

# U.S. Troops Assault War Zone 'C'



BEFORE THE JUMP — Standing on a jeep, Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Sigholtz, Springfield, Va., commander of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), briefs his men prior to the combat jump they were to conduct in War Zone C during Operation Junction City. (USA Photo)

## First Combat Jump Since Korean War Begins Operation

Saigon (MACV)— In the first American combat jump since the Korean War, the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Task Force of the 173rd Airborne Brigade made a parachute assault on War Zone "C" in Tay Ninh province to begin Operation Junction City Feb 22. This is the largest operation of the Vietnam War to date.

Brigadier General John R. Deane, Jr., commander of the 173rd, and Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Sigholtz, 2nd Battalion, Commander, were the first of approximately 780 paratroopers to hit the silk above drop zone "Charlie." They jumped from 13 U.S. Air Force C-130s.

Participating in the sweep were elements of the 1st Infantry Division, 9th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 196th Infantry Brigade, 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, under operational control of II FFORCEV and supported by the 7th Air Force and the Army's 12th Combat Aviation Group.

B-52 strikes, tactical air sorties and last-minute gunship support softened up the drop zone prior to the assault. The only resistance the paratroopers met in the drop zone was light sniper fire.

Upon hitting the ground, A Company rallied and deployed into the woodline, where they made immediate (See Junction City Pg.-12, Col.2)

## MEDCAP Team Keeps Busy In Bac Lieu

Bac Lieu (MACV)— With anxious looks etched in their faces, the people stood by the muddy river, some on crutches and others led by their children. As the water of the river rippled and turned, the medical unit of Advisory Team 51 at Bac Lieu began another Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP).



MEDCAP teams treated the young, middle-aged and the old.

Aided by a Military Provincial Health Assistance Program (MILPHAP) doctor and nurse, the team staffed by an American and Vietnamese doctor and four medics treated cases ranging from skin diseases to respiratory ailments.

While the doctors listened for traces of pneumonia with stethoscopes, the medics filled prescriptions and the day's operation increased to a drugstore rush hour pace.

Working on the "big team concept" — an American doctor performing the mission with his counterpart — the team holds four MEDCAP's a week.

Advisory team 51 is an attached unit of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division.

First In Vietnam

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## Allied Forces Stop Viet Cong, CIDG Troops Head Operation

Ha Thanh (USA) — A four-day search and destroy operation was conducted recently in the surrounding area of Ha Thanh, the Special Forces A Detachment "fighting camp."

The mission was a joint effort performed by Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) troops from Ha Thanh, U.S. Marines, Republic of Korea (ROK) Marines and Vietnamese Rangers.

Supported by allied artillery, the CIDG companies, who are trained and led by the Vietnamese Special Forces and advised by the U.S. Army Special Forces troopers of the 5th Special Forces Group, killed 22 Viet Cong while sinking eight sampans

in which Viet Cong were attempting to cross the Song Tra Khuc River.

### Refugees Moved

During the same operation, the CIDG units moved 900 refugees from Viet Cong control to refugee villages located near their camp area. While doing this, they captured 140,000 pounds of rice. All this was accomplished with no friendly casualties to CIDG units.

The mission of the CIDG troops and their Special Forces advisors is to keep "Charlie" on the run by continuous sweep and destroy operations, combat patrols, ambushes and diligent searches of the surrounding area.

The successful accomplishment of their mission gives protection and security to refugees located in several villages in the immediate (See CIDG Troops Pg -12, Col.4)

## ARVN Families Benefit From Gift

Special To The Observer

Saigon (MACV) — The morale of a soldier is the key factor in his performance while on the battle field.

It is a known factor that the main worry of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) soldier lies not in the field, but at home where his family patiently awaits his return. If he could be assured that his family would be able to receive proper medical care when needed, his worry would be eased a thousand-fold.

In recognition of the RVNAF soldier's plight,

members of the Free World Military Assistance head-



Mrs. Nguyen Le, accepts donation from Republic of China's Major General Liu Yeng Shen.

quarters made a donation of 90,000 piasters to the Truong Vuong Hospital in Saigon earlier this month to insure that the soldiers' dependents will receive the best possible medical attention.

China's Major General Liu Yeng Shen representing the headquarters, made the presentation to the hospital's director, Mrs. Nguyen Ngoc Le, during a brief ceremony held on the hospital grounds. The presentation was attended by representatives of all the Free World Forces who are here to help Vietnam in its struggle to build a strong and free nation.

## Dong Ha Marine Smells Out Enemy

Dong Ha (USMC) — Lance Corporal Warren Hatcher's greatest asset in Vietnam is his nose. He literally smells out Viet Cong.

"I think it's the rice that they cook that allows me to smell them," he said. "It has a very distinctive smell."









**MEET YOUR NEW SON** — Private First Class Donald Tyska presents a four-pound Vietnamese baby boy to the mother. He and fellow MP Private First Class Henry Locke, delivered the baby. (USA Photo)

## MP's Slightly Shaken After Delivering Baby

**Cam Ranh Bay (USA)** — The American soldier has long been known for his versatility and two members of the 630th Military Police Company at Cam Ranh Bay proved their versatility knows no bounds.

Private First Class Donald J. Tyska and Private First Class Henry Locke were manning a checkpoint in Cam Ranh village near the 1st Logistical Command's sprawling Cam Ranh Bay Support Command area. A Vietnamese woman was brought to the checkpoint complaining of labor pains. The two military policemen didn't have time to check the manual as the woman began giving birth. PFC's Tyska and Locke rose to the occasion and delivered a four-pound boy.

"It all happened so fast," said PFC Tyska, "that the next thing I knew I was holding a baby in my hands."

Reflecting on his first baby delivery, PFC Locke commented, "Other than Army first aid classes, the only medical training I've had was watching 'Ben Casey' and 'Doctor Kildare' on TV."

Mother and baby were later transferred to the Vietnamese Naval Hospital at Cam Ranh Bay where they are reported in good condition. The MP's were reported slightly shaken.

## Air Force - Made DOLS Carry Psywar Message

**Da Nang (USA)** — If you have been around Da Nang air base recently you may have heard the rumor that the personnel of the 5th Air Commando Squadron's Flight A are making dolls.

The kind of dolls the psywar unit is making is a special rigging they use for dropping psychological warfare leaflets into small target areas, called a Delayed Opening Leaflet System (DOLS).

The system consists of a bundle of leaflets with an igniter fuse attached to the cord securing the leaflets. When the igniter pin is pulled, the fuse burns through the cord freeing the leaflets at a desired altitude.

The fuses are set to go off at 20-second intervals from

# Allied Operation In Binh Dinh Reaches New Phase, Joint Forces Initiate Pacification Program

**An Khe (USA)** — A concentrated joint effort to drive the Viet Cong from the rice-rich Binh Dinh province is now in its third phase of operation.

Starting with the 1st Cavalry Division's Operation Irving and continuing through to the present Operation Thayer II, there has been a major success achieved on the parts of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), Republic of Korea (ROK) and American forces to drive hostile forces from the area.

Ninety-five per cent of the guerillas in the Phu My Valley have either been killed or captured and 85 per cent of the VC infrastructure has been destroyed.

The third phase of this operation, which is now underway, is a pacification program under the watchful eye of Captain Cao Van Chon, Phu My District chief.

Twelve teams with 40 to 50 members each, mostly Vietnamese civilians, have begun moving throughout

the valley to try to bring the people back under government control.

The district has been divided into three segments of 12 hamlets each. The teams moved into the first segment immediately following Tet.

### Civic Action Teams

Each team, comprised of one Regional Force or Popular Force platoon, two policemen, one intelligence cadreman, one grievance cadreman, a hamlet chief, two assistant hamlet chiefs, a Civic Action team (nine members), and one health worker was charged with instructing the hamlets in self-defense and self-government.

After gathering the people into a centralized locality where they could be protected and controlled, the hamlet members were then given a choice of Civic Action projects which will benefit the entire community. The villagers were given the choice of working with a school, market place, dispensary or other project. The materials were furnished by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The teams will work four months to bring the people back to GVN control. At the end of the four-month period, elections will be held to determine council members and hamlet leaders. The team members, if they feel the area is sufficiently pacified, will move on to the next hamlet to be pacified.

The 41st ARVN Regiment has been charged with securing the valley and protecting the teams. The 1st Air Cavalry Division will continue to provide the shield between enemy force units and the pacification areas so the teams can do their jobs.

If the program goes as planned through all three segments, the entire district will be pacified by February, 1968. That would mean almost 50,000 citizens of the district brought back to the GVN.

Because of the efforts of the ARVN soldiers and the Vietnamese government officials, the benefits of the Battle of Binh Dinh will remain long after American forces have withdrawn, and it will become a model operation for activities in other districts.



**GEE, YOU'RE SMALL** — Specialist 5 Charles L. Jones, Birmingham, Ala., towers over Jan Small, Red Cross Clubmobile worker at 1st Infantry Division headquarters in Di An. Jones is spending his free time in the Red Cross Recreation center, dubbed "The Last Resort", after being trapped in a Viet Cong Tunnel for two hours. (ARC Photo)

## Wide-Eyed Boy Sees First Movie

**An Khe (USA)** — Relaxing in a lounge chair and munching a bag of candy, Tam Yi Dao, a seven-year-old Vietnamese boy, saw his first motion picture.

The boy was found with a cut foot in the village of Phu My by the 1st Air Cavalry's 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs team.

After receiving treatment

at Landing Zone Hammond, he was given a shower, haircut and new clothes.

"He was frightened at first because everything was so new," said Sergeant First Class Robert L. Branch, 2nd Brigade Intelligence NCO, "but after a while he adjusted and we got along fine."

That evening, the boy was taken to the movie. Tam star-

ed in wide-eyed amazement at the moving figures on the screen enacting "Lt. Robinson Caruso, U.S.N."

The next morning the boy was returned to his village and parents.

"He seemed like he didn't want to leave us," said Branch, "but he was happy to get home to tell of the things he had seen and done."



# Seabees Celebrate Silver Anniversary

**Saigon (USN)** — U.S. Navy Seabees ("We Build, We Fight") celebrated their 25th anniversary yesterday.

The Seabees' comradeship with the U.S. Marines has deep roots, stemming back to the violent island battles of the South Pacific during the last World War. Today, the builders have paved the way for the Marine build-up in areas surrounding Da Nang.

In March, 1965, there were 500 marines in South Vietnam, controlling a mere eight-square-mile region around the Da Nang airstrip. Today, more than 50,000 marines of General Lewis Walt's 3rd Amphibious Force control hundreds of square miles, including the population mass living along the coast. To support these men, four Seabee battalions of Captain Nelson R. Anderson's 30th Naval Construction Regiment (plus private contractors) are rapidly transforming the port of Da Nang.

## Landing

Early in May of 1965, Seabees landed with the marines on the blinding hot sands south of Da Nang, at a little-known spot called Chu Lai. Working night and day, the Seabees laid down a tactical airstrip of aluminum planking. Within three weeks, fighter planes were whistling down the metal runway, screaming into the air just above the heads of Seabees working at the far end.

Seabee enlisted men are members of the U.S. Navy's Mobile Construction Battalions or "MCBs," of which there are seven in South Vietnam. Four are in Da Nang, two in Chu Lai, and one in Phu Bai.

There are also a number of Seabee technical assistance teams — "the Navy's Peace Corps" — composed of one officer and 12 enlisted men, working in isolated hamlets, building bridges, digging wells, training the villagers in construction techniques, and carrying out other Civic

Action programs.

These Mobile Construction Battalions are self-sufficient units geared to move at a moment's notice; they contain their own medics, paymasters, chaplains, and the like; they carry their own light construction equipment and weaponry. There are now 5,000 Seabees here.

## Mission

Once the battalion reaches a job site, they dig and man their own bunkers, they patrol, and fight beside other U.S. troops when the occasion calls. Their primary mission, however, is to build air strips, piers, cantonments, roads, field hospitals, schools, covered storage areas and water wells.

Each Seabee — whether steamfitter, steel worker, "construction stiff" or plumber — must undergo marine combat training so that he can, if he must, fight to protect what he builds. The Seabee units are subject to repeated Viet Cong sniper fire and harassment. The men usually live in tents with slit trenches nearby for cover.

Seabees are involved in an infinite variety of jobs in Da Nang: a 1,000 man motion picture theater, a 6,000 man amphitheater, and an enormous swimming pool, as well as mess halls, "hardback" tents by the hundreds, and LST piers.

## Air Force Women Come To Saigon

**Saigon (USAF)** — Women in the U.S. Air Force (WAF) will be afforded the first opportunity to serve in Vietnam beginning within the next 30 to 90 days.

In response to a request from Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), a WAF officer and nine enlisted women will be assigned to duties in Saigon as spaces in their specialties become vacant.

All will be billeted in hotel-type accommodations.



"CAN DO! — Seabee Team Petty Officer First Class Corpsman, Danied B. Buckley and Petty Officer Third Class Fred T. Nelson repair a village water pump after completion of their normal duties with Seabee Team 0306. (USN Photo)

## Viet Cong Revive Circus Act, Seven Found Hiding Under Rocks

**Tuy Hoa (USA)** — "Remember the circus act where all the midgets and clowns come out of one tiny car? Well, that's about the way we found seven Viet Cong," claimed Second Lieutenant Gary Martin, Dothan, Ala.

The 3rd Platoon of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division was sweeping a narrow peninsula near Tien Chau hamlet in Phu Yen Province, when Sergeant Richard Davis, Jonesville, Ky., glimpsed a man jumping into a rock pile along the beach. The Ivymen heard noises of muffled voices and the movement of rocks.

The men began removing rocks from the pile where they thought the voices had originated. "The stone seemed to be hiding some kind of wooden frame," said Specialist 4 Robert A. LaFoffette, Butler, Ky.

As the rocks were removed, a man began hollering

and emerged from the position with his hands above his head. Then another emerged, and another and another. The parade continued until seven Vietnamese had come out.

Lieutenant Miller, puzzled as to how seven men could fit into two four-by-four foot compartments, was

pleased however with the three carbines, mauser and hand grenades that his men found inside.

As the platoon left the peninsula, the Ivymen turned over all the rocks they could find. "We might just do that for the rest of our tour in Vietnam," the lieutenant added.

## Marine Mess Sergeant Serves In Third War

**Phu Bai (USMC)** — Marine Gunnery Sergeant Paul A. Akers, former night manager for a hotel at Nags Head, N.C., following his retirement from the Corps in 1962, is now back with the Leathernecks as the 3rd Marine Division's Headquarters Battalion mess sergeant. He reenlisted and volunteered for the tour.

A veteran of World War II and Korea, the marine said

food served to the fighting men here is a far cry from the dried beans and "corned Willy," that he tried to disguise in World War II.

The marines still have their favorite food though, he said — "steak or roast beef. I guess in my career, I've prepared more than half a million pounds of steak."

Akers recalls when he had to butcher wild cattle on Guadalcanal to provide the marines with their choice.

"There's a big difference now. I'm preparing meals for 1,500 men three times a day. I have 16 cooks and bakers, 17 enlisted men to assist and nine Vietnamese civilians to wash dishes. It's just not like things were in Korea or on the 'Canal,'" he adds with a smile.

"It's not as if I were out in the battlefield with combat units," Akers said, "but I feel my job of fixing the best food available is important, so I'll stay as long as they need me."

## Youth Needs Religion

## Field Force Chaplain Meets War Challenge

**Long Binh (USA)** — Every Sunday, Chaplain (Captain) Richard W. Kohl, Allentown, Pa., assistant staff chaplain of II Field Force Vietnam, packs a brief case and a box of hymnals, prayer books and religious pamphlets, and boards a helicopter. Chaplain Kohl spends a full day "hopping" from one isolated outpost to another to carry his message

to men deep in the jungles and mountain regions of Vietnam.

"The challenge of the Army chaplaincy is found through working with young soldiers," said Chaplain Kohl, a former pastor of the Evangelical Congregational Church in East Greenville, Pa.

"The average civilian church loses young people between the ages of 16 and 25 and this is the age bracket

we primarily work with in the Army," he continued. "This age group needs the fellowship of the church and the friendship of Christ as much as any group, and that is the challenge confronting every chaplain."

To meet this challenge, Chaplain Kohl travels to the remote outposts of the II FFORCEV operational zone to insure that all persons in

the command have an opportunity to receive the strength and guidance offered through worship.

The military congregation at these outposts averages three to 15 persons. But this strengthens the chaplain's spirit rather than dampening it. At times Vietnamese villagers outnumber the American soldiers in his small congregation.



# Life Line Stretched Throughout Country

**Vung Tau (USA)** — The 39th Signal Battalion, headquartered here, celebrates its fifth year of providing communications in Vietnam.

In February, 1962, members of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 39th Signal Battalion arrived at Tan Son Nhut AB., Saigon, as one of the first Regular Army units to be assigned to Vietnam. This detachment was the nucleus of what

was to be the largest Army unit in Vietnam until the massive U.S. military buildup began in late 1965.

### Units

From February to September, 1962, four more units arrived to provide the bulk of the 39th's strength. These were the 178th, 232nd and 362nd Signal Companies and the 72nd Signal Detachment.

As the units arrived, they began the job of establish-

ing a communications lifeline for U.S. Advisor and Special Forces camps that were scattered throughout the country. Cable was strung, switchboards established, radio relay sites and communications centers were built. Working almost constantly in unsecure areas and under VC harassment, the signalmen quickly established a communications system which maintained a 90 per cent reliability.

### Commendation

Throughout 1963, 1964 and 1965 the 39th expanded and stretched its communications and signal support over 60,000 square miles of Vietnam. Its efforts were not unnoticed, for on January 24, 1966, the 39th Sig. Bn. was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its outstanding service in the early years of the Vietnam conflict.

Staff Sergeant Felix Canyon, who is presently serving his second tour with the 39th in Vietnam, recalls what his job was like in late 1964 and 1965 "While I was with HHD of the 39th, I traveled from Bac Lieu in the Delta as far north as Hue working on various cable construction projects." Sergeant Canyon, Pearl City, Hawaii, is now NCOIC of the Vung Tau switchboard.

### Service

With the arrival of other signal units, the 39th Sig. Bn.'s geographical area of responsibility has been reduced. Today, with five years experience and tradition in Vietnam, 39th units provide communications for the Free World Forces in the Vung Tau Sub Area, for the 9th Infantry Division at Bear Cat and in the Mekong Delta, while another battalion element operates microwave

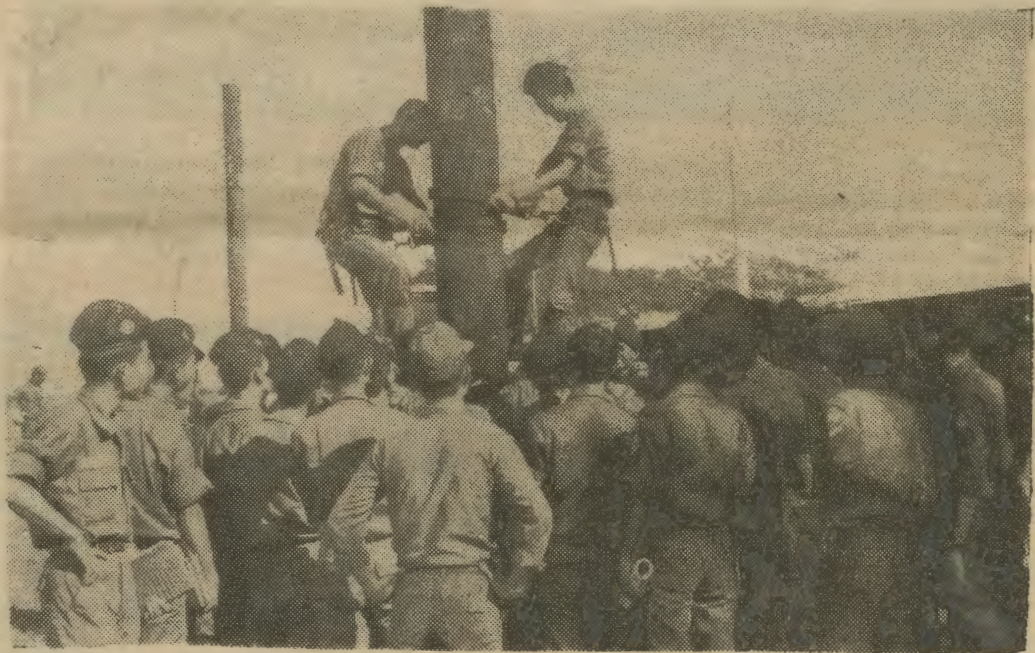
links from Can Tho in the Delta to Vung Chua Mountain, near Qui Nhon.

Because of the reorganization and buildup of communications support in Vietnam, all of the original battalion units that were awarded the commendation while serving with the 39th are now assigned to other 1st Signal Brigade battalions. But the 39th continues to uphold the Signal Corps motto, "Get The Message Through," with its presently assigned units. They are HHD, 39th Sig. Bn. D Company, 41st Signal Battalion, C Company, 36th Signal Battalion, and the 518th Signal Company.

**Story By**  
**Lt. R. J. Malloy, USA**  
**Photos By**  
**Lt. U. P. Steckle, USA**



**VC HILL ANTENNA** — An unidentified member of the 518th Signal Company prepares to remove part of a "bedspring" antenna from a VHF antenna atop VC Hill, overlooking Vung Tau. Part of the 39th Signal Battalion, the 518th operates signal sites from Can Tho in the Mekong Delta north to Vung Chua Mountain, near Qui Nhon.



**BUDDY SYSTEM** — Private First Class Darwin Rosburg, San Pablo, Calif., a pole lineman, shows a Vietnamese student at the Vietnam Armed Forces Signal School in Vung Tau how to use pole climbing equipment.



**TRAINING** — Private First Class Clarence Bell, Moody, Tex., demonstrates microwave radio relay equipment to Vietnamese soldiers visiting the 518th Signal Company Site atop VC Hill. The Vietnamese soldiers attend the Vietnamese Armed Forces Signal School in Vung Tau.

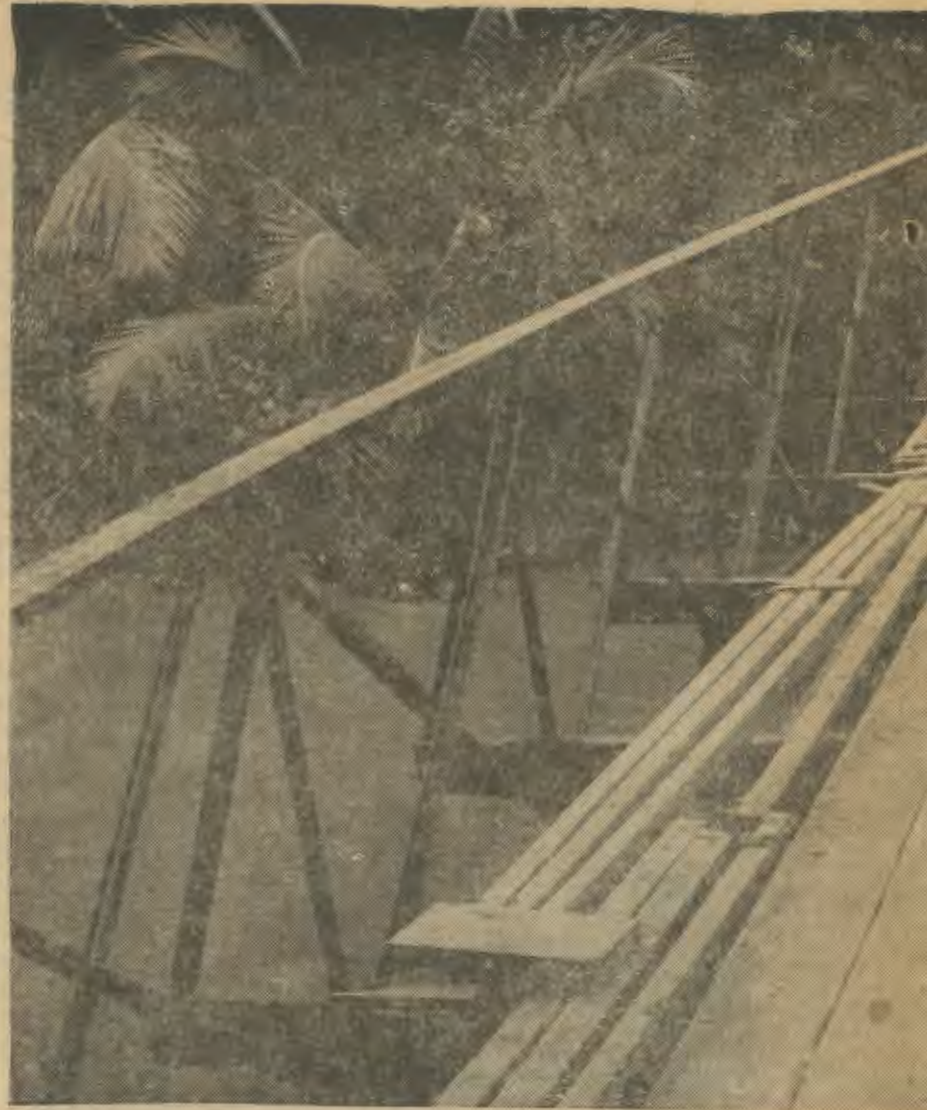


**VUNG TAU SWITCHBOARD** — Sergeant First Class Felix Canyon, of Pearl City, Hawaii, NCOIC of the Vung Tau switchboard, assists a Vietnamese operator in getting a telephone call through for a subscriber.





**MAKE IT GI** — The town barber at Rach Kien (and his competitors) were among the first of Rach Kien's small business establishments to get back into operation when Vietnamese and Allied troops wrested control of the area from the Viet Cong. Wall decorations date from the beginning of 1967



**EGRESS TO, INGRESS FROM** — Contact with the outside world, d Viet Cong held the depleted hamlet captive, is restored and Kien's main street



**BACK IN BUSINESS** — Shops and sidewalk stalls commence to offer new wares to Rach Kien's fast-returning population

## Rebirth Of Once Control

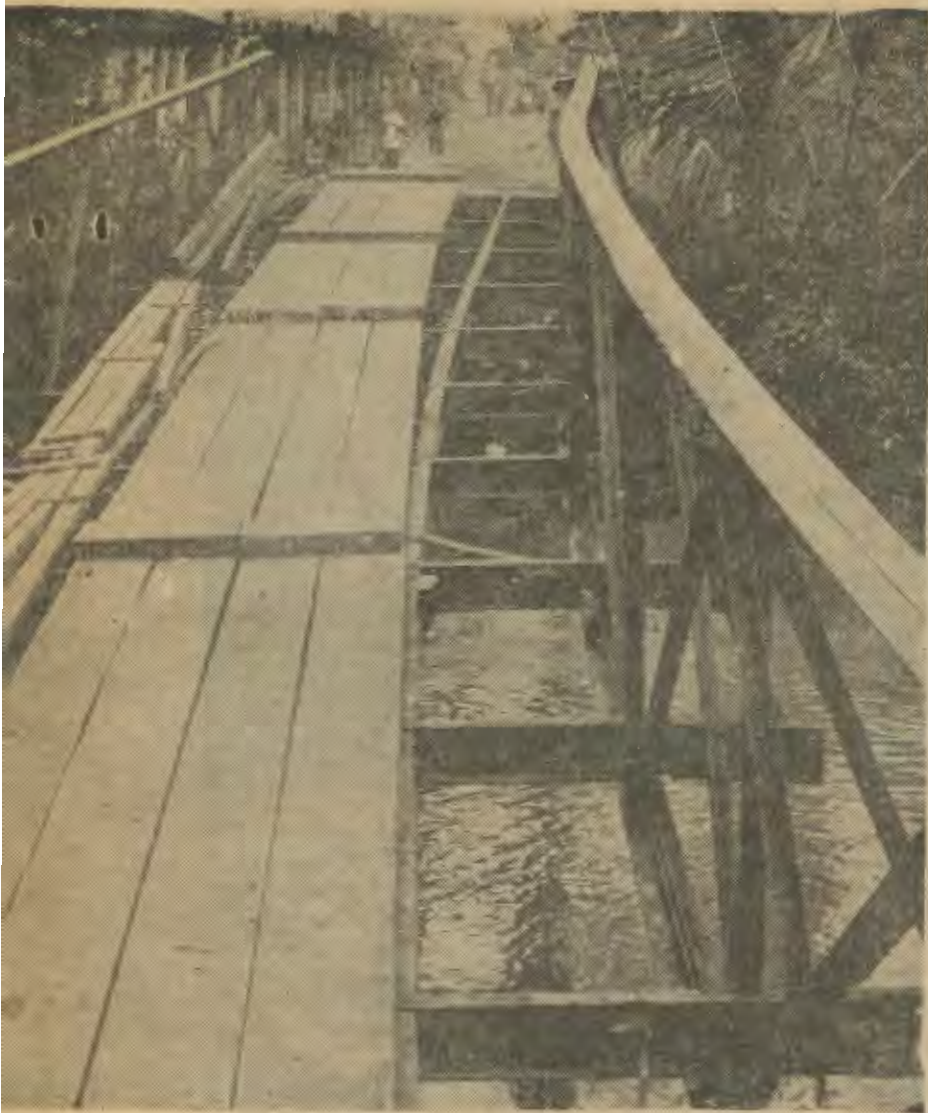
Rach Kien is an ex-Viet Cong hamlet suffering the pains of rebirth. It is located in the heart of Long An Province some 15 miles southeast of Saigon in the uppermost portion of the Viet Cong — ridden Mekong Delta.

In October of 1965 the Viet Cong moved into the hamlet and completely controlled the area until the Government and Allied troops pushed the VC out and reoccupied Rach Kien.

During the time the VC controlled Rach Kien, the population dwindled from 3,500 people to 341 discouraged farmers who had refused to leave their land. The farmers that were left were cultivating only one third of their lands because of the enormous taxation imposed on them by the VC. The school had deteriorated almost completely and the hamlet dispensary had been made into a VC fortified bunker. The market place was deserted except for two or three shops that were open only to sell items of bare necessity. Rach Kien was

only a shadow of what it formerly was. It was a center of activity. Mr. Bui Van Thanh, hamlet chief, returned to the hamlet when the Government reoccupied it. He and other officials who had remained in the area rather than flee to the VC-dominated areas, were dominated by the Viet Cong. The Viet Cong Mr. Truong Van Thanh there too, moved from house to house, old acquaintances, instilling in his mind the desire to rebuild and reestablish the old hamlet to its former thriving status. A gradual return of the farmers of the hamlet are warming up to the idea of reconstruction. A playground for children is being built in the rear of the school which has been turned into a school. A new school has been constructed. The Government has procured teachers from the area and officials and a meeting will be convened the first time in a year.





ld, denied Rach Kien for fourteen months during which time the  
and symbolized by this reconstructed bridge leading to Rach



**EMERGENCY RATIONS**—The residents of Rach Kien needed relief supplies in the first days of the hamlet's restoration to freedom. Here, returning villagers receive rice, flour and other diet staples to fill the family larder until Rach Kien's crop cycle is restored

## f A Hamlet rolled By VC

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As each day passes, the rebirth of Rach Kien gains in momentum. The main access route to the highway from Saigon has been reopened and secured by the 1st Battalion of the 46th Vietnamese Infantry Regiment, and the village and hamlet officials are preparing to receive the people as they return to their old homes and property. The market was reopened on Dec. 23, 1966, and two barber shops are now operating full time.

As the people return, the reconstruction increases and province officials are standing by with a plan that may establish the new Rach Kien as the capital of a new district. The people have taken heart and want to see their homes and hamlet as they were before the VC came. It is only a matter of time before the rebirth of Rach Kien will be complete.

**Story & Photos  
By  
JUSPAO**



**COMING HOME** — Returning to Rach Kien after 14 months of refugee-living are these mothers, their children and their few modest belongings. Rach Kien, located in Long An Province, was freed from Viet Cong control by Government and Allied Forces



# MEDCAP Enlisted Medics Work In Sa Dec Province

By SP/4 Andy Barylski, USA  
Staff Writer

Sa Dec (MACV)—Medics arriving in Vietnam, that are assigned to Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) positions, find their jobs more demanding than what they had been trained for.

Medics are trained to administer combat first aid and to recognize the patient's ailments so that he might get the proper attention from a qualified doctor, but they aren't trained to do the doctor's job. Nevertheless, as MEDCAP medics, they often find that they must work in a doctor's capacity to accomplish their mission.

MEDCAP is a mobile program, strictly oriented to outpatient and frequent one-time treatment in villages and hamlets. It is basically a psychological warfare program under the direction of a medical officer and is carried out by the enlisted medics.

## Training

Before new medics begin their work in Sa Dec province, which has nearly 20 percent of the Republic of Vietnam's population (about 3,000,000), they undergo training at the province headquarters. The 9th ARVN Infantry Division's medical advisor, Captain John M. Mull, Boston, gives each a short quiz after the initial briefing. The purpose of the test is to find out how much the individual knows about diagnosis and treatment of certain diseases which are common here.

For the first week Captain Mull takes them along on sick calls held at the province

hospital to show them the many medical problems they will face. Captain Mull explains each case to them and tells them the best ways to treat each.

## "Bac Si"

As the captain explains some of the other problems that they will encounter, they find that they will have "competitors". The most outstanding local "Bac Si" is the ever popular "water doctor". He specializes in 20 or more different colors of water injections that are supposed to cure anything from the common cold to cancer.

But it seems that the biggest problem lies among the people themselves. They usually rely on home-made remedies and "Buas" (herb amulets) that are guaranteed to ward off the evil "body demons" that make them ill before they go to a doctor for proper medical attention.

Captain Mull tells the medics to be extra careful when diagnosing a case. When the Vietnamese people see another getting a brightly colored pill or some peculiar type of treatment, they automatically develop the same symptoms to just insure themselves of not being left out. Some actually believe that the stethoscope or the x-ray machine is a form of treatment.

MEDCAPs in Sa Dec province see as many as 125,000 patients in a month. In January alone, nearly 90,000 received medical attention by the MEDCAP medics.



**STUDENT GRADUATE** — Lieutenant Colonel James F. Williams, San Antonio, with plaque, congratulates Vietnamese airborne Sergeant First Class Nguyen Dinh Thang, second from left, for his outstanding performance of duty upon the successful completion of a six-month training period with the U.S. Army's 36th Dental Detachment. Sergeant Thang trained as a dental technician with the 1st Logistical Command unit. Do The Duyet, left, a member of the Vietnamese Armed Forces Surgeons' Office, and Van Nguyen Hien, interpreter for the Chieu Hoi (open arms) village near here, witnessed the presentation. (USA Photo)

## Lights Again Shine On Buddah; Soldiers Rewire Famous Shrine

**Dong Tam (USA)** — For nearly five years the primary Buddha in Sau Tau Pagoda near Dong Tam on the edge of Vietnam's Mekong Delta sat in silent darkness. Deterioration and decay had made the famous shrine's lighting system inoperable.

But as the first prayers were recited last week, overhead lights illuminated the elaborate statue. Outside, in the temple gardens, electric lights again shown on statues and flowers.

Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division had devoted nearly two months to rewir-

ing the shrine, where generations of Vietnamese Buddhists have come to worship.

### Pagoda Declines

Time and war had contributed to the decline of Sau Tau Pagoda. Once 90 Buddhist nuns lived there; the number has dwindled to three.

But now perhaps the process of decline has been reversed by men of the 9th Division's 3rd Brigade whose base camp is nearby.

The project which provided a new lighting system for the shrine was performed by men of the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry.

Major Robert C. Akam, New Salem, Mass., 3rd Brigade civic affairs officer, and Captain Jay S. Noxon, Houston, civic affairs officer of the 3rd Battalion, conceived the project and coordinated it with Robert C. Dickerson, provincial representative to the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office.

"We decided on the Sau Tau shrine as a project site because of its national significance," Major Akam said.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Natividad, Charleston, S.C., supervised the rewiring job after Sergeant First Class George D. Phillips, Copers Cove, Tex., made the original survey to determine the type and amount of materials required.

### Unique History

Sau Tau has a historical as well as religious signifi-

cance. It was there that the Vietnamese emperor Gia Long sought refuge from the invading Chinese nearly a century ago.

Buddhist nuns concealed him in a large bell for the night and legend says that at Sau Tau he received divine guidance and strength to drive the invaders out of Vietnam.

Now, after the efforts of 9th Division soldiers, Sau Tau has light after nearly five years of darkness.

Major Akam remarked that "the effect on worshippers who saw the temple relighted after such a long period of darkness was reward enough for the time and effort."

## Higher Food Pay Approved

**Saigon (USA)** — Higher food allowances have been approved for military personnel receiving basic allowance for subsistence (BAS). Effective immediately BAS rates for enlisted men rose from \$1.17 per day to \$1.30. Meal collection rates applicable to field and garrison ration messes are changed as follows: Personnel for whom subsistence charges only are applicable—\$1.30 per day.

Personnel for whom subsistence and surcharges are applicable—\$1.60 per day.

Personnel for whom subsistence charges and surcharges at the special per diem rate apply—\$2.50 per day.

## CIDG Troops Guard SF Camp

**Tra Cu (USA)** — One of the newest Special Forces A Detachment camps being constructed in the III Corps Tactical Zone is Camp Tra Cu.

In the planning and preparation for occupancy for several months, the remote camp site was recently secured.

The highly aggressive CIDG (Civilian Irregular Defense Group) troops are already saturating the surrounding area with night and day patrols in an attempt to keep "Charlie" on the move.

Camp Tra Cu is located on the intersection of a canal and the Co Dong river, which runs through Boa Thai, the capital city of the Hau Nghia Province.



**FIRST AT DA NANG** — Vietnamese Air Force Captain Thai Van De has the United States' third highest decoration for valor, the Silver Star, pinned on by Brigadier General Donovan F. Smith, Chief, Air Force Advisory Group for MACV. (USAF Photo)



# Dentists Here Keep Smiles Bright



**APPOINTMENT** — A soldier with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade reports to the dental clinic for treatment. This clinic is housed in a tent at the unit's staging area at Long Binh. It is operated jointly by dentists of the 199th Brigade and the 1st Logistical Command's 38th Medical Detachment.



**TEETH CHECKED** — Private First Class Robert L. Mason, East St. Louis, Ill., a trooper with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, will walk away with a bright smile after having his teeth checked at the dental clinic by Captain Charles J. Arizumi, Honolulu.



**EASY DOES IT** — A shot of anesthetic is administered to a patient by Major Edward M. Lamers, Menomonee Falls, Wis., to Specialist 4 Jerry McIntosh, Winchester, Ky., a documentation clerk assigned to the 155th Transportation Company.

**By Lt. T. Berg, USA**  
**Saigon (USA)**—American soldiers are prone to smile a lot. A joke with a buddy, a letter from home, a "Hi, baby-san," accompanied by a smile for a village child are all indications of this.

The chief dentist in the 1st Logistical Command is Colonel Walter Z. Brown, Walnut Creek, Calif. He commands the Saigon-based 932nd Medical Detachment and is dental surgeon for the Log's medical arm, the 44th Medical Brigade.

**Full Staff**

"We have 57 dental clinics staffed by more than 160 dentists," said the colonel, "and we use quonset huts, tents and permanent-type structures to house them. But our main job is to keep the soldier out of the clinic and on the job. This means we have to catch the small problems—cavities, for example—before they become big-time—consuming big problems."

To meet the out-of-the-clinic requirement, fast, professional service is needed—and provided. Service is also

complete; dental clinics offer everything from teeth cleaning to oral surgery.

The emphasis in dental care, according to Lieutenant Colonel W. Waite Strong, Dunbar, Pa., executive officer of the 932nd, is to keep soldiers at or above what is known as Class 2 status—no immediate treatment necessary. An abscess tooth would put a man in the lowest status—Class 5—and would require emergency care. A Class I man can boast, "Look, Ma, no cavities!"

**Modern Equipment**

With modern medical equipment and know-how, Army clinics can do a lot. For example, if a man loses his teeth and needs new ones, the entire job—from the taking of impressions to the making and fitting of the full denture—can be handled here. However, the more difficult cast partial dentures are constructed in the States. Dentists send the prescription to the States, and the partial dentures come back within four weeks. Prosthetic labs in Vietnam make the final adjustments.

When not treating American patients, U.S. Army dentists go into villages and orphanages to provide care for the Vietnamese. Vietnamese doctors and medics often assist. In January, 44th Medical Brigade dental teams treated 1,173 patients on Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) trips.

**Anniversary**

On March 3rd the U.S. Army Dental Corps celebrated its 56th Anniversary. "The mission of the Dental Corps throughout its history has been to give the fighting man the kind of care he deserves—the best possible," declared Colonel Brown, "and in Vietnam we go out of our way to uphold that tradition."

"This outstanding service is only achieved," the colonel added, "through the diligent efforts of each officer and enlisted person assigned to the dental service in Vietnam."

**Photos By**  
**Sp5 Minutello, USA**  
**And**  
**PFC Muchler, USA**



**SUPPLY ITEM** — One of the many items supplied to the troops by the 1st Logistical Command here are new dentures. Specialist 5 S. Jose R. Lopez, Chicago, left; Private First Class Neil P. Nielsen, Sauk Rapids, Minn., center; and Specialist 5 Richard L. White Boulder, Colo., members of the 36th Dental Clinic, are shown making dentures in the prosthetic lab.



**NEW TEETH** — The fabrication of full dentures includes shaping and forming with a heated instrument, as shown here by Specialist 4 Kenneth E. Merseal, Old Mines, Mo.





**DO IT YOURSELF**— Men in the "new life hamlet" of Tan Thoi work together painting the shutters of their new school which is the result of a self-improvement program initiated by the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division. (USA Photo)

## Infantry CIC Course Teaches Combat Points

**Lai Khe (USA)** — Understanding the Viet Cong and his fighting tactics is the key to instruction given to new arrivals to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division through the brigade's Combat Indoctrination Course (CIC).

The CIC, a one-week course, is mandatory for all assigned to the 3rd Brigade. Including instruction and demonstrations of equipment used by both the Viet Cong and Allied Forces in Vietnam, the CIC is designed to teach new replacements combat techniques used by both.

"The Viet Cong is an intelligent and resourceful foe," warns Lieutenant Larry R. Stanford, Bocaraton, Fla., the commanding officer of the CIC. "To defeat him we must realize this and understand his fighting methods."

Simulated ambush patrols and road clearing operations are a high point of the week's training. On these exercises the men get a taste of the mission expected of them when they join their units.

### Sign On Helmet: 'Back Off Buddy'

**Da Nang (USMC)**— Messages in the form of bumper stickers abound on the highways of the United States.

They are beginning to blossom in the Republic of Vietnam in the form of printed messages on the back of helmets and flack jackets.

One seen on the helmet of a marine infantryman during Operation Independence read: "If you can read this you're too damn close Macl"

Specialist 4 Larry Keaton, Blackport, N.Y., now assigned to headquarters, 2nd battalion, 2nd Infantry, says, "I wouldn't want to be sent into combat without having gone through the CIC first."

## Signal Units Assist RVN College Students

**Qui Nhon (USA)** — Ten Vietnamese college students here have felt the impact of the U.S. Army—not as a fist of military might—but, as a helping hand through a voluntary Civic Action program.

The 10 students who attend Qui Nhon normal School, a two-year teachers college, were recently awarded scholarships made available through a fund drive of the 41st Signal Battalion, headquartered in Qui Nhon.

Lieutenant Colonel William F. McCormick Jr., 41st Sig. Bn. Commander, presented the scholarships of VN\$ 2,000 each to the student during ceremonies at the school.

He told the students, "We consider it a privilege to be able to help you continue your studies."

The ceremonies marked the culmination of a drive by 41st Sig. Bn. Chaplain Major Paul N. Mitchell, in which he collected donations totaling VN\$ 20,000 from units of the 40th and 41st Signal Battalions and the 578th Signal Detachment in the Qui Nhon Area.

According to Mr. Nguyen Truong Luong, school director, the scholarships were awarded according to the needs and scholastic achievements of the students. Mr. Luong said that

# Quick Thinking, Good Flying Saves MEDCAP Team From Mines

**Vo Xu (USA)** — Four members of a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) team were recently startled to find themselves standing in the middle of a mine field.

The medical personnel, all members of the 61st Medical Detachment, a support unit of II Field Force, had spent the day in a Vietnamese Army camp at Vo Xu, 50 miles northeast of Saigon in Bien Tuy Province. After treating villagers of Vo Xu and surrounding hamlets for their various ailments, the MEDCAP team boarded its helicopter to return to the II FFORCEV base area.

### Force Landing

Just after take-off, gusty winds caused the chopper to force-land in the elephant grass outside the camp. As a safety measure the pilot, Warrant Officer Jerry D. Shirley, Carmi, Ill., decided to ferry his passengers back to the compound in two loads. With a lighter load, the helicopter could maneuver better in the wind.

Four team members — Captain Robert A. Vitori, Clairton, Pa., dentist; Captain

Ronald F. Howard, Louisville, physician; Specialist 5 Julian C. Johnson, Greenville, S.C., and Specialist 5 John E. Hicks, Zephyr Hills, Fla., both medical aidmen — jumped off the craft into the field. After the helicopter lifted, Captain Vitori noticed soldiers inside the compound wildly waving signals at them that seemed to say, "Stay where you are; don't move!" Now guessing that they might be in a mine field, the men stood pat.

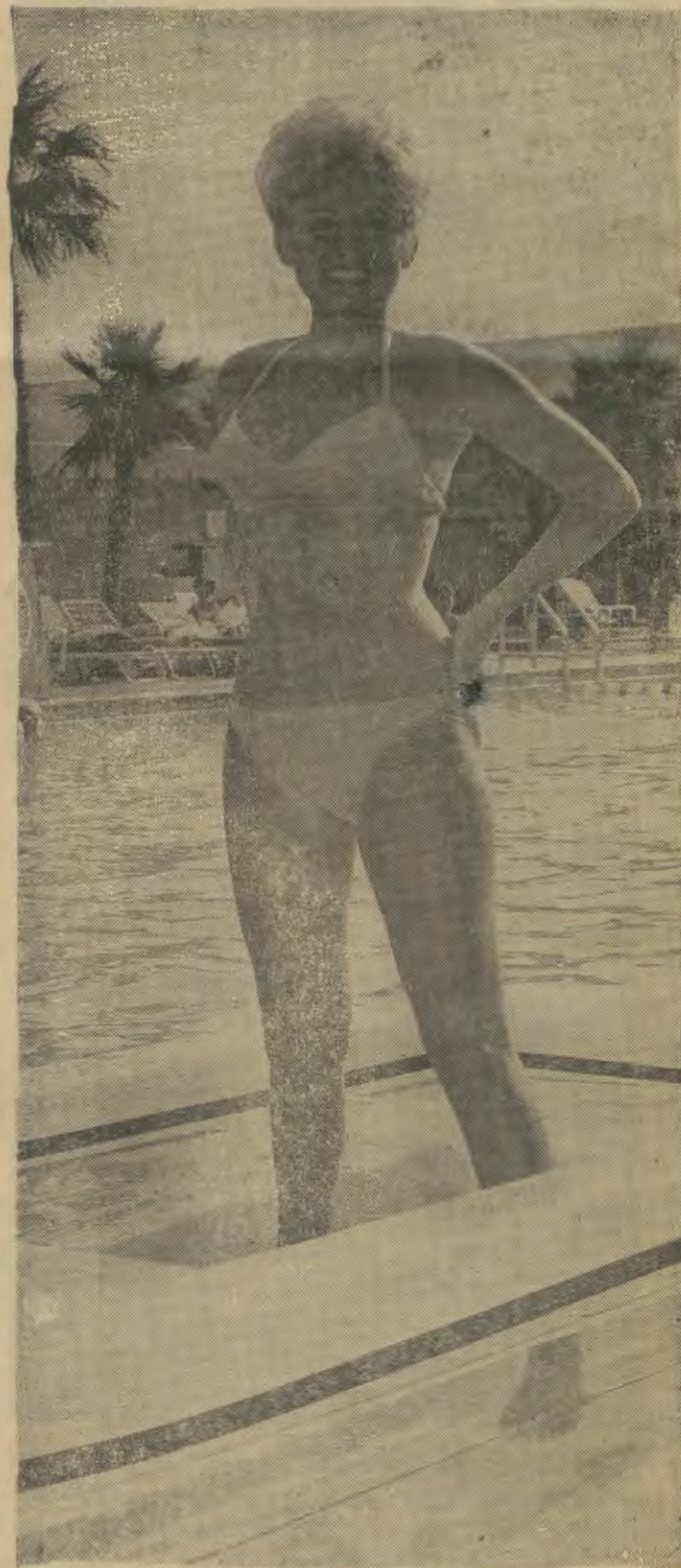
### Problem Solved

The problem now remained to extract the four individuals from the field without blowing a mine. After unloading the remaining passen-

gers and equipment inside the camp, Mr. Shirley and his co-pilot, Warrant Officer Robert T. McDaniels, Roanoke, Va., flew back over the mine field.

As the chopper hovered a few inches above the ground, Captains Howard and Vitori clambered aboard. They lifted, jockeyed sideways, and lowered beside Specialists Hicks and Johnson. All were lifted and flown safely away.

"The outstanding flying demonstrated that day gives me a great appreciation for the helicopter pilots who fly around the clock in support of Army operations here in Vietnam," said Captain Vitori.



**JANUARY JONES**— Can I be your March PIN UP??? (Las Vegas News Service)

### Contest Announced By Writers League

(AFWL) The \$100 in cash awards may be the least important aspect of the Armed Forces Writers League's Amateur Short Story Contest. The most important award to many will be the professional evaluation and criticism which each entry will receive.

The contest, which is open to military personnel, dependents, civilian employees, veterans and others interested in the Armed Forces, is for unpublished stories of 1,800 words or less on any subject and closes on April 1st.

All entries must be submitted on an official entry form which can be obtained by writing to the Armed Forces Writers League, George Washington Station, Alexandria Va. 22306.







## Hazardous Duty Is Just Routine For PBR Officer

By SSgt. George Hicks,  
USA Staff Writer

With the rivers and channels as his road map, Lieutenant Junior Grade Howard Hinds, Aurea Ill., a veteran of 250 river patrol missions and 30 fire fights, calls danger his business. As a patrol boat river (PBR) officer with River Patrol Section 532 in My Tho, he spends his time tracking down VC contraband.

"I've covered the Rung Sat area and the major waterways of the delta and just waiting for the action can be as tense as a lead throwing contest," remarked Hinds.

In contrasting the Rung Sat and the Delta, the lieutenant says that Rung Sat is more sophisticated in that most of the traffic is ocean type vessels and his operating area is only a five-mile zone. In the Delta his mission area stretches for 20 miles and the water traffic is made up of junks and sampans.

During a recent Delta Patrol the crew picked up a contact on radar which proved to be a junk. As the PBR closed its distance the VC fired small arms and antitank rockets. Returning fire the patrol boat crew killed three VC and sank the junk.

"When on the river the ambush is always a threat but accepting the hazards is part of the job. Knowing your area of operation is a big asset while on patrol," he explained.

In addition to operations, the patrol craft are used for rescues and medical evacuations on government outposts along the river.

"We have a 90-hour week," said Hinds, "and as a paradox I majored in printing management at Southern Illinois University but I still like out where action is."

# Navy Renovating French Military Base

Da Nang (USN)—Making a modern berthing cantonment out of an archaic former French military base is a challenging and expensive task.

Over \$6 million and the varied skills of hundreds of Naval and civilian constructionmen are being used to renovate Camp Tien Sha, the "home away from home" for sailors of the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang.

Life for these men consists of working 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week, providing logistical support for the more than 100,000 Allied troops in the I Corps

Area of South Vietnam. Their living conditions and recrea-

tional facilities have been limited.

## 4th Division Music Aids MEDCAP Mission

Plei Djereng (USA)—A new twist has been added to the civil affairs (S-5) program of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. Members of the division band have been accompanying the unit on Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) missions.

During a recent visit to the village of Plei Chorr

near the 2nd Brigade forward command post, a battalion MEDCAP team, under the direction of Captain Ronald W. Czepiel, Chicago, joined forces with five members of the band to provide entertainment to the villagers.

Medics conducted a sick call, distributed soap, and presented gifts to the villagers during the performance.

The rehabilitation program is designed to ease the burden of the Navy men by providing them with modern berthing areas and offering them a variety of things to do in their off-duty hours.

New tropical barracks are presently being constructed.

A recreation room and a TV room are included in each building. The old French barracks are being renovated and the living space of each man will be increased. Capacity of the camp will grow from 2,500 to more than 4,000 men. American plumbing and electrical fixtures are being installed to replace the present antiquated systems. Eventually, power for Tien Sha will be provided by a central power plant in lieu of the generators now being used.

Recreational facilities planned include a 1000-seat commercially designed theater, a large gymnasium, tennis courts, two softball fields, and an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Also, a new enlisted men's club will be built, combining a club and recreation center. This will be in addition to the present club, the Monkey Mountain Inn.

## Operation Junction City...

(From Page 1, Col. 5)

contact and quickly silenced the enemy.

Elements of Brigade Headquarters rapidly established the vital Tactical Operations Center. A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery, moved their air-dropped 105mm howitzers into firing positions. The other companies moved into preplanned positions to secure the battalion and brigade posts, and the fire support base.

During a sweep of the area Feb. 25, units of the 1st Infantry Division located 2 1/2 tons of rice, 1 1/4 tons of salt, four butterfly bombs, 500 pounds of dynamite and numerous documents. Elements of the 173rd Airborne located an enemy base camp containing two mess halls, three sleeping huts, five shelters, and assorted clothing and cooking equipment.

Artillery missions by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment accounted for 15 enemy killed Feb. 28. The missions were fired in support of units of the 1st Infantry Division in contact with an estimated two enemy platoons.

In a jungle sweep, a unit



AIRBORNE FIREPOWER—A paratrooper-artilleryman of the 173rd Airborne Brigade stands ready to derig a 105mm howitzer as it hits the drop zone. (USA Photo)

of the 1st Infantry located a large enemy training center base camp containing classrooms, mess halls, 22 structures and 142 underground fortifications.

During the first six days of the operation, the Army's 12th Combat Aviation Group transported more than 23,000 troops and delivered more than 3,900 tons of supplies. Air Force strike pilots flew more than 855 sorties in support of the operation.

Heavy contact was reported by the 1st Infantry Division on Feb. 28, while other II FFORCEV units in the operation reported sporadic contact. A squad from the 1st Infantry made contact with what was estimated to

be a unit large than an enemy company 18 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City. Tactical air and artillery were called in on the enemy positions, and reinforcements were heli-lifted into the area.

Friendly casualties were heavy in the company making the initial contact. Early reports indicated three enemy were killed.

During other sweeps through the jungles Feb. 28, units located 115 more tons of rice—bringing the total to 282 tons—and two more base camps. In the first week of Operation Junction City, 104 enemy were killed. Overall friendly casualties continue to be light.

## CIDG Troops...

(From Page 1, Col. 4)  
area.

In addition to the combat operations, a very active Revolutionary Development Program is underway to win the hearts and minds of the people over to the support of the government.

### Food Issued

During the past few months this camp has been responsible for having housed, clothed and fed over 2,900 refugees. Hundreds of pounds of wheat and rice were issued to feed them. A food issue will continue until their first crops are in.

Medical attention has been a primary concern of the Green Beret medical specialists and their Vietnamese Special Forces counterparts. They have given medical treatment to over 900 patients and 40 have been provided with dental care.

To launch the self-help program, a Montagnard Agricultural Training Center was opened, a poultry center constructed and a fish pond stocked.

The refugees are no longer refugees, but members of their own community. They are busily constructing their new homes and a feeling of a better way of life generally prevails.

### Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place Stamp  
Here

(16 cents Airmail)  
(10 cents 1st class)

TO:

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