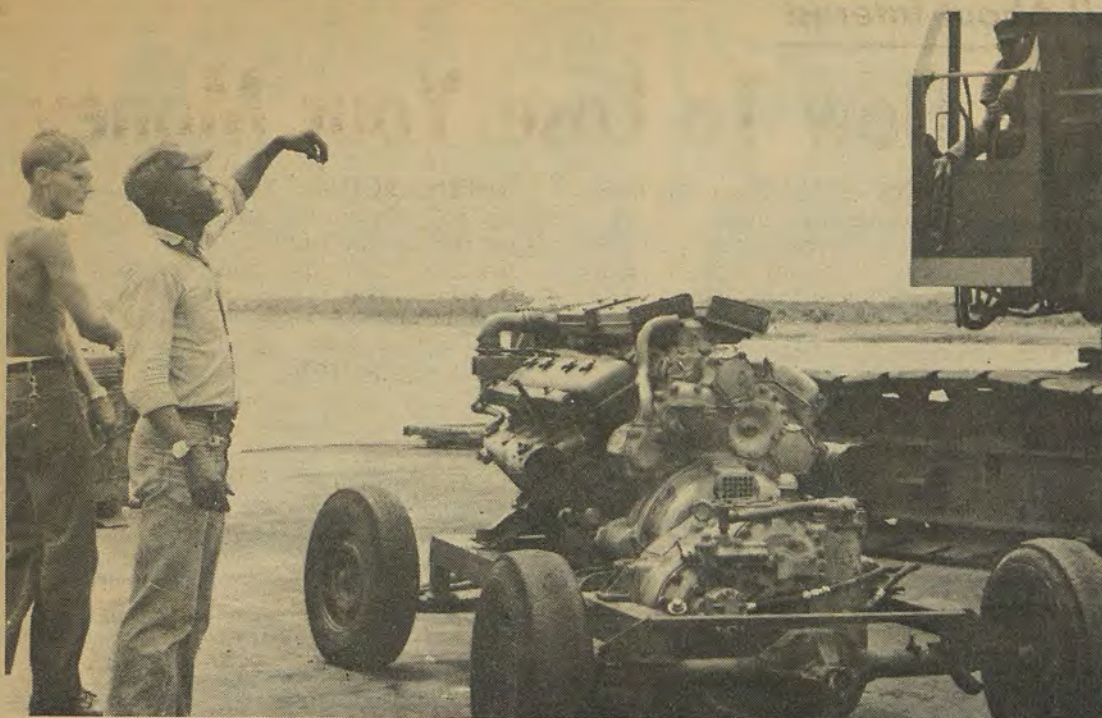
curred the wrath of their deity.

The Vietnamese employees of the store decided to do something to appease their deity and put a stop to the troubles plaguing the store and endangering their jobs. They raised a fund to buy food, drink and other paraphernalia for the offering.

Two days before the inaugural ceremonies, Nguyen Giam, a laborer, officiated in a separate Buddhist ceremony attended by several Vietnamese employees at the warehouse behind the store.

After the ceremony, the Vietnamese employees happily distributed the fruit and food which had been positioned on the makeshift altar. Those accepting the fruit and food were told that eating it would ensure their safety in Vietnam.

So Buddha has been appeased and the Freedom Hill Exchange should now be free of a jinx.



EN1 Willy J. Bridgefort Jr., crew chief, directs a crane over the big diesel engine. The repaired powerplant is one of two that propel the Swiftie patrol boats used along the coast. (USA PHOTO By: SP5 Batchelder)

Crew Working Hard To Maintain Swifties

PLANTATION (USN) — Forty-nine boats were brought out of the water and into the "hangars" for repairs and 49 Patrol Craft Fast (PCF) (Swifties) have returned to the rivers surrounding the U.S. Navy base at Cat Lo since January.

This was no easy task as a major overhaul takes a month and a half. Fortunately most of the jobs required only patching and sealing with some minor repairs.

A six-man crew commanded by EN1 Willy J. Bridgefort Jr. has kept the PCFs for all of III Corps in top operating condition. "They used to send the boats to the Philippines for major overhauls but now we're able to handle almost anything," said Willy.

For the most part, engineers assigned to each boat take care of the engines unless "we have to replace one entirely, like the time a B-40 hit the post engine," recalled the crew chief. "Now that was a real mess."

The boats are used to patrol the rivers in search of VC movement of arms and personnel. Swifties are also used as troop carriers and for psychological operations. The 20 boats at the Cat Lo base (one of five bases on the Republic of Vietnam's coast) are responsible for the delta waterways as far in as Can Tho.

The crews work a seven-day week trying to keep up with the need for their services, yet their work is never done.

Surgical Tubing Rescues 'Slingshot People'

SAIGON (MACV) — Weapons of every design and description can be found in Vietnam — from the latest in electronic gadgetry to the ancient crossbow, and from big-bored battleship guns to small-bored handguns.

And though most soldiers rely upon their standard Army-issue, many carry a little something extra to help them out of a tight spot or through sheer habit.

First Sergeant Alfred J. Brennan, K Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, is a soldier who packs a little something extra. He carries a slingshot.

"The slingshot will certainly never replace the rifle for the infantryman," the tall, heavy-set Texan chuckled, "but it has capabilities few people are aware of."

Brennan, whose family makes their home in Caldwell, Idaho, be-

gan shooting the slingshot at the age of six.

"I grew up in Brownwood, Texas, and there was little precious food on the table and plenty of small mouths to feed," he said. "I didn't have a rifle, so I started practicing with a slingshot, and before long I was shooting rabbits and doves for the table. Since then, what began as a very real necessity has become by hobby."

The 22-year Army veteran is never without a slingshot jammed into his back pocket and willingly demonstrates its use against moving targets.

"You don't really sight with the slingshot," he explained, drawing the rubberized surgical tubing back. "You just point to your target, like practicing quick kill with the BB gun. It's all in developing a sense of timing." He let go of the leather pocket and sent a rock crashing

into a beer can thrown 20 feet above his head.

"I can remember when almost every kid had a slingshot — it was just part of growing up. Every boy carried with him a slingshot, a pocketful of rocks, about 10 feet of string and a frog," he laughed, "and I still don't know what the frog was for. But the slingshot went out with the frog — kids just don't pack 'em around anymore."

According to Brennan, the slingshot can be a very lethal weapon. "Most people don't realize how powerful it is," he said. "I've brought down larger animals than I'm willing to admit and, quite honestly, if there is a need for a silent kill against the enemy over here, the slingshot would be a perfect weapon."

The sergeant makes his own slingshots and has carried his present "favorite" since 1965. The

wood and tubing instrument produces about a 40-pound pull at 36 inches of draw.

Along with his interest in the slingshot, Brennan has also shot in Army rifle and pistol matches.

"All weapons are related, some are just more efficient than others," he said. "Basically, they were all built with the same job in mind. But when everything else fails, the slingshot will still pull through. There is never a shortage of ammunition and malfunctions are easily fixed."

The largest malfunction in slingshots as a whole came in the 1940's with the development of synthetic rubber.

"Slingshot people were rescued by surgical tubing," said Brennan, "but it was pretty hard to find good shooting rubber for awhile there. It almost broke my heart when I first tried to use synthetic rubber on my slingshot."

First Combat Assault

TAY NINH (USA) — It is your first combat assault with the 1st Cavalry Division. You sit in the Huey helicopter, nervously clutching your M-16. You feel the sweat starting to roll off your forehead and hands.

Looking around, you see the calm expressions of the faces of the veterans from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. You think to yourself that they don't appear to be worried about anything.

The chopper takes off. You can feel your stomach muscles tighten. Moments later, the helicopter begins its descent and the tension builds even more.

Suddenly, the door gunners open up with their M-60 machine guns. You feel yourself hitting the ground and you head for the nearest cover at top speed.

Many thoughts run through your mind as you await the word to "move out" from the squad leader. The words, "stay alert, stay alive" keep coming back to you. The same words you heard throughout basic and infantry training.

You are a member of a recon platoon. Your platoon leader has told you that the unit's mission is to destroy an underwater bridge. He also said, "We shouldn't expect any trouble from Charlie today." You hope he's right.

You want to find that bridge in a hurry, destroy it, and get back to the safety of the landing zone.

After humping most of the day, you find out you won't be able to reach the bridge before dark. You will be spending the night in the woods.

You can't sleep that night. You have a feeling that the enemy is out there, waiting. The rain is coming down hard. "So this is Vietnam," you say to yourself.

The next day, the platoon is still looking for the bridge. After humping a few more hours, they reach the objective.

"It's about time," you think. The bridge is destroyed and you start back to the landing zone.

They call in helicopters and as you climb aboard you can't suppress a sigh of relief. Time to go back in and relax. At least until the next patrol.



There wasn't a bad seat in the house for the audience that gathered on one of the rugged hills that make up Fire Support Base Blaze on the edge of the A Shau Valley to listen to a Filipino show band who volunteered to perform free of charge for the artillerymen.

(USA PHOTO)



Bird's eye view



Hey! Wait for me



Breakfast in the A Shau Valley

STORY AND PHOTOS

By

SP4 F. J. Robinson, USA

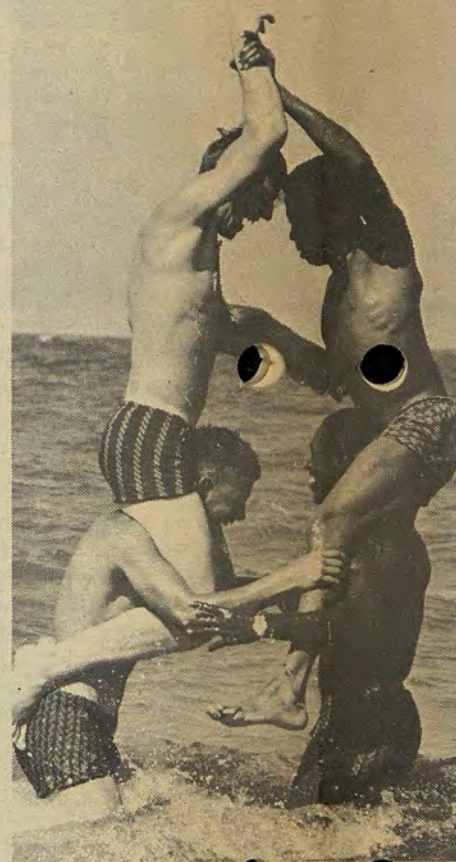
and

SSgt Richard F. Mescall Jr.,

USMC



Eagle Eyes



Friendly competition

Eagles Earn Trip To 'Bird Bath'

SAIGON (MACV) — A group of "Screaming Eagles" from B Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (AM) were guests recently at Eagle Beach R & R Center and the division's biggest 'bird bath' — the Gulf of Tonkin.

For 40 straight days these men roamed the A Shau Valley conducting diversionary operations in the hills during the day and setting up a new camp on the valley floor every night. They definitely earned their three-day in-country R & R.

Eagle Beach is a tremendous morale builder for the men in the division, and has hosted more than 18,000 combat soldiers since opening May 1, 1969.

Although it is very new, the Center is well equipped with recreational and service facilities, and has more in the planning stages, to include a two-dentist, no appointment necessary, dental facility.

Very popular with the men is the "scientific" massage parlor; and as First Sergeant Robert A. Heal, NCOIC of the beach, told the men when they arrived, "You can decide if it's scientific!"

The live band, complete with gyrating go-go girls, was one of the main attractions, but even the simplest things gave the men tremendous pleasures: eating three hot meals a day, taking a shower, and sleeping between sheets are things they've learned to do without.

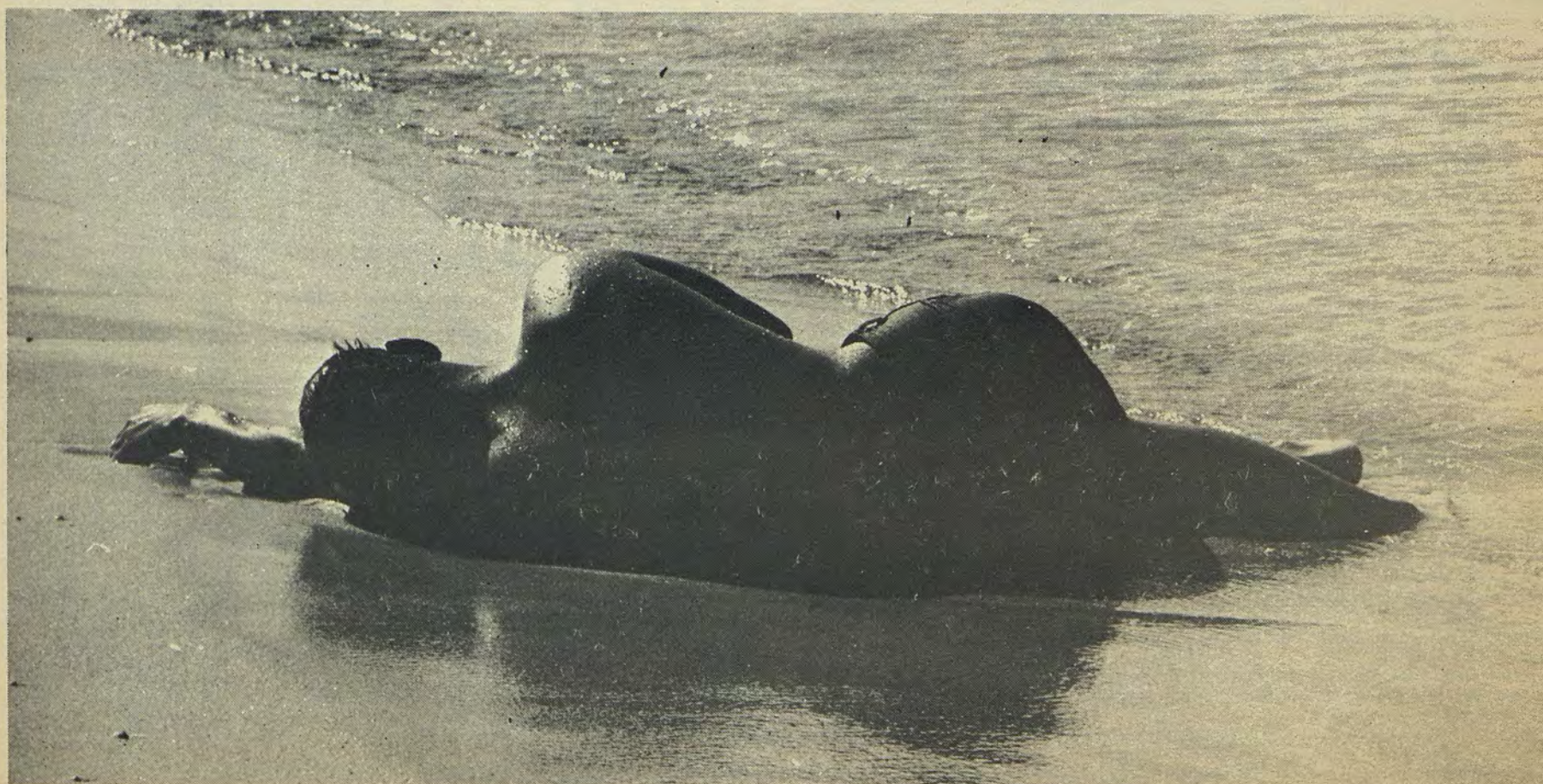
During their stand down the infantrymen enjoyed all the facilities available to them; but when asked what he liked most, one man's reply was, "The best thing about being here is just not being there!"



This is Eagle Beach



Quick change



"Just doin' his thing"

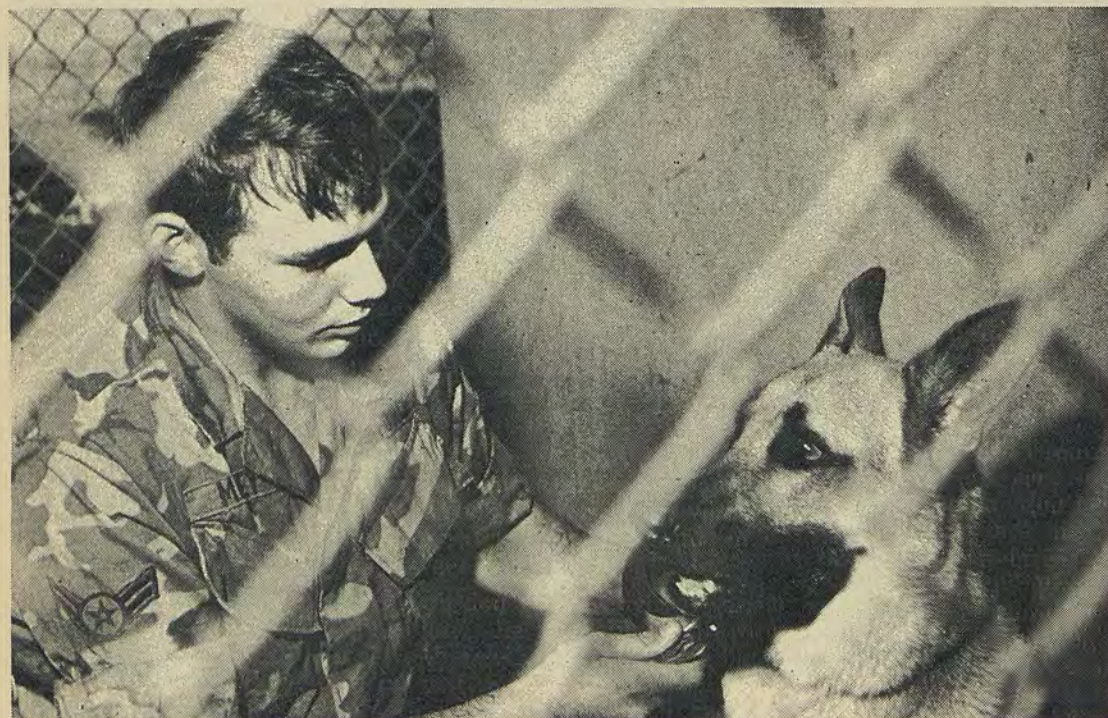


Hang on!

'We Give The Dog A New Master'



A1C Richard C. Morley Jr. and Satan work together until they can fully trust each other.



After a great deal of work Morley prepares a not-too-trusting Satan for a walk.

STORY By: Sgt. Douglas L. Christy
PHOTOS By: A1C Oswald Gooden

PHAN RANG (USAF) — Of necessity, sentry dogs are large and vicious, trained to obey one man. What happens when a sentry dog's handler returns home?

"We give the dog a new master," was the reply of Master Sergeant Donald E. Fink Jr., Altoona, Pa., who heads the sentry dog section of the 35th Security Police Squadron here.

"The process of working a new man in on a dog, as we call it, may take a couple of hours or several days, depending on the dog's temperament," the sergeant said.

After the former handler leaves and until a new master is assigned, the dog is contained in his kennel.

"The dog soon gets anxious to leave his cage and be with somebody he can trust," Sergeant Fink explained.

"A kennel's keeper usually will take the dog out and tie him to a fence, where the new handler will talk to the dog," he continued.

"Usually, the handler gains the dog's trust and they eventually start working the perimeter as a team. When one handler cannot master a dog, we try someone else."

"We use a variety of techniques to work a man in on a dog," Fink stated.

"One recent case in which almost all techniques were employed was with a dog most appropriately named Satan," he said.

Satan is a three-year-old German shepherd who had only one handler. He trusted nobody, and even kennel keepers kept an eye on Satan when they were cleaning his cage.

"The first handler tried unsuccessfully for about two weeks to work in on Satan, only to have his boots torn up while making little progress," the sergeant said.

The next handler to try was A1C Richard C. Morley Jr., Ogdensburg, N.Y. "We tried almost every technique before I finally mastered Satan," Morley stated. "We first put a piece of my clothing into the cage so Satan could get used to my smell."

"Since nobody was able to put a leash on him to go out to the fence, I went into the kennel to talk with him," he continued. "At first, he would either growl and maybe chew my boots or he would ignore me completely," he said.

"After four days of getting almost nowhere," he said, "we gave Satan a mild sedative so I could take him out of the kennels for a while. After the drug wore off, he became his old self again."

"After Satan bit me, Sergeant Fink asked me if I could master the dog," Morley continued. "After a discussion he decided to give me more time. The next step was to move Satan to another cage, since he might have felt as though he were protecting his home of many months."

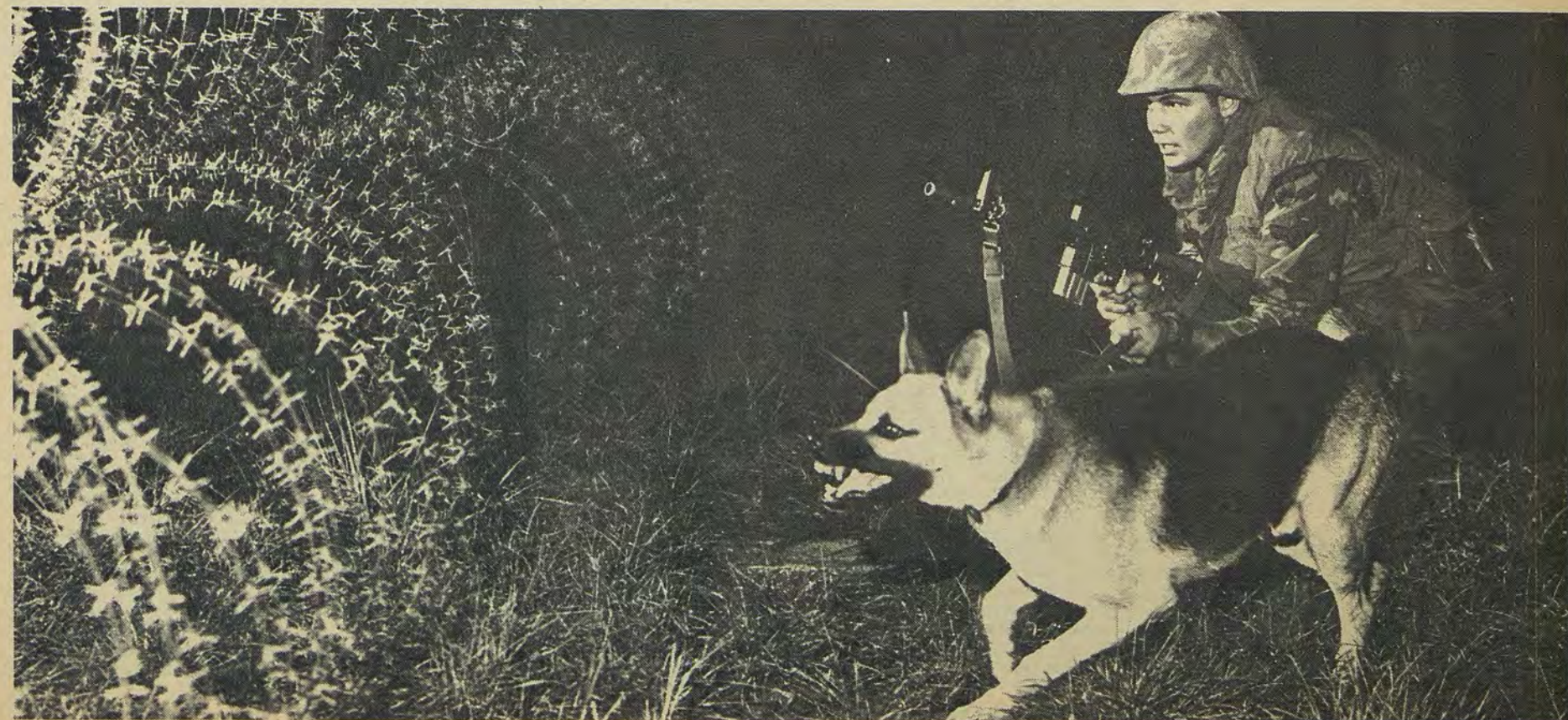
"This seemed to help, because I was soon able to put a leash on him and take him out of the kennels," he said.

In about 10 days Morley had good command of Satan. During the next five days, before starting to work on the perimeter, many problems had to be resolved.

"I was told he had been a good scout dog and was excellent at detecting possible hostile movements," the airman explained. "Although he is intelligent, he is stubborn and used to getting his own way. It took me a while to break him of bad habits, particularly snapping at me, and get him to obey my commands immediately."

Few dogs are as difficult to master as Satan. The training techniques are varied, and most dogs will respond to the right person without so much difficulty. As with other sentry dogs, Satan will get a succession of handlers, and they, in turn, might have to use several methods to become friends and masters of their dogs.

"Satan and Airman Morley make one of our best teams on the perimeter," concluded Sergeant Fink, "but to build an effective team like that takes the right combination of man and dog and a lot of patience."



Airman Morley and Satan now make a tough team. Satan is alerted to possible enemy movement, and Morley holds him while his weapon is ready for action.

RF Play Vital Role In Search

LAI KHE (USA) — After 10 days of continued combined cordon operation, the troop-noose thrown around the village of Phu Hoa Dong, a four-hamlet complex approximately 12 miles northwest of Di An, finally unraveled its hold on the entrance and egress corridors to the besieged villagers.

The tight seal, the fourth on this village in the past 15 months, has been branded a success.

"We've been well-pleased with the operation," remarked Lieutenant Colonel Hugh H. Pattillo, commander of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Troops from three 2nd Brigade battalions, together with soldiers from the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, had been working closely with the district leaders and Regional Forces. Some 300 RF members had participated in the search operations with the 2nd Brigade and 7th Regiment of the Republic of Vietnam soldiers.



Prize Winner

This dramatic photograph depicting the worn face of a Vietnamese elder took first place in the color transparency-people category of the U.S. Army Pacific Photo Contest. Specialist 5 Paul Sgroi, 1st Cavalry Division, snapped the picture.

VN Train In Harbor Operations

SAIGON (USA) — Ten Vietnamese warrant officers are currently training in harbor and port terminal operations with the 4th Transportation Command through the combined efforts of the U.S. Army and the Vietnamese Government.

The intensive on-the-job training program is part of the 1st Logistical Command's Project Buddy, a program designed to update and improve the logistic capability of the ARVN by working with U.S. Army units.

Under Project Buddy, the Vietnamese officers live as well as work with the American soldiers.

"We feel they're doing very well," said Captain Edward M. Kaprielian, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) advisor to the Saigon Transportation Terminal Command, the ARVN counterpart of the 4th TC. "The U.S. skippers find ARVN officers highly receptive to our method of on-the-job training. They've established a great sense of camaraderie with the American soldiers."

Tropic Lightning PSYOPS 'Outplays' Enemy

TAY NINH (USA) — It's just like something out of Mad magazine. Spy vs spy has no comedy, or drama, to compare with the annals of PSYOPS vs PSYOPS in Tay Ninh Province.

For the past year, the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division psychological section has been exchanging ploys with the local Viet Cong

Provisional Committee PSYOPS section. Last April, the VC PSYOPS section placed signs around Fire Support Base Washington, four miles north of Tay Ninh City, urging American troops to Chieu Hoi (rally) to their side.

The signs were placed in a series similar to the famous Burma Shave signs once placed along American highways. "When we saw what Charlie had done we thought it was a good

PSYOPS vehicle, so we repainted the signs with our own message," said Staff Sergeant Billy Stonaker of Dallas, Tex., team sergeant.

"The last sign we put out in the series said, 'Thank you for the idea and the material, Charlie,' and that must have really gotten his goat, because the next day he lost two men trying to get rid of the signs."

Another example of "one-upmanship" took place last

January. Tropic Lightning's 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry had recovered a huge rice cache and the enemy was hard put to replace the 360 tons of "chop-chop." Knowing that Charlie would soon be traveling the numerous trails of War Zone C to bring in more rice, the alert PSYOPS section erected several banners along the major trails.

The banners read in Vietnamese, "Welcome to the Free Republic of Vietnam — the rice you are now carrying will soon

be feeding hungry refugees from Communist aggression. We thank you for your kind gifts. Chieu Hoi."

"When Charlie saw those banners," said Specialist 4 Hossie Ellerbe of Philadelphia, Pa., he must have gotten quite a shock. We know he got a bang out of them because all of the signs had sensing devices around them and the artillery was zeroed in on them.

The latest in this long-standing series of ploys occurred recently. The 1st Brigade PSYOPS section working with the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor pulled it off.

One platoon of tanks escorted a PSYOPS speaker truck to the base of Nui Ba Den mountain. Once there, the tanks took up offensive positions facing the mountain, with the speaker truck sandwiched between.

The S-5 interpreter then made a live appeal to the Viet Cong on the mountain, emphasizing the loss of their leader Ho Chi Minh and giving explicit instructions on how and where to Chieu Hoi.

The appeal was presented by the roar of 90mm cannons. All eleven of the tanks blasted away at the same spot on the mountain and literally blew a giant hole in the side of the solid rock mountain.

As the echo of the guns was dying away, the interpreter proudly announced the VC had just witnessed the awesome firepower that the allies could bring upon them and that the wisest course would be to get out while the getting was good.

"The next day," related Specialist 5 Jim Weddon of Miami, Fla., "two very attractive young women turned themselves in at Sui Da, on the northeastern side of the mountain. We later found out that they were from the enemy's PSYOP section. One was his cook and the other, a singer, was his entertainer."

One mark of the effectiveness of the Tay Ninh PSYOPS program is that the enemy has posted rewards for killing PSYOPS personnel — perhaps the sincerest flattery and successful feedback possible.

Sky Soldiers Win Confidence Of Villagers

AN KHE (USA) — The old adage, "kindness pays," recently proved true for a Sky Soldier of the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry.

Papasan

QUAN LOI (USA) — His name is Ri, but they call him papasan.

Ri is a 42-year-old Kit Carson scout with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division. The men he works with have nothing but the highest praises for Ri's contribution to the unit.

"By looking at the trails, he tells us how many NVA there were and which way they were going," said Private First Class Daryle Foster. "He is a smart man and has kept us out of a lot of trouble."

"We walked into a bunker complex early one morning and figured it was deserted," said First Lieutenant Don Mitchell. "But papasan said no. We caught five NVA eating breakfast. If it hadn't been for him, well... we don't know what might have happened."

Ri speaks very little English but can always get his point across. His senses are so keen that he can tell what's in a can of C-rations by just shaking them.

Located approximately seven miles southeast of LZ English, the hamlet of Phu Xuan has been the site of the company's pacification efforts.

"When we first moved into this location," commented First Sergeant Enrique Salas of Tolofo, Guam, "we saw that fear was quite prevalent in the faces of the people. At one time there was a high level of VC activity out here, so we figured that the enemy had led these people to believe that the Americans were bad. For weeks we were more or less on trial. Each villager would scrutinize our every move," he concluded.

"This being the case," added the company commander, Captain Joseph W. Moore of Columbus, Ga., "I reminded my men that in order to ensure the success of our pacification mission, each paratrooper had to weigh carefully his every action."

"It was really strange," said Specialist 4 Michael D. Jimenez of Alhambra, Calif. "For days, as we went about doing the things we had to do, these people watched us; yet, they would never say a word to us," he continued. "We were doing everything we could to show them that we came to help them, but they still didn't say a word."

Then one day the silence barrier was penetrated. As Jimenez was about to fill his canteen

with water he had just drawn from one of the hamlet's wells, the words "numba 10!... numba 10!..." came darting at him.

"At first it startled the devil out of me because I thought I was the only one around the well at the time," explained Jimenez. "Then I turned around. I saw the cutest little girl smiling at me from behind a bush. She was trying to warn me that the water in that particular well was contaminated."

For the remainder of the day, GI's and villagers alike watched Jimenez and his new-found friend laugh together as each tried to teach the other his language.

Gradually, the remainder of the barrier diminished. Soldiers

and villagers now work together as a team to restore Phu Xuan. While some of the paratroopers devote their time to teaching the men how to defend their homes from further harassment, others help the women and children to rebuild what the war has damaged.

Speaking through an interpreter, an elderly citizen remarked, "At first we feared these big men. We thought they had come to harm us and destroy what was left of our homes. But we watched and saw that these strangers, who always had a smile on their faces, did not come to harm us. Now we work together as friends."

"Airborne Numba One GI," she concluded.

MEDCAP Goes To Jail

LZ BRONCO (USA) — Working under the auspices of the Rural Service Medical Program, five Americal Division medics from the 11th Brigade and a Vietnamese doctor and nurse are bringing medical care twice weekly to the inmates of Duc Pho jail.

While they wait disposition of their cases, VC suspects, alleged draft dodgers and black-market-eers mingle freely in the crowded holding area.

Treating 50 to 70 patients each session, the team "sets up shop"

right in the detention center while one medic sprays the cells with DDT.

The doctor administers antibiotics while the medics, members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry lance, clean and dress infections. Following treatment, each patient is given a bar of soap and candy.

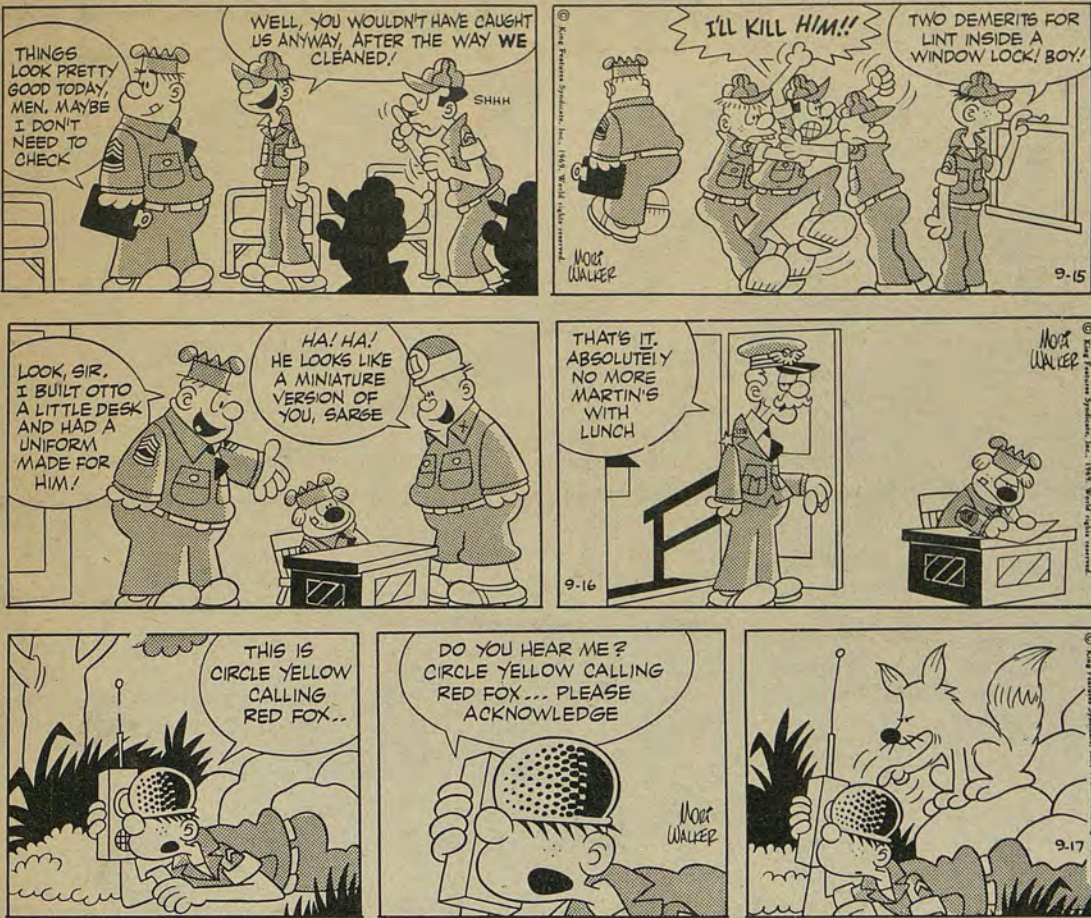
"It is pleasing to know," said Sergeant First Class John R. Flowers of San Angelo, Tex., that they appreciate our concern for their welfare.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—sez, "Although this is not an authorized control point and the MACV Form 5 (Currency Control Plate) is not required for entrance, it is a mandatory item for use when completing a controlled currency transaction. It is required for all purchases of postal money orders, Army and Air Force Exchange money orders, bank money orders, and U.S. Treasury checks. Personnel who do not have a MACV Form 5 that includes their Social Security Account Number will not be permitted to conduct a control currency transaction except as provided by local command authority. So let's get with the program, fellas; contact your unit personnel officer if you don't have a MACV Form 5 that includes your SSN, and keep those checks and money orders coming!" (PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES)

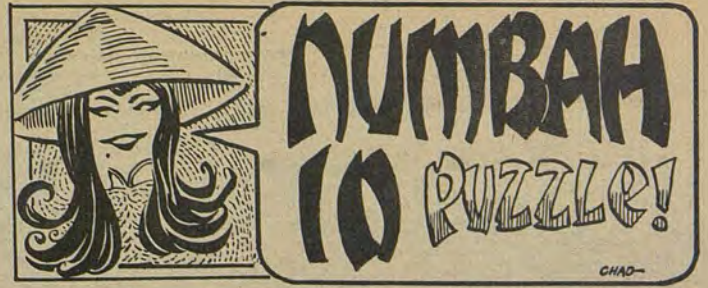
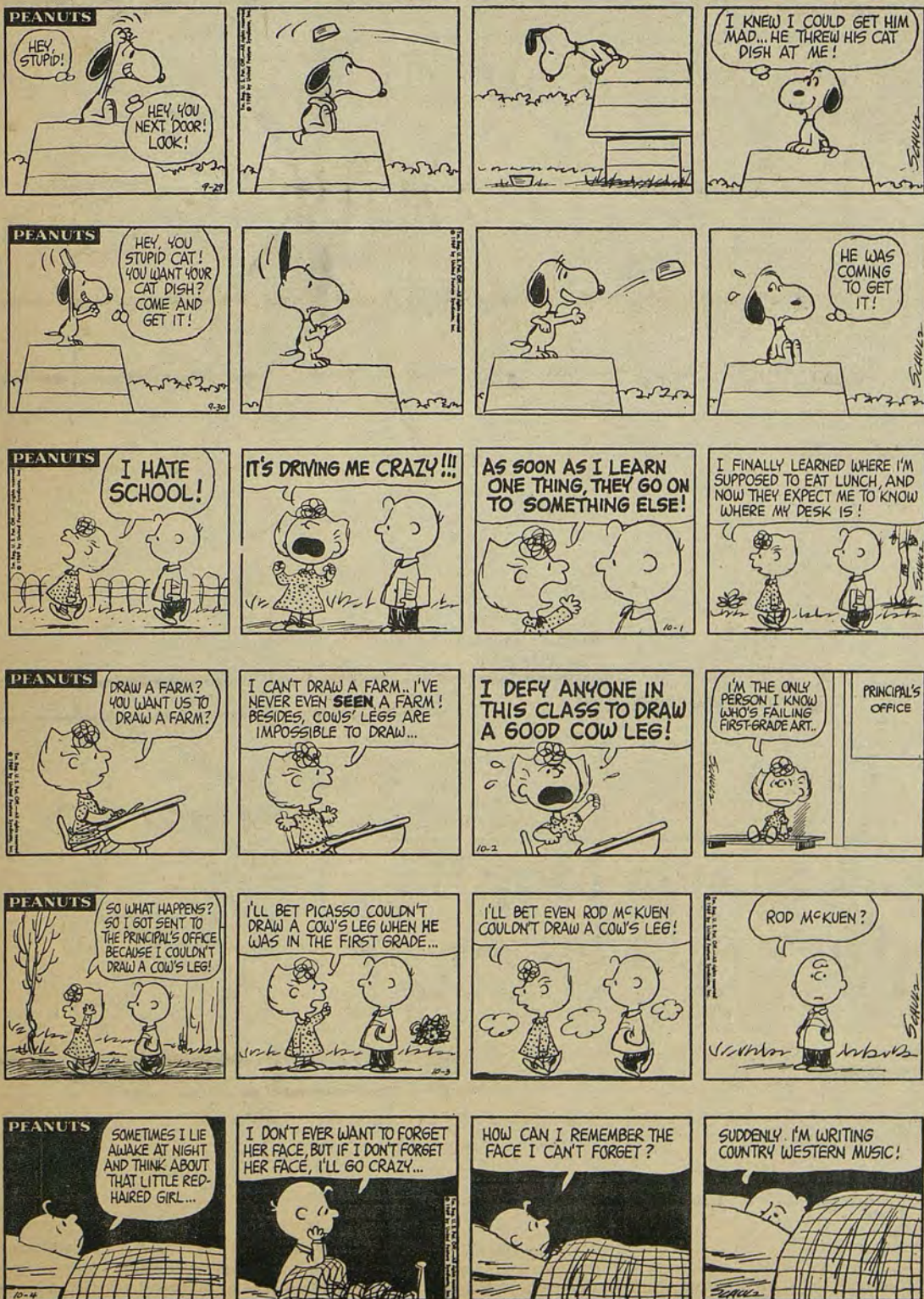
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



These avid readers are getting the latest news of allied combat and support accomplishments, ARVN modernization, and pacification progress from the Observer, the oldest service paper in Vietnam (since May 1961). Printed at the Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, the Observer is distributed at a ratio of one copy per five men. Be sure to share one with a friend. Now see if you can find the 10 difference in these pictures.



Solution: 1) Puddle on tent altered. 2) Observer spelled wrong on No. 2 man's paper. 3) Back leg on No. 2 man's stool is missing. 4) Point of tent pole missing. 5) Finger missing off right hand of poncho wearer. 6) Crow's feet missing off poncho man's eyes. 7) Hair under hat brim missing off man in puddle. 8) Line missing under left eye of man in puddle. 9) Small splash missing in left puddle. 10) Top page line of paper in puddle is altered on right hand side.



'Take Cover'

Reacting to light enemy contact, members of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade race for cover positions to return fire. The action took place recently along the South China Sea coast, about 30 miles north of Qui Nhon.

(USA PHOTO By: SP5 Ralph Dixon)

Infantry Kill 107...

(Continued From Page 1)

them from their moorings.

Further investigation revealed a tunnel where a meal of rice was in preparation but had been quickly abandoned.

At this point the infantrymen began to receive heavy enemy fire. Air strikes and artillery support was called-in to quiet the enemy.

A sweep of the area by ground forces turned up the bodies of 36 enemy killed in the short but effective battle.

Further contact was made with the enemy when the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry was called-in to provide ground security for a downed light observation helicopter (LOH).

After the small aircraft was extracted, the infantrymen were lifted back to their fire support base. But as the gunships were returning to Cu Chi after securing the eagle flight for the ground troops, enemy movement was spotted in a thick wooded area north of Trung Lap.

Circling above the area, gunners observed five VC making a dash for cover, and when the gunships dropped down for a closer look, they were met by small arms fire from the enemy.

Artillery and air support was called-in and pounded the area with intensive fire power.

Company D of the Golden Dragons were then air lifted into the contact zone, and a sweep of the area uncovered 32 enemy killed, 12 rifles captured, and 17 destroyed enemy bunkers.

Night Fighters In The Delta

RACH KIEN (USA) — During the day in Vietnam's Mekong Delta the rich green rice fields tended by the hard-working peasant present an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. But at night those same rice paddies can turn into bloody battlefields.

The enemy today in the Delta is attempting to avoid contact, especially during daylight hours, at which time he is hiding from the continuous flights of helicopters and their searching infantrymen. At night, feeling secure under the cover of darkness, he comes out of hiding to fulfill his needs.

His needs, according to an Army intelligence spokesman, are food for his unit, liaison between units, tax collecting and most important — new recruits or replacements.

After two years in the Delta, the infantrymen of the 9th Infantry Division are familiar with the enemy's habits and movements, and have learned to meet the Viet Cong on his time, but on U.S. terms.

Included in the 9th Division's "terms" is the night ambush, ranging in size from a squad to a company of infantrymen. Here

they lie in wait for the enemy.

A unit which is employing these tactics with much success is the 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry, an element of the 9th Division's 3rd Brigade. Working with small elements such as their Raider and Recon platoons plus company-sized units, the 5th Battalion is doing its share in the body count war. The number of enemy killed in ambush varies from two to five, but multiply that by seven nights in a week and it would equal a small battle.

Company C of the 5th Battalion, led by Captain James Roberts of Memphis, Tenn., provides a good example of what a night-trained infantry company can do. Roberts and his men have killed 24 of the enemy during the past month — all of them at night.

On a recent ambush Company C waited on four of the enemy who were in a house having dinner. For desert the four VC were served a bite of small arms fire. And in addition to the four kills, the infantrymen collected two AK-47 rifles and three rocket rounds for their troubles.

Now, because of the monsoon season, visibility is poor and seeing the enemy is harder. To cope with this problem, artillery batteries are kept busy throughout the night firing illumination rounds for the infantrymen.

Even though the Delta may seem quiet during the day, it is just the setting of the stage for the night's vigil.

Infantrymen Adopt 'Pet' For Base Defense

BINH PHUOC (USA) — The 9th Infantry Division's, 2nd Battalion (Mech.), 47th Infantry has added a new "animal" to its multitude of base camp pets.

This particular species will be used to detonate Claymore mines within seconds and will be part of the base camp defense and perimeter defense in the field.

"The animal consists of a 100-pound M-60 ammo box, a battery, some electrical wires, two toggle switches and outlets for 10 Claymores," said Staff Sergeant William H. Varnadore of Great Falls, S.C., the man who put the animal together.

It was first developed in the

1st Division, adopted by the 25th Division and passed on to the 3rd Brigade of the 9th Division.

"I made some minor changes from the original design by putting it inside an ammo box, and it fits perfectly," said Varnadore.

The animal has two rows of five outlets with a switch at the bottom of each row. By flipping the switches, a bunker guard can blow 10 Claymore almost simultaneously.

"We hope to have one on each guard bunker and some for the line companies to use in the field. It's really a rather simple apparatus but it will sure put a crimp in Charlie's enthusiasm," he added.

Lost Film May Be Only A Letter Away

TOKYO (S&S) — Kodak processing plants in Honolulu and Los Angeles have hundreds of rolls of film, many of them belonging to servicemen, which haven't been returned because the sender's address was incomplete, illegible or the wrong APO or zip code was used.

A letter of inquiry will probably get the processed pictures in the return mail, a company official said.

The letter should include name, and complete, legible address, including the correct APO or zip code, the exact size and

type of film sent, a detailed description of the scenes photographed and the date the film was sent. If the film was sent in a prepaid processing mailer, the mailer's serial number should be included.

Inquiries should be sent to the address to which the film was mailed, either Kodak Processing Laboratory, P.O. Box 1260, Honolulu, Hawaii 96807, or Kodak Processing Laboratory, 1017 N. Las Palmas Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90038.

In most cases there will be no additional charge, the Kodak spokesman said.

mediately attacked the treeline from the right flank and seized the edge of the treeline, killing seven of the well entrenched enemy soldiers.

As the Leathernecks moved to within 30 yards of a machine gun position to their front, they were once again forced to take cover because of the heavy automatic fire.

Beeler, although wounded twice, began throwing grenades at the enemy position, temporarily silencing the machine gun.

Lance Corporal Thomas J. Valley of Newton, Mass., the company radioman, observed his commander's difficult position and immediately crawled to his aid. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Valley quickly tossed two smoke grenades at the enemy stronghold.

Private First Class Jesse Jones of Raleigh, N.C., manning a rocket launcher, took advantage of the temporary smoke screen and immediately rushed the enemy position, killing one enemy soldier on the way. He finally reached the machine gun position and tossed two grenades inside the bunker, killing all three of the enemy occupants.

As the battle ended and the would-be ambushers were silenced, the Leathernecks found 14 enemy dead in the area. They also captured one heavy machine gun, four AK-47 rifles, one SKS carbine and one B-40 rocket launcher.



BANANA GROVE — Private First Class Floyd C. Lopez takes cover during recent operations with the 25th Infantry Division near Tay Ninh.

(USA PHOTO By: SP4 Sam B. Dixon)

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