VNAF Grows: Steps Into Jet Age

Staff Writer

Saigon (MACV)_Thirtyone Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) pilots have returned from Williams Air Force Base, Ariz., after completing the

Paris Ten Quy (ili Corps

10)- "They came up from

behind, firing and screaming

like banshees; I was sure

glad they were on my side,"

Captain Richard G. Whit-

comb, Seattle, advisor with

5th ARVN Division, said of

his battalion's assault in a

Binh Duong Province oper-

fantry, which had moved out

with 240 men under the com-

mand of Captain Le Ba Do,

was accompanied by Captain

Whitcomb, Staff Sergeant

Eugene R. Herman, Carona,

Calif., and Sergeant First Class Bobby L. Moore, Bir-

They had moved by foot

towards Binh My and in two

days the operation had des-

troyed 12 Viet Cong houses

moved forward, the right

flank received sniper fire and

one platoon was sent to

search the area. As the pla-

toon departed, the lead ele-

ments, unable to maneuver,

dug in and returned fire.

ed to the right, but were

stopped in four attempts to

The reserve element mov-

On the third day as they

mingham, Ala.

and six bunkers.

The 4th Battalion, 7th In-

stien.

By Sp4 Andy Barylski, USA, F-5 combat crew training course-the first step in the formation of VNAF's first "jet age" fighter squadron.

The first F-5 Freedom Fighters are beginning to arrive at the 23rd VNAF

The battalion commander

and three advisors came for-

ward and after Captain Do

shifted the base of fire, he

and the advisors stood up

and began firing while direct-

ing the attack on both flanks.

"I grabbed a BAR and was

Sergeant Moore related,

"Even the wounded, some

of whom were pretty bad off,

got up and went running at

the VC bunkers. It was the

proudest moment I've had

over here," said Captain

of the bunkers and were

chased 400 meters into the

jungle. In the bunkers they

had left behind two of their

dead. All five of the VC

bunkers were blown.

The Viet Cong pulled out



Wing, Bien Hoa Air Base. Together, the returned pilots and the new aircraft will form the nucleus of a squadron that will be officially activated on June 1, 1967.

In addition to pilot training, more than 120 VNAF officers and airmen are completing technical training courses in the United States to provide needed skills to support the new F-5 squadron. Five of the students have already returned and the remainder are scheduled to return in the next three months.

Last February, an Air Force Mobile Training Detachment joined the 23rd to provide maintenance training to aug-

Another complicating factor is that the conversion is coming at the end of an expansion period in which the VNAF more than doubled in size. Added to this, it was necessary to program the training without hurting the

THE OBSERVER



PREFLIGHT BRIEFING - Colonel Philip A. Rand, Saugus, Mass., goes over flight and panel controls of the F-5 Freedom Fighter with Lieutenant Colonel Duong Thieu Hung, 32nd Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) Wing commander. (USAF Photo)

VNAF. The Vietnamese Air Force flew more than 20 per cent of all air stikes within the Republic of Vietnam last year.

The true test of the program will come later when the operational sorties begin. With the VNAF conducting additional training, it will move the Vietnamese Air Force another step closer to becoming a modern, jet-age military force.

Yelling Like Banshees, ment the Stateside program. The VNAF F-5 conversion **ARVN Assault Bunkers** has created many unique training problems. Most other nations have converted from move forward. an older jet to the F-5, but The battalion, which had received its first fire at 4 p.m., VNAF is converting directly was still pinned down by from the slower, propeller automatic weapons fire from driven A-1H Skyraider. the bunkers an hour and 45 minutes later.

combat capability of the



By Sp4 Thomas Rhoades, USA

Saigon (MACV) - The Observer, the first service newspaper in Vietnam, will celebrate its fifth anniversary May 10 with its first issue printed in Japan. Previously the paper had been published using Vietnamese facilities.

As part of the program to curb piaster spending, the Observer will be printed at the Pacific Stars and Stripes

plant in Tokyo. The change of facilities will also help to reduce the cost and raise the quality of the newspaper.

A publication of the MACV Office of Information, Command Information Division, the Observer has been in Vietnam since May, 1962, and has been printed in the Dong-Nam-A print shop off Tu Do street in Saigon.

In Tokyo, the paper will take on a new look. It will be printed on letter press, with a new type face, better photo reproduction and a new headline style. There will also be provisions for three-color reproduction.

Already designed is a new flag (the identification nameplate at the top of the page) containing the MACV shield printed in red and yellow. The flag was designed by cartoonist Private First Class Anthony Ranfone of the Command Information Division.

Another major difference will be the use of column rule (the lines which separate columns). A smaller type base will allow the use of more stories and larger pictures.

The Observer and the 7th Air Force News, which will also begin printing in Tokyo in May, will join four other service newspapers already there which are serving troops in Vietnam the Army Reporter, the Sea Tiger, the White Elephant News and Tropic Lightning.

Indian Selt-t andering Learns

By Sp4 John Morgan, USA, Staff Writer

Can Tho (USA) - Some mericans, in attempting to up the people help th selves," have had difficulty in conveying to Vietnamese the motivating logic of "self-help." Mr. William H. King, a program director in the Can Tho office of US Agency for International Development, has found a method for success in recruiting Vietnamese for civic

projects.

at the VC."

Whitcomb.

To prospective volunteers he tells a simple story illustrating the logic of one helping another_the story of "The Wandering Indian":

"Over in India, there was a man who lived under a bridge. For clothes he had rags, and little food came his way, This Indian believed that when he died and went to heaven, he'd find clothes and a long table full of food there.

"When he died, this Indian

was so hungry, he seemed to be walking in an endless cloud. He came to a huge gate in a high stone wall.

"When he rang the clanger, the gate swung open. There before him was a great hall, and a long table laden with platters of rice, chicken, shrimp and hot tea. Seated along both sides of the table were many people with their left hands tied behind them. In their right hands they held chopsticks, more than a meter long!

"But these people were not eating! They were thin as reeds and wore rags. They poked at the food, but couldn't feed themselves. Their long chopsticks simply carried the food around behind their heads when they tried to eat.

"''Oi, number 10,' groaned the Indian. 'This place is not for me.' He wandered again through thick clouds, and grew so tired and hungry See Self-Help

(Pg. 12, Col. 3)

Survivor Income Can Be Assured

EDITORIAL

You are on your last assignment before you change from military uniform to civilian clothes and add your name to the retired list.

It's going to be pretty nice to either sit back and relax, or start that second career and receive your retirement check every month.

But remember, your retired pay stops when you die, it isn't passed on to your family.

For this reason, there is a voluntary survivorship annuity plan available which can provide an income for your widow and children.

Called the Retirement Servicemen's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), its purpose is to supplement per-



sonal insurance programs. It's a program for everyone, but especially for a serviceman who, for one reason or another, wasn't able to start a commercial insurance program during his twenties.

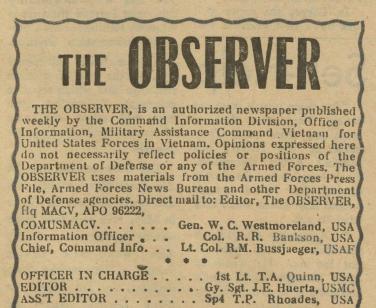
Under the plan the retired serviceman's eligible survivors will receive a monthly check until eligibility ceases.

The plan applies only to the family of the retired serviceman and there is no coverage until retirement. Families of active duty personnel are covered by other programs.

If you decide to enroll in the plan, you must do so before you complete 18 years' service for pay purposes or three years before the first day on which you will be entitled to receive retired pay.

If you're a bachelor, investigate the program anyway as situations can change before you retire.

To get all the information on the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, see your legal, personal affairs or career advisory officer. Plan now for retirement. (AFNB)





VA Expansion For Viet Vets

Washington (ALNS) __ The Veterans Administration program assisting returning Vietnam servicemen has been expanded.

Under the pilot program, with the cooperation of the Department of Defense, two VA representatives went to Long Binh to provide information about veteran's rights and benefits to men soon returning to civilian life.

Since then, the program, implemented to carry out President Johnson's wish to help the fighting man make adjustment to civilian life, has proved so successful that it has been expanded to include two more departing points, Cam Ranh Bay and Pleiku.

Opera Star Visiting VN

Saigon (MACV)—Richard Tucker, world-famed Metropolitan Opera tenor and ordained Cantor of the Jewish faith, is in Vietnam until May 2.

Mr. Tucker, accompanied by the Rabbi William F. Rosenblum, Rabbi Emeri'us of the Temple Israel of New York City, will sing the cantorial litanies for the Jewish Passover and Seder Service in Saigon.

He is performing troop concerts and visiting military hospitals throughout Vietnam during his 10-day visit.

1st Woman Marine Arrives In VN

Saigon (MACV) – The first Woman Marine to serve in Vietnam arrived on March 18, and has been assigned to the MACV Combat Operations Center in Saigon.

Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, San Francisco, received orders to Vietnam after spending two years at the Pairis Island Recruit Training Center in South Carolina as a Recruit Training First Sergeant.

She says that her first month here has been "most enjoyable as well as a challenge." When the question of extending was put to Sergeant Dulinsky, her only comment was, "I'll know 11 months from now."



Each payday, he said was the last, That he'd spend all his money so fast. But saving got harder

1.

And harder and harder Before long the whole year was past.

2.

One soldier kept buying her tea. Her money she gave the VC.

With the cash that she made,

Charlie bought a grenade.

The soldier said "Hon, you slay me."

3.

There once was a Colonel McFlea, Who was chewed out by General Lagree.

"How could you!" he slurred,

As he plucked the full bird, "Last month buy 10,000 'P'?"

The Colonel said, "Oh, I regret the loss, Bat it's my money, so I'm the boss."

And the General said.

With a shake of his head,

"So, away your money you toss."

"But what do you mean?" said McFlea, "Just what does it all mean to me?" "It means that this nation, Could die of inflation,

And happy will be the VC!"

Personal Piaster Purchases Plunge

Saigon (MACV) — Personal pister purchases dropped to an all-time low during the month of Mirch with MACV comptroller records reflecting an average individual purchase of \$18.88.

The trend toward the purchase of fewer plasters by individuals began in December and continued throughout the first three months of this year. Personal buying of "Ps" for the three-month period averaged \$22.15.

An all-out campaign to reduce personal piaster spending and to increase personal savings began in December and is continuing.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Edwin C. Heffellinger, recently appointed chairman of the MACV Piaster Expenditure Cont ol Working Group, "military personnel in all of the services throughout Vietnam have shown that they recognize and understand, the inflationary p oblem which Vietnam faces. They have shown an amazing response in doing their part to ease the situation."

Underlining the significance of the 'reduction, Colonel Heffelfinger listed personal purchases of pinsters for January as 1.29 billion piasters, for February, 1.02 billion and March .96 billion. This is a total of 3.12 billion piasters for the 3rd quarter FY 67 compared to 4.11 billion piasters purchased during the 2nd quarter FY 67.

With a view toward even further reduction in the personal spending of plasters, General W.C. Westmoreland, MACV Commander, has set a new goal of \$10.00 average expenditures for each individual. THE OBSERVER

Modern Medicine **Comes To Remote Highland** Village

Khanh Duong (USA) -For military personnel, sick call is an accepted part of the service. For the villagers of Khanh Duong in the Khanh Hoa Province, modern medicine is something new.

In this remote central highland province Captain John A. Goodworth, Beaver Falls, Pa., of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery has been treating the villagers since the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division began Operation Summerall in the area. A medical surgeon, he and medics from the 326th Medical Company and the 14th Engineer Battalion hold re gular sick calls for villagers at 8:00 each morning in a small hut behind the Khanh Duong High School.

Besides treating the villagers, the staff also acts as advisors to three Montagnard medics and a trained Vietnamese nurse. Quan, one of the medics who has a family of six, has been working in this area for nine years, spending most of this time away from from his family. Y'Phoc, another medic, travels, from place to place, his wife as his assistant.

"The villagers are mainly hampered by malaria, dysentery, skin diseases, and vitamin deficiencies," said Captain Goodworth.

241 Montagnards Walk To Security

Dong Ha (USMC) - After five years under Viet Cong domination 241 Montagnards picked up their belongings and walked off to put their trust in the Vietnamese government.

They came in four large groups from hamlets in the Khe Sanh area 35 miles southwest of Dong Ha. Men, women and children walked to the Ca Lu outpost manned by Marines of the Third Marine Regiment.

Sharing their C-rations with the refugees, the Marines arranged for transportation to truck the groups to the Hung Phu refugee center outside Cam Lo village.

Through interpreters, it was learned each Montagnard hamlet was constantly guarded by three or more guerrillas. For some reason, the guards left for a short period and it was then the villagers bundled up what belongings they could carry and walked away from their life-long hom.s.

Murder: VC Answer To RD MEDCAP Medics

Saigon (JUSPAO) - The peace and quiet surounding Suoi Chon hamlet, 48 miles northeast of Saigon, was shattered by a Viet Cong attack at 1 a.m. Sunday April 16.

When the attack broke off with the arrival of government troops five hours later, the Viet Cong left behind one third of the hamlet in flames and charred rubble, five Revolutionary Development cadre members dead, seven missing and three wounded. Three young and innocent girls lay on the ground, hands tied behind their backs, shot through the head.

Evidence showed that the Viet Cong's primary target was the RD cadre, proof of the effectiveness of the RD

program.

When the people of the villages turn to the government, the Viet Cong know that they have lost their chance for popular support of their guerrilla-type operations. Therefore, they must resort to murder - binding and shooting three young girls, whose only crime was trying to relieve the people's suffering and poverty.



MURDER — These three young Vietnamese girls were members of a Revolutionary Development team. VC terrorists tied their hands and shot them in the head. Two other RD members were killed, three wounded and seven missing. (Photo By JUSPAO)



AFTER VC VISIT - One third of Suoi Chon hamlet, 48 miles northeast of Saigon in Long Khanh Province, lay in flaming rubble. VC fled after the attack on April 16. (Photo By JUSPAO)

Miracle Workers

Dong Tam (USA)- Two nearly blind, elderly men who left the Ap Dinh Bolin hamlet near My Tho almost two months ago have returned to their homes able to see again.

Their plight was discovered by Captain Robert Sanford, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry surgeon, during a MEDCAP operation in the hamlet last March. The two men plus a young girl with a cleft palate and a partially blind patient were taken to the 93rd Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh for minor surgery.

Blindness like this is common among the Vietnamese people because many suffer from cataract growths over their eyes. The only cure is a minor surgical operation to remove the growth.

One old man had been blind, because of the cataract, since he was 18 years old. While tiding back to his home aboard a Caribou, the man was noticed gazing at his cigarette lighter. The interpreter said the old fellow had never seen his cigarette lighter before the operation on his eyes.

Woman's Patience **Brings Her To** 'Cood Samaritan'

Dong Ha (USAF) - In ending a Vietnamese woman's three-day search for medical help, Airman First Class Delma Ward, an air policeman with the 620th Tactical Control Squadron's Detachment 1, proved that the days of the "Good Samaritan" are not over.

While leading a routine sand convoy through the village of Gio Linh, near the Demilitarized Zone, Ward was approached by a Vietnamese woman and two small children covered with dirty bandages.

Through the aid of an interpreter, the woman related that her family had been awakened in the night by a mortar attack and a shell landed near their home killing her two oldest children and injuring her two daughters.

She told them that she had heard of an American medical man treating the people near Gio Linh and due to the condition of her children it had taken her three days to reach the village.

Ward then contacted his commander, who arranged for emgergency treatment. The children were later sent to the hospital ship Repose for further treatment.

25th Unit Fights Near Site Where Namesake Died

Cu Chi (USA) — "The 4th Battalion of the 23rd Infantry was wiped out after a heroic defense against Communist forces in a lengthy battle near Pleiku. The brave fighting force has ceased to exist."

So might have read the press obituary of an element of the 25th Infantry Division 13 years ago. The 4th Battalion was an all-French unit of the American 23rd Infantry Regiment which fought for three years in Korea.

After Korea, this battalion came to Vietnam where the French were engaged against the communist Viet Minh in the last years of the French action in Indochina.

As that war was approaching its disasterous end in July, 1954, the 4th Battalion was sent into battle in the Central Highlands near Pleiku. There on July 17 they were ambushed by a communist brigade.

In the hours that followed the 4th Battalion was hacked to pieces as the Frenchmen fought to the last man. The unit was decimated, leaving only a haunting memory of the brave men who had fought four years in two Asian wars.

Nine years later a new 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry, was organized and assigned to the 25th Infantry Division. Today that unit fights in Vietnam near Cu Chi, only a few miles from the ghosts of the old 4th Battalion.

Saigon (MACV) - "No man is above the law. and no man is below it."

This statement by Theodore Roosevelt, the 25th President of the United States, in his message to Congress in January, 1904, has been chosen as the theme for the 10th anniversary of Law Day USA on May 1, 1967.

Law Day USA is in recognition of our national heritage of individual freedom under law. It is an occasion for recognition by all Americans of the sacred rights secured to them under law

Wise Investment

Made By Seabees Da Nang (USN) — Men of the US Naval Mobile

Construction Battalion 58 are investing in a Vietnamese student's future. Twelve thousand piasters

(about \$100), enough to finance the student for a full year at the Central Bible School in the coastal city of Nha Trang, was collected from the Seabces' Easter Chapel offering.

Lieutenant Commander Robert E. Blade, the battalion's chaplain, presented the funds to the Reverend Hans L. Josephson, Christian Mission Alliance missionary, in Da Nang.

Reverend Josephson will use funds in support of a deserving student to prepare him for the ministry.

and the attendant duties and responsibilities which these rights entail.

In announcing the local observance of Law Day, General W.C. Westmoreland stated in a message to all servicemen in Vietnam:

"This day has been set aside by Congress and by proclamation of the President to remind us that adherance to the rule of law is basic in our society, essential to the welfare of every citizen, and to the stability and to the vitality of the

nation."

Law Day USA To Be Observed May 1

President Roosevelt's statement "captures the essence of our tradition of equal justice for all men. It reflects the basic aim of Law Day USA to strengthen the quality of justice, and to increase reliance upon law and independent courts in resolving the issues which confront us as individuals and as a people."

In America, the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are protected by law. In

today's complex society sespect for the law is vital to the preservation of our Iberties and to a free and orderly society.

General Westmoreland message continues, "Respect for the law and observance of Law Day 1967, and our very presence in Vietnam. demonstrate to the world our continuing efforts to secure for all peoples the way of life made possible through the institutions of law and justice."

"NO MAN IS ABOVE THE LAW, AND NO MAN IS BELOW IT."

AFAT Efforts Give Hope, Children May Hear Again By SFCA. Wakefield, USA, and what can be done to

Staff Writer

Lai Thieu (MACV) -Children of the Lai Thieu School for Deaf Mutes will have a chance to hear again due to Air Force Advisory Team (AFAT)-1's efforts in one of their Civic Action activities.

Most of the children were sent to the school without a medical examination and were doomed to a life of silence. Some, with adequate medical aid and attention, will be able to hear again.

Members of AFAT-1 provide that chance by period-ically transporting Captain Eldon E. Bell, medical advisor for VNAF, to the Lai Thieu school. He gives the children a thorough medical examination to determine their general health needs

restore hearing or partial hearing to the children.

Colonel Ben S. Catlin, chief, AFAT-1, who is directing the program to aid the school said, "The prospects are very encouraging, according to preliminary medical examinations by Captain Bell, to restore the hearing of some of the children by surgery and use of hearing aids."

The Lai Thieu School for Deaf Mutes is located 25 kilometers north of Saigon just out of the village of Lai Thieu. It is run by Catholic sisters who care for 305 deaf and 200 retarded children.

The school first came to the attention of Colonel Catlin through Captain Tan, civil engineer, 33rd Wing, VNAF.

Frail Viet Girl A Chieu Hoi Worker

Dau Tieng (USA) - A frail-looking Vietnamese girl, Miss Phan Thi Bich Thuy, wears sneakers, fatigues and a black baseball cap with a Chieu Hoi emblem on it and does work cut out for a man.

Late one night, the troops of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division moved out on a two-and-one-half-mile march through the Michelin rubber plantation to search a village. Miss Thuy, a Chieu Hol worker attached to Advisory Team 91 at Dau Tieng, tagged along carrying ner equipment slung over her small back.

Five hours later, after the village was encirled with troops, Miss Thuy moved into it with a loudspeaker telling the people that their village was surrounded and anyone trying to leave would

be 2 Viet Cong suspect. She instructed them to leave their homes and assemble in the market area while a search team looked for weapons and supplies.

When the viliagers had assembled, Miss Thuy told them that they had nothing to fear from the 4th Division soldiers and that none of their homes would be damaged.

Later in the morning as the search continued, Miss They worked with women preparing a huge meal with food flown in by a 4th Division chopper from the 3rd Battalion's base camp.

"Everytime another Viet Cong comes back under the Chieu Hoi program. I like my job better," said Miss Thuy as she leaned back in her hammock resting from a long and satisfying day's work.



SILENCE WITH HAPPINESS-The kids are enjoying it. Captain Garry L. Ratliff, AFAT-1, scoops up two of the children at the Lai Thieu School for Deaf Mutes during the team's visit to the school. (Photo by SFC A. Wakefield, USA)

Medic Saves Lives Of 14 Young Girls

Bong Son (USA)- Quick action by medic Private First Class Larry A. Flanagan in credited with saving the lives of 14 teenage Vietnamese girls in My Tho village who were wounded when a combination grenade-claymere mine booby-trap was tripped.

PFC Flanagan, in the village wi h the Civil Affairs Teams of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, was summoned by a panting ARVN soldier to return with him to the scene of the disaster. When he asrived there, he found four children dead and 15 others seriously wounded.

Flanagan set to work. When he had used up all his tourniquets and blood expanders, the ARVN soldiers gave him their belts, and clothing for use as tourniquets.

A Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) helicopter picked up the bandaged mine victims and brought them to the 3rd Brigade's aid station.

The 14 girls are now back in My Tho, a coastal village in Binh Dinh province, thanks to PFC Flamagan, who plans to become a doctor when he leaves the Army.

Field Exercise Provides OJT

Saigon (MACV)- While participating on a field exercise near the ARVN Armor School at Thu Duc 18 miles north east of Saigon, a class of the armor vehicle commanders engaged in combat with an unknown number of Viet Cong.

The surprising clash took place on April 14, 1967, resulting in the capture of one weapon and two Vist Cong killed. The student force suffered two slightly wounded.



3

WHO'S FIRST — These schoolgirls from Long Thanh have just entered the 9th Infantry **Derivice's base camp** dented clinic, and are still smiles while preparations are made for the first patient.



OUCH!!— Tears come to the eyes of this young Long Thank schoolgirl as she has a tooth pulled by a 9th Division dentist. Despite the ache and pain... she thanked him for his work which ended a long-time toothache.

Eager Girls Visit Dentist, Unsure, But Then Relieved

Long Thanh (USA) — The a bar mate, chatty class of village an and: and: and: and: and: and: big, tall American led the volume first young "customer" into inside



Long Thanh (USA) — The a back room. Moments later per, chatty class of village an electric drill revved up, and:

> "Yeoow!," came the first volunteer's response from inside. Choi oi! The excitement of having the morning off from school turned to quiet apprehension as the group of more than 20 Phuoc Loc Primary School children waited their turns at the 9th Infantry Division's Bearcat base dental clinic.

A few of the girls backed into a corner, hoping they might be by-passed. Two of their teachers, Miss Thong Anh and Miss Kim Anh, helped the American doctors talk with the children and put them at ease.

They spent two hours at the clinic, having teeth pulled, cavities filled and teeth cleaned.

The morning's work was part of a civilian medical assistance program, with Dr. Ronald Berman doing the dentistry.

Sergeant First Class Stanley

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Matsumoto, a Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, medical advisor, has been working to establish a continuing program of dental hygiene for Long Thanh villagers.

"When I first came to the

Long Thanh area I saw that none of the children brushed their teeth," said Sergeant Matsumoto. He has been here for nearly a year giving oral hygiene and English language instruction to children.



THOW II— Children snap their attention to the back room of the dental clinc where one of their character just had a tooth pulled, expressing her opinion of the situation in a loud role. All 20 of the girls, age six through 14, were checked by the dental team.

SWEATING IT OUT — Nervously awaiting their turns in the chair, these girls take in everything that is happening to their friends. They didn't like the looks of the anesthetic needle or the sounds of their peers.



Page 5

From The Pacific To Australian 'Diggers'

Saigon (MACV) - No one has to tell the American soldier he has a good ally, good fighter and good buddy in the Australian "Digger" soldier who stands with him in the Free World effort in Vietnam. Accomplishments speak for themsleves.

Australians came to Vietnam more than a dozen years ago with a 20-man team of civilian advisors. In 1964, Australia beefed up its civilian effort with a medical team.

Military aid dates back to not better, than they 1962 when a 100-man Army Training Team came to Vietnam to give instruction in jungle warfare. Jungle fighting is an old Digger specialty. From the island hopping of World War II to the Malaysian conflict in the early 1960s, the Australians have fought the jungle war.

"The Viet Cong have nothing up on us," says one Australian. "We know their fighting methods as wel', if The Digger never sti the beaten jungle paths moving on an operation

"We make our own through the underbrush the best way to travel keeps us more than a ahead of the VC." sorry Charlie that r with a Digger.

Australian advisory e include a detachment the Royal Australian Force which flies in su







CRENADE -- "Here's how it's done," instructs Private Reg Lilywhite, Brisbane, as he demonstrates proper "Digger" technique for chucking a grenade

PALS — Youngsters at a Vietn near Bien Hoa join a buddy fo

lalaysia To Vietnam, wer Call For Freedom

ietnamese ground mis-. Advisors also give alized training in onry and tactics.

tivity in support of the overlooked by the Ausns. A 55-kilowatt radio n in Ban Me Thuot hours of listening ure to Montagnards as to an extensive Ausin project. Two Ausns have remained with station to give technical

assistance.

Australia has provided Vietnam with thousands of badly needed goods and materials; including generamese people has never ators, hand tools, communications equipment, corrugated iron, road building equipment, two fire trucks for the Vietnamese Navy and scores of school sets for the educational effort.

When the call comes for

aid in the fight for freedom anywhere in Asia, the men from "Down Under" will always be found in the front lines.

Drawings By **PFC Anthony Ranfone**, USA, Staff Cartoonist



ol built for them by Australians

DIGGER DOCTOR - "Come along now, mate, it doesn't hurt that much," says Captain John Reftery, Sydney, as he examines the foot of a young patient



Medics Double As Good Will Ambassadors

Long Binh (USA) — "Huey....You want a number one shine?" These words from a young Vietnamese thoeshine boy looking for a boot to black were his introduction to members of the 1st Logistical Command's 68th Medical Group Headquarters, and led to a new home for a needy family.

Provider

The responsibility to provide food, clothing, and shelter for his mother, brothers and sisters fell on 11year-old Sam Sau who shined thoes in the street of Bien Hoa and nearby Tam Hiep. Here on a dusty street corner he met Specialist 5 David Black, Bellevue, Wash. Specialist Black, who has since returned to the US, visited Sam's family and gave some new clothes to the youngster. He also helped the family repair and improve their home.

Interpreter

English lessons began when the "medic ambassadors" discovered Sam trying to teach his limited English to his family. On weekends, Sam visits the unit where Specialist Black and others furnished him a salvaged bed and wall locker. He soon was elected mascot of the group, learned to play basketball and improved his English.

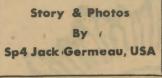
School

When school started, Specialist 4 Donald R. White, Roaring Spring, Pa., and Specialist 4 Joe A. Callaci, Chicago, bought Sam new clothes and enrolled him in a private school in Bien Hoa. Tuition was donated by the officers and men of the 68th Group Headquarters.

English Lessons

Each day after school, Sam returns to the unit where he serves as an interpreter between Vietnamese workers and the Americans.

Finally, the family was provided a better home when members of the headquarters donated scrap lumber to help the family build a new home.





LESSONS — Knowledge of the English language is a must for little Sam Sau. Giving Sam his lessons is Specialist 4 Donald R. White, one of Sam's sponsors.



TRAINING — Specialist 4 Joe A. Callaci shows 11-year old Sam San how to make his bed with a military fold.

PIRSI DAY — Specialist 4 Richard A. Bassett, Afton, Okla., escorts Sam to school in Bien Hoa. Sam enrolled with tuition donated by members of the unit. Despite his "homework" — English lessons—Sam also finds time to get in a few games of basketball, taught to him by his new friends.

Combined Force Foils Viet Cong Saigon (USN) – When In physical fitness, he rier, USS America. Other Since there are no make sandoring men cell him computer hetter than some attack and Support carriers ordents in his family of

Binh Phuoc (USA) — A combined force of 9th Infantry Division and Regional and Popular Force (RF/PF) soldiers made an assault on an enemy stronghold resulting in 120 enemy bunkers destroyed.

A Company of the 3rd Brigade's 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry, acting on intelligence reports that Ap Binh An hamlet was a Viet Cong district headquarters, coordinated the airmobile assault with district officials who called the provincial reconnaisance force into the action.

"We believe that success of this operation is due in part to close cooperation between district officials, Regional and Popular Forces and the battalion," said Major David R. Cowles, battalion executive officer.

Ap Binh An is located in the southern portion of Binh Phuoc district, about 20 miles southeast of Saigon, and has long been used by enemy units for supply and communication routes between the Rung Sat and the Plains of Reeds in IV Corps.

Tan Son Nhut (USA) -

A four-propged program has

been implemented by US

Army Vietnam (USARV) to

continue the advancement of

the Vietnamese serviceman's

Labeled"Project Assist," the

housing,

program is aimed at improv-

standard of living.

ing

• dependent

Saigon (USN) — When some seafaring men call him "Pop" he never answers, for us he puts it, "There's no such thing in the Navy."

Almost 70, Steward First Class Domingo Membrot receives the rare measure of respect that most shipmates who know the jovial Filipino affectionately address him as "Mr. Membrot."

Now a crew member in the division which caters daily to almost 500 officers, civilians and dignitaries aboard the attack aircraft carrier Enterprise, he first joined the US Navy in 1918 at Cavite, P.I. Mr. Membrot also served briefly in the Philippine National Guard.

Remembering the days of our sailing Navy and wooden hull ships, Mr. Membrot claims to be the oldest sailor in service. His sea stories are as convincing as a world history textbook.

"I like to enjoy life while I have it," relates the youthfully energetic steward-cook who was born at Camalaniugan, Cagayan on Luzon July 24, 1897. No one doubts his determination, although some find it hard to match.

rations, troop billets and the

Republic of Vietnam Armed

Forces (RVNAF) commissary

program is related to the

Vietnamese serviceman's new

role in the Revolutionary

Development Program.

"Those who are engaged in

The importance of the

IIIC

system.

In physical fitness, he competes better than some of the teenagers aboard. Until recently when his work schedule increased, a workout in the ship's gym or a lap around the four-acre flight deck was daily routine.

Except for nine months, Petty Officer Membrot's entire naval career has been spent on the high seas. He remembers serving on nearly 30 ships many of which are now long forgotten.



Mr. Membrot

Before reporting to the nuclear-powered Enterprise, Petty Officer Membrot served on the newest aircraft car-

a program to improve the

status and well-being of

others must themselves

understand and experience

the fruits of progress," ex-

plained Colonel Charles R.

Graham, Deputy G-4, Military Assistance Office, USARV. rler, USS America. Other attack and support carriers he has served on include the Monterey, Tarawa, Lexington and Ticonderoga.

Presently assigned to the admiral's wardroom on the Enterprise, Mr. Membrot is almost as experienced in serving admirals and dignitarles as he is in the culinary profession itself. Presidents, dukes, princesses and countless other heads of state and military leaders are among those who have sampled his cuisine and received the service of Mr. Membrot and his fellow stewards.

After leaving the Philippines in July, 1918, Domingo Membrot traveled around the world several times, crossing the equator on 10 occasions, before returning to his 74year-old sister Maria in 1964. Since there are no male decendents in his family there, Mr. Membrot has been sole provider for 14 relatives since 1948.

Three dependents attend college in Manila at his expense. "I give them everything I have," he says of his family, "and I try to make them study."

In 1924, Mr. Membrot left the Navy to raise his own family, only to return during World War II. He again left the service in 1947 for about three years, but again returned stating, "About that time I decided to make the Navy my career."

A naturalized citizen of the US, he not only speaks near perfect English but is proficient in Spanish, French, some Italian and five Philippine dialects.

Former VC Mourn Death Of Marine

Phu Bai (USMC) — Two memorial services were held for Marine Staff Sergeant Gordon Lee Hogan here one by Marines at Force Logistic Support Group ,A (FLSG-A); the other by former Vist Cong at the Chieu Hol village nearby.

"Gordon Hogan was the kind of character you read about," say his friends.

An Irish-American; Staff Sergeant Hogan worked as

New Procedures For VN Draft Dodgers

Saigon (MACV)—A memorandum published by the Vietnamese Joint, General Staff outlines new procedures for better utilization of draft dodgers.

Apprehended draft dodgers will be required to serve one additional year in service upon completion of their required obligation. The additional year will not count toward military service kongevity. For those who voluntarily report for duty, an additional year will not be required.

Draft dodgers serving prison terms may have their sentences suspended and be inducted into the military services.

Apprehended draft dodgers will be processed immediately for induction into military service and will not be prosecuted. However, those who prove physically unfit for service will be processed for prosecution. civil affairs noncommisioned officer for FLSG-A and operated primarily with the Hoi Chanh (former Viet Cong who defected to the South Vietnamese government under the Chieu Hoi prog am).

The Vietnamese loved Hogan and he reciprocated. He had been in South Vietnam 19 months, and had just recently extended for a second time.

Staff Sergeant Hogan drove the men as one would drive professionals — seeking perfection. As dedicated to Hogan as he was to them, the Hoi Chanh would go nowhere without him.

Hogan and his Hoi Chanb worked as scouts for 3rd Marine Division units operating near Phu Bai.

On April 1, Staff Sergeant Hogan and his Hoi Chanh were bringing an armed Vietnamese propaganda team into the area. Hogan and two others were at the point when the Viet Cong ambushed the team.

Two automatic rifle bursts caught Hogan in the chest. He fell firing a full magazine into his assailant before he died.

DOD Report

D.O.D.— During WWII some 23 per cent of all medically evacuated Army cases were returned for psychiatric reasons. Percentage evacuated from Vietnam has been approximately six per cent. This is the lowest rate recorded in any previous conflict involving US Forces.



"That close arlillery support really gives a guy confidence, eh Lieutenant?"

A trial phase of Project Assist is the planned construction of over 9,000 dependent housing units in the III Corps Tactical Zone. USARV is to provide the material while the Vietnamese do the actual construction

do the actual construction work. US "buddy" units will provide assistance to the Vietnamese units. If the venture is successful, similar projects may be implemented in other areas.

Project Assist also aims to upgrade the Vietnamese commissary system. It is designed to provide military personnel and their families with major food and sundry items at below market costs.

Among proposals to improve the Vietnamese serviceman's rations is a system of 14 farms that would raise cattle, pigs, goats, poultry and vegetables. Excess US canned meats are already being added to the military diet.

Development of troop billets, the fourth area of Project Assist, is already underway. The cost in being shared by the Vietnamese and US governments.

Green Berets Rustle Cattle

Phu Tai (USA) — In a rare switch of roles, an enterprising group of greenbereted Special Forces troopers, using Army helicopters as their trusty steeds, rustled 15 head of cattle from a Viet Cong stronghold 15 miles west of Da Nang.

The cattle were presented as a gift to ARVN troops preparing to celebrate a Vietnamese holiday at Hoi An, about 20 miles south of the enemy strongold. At first the Green Berets had planned to hold a cattle drive south to the ARVNs' camp, but this idea was ruled out because of heavy enemy activity in the area.

Instead, the cattle were loaded aboard choppers from the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company based in Da Nang and brought to the ARVN camp. The cattle had to be g i v en tranquilizer shots before they could be loaded and tied aboard the choppers.

50 APO's In VN

Saigon (MACV)— There are over 50 APO numbers used in Vietnam. To insure that your mail is de'ivered on time, inform your correspondents of the correct APO number for your unit.



COUNTY FAIR— Two Vietnamese Popular Force troops hand out rice to villagers during "County Fair" held by Marines of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Division. Marines provided security for Navy doctors and corpsmen while Popular Force troops searched the hamlets for Viet Cong during the "county fair." (USMC Photo)

oudspeaker Appeals Follow Strikes

Da Nang (USAF) — As soon as the Air Force F-4C Phantom had unleashed all its ordnance on the Viet Cong target, U-10B Courier pilot Captain Wendell L. Anderson, Minneapolis, radioed, "Can I play my tapes now?" "Roger, you're cleared," answered the forward air controller.

Captain Anderson circled in over the smoldering target, playing a taped message in Vietnamese to the surviving VC through a loudspeaker carried by the U-10B.

This a favorite tactic of the psychological warfare pilots of Flight A, 9th Air Commando Squadron at Da Nang air base. Following air strikes, they broadcast a Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) message offering good treatment to VC who desert their ranks.

"Our broadcasts are most effective after an air strike," says Captain Anderson. "That's when the VC usually decide to take advantage of the Chieu Hoi pass."

Records of VC defectors show that the majority of them defected as a result of hearing a psywar aircraftdelivered "advertisement."

"This is the most important job in this country," said Captain Anderson, "proving the falseness of the VC cause."

Preceding and following Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, Flight A more than doubled its psywar efforts.

Suggestions Pay

Washington (AFNB) — The Army received 43,877 suggestions during fiscal-year 67 and approximately one out of every four was adopted.

Cash awards for these suggestions amounted to \$468,573 dollars with firstyear tangible benefits totaling \$13.5 million dollars. Captain Anderson flew 100 hours — half of them over targets—during February.

"In January, we were credited with 258 defectors," he continued. "The count for February was 277. Each man's case is almost identical; the man heard our broadcast, missed his family and was tired of the hard life of the VC."

Pony Express Gallops Again

Dong Ha (USA) — Use of "Giobaska," a Vietnamese pony, by Private First Class Roger G. Zehr, Normal, Ill., the A Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery's unit mail clerk, to deliver the mail, proves the "day of the horse" isn't dead after all.

The pony was found wandering in a mine field near the Demilitarized Zone by Staff Sergeant Joe Johnson and Private First Class Patrick McClellan, who were laying a mine field nearby. After gently leading the horse to safety, with the aid of C-ration treats, they coaxed him into their truck and drove him back to A Battery.

A week or so passed and no one came to claim the pony, which by this time had been dubbed "Giobaska" by the men of the Battalion.

One day, Private First Class Zehr saw Giobaska and thought of a way to speed up the mail as well as make his work a little easier. The Pony Express had come to Vietnam.

Now, as well as being a unit mascot, Giobaska is used to plck up mail each day at the battalion mail room (with Zehr on her back) and deliver it to the men of the 1st Buttalion. Says PFC Zehr, "Giobaska is the hit of mail call."

PLAYMATE — In Hony Kong even movie stars take time out for R&R once in a while. Here Jenny Hu cools off between pictures. Jenny invites YOU to Hong Kong, on R&R or anytime. (Photo by Shaw Bros.)

Viet Cong Becomes A Chieu Hoi Singer

Chu Lai (USMC)— The loudspeaker at the company command post blared music throughout the countryside. The song was rallying for the Chieu Hoi program and the singer was a Hoi Chanh

Mechanics Expand Into Tooth 'Repairs'

Vung Tau (USA) — Mechanics of the 53rd General Support Group Transportation Motor Pool have added a new touch to their maintenance routine by installing a set of teeth for one of their Vietnamese employees.

Although the actual "repairs" were not performed by the men themselves, the money they collected made it possible for Mr. Cao Van Loc to have false teeth made by a local Vietnamese dentist.

Specialist 4 Dennis L. Brost, Medford, Wis., who has been working with Mr. Loc since his arrival in Vietnam last June, was the promoter of the gesture. "He's a number one worker, trustworthy and dependable, so we wanted to do this for him to show our apprecation," explained Specialist Brost. urging Viet Cong hiding in caves to rally to the cause and come over to the Government of Vietnam's side.

After his song, the rallier made an enthusiastic speech about the advantages of the Chieu Hoi program, urging the civilians as well to come to the company area.

The effort was spearheaded by a "psyops" team from the 244th Psychological Operations Company attached to III Marine Amphibious Forces, working with Vietnamese National Police, the Kit Carson scouts and local village elders to broadcast their messages to the Viet Cong and civilians in the hamlet of Chau Binh I during Operation Boone.

"I spent nine months in the field before I was chosen for the 'psyops' company," said Corporal Paul E. Rapp, Jr., Merritt Island, Fla. "I've found that the force of ideas in Vietnam could be a more important factor than the force of arms."

In addition to the team's ground efforts, leaflets were dropped, messages were broadcast from aircraft and movies were shown to the people in the villages.

May 1, 1967

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THE OBSERVER

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| | | BEETLE BAILEY | BY MORT WALKER |
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| Armed Forces | Television, RVN | BR BONALS, V TAB GENERAL 19 | |
| Chanı | nel II | TO TAKE YOU AROUND AND JOT | Pr w Case and the lot |
| Guide for week of | - May 1-7, 1967 | COMPANY DOWN ANY DIGNS | The rot rot co a |
| (Programs Subject To | Change Without Notice) | 1 3 TESTIMAN | |
| MONDAY (May 1) | SATURDAY (May 6) | | |
| 4.30 News Headlines I've Got A Secret 7:00 The Flintstones | 12:00 Encyclopedia Britannia Social Security | | |
| 7130 News & Sports | 12:30 Jim Bowle | 1-51-6 | |
| 1:00 Combat 9:00 Bewitched | 1:00 Daniel Boone 2:00 Roy Acuff | | |
| 9.30 Third Man ~40:00 Dean Martin Show | 2:30 Beverly Hilldettes | | JOT JOT JOT UT UT IT'S EXCITING SEENS |
| TUESDAY (May 2) | 3:00 Andy Griffith 3:30 Sports of the West | | TO BE TOT TOT TOT TOT TOT TOT TOT |
| 6130 News Headlines | 6:00 Lost in Space | The series in the | |
| Green Acres 7:00 My Favorite Martian | 7:00 M-Squad 7:30 News and Sports | | W |
| 7:30 News & Sports 8:00 Big Valleg | 8:00 Jackle Gleason | 000 | |
| 9:00 Garry Moore Show © 0:00 Entertainment Special | 9:00 Hollywood Palass 10:00 Saturday Night At The Musice | | 9300° E 60 |
| WEDNESDAY (May 3) | SUNDAY (May 7) | | |
| 4:30 News Headlines | 12:00 Chapel of the Atr | NEXT HELLO, ZERO. DR. BONKUG, | DE BONGE NOVIRE ANY OTHER YOU'RE |
| Information Feature -7:00 Batman (Part 1) | 12:30 Educational Special | BONKUS DE VIGO | C 2 DR. BONKUS |
| 7:30 News & Sports 8:00 Perry Mason | 1:30 Sunday Matines 3:00 Sports of the Week | Perturanter States | 200 - BOBBE |
| *9:00 Joey Bishop Show 9:30 Channel 11 Theater (Movie) | 5:30 CBS Sports Special | | |
| | 7:00 Big Picture 7:30 News & Sports | | |
| THURSDAY (May 4) 0130 News Headlines | 7:30 News & Sports 8:00 Dick Van Dyks | 12 12 12 10 1 | dute An ca |
| G.E. College Bowl | 8:30 Get Smart | and the other sectors have been also been | |
| 7:00 Batman (Part II) 7:30 News & Sports | 9:00 Bonanza 10:00 Ed Sullioan Show | PEANUTS By Cartoonist- | Of-The-Year Charles M. Schulz |
| 6:00 12 O'Clock High 9:00 The Fagitive | Alata These some shows | | |
| © 0:00 Red Skeleton Show | (Note: These same shows can be seen in other | HARD WORLD - FOR ALL THE KEEP RIGHT KEEP RIG | DO YOU REALIZE THAT SOMEWHERE THIS VERY MOMENT A CHILD IS BEING BORN ? |
| FRIDAY (May 5) 6:30 News Headlines | areas as follows:) | ABIES BORN for | WHERETER TOU ARE |
| Information Feature 7:00 Addams Family | Qui Nhon - May 22-28 | | |
| 7:30 News & Sports 8:00 Gunsmoke | Da Nang - June 12-18 | | |
| 9:00 Danng Kaye | Pleiku — July 3—9 Nha Trang — July 24—30 | the second with strike | |
| Vito the Longh Show | | PERSONAL RIGHT SAID | TINI HALA |
| CROSSWORD PUZ | Answer to Previous Puzzle | THE CAT. AND THIS TAIL AND ENDING WITH THE GRIN, TUME IT VANISHED UNICH REMAINED SOME TIME QUITE SLOWLY. AFTER THE REST OF IT HAD GONE. | To be That For YEARS: |
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| ACROSS 3-Container 4-At that time 5-Long-legged | EN ANIMATE MI DA SEAL DABS | | BOB SI |
| vestment - bird 4-At that place 6-Spanish | BITS SILK BEE IDEAS DENT RS | | Dalles the postime of the |
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| 13-Girl's name B-Man's name 14-Ordinance 9-Carpenter's | ALA TALCEARL PALM SALE TA | CONSCIENTS SURE N (HAVE TO PRER) ALLOCES RENAMER AND SHE SAW THIS FRIMMING CAT UP IN A TREE ? | THE CAT DISAPPEARED LITTLE BY LITTLE UNTIL CALLY IT'S GRINWAS LEFT I ALWAYS LIKED THAT MART |
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| victorious 30-Sink in middle 33-Pronoun 32-Scold 36-Armed conflict | 49-Adhesive 60-Vessel's curved substance planking 52-Dampens 63-Compass point | (i (SER) A CAT WI HOUT) IT'S THE MOST CURIOUS THING A GRIN, THOUGHT / IT'S THE MOST CURIOUS THING | A CONDITIONED REFLEX! |
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Hilitary Policemen with the lst Infantry Division's 3rd "Iron" Brigade are rapidly beloming local counterparts of "Doctor Kildare" and "Doctor Casey."

Specialist 4 Eric Jakubowth, Chicago, and Private First Class Joseph D. Laruffa, Lockport, N.Y., earned the micknames after a distress call in the village of Lai Khe.

While on a jeep patrol, they received a call that a Vietnamese woman needed

Cranes Help Span Cai River Bridge

Tuy Hoa (USA) — The hest major obstacle along Highway One between Tuy Hoa and Qui Nhon is being bridged.

The obstacle is the Cai River, north of Tuy Hoa. Army of the Republic of Vietnam's (ARVN) 61st Engineer Battalion, 6th ARVN Engineer Group, was assigned the task of bridging the 1,000 foot gap.

The job began simply enough, but the ARVN engineers soon became faced with a major problem. How would they lift into place several 60-foot preconstructed metal spans, each weighing approximately nine tons? The problem was solved by enlisting a CH-54 Sky Crane helicopter to put the spans in place. aid at the Lai Khe Hospital. Jakubowski put in a call for a medic while enroute to the Hospital.

At the hospital, they found a young woman in labor. Waiting for the medic, it became apparent that mother nature was going to beat him to the hospital. Jakubowski looked at Laruffa helplessly and said, "Well 'doctor', I guess it's up to us."

A few minutes later the sound of the approaching ambulance was drowned out by the crying of a new seven pound boy.

Early the next morning Specialist Jakubowski and PFC Laruffa were again patrolling in the jeep when they were hailed by a group of people beside the road.

Resorting to broken French and Vietnamese, Specialist Jakubowski found out one of the women was ab ut to have a baby. Quickly putting the women in their jeep, they headed for the small hospital only a short distance away.

This time they were in in luck as a Vietnamese midwife was present to help the woman in her delivery. Apparently the news of Specialist Jakubowski's ability in pediatrics had spread through the village as the Vietnamese midwife insisted that he stay and help her.

A short time later, Specialist Jakubowski rejoined PFC Laruffa in front of the hospital with the report that it was another boy.

Slow – Wide

Bong Son (USA)—On the surface My Tho looks like a typical Vietnamese community in Binh Dinh Province. However, it has had a violent history in recent years.

Established as the headquarters of the 92nd North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment in 1964, My Tho was severely blasted by American artillery about a year

Self Help...

From P-1, Col. 4)

he began chomping his own beard.

"Finally the Indian came to a second iron gate, and entered another great hall with another long table piled with food. Here, too, a host of people were gathered along both sides of the marvelous table. Their left hands were also tied behind, and their right hands held long chopsticks. But the Indian saw at once that these folk were a boistrous and happy crew, chattering and laughing. They were plump and well-clothed, and were having a feast.

"'How is this true?' asked the Indian, tottering toward the head man of the table. Only then did the Indian see that these well-fed people were using their long chopsticks to reach across the table to each other, each one feeding another!"

Load

ago. Today, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces occupy it and hope to make it a showplace for what the South Vietnam government can do for its people.

Government Revolutionary Development (RD) teams of doctors, teachers and agricultural advisors have been working with 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's medics and civil affairs experts under ARVN security. Four Catholic priests have recently returned to teach. They had been forced to flee when the Viet Cong entered the area in strength.

Why all this concern for a village of only 3,000? My Tho's geography is the answer.

It is surrounded by the most productive rice country in central Vietnam. Other than the primary crop, rice, its people also farm large quantities of potatoes, onions and tobacco. Both the Viet Cong and the South Vietnamese government consider this an important region to control.

Says Major John W. Schnieder Jr., Kingston, N.Y., "If we can pacify My Tho, we'll have accomplished our first big step in a new way of life for the people of this region. It's a critical area in Vietnam. The people harvest over two million tons of rice a year and I'll bet they have no less than 800 head of cattle. They could stop working for the next four years and still have enough to eat."

A daily sick call is being conducted in the village and construction has just been completed on a central market place built entirely by the people themselves with technical and material assistance from the Americans.

ARVN Boot Camp Provides Realistic Field Exercise

That Son (IV Corps IO)— Vietnamese Army training exercises sometimes become the real thing when Viet Cong are encountered just outside the cantonment area of the Chi Lang National Training Center in the Mekong Delta.

The Center, 16 km from the Cambodian border near the thinly - p o p u l a t e d "Seven Mountain" area of Chau Doc province, provides military training for individuals and units assigned to the IV Vietnamese Corps.

Trainces participate in training cycles closely resembling those of the US Army. New soldiers complete six weeks of basic combat training, followed by advanced individual training in a special field.

There are usually 2,500 individual trainces at the center, all destined for assignments to units in the IV Corps area.

A 21-man US advisoryteam, mostly infantrymena skilled in training techniques, work with the Vietnamese cadres. Senior US advisor is Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Cardenas, Oro Grade, Calif.

Infantry battalions from the 7th, 9th and 21st ARVN Divisions also come to Chi Lang for refresher training. A five-week battalion refresher training course allows the unit's personnel to work together to learn about new weapons and renew basic skills.

The Chi Lang Center is. named after a training camp used by Le Loi, a Vietnamese leader who freed his country from Chinese domination in 1427.

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CHOI OI ! — Observing traffic signs, a 100-ton Barge Amphibious Resupply Cargo (BARC) stops at a stop-sign in Qui Nhon while a pedestrian looks on in amazement. The BARC has 10-foot high tires that weigh 3,000 pounds each and is the size of an average five-room house. (USA Phota)

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