



VOL. I No. 1

U.S. NAVAL FORCES II, III, IV, CORPS VIETNAM

4 NOV. 66

# Swifts Mark First Year



**Service Force Chief Visits** . . . Rear Admiral Edwin B. Hooper, Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (right) looks over the situation at the Navy's facility at Qui Nhon. Captain Herbert T. King, Commander Naval Support Activity, Saigon, briefs the Admiral. Admiral Hooper's command is parent to Capt. King's Activity and to the Naval Support Activity Danang, which provide support for Navy and Marine Forces throughout Vietnam. Arriving in Danang Oct. 14, the Admiral spent two days in I Corps and then visited most of the Naval Support Activity Saigon Detachments in the II, III, and IV Corps areas. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph by: Bruce Whitmarsh, PH2)

## Advancement Plums For Vietnam Sailors

Incomplete results received from the Naval Examining Center showed 625 Navy personnel in South Vietnam were advanced on Oct. 16, many of whom received field promotions.

The results were received in Saigon two days after the Oct. 16 effective date.

The results also showed that another 34 will don new crowns Nov. 16, while 12 are scheduled for advancement in December, 17 January, 10 in February and 20 on the sixth increment in March.

Of the 808 total, 48 will wear the CPO uniform. Thirty-three new chiefs were advanced in October. Advanced in all increments

## APO Changes

Navyman attached to units in the Saigon-Cholon area receiving mail through APO 96309 have a new address as of November 1.

Effective that date their mail is being channeled to the new APO 96214, located in the Commander Naval Forces Vietnam Chief, Naval Advisory Group compound.

will be 182 new first class, 182 second class and 396 third class petty officers.

According to the lists received from Great Lakes, many men had taken and failed the examination but were advanced through field promotions. In order to receive a field promotion, a Navyman must be fully qualified for his next higher rate and be recommended by his commanding officer. The exam requirement is waived for all rates up to and including PO1. For those going up for chief, a previous exam must have been passed.

While some men were listed as both having advanced and failed, the results showed 46 quotaed and 335 as having failed the exams. There were four strikers authorized while discrepancies were found on seven exams.

At press time it was not known when the remainder of the results would be received. However, the exam center will issue additional listings on Nov. 4 and 25, and Dec. 1 and 30. Late results and additions will be carried in future editions of this paper.

By D.G. Van Way, Jo2

In a year an infant boat squadron has become a hard-hitting, man-size Navy unit.

In October 1965, the U.S. Navy's Boat Squadron One, an element of the Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, consisted of two Swift boats (PCF) in Subic Bay, Philippines, enroute to Vietnam.

Now, a year later, there are over 70 of the 50-foot Swift boats, three Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACV) and more than 750 Navyman operating from five bases in the Republic of Vietnam.

As the most numerous boat type in the Navy's a ti-infiltration Coastal Surveillance Force, known as Operation Market Time, the Swift boats have played a key role in the successful expansion of Market Time patrol coverage along Vietnam's 1,000 mile coast.

October 1 marked the first anniversary of Boat Squadron One. Her achievements were acknowledged by Rear Admiral Norvell G. Ward, USN, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, in a special birthday message:

"In this year you have developed into a fighting force which has been an aggressive deterrent to enemy infiltration along the coasts."

Echoing Admiral Ward's sentiments, Captain C.L. Stewart, Commander Task Force 115, Operation Market Time's Coastal Surveillance Force, said, "During the past year you have had numerous setbacks but many more successes. Doctrine, modus operandi, material improvement all have been encompassed in your daily endeavors. You have proven yourselves worthy warriors and seamen."

Commander of Boat Squadron One, Commander Arthur P. Ismay, had something to add to this praise as he reviewed his squadron's first year of existence and looked to the future:

"In the next year I'd like to see the squadron further consolidated, improved and accepted by the Navy as a permanent organization for a new type of warfare which brings the Navy to the shoreline."

Gunnery mates may act as coxwains, radio operators and engineers. Each crew all the skills it takes to run a boat.

"And each man is constantly exposed to the enemy in a vulnerable craft; a craft made of aluminum with no armor. He must depend on his wits and be always alert in order to protect himself and his fellow crewmembers," he continued.

"We have found that a man motivated enough to volunteer for the Swifts is the man we need," he declared. "It's a new breed of war, being fought by a new breed of Navy and a new breed of Navyman!"

## It's Your Paper—Help!

The JACKSTAFF NEWS is being published to inform and entertain Navyman in South Vietnam. It's your paper and we're asking for your help! First of all, let us know what you're doing so we can let others know your achievements. Send your news items (or tips) to us addressed to JACKSTAFF Editor, Code 03, Naval Support Activity, Saigon, APO 96412. Our Saigon phone number is ARVN 60854.

You can also contribute to the success of your paper by participating in our talent search! We want to print at least one outstanding amateur photo taken in Vietnam by a Navyman in each issue. We would also like you to send us your cartoons of life in Vietnam! Finally, if you have some constructive ideas, write a letter to the Editor and let others know about them. We will return unused photos, cartoons, and copy if an addressed return envelope is included.

We have other features planned for future editions—pin-ups, the Roving Photomate R and R specials, and two comic strips we think you'll enjoy: The Wizard of Id and B.C.!

Let's hear from you!

# The Day We Remember Birth Of A Newspaper

ON November 11 we pause a moment at 11 a.m. in recollection and silent prayer.

It may be a raw cold day, or a day of fleecy clouds and balmy sunshine. But it always has the same meaning. It's Veterans Day.

In the United States this is the day we hold commemorative services



at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. It's here we honor our dead comrades.

It's a day everyone remembers. Those of us now in the service have our memories as we honor our comrades-in-arms. We pause and offer a prayer for those now fighting for our country in far-off places. It could be that we will be among those remembered next year.

It has been the same since World War I—Nov. 11, 1918, to be exact. That's the day a truce ending that great war was signed.

Then came our participation in World War II, Korea and now Viet Nam. Why? Because our dedication and determination to preserve and protect the freedoms that we have inherited.

We fought for our freedom 193 years ago. It has not changed today. We're still doing it, and we'll keep right on until a mission has been stamped from the face of the earth.

We like the form of government that has been our country's heritage since its birth. We want those who come after us to enjoy the same blessings. Consequently, we have to fight and sometimes die to preserve it.

Actually, we're just carrying on that portion of our heritage most dear to us. Our fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers did it with honor. We are no different. (AFNB)

## Chaplain's Corner

### Prayer: Conversation

By Chaplain Chamberlain

As a child, your conscience, if not your elders, probably kept you to "say your Prayers." From that beginning you may have progressed until you now have a real, and really enjoyable, prayer life. Or, you may still be in the stage where praying is like doing some kind of unpleasant exercise, like doing so many "push-ups."

When the friends of Jesus asked Him to teach them to pray, they may have wanted nothing more than some prayer they could "say" or recite. Evidently, they had noticed what prayer did for Him, and they wanted for themselves the same balanced poise, the same peace of mind. What He did was far better than to offer some set prayer; He taught them not to "say prayers," but He did show them how to let God into their lives so that prayer could become a means of conversation between two persons.

This is what prayer is: a conversation. If it seems at times to be wholly one-sided, let the following suggestions help you as you struggle with this whole business of prayer:

First, remember that much of what happens to us is our own responsibility. Think of some of the evils that have befallen you recently, and if you or someone you know was not the cause. We usually don't like to admit this so we blame God.

Second, remember that God's ways are not always our ways. What we pray for is often denied, not because God is wicked, but wise.

Third, remember that there is much that happens in our earthly experience, which we cannot explain. Some things happen for which science has no adequate answer. Miracles do happen and prayers are answered. And there are people to testify to this truth.

"When Jesus had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone."

(Matthew 14:23)

A jackstaff is an upright spar at the stem of a ship. It's up in front, and it flies the blue and red jack that says, "Look here, this is a United States Navy ship!"

THE JACKSTAFF NEWS is going to say the same thing. We're standing up front saying, "Look here, the Navy is in Vietnam and this is what we're doing!"

Navy and Coast Guard men had a definite need to know what their shipmates down the river or up the coast were doing. That need is filled now; here is the open line to every ear. We mean to keep the Navy informed about itself.

Our cry of "Help!" on page one is sincere. This jackstaff is to fly YOUR flag. We want to be responsive to your interests. If this paper is read by you, and you are informed and entertained, then we have done our job.

Here we are, Navy Vietnam. Let's run our story up the JACKSTAFF and see who salutes!

## CNO Sends Navy Day Msg.

Admiral David L. McDonald, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, sent the following message to all Navymen on Oct. 27 which was the 191st anniversary of the founding of the United States Navy.

"Since its inauspicious birth 191 years ago today, the United States Navy has grown to be the most powerful naval force in the world. Today, our personnel sail every ocean and serve on every continent of the globe. We are performing the most diverse tasks, from supplying the frozen expanse of Antarctica to recovering our nation's astronauts as they return from the vastness of outer space. Our scientists are exploring the darkness of the ocean depths while working to perfect a system to better the ageless method of navigating by the stars.

"While we can be proud of the accomplishments we have made, we must take a sober look to the waters of the South China Sea and to Vietnam where Navymen are fighting and dying on land, in the rivers, and in the skies above to insure the right to self-determination for a country which has called to us for help. I ask all Navy personnel the world over to take time on this, our anniversary, to salute our comrades in Southeast Asia whose outstanding performance is representative of our Navy's readiness and determination to insure freedom today, just as it did in 1775.

## The Jackstaff News

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Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity Saigon  
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# Impressions of the War in the Delta

By Ltjg. John Francis Smith III  
Night at Can Tho

It is night in the Delta flatlands, and from your position on the villa roof you can see more of the war than you had expected. There, twenty miles downriver, is a cluster of parachute flares. Long Duc outpost in Ba Xuyen Province is under attack. Further to the east a burst of tracer fire shoots straight up into the air. One outpost in Vinh Binh Province is calling to another for a radio check. Off to the north, two blinking red lights move sinuously along a treeline—a light fire team of helicopters is on the prowl in Vinh Long.

Now the flare activity in Ba Xuyen increases. Spooky aircraft, a converted C-47 fitted with flares and gatling-type "mini-guns", is on station. A tongue of flame spews toward the ground. At 600 rounds per minute the stream of tracers seems almost continuous. The fighting subsides.

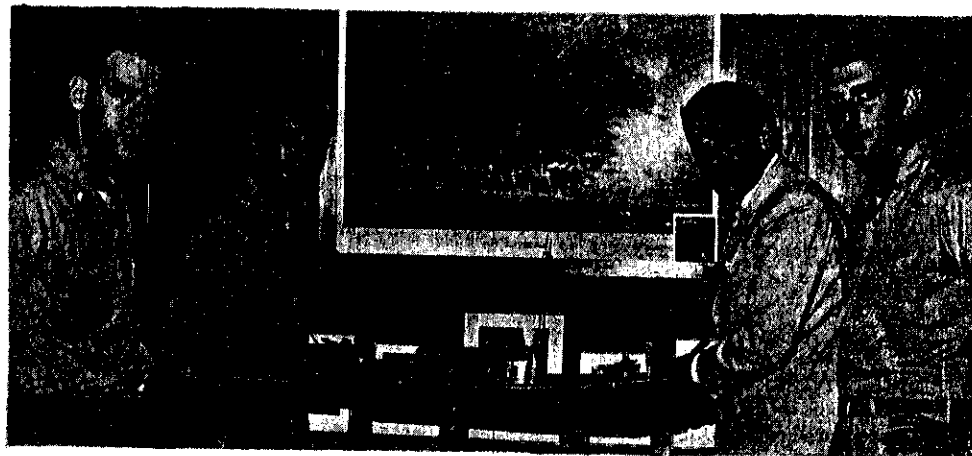
At your vantage point in Can Tho, however, all is quiet. Tonight the local batteries are silent. Squatting below the villa, non-descript houses brood quietly. A string of lights snakes off between the canal and the canal road without making a sound. Can Tho is hushed, unreal.

Scsomewhere downstairs a short-wave radio is vaguely reproducing Radio Malaysia. The song is a familiar one, but waxing and waning with the vicissitudes of the ionosphere, it leaves only an impression of faraway places and strange-sounding names. A light rain begins to fall, cooling the air and adding still further to the atmosphere of unreality.

It should be a time for dreams. But it isn't. Best settle for some uninterrupted sleep. You leave early in the morning.

## 'Doc' Jenkins

"Doc" Jenkins stumbled on board under the weight of the carton. It was filled with medical supplies: bandages, alcohol, iodine, ointment and several mysterious packages that were his province alone. Already ensconced in one corner of our boat was a box marked "CARE" and under that



A NAVAL MEMENTO FOR THE AMBASSADOR—United States Ambassador to the Republic of Vietnam, the Honorable Henry Cabot Lodge, was recently presented a reminder of the Navy's role in the war by officers serving as advisors to Vietnamese Navy units, who gave the Ambassador a model of a command junk. Making the presentation are, left to right: Ltjg. George Reiger, Ltjg. Brian Coogins, Ambassador Lodge, and Ltjg. Kurt Hiete.

"MID WIFE KIT". We were soon on our way to An Lac Tay, a remote outpost manned by Popular Force troops.

"Doc" Jenkins is Hospital Corpsman First Class W.H. Jenkins of Biloxi, Mississippi, who though specifically attached to the naval detachment in Can Tho, has been providing medical care to Vietnamese and Americans alike along much of the Bassac River.

An Lac Tay is a well-organized, even a model community. Growing outside the walls of the outpost is a village of great promise. The residents have just built themselves a maternity ward and two schoolhouses with materials provided to them by their district. They are cleaner and better-fed than their counterparts in the larger cities. Most significant of all, their spirits are high. They are building optimistically toward a new Vietnam.

Nevertheless, An Lac Tay is an island in its district. Transportation by land is made hazardous by roving companies of Viet Cong guerrillas. Many of the canals have been mined. Significantly, when the district chief comes to call he does so via the main river. And he comes in three LCVPs manned by troops from the the district town,

Ke Sach. This form of travel is a pointed reminder of the hazards of the area—and of the vulnerability of his position.

We had drawn a beautiful day. Under blue skies the boats sped downriver assisted by a favorable current and a running tide. Junks and sampans of all descriptions were plying the river. Normally we would stop and board as many as possible. Today, however, we searched them only at random. We were scheduled to be in An Lac Tay at 9 a.m.

The water level was well below the river bank now and still receding. Along this stretch of the river the tidal range is greater than 14 feet. A remarkable amount of water flows back and forth as the Bassac alternately fills and empties. Currents of up to six knots are commonplace. It was just such a current that now bore us along, and we arrived at our destination in well under the allotted two hours.

As the boats came into view the small wooden pier began to fill with villagers and soldiers. An Lac Tay and the PBR's are old friends. More were arriving all the time. The frail wooden structure soon swayed low with their accumulating weight.

It was beginning to look as if water recovery operations would soon be in order, but at this point some of the village elders arrived and brought order out of the melee. Clearing away of the bystanders, they made a path for Jenkins and quickly set him up in their home-made dispensary. It was neat and entirely satisfactory. The "Doc" was ready for business.

He didn't have long to wait. Women with babies, men with burns

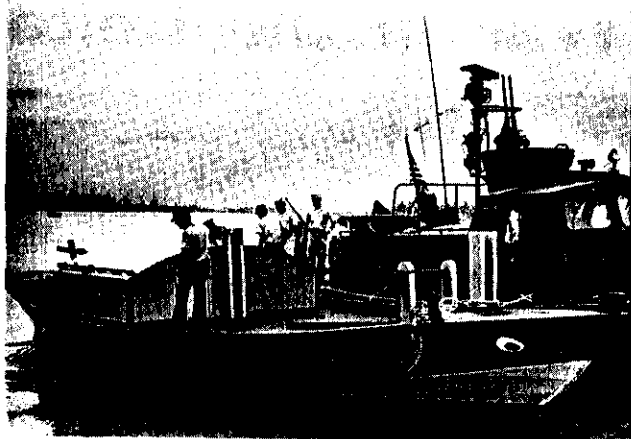
and injured limbs, children with infections and sores; all pressed forward to be treated. They were sorted out by some of the PF soldiers into the seriously and the not-so-seriously ill, and Jenkins went to work.

Jenkins was great with everyone. I had offered my services as an interpreter, but it quickly became apparent that he was getting across to them better by sheer force of personality. I went to dispensing cough drops. By the end of the morning 43 people had received thorough, professional medical care (and countless others were contentedly sucking lozenges).

We made arrangements with the local officials to hold such clinics weekly. Hands were shaken all around and we departed. The PBR's had left many new friends behind.

Assistance from the military in relieving civil needs is little more than a simple act of humanity. Such efforts as the one above need no more justification than their immediate value to those directly involved. Yet in this war, where attitudes mean as much or more than rifles, every medical clinic, every kind gesture, every indication of decency is undeniably a weapon. Collectively these actions form an arsenal second to none in importance. Without it, no one wins the war in Vietnam. With it, humanity will prevail.





**SHADES OF TERRY AND THE PIRATES!**—One of the Navy's newest possessions—a genuine junk!—is taken in tow by a Swift boat for a short journey to the USS Tortuga, which will take it on a long journey to the States, where it will be used for training future Swift boat crewmen in boarding and searching techniques.

## Currituck And Swifts Score Bloodless Win

Using Project Handclasp material, Navy men from the USS Currituck (AV-7) and PCF Division 104, both based at Cam Ranh Bay, scored against poverty, upon which the Viet Cong feed, when they delivered the Handclasp material to villagers from Hon Mieu.

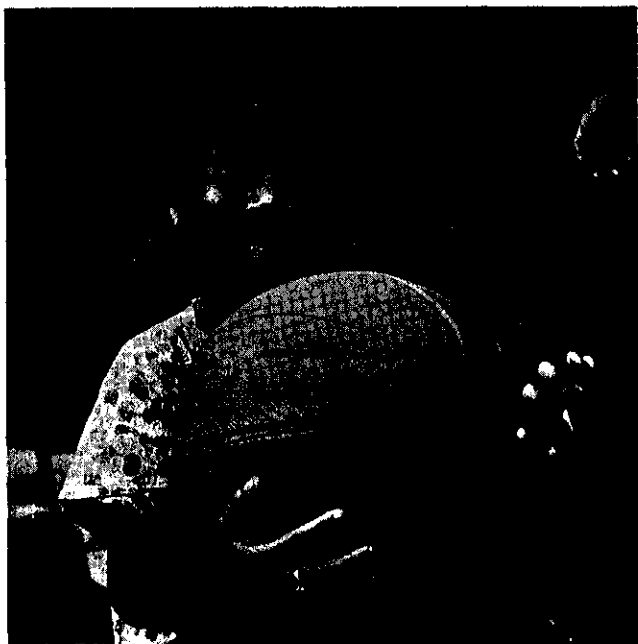
The material distributed included food, toys and clothing.

Hon Mieu was selected as the first of several villages to receive Handclasp material because it is

swollen to twice normal size with refugees from the war and because of its known anti-Communist attitude.

Hon Mieu, an isolated island fishing village, is located approximately 30 miles north of Cam Ranh Bay on the South China Sea.

Later, Currituck transferred the remainder of her Handclasp material to the PCF division for distribution to other needy villages in the area. Currituck is homeported in San Diego, California.



**HAPPINESS IS A WARM BASKETBALL**—This little girl from Hon Mieu village hugs a new basketball given to the children of the village as part of "Project Handclasp" gifts brought to the village by a Swift boat from PCF (Swift) Division 104 and the USS Currituck (AV-7).

## Latest Navy 'Tool' Is Ancient Junk!

The U.S. Navy added a new training "tool" to its inventory recently when it accepted the first of three 41-foot junks from the Vietnamese Navy.

The motor-sailer junks were requested by the U.S. Navy for training purposes at the Naval Amphibious School at Coronado, Calif.

Using the junks for training will enable U.S. Navy men to perfect their board and search techniques prior to arrival in Vietnam for duty.

Once in Vietnam these men will

### Let's Celebrate!

A sailor can always find something about which to celebrate.

After a year of almost continuous patrol with the U.S. Navy's Operation Market Time, the crew of USS Ketchmer (DER 329) elected to throw a party.

The party included a pie-eating contest in which contestants were given three minutes to consume one large blueberry pie each.

The winner was chosen by a board of officers who judged the gulpers on the amount of pie actually eaten and on neatness.

serve on board Operation Market Time Swift boats (PBFs).

Market Time Swift boat crews investigate several thousand junks a day as they patrol the 1,000-mile Vietnamese coastline from the 17th parallel south to the Cambodian border.

The newly-acquired junk, once used for coastal patrols by the famed Vietnamese Navy "junk force," was thoroughly refurbished by the Vietnamese Navy's Eastern Repair Facility at Saigon before being turned over to the U.S. Navy.

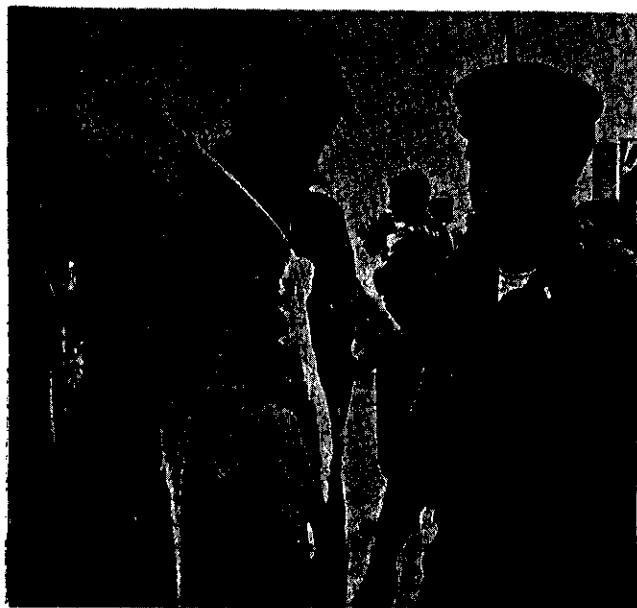
Rear Admiral Norvell G. Ward, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, accepted the junk on behalf of the U.S. Navy. It was presented by Commander Nguyen Van Anh, acting chief of the Vietnamese Navy.

In brief remarks at the pier-side ceremony at Vietnamese Navy Headquarters, Admiral Ward said, "This event is another significant example of the close cooperation and singleness of purpose that exists between our two navies."

The junk was towed to the port of Vung Tau by a Swift boat and later loaded aboard the Dock Landing Ship USS Tortuga (LSD-26) for transport to Coronado.



**HONOR GUARD**—Rear Admiral Norvell G. Ward, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, and Commander Nguyen Van Anh, acting Commander of the Vietnamese Navy, walk through a double line of Vietnamese Navy honor guard sailors on their way to a ceremony at which the first of three junks was presented to the U.S. Navy by the Vietnamese Navy.



'BURrrrr'—Lieutenant (junior grade) Charles P. Eddy, III, USN, gives a young Vietnamese boy a quick "showcr" prior to his being looked at by a doctor and dentist from the Army's 36th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Vung Tau. Assisting is Lieutenant (junior grade) Peter G. Golwas, USN, attached to the Coastal Surveillance Center in Vung Tau. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph by J.C. Deckert, PHC, USN)

## Subs Or River Boats It All Counts On 20!

From a fleet ballistic missile submarine to a 31 foot River Patrol Boat (PBR) may seem like a strange turn of events to some sailors, but not to Chief Electronics Technician John D. Haithcock.

He is one of three chief petty officers who act as PBR Patrol Officers for River Patrol Section 531, based at My Tho on the My Tho River of South Vietnam.

As Patrol Officer, Chief Haithcock is responsible for the tactical deployment of two boats and directs them and their four-man crews in preventing Viet Cong river crossings and shipment of troops and supplies.

In four months he has made almost 40 patrols, mostly at night. And he has been fired upon "eight or nine times."

Asked to compare submarine life with that of a PBR sailor, he said that on 12-hour patrols you quickly develop a comradeship similar to that found on subs.

"We're a small, well-knit group and you just have to get along together. There's no room in this outfit for a malcontent."

A Navyman for the past 18 years, Chief Haithcock was assigned as an instructor at the Submarine Officers' Tactical School, New London, Conn., before being ordered to Vietnam.

Haithcock has served in both conventional and nuclear submarines.

His last sea duty was in the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine John Marshall.



Chief Haithcock

## 'MEDCAP' Program Aids War-Ravaged People

There are many sides to a war.

One of the more cruel is the effect a war has on civilians, especially the aged and the children.

The U.S. Navy in Vietnam is doing something about this.

The Navy's answer: a unique application of the military's Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP), as envisioned and organized by Lieutenant Lawrence Luellen, of Hot Springs, Ark., civic action advisor to the Vietnamese Navy Third Coastal Zone at Vung Tau.

Advisors such as Lieutenant Luellen, living in close contact with Vietnamese fishermen, their families and friends, saw a desperate need for medical attention in the scattered fishing villages.

As a result of his efforts, now every Sunday morning medical personnel from the Army's 36th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Vung Tau and Navy Coastal Group advisors head for a near-by village, their Vietnamese Navy junk loaded with medical supplies.

On a particular Sunday recently the MEDCAP team went to the village of Phuoc Tinh.

Sick call was held in the village churchyard where, shaded from the blazing, mid-day sun, the villagers came to be treated.

Off to one side an Army dentist began pulling rotten teeth and treating gum and tooth infections.

In the center of the churchyard, Army nurses, a Navy advisor and Vietnamese sailors scrubbed down and treated children with myriad skin ailments.

Army doctors treated the more serious cases, while corpsmen distributed medicine, vitamins and soap.

A Vietnamese Navy officer acted as translator.

Although the village of Phuoc Tinh is small, the line of patients seemed endless.

Before long supplies were exhausted and the MEDCAP volunteers headed for home. The South China Sea was rough so the return trip was wet and uncomfortable.

Earlier the same day a MEDCAP team had left Vung Tau by helicopter to treat villagers in the Mekong Delta area.

More than 2,000 patients are being treated monthly by MEDCAP volunteers in this area according to Lieutenant Luellen.

The program has also taken on an international flavor as Australian and Vietnamese medical personnel have joined hands with the Americans.



ARMY AIRCREWMAN'S WINGS FOR NAVY CPO! — John L. Wank, AMSC, USN, an aircrewman from Detachment 29 of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron I, Ream Field, Calif., recently received Army aircrewman's wings from Lieutenant Colonel Jones, U.S. Army, Commanding Officer of the 145th Aviation Battalion, Bien Hoa, Vietnam. Wank is among eight Navy men who comprise the first group of Navy aircrewmen to qualify for Army aircrewman's wings. Detachment 29 is presently flying in support of the U.S. Navy River Patrol Boats in the Mekong Delta. The Navy has officially taken over some of the Army's UH-1B helicopters operating in Operation Game Warden. The ceremony took place at Vung Tau, Vietnam, on board (LSD 26).



**SNOWMAN A LA BRULE!**—Topped by a special forces type beret, and surrounded by its creators, this snowman gives evidence of the mission of the refrigerated cargo ship USS Brule in South Vietnam. The snowman was made as a lark from icy condensation formed in the ship's hold. But the job of the Brule, delivering fresh frozen foods and other materials to Navymen in Vietnam, is serious business. (by Bruce Whitmarsh, PH2)

## You May Get Malaria After Return to U.S.

Unfortunately for Navymen serving in Vietnam, malaria deserves more concern than taking a pill once a week, until the happy time comes for rotation back to the States.

A recent Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Instruction (6230.11E) which states, "Malaria has seriously interfered with military operations in the past and can do so again when military forces are operating in malarious areas", makes this clear.

Of particular importance to personnel serving in Southeast Asia is the fact that transfer from the area does not immediately end the danger—persons are advised that they should continue to take the anti-malaria (chloroquine-primaquine) tablets for eight consecutive weeks after departure from the malaria endemic area.

The instruction states that instances have been reported of persons developing malaria after return to the United States and often after discharge from active duty. Symptoms include headache, fever and general ill-feeling (malaise). Because these are vague, and also symptoms of other illnesses, malaria has not always been immediately recognized.

A new provision of the instruction, which sailors here should keep in mind, is that personnel who within 90 days after return from a malaria area report to a Navy medical facility are required to be "admitted promptly for surveillance and treatment" regardless of whether or not they are on active duty or have been discharged from active duty.

## USS Brule Sailors Kept Their Cool!

By John Scholzen, Jocrn

Would you believe a snowman in the hot and humid Delta region of South Vietnam?

It's true!

Naturally it served no useful purpose but the men of the U.S. Navy's cargo carrying USS Brule (AKL-28) had fun building it and it undoubtedly perked up morale.

There were a lot of men in the crew who were thinking nostalgically of the fast-approaching winter in most parts of the United States. As the sweat ran down their backs and faces in ever-hot and humid Vietnam, they thought of the snow which would soon fall back home (and has already in many areas). Snow seemed to be almost the answer to all their frustrations and discomforts.

To the crewmen of the Brule, snow—and that wonderful symbol of all that is fun about winter—a snowman—became a reality because of the refrigerated holds. Icy condensation was scraped off the bulkheads and the men had their snow and—in short order—a snowman! Topped off with a black beret he appeared ready to take on the Viet Cong!

All of which proves that Navymen haven't lost the spirit of ingenuity that has served them so well in the past.

The flat-bottomed, light cargo ship Brule plies the rivers of the Delta and the coastline of the em-

battled Republic delivering frozen and chilled provisions to Navymen carrying out counter-infiltration operations against the Viet Cong.

Her 18,000 cubic feet of refrigerated holds can carry over 100 tons of fresh meat, vegetables, fruits, etc.

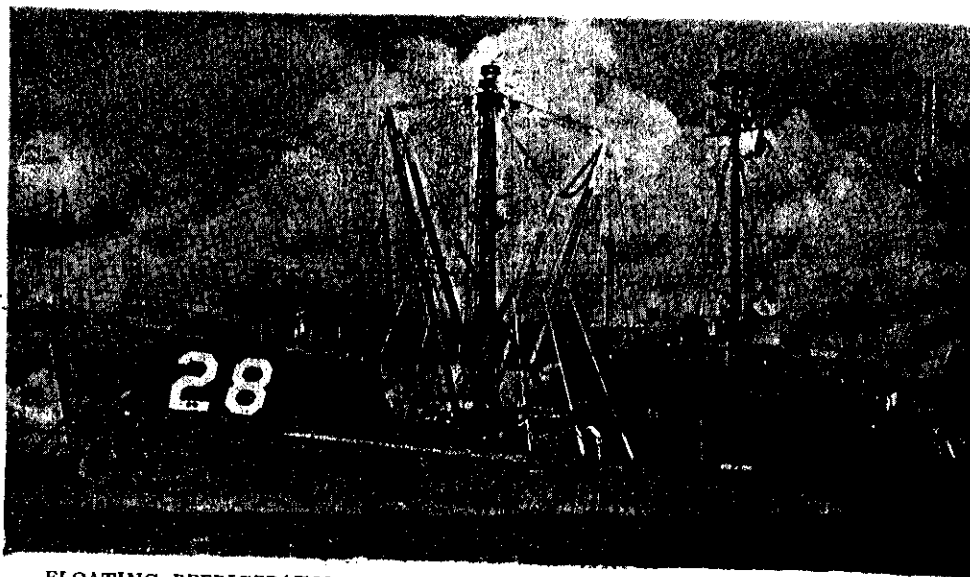
Her ports of call are bases established by the Naval Support Activity, Saigon, to support the Navy's efforts in the II, III, and IV Corps areas.

The 177 foot long, 1,000 ton "riverboat" has been delivering groceries to the customers in Vietnam since the beginning of the year. Her shallow draft makes her ideal for sailing the rivers of the Delta.

In addition to foodstuffs, she carries items ranging from ammunition to automobiles in her holds and on deck.

She also carries enough armament to fend off Viet Cong attacks along the twisting and often narrow Delta waterways.

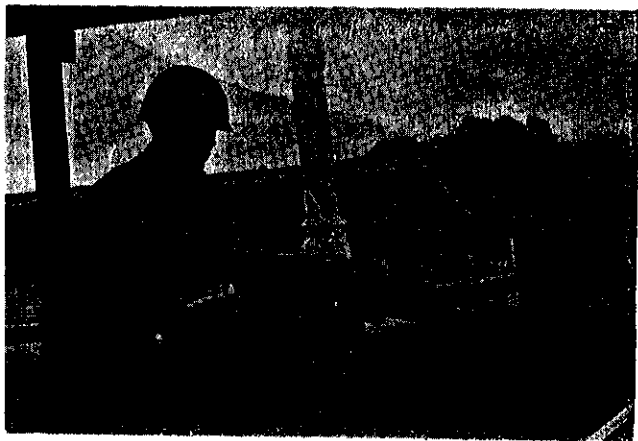
Built for the U.S. Army in 1944 and titled FP (Freighter-Producer) 370, Brule performed much the same service for advance bases in the Pacific war theater.



**FLOATING REFRIGERATOR**—22-year-old light cargo ship USS Brule (AKL-28) is serving Naval Forces in South Vietnam with her ability to carry over 100 tons of frozen foods to bases established to support operations against the Viet Cong. The shallow-draft, 1,000 ton "floating grocery store" sails the rivers of the Delta region and along the coast line of the Republic bringing meats, vegetables, fruits, etc., to Navymen in the II, III, and IV Corps areas. (by Bruce Whitmarsh, PH2).



# My Tho: Freedom Outpost



**On Alert . . .** Gunners Mate Seaman Floyd M. Hutson of Hudson, Ill., stands sentry duty on top of the Victory Hotel which houses the Naval Support Activity Detachment My Tho. Guards are mounted day and night as protection against Viet Cong terrorism even though the base is in the center of the city. (by Larry Lindberg PH2)

## It's Legal To Make A Quick Buck Now!

Want to make a quick buck, sailor?

Navymen serving in South Vietnam are often cautioned on the consequences of trying to make a financial killing on the black market or in illegal currency transactions, but consider the financial killing that may be made legally by taking advantage of the special 10 percent interest paid on savings of servicemen fortunate enough to be ordered to duty in Vietnam!

Consider the case of the sailor who made a bundle the easy but legitimate way—a combination not often found—by taking advantage of two programs open to Navymen.

First of all, being in a critical skill, he reenlisted under the Variable Reenlistment Bonus plan and picked up the first installment of loot, which when added to money he had already salved away in the bank (this makes it obvious that in this particular case we are talking about a single man!) gave him \$7,200 to either burn or invest wisely.

Taking the prudent course, he slapped it all into the 10% Savings Deposit (the full name of which for the benefit of the technically-minded is the "Uniformed Services Savings Deposits" plan). He then signed an allotment for another \$100 a month to be also deposited into this account.

Let's see how he made out. His money earned \$185 the first quarter, \$197.12 the second quarter, \$209.55 the third quarter and \$222.29 the final quarter. Total interest — \$813.96. Not a bad way to let your money work for you!

Then he got his orders to the States and left his money right

where it was because the Savings Deposit program has a little bonus kicker-interest keeps right on accruing for 90 days after return to the U.S. of A.

At the end of the 90 days he drew out his loot — \$9,444.31, including interest of \$1,044.31!

So who besides Horatio Alger says the only way to earn money is hard work? A prudent investment in the Savings Deposit plan may not make you independently wealthy, but it'll take you a way in the right direction.

See your disbursing officer!



BY John Scholzen, JOCM

What do you know about what your shipmates are doing at My Tho?

Prophetically, the U.S. Navy Support Detachment in My Tho, located on the strategic Mekong River has set up shop in what was formerly the Victory Hotel.

Their job is to provide full support for small boat operations against the Viet Cong on the waterways of the Delta region of South Vietnam as part of the GAME WARDEN operation.

American Navy men have joined forces with their Vietnamese counterparts in a massive effort to prevent the Viet Cong from infiltrating men and equipment into the Delta. The entire area, the rice-bowl of the nation, is coveted by the communist aggressors.

To back up this effort, the Naval Support Activity, Saigon has established a chain of support bases stretching from the South China Sea almost to the Cambodian border.

The small detachment at My Tho (Me Tow) is typical in that the men provide maintenance, repair, logistic and administrative support for Game Warden.

Sleeping, eating and working quarters are crammed into the two-story hotel, about five blocks from the river.

The repair section is in a tent pitched in a park on the river's edge on the site of a future permanent base. The repair gang routinely overhauls boat engines and carries out preventive maintenance on the boats from hulls to engines.

The detachment is regularly supplied by water and air, but the sailors also run a weekly truck con-

voy up to Saigon, 60 miles northward, to pick up food and other materials. The entire area is Viet Cong infested so the convoys go heavily armed.

Though situated in the heart of the city, protection against Viet Cong terrorism is a constant problem. Guard posts are mounted day and night on the roof of the hotel, on the gate in the fence which surrounds the compound, and at the repair site and boat pier on the river.

Vehicles traveling between the two spots must carry an armed guard. The men have only recently been allowed to go on liberty in the city on a controlled basis. Gunners mates assigned to the security department also maintain and repair the heavy weapons carried by the river patrol boats.

Whether a cook, a storekeeper, or machinery repairman, every man of the detachment is on a sun-up to sun-down, seven day-a-week schedule. Security, of course, is a round-the-clock job.

## Saved By Hard Head

The Viet Cong are finding out that U.S. Navymen are hard-headed enemies!

At least one of them must be convinced of it.

He shot a sailor from the Naval Support Activity Detachment at My Tho in the back of the head while he was driving a truck down from Saigon in convoy.

And all Charlie could see was a rapid acceleration by the truck.

Inside the cab, Yeoman Second Class Peter T. Koehler-Pfotenhaver of Forest Hills, N.Y., was thanking his stars and stepping on the gas.

The .30 caliber bullet had creased his wrist, hit the back of his head and dropped harmlessly to the seat. Apparently it had run out of steam.

The 26-year-old sailor was bewildered for a few seconds, but didn't figure on waiting around to try his luck again!

"You might say all I thought of was getting the hell out of there!", is the pragmatic way he describes the incident, which occurred halfway between My Tho and Saigon.

The convoy raced the rest of the way into My Tho and after brief treatment, Koehler-Pfotenhaver returned to duty.



**Pledging A Monthly Donation . . .** Captain Herbert T. King, Commanding Officer NAVSUPACT Saigon, chats with school officials after making the first of a promised 5,000 piaster monthly donation to aid the Elementary School for Blind Girls in Saigon. He discusses school problems with Miss Genevieve Caulfield, an American adviser at the school, and its director, Mrs. Pho-thi-Lang-Tai. Miss Caulfield, herself blind, was instrumental in getting the school started in 1958. She has been awarded a certificate of merit by President Johnson for her work on behalf of the handicapped in Southeast Asia. (by Larry Lindberg, PH2)

## Saigon Navymen Pledge Help For Blind Girls

Pledging money, time and labor, the men of the Naval Support Activity, Saigon are pitching in to help a school for blind girls in this capital city.

The Elementary School for Blind Girls, 1 Nguyen Trai, is home for 18 young Vietnamese girls who are being taught to make their way in life as well as receiving a basic education.

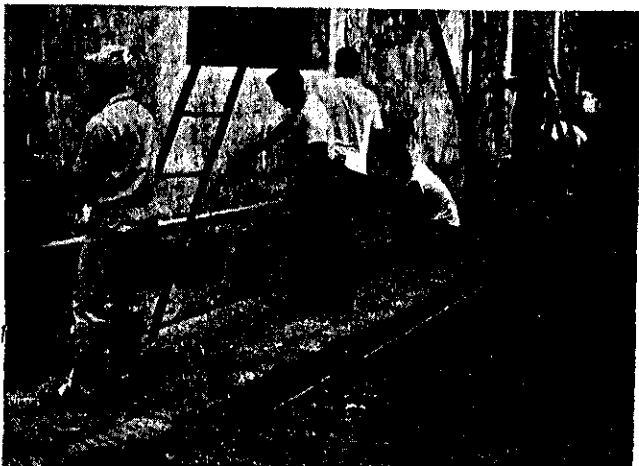
The Navymen are using spare-time on weekends to clean and paint the school, inside and out. Plans call for building additional rooms onto the school to alleviate crowded conditions and to allow for a larger student load.

Borrowing a technique from the familiar Community Chest drives, the relatively small command

has set up a pledge system to get money to finance this and other civic action projects.

Over 50,000 piasters has been pledged on a monthly basis. Five thousand piasters are earmarked monthly to help support the girls at the school.

An added wrinkle in the pledge program is a volunteer labor clause.



**Lending A Helping Hand . . .** Men from the Naval Support Activity, Saigon, swarm over the Elementary School for Blind Girls chipping, scraping and getting the main building ready for a new coat of whitewash. (by Bruce Whitmarsh, PH2)

## First Silver Star Presented Sailor



U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Alton R. Gunter of Siluria, Alabama was awarded the Silver Star Medal recently for heroic action in the Republic of Vietnam.

The award was "the highest presented to an individual involved in sea operations in Vietnam," according to Rear Admiral Norvell G. Ward, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, who presented the award.

The presentation was made in ceremonies held at Qui Nhon, South Vietnam, 120 miles south of Da Nang.

The Silver Star was awarded for Gunter's bravery in action while on patrol aboard Navy Swift Boat 26 on the Dong Tranh River, 17 miles southeast of Saigon in the Rung Sat Special Zone, March 27.

Trapped by a sudden Viet Cong ambush, the "26" was caught in heavy crossfire from enemy .50 and .30 caliber machine guns and small arms.

In the first burst of gunfire Gunter was severely wounded.

In spite of his wounds, he exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to man a .50-cal. machine gun.

Gunter emptied his machine gun into enemy positions, then manned the boat's 81mm mortar and fired shells at the Viet Cong on both sides of the river. He continued firing until the enemy was forced to break off the attack and his boat was free of the ambush area.

When asked about his action Gunter replied, "With all that stuff coming at you, you've got to do something. I didn't have much choice. What I did was mostly instinctive."

"I was so scared," he grinned, "I don't even remember reloading!"

His citation reads in part: "... By his courage, valor and devotion to duty in standing up to enemy fire in a completely exposed position, Petty Officer Gunter upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

"I'm real proud of the Medal," Gunter said, "but I think the whole crew should get some kind of commendation. We always work as a team."

## Lord Nelson Now Ensign

As an on-the-job trainee "Midshipman" in Vietnam, it took "Lord Nelson" several months to earn his honorary commission as Ensign in the U.S. Navy Swift (PCF) Division 105.

But finally Midshipman Nelson was rewarded for his hard work when he was sworn in and presented with an officer's gold hat band to wear as a collar.



He will serve the division as mascot and assistant to the assistant morale officer.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at Qui Nhon, Vietnam, home base for PCF Division 105.

Ensign Nelson took the oath — "I, Lord Nelson, being of sound mind and outstanding health, hereby volunteer to become an honorary member of the esteemed Navy organization known as 'Swift'. I will serve my country and the men attached to my organization, and do harm and justice to the Viet Cong."

The new ensign then signed the oath with a paw print and was congratulated by his friends.