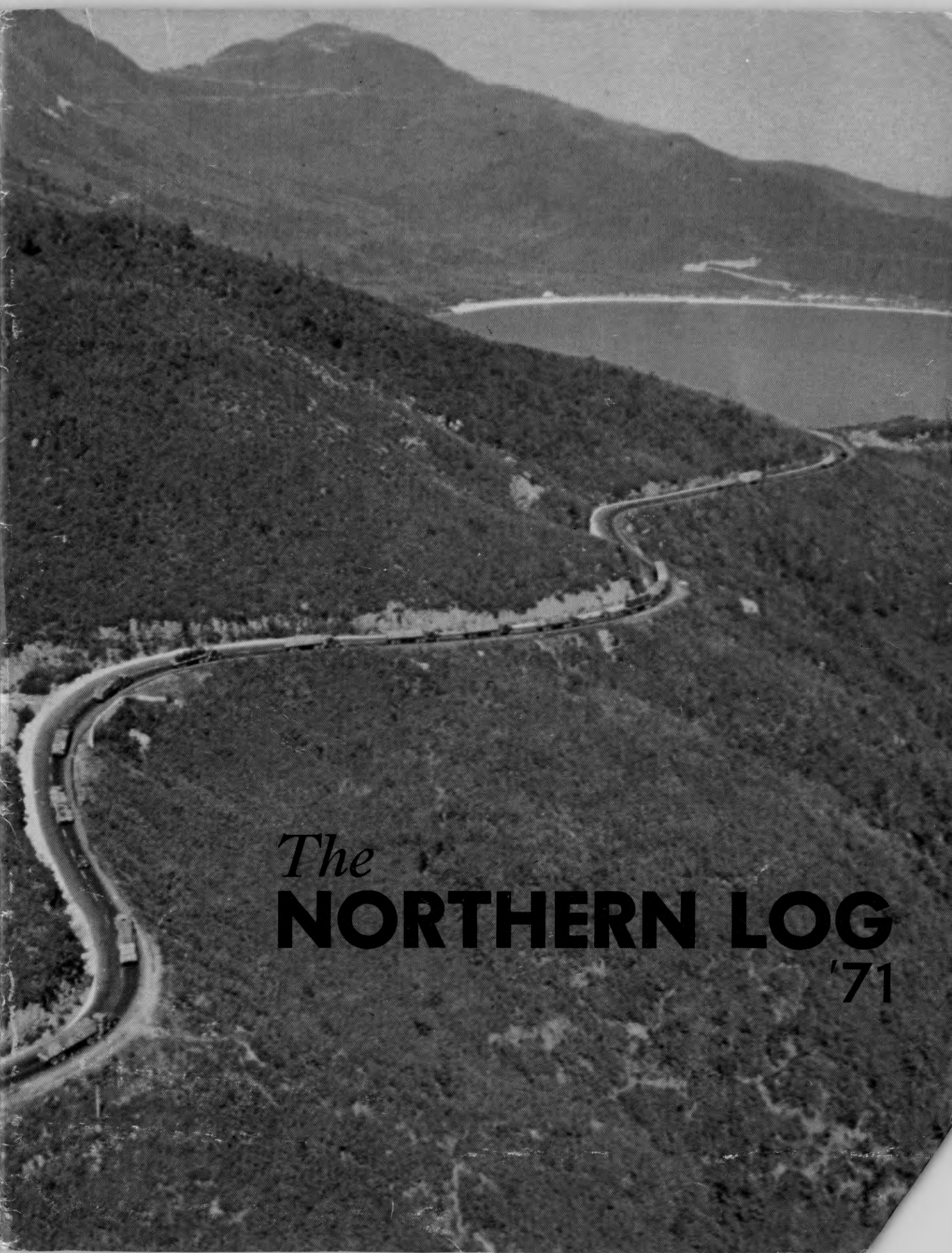

The NORTHERN LOG '71

Warm greetings to all members of the Da Nang Support Command. NORTHERN LOG '71 is the story of the units and men of our Command and the outstanding job you have done over the past year. At press time a number of significant unit moves and key personnel changes were taking place as part of our heavy involvement in Operation Dewey Canyon II. This operation in northern Military Region 1 calls for the re-establishment of a strong American and Allied posture in the northwest sector and providing full logistical support for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in their campaign to crush the enemy's supply capability in Laos. Our SUPCOM troops are right now performing logistical miracles moving ammunition, fuel, rations, and materiel to where they're needed. As your commander, I am proud of each and every one of you.

This magazine is a reflection of the Command's organization, missions, and accomplishments up to the present time. I hope that new arrivals will find it informative and helpful in getting a comprehensive overview and a feeling of personal pride in your assignment. I hope you save this issue and that in years to come NORTHERN LOG '71 will bring back good memories of your job well done here.

My congratulations and deep appreciation to each of you.

ARTHUR H. SWEENEY, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL
UNITED STATES ARMY

Since the United States Army Support Command, Da Nang, was activated three years ago, it has established an enviable record accomplishing its mission of logistic support in the northern provinces of the Republic of Vietnam. Indeed, the Command takes pride in the fact that throughout its history no combat operation in Military Region 1 has been cancelled or delayed by lack of a responsive support effort. Clerks and drivers, supply handlers and mechanics, forklift operators and harbor pilots--all have performed their assigned tasks in an exemplary manner during this period, despite frequent hardship and less than optimum working conditions. Enemy activity, unfavorable weather, and shortages of personnel and equipment alike have failed to appreciably daunt their spirit or limit their capability.

Those of you presently serving with the Command know that the challenges you have faced and the responsibilities you have accepted in the course of your duties are a measure of the flexibility, versatility, and ingenuity you have demonstrated in maintaining such an effective support system. Equally important, however, has been the sense of dedication and spirit of cooperation with which you have coordinated highly developed skills for the common cause.

I am proud to be your Command Sergeant Major and hope that every new arrival will do his part, as well, to sustain past achievement by continuing this superb effort.

LE ROY A ARCENEAUX
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
UNITED STATES ARMY

...hina Color Printing Co., Inc.
...aiwan, Republic of China

United States Army
Support Command
Da Nang

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The NORTHERN LOG '71 is an authorized annual publication of the United States Army Support Command, Da Nang. A command information magazine for orientation and historical purposes, it is designed to provide an interesting and factual resume of the Command's activities during the past year. Some of the material in this magazine has been reprinted from other publications and views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Army.

NORTHERN LOG '71

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I.O.'s NOTES

NORTHERN LOG '71 is a special one-time edition borrowing its name from Da Nang Support Command's monthly newspaper, The Northern Log. The Information Office in late 1970 and January 1971 wrote and edited the coverage of nearly 100 units, in most cases based on material contributed by the units themselves, for which we are most grateful. If some small detachments have been omitted it is because their parent units did not report them or due to editorial judgment of space limitations. The kickoff of Operation Dewey Canyon II caused many changes involving unit moves and augmentation from outside the Command, which are impossible to include at press time as they are still taking place. We have, however, added last-minute photographs and captions of our newly established operations at Forward Support Activities 1 and 2 at Vandegrift and Khe Sanh, respectively.

This, then, is NORTHERN LOG '71--the story of the men of the U.S. Army Support Command, Da Nang, from Duc Pho north to Dong Ha, west to Khe Sanh. It's a saga of the tough, dirty, frustrating, and often thankless job that you do.

We're all very proud of you and we're dedicated to tell your story.

GEORGE H. CHASE
MAJ, GS
Information Officer

THE COVER: A Support Command convoy winds slowly through the Hai Van Pass north of Da Nang, in the Republic of Vietnam. (Chase)

History of Military Region 1 ...

Military Region 1, the northernmost of South Vietnam's four military districts, was known as I Corps until mid-1970. The central area of Vietnam before its division in 1954, this region, despite its isolation from major population centers, has traditionally been the Country's most active politically.

The Imperial City of Hue, situated 50 miles south of the present Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Thua Thien Province, was the home of Vietnamese emperors from 1802 until the last one, Bao Dai, was forced to abdicate on August 23, 1945. Many leaders on both sides in the present conflict consider this area their home. The family of Ngo Dinh Diem, first president of the Republic of Vietnam, lived in Hue, and a number of inner-circle North Vietnamese leaders, including former president Ho Chi Minh and Premier Pham Van Dong, were born and raised in the region. Even after the Nation was divided in 1954 and Hanoi and Saigon became capitals of the North and South respectively, I Corps in general and Hue in particular continued to play an influential role in the political affairs of the South. The Imperial City was a focal point of the Buddhist-led Five Struggle movements, beginning with the successful effort to topple the Diem regime in 1963.

The first European contact with Vietnam was made in this region in 1535 when a Portuguese captain landed at Da Nang (which Europeans called Tourane) and Hoi An, the capital of Quang Nam Province. Hoi An later became a Portuguese trading center and, in 1615, the site of the first Christian mission in Vietnam. In 1626, a Frenchman, Alexander of Rhodes, arrived in the area. He is credited with having done much for the development of the modern form of the Vietnamese language.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, European religious and trading interests were centered in Hoi An and the developing port of Da Nang. In this period also, central Vietnam aligned itself politically with the Nguyen rulers of the South. In 1687, the Nguyen family moved to a site near Hue.

The French, gaining the cooperation of the Nguyen family by helping them regain their ruling status in 1802 (after their displacement by the Tay Son Rebellion in 1774), greatly expanded foreign influence in Indochina during the 19th Century. In 1858, French troops entered Da Nang, and, by 1884, their conquest of the country was complete and central Vietnam, or Annam as it was called, officially accepted French protectorate status.

French forces occupied the area until the Japanese arrived during World War II, but there were frequent and popular uprisings against French rule throughout the period, in which important nationalists, including future political enemies Ho Chi Minh and Ngo Dinh Diem, became well known. Vietnamese nationalism asserted itself after the Allies overthrew the Japanese puppet government, and Emperor Bao Dai finally abdicated, relinquishing his imperial seal and the other symbols of his office to the Viet Minh, a communist-oriented nationalist group, on August 23, 1945.

But France was not ready to give up its territories in Indochina. This led to a bitter nine-year war with the Viet Minh and other nationalist organizations. Throughout this struggle, hard-line communists increased their control of the Viet Minh movement and devoted considerable attention to eliminating potential rivals for power among other groups. The French, meanwhile, maintained garrisons at Hue and Da Nang throughout the Indochina War, which lasted from 1945 to 1954, but most of rural I Corps came under Viet Minh control.

A settlement of the Indochina War was reached in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1954. This agreement called for the geographical division of Vietnam at the 17th Parallel and movement of Viet Minh forces north of the line of demarcation. Viet Minh from throughout the South gathered in Quang Ngai, the southernmost province of I Corps, before sailing north. Many left their families behind and vowed to return within a few years.

Communist guerrillas, known as Viet Cong, were soon infiltrating the South, recruiting cadre from anti-Diem nationalist elements. Confusion following the overthrow of Diem's nine-year regime in November, 1963, and the succession of military governments in Saigon that followed, as well as severe floods in southern I Corps in 1964, provided the opportunity for further Viet Cong gains.

By the summer of 1965, the Viet Cong had gained control of most of the rural area of I Corps and begun attacking district towns and provincial capitals. Confrontation between Allied forces and the Communists, including North Vietnamese regulars, came to a head early in 1968. The American Marine outposts at Khe Sanh and Lang Vei in western Quang Tri Province near the Laotian border were hit hard on January 21, 1968--the beginning of what the Communists hoped would become another Dien Bien Phu (the last stand of the French against the Viet Minh in 1954).

Within 10 days, a total of 10,000 American Marine and Army troops were moved into areas near the DMZ to guard against an expected major offensive by the enemy. By January 26, there were an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 North Vietnamese soldiers in northern I Corps; the next morning, the now-famous Tet offensive began as the Communists rocketed the Da Nang Air Base. Perhaps hardest hit during Tet, however, was Hue. Communists occupied the city and murdered at least 1,000 civilians. For some 28 days, 500 North Vietnamese soldiers held the Imperial Citadel until a battalion of South Vietnamese troops overcame them on February 24. The month of fighting had left the beautiful former capital in ruins.

Throughout this period, more American troops moved north. To facilitate the delivery of supplies to the growing number of soldiers in I Corps, the Da Nang Support Command was activated on February 25. It was at this time also that the Provisional Corps (now known as XXIV Corps) was formed.

During the early spring, American and South Vietnamese forces in northern I Corps launched Operation Pegasus, a massive and successful drive to relieve the besieged Marines at Khe Sanh. This initiative was followed up later in the spring with Operation Delaware, a thorough sweep of the strategically important A Shau Valley west of Da Nang. Other highly successful, but smaller operations throughout the summer and fall continued the pacification effort in I Corps--now redesignated Military Region 1.

Military Region 1 is an area with proud traditions and great promise. But, like most of the rest of South Vietnam, its prospects for the future are overshadowed by the determined efforts of invaders from the north and local revolutionaries at subversion and violence. But, when a better day finally dawns, assassination, extortion, and plunder will give way to political and economic development fully in keeping with the traditions of other modern, anti-communist Asian nations.

Military Region 1 is bordered on the north by North Vietnam, the east by the South China Sea, the south by Military Region II, and the west by Laos. The topography of the area, from east to west, consists of a coastal lowland, a belt of foothills, and rugged jungle-covered mountains rising to an elevation of more than 7,000 feet. Agriculture is the principal means of livelihood, and rice, by far the most important crop, is grown throughout the coastal lowland, the landscape checkered by small rice paddies.

The population of these northern provinces is approximately 3,250,000. Da Nang, with 300,000, and Hue, with 150,000, are the largest cities. The provincial capitals of Quang Tri, Hoi An, Tam Ky, and Quang Ngai are the largest towns, ranging in size from 20,000 to 40,000 persons. The central province of Quang Nam is the largest in land area and population, which totals about 1,200,000 including the autonomous city of Da Nang, which is located 385 miles northeast of Saigon. Quang Tri is the least-populated province, with approximately 250,000 people, and the others, in order of population, are Quang Ngai, Thua Thien, and Quang Tin. Montagnard tribesmen in the mountainous northern areas constitute the largest minority group, numbering about 250,000.

The great majority of these people are Buddhists, at least nominally. However, ancestor worship and various forms of animism are common in rural areas. There are several hundred thousand Catholics and approximately 10,000 Cao Dai adherents and Protestants in the Region.

Although rice is the chief crop of this agriculturally oriented district, military activity in recent years has resulted in a shortage of the staple. In 1967, for instance, some 200,000 metric tons of rice were imported. In addition to rice, other foodstuffs now imported include manioc, sweet potatoes, corn, peanuts, soy beans, and sugar cane. Vegetable production is increasing, due to the encouragement of American advisors, availability of seed and fertilizer, and a greater number of refugees growing vegetables on small plots.

Fish is the most important protein element in the local diet. An estimated 80,000 fishermen catch 18,000 metric tons of fish and other seafood annually.

Industry is extremely limited and consists primarily of small enterprises such as brick and tile manufacture, boat construction, weaving, and handicrafts, including the production of non las (conical hats), baskets, brass ornaments, and marble, wood, shell, and ivory carvings. Although handicraft is presently insignificant economically, it is potentially a profitable trade.

Retail businesses are numerous and generally family-owned--specialized in the cities, but of the "general store" variety in rural areas.

Natural resources in Military Region 1 include iron, marble, gold, copper, lime, coal, clay, and timber. Though these have never been exploited and do not promise to have more than moderate economic value, they do offer a base for future industrial development. Excellent port facilities at Da Nang, Hue, and Chu Lai, in addition to the many rivers and inland waterways of the area, offer means of transporting domestic goods where roads are impractical.

The northern provinces have a long tradition as the political center of Vietnam. Although that role has shifted with the division of the country, the region still possesses enough industrial and agricultural potential to give it an important role in the future development of the Nation once peace and stability are assured.

HISTORY OF SUPPORT COMMAND

As enemy activity increased near the Demilitarized Zone and in the Khe Sanh area in late 1967, additional Allied forces were deployed to I Corps Tactical Zone (since redesignated Military Region 1). The influx of personnel has been considered the determining factor in the activation of the United States Army Support Command, Da Nang.

Officially organized on February 25, 1968, the Command was tasked with coordinating the support efforts of logistics units from Duc Pho in the south to Dong Ha in the north and consolidating duplicated activities. The 80th General Support Group and the 34th Supply and Service Battalion, which later was reorganized as the United States Army Depot, Da Nang, were permanently assigned to the new Command, and a third major subordinate unit, the 26th General Support Group, was relocated from Cam Ranh Bay to Phu Bai in early March, 1968, to provide support for the northern half of Military Region 1.

A number of U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units, activated following the enemy's intensive Tet campaign, originally performed many support functions later assigned to units periodically formed within the Command. Arriving in the Republic during the Fall of 1968, these elements ranged from transportation to graves registration units.

In the late Fall of 1968, the Command assisted the successful movement of the 1st Cavalry Division to Military Region III (Operation Liberty Canyon), which was a major first in RVN operations. Other notable developments in which the Command participated include Operation Delaware, in support of a sweep of the A Shau Valley; Operation Matting, in support of the 3d Marine Division during the buildup preceding Operation Taylor Common in the southern part of Military Region 1; Operation Lamar Plain, to relocate the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division from Camp Eagle to Tam Ky; Operation Keystone Eagle, which redeployed American forces in RVN to the United States and Okinawa; and Operation Keystone Cardinal, which further redeployed U.S. troops from Vietnam.

With the new year, 1970, the Support Command began implementing a plan for the transfer of common service support activities in Military Region 1 from the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Army. In February, the Command assumed the wholesale POL mission from the Naval Support Facility, Da Nang, and the operation of the port complex at Tan My/Col Co Island. In June, the China Beach R & R Center (the only in-country U.S. R & R center) was reopened under the Command's supervision in Da Nang, and the shallow-draft port and ramp operations in Chu Lai were absorbed by the 57th Transportation Battalion of the 80th General Support Group. On July 1st, the Support Command assumed complete responsibility for the control and operation of the Port of Da Nang, including the facilities at Deep Water Pier, Tien Sha Ramp, and Bridge Ramp. Sixty six Naval craft were turned over to the Army for this purpose. The 5th Transportation Command, relocating from Qui Nhon, was assigned the mission of operating these facilities as well as that of coastal resupply. In addition, the retail Class I and II missions and the operation of self-service supply centers and unaccompanied baggage facilities became Support Command activities, and the Depot assumed Class I, II, IV, VII, and IX support for all U.S. forces in the Region.

During the brief period since its formation, the United States Army Supporrt Command has been tasked with the logistical support of the XXIV Corps and its assigned units, which include the 23d Infantry Division (Americal), in the southern area of the Region; the 101st Airborne (Airmobile) Division near Phu Bai; the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) near Quang Tri; the 3d Squadron of the 5th Armored Cavalry Regiment, also near Quang Tri; the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), since redeployed, and all nondivisional Army units in the Region. Since July 1, 1970, the Command has provided common service support for the III Marine Amphibious Force and the Naval Support Facility, Da Nang.

In late January, 1971, the United States Army Support Command, Da Nang, began moving men, equipment, and supplies north in support of Operation Dewey Canyon II. Great quantities of food, fuel, and ammunition were transported to various staging areas near the Laotian border for American forces establishing a strong defensive position in northwestern MR 1 and for the Army of Vietnam's incursion into Laos to interdict Communist aggression and block North Vietnamese supply routes along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

CLASSES OF SUPPLY

CLASS I

Subsistence.

CLASS II

Clothing, individual equipment, tentage, organization tool sets and kits, hand tools, administrative and housekeeping supplies and equipment.

CLASS III

POL: Petroleum, lubricants, hydraulic and insulating oils, preservatives, liquid and compressed gases, bulk chemical products, coolants, de-icing and antifreeze compounds, together with components and additives of such products, and coal.

CLASS IV

Construction: Construction materials, to include installed equipment, and all fortification/barrier material.

CLASS V

Ammunition: Ammunition of all types (including chemical, biological, radiological, and special weapons), explosives, mines, fuses, detonators, pyrotechnics, missiles, rockets, propellants, and other associated items.

CLASS VI

Personal Demand Items (Non-Military Sales Items).

CLASS VII

Major End Items: A final combination of end products which is ready for its intended use; e.g. tanks, mobile machine shops, and vehicles.

CLASS VIII

Medical Material including medical peculiar repair parts.

CLASS IX

Repair Parts and Components (less medical peculiar repair parts) to include kits, assemblies and subassemblies required for maintenance support of all equipment.

CLASS X

Material to Support Non-Military Programs (e.g. agricultural and economic development) Not included in Classes I-IX.

Headquarters and Staff Sections

A Staff Conference at Headquarters, United States Army Support Command, Da Nang.

The United States Army Support Command, Da Nang, furnishes logistical support for United States and Free World Military Assistance Forces in Military Region 1, which encompasses the five northern provinces of the Republic of Vietnam. The Command's support functions include resupplying using units with Class I, II, III, IV, V, VII, IX, and X commodities, ground and water transportation of cargo, direct and general support maintenance of military equipment, retrograde and disposal activities, and operation of the U.S. Army Depot and Deep Water Pier in Da Nang and shallow-draft ports in Da Nang, Chu Lai, and Tan My.

The Headquarters exercises command and staff supervision of the entire logistical program, and it is the combined mission of the various staff sections, specifically, to ensure a responsible, effective, and efficient supply, maintenance, and service system.

The Staff Judge Advocate, in addition to advising the Commanding General on matters pertaining to military justice and furnishing the Command with legal guidance and services, provides legal assistance for American military and civilian personnel in the Da Nang area. The Information Officer is the Commanding General's advisor on all command and public information matters, including media relations with radio and television networks, wire services, newspapers, and magazines. He designs, implements, and supervises the execution of Command Information and Public Information Programs. The Inspector General, as the third member of the Commanding General's Personal Staff, is responsible for investigating and reporting matters which pertain to the states of discipline, efficiency, and economy within the Command, as well as conducting Annual General Inspections, special inspections, and surveys of subordinate units.

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Supply and Services advises and assists the Commanding General in the acquisition of Class I, II, III, IV, VII, and IX material for distribution to U.S. forces and other authorized recipients in Military Region 1, while the Assistant Chief of Staff for Maintenance coordinates and supervises maintenance activities designed to assure the materiel readiness of supported and organic units. The Assistant Chief of Staff for Transportation develops policy and procedures for the transportation of personnel and cargo in the Command's area of operation, and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Ammunition manages U.S. Army ammunition service support in Military Region 1. Property disposal operations and retrograde of reparables, ammunition, and excess materiel is supervised by the Assistant Chief of Staff for Retrograde and Disposal.

The Commanding General receives advice and assistance from the Assistant Chief of Staff, Engineer, on engineer matters, real estate, repairs, and utilities; from the Assistant Chief of Staff, Comptroller, in more efficient and effective utilization of material and human resources; and from the Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel concerning the development and coordination of personnel policies, civil affairs programs, and safety programs. The Assistant Chief of Staff for Signal, Plans, and Operations is responsible for developing policy guidance, providing overall staff supervision, and keeping the Commanding General informed on all matters pertaining to plans, operations, redeployment, communications, cryptographics, and military history.

The Special Staff includes the Adjutant General, who advises and administratively assists the Commanding General and his staff on all matters relating to personnel management, postal and special services, and reenlistment activities. The Adjutant General also exercises operational control of assigned and attached AG units and the USARV In-Country R & R Center. The Staff Chaplain advises commanders on matters of religion, morals, and morale, as affected by religion, in the Command. The Command receives advice and assistance from the Provost Marshal on matters concerning provost marshal, military police, and physical security activities, and from the Special Assistant for Combat Security (SACS) on matters relating to combat security. The Headquarters Commandant supervises the administration, logistical support, and military justice of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and 2d Security Company.

Barnett

Barnett

HHD USASUPCOM DNG

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, United States Army Support Command, Da Nang, provides administrative and supply functions for officers and enlisted men assigned to the Headquarters, Support Command, as well as billeting and mess facilities for enlisted personnel. The Unit also provides physical security for the Headquarters, at China Beach, as well as the HHD compound, and promotes social and recreational activities for all Headquarters personnel.

Several other small units are attached to HHD for purposes of administration only. One, the 47th Military History Detachment, was assigned to the Support Command on January 5, 1970, for the purpose of providing subordinate units with assistance in historical matters and preparing special historical monographs and summaries of their activities. In addition, the Detachment gathers important chronicles and various documents of historical significance or value, forwarding them to military and civilian archives.

The 8th Signal Detachment (Prov.) operates a mobile radio installation for Support Command Headquarters.

The Command Maintenance Management Inspection is designed to provide a status report of the adequacy and effectiveness of unit maintenance management and operations. The Support Command CMMI Team develops such an appraisal by determining, through technical inspections, the unit and materiel readiness of subordinate units in the Command.

The Inventory and Accuracy Team (Prov.) assists the United States Army Depot, Da Nang, and local direct support units in reviewing presently established inventory procedures for accuracy and methods of locating supplies and equipment for issue. The Team offers further assistance in correcting deficiencies discovered during inspections.

The Movement Control Center (MCC) is the point of contact for USARV agencies and activities in Military Region 1 regarding movement of personnel and cargo. The MCC, with offices in Quang Tri, Phu Bai, and Chu Lai as well as Da Nang, has the authority to task vehicles assigned to the 39th Transportation Battalion and the 57th, 63d, and 363d Transportation Companies in support of this mission. The MCC also organizes land cargo transportation from the Chu Lai and Tan My ramps and coordinates air support for convoys northbound from Da Nang.

The Support Command Transportation Motor Pool (TMP), with assets of 60 buses, 16 taxis, and 245 other vehicles, transports an average of 51,000 military and local national passengers by bus and 725 U.S. military and civilian personnel by taxi each week, in addition to providing commercial vehicle augmentation for certain activities. Requests for vehicle assignment are reviewed by TMP, which makes available approximately 130 vehicles on recurring dispatch to specific organizations. The Pool also operates a recovery service and an inspection station for all assigned vehicles, prepares maintenance work requests for an average of 12 vehicles a day, and conducts road tests and issues an average of 90 military driver's licenses each week for military personnel, civilians, and local nationals.

The Labor Management Activity for Support Command has administrative responsibility for hiring local national employees and providing them with security clearances and passes for military transportation.

An integral part of TMP operations is wrecker service.

A Christmas party for orphans at HHD.

80th General Support Group

The 80th General Support Group arrived in Vietnam in January, 1967, and operated the Cam Ranh Bay Sub Area Command until May, when it was relocated in Chu Lai as a division of the United States Army Support Command, Qui Nhon. The Group also established the Da Nang Sub Area Command in November of 1967 for the support of units in the northern provinces, but in July of the following year, after the 26th General Support Group had assumed logistical responsibility for the northern one-third of I Corps Tactical Zone, this functional designation was discontinued and the 80th Group's mission restricted to transportation, maintenance, supply, and retrograde activities in support of divisional and nondivisional units in the rest of I Corps.

In addition to local hauling, the Group maintains a Trailer Transfer Point in the Da Nang Service Area where convoys for Chu Lai are staged. The maintenance role involves the repair of all types of Army ground equipment in Vietnam. Another major task is the distribution of supplies, including clothing, food, field equipment, ammunition, barrier materials, and fuel. Adequate stock is maintained for emergencies. The retrograde and disposal operation, including salvage and scrap activities, results in monetary savings for the Army.

The 80th General Support Group significantly expanded and modified its mission in 1970. Subordinate units began to operate such former U.S. Navy functions as POL distribution, a self-service supply center, and local port facilities in Da Nang. The 156th HEM Company, 633d CC&S Company, and 85th Light Maintenance Company transferred their operations to the Da Nang Service Area. In addition, "Project Buddy" was initiated to augment the logistical skills of the Vietnamese Army, an engine diagnostics school was sponsored as an advanced maintenance course for ARVN personnel, and roadside "spot check" inspections of unit vehicles were organized in Da Nang and Chu Lai.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company provides administrative assistance and coordination for the logistical support (supply, maintenance, local and line-haul transportation) of U.S. Army units in southern Military Region 1. The Company also furnishes personnel to operate the Group Headquarters, the Command Motor Pool, the Special Services Section, Transient Billeting, Officer Billeting, the club system and the mess halls, and to guard 1000 yards of beach perimeter. The Unit resides in the 80th General Support Group Compound.

The 40th Ordnance Company operates Ammunition Supply Point 107, receiving and storing conventional ammunition until it is issued to using units. The Company area and ASP are located at Camp Love, west of the city of Da Nang. Company personnel provide perimeter security for the ASP.

The 525th Quartermaster Company assumed responsibility for POL operations in the Da Nang area from the U.S. Navy in March of 1970. All international shipments of petroleum products to Military Region 1 are initially received by this unit and stored at four tank farms, which have two connecting pipelines, in the Da Nang area. These facilities are integrated with two tank farms commercially owned by the Shell Oil Company. Delivery to the field is accomplished by rail and convoy, and T1 shuttle tankers are employed for the resupply of Chu Lai and Tan My. The 525th handles local distribution. Company personnel are billeted at the Fleet Air Support Unit Compound adjacent to the 15th Aerial Port.

The 527th Quartermaster Detachment, which operates petroleum testing facilities and submits written product-evaluation reports on an average of 579 samples per month, is attached to the Company.

The 43d Army Postal Unit operates Army Post Office (San Francisco) 96349, providing complete postal service for all Army and authorized civilian personnel in the Da Nang area, and APO 96260 in Quang Ngai, which provides service for MACV Advisory Teams 2 and 17 and authorized civilians. Financial units located at the 80th Group Compound, Camp Horn, China Beach, and Camp Baxter in Da Nang offer money order and parcel

A 269th EOD team at work.

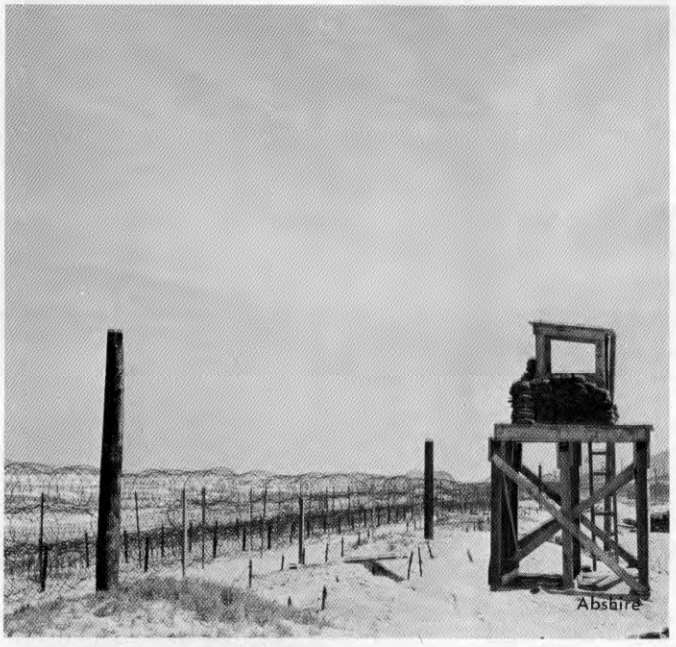
Mail is sorted at the 43d APU in Da Nang prior to delivery.

post service. Mail is received from the Da Nang Air Base five times daily and dispatched after each mail call, or twice daily. The 43d APU also maintains a locator service for the units in the Da Nang area.

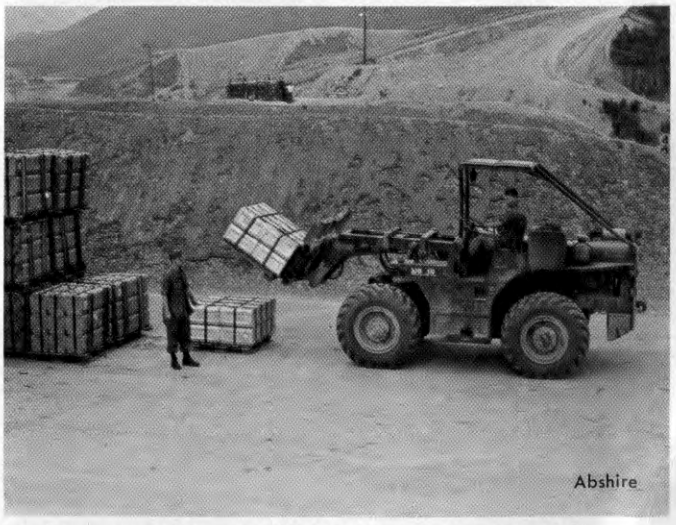
The 45th Army Postal Unit is a branch office of the 43d APU serving units and personnel located in Da Nang West.

The 269th Ordnance Detachment is assigned the mission of assisting units in Quang Nam Province with explosive ordnance disposal. Based in downtown Da Nang, the Unit remains operational 24 hours a day for quick response to EOD requests (approximately 100 per month) involving bombs, dud grenades, terrorist apparatus, and other suspicious items. The Detachment also conducts ordnance safety classes for other units and inspections of explosion sites to determine cause and check for secondary devices.

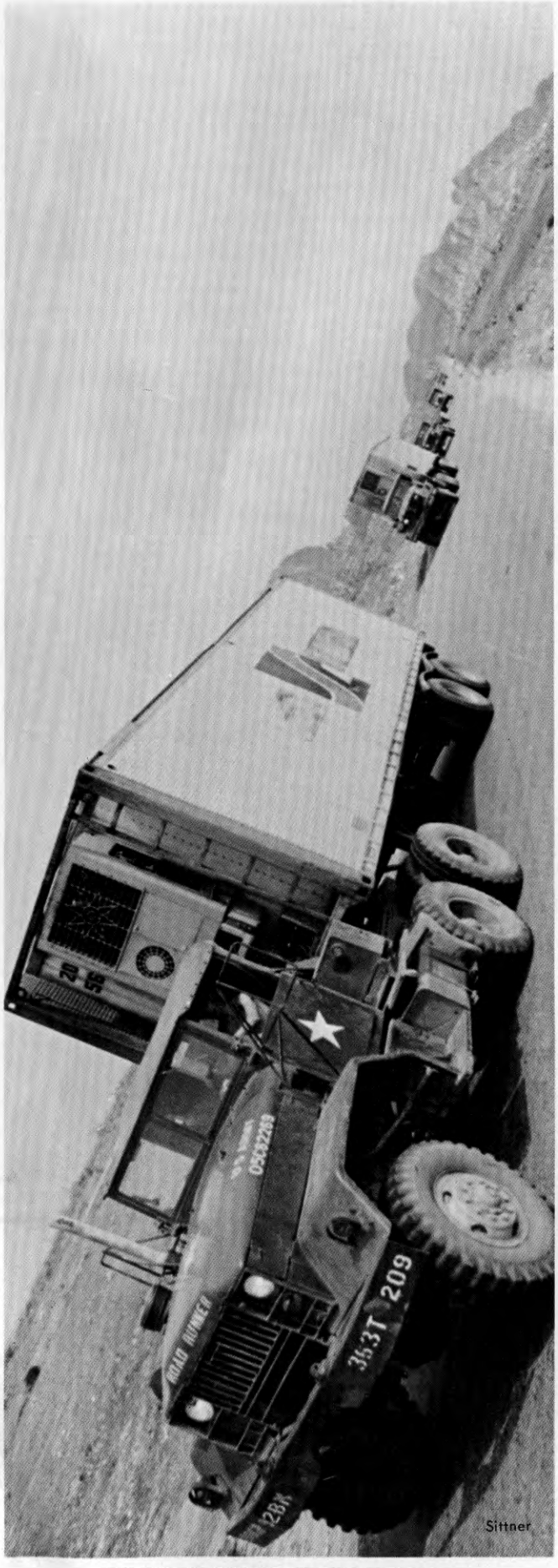
The United States Army Mortuary in Da Nang provides trained military and civilian morticians to process the remains (excluding disposition of personal effects) of deceased U.S. military and Free World Military Assistance personnel and civilian noncombatants of U.S. agencies in Military Region 1. The Mortuary, an activity of the 80th General Support Group, also acts as a graves registration unit for the Da Nang area.



Package POL Storage at the 334th Supply and Service Company, Da Nang.



Loading ammunition at ASP 107, operated by the 40th Ordnance Company.



The Chu Lai Convoy leaving Da Nang.

57th Transportation Battalion

The 57th Transportation Battalion arrived in Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, on November 28, 1968, after eleven months in Quang Tri Province. The Unit's mission since that time has been to provide transportation, supply and service, and direct support maintenance for the Army's largest active-duty division, the 23d Infantry Division (Americal), various nondivisional units, U.S. Marine and Air Force elements, and Free World Military Assistance Forces in the area. The Battalion has assigned to it two transportation companies, a supply and service company, a maintenance company, an ordnance (ammunition) company, and several detachments.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment provides command and staff supervision of Battalion units engaged in all types of logistical support, including the receipt, storage, and issue of supplies (Classes I, III, V, IX), direct support maintenance, retrograde and cannibalization activities, motor transport services (local and line haul), and harbor operations.

The 63d Transportation Company operates convoys in the southern part of Military Region 1, furnishing units supported by the 57th Transportation Battalion with needed supplies and equipment, including combat-essential items. Despite adversities such as hostile action, inclement weather, and forbidding terrain, the 63d--only truck company in the Battalion--continued to increase its mission capability and workload during the past year.

The 226th Supply and Service Company provides the Chu Lai area with Class I and III (package and bulk) supplies. Additionally, the Unit operates a Household Effects Shipping Section, which handles about 40 tons of household goods for approximately 650 people per month; a field laundry; a bakery, which provides three kinds of fresh bread and doughnuts daily; and a self-service supply center, which stocks 885 line items for 101 customers.

The Class I operation has the mission of warehousing and issuing rations for units in Chu Lai as well as at Hawk Hill and Duc Pho. The officer in charge is designated as the Contracting Officer's Representative to monitor the operations of the Foremost Dairy Plant and contracted ice plants in Chu Lai and Quang Ngai.

The Class III supply mission is carried out by the 525th Quartermaster Platoon, which operates two tank farms in Chu Lai and furnishes 156 customers in the southern sector of Military Region 1 with bulk POL, and the Company's 1st Platoon, which carries 126 lines of package POL and various industrial gases.

The 544th Transportation Company (Medium Boat) is responsible for the operation and management of the port facility in Chu Lai, which is the base of logistical support for the 23d Infantry Division and numerous nondivisional units in the Chu Lai area, as well as a site for redeployment of Naval and Marine units. The Boat Platoon is employed in berthing operations within the harbor, making use of its "pusher" boats to assist Land Ship Tank vessels (LST's), POL tankers, and barges into and away from the quay. The Company's 2d Platoon is assigned to the United States Army Port at Tan My.

Inspection, offloading, and inland clearance of cargo is accomplished by an attached unit--the 3d Platoon of the 403d Transportation Company (Terminal Transfer). All classes of supply, including rations, clothing, POL, construction materials, PX goods, repair parts, and ammunition, are handled in the terminal.

The 596th Light Maintenance Company was activated on March 25, 1967, at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and deployed to Vietnam in May of 1968. While in Vietnam, the Unit has been stationed at Quang Tri, Gia Le, and, since May, 1969, at Chu Lai, where it has the mission of providing direct maintenance and supply support, with the exception of medical, cryptographic, and aircraft maintenance, for approximately fifty nondivisional units in southern Military Region 1. The Company also performs field maintenance on heavy artillery belonging to units of the 23d Infantry Division. The Unit's motto is: "The BEST, supporting the rest."

Assisting the 596th is the 533d Engineer Detachment, which furnishes maintenance support for the heavy equipment of the 39th Engineer Battalion and the 59th Land Clearing Team. Also attached to the 596th is the 547th Signal Detachment, which supports all countermortar and meteorological radar sets in the area.

Typewriter repair in the 596th Light Maintenance Company.

A pusher boat, operated by the 544th Transportation Company in Chu Lai.

The 661st Ordnance Company (Ammunition) was assigned to the United States Army Support Command, Da Nang, from the Qui Nhon Support Command in September, 1969, and attached to the 57th Transportation Battalion in September, 1970. The Company was established in Chu Lai with the mission of providing Class V support for the 23d Division and all nondivisional units in southern Military Region 1. This mission is accomplished by the operation of two ammunition supply points (ASP's) in the area--ASP 105, which has a capacity of 21,000 short tons and was recently acquired from Marine forces leaving Chu Lai, and ASP 106, which has a much smaller capacity of 2,000 short tons and is maintained by a 27-man detachment in Duc Pho. The 661st receives, stores, and issues all types of ammunition as well as disposing of captured foreign and unserviceable U.S. ammunition.

The 57th Signal Detachment receives and transmits messages for the 57th Transportation Battalion. The Detachment is capable of receiving 100 messages and transmitting 100 messages in a 24-hour period.

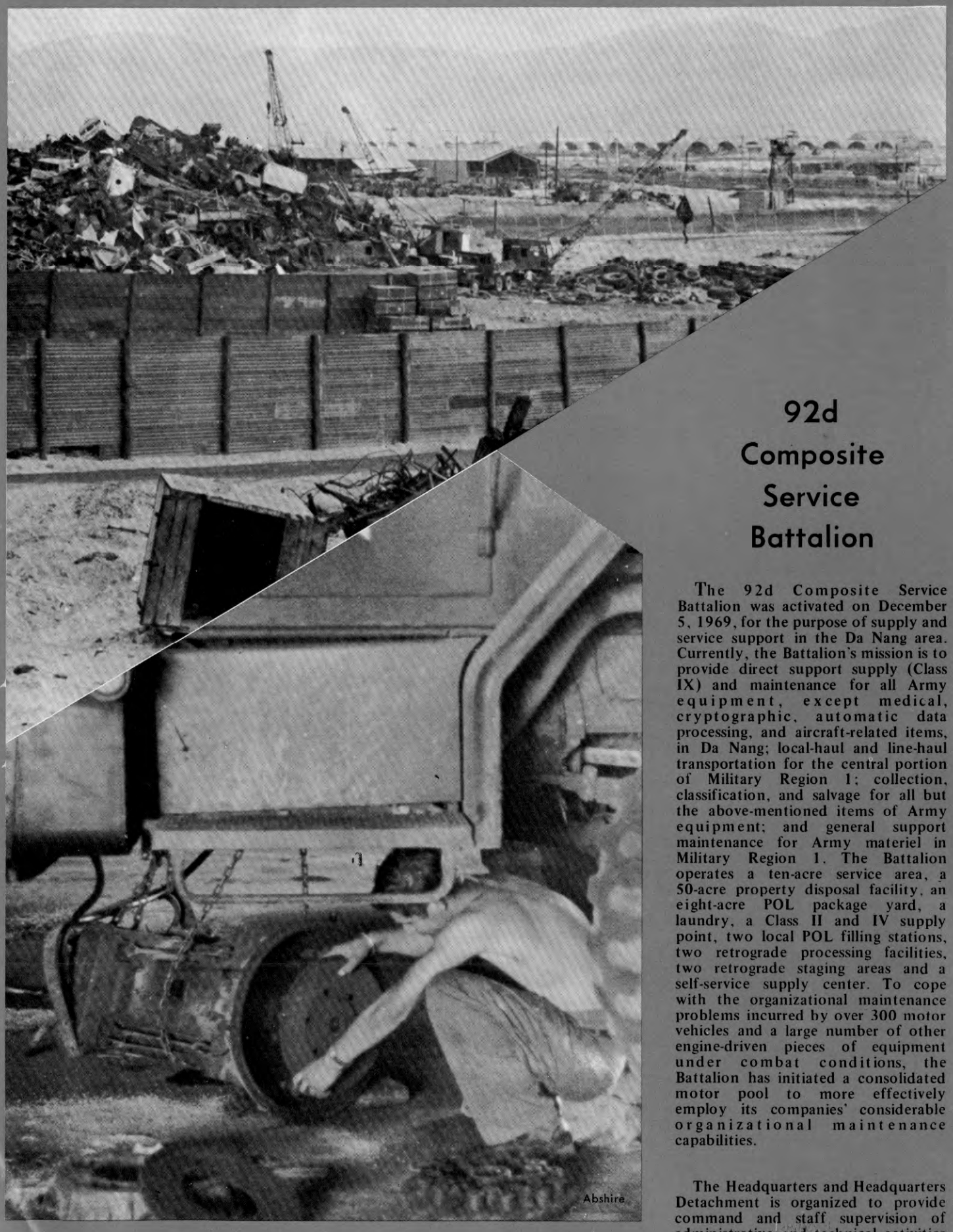
The 133d Ordnance Detachment (EOD) offers explosive ordnance disposal service to units of the 23d Division and Free World Military Assistance Forces located in Quang Ngai and Quang Tri Provinces. The Detachment is capable of detecting and identifying explosive ordnance and, after rendering it safe, evacuating and properly disposing of it. To date, the Unit has been employed in more than 1800 situations and incidents involving explosive ordnance in its area of operation.

The Semitrailer Refrigeration Squad (Prov.), with nine operational reefers, transports 1,620 short tons of rations and ice per month to 23d Division units at Hill 29, Quang Ngai, and Duc Pho.

The 3d Platoon, 1st Security Company (Prov.), provides security for Headquarters of the 57th Transportation Battalion, Chu Lai Ramp, and the Package POL Yard.

At press time, the Headquarters and transportation elements of the 57th Transportation Battalion had relocated in northern Military Region 1 as part of the support effort for Operation Dewey Canyon II.

A 63d Maintenance Company mechanic replacing the radiator in a 5-ton truck.



Property disposal operations in Da Nang.

92d Composite Service Battalion

The 92d Composite Service Battalion was activated on December 5, 1969, for the purpose of supply and service support in the Da Nang area. Currently, the Battalion's mission is to provide direct support supply (Class IX) and maintenance for all Army equipment, except medical, cryptographic, automatic data processing, and aircraft-related items, in Da Nang; local-haul and line-haul transportation for the central portion of Military Region 1; collection, classification, and salvage for all but the above-mentioned items of Army equipment; and general support maintenance for Army materiel in Military Region 1. The Battalion operates a ten-acre service area, a 50-acre property disposal facility, an eight-acre POL package yard, a laundry, a Class II and IV supply point, two local POL filling stations, two retrograde processing facilities, two retrograde staging areas and a self-service supply center. To cope with the organizational maintenance problems incurred by over 300 motor vehicles and a large number of other engine-driven pieces of equipment under combat conditions, the Battalion has initiated a consolidated motor pool to more effectively employ its companies' considerable organizational maintenance capabilities.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment is organized to provide command and staff supervision of administrative and technical activities of assigned units, as well as

A 92d CS Battalion washpoint.

appropriate liaison with higher command and staff elements of the 80th General Support Group. HHD confers awards and decorations, conducts line-of-duty investigations, initiates reports of survey and supervises Assistance-in-Kind funds, in addition to supervising the maintenance, supply, transportation, and retrograde operations of assigned units.

The 85th Light Maintenance Company, operating in the Da Nang Service Area, performs direct support maintenance on all chemical, engineer, ordnance, quartermaster, signal, and some commercial and marine equipment owned by Army units in the Da Nang area. Repair parts (Class IX) supply, including direct exchange, "country store," and battery reclamation facilities for 116 authorized customers, and a 24-hour recovery and roadside repair service for disabled vehicles in the Da Nang area are other Company missions. Customer Assistance Teams are also available at any time to perform required site maintenance.

The 85th Light Maintenance Company is augmented by four detachments which significantly increase mission capability in particular areas. Specifically, the 12th Ordnance Detachment (Automotive) engages in direct support maintenance activities for units in Da Nang; the 507th Quartermaster Detachment operates refrigeration equipment for the preservation and transportation of perishable food items for units of less than company size; the 546th Signal Detachment performs signal support functions for units of less than company size, including storage, issue, and general support maintenance of signal equipment; and the 548th Signal Detachment makes use of direct support contact teams to maintain an Integrated Operation System (IOS) and MPQ-4 radar units and components in the Da Nang area.

The 156th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company performs maintenance at the general support level on all Army materiel in Military Region 1 except aeronautical, cryptographic, medical, signal, and automatic data processing equipment. In addition, the 156th HEM Company, located in the Da Nang Service Area, provides support maintenance for stock on hand in the United States Army Depot, Da Nang, monitors and conducts component or vehicle overhaul and "repair and return" programs as directed by the Support Command.

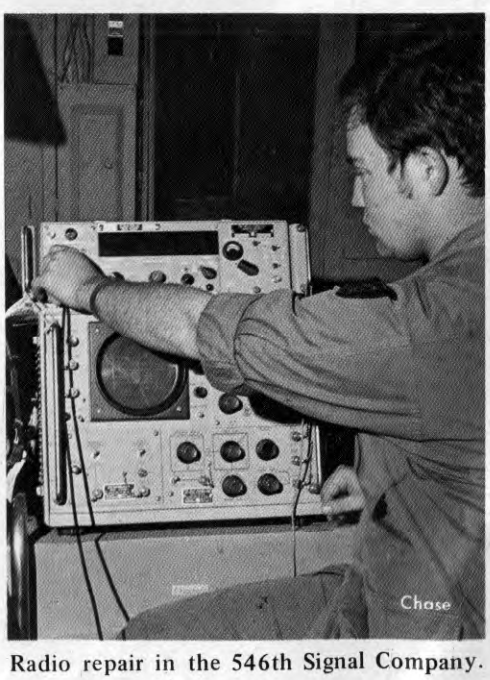
The 334th Supply and Service Company provides direct supply support to all local Army units for Class II and IV materials through a warehouse located in the 80th General Support Group compound and to all U.S. forces and contractors in the Da Nang area for Class III (POL) through two refueling points--one in the Triangle maintenance area and the other in the 80th Group compound. The 334th also operates a laundry facility at Camp Baxter, a self-service supply center in the Depot, and a CONEX container holding area for Military Region 1 in the 80th Group compound.

The Company's Bakery Platoon produces a maximum of 9000 two-pound loaves of bread per day and is capable of producing 600 dozen doughnuts an hour. It supplies all local U.S. and certain Free World Military Assistance Forces with these products.

The 363d Transportation Company provides local hauling service in the Da Nang area and line-haul service between Da Nang and Chu Lai. The Company, located at Camp Adenir, uses 60 five-ton tractors and approximately 160 twelve-ton stake and platform trailers in accomplishing its mission of meeting the transportation requirements of all local U.S. forces. The Unit's line-haul operations consist of daily convoys to and from Chu Lai in support of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) and other organizations in southern Military Region 1.

The mission of the 633d Collection, Classification, and Salvage Company is to receive, classify, and properly dispose of all unserviceable equipment (except electronic, cryptographic, and medical items and those used in aviation and automatic data processing) turned in by direct and general support units in Military Region 1. Such equipment is returned to stock, disassembled and shipped to component overhaul facilities, turned into the property disposal officer, or sent to vehicle rebuild facilities. A majority of vehicles and many major components are retrograded to off-shore rebuild facilities following preparation for shipping as prescribed by Department of Agriculture and Public Health Service standards. The 633d CC&S Company, based in the Da Nang Service Area, also operates a cannibalization point (where a mechanic with a valid requisition can obtain hard-to-locate parts) and a tire reclamation facility which provides serviceable hulls for the Philco-Ford Corporation's tire recap activity.

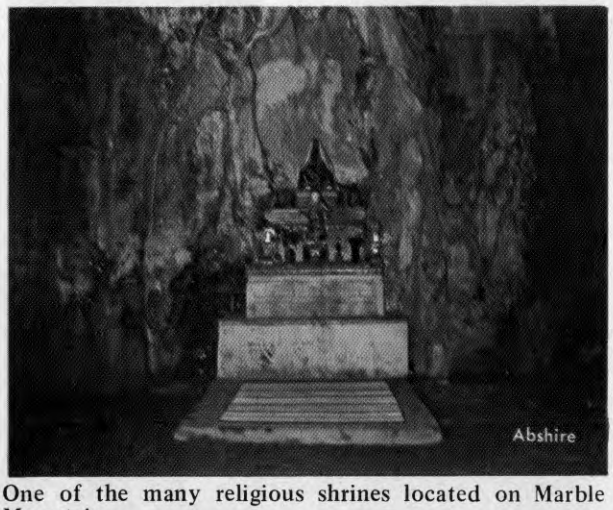
The 92d CS Battalion's Property Disposal Operations Company is responsible for the disposition of all excess, unserviceable, or unrepairable assets of Free World Military Assistance Forces in Military Region 1. The Company acts as a central clearing agency for excess materiel, which is offered to all authorized customers prior to sale, and prepares scrap as required to provide the highest return consistent with available resources. Equipment which appears usable, as well as scrap, is sold to civilian contractors through a competitive bidding procedure and the revenue returned to the United States Treasury. The main PDO yard is located at the southern end of the Da Nang East complex in the shadow of Marble Mountain.



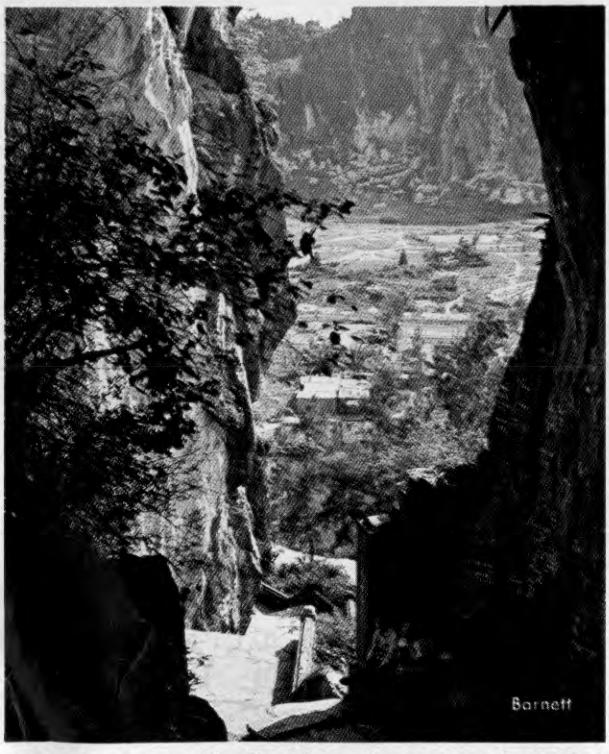
Radio repair in the 546th Signal Company.

Marble

The monks of Marble Mountain live a simple life, growing their own food in a small garden near the Tam Thai Temple.



One of the many religious shrines located on Marble Mountain.



A marble staircase leading from the ancient Tam Thai Temple to a cultivated valley below.

A large Buddha gazes down on visitors as eternity.

The rugged peaks of Da Nang's Marble Mountains, whose size and appearance suggest immortality, contest the statement of the wise Socrates that "Beauty is a short-lived reign."

One of Vietnam's natural wonders, the jagged mountains rise 344 feet from the edge of the South China Sea eight miles southeast of the Nation's second-largest city. The Vietnamese still quarry the stone, as they have for centuries, and shape it into beautiful, highly polished statues and figurines. But the mountains have provided more than marble for the country's people.

Several centuries ago, one of these majestic formations inspired King Minh Vang, then ruling the Da Nang area, to build several religious shrines in the depths of its natural caverns. Today, the remnants of this sanctuary are cared for by a few Buddhist monks living in the Tam Thai Temple, the name of which, when translated, means "Palace of the Liberated Spirit."

Practicing austerity in their lives, these priests subsist on meager crops of potatoes, cabbages, and mustard greens, grown in a small garden behind the temple, and rice, purchased with small donations left by worshippers and visitors. They spend their time repairing the temple and shrines and in religious devotion.

An age-old winding path, hewn out of solid rock and polished smooth by the passing of countless feet, leads to the temple through the twisted vines and giant ferns covering the

Marble Mountain and the high, dominate the coastal plain south of Da

Mountain

temporary intruders in a glorious

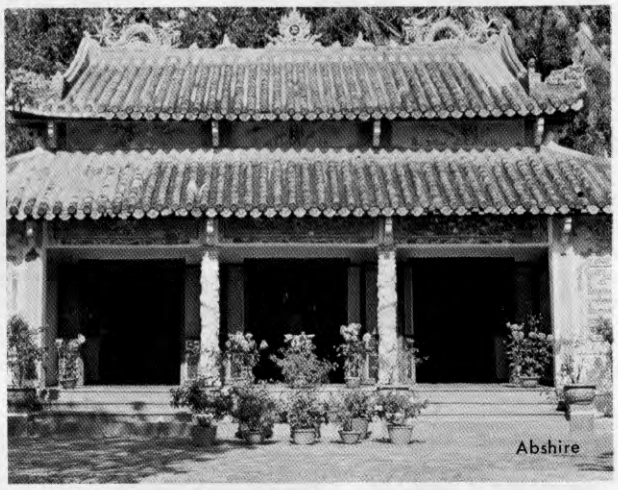
mountainside. From the temple, the various shrines are reached by means of narrow passageways carpeted in thick, dark green moss.

One such tunnel opens suddenly into a mammoth cavern, with sunlight admitted through large holes in its ceiling. It was here that King Vang came to worship and no one else was allowed. Guarding this sacred crypt are four statues of ancient Vietnamese warriors. Lifelike in appearance, they sit in full armor holding imposing battle axes. The light from above casts haunting shadows on the chamber's walls, giving it a mystical appearance, and a large Buddha gazes down on visitors as temporary intruders in a glorious eternity. On one side of the shrine stands a miniature temple. Its icy water is said to give good health to those who drink it.

In another grotto stands a 12-foot marble statue of Quan Am, one of Buddha's three original students and, according to the monks, a very holy man.

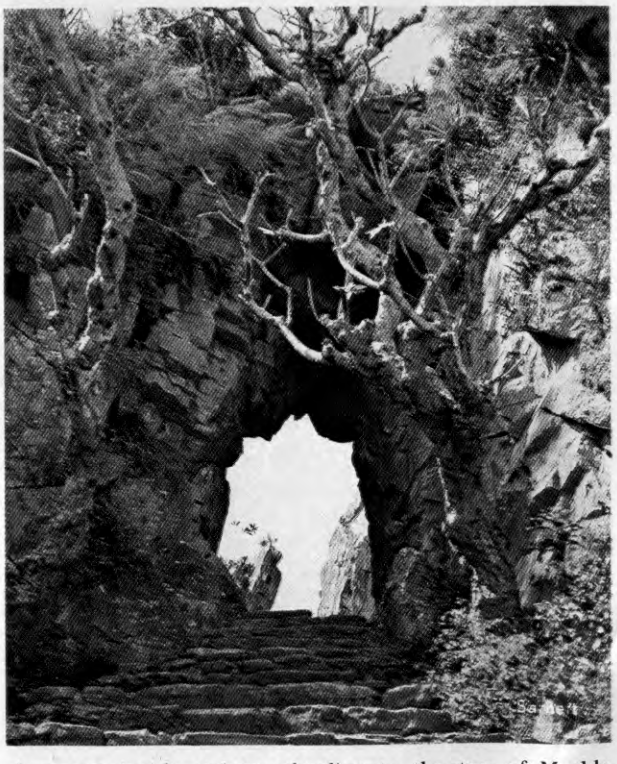
Today, advanced age is hastening the deterioration of this fascinating refuge, and foreign military forces occupying the area, less concerned with its religious or historical significance than with its strategic value, have nicknamed the mountain "Chin Strap"--hardly a fitting tribute to King Vang and the mountain's tradition. The monks, however, continue their simple way of life, protecting their ancient treasure, and, in so doing, preserving a part of Vietnam's colorful heritage.

isolated formations surrounding it Nang.



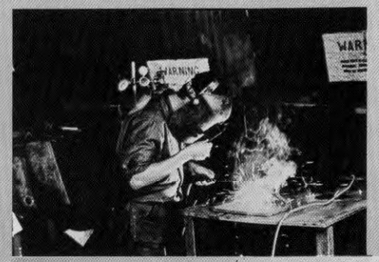
The Tam Thai Temple--"Palace of the Liberated Spirit."

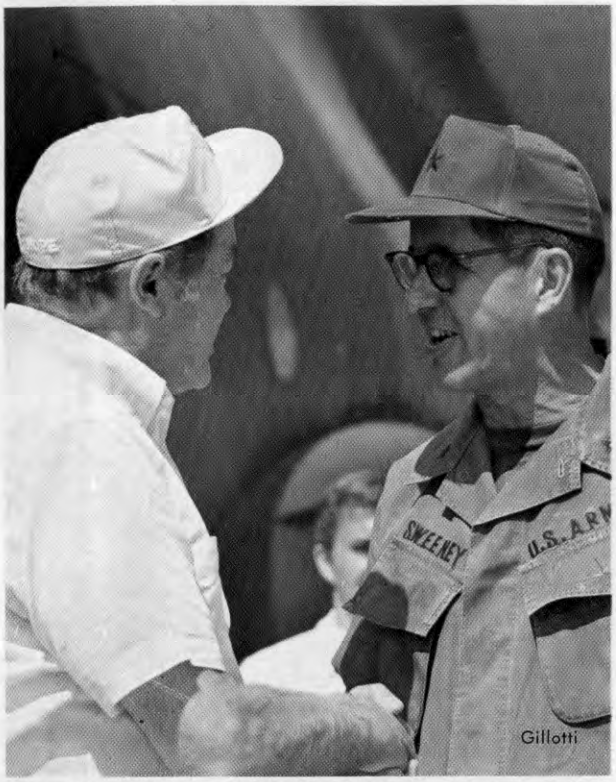
The Golden Buddha, located in the Tam Thai Temple.



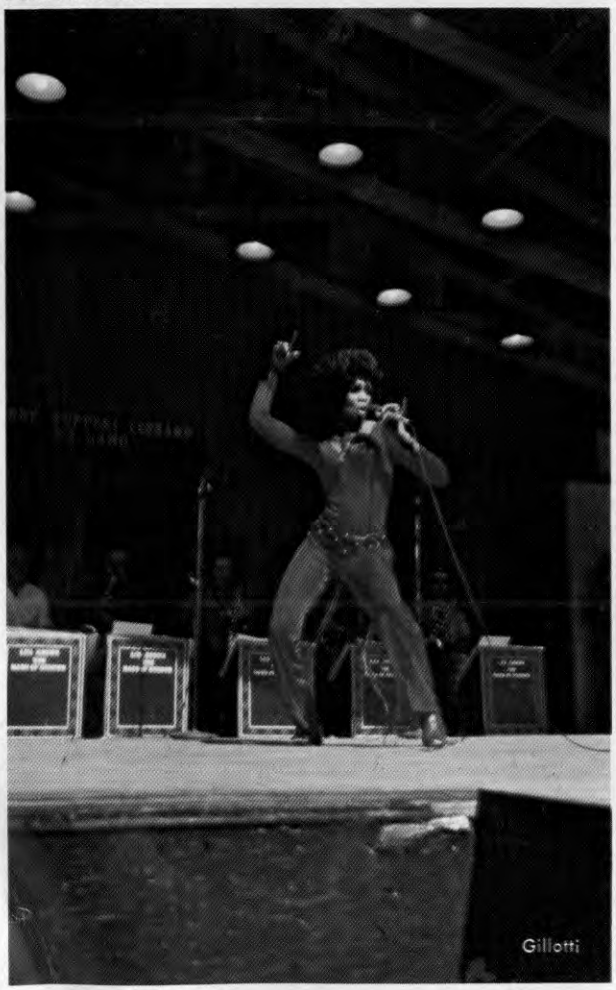
A mountainside stairway leading to the top of Marble Mountain, south of Da Nang.

SUPPORT COMMAND ACTIVITIES





Brigadier General Arthur H. Sweeney, Jr., greets Bob Hope as he arrives in Da Nang for the Christmas Show at Freedom Hill.



Lola Folana sings "Fever" during her performance at the Bob Hope Christmas Show in Da Nang.

OPERATION

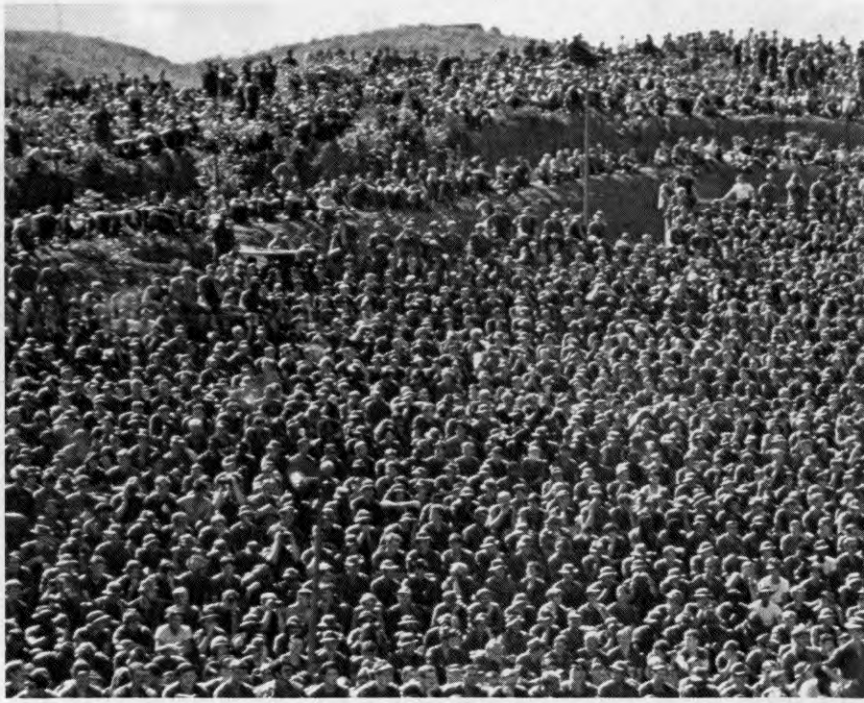
As he has so many times before, the man with the golf club and the ski-shaped nose came to a war zone bringing a little Christmas cheer to American servicemen far from home. For more than two hours, world-famous actor and comedian Bob Hope did what he could to brighten our Christmas Eve in Da Nang.

The 1970 Bob Hope Christmas Show, or Operation Holly as it was known to thousands of G.I.'s, began with the music of Les Brown and his Band of Renown. The hillsides surrounding the stage, normally light brown in color, seemed to be painted olive-drab this day. Approximately 20,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines--officers and enlisted men--had come to Freedom Hill from all over southern Military Region 1 to enjoy the performance.

Admission to the show had been high for some--those in the light and dark blue uniforms and white slippers of the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang. From the onset of "Thanks for the Memory" to the last chorus of "Silent Night," however, it was obvious that one man had asked an even higher price of himself to show us that he cared--giving of himself and sparing nothing in the process that we might find some measure of joy in the Holiday Season.

That he had succeeded was evident on every face. From the

Bob Hope--another Christmas away



An overflow crowd of nearly 20,000 servicemen attended the 1970

from home for the famous comedian.

wistful expressions of men gazing at the beauty of American girls to the shouts of laughter accompanying the rapid-fire jokes, it was apparent that Bob Hope had managed to make us forget about Vietnam for two wonderful hours.

Nothing pertaining to military life was left untouched by his humor. From marijuana to mud, he poked healthy fun and made even our hardships seem funny. There were touching moments, too, that weren't in the script. From Gloria Loring's awed "Wow!" as she first looked out at the vast audience to Bob Hope's gift of a baseball to a wounded G.I., it was common knowledge that this was not just another show. More than one Golddigger had a tear in her eye at the finale.

Many things have been said about Bob Hope. For most of us, until Christmas Eve, he was only a well-known movie figure and television personality. This day was different. He belonged to us; he was one of us. We had all given up Christmas with our loved ones this year to be here, in a strange land, fighting to keep a people free. But we will just as surely remember December 24, 1970, thanks to Operation Holly.

As for Bob Hope, the only thing we can offer in return is our gratitude and our assurance that he did what he set out to do. We came, we saw, we felt, and, above all, we went away happy.

HOLLY by SGT Brian D. Nichols

Bob Hope Christmas Show at Freedom Hill.

The Golddiggers, beautiful and talented girls between the ages of 18 and 22, made their third trip to Vietnam with the Bob Hope Christmas troupe.

Lola Folana and Bob Hope had a big part in making the 1970 Bob Hope Christmas Show in Da Nang an unqualified success.

U.S. Army Depot, Da Nang

The United States Army Depot, Da Nang, was organized on June 8, 1970, replacing the 34th Supply and Service Battalion, which had been moved to Da Nang from Pleiku Province in February, 1968, as a satellite of the U.S. Army Depot at Qui Nhon. On July 1, 1970, the new Depot assumed operational control of the Naval Support Activity Depot and, with the increased mission, was subsequently tasked to provide common service support items of Class II to U.S. Navy, Air Force, and Marine units and general supply support (as directed) to Free World Military Assistance Forces in Military Region 1, as well as Class I, II, IV, VII, and IX supply support to all U.S. Army forces in the same area. The Depot, with over 40,000 lines on its authorized stockage list and approximately five million square feet of storage area, is the second largest in Vietnam.

Open storage at the United States Army Depot, Da Nang.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company provides staff planning, coordination, and supervision for the operations, training, and administration of the Depot's organic and attached elements. It is comprised of personnel from the Consolidated Mess, Communications Section, Motor Pool, and various administrative offices, as well as two attached teams from Qui Nhon and Cam Ranh Bay consisting of one officer and 16 enlisted men and one officer and 12 enlisted men respectively.

A reefer bank at the United States Army Depot, Da Nang.

Company A (General Supply) maintains command and administrative control of assigned or attached personnel working in the Covered and Open Storage, Receiving, and Shipping Branches of the Depot.

Company B (General Supply) is responsible for the administration and supervision of personnel assigned to three particular sections of the Depot: Stock Control, Food Management, and the Class VII Open Storage Yard.

The 104th CS Data Processing Detachment was organized and activated on August 21, 1970. Its mission is to provide a mechanized system of supply accounting for the Depot and its supporting activities, stock control and storage, in conformity with AR 725-50 (MILSTRIP) and the Standard Supply System (3SVN).

The computer bank at the United States Army Depot, Da Nang.

26th General Support Group

The mission of the 26th General Support Group is to provide logistical support, as required, for all United States military and designated free world forces located in its area of operation, which extends north from the Hai Van Pass to the Demilitarized Zone and west from the South China Sea to the Laotian border, encompassing Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces. The Group's responsibilities range from transportation and maintenance services to laundry, bakery, and graves registration activities, including operational control of the United States Army Port at Tan My and a 46.5-mile POL pipeline between Tan My and Quang Tri. Its convoys supply the 101st Airborne (Airmobile) Division, 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and other combat units in northern Military Region 1 with food, petroleum, and ammunition. The 26th General Support Group, which became fully operational in July, 1968, has participated extensively in the support phases of numerous tactical developments, such as Operations Delaware, Thor, and Liberty Canyon in 1968, and its resources are heavily committed, presently, to Operation Dewey Canyon II in the northwestern corner of the Country.

U.S. Army Port, Tan My

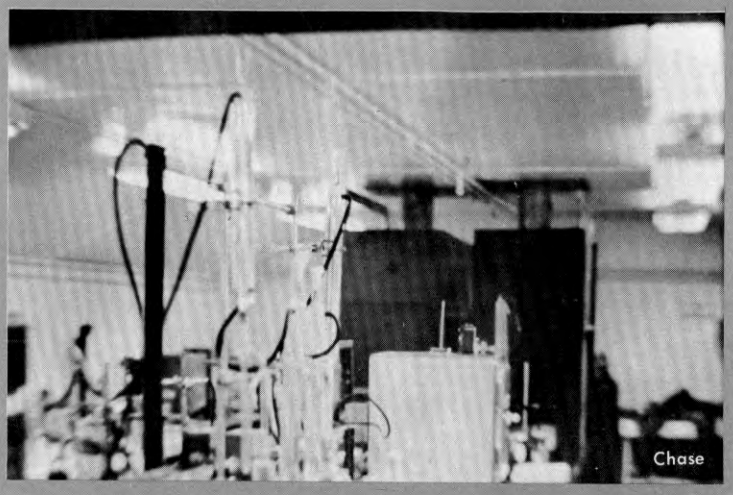
The United States Army Port at Tan My furnishes logistical support for all free world forces located in northern Military Region 1. All cargo arriving by water for these units is discharged at Tan My Ramp prior to being transported inland by motor vehicle to its ultimate destination. Retrograde vehicles and ammunition, as well as other types of cargo, leave the Ramp on outbound vessels. The Port is also the initial receiving and distribution point for POL products in the area, and dispensing, pumping, and storage facilities are located on Tan My Island. A ferry service between the mainland and the island is operated for military personnel and equipment, and a security force guards the Ramp and the military complex on the island.

The 1st Security Company is responsible for the security of the Port, including the Tan My Ramp and a military complex on Tan My Island. To accomplish its mission, the Unit operates a command post and maintains a series of observation towers, bunkers, and fighting positions, as well as perimeter defenses consisting of chain-link fencing, triple-strand concertina wire, and anti-sapper wire. The Company's 3d Platoon is attached to the 57th Transportation Battalion in Chu Lai.

The 403d Transportation Company (Terminal Transfer) operates Tan My Ramp, receiving cargo for northern Military Region 1 from other ports in the Republic of Vietnam, particularly Da Nang. Ammunition, the largest class of supply handled at Tan My, is generally loaded onto waiting trucks for transportation inland to ASP's and using units, and discharged vessels are backloaded with retrograde materiel for other ports in the Republic. The 403d, equipped with 6,000, 10,000, and 20,000-pound capacity forklifts and wheel and truck-mounted cranes of 20 to 40 tons' capacity, is capable of offloading 1000 short tons of cargo per day. The 2d Platoon of the Company is assigned to the 870th Transportation Company, 5th Transportation Command, in Da Nang.

The 2d Platoon of the 544th Transportation Company, attached to the 403d, operates and maintains eight Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM-8's) Army landing craft and two LCM-3 "pusher" boats. The LCM-8's are used to transport either personnel or vehicles and are capable of carrying a load as large as an M-88 tank retriever. The LCM-3's have been converted into tug boats for use in mooring LST's and barges. The Unit's boats also provide ferry service for other units and their activities between the mainland and Tan My Island and across the Perfume River at Hue, and transportation to the Voice of Freedom station on Con Te Island.

The 528th POL Platoon, attached to the U.S. Army Port, Tan My, is responsible for the receipt, storage, quality surveillance, and wholesale distribution of all bulk POL products in northern Military Region 1. The Unit supplies motor gas, diesel fuel, aviation gas and JP4 (jet fuel) to its customers. Bulk POL is received from ocean-going tankers through sealines and pumped through a manifold and pipe system into 17 storage tanks with a total capacity of approximately 6,000,000 gallons. A mobile laboratory, which is used for testing all four types of fuel handled, is organic to the Unit.



The 528th POL Platoon uses a modern laboratory to analyze fuel.

Fuel is chemically tested for evidence of contamination and to insure that United States Government specifications are being met. Jet fuel is distributed to customers by means of a pipeline which runs from Tan My Island to Quang Tri, and fill stands where 5,000-gallon tankers are filled for delivery to using units and/or inland distribution points. The 528th POL Platoon makes a vital contribution to the logistical effort in northern Military Region 1 by providing units in the field with over 6,000,000 gallons of fuel each month.

Unloading a YFU on Tan My Ramp.

Radar repair--critical in Military Region 1.

The 63d Maintenance Battalion, with Headquarters at Quang Tri Combat Base, is the northernmost logistical support battalion in Vietnam. Subordinate units engage in maintenance, supply, and transportation activities. The Battalion's support troops are assigned as supply men, mechanics, drivers, clerks, and cooks.

The Headquarters and Main Support Company provides direct support maintenance, maintenance supply, and technical assistance service. Augmenting the capability of the 178th Maintenance Company, the Unit obtains, stocks, and issues the major portion of repair parts and maintenance supplies required by the Battalion and supported units north of Hue. An increasingly important mission is the operation of a retrograde processing facility which accomodates all retrograde vehicles from the northern part of Military Region 1.

The 57th Transportation Company, at Quang Tri, provides transportation for the movement of personnel, cargo, and POL products in northern Military Region 1. Specifically, the Company hauls an average of 3,960 tons of ammunition per month for fire support bases, the 571st Ordnance Platoon, and units requesting resupply of ammunition, and an average of 1,700,000 gallons of POL products per month from Tan My Ramp to the 848th Quartermaster Platoon POL Sump at Quang Tri.

The 178th Maintenance Company, located at Dong Ha Combat Base, performs direct support maintenance on wheel, track, and self-propelled artillery and small arms used by the 3d Squadron of the 5th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 108th Field Artillery Group, and "A" Battery of the 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery (AD). The Unit emphasizes site maintenance by contact teams when possible, but also maintains facilities for shop repair of unserviceable materiel. A 36-man detachment is stationed at Fire Support Base Nancy for the purpose of providing quick-reaction support for the heavy artillery of the 1st Battalion, 39th Artillery.

The 625th Supply and Service Company directly supports nondivisional units in northern Military Region 1 and provides backup support for divisional units in the same area. The Company's stock control platoon requisitions and accounts for all Class II, IV, and IX supplies, while the Class I platoon, with 7,200 cubic feet of cold storage and 16,200 cubic feet of freezer space, handles subsistence supplies for all units north of Camp Evans.

The 206th Quartermaster Detachment, attached to the 625th, furnishes laundry service for Quang Tri Combat Base, Camp Evans, and some units in the Dong Ha area.

The 848th Quartermaster Platoon (POL), also attached, carries Class III products to all U.S. military and civilian, and selected ARVN locations between Camp Evans and the Demilitarized Zone. The 848th also maintains the 25-mile-long JP4 pipeline between Camp Evans and Quang Tri.

The 40th Army Postal Unit consists of a finance section (money orders, stamps, parcel post) and an operations section (locator service, mail dispatch and distribution). The services of the 40th APU are available to both Quang Tri and Dong Ha Combat Bases. The Unit issues approximately $375,000 in money orders per month in addition to receiving 1600 sacks and dispatching 900 sacks of United States mail.

63d Maintenance Battalion

The 59th Ordnance Detachment furnishes all free world forces in Quang Tri Province with explosive ordnance disposal service. The Detachment receives approximately 100 requests per month for EOD support.

The 64th Finance Section's Class B office in Quang Tri disburses pay and operates other financial services for nondivisional units from Camp Evans to the Demilitarized Zone. The office funds a monthly payroll of 1.3 million dollars for military personnel and $25,000 for local nationals.

The 196th Engineer Detachment provides direct support maintenance on heavy engineer equipment, supporting engineer units at Quang Tri Combat Base and Fire Support Base Nancy.

The 571st Ordnance Platoon, operating Ammunition Supply Point 101 in Quang Tri, provides Class V support for units in northern Military Region 1. Specifically, the Unit receives, inventories, stores, and issues ammunition for the 1st Brigade of the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division, the 101st Airborne (Airmobile) Division, and the 108th Artillery Group.

The 63d Maintenance Battalion was primarily engaged in support for Operation Dewey Canyon II at press time.

A recovery operation in the Cua Viet River, Dong Ha.

39th Transportation Battalion

The 39th Transportation Battalion operates convoys in northern Military Region 1.

The 39th Transportation Battalion, northernmost transportation battalion in the Republic of Vietnam, has the important mission of furnishing transportation support for all units north of the city of Da Nang. The Battalion's wide range of activities includes clearing cargo from the port and beach facilities at Tan My, operation of the railroad loading site at Phu Bai, and both local and line-haul supply transport for tactical units in northern Military Region 1. The Unit maintains several strategically located trailer transfer points (TTP's) which assure better turn-around capability and consequently faster and more efficient service to the soldier in the field. The 39th Transportation Battalion is based in the Gia Le-Camp Eagle complex with one line-haul company stationed at Phu Bai and a local-haul platoon at Camp Evans.

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment operates the rail terminal in Hue, receiving approximately 200 tons of supplies from Da Nang daily, and an unaccompanied baggage facility for Support Command units in the Quang Tri-Phu Bai area.

The 515th Transportation Company is one of two companies in the Battalion tasked primarily with local hauling operations. (A local haul is one that is 25 miles or less from point of origin to point of destination). By connecting a standard stake and platform trailer to a regular five-ton truck with a dolly set of wheels and a "fifth wheel," the Unit creates what it affectionately calls "The Monster"--a rig that enables the Battalion to more quickly remove cargo from the Tan My Ramp. These vehicles are infrequently used for line-haul operations as well, and, without the trailers, for transportation of supplies and equipment to remote fire support bases.

The 585th and 805th Transportation Companies have essentially the same mission--line-haul transportation by convoy from Da Nang to the Demilitarized Zone. A convoy generally consists of 20-40 vehicles hauling retrograde materiel and empty Sealand vans to the Da Nang area and returning with supplies and equipment for combat units in northern Military Region 1. The truckers' route follows one of the most dangerous roads in the world, at one point winding six miles to the top of Eagle Mountain, through the treacherous Hai Van Pass, and seven and one-half miles down the other side of the Da Nhong Mountains into Da Nang. Narrow, often-flooded roads, sheer cliffs, washouts, rock slides, and terrain that provides an excellent opportunity for ambush--all are constant hazards. In addition to making the 120-mile round trip from Phu Bai to Da Nang, convoys of the 585th and 805th carry supplies north to Quang Tri every day. The number of accident-free miles these convoys travel each week is testimony of the skill of the drivers and mechanics assigned to these units.

Gun trucks, such as the one above, provide protection for the 39th's daily convoys.

The 666th Transportation Company, known as "Triple Six," is totally committed to support of the 101st Airborne (Airmobile) Division. The Company conducts local hauling operations for the far-flung fire support bases of the Division, carrying needed supplies to the combat soldier. One platoon, located at Camp Evans, is particularly responsible for the support of fire bases along the Demilitarized Zone and in the A Shau Valley.

As NORTHERN LOG '71 went to press, the 39th Transportation Battalion had been reassigned to the 8th Transportation Group, headquartered in Quang Tri, and was committed to transportation support for Operation Dewey Canyon II in the western part of Military Region1.

2d Maintenance Battalion

The 2d Maintenance Battalion, with Headquarters in Phu Bai, is one of the largest combat service support battalions in Military Region 1, with perhaps the most diversified mission. Activities not normally associated with a maintenance battalion include extensive supply functions, graves registration and explosive ordnance disposal services, and the operation of a self-service supply center and bath, financial, and postal facilities. The Battalion, of course, also conducts its regularly assigned programs of direct and general support maintenance for other units.

The Headquarters and Main Support Company, co-located with the Battalion Headquarters at Camp Holmes, is the largest of the three maintenance companies assigned to the Battalion. The Unit performs direct support maintenance on automotive, engineer, quartermaster, and communication and electronic equipment, as well as armament, for more than 50 customer units located in the southern portion of the Battalion's geographical support area. The Company's Tech Supply Section is the largest in northern Military Region 1, supporting its own shops, the shops of a sister maintenance company, and all customer units.

The 67th Maintenance Company, located at Camp Eagle, furnishes nondivisional units in the Camp Eagle, Gia Le, and Hue areas with direct support maintenance, and the 101st Airborne (Airmobile) Division with backup support maintenance.

Attached to the Company for purposes of engineer support is the 43d Engineer Detachment, based in Gia Le.

Mechanics of the 2d Maintenance Battalion, Phu Bai, overhaul an engine.

ASP 103, located in Phu Bai, is operated by the 571st Ordnance Company.

The 148th Supply and Service Company is extremely versatile in its operation. The Class I platoon is responsible for supplying rations to approximately 29,000 troops in Military Region 1, and the bakery platoon provides their units with about 11,000 pounds of fresh bread daily. The Company also maintains a self-service supply center and issues Class II, IV, and VII items of supply, in addition to operating bath facilities and graves registration and laundry services for the Phu Bai area.

The 528th Quartermaster Company, based at Camp Holmes, supplies petroleum products to free world forces within the Battalion's support area. In addition to the receipt, storage, issue, and quality surveillance of packaged products, the Company operates and maintains a POL pipeline which extends north from Tan My (where one platoon is located) to Camp Evans (where a detachment is located). Providing line-haul transportation of bulk POL from the Tan My and Phu Bai Tank Farm to units within a 20-mile radius of Hue and to all fire support bases along Route 547 is another aspect of the Company's mission.

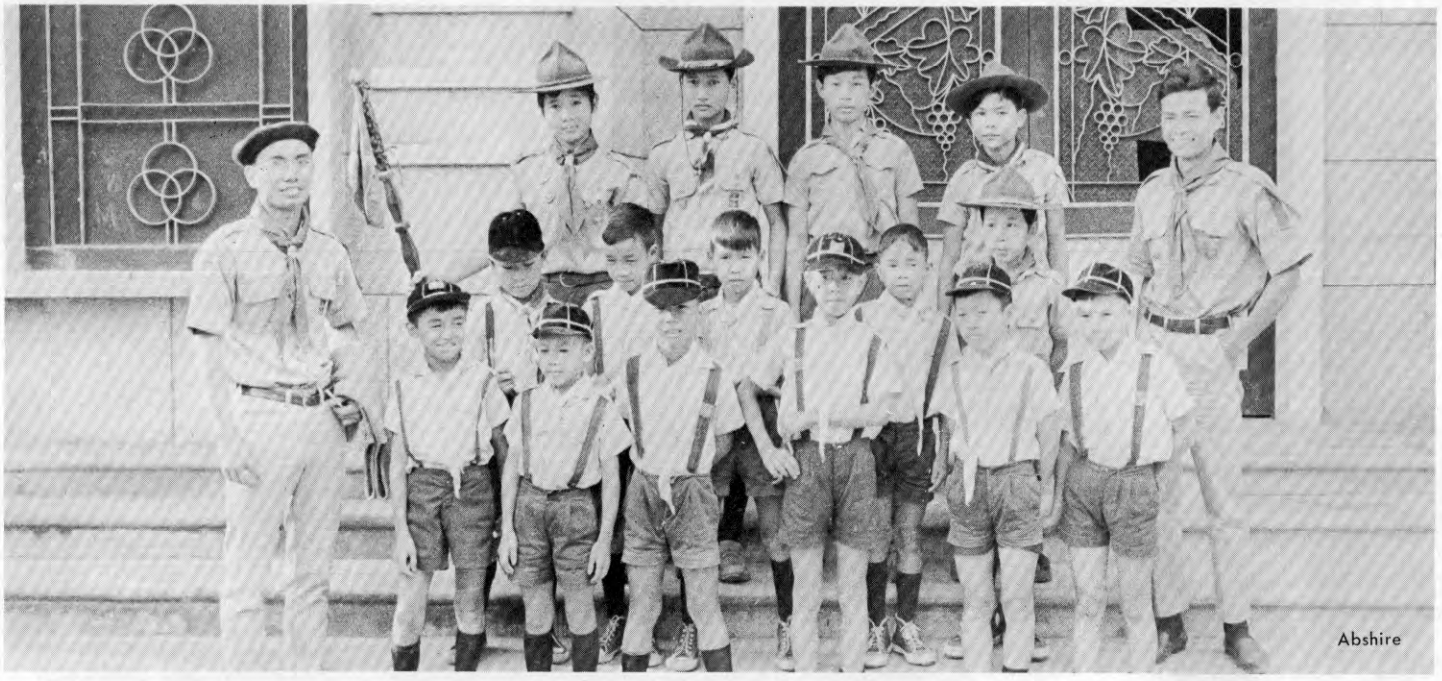
The 571st Ordnance Company, with operating elements at Phu Bai and Camp Evans, and a platoon at Quang Tri, supplies approximately 2000 short tons of ammunition per day to free world forces in Military Region 1--particularly the 101st Airborne (Airmobile) Division and XXIV Corps artillery units.

The 578th Light Maintenance Company performs general support maintenance on all signal (except cryptographic and avionic) equipment and light engineer equipment in Military Region 1. The Company also offers direct support maintenance for radar, chronographs, and other specialized pieces of equipment.

The 42d Army Postal Unit, attached to the 2d Maintenance Battalion for administrative purposes, provides complete postal service for military personnel in the Phu Bai area. The Unit processes approximately $900,000 of money orders each month and assures the prompt dispatch and delivery of mail by operating 24 hours a day.

A branch office of the 64th Finance Section is attached to the Battalion for financial support of units located in the Phu Bai area.

The 287th Ordnance Detachment (EOD) is tasked with detecting, identifying, disarming, recovering, evaluating, and disposing of all U.S. and foreign explosive items (such as bombs, demolition charges, artillery shells, rockets, pyrotechnics, guided missiles, biological and chemical munitions, and nuclear weapons), including those rendered unsafe through damage or deterioration, which have been dropped, placed, launched, or armed in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to personnel, supplies, or materiel.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SUPPORT COMMAND AND CIVIL AFFAIRS

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The United States Army Support Command, Da Nang, sponsors an active civil affairs program designed to financially and materially assist worthwhile local national projects. The benefits provided by this program during the past year include a trip to the Boy Scout Jamboree in Saigon for the Tien Sha Boy Scouts (top); a water pump for the villagers of Mai Loc (left); food and clothing for the Tam Ky Orphanage (right); and building materials for an addition of two classrooms to the Man Quang Elementary School (bottom).

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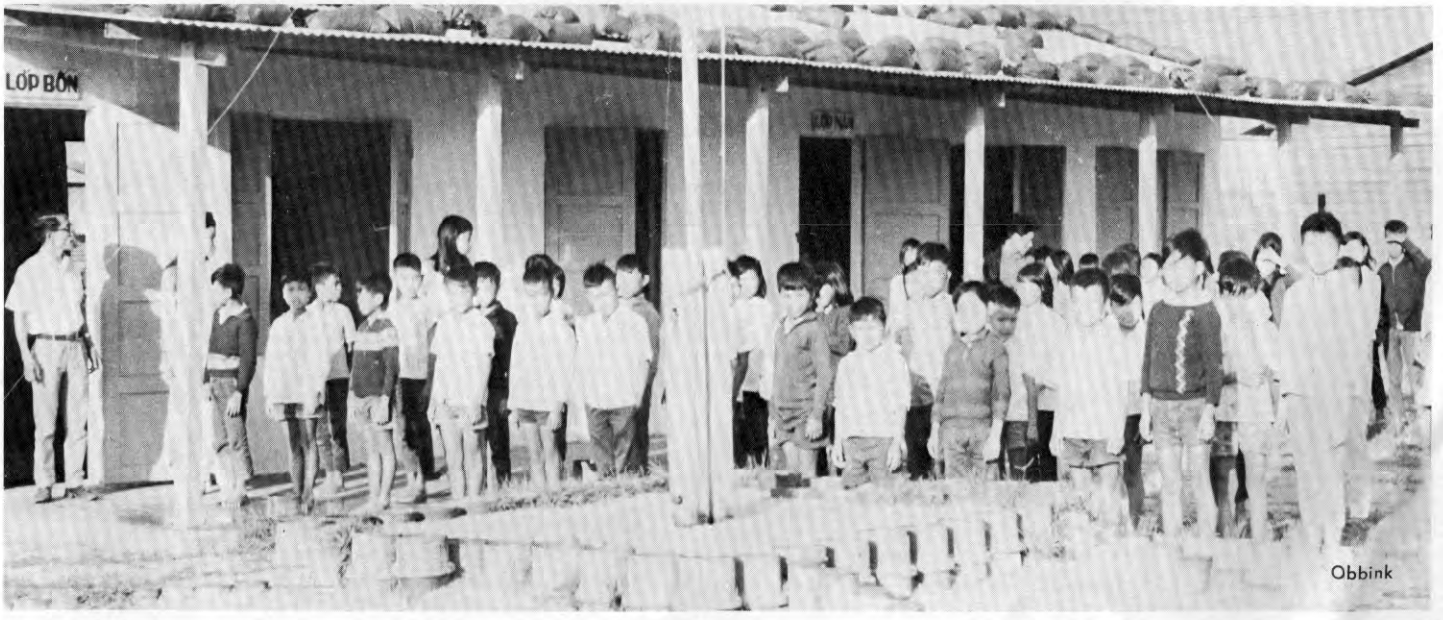

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5th Transportation Command

The 5th Transportation Command, since arriving from Qui Nhon in early June, 1970, has been operating the U.S. Army Port of Da Nang. The Unit's mission includes clearing the Port of cargo, offloading deep-draft ships at Deep Water Pier, supervising in-the-stream discharge of deep-draft ships at Deep Water Pier, and operating two shallow-draft discharge sites. At Bridge Ramp, transshipment of general cargo is handled, as well as the discharge of ammunition for destinations in the immediate area. At Tien Sha Ramp, shallow-draft vessels are offloaded and then reloaded with ammunition bound for outlying areas reached by water, such as Tan My, Chu Lai, and Hue (via the Perfume River). The Command not only loads and offloads these shallow-draft vessels, but also maintains its own small fleet, including SKILAC's and Y-type coastal tankers, and a medium truck company for drayage service within a 25-mile radius of the port area. Finally, the 5th Transportation Command is tasked with managing Camp Baxter, its own base of operations, in East Da Nang.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company is responsible for the functional supervision of Deep Water Pier, Bridge Ramp, and Tien Sha Ramp. The Company also controls port operations through the Harbormaster's Office, regulates the movement of subordinate units' floating craft, provides documentation for all cargo, arranges for drayage in the port complex, and directs installation activities at Camp Baxter.

A tracked vehicle awaiting retrograde shipment on Deep Water Pier, Da Nang.

Five YFU's of the 5th Transportation Command unload at Dong Ha.

Since its arrival from Long Binh on September 15, 1970, the 62d Transportation Company (Medium Truck) has provided drayage for port clearance and backloading operations in Da Nang. The Company, equipped with tractor-trailer combination vehicles, moves cargo between three port sites and to customer units within a 25-mile radius of the Port.

The 264th Transportation Company (Terminal Service) manages local national and third-country national stevedore gangs offloading deep-draft ships in Da Nang. Since acquiring Deep Water Pier from the U.S. Navy in mid-1970, the 264th has equalled and in some cases surpassed the standards of performance achieved by the former tenants. The Company is presently conducting a "buddy" system to train ARVN soldiers in stevedoring activities as part of the Vietnamization program.

The 329th Transportation Company (Heavy Boat) is responsible for most of the coastal missions performed by the 5th Transportation Command between Chu Lai and Dong Ha. The Company's SKILAC's carry ammunition on outbound trips and return to Da Nang with retrograde materiel.

The 870th Transportation Company (Terminal Service) operates the shallow-draft discharge facility at Bridge Ramp in Da Nang, and has supervisory responsibility for the offloading of ammunition by a civilian contractor at the same location. The Company coordinates these activities with those of the 2d Platoon, 403d Transportation Company (Terminal Transfer), currently assigned to the 870th, which operates the ammunition transshipment facility at Tien Sha Ramp. At both sites, ships, barges, and landing craft load and unload ammunition and general cargo for Allied forces in Military Region 1.

The 1098th Transportation Company (Medium Boat) maintains a small fleet of "pusher" boats--converted LCM-3's and -6's--for light tug assistance in Da Nang Harbor. The Company's LCM's are also used for intracoastal and, on occasion, coastal operations.

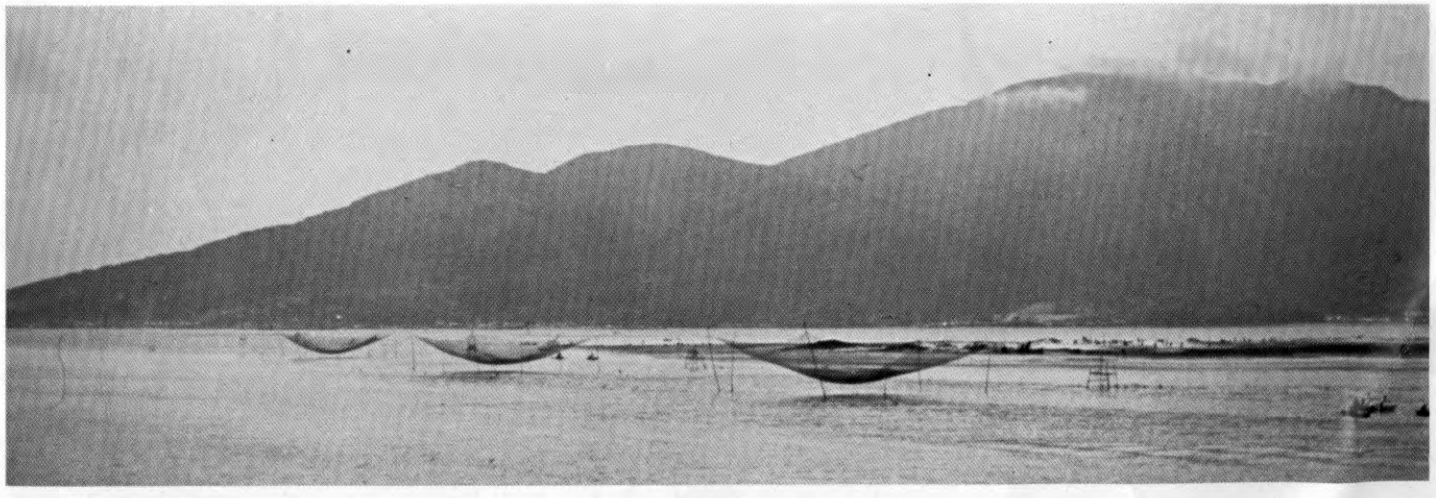
An unaccompanied baggage activity is operated by the 5th Transportation Command as well, for the purpose of handling hold baggage for all U.S. military and civilian personnel in the Da Nang area.

Deo Hai Van–"Pass of the Clouds"

South of the old imperial capital of Hue, where the mountains and high plateaus of the Annamitic Cordillera drop down to meet the South China Sea, stands the Hai Van Pass. Situated far above the picturesque Bay of Tourane and its port of Da Nang, the "Pass of Clouds" is an impressive landmark on the central coast of Vietnam, and for hundreds of years has beckoned travelers crossing the Da Nhong Mountains between the northern and southern regions of the country.

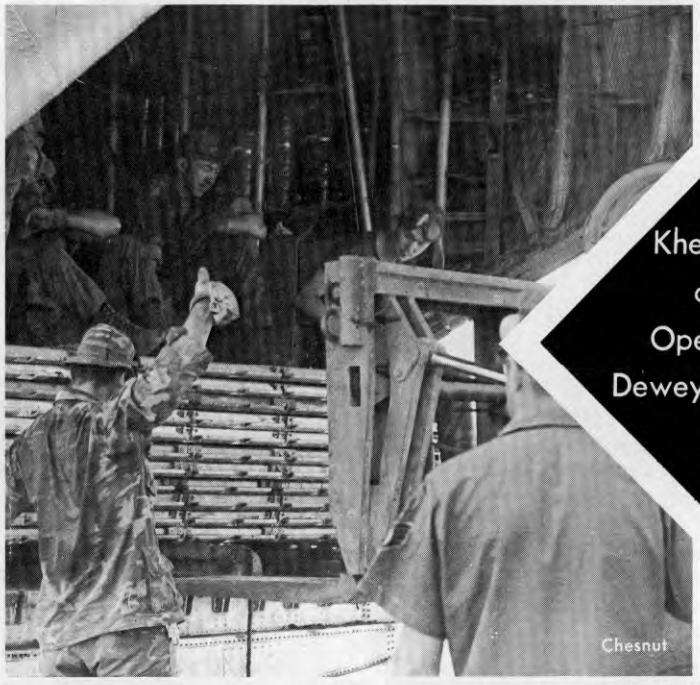
At the end of the Eighteenth Century, just after the Tay Son Rebellion, the ruling Nguyen family initiated a series of public works projects, including the construction of a road to connect the distant parts of their domain and symbolize its new unity. The Mandarin Road, as it was named, was built through Deo Hai Van from Hanoi to Saigon, parts of it laboriously carved out of solid rock in the vicinity of the Pass. Later, as part of a program of modernization, the French built the Transindochinese Railroad, which paralleled the Mandarin Road and extended all the way across the coastal plains to the Chinese frontier.

Retaining its historical and geographical significance, the Hai Van Pass today provides a spectacular setting for armed convoys carrying supplies and the materials of war to military forces in the northern sector of the Republic, while far below, by contrast, local fishermen spread their nets in the blue-green water as they have for centuries.



An early-morning staff conference at Khe Sanh.

A POL refueling point at Khe Sanh.



C-130's transport vital supplies to Forward Support Activity 2, Khe Sanh.

Khe Sanh and Operation Dewey Canyon II

A CH54 (Skycrane) delivering ammunition to the ASP at Khe Sanh.

Gun trucks preparing for convoy run between Quang Tri and Khe Sanh.

Doing laundry the hard way at Khe Sanh.

Artillery fire near Forward Support Activity 1 at Vandegrift.

The 516th Personnel Service Company was activated in February, 1966, at Fort Benning, Georgia, and deployed to Cam Ranh Bay, Republic of Vietnam, in November of the same year. The Unit was selected to move to Da Nang on March 12, 1968, where, together with the 424th Personnel Service Company (since redeployed), it formed the Personnel Service Center for the Da Nang Support Command. The Company's motto, "Serving Those Who Serve," describes its role in providing organizational and direct administrative personnel support for all units assigned or attached to the United States Army Support Command, Da Nang. This mission requires managing records for approximately 9,000 troops, preparing I.D. cards (military and civilian), I.D. tags, and MACV Form 5 cards, processing applications for direct appointments, and conducting aptitude and Defense Language Aptitude testing. About 18,000 individuals were processed into and out of the Command by the Company during 1970.

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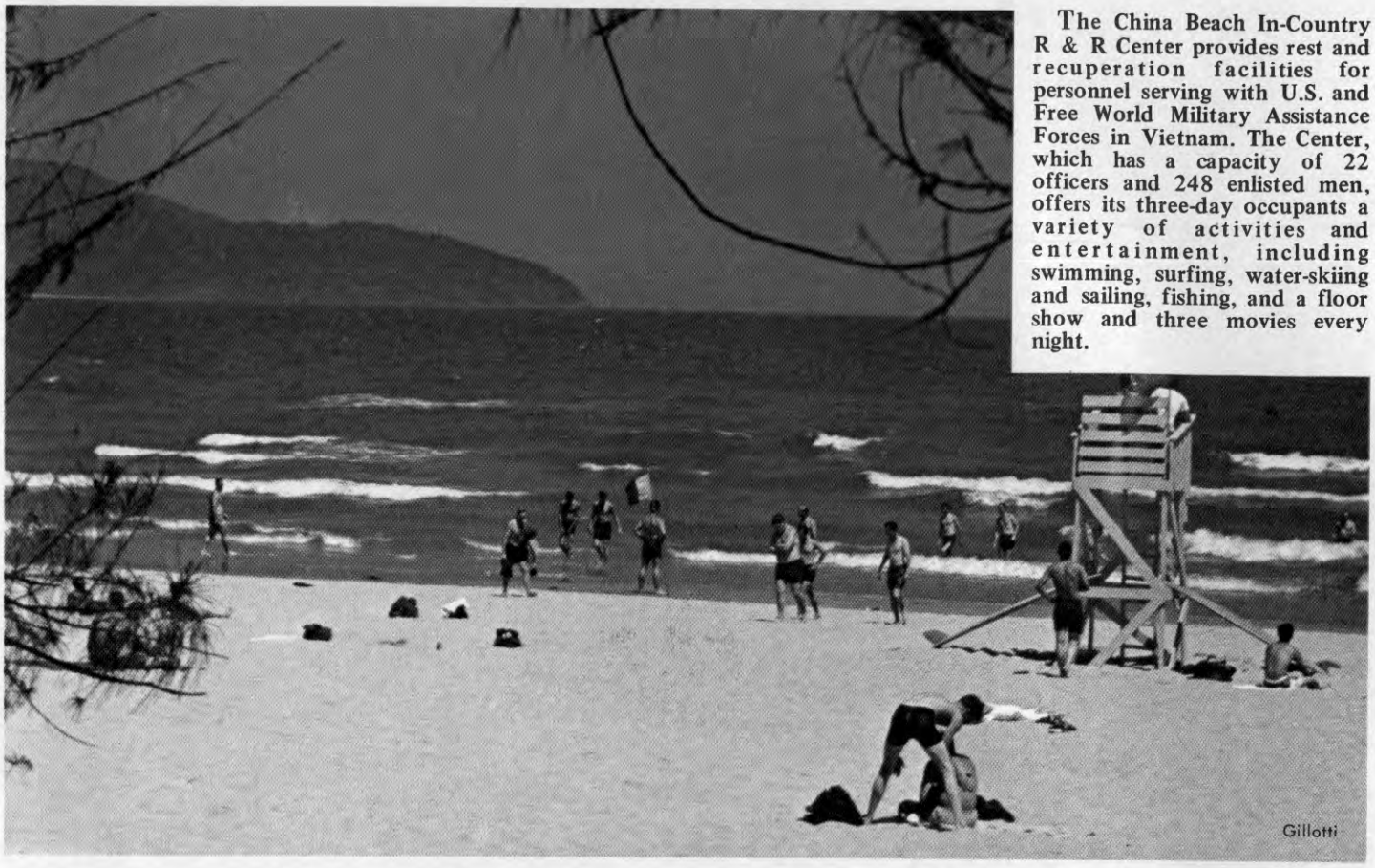
The 64th Finance Section computes and disburses pay and allowances for U.S. military personnel assigned to nondivisional units in Military Region 1, as well as Department of the Army civilian and Vietnamese local national employees. The Section, which operates branch offices in Phu Bai and Quang Tri, also provides an outlet for official receipts and prescribed payments within the United States Army Support Command, Da Nang.

The Face of the Land

by 1LT George L. Barnett, Jr.



The China Beach In-Country R & R Center provides rest and recuperation facilities for personnel serving with U.S. and Free World Military Assistance Forces in Vietnam. The Center, which has a capacity of 22 officers and 248 enlisted men, offers its three-day occupants a variety of activities and entertainment, including swimming, surfing, water-skiing and sailing, fishing, and a floor show and three movies every night.

The 2d Security Company (Prov.) attached to Headquarters, United States Army Support Command, Da Nang, provides local security for Support Command installations, including gate guards, roving guards, and interior sentries on a 24-hour basis at designated facilities. The Company, with four platoons, secures 20 compounds in a 60-square-mile area, which involves guarding 29 gates and 12 miles of perimeter wire. This area, which extends from China Beach to Red Beach, is subdivided into four sectors--with each platoon responsible for the security of one sector. Approximately 350 Vietnamese civilians are employed as tower guards and gate guards at American compounds, and for surveillance of other local national employees at established checkpoints. In addition to providing security, the Company furnishes escorts for important dignitaries and security guards for the 64th Finance Section, assists military police with accident investigations, and is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping the local national personnel which comprise much of its strength. The Company maintains its headquarters, which is open 24 hours a day, at Camp Baxter.

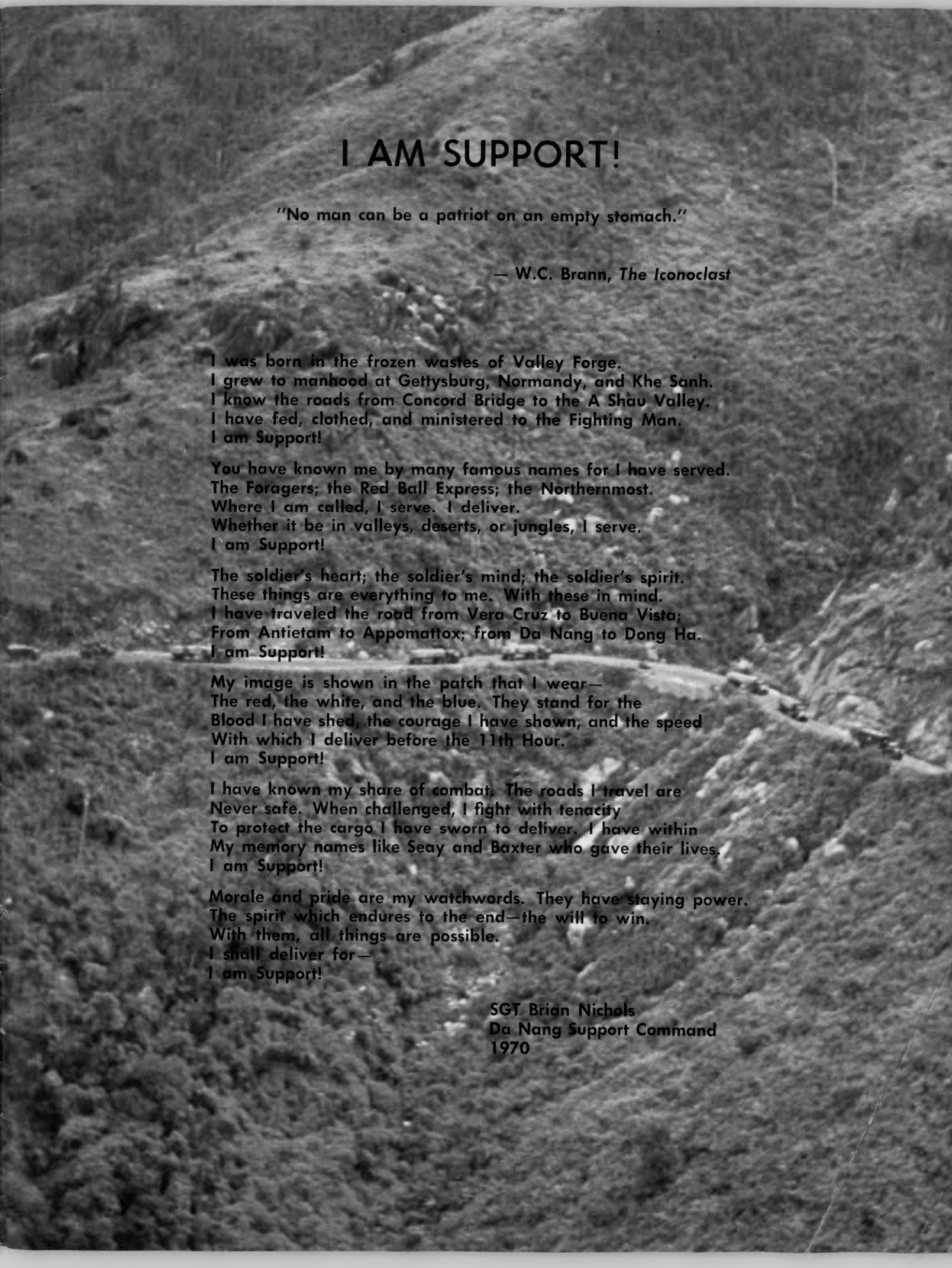
Eyes That See . . . Eyes That Wonder

The laughing eyes of an American child have never witnessed the horrors of war, have never Been rudely awakened by the blast of Viet Cong mortars or rockets in the middle of the Night. Nor has the American child had to spend the night alone in a dark, foul-smelling Bunker. All of us hope and pray that American children will never experience this hell.

The children of Vietnam, on the other hand, don't need television to watch war movies. Most of Them live behind barbed wire protection. They watch their fathers fight for their homes. They watch foreign soldiers move silently through their village or hamlet daily in search Of the elusive yet deadly enemy.

What do these eyes know of Communism or Democracy? They will learn from what they see. As we leave South Vietnam much of what we brought here will remain, and nothing we leave behind will be More important than the impressions we have made on the Vietnamese and their children.

There is much more to this war than defeating the enemy on the field of battle. Our greatest Victory may well be merely winning the confidence, respect, and friendship of the people Of Vietnam.



I AM SUPPORT!

"No man can be a patriot on an empty stomach."

— W.C. Brann, *The Iconoclast*

I was born in the frozen wastes of Valley Forge.
I grew to manhood at Gettysburg, Normandy, and Khe Sanh.
I know the roads from Concord Bridge to the A Shau Valley.
I have fed, clothed, and ministered to the Fighting Man.
I am Support!

You have known me by many famous names for I have served.
The Foragers; the Red Ball Express; the Northernmost.
Where I am called, I serve. I deliver.
Whether it be in valleys, deserts, or jungles, I serve.
I am Support!

The soldier's heart; the soldier's mind; the soldier's spirit.
These things are everything to me. With these in mind.
I have traveled the road from Vera Cruz to Buena Vista;
From Antietam to Appomattox; from Da Nang to Dong Ha.
I am Support!

My image is shown in the patch that I wear—
The red, the white, and the blue. They stand for the
Blood I have shed, the courage I have shown, and the speed
With which I deliver before the 11th Hour.
I am Support!

I have known my share of combat. The roads I travel are
Never safe. When challenged, I fight with tenacity
To protect the cargo I have sworn to deliver. I have within
My memory names like Seay and Baxter who gave their lives.
I am Support!

Morale and pride are my watchwords. They have staying power.
The spirit which endures to the end—the will to win.
With them, all things are possible.
I shall deliver for—
I am Support!

SGT Brian Nichols
Da Nang Support Command
1970