

999NP47478

Tri-Forces Operation Pays Off



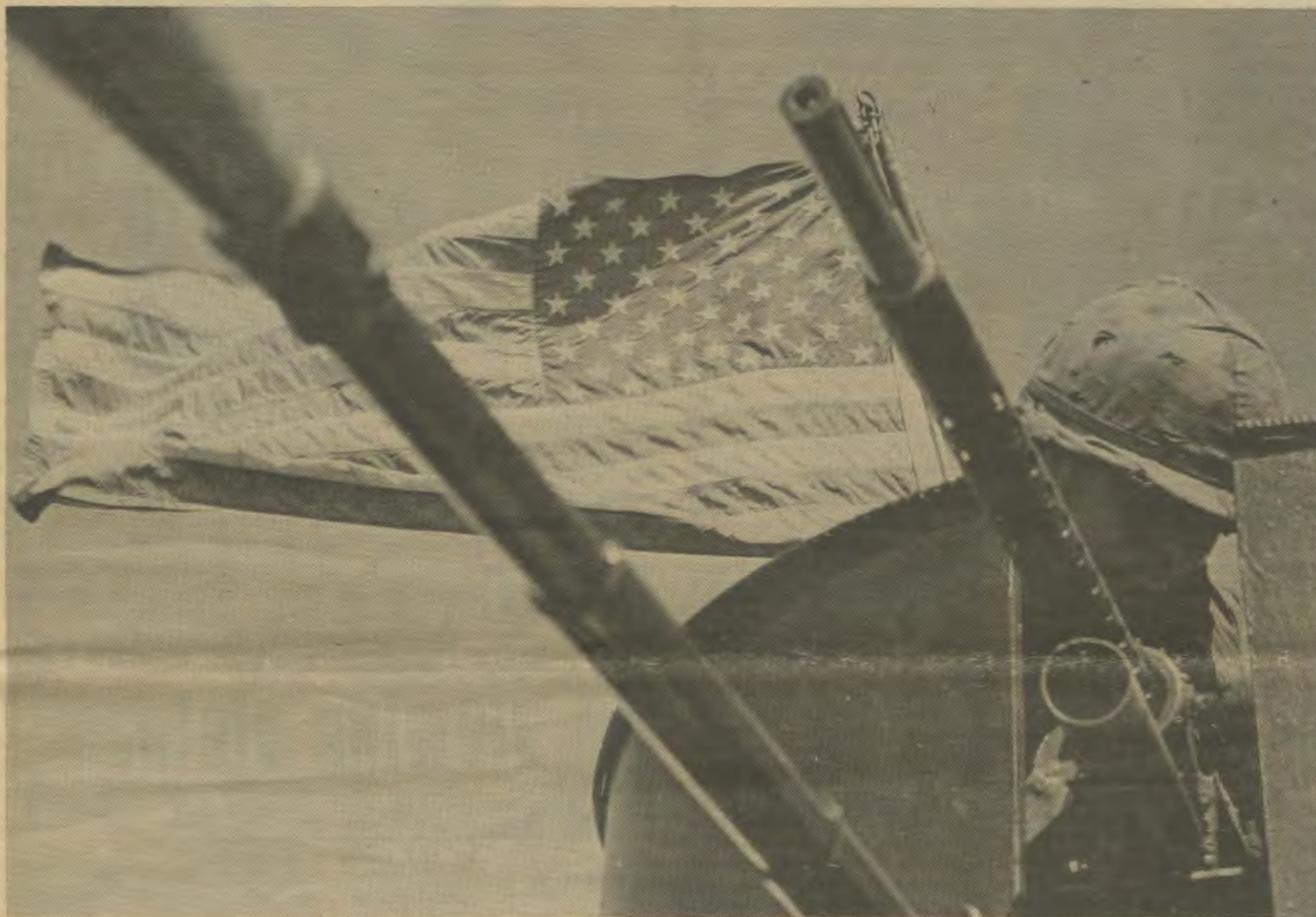
FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

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OLD GLORY — The flag flies in a stiff breeze as a 9th Infantry Division soldier with the Mobile Riverine Force makes a close check of his weapon prior to a recent operation. (USA PHOTO By: SP4 Michael Laley)

PF Men Decorated

DONG TAM (USA) — In a ceremony held in Don Nhon District, Brigadier General Frank L. Gunn, assistant commander of the 9th Infantry Division, presented two Bronze Stars for Valor and six Army Commendation Medals for Valor to individuals of the 997th and 235th Regional Force companies in recognition of their courage in action against enemy forces.

Dec. 23, 1968, Regional and Popular Forces engaged an estimated Viet Cong company, 10 miles south of Dong Tam. Thirty VC were killed, four suspects detained and 15 enemy weapons captured during a seven hour battle.

Colonel George E. Bland, 2nd Brigade commander, who was present for the ceremonies, said, "One of our primary missions in Kien Hoa Province was to upgrade the RFs and PFs so that they could take a more active part in the pacification of the province. I think the victory against the VC on Dec. 23 and the individual accomplishments recognized here testify to the success we are having."

Kill 41 Enemy Soldiers

Pair Of Pilots Pound Positions

BIEN HOA (USAF) — Two Air Force F-100 Supersabre pilots scrambled twice recently from this base and killed 41 enemy soldiers. The strikes took place in two separate base camps in northern III Corps.

The pilots, Major James E. Steinmiller and First Lieutenant Thomas S. Brandon, are members of Bien Hoa's 531st Tactical Fighter Squadron.

Striking the first enemy camp near Song Be, the two pilots destroyed five fortifications and damaged three more. Returning to the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing alert pad to rearm and refuel, they were again called on to attack another camp in the mountains 68 miles northeast of Bien Hoa.

Assisted by F-4 Phantoms from Cam Ranh Bay Air Base and U.S. Army helicopter gunships, the pilots were credited by Allied ground forces with killing 41 enemy soldiers, destroying 11 bunkers, 30 meters of tunnel and two .50 caliber machine gun positions. They also uncovered another gun

emplacement.

Although the target was covered by heavy foliage, the FAC could see bunkers and movement. Pounding the enemy with their bombs and strafing runs, the pilots softened the area before friendly ground troops moved in to secure the area.

"Our second target was an active base camp with partially hidden .50 caliber sites," Major Steinmiller said. "The FAC reported getting some pretty heavy ground fire from the area so he was pretty sure the enemy troops were hiding in bunkers."

The major said that after he

arrived at the scene he noticed that the area hadn't been worked over previously. "There were no bomb craters," he said. "I got one .50 caliber site on my first pass with a pair of 750-pound bombs and the lieutenant got the other one on his last pass. We really racked the area, but I guess there were still some lucrative targets down there because the FAC decided to put the F-4s in."

Summing up the two strikes the major said, "The success of a close air support mission always depends a great deal on the ability of the forward air controller. The two we had on these strikes were outstanding."

Marine Enlisted Club Goes Exclusive

DONG HA (USMC) — The 3rd Marine Division's Headquarters Battalion Enlisted Club at Dong Ha has gone exclusive.

For Marines to gain entrance to the club, they now must pay a cover charge of five sandbags each.

Sergeant Craig Roland, club

manager, explained, "Due to the threat of enemy artillery attacks on Dong Ha, we decided to sandbag the club to provide protection from shrapnel."

At first the sergeant was going to get a working party to fill the hundreds of sandbags needed to build a protective outside wall for the club. He de-

DA NANG (USMC) — Four Marine companies from the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, recently joined forces with Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers and Republic of Korea Marines (ROKMC) in a three-day operation south of here. Their effort was to deny the Viet Cong living areas, rice and much of his equipment and ammunition.

They robbed Charlie of more than 9,300 pounds of rice. They also destroyed 15 bunkers, 22 booby traps and a 750-pound bomb rigged as a mine. Their effort also netted them medical supplies, maps, identification cards, ammunition, parts for weapons and booby traps, clothing, cooking utensils, personal and official papers and a quantity of marijuana.

The allied unit started the operation at sunrise, moving in and surrounding the suspected enemy encampment. The four Marine companies, B and C of the 1st Battalion and E and H of the 2nd Battalion, covered more than half of the cordon around the overgrown farm land. Two units from the 51st ARVN Regiment and elements of the 2nd ROKMC Brigade completed the encirclement.

A Marine chopper landed in a dried rice paddy with high sand dunes on two sides. Rice paddy dikes on the other two sides provided the Marines cover as they ran from the copter to secure the area and drive the enemy soldiers off. Minutes (Continued on Back Page)

CIB OK'd For Korea

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Award of the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) and the Combat Medical Badge has been approved for U.S. Army soldiers serving along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea.

American combat soldiers in Korea must meet the following conditions to be eligible for the CIB:

Soldiers must serve in the designated Korean hostile fire area at least 60 days and must be authorized to receive hostile fire pay.

Soldiers must have engaged the enemy in a fire-fight in the hostile fire zone or in active ground combat at least five times.

Soldiers must be assigned to an infantry unit of company or smaller size. Officers qualifying for the award normally will be in the Infantry Branch and must be no higher than captain. Warrant officers and enlisted men must have an infantry military occupational specialty.

(Officers in other branches (Continued on Back Page))

cided that "it would not be fair to have just a few men do the work for all those who use the club."

"We finally decided to get everybody in on the act, and the five sandbag cover charge was put into effect," he added. "The troops don't mind. It's their club and they enjoy lending a hand."

Editorial

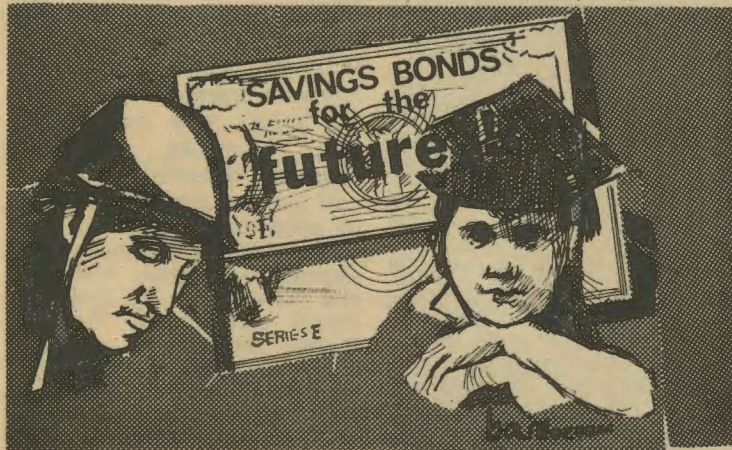
Education Costs

A good education is no longer a luxury! it is a necessity. More and more, business and industry are demanding that their employees be equipped with a solid academic background in order to meet and solve the complex problems of the space age.

The man in uniform, of course, has a head start toward obtaining an extensive formal education. With the various in-service programs available to personnel on active duty and the provisions of the G. I. Bill for former service personnel, you can be confident of having the necessary assistance to help you obtain your education.

There is, however, another matter to consider. When your son or daughter is ready for college, will you be ready to pay for it?

Recent surveys show that the cost of attending an institution of higher learning in the mid-1960s averaged



about \$1,600 a year at public institutions and \$2,430 for private ones. And, there's every indication that the cost will continue to rise.

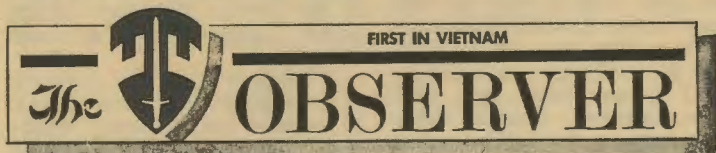
Self-help, tuition grants and student loans may answer part of the problem later, but to be sure that this educational goal is within the reach of you and your children, a groundwork of systematic saving should be laid right now.

What better way to save for the future than through U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares. They have a special combination of features making them uniquely suitable for an education fund — either for you or for your children.

Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares have the safety of a government guarantee; adaptability to a long-range goal while still being readily available for any emergency; an assured interest rate when held to maturity; easy availability through two automatic purchase plans; and important tax advantages.

All of these make it well worth your while to carefully consider using U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares as the base for your personal education fund. Whether you use them to augment the financial assistance you can receive for your own education or to provide that all-important college education for your children, they are a safe and sensible investment in the future.

Start this year off right and begin your personal savings program with U.S. Saving Bonds and Freedom Shares. All of the information is readily available from the Bond or finance officer. (AFPS)



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Just In Case
You Have
Not Heard

★ ★ ★

Army Seeks
The Unknown

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The office of the U.S. Army chief of information is seeking the names of men and women associated with the Army who have made historical contributions to their country.

The Army is compiling a list of names to present to "American Heritage" magazine as possible subjects for the magazine's new interview series, called "Before the Colors Fade."

The articles will feature famous military people, but particular attention will be focused on relatively unknown people who have been involved in historically significant events.

The information office asks individuals to suggest the names of persons connected in some way with historical events, including little-known events that later may have become noteworthy.

Suggestions should include the name and address of the subject and a brief outline showing why the individual has an interesting story to tell. The suggestion, with the sender's name, address and telephone number, should be sent to the Office, Chief of Information, Public Information Division, Washington, D.C. 20310.

VRE Reduces
Error Margin

SAIGON (VRE) — Are you perplexed by non-American size-numbers on clothing and sandal items found in Vietnamese operated concessions? No problem. The Vietnam Regional Exchange has provided the following tips to clear up your questions.

Although most servicemen know the sizes that fit their wives and sweethearts, the servicemen just cannot determine which Vietnamese size number is equivalent to the American size. Therefore the following is provided for your convenience.

Women's Sandals:	
American	Vietnamese
4	36
5	38
6	40
Nightgowns and dresses:	
American	Vietnamese
30-32	Small
34-38	Medium
40 and above	Large

Order Guns?
No Can Do!

SAIGON (MACV) — Going to order a firearm or maybe some ammo? Don't trouble yourself. It can't be done.

Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE) officials said recently that counter clerks have been instructed to turn down special orders for all types of firearms or ammunition to preclude the possibility of these items being shipped through the U.S. mail.

Headquarters Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) has advised VRE headquarters that Postal Bulletin 20662, dated September 1968, states that, "... effective immediately, the shipment of firearms of all types to or from Military Post Offices — APOs and FPOs — is prohibited."



KNOWLEDGEABLE—Julie Newmar, well known for her statuesque beauty and fabulous figure, is also somewhat of an expert on R&R. "When you go on R&R now," she reminds us, "your ration card will be punched. Thereafter, if you arrive at the center and your card is already punched, your name will be removed from the plane manifest. The only exception," she points out, "will be personnel whose orders indicate they are authorized a second R&R because of an extension of their foreign service tour for a period of 90 days or more." Julie's so cute—and so knowledgeable, too.

(PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES)



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

Because we have just started a new solar year, and because we are about to start a new lunar year, we will take this opportunity to explore this new year business to see what it all means.

There are at least two recurring cycles in nature on which a calendar can be based: the cycle of the earth's revolution around the sun and the cycle of the moon's revolution around the earth. As one would expect, there are at least two different types of calendars in use today — the solar (Gregorian) calendar and the lunar calendar.

The solar calendar is used by countries with Roman or Christian backgrounds, while variations of the lunar calendar are used by most of the rest of the world. The Moslem calendar, the Jewish calendar, and the Chinese calendar are lunar calendars. Vietnam uses both types of calendars, the Gregorian for everyday life and the lunar for traditional purposes. It should not come as a surprise, then, that Tet, the lunar new year, is traditionally Vietnam's most celebrated holiday.

Now, let's see how the two calendars differ. The solar calendar is based on how long it takes the earth to orbit the sun.

This takes slightly more than 365 days. Every four years we have a leap year to make up for that "slightly more."

The lunar calendar is based on the phases the moon goes through as it revolves around the earth. It takes the moon about 29 days to complete one cycle, from the new moon through the full moon and back to the beginning of the new moon. Twelve complete lunar months, alternating between 29- and 30-day months, occur in a period of slightly more than 354 days. Therefore there is a slight discrepancy between the solar year and the lunar year. So every three years a thirteenth month is added to the Chinese lunar calendar. In Vietnam this month is called "Nhuân."

Another feature is added to the Vietnamese calendar. Although it has nothing to do with the actual measurement of time, it puts a label on each year. It is called the 12-year cycle of "Ky." The first year in this cycle is the year of the rat, the second is the year of the buffalo, the third is the year of the tiger and so forth. This coming year, the 10th year of the cycle, is the year of the chicken.

Happy New Year!

"... I believe that we must guard against aggression in much the same manner that a righteous person struggles against evil—that is, by fully realizing that the suppression of one evil leads to a confrontation with the next in line..."

GEN. HAROLD K. JOHNSON
Former Chief Of Staff, U.S. Army

Ivymen Purge VC Valley Of Enemy Troops

CAMP ENARI (USA) — One of the last Communist strongholds in Vietnam's Central Highlands is crumbling as 4th Infantry Division soldiers, South Vietnamese forces and Montagnard warriors make their deepest penetration of the war into rugged and infamous VC Valley.

Tumbling, wild and turbulent between parallel mountain ranges, the Dak Payou River forms a deep valley, a natural fortress for enemy soldiers on their way south. Allied commanders, aware of the enemy's quiet but intense activity along the Dak Payou, long ago named the area "VC Valley."

A jungle paradise, the valley offered the enemy a safe infiltration route to the south. Safe behind steep slopes and towering peaks, entire North Vietnamese regiments were known to have established training camps, hospitals and recreation areas. Kidnapped Montagnard chieftains were taken to the valley where they underwent a punishing indoctrination course, designed to make loyal Communist subjects of the tribal highlanders.

Until Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Infantry Division commander, gave the order to "clean out VC Valley," a heavy cloud of mystery hung over the enemy's highland haven.

In a lightning move, Ivy units stormed into VC Valley after confirming the presence of an NVA regiment in the area.

The Braves of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, formed a blocking force at one end of the valley, while the Dragoons of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, swept the valley floor. The fast-firing, mobile howitzers of the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, supported the ground troops, who were aided by South Vietnamese soldiers from the ARVN 22nd Regiment and Montagnard Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) forces.

In short order, suspicions were confirmed. "Charlie" was there and had made himself very much at home. Initial contacts with the enemy were vicious, frequent and usually brief. The enemy, grown complacent through years of refuge in the valley, had been surprised and was making a hasty exit. Ivymen now faced the task of rounding up the scattered remnants of one, possibly two enemy regiments.

As allied units pushed through the lush valley floor and along rocky slopes, the image of a well-established stronghold took shape. Infiltration trails showed recent and hard use. Along the trail were sleeping huts, each containing a supply of rice and ammunition. Trail markings were in plain view.

A brief firefight claimed the life of an enemy cadre member whose responsibility it had been to keep the huts supplied.

Far from villages or inhabited areas, the Ivymen found large



Strain and week-old beard mark face of soldier in VC Valley.

fields under cultivation — food for the enemy. Water buffalo and chickens were abundant in an area whose only population wore NVA uniforms and lived in scattered bunkers.

The Ivymen pushed on, sweeping, blocking, combat as-

saulting. Long Range Patrol (LRP) teams observed the confused enemy on the run. Snake patrols and ambushes led the infantrymen to daily contacts with the remnant enemy forces. The frequent contacts revealed an enemy well-supplied with new uniforms and equipment.

An abundance of caves in the valley provided deep underground sleeping areas for the North Vietnamese — safe from American artillery and air strikes. A cave complex in five levels gave the appearance of a large field hospital.

The Dragoons uncovered an

ammunition cache of rockets, mortars, grenades, explosives and shotgun shells. Numerous rifles, rockets and ammunition were added to a growing tally of captured NVA equipment. Some of the largest enemy rice supplies of the highland war — more than 55,000 pounds — have been found in VC Valley. Sixty pounds of captured documents also proved to be a valuable find.

"We feel these efforts have severely hampered the enemy in his attempts to make VC Valley a safe haven," commented General Pepke.

Pilot's Training Saves Lives

PHU BAI (USMC) — There's a Marine pilot serving with Marine Aircraft Group 36 who feels his helicopter training saved a CH-46D Sea Knight helicopter and the lives of at least a dozen passengers.

"It all happened the first time I ever came under fire," began First Lieutenant Gene Barnes of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 364.

Lieutenant Barnes, flying as co-pilot, launched out of Phu Bai along with seven other crew of the "Purple Fox" squadron flying south to Da Nang for a troop lift.

"We had taken one load of infantrymen into the landing zone," the Lieutenant recalled, "and were coming back with a second load when I heard a

loud noise in the cockpit. Almost instantly, the pilot shouted over the radio, 'I'm hit! Take it! Take it!'"

"We had already started in for the landing and were only about 20 feet off the ground," Lieutenant Barnes said. "I immediately applied power in an attempt to get the aircraft in a proper attitude where it could fly forward and we could get out of there."

Suddenly, the chopper lurched from side to side. The first thought to flash through Lieutenant Barnes' mind was that there had been some damage to the aircraft. Then he spotted the trouble. The pilot had been wounded in the legs and his feet were still on the rudder control pedals.

Corporal Robert B. Steinberg, the crew chief, was checking out the cabin of the helicopter trying to locate the trouble. The lieutenant called him forward to move the pilot's legs away from the controls.

Until the crew chief moved the injured pilot's legs, Lieutenant Barnes kept a close watch on them. Each time one of the pilot's feet moved on the rudder pedals, the co-pilot would counteract the movement with his own controls.

Once the wounded pilot was moved and they were in the landing area, they immediately headed for the Naval Support Activity Hospital near the Marble Mountain Air Facility.

A doctor met the chopper to render emergency treatment to the wounded pilot.

"I guess up to that point I had been too busy to really do much thinking except to keep the ship flying," recalled Lieutenant Barnes. "Looking back on it now, it's comforting to me, knowing that all of the time and effort spent in training for emergencies has paid off in large dividends. I didn't have time to really think what to do, just to act instinctively on what I had been taught."

Assault Helicopters Dive To The Rescue

PHUOC VINH (USA) — At 2,000 feet they had a good perspective of the land below. Highway 13 stretched out as a convoy moved slowly north on the road — armored personnel carriers, deuce-and-a-halves and dust. Soon the road was empty, dotted only by an occasional bicycle or civilian truck.

The morning had gone smoothly for the men of Company C, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion. They had finished a combat assault, inserting ground troops into an area northeast of Quan Loi. The four UH-1H Hueys were flying back to Phuoc Vinh.

At 11 a.m. they were directly west of Phuoc Vinh, still flying above Highway 13. A large cloud of dust erupted on the road below. Warrant Officer

William Tisdale, the flight leader, was the first to spot it. He took his choppers in for a closer inspection.

A bus carrying Vietnamese civilians had hit a land mine.

Mr. Tisdale decided to go down, but only to hover above the ground for fear of other land mines. The mine could have been command-detonated and enemy troops might be in the area baiting a trap for the four choppers.

The Hueys dropped down and hovered just above the ground. A crew chief from each chopper jumped out, taking a first-aid kit with him and headed for the crumpled bus. By the time the crew chiefs reached the wreckage, gunships of Company D were overhead, providing cover for the rescue attempt.

A medic from the 1st Infantry Division was with the ground convoy and with his aid, the crew chiefs got the survivors out of the bus, treated them and put them on the waiting choppers. Within 15 minutes, 14 injured Vietnamese were at the 15th Medical Battalion Medevac chopper pad in Lai Khe.

Traveling Tips

SAIGON (MACV) — Servicemen traveling on R&R flights may now take 66 pounds of baggage with them. In order to insure that baggage which may become lost can be identified, it is important to place a copy of travel orders in each piece of baggage.



SILVER STAR

Coyne, John F. Jr. MAJ USA
Donahoe, Franklin L. MAJ USA
Parker, Douglas C. CPT USA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Baier, Charles G. Jr. MSG USA */1
Barnes, Donald E. SFC USA
Bell, William J. CPT USA
Blunt, Stanley A. CPT USA */1
Burks, Jack M. SFC USA
Diaz, Gilberto M. SFC USA
Doyle, Austin G. Jr. 1LT USA
Fowler, James A. SSG USA
Garrison, William F. III 1LT USA
Goeke, Norbert M. SFC USA
Hardy, James T. CPT USA */2
Hawley, Steven A. SP4 USA
Highlander, Richard W. CPT USA

Johnson, Lewis E. Jr. MAJ USA
Kelly, James C. SP4 USA */1
Locke, Orville C. SFC USA */1
Patten, Robert J. SFC USA
Sheahan, David M. SP4 USA
Sperry, William E. CPT USA */1
Van Buskirk, Thomas J. 1LT USA

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Bates, William E. MSG USA
Buckles, James D. II 1LT USA
Carhart, Thomas M. III CPT USA
Di Lodovico, Dennis A. SP4 USA
Jordan, James S. Jr. SSG USA */1
Ludowese, Joseph J. SFC USA */2

Just Send One Boxtop

LAI KHE (USA) — A C-ration box hastily devised into a postcard by a fast-moving infantryman in Vietnam has brought speedy action from a postal clerk in Grand Rapids, Mich.

It all started when Specialist 4 Michael Coffman was waiting to be picked up from a jungle-surrounded landing zone after a recon-in-force mission.

"I just got the urge to write home," explained the 1st Infantry Division soldier, "and I used the only thing I could find to write on."

Specialist Coffman took the top of a C-ration box, crossed

off the words "meal" and "combat," wrote his father a message and addressed it like a regular postcard. The improvised card didn't go unnoticed. Miss Barbara Belka, an alert postal clerk at Grand Rapids, saw the card and immediately reacted to what she thought was the soldier's need in Vietnam.

She mailed Specialist Coffman some stationery and envelopes along with a note expressing her concern about his having to write on C-ration cartons. She also volunteered to send any other needy soldier writing material.

Philippine Group 'Building' Hope

TAY NINH (USA) — In the center of Phuoc Dien hamlet, two white, wedge-shaped structures stand side-by-side, spiraling toward the skies. Together they are called the Monument to Hope. The monument was not always there. For that matter, neither was Phuoc Dien hamlet.

The history of this refugee resettlement center began with the 1st Philippine Civic Affairs Group-Vietnam (PHILCAG V) which arrived here in mid-1966. The first unit is gone, but its successors carry on the work.

It is not an easy task. Constant enemy harassment has driven out many of the original 600-plus Vietnamese families. Satchel charges and B-40 rockets have destroyed numerous homes and the dispensary. The VC have even tried to wreck the monument, firing B-40 rockets point-blank at it. However they only scratched the surface.

"When we see the Vietnamese people here working in their living areas, it gives us a feeling of accomplishment," stated Captain Renato De Villa, detachment commander of five civil action teams. "This is what we are

here for."

Farm

At the moment, PHILCAG engineers are busily repairing the hamlet. A demonstration farm, complete with a poultry section and a piggery, stands bare. Enemy soldiers either stole or slaughtered the livestock during a recent raid. The PHILCAG is awaiting more animals to restock the farm, hoping enemy troops have satiated their appetite for pig and chicken stew.

But building hamlets is only one facet of the PHILCAG program. Mobile medical and dental teams move throughout Tay Ninh Province, treating people of all ages. The doctors, dentists and nurses of the PHILCAG treat about 400 patients a day for cases ranging from malnutrition to tooth extractions. Since the unit arrived in Vietnam, nearly 600,000 people have been aided. Armed guards stand ready should the Viet Cong come in for other than medical reasons.

Dispensaries

Stationary dispensaries set up in secure areas care for many of the patients. The team at Long Hoa handled more than 150 people recently, and a mobile MEDCAP unit once treated 500 patients in a single day.

At Co Nhi Vien orphanage, the PHILCAG engineers are repairing the building assisted by funds contributed by men of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Showers and fences are sprouting around the area daily, while other engineers manning bulldozers and graders widen and repair highway QL-22. When the highway is completed, it will stretch from Tay Ninh to Go Dau Ha, complete with steel reinforced bridges.

Perhaps the PHILCAG motto will explain why the men travel to designated hamlets to repair whatever needs fixing—on their day off. Or why each is a volunteer for an indefinite period of time. Or why they erected the Monument to Hope. Their motto reads: "To build, not to destroy; to bring happiness, not sorrow; to develop goodwill, not hatred."

Drivers Prepare

SAIGON (USA) — Long before the sun rises in the capital city, Vietnamese truck drivers and mechanics employed by U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command in Saigon begin their inspection of vehicles, insuring they are ready for the day's missions.

"We dispatch more than four hundred trucks daily from the Plantation Truck Motor Pool," said Captain James F. Parsons, who is in charge of the motor pool located a mile from Tan Son Nhut Airbase.

Complete Checks

"Every driver goes over his vehicle completely before he starts his run. The drivers know how important preventive maintenance is and they practice it faithfully."

Under the supervision of Mr. Phan The Tu, the motor pool's chief yardman, the drivers inspect tires, water, electrical systems, oil and variety of other things that could cause breakdowns if they were allowed to go unchecked. Assistants with checklists move from vehicle to vehicle to note all trouble spots.

Mechanics

"Two mechanics arrive early every day to help the drivers and make on-the-spot maintenance," commented Master Sergeant Billy Simmons, truck pool NCOIC.

"This is a relatively new motor pool and our personnel are doing their best to outdo the workers at the main Phu Tho Motor Pool. They're really doing a great job too."

To keep track of the maintenance pulled and parts used, a control section works full time to file reports and make cards on all of the jobs that are done.

The job doesn't end when the trucks pull out for their morning runs. At the end of every long day, drivers and mechanics wash and inspect every vehicle again. They know that the best way to keep a vehicle running is to prevent a breakdown before it occurs.



FINAL CHECK—Specialist 4 Robert Collard, Company B, 326th Medical Battalion, examines a student's teeth during a recent MEDCAP near LZ Sally. MEDCAP teams from the 101st Airborne Division play an important role in civil affairs programs throughout I Corps.

(USA PHOTO)

Teams Of Former VC Working As Salesmen For Allied Cause

LAI KHE (USA) — Teams of former Viet Cong now work as door-to-door salesmen for the allied cause in Vietnam.

Their sales pitch has nothing to do with brushes and brooms since they are selling an idea—that there can be a better Vietnam if the people will support their government and resist the communists.

Known as Armed Propaganda Teams (APT), the men are all former Viet Cong who have rallied under the government's Chieu Hoi program. They are formed into Doan Ket, or "working together" squads, with their 1st Infantry Division advisors.

Major J.C. Barbosa, while serving as civil affairs officer at the 2nd Brigade headquarters

in Di An, was one of the first to recognize the importance of the APT's. "They are taken from Chieu Hoi centers without much experience in propaganda tactics. They must be trained in this field to recognize what areas have evidence of VC influence," explained Major Barbosa.

The mission of the APT's is to persuade relatives of the Viet Cong that they have nothing to gain by harboring the VC. Their big job is to sell the Chieu Hoi program through the distribution of leaflets and through talking with Vietnamese families.

The "Iron Rangers" of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry (Mechanized) provide door-to-door security for the teams in Chanh Luu and An Dien. The battalion civil affairs officer, Captain Edward M. L. Lee, remarked, "These Hoi Chanhhs know what families to speak to about relatives who are VC." Because of

this, his men realize how important their mission has become in bringing more VC to the government program.

"The Armed Propaganda Teams have bridged the communications gap with the people, making it easier for us to do the job. They are letting their people know that they want to help," continued Captain Lee.

From his experience while working with the APT's in Di An, Major Barbosa related how often the by-product of the propaganda teams was in the collection of intelligence information. By talking with the people in the privacy of their homes, the men were able to pick up bits and pieces of information that were valuable for intelligence purposes.

In many cases, the information collected from the APT's was vital to the success of programs to root out the VC infrastructure.

Villagers Progressing In Art Of Brickmaking

BONG SON (USA) — Brick construction is a relatively unknown trade in some areas of South Vietnam, land of thatched and mud huts.

However, things are changing. The Civil Affairs Office of the 173rd Airborne Brigade is currently working on a program to teach the Vietnamese along the central coast the art of making durable concrete bricks.

At Troung Luong Refugee Camp in Bong Son an experimental brick manufacturing location has begun to turn out a much improved brick.

According to Major Ronald Lawrence, a Brigade Civil Affairs Officer, "a six man crew with two machines is now putting out 2,000 bricks a month; and what is most important, they are bricks which will last."

"When the local people tried making bricks before," said

Major Lawrence, "They made the mistake of drying them in the sun, which causes them to crumble more easily. Now, with the machines and the technique of shade-drying, they have a more durable product."

Eventually, the Brigade, in conjunction with CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support) hopes to build nine schools with locally manufactured bricks in the Bong Son area.

"We think the program will be expanded significantly," said Major Lawrence.

It is hoped that the number of Vietnamese refugees gainfully employed will increase with the improved brick-producing process. Eventually the 2,700 refugees also hope to return with their new skills to the nearby An Lao Valley, which they were forced to evacuate because of VC terrorism.



Drivers inspect their vehicles before making daily runs.

Vietnam's Busiest Port—Updated

SAIGON (VFS) — Saigon is the busiest port in Southeast Asia. Two years ago it was so jammed with undelivered cargo and idle ships waiting for berths that frustrated importers joked ruefully that they could walk across the Saigon River without getting their feet wet.

Saigon Port is still the region's busiest, but ships and cargo are moving freely.

Cargo now pours from the ships' holds at a rate averaging five million tons a year.

This transformation from near chaos to smooth efficiency has enabled the Republic of Vietnam's primary international anchorage to operate at a sustained pace about equal to that of Long Beach, America's port for the sprawling Los Angeles area.

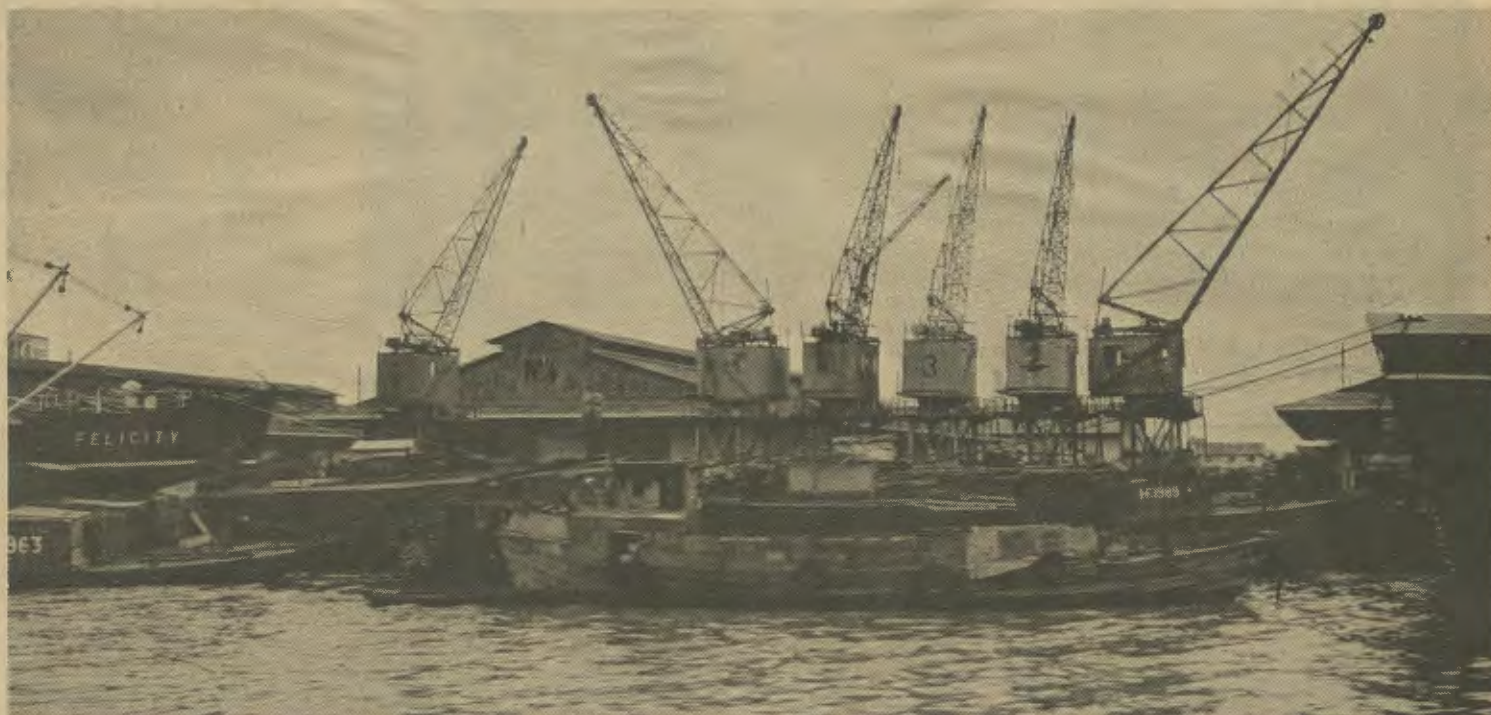
The Saigon riverfront's transformation resulted from a number of factors, including streamlining of Port Authority administrative procedures under the highly qualified Saigon Port Director General, Lieutenant Colonel Pho Quoc Chu, who was succeeded on his recent death by the equally competent Major Tran Thien Phuong, appointed by the Vietnamese government.

Also contributing to the port's rejuvenation were increased material and technical aid from Vietnam's allies in the wake of the port-clogging logistics crisis of 1966; a new sense of purpose and dedication on the part of Vietnamese personnel, from longshoremen to administrators, following the communists' Tet offensive of February 1968; and adoption of mechanized methods to unload cargo and speed deliveries.

A Glutted Port

Built originally to handle about three million tons of cargo annually, Saigon Port was operating well, even with nonmechanized stevedoring methods, prior to the massive build-up of American Troops and stockpiles starting in mid-1965. When Washington launched one of the greatest logistics operations in history, Saigon Port became glutted by the sudden influx of tonnage—a tenfold increase of up to 10,000 tons a day.

New Saigon berths were



Junks discharge rice cargoes with help from two-ton cranes. Rice was loaded into the junks from ships anchored in the river.

needed, and they were constructed.

But berthing facilities were not the only problems plaguing Port Authority officials. Longshoremen's methods were too far behind the times to meet modern war's requirements.

With help from U.S. Agency for International Development, (USAID), some 300 items of cargo-handling equipment were imported. Also acquired in the United States and in neighboring Asian ports were 35,000 pallets and 13,000 tons of additional barge and lighter capacity.

"Probably the most important labor-saving device to help speed up loading and unloading of cargoes," says USAID's port operations chief, Orlando A. Martin, "was the use of the pallet. Palletization simply means that you take cargo and put it up with a mechanized forklift. Before this, everything was handled box by box."

Tet Offensive

By the summer of 1967 the port bottleneck had been broken. The "conference rate" adopted

by carriers for cargo destined for Saigon dropped from a US \$8.25 per ton port-congestion surcharge in 1965 and 1966 to \$5 in July 1967, and progressively was lowered to \$1.50 by the end of 1967. The Tet offensive did not damage the heavily guarded Saigon Port, but the street fighting in the city and the government-enforced curfew kept longshoremen from their jobs. American servicemen helped with the job.

Emergency measures were not enough to keep up with the influx of cargoes.

But recovery, when it started, was rapid. Longshoremen made arrangements to stay inside the port day and night so their work shifts would not be interrupted by the curfew. Saigon's commercial community, working in cooperation with government offices and banks, instituted a number of emergency measures to expedite the flow of goods from port warehouses to end-users.

Control System

Already in effect at the time of the Tet offensive was the new control system instituted by the Vietnamese government and USAID to account for grant-aid cargo. From ships' holds to "first destination" warehouses in the Saigon area, delivery losses were cut to a fraction of one percent.

Additional control systems have been instituted to trace cargoes, not only from ships' holds to "first destination" warehouses, but to the ultimate end-users in the provinces.

"The joint accountability system from ship to warehouse is air-tight, and from warehouse to province and district nearly so," says Robert Crownover, USAID's assistant director for logistics. "We can describe it as optimum in that it would cost much more for the additional personnel it would take to guarantee delivery to every individual user and recipient than the value of the actual loss in final delivery."

With the current work of the port describable as a re-supply mission—the escalation period of tremendously stepped-up imports is well passed now—U.S. Army and USAID advisers are concentrating on training programs, management improvement projects and data processing sys-

tems to insure that never again will Saigon Port go through a congestion crisis like 1966's. Lieutenant Colonel Donald D. Screen's commercial port management advisory office of the 125th U.S. Army Transportation Command and Martin's USAID port operations office are co-operating in the advisory functions, with the Army concentrating on management and port operations and with USAID particularly concerned with development of port resources.

Saigon is a war port, and

security is an ever-present problem. Perpetual watch must be kept to prevent possible communist sabotage of ships, booby-trapping of cargoes or mine-laying in the river. Vietnamese and American harbor police, navy mine sweepers, helicopters and other craft and men constantly patrol the river, day and night. After dark searchlights and flares light up the river, its swampy banks and busy wharves. Patrol boats control the flow of traffic in and out of the port.



A deep-draft vessel discharges wheat flour at the Saigon port.



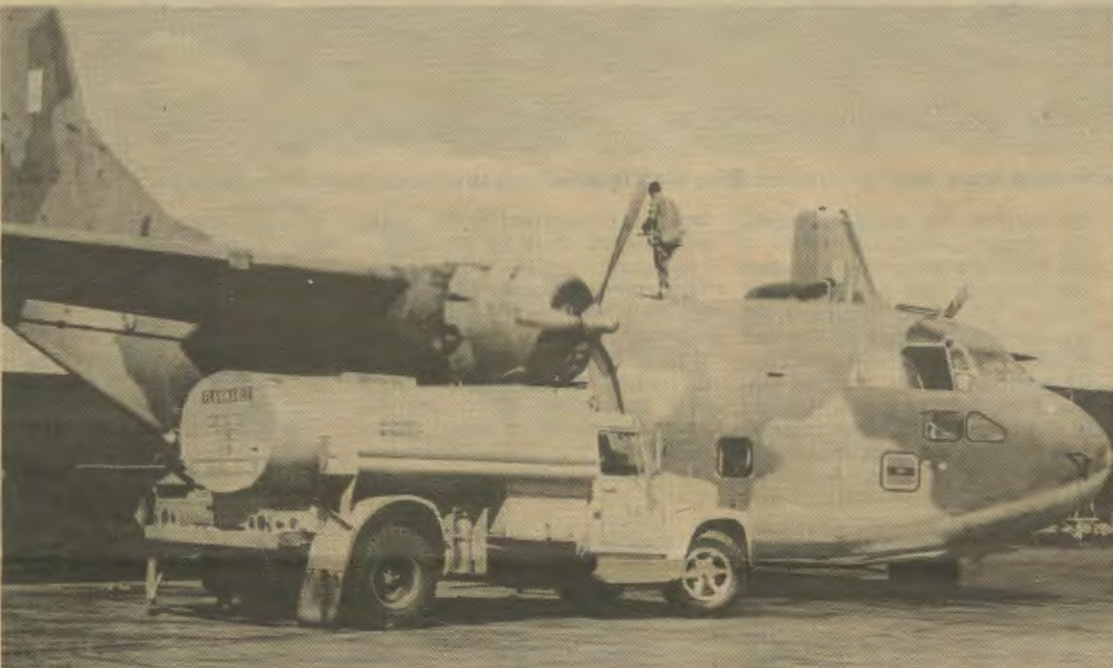
Longshoremen stack baled cotton on trucks as it is unloaded.

Story & Photos
By
Vietnam Feature Service

Ranch Hands



Graceful as eagles, C-123s soar over rendezvous point waiting for F-100 escorts.



Ranch Hands' favorite steed gets supply of oats from modern day aircraft chuck wagon.



Another Provider, viewed from a cockpit window, sprays the herbicide which will keep 'Charlie' on the move.

SAIGON (MACV) — "Saddle up, Cowboys!" With this command from Lieutenant Colonel Jack Langhorne, lead pilot in a formation of five C-123 "Providers," the "Ranch Hands" of the 12th Special Operations Squadron prepared to rein into action.

With the grace of hawks, the seemingly lumbering C-123s plummeted 3,500 feet in less than a minute to level off just above the jungle canopy which shrouds the enemy-infested southernmost portion of the Mekong Delta.

The spray jets were opened and defoliant spewed forth to deny to the enemy his natural concealment and expose his camps and movements to the watchful eyes of allied ground troops and aircraft.

This was "Charlie country" and support was needed to insure the safety of the Providers and their crews. Ten F-100 Supersabres streaked around both sides of the left echelon formation, pummeling the ground below with 750-pound bombs. The ordnance kept the heads of the enemy down to deter them from firing against the Ranch Hands. The ground explosions looked a taut string of erupting volcanoes as the F-100s thundered past the wingtips of the Providers.

Three-and-a-half minutes later, the spray jets connected to the 1000-gallon tanks of herbicide mounted inside the fuselages were closed. The Vietnam land mass was left behind to the north and the C-123s wheeled about over the South China Sea and headed back to the "ranch" at Bien Hoa Airbase, home of the 12th Special Operations Squadron.

The dense jungle area which was their target would begin to show effects within 10 or 12 days. Leaves would wither and drop from the trees and visibility would be drastically increased. The lasting effectiveness of the herbicide will deprive

the enemy forces the sanctuary provided by the lush jungle for a period of 12 to 15 months.

The 12th Special Operations Squadron plans carefully to make sure that rice paddies and crops belonging to friendly farmers are not harmed. But rice grown by the VC for their troops sometimes becomes a target for the Ranch Hands. The herbicides, in use since 1962, are non-toxic, non-corrosive and not harmful to human or animal life.

Having served in Vietnam since 1962, the 12th Special Operations Squadron has often been referred to as the most "shot at" air unit in Vietnam. Since the squadron members have



started counting, their aircraft have received more than 3,000 hits from enemy ground fire.

Among the rows of the squadron's camouflaged aircraft, a silver ship stands out. Her name is Patches. One of the oldest C-123s in the squadron, Patches has been hit more than 547 times during her career as a defoliation craft.

The crews of the 12th can be distinguished by the purple scarves they wear around their necks. The scarf is a tradition. When Nguyen Cao Ky was Premier of Vietnam, he flew a mission with the Ranch Hands. Impressed by the squadron, the premier removed the purple

scarf from the present mander. the scarf the flig the scarf squadron. Another Ranch tinctive breast round of which the wor Nam" e ters. Th present circle is wide, di The gr green v and the a defol brown symbol relates

The R tion mis 200 com navigator Vietnam Before a flown t examine ous com and RV sired for proposed then the amined Joint G visors a nam Com for Inte Civil O tionary and the "The v uncover storage enemy nant Co nel, for squadron more su our for Ranch praised manders of it."

Story & Photos By SFC D.D. Perez and SP5



SSgt. Fenton H. Hutchinson, flight engineer, checks

Hands Ride Herd On Delta Range

arf from around his neck and
esented it to the aircraft com-
ander. The squadron adopted
e scarf and the members of
e flight crews proudly wear
e scarf, embossed with their
uadron emblem.

Another mark which sets the
anch Hands apart is the dis-
tinctive emblem worn on the
east pocket. The emblem is
und. It has a red border inside
which is a yellow ring with
e words: "Ranch Hands Viet-
am" embroidered in red let-
ers. The red and yellow re-
esent Vietnam. The inner
cle is green, bisected by a
de, diagonal strip of brown.
e green signifies the lush,
een vegetation of the country
d the brown, the remains of
defoliated area. Upon the
own diagonal is a Chinese
mbol meaning "purple." This
lates to the scarf.

The Ranch Hands fly defolia-
n missions daily. After flying
o combat hours, the pilots and
vigators are presented with
etnamese Air Force wings.
efore a Ranch Hand mission is
wn the target is carefully
amined and approved by vari-
s components of both the U.S.
d RVN government. The de-
e for a mission is initially
posed by a Province Chief,
en the potential target is ex-
ined by the ARVN CTZ and
int General Staff, U.S. Ad-
ors and Field Forces Viet-
m Commanders, U.S. Agency
International Development,
vil Operations and Revolu-
nary Development Support,
d the Embassy.

"The work of the Ranch Hands
covers base camps, trails,
orage areas and forces the
emy to move," said Lieute-
nt Colonel Arthur F. McCon-
t, former commander of the
uadron. "This makes him
ore susceptible to contact by
r forces. The results of the
anch Hands are repeatedly
aised by ground force com-
anders and they want more
it."

SP5 D.M. Gerrol



cks Patches after mission.



"Cowboys" do some fancy hedge-hopping in their metal horses over suspected 'Injun country' during a heavy suppression mission.



Sgts. Mike Marcelino, Sam Fragua and Robert Rand provide technical maintenance for one of the huge C-123 power plants.

Big Red One Retrains Former Enemy Troops



SSG Johnson gives marksmanship training to a Hoi Chanh.

LAI KHE (USA) — An automatic rifle chattered and the turf in front of it erupted in small explosions. The Hoi Chanh doing the firing stood up and smiled broadly. It was clear that he was glad to be on the gunner's end of the weapon.

One by one, under the supervision of the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade combat training school, the Hoi Chanh took their turns firing. Recruited from throughout the Big Red One's operational area, the Hoi Chanh were grouped for the first of the two-week courses to be held in Lai Khe.

Up at 6:30 a.m., on the range by 8 a.m., the platoon of Hoi Chanh was receiving small arms training. The members also had classes in air-mobile

operations, perimeter defenses, patrolling and even some drill and ceremony, "which they really seemed to dig," commented an instructor, Staff Sergeant Edrow Johnson.

"The training is much like that given in Hanoi with AK-47s, RPGs and sub-machineguns," Hoi Chanh Sergeant Nguyen Van Phung said.

There are differences. "The trainees are used to throwing NVA grenades which don't have safeties," explained Sergeant Johnson. "When they pull the pins on our grenades, they get rid of them fast."

Throughout the course, the Hoi Chanh have been attentive and quick to learn. Their NCO's don't allow them to become lax. One trainee was careless in clearing his weapon and Ser-

geant Phung quickly had him in the position well-known to all trainees: the front leaning rest.

The Hoi Chanh trainees' day ends at 4 p.m. At the end of the course they receive three-day passes to see their families. According to Sergeant Johnson, "The 1st Brigade sent their Hoi Chanh out on pass and they all came back. As one of them said, they've never had it so good."



Attentive students listen to instructor demonstrating the M-79.

Story and Photos by SP4 James L. Marshall (USA)



Instructor SGT Michael Barnes assists Hoi Chanh with M-79.



Hoi Chanh trainees are led by SGT Cecil Coleman as they walk to the next class.



SGT Johnny Montgomery points out trainee's excellent shot group on rifle target.

Refugees Make Dream Come True

CHU LAI (USA) — The South Vietnamese flag again is flying high over Phu Tho—this time to stay.

Three years ago, the people and chief of this small village, located 20 miles west of Tam Ky, were overrun by VC and forced to flee. They fled north and south, from enemy terrorism, to the Vietnamese government security areas of Moc Bai and Que Son.

Now with the assistance of a battalion of "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade, Phu Tho will again be a thriving community consisting of more than 1,200 people located in three large hamlets. The village is presently the focus of a new and intensive pacification effort

by members of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry.

"We have been working toward this phase for the past five months," said Major Jerry E. Rowe.

"During the rice denial program, rice was purposely left in that area for the people to harvest."

"Most of all, we back this move because we feel the people are ready," Major Rowe continued. "There is a strong desire to go back."

The Phu Tho refugees have done a great deal themselves to make their dream come true. A group of former residents with a strong desire to return to their old home have formed a Popular Forces (PF) platoon

which is responsible for security in conjunction with the village relocation.

The platoon runs periodic patrols through the area. They are accompanied by a 2nd Battalion rifle squad to insure communications and artillery support. The first objective is to root out the VC infrastructure among the people who remained behind when the enemy gained control of the village.

"The Phu Tho group is the best PF platoon we have ever operated with," said Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair L. Melmer, battalion commander. "It must be the desire to go back. They have rooted out more VC infrastructure from their area of responsibility than we have ever gotten anywhere else." Since early

November, 23 Viet Cong have been killed or captured by the platoon.

In the past three months, a 12-man village committee, composed of the village chief, his assistant, and 10 hamlet chiefs, have regularly visited the old and new village sites, working with the people and explaining the program.

The Que Son District is contributing additional PF/RF security elements. A U.S. mortar team and MAT advisers will also be assigned to the village.

Construction of the village site has already begun. An area has been cleared and a foundation laid for a bunkered compound and fortified village headquarters.

"Once we build a village head-

quarters and perimeter, we can say that at least part of the village is GVN-controlled because we physically occupy the ground and we can give the people some protection," said Captain George E. Hamm, the 2nd Battalion civic affairs officer.

Perhaps the strongest factor motivating the Phu Tho people's struggle to return to their homes is their 52-year old village chief, Ngo Thuong, a short, leathery man with an infectious grin and a persistent determination.

Thuong is mindful of the dangers involved. He has become a prime target for VC retaliation, but it doesn't matter to him. "We have returned," he said. "We are here to stay—both ourselves and the South Vietnamese flag."

New Use Discovered For Old Army Drug

VUNG TAU (USA) — An old drug for which the Army has discovered a new use is proving to be effective in the treatment of burn patients at the 36th Evacuation Hospital, 44th Medical Brigade.

The drug is sulfamylon acetate, a cream which was developed and tested at the Brooke Surgical Research Unit, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Introduced to 36th Evacuation Hospital in June, the cream has replaced the time-consuming method of treating burn patients with silver nitrate saturated dressings.

Captain Alfred S. Buck, acting chief of surgery at the hospital, said that an average of 10 Vietnamese and GI patients are admitted to the burn center at the hospital each month.

Most of the burns are not war-related; they are the result of accidents involving hot water and gasoline.

Accidents

Traffic accidents along crowded South Vietnamese highways add to the toll of burn injuries. Drivers of three-wheeled passenger vehicles, often carry extra gasoline in

glass bottles. Upon impact, the bottles shatter and a lighted cigarette can turn the vehicle into an inferno.

Often the victims of these accidents are treated at the 36th Evacuation Hospital, the major military hospital in Vietnam that provides treatment for Vietnamese civilian burn patients.

Captain Buck described the healing process for these patients as a combination of intensive nursing care, physical therapy, surgical care and rehabilitation.

Since many of the hospital's departments are involved in the care of an individual patient, close coordination and cooperation is important. "In this respect we have been fortunate," explained Captain Buck, "because the staff here is compatible and interested."

Treatments

Treatment begins immediately after the patient arrives.

In the Physical Therapy Department, which is headed by Major Mary S. Ozburn, patients are given whirlpool bath treatments and applications of sulfamylon acetate cream twice a day.

Major Ozburn explained that the whirlpool treatments make the patient more comfortable while the cream combats infection.

Exercise is also important, she said, since it helps prevent severe scar constrictures which may require plastic surgery to correct. The use of cream over silver nitrate dressing has an advantage in this area. The patient is not encumbered by the bulky dressings and is free to walk and exercise.

ARVN Soldiers Responsible For Village Scout Program

LAI KHE (USA) — Six months ago, Lai Khe was one of those villages where the kids had nothing to do when school wasn't in session.

Today the village has a thriving scout troop with more than 100 boys and girls, and the troop was officially recognized recently by Vietnamese scouting authorities in a special ceremony at the scouts' building.

Responsible for the changed



YOUNG AND OLD—Both the young and old Vietnamese take advantage of a MEDCAP held by the 9th Infantry Division recently three miles south of Dong Tam. They listen intently as the doctor prescribes care for the ailments through an interpreter. (USA PHOTO)

Seabee Program Helping Viet Youth Learn Valuable Trades

DA NANG (USN) — What began as a request has become a statement of fact for many Vietnamese workers recently hired by the Seabees.

Lap, a 16-year-old Vietnamese boy from Da Nang, was told by his father to get a job with the Seabees and learn a trade. Hired as part of a Vietnamese work force at Camp

Haskins, the Seabee Headquarters in Da Nang, Lap was assigned to sweep the vehicle repair shop belonging to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion Three (NMCB-3).

Lap expressed an interest in the work being done by Construction Mechanic Third Class John E. Craig. Before long, Lap was asking for additional responsibilities. He began observing the work, trying it out. Soon Lap was cleaning air filters, changing spark plugs and giving valve jobs.

Initiative

Lap is typical of many Vietnamese hired for jobs involving little or no background training, but who have shown initiative and interest in learning and assuming additional responsibilities.

Last June 300 Vietnamese were hired and distributed among the Navy Construction Battalions in southern I Corps. The program, as described by Captain John R. Fisher, commander of the 13th Naval Construction Regiment, was origi-

nally conceived to "get more Seabees on the job by augmenting our capability with Vietnamese laborers. The whole point is to relieve Seabees from clean jobs and camp maintenance so they might apply their skills directly to the Navy construction effort on a full time basis."

Future

Future plans for the expansion of this program include informal apprenticeships as mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, construction men, electricians and masons. According to Captain Fisher, "One of our goals has been to elevate the American image in the eyes of the Vietnamese people. As a result of this program, the Seabee reputation seems to be getting around among the local people. Of course the bigger goal," the captain continued, "is to teach our workers skills and trades which will enable them to make an important contribution to themselves and their community and carry on for themselves when we are no longer here."

Guiding Light At Chu Lai

CHU LAI (USMC) — Four light bulbs, electrical wiring, and a portable generator to supply electricity were all required to begin evening adult classes in Ky Lyn village near the Marine air base in Chu Lai.

It began when the Vietnamese schoolmaster of Ky Lyn elementary school was flooded with requests from the village elders for evening classes.

The schoolmaster knew the kerosene lamps (there is no electrical power in the village) would not supply enough light for study. He presented his problem to the people who could help, his friends, the Marine Aircraft Group-12 civic action team.

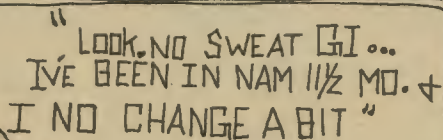
Members of the Marine Air Base Squadron 12 wired the room and supplied a portable generator.

Now there is no need to advertise classes. The bright lights stab through the night, guiding those seeking education.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—says, "I'm sure glad that this wall is here. After the wild beach party I've just come from, I'm having trouble keeping my balance. Speaking of balance, if you keep yours to \$100 or more in a checking account with a military banking facility in Vietnam, it will pay five per cent interest as long as the balance doesn't fall below the minimum at any time during a calendar quarter." This week's **BUNKER BUNNY**, Jennifer Castle, looks pretty well-balanced to us. (PHOTO COURTESY OF LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU)

BY SP5
MAC CLAIN

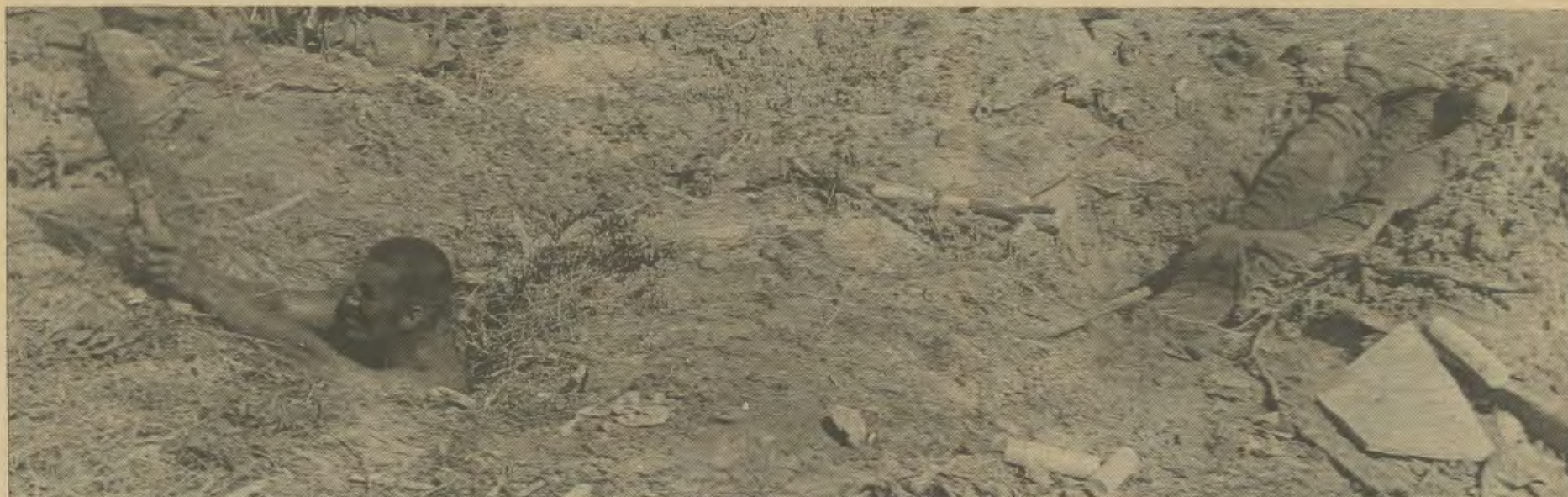


(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of January 24-30, 1969)

1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Wild Wild West (Re-Run)
1530 Jackie Gleason (Re-Run)
1630 Combat (Re-Run)

1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Sports
1700 N.F.L. Highlites
1730 My Favorite Martian
1800 Carol Burnett Show
1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese #1
1900 Star Search
1930 Evening News
2000 Weather
2006 Kraft Music Hall
2100 What's Happening
Perry Mason
2200 Late News
2210 Feature Movie

1984 WAS NEVER LIKE THIS!



RUBBER MAN — PFC James Raver, a 25th Infantry Division trooper, seems to be stretching things a bit too far as he recovers an RPG-7 round from an enemy tunnel. Actually, PFC Alger LaHood is bringing up the rear. Both are 2nd Brigade soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, who found the cache while working on a detail near Fire Support Base Keene. (USA PHOTO By: SP4 E. R. James)

Big Cache Found By Force 213

AN KHE (USA) — An enemy cache of nearly eight tons of rice was recently uncovered near An Khe by a Mobile Strike Force unit working with the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Mobile Strike Force 213 was conducting a reconnaissance-in-force mission eight miles south of An Khe when it came upon a series of buildings where the rice was being kept.

"We had spotted the buildings the day before," said First Lieutenant Dennis Croft. "We had been conducting an aerial visual check of the area. We thought it might be some sort of supply point."

After assaulting into the area, the company verified its suspicions. More than 14,500 pounds of rice was stored in the buildings.

"The biggest problem was getting the rice out of there," said First Lieutenant Steve Whisenant. "We finally solved the problem by using sandbags. We used more than a thousand," he said.

So You'd Like Delay En Route

SAIGON (MACV) — If your family is located in Hawaii, Japan or certain other locations on Military Airlift Command channels, you can get a delay en route at that location before returning to the United States.

Check with your Personnel officer.

IRS Answers Income Tax Queries

(Editor's Note: In an Army News Feature series beginning this week, the Internal Revenue Service of the U.S. Treasury Department answers some of the most frequently asked questions on federal income tax matters.)

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Question: When will I be getting my income tax forms?

Answer from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS): Beginning in January, the tax forms are available at local IRS offices as well as many post offices and banks. Most taxpayers will receive copies of the forms and instructions in the mail.

If you receive a 1040 tax form in the mail, you may have a

form that is printed in two colors. This is to draw attention to certain parts of the form that were troublesome to taxpayers last year.

Color is not used on the 1040-A forms or the 1040 forms that may be picked up at IRS offices and other locations.

Q: My wife worked part-time at a local department store during the Christmas season. If she files her own tax return will I still be able to claim her exemption on our return?

A: No, you may not. When a husband or wife files a separate return the other must file separately too, and neither is per-

mitted to claim exemptions, expenses or deductions of the other.

If your wife's income is small it would probably be to your advantage to file a joint return. Compute your tax both ways to see which is best for you.

Q: My son is stationed in Vietnam with the U.S. military forces. What do we do about his tax return?

A: Military personnel in a combat zone do not have to file tax returns while stationed there. They may wait to file a tax return up to 180 days after leaving Vietnam.

(Next: Interest on savings bonds.)

VA Announces Liberal Educational Assistance

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The Veterans Administration (VA) reminds veterans separated from service after Jan. 31, 1955, that they now are entitled to one and one-half months of educational assistance—up to a maximum of 36 months—for each month of military service.

A law that became effective in December liberalized the Post-Korean G.I. Bill limit of one month of educational assistance for each month of service for veterans with at least 181 days of service, including some after Jan. 31, 1955.

The VA especially urges post-Korean veterans who did not return to school because they could complete only a couple of years of college under the old formula of one month entitlement for each month of service to contact their nearest VA office.

CIB OK'd...

(Continued From Page 1) may earn the CIB if they command an infantry unit of company size or smaller and meet the other requirements.)

Eligibility requirements for the Combat Medical Badge are similar. Also, soldiers wounded or killed in combat qualify for the awards.

The specific hostile fire area in Korea is north of the Imjin River and south of the DMZ, extending from the intersection of the river and the DMZ on the west, along the DMZ to a point in the vicinity of Pinil, then southwest to the north bank of the Imjin in the vicinity of Chajip'o.

ARVN-ROK-Marine Combo...

(Continued From Page 1)

after the battle, Marines of Company B met their Korean counterparts in the final closing of the cordon.

The allies dug in for a possible counter attack from inside the cordon. Tanks and Marines provided rear security against enemy forces from outside the surrounded area. For two days the allied forces held their positions

against light sniper fire from within the cordon.

As daylight broke on the third day, U.S. Marines moved out of their positions and across the surrounded terrain.

Numerous interlacing treelines and the probe for enemy equipment made progress through the first half of the area extremely slow. In contrast, the last half was crossed in about half an hour.



SOMETHING NEW — Going to Manila on R&R? You'll find that your flight will be almost three hours shorter than it would have been last year. The MACV R&R Branch has announced that all flights to the Philippine metropolis are now by C-141 jet aircraft. This cuts the time from 5 hours, 15 minutes, to 2 hours and 20 minutes. There are now 14 flights to Manila. (MACV PHOTO By: SP4 T. L. Tynes)

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

★ (Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.)

From:

Place Stamp
Here

(12 cents 1st class)
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:

