Hiep Duc District Is Its Own Boss Again

By PFC
BILL CRAWFORD

CHU LAI—Hundreds of refugees are returning to the valley site of their former homes in one of the largest and most significant pacification efforts conducted in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

After an absense of nearly four years, the Hiep Duc District government is again located on home soil. In 1965, Vietnamese officials were forced to evacuate the area after devastating enemy terrorist attacks.

Most of the district's 7,000 inhabitants were gradually relocated in refugee centers at Tam Ky and Nui Loc Son, and the district government was forced to flee to Tam Ky. Now, through the combined efforts of the 196th Infantry Brigade and Military Assistance Command Vietnam, the Hiep Duc government has returned to its rightful home, some 35 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Confidence

"Restoration of the district headquarters and re-establishment of GVN influence in Hiep Duc is an emphatic demonstration of growing confidence among Vietnamese officials and people resettling the area," said COL Frederick J. Kroesen Jr. (Arlington, Va.), 196th Bde. Commander.

"New settlers and officials have been welcomed gratefully by Vietnamese villagers who have eked out subsistance under Viet Cong harassment for the past few years," he said.

"Hundreds have already joined to help construction efforts and asked to live in new hamlets as they are developed."

District chief is ARVN 1LT Nguyen Duc Vinh, who assumed command of LZ Karen from LTC Robert B. Longino, commanding officer of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf. LZ Karen has been base operations for 4/31 elements pacifying the Hiep Duc area recently.

Securing LZ Karen will be Popular and Regional Force units under 1LT Vinh. These forces will also provide security for the large number of refugees soon returning to Hiep Duc.

Liaison

A five-man MACV Mobile Advisory Team will provide 1LT Vinh assistance in re-establishing GVN control in the district. The advisory unit is headed by CPT Stanley W. Brown, senior adviser for the Hiep Duc project.

The MACV element will work closely with a 4/31 liaison team headed by SGT Kenneth Herrmann (Buffalo, N.Y.), of the Civil Affairs Section. The liaison team is to coordinate joint efforts of the 196th Bde., MACV, and the Vietnamese Government.

1LT Vinh disclosed that the project's first phase calls for construction of a district headquarters near Dong An village to handle administrative business of the Hiep Duc District.

A refugee center will be established near the village of My Luu to aid returning Vietnamese. Other projects set for the coming months include road construction, a school, and a small hospital.

Twenty-seven GVN officials from the district's villages and hamlets are already at LZ Karen to assist with proposed projects. MACV officials estimate 8-10 months will be needed to achieve desired results.

PSYOP

A large psychological program has been employed in the area, according to CPT Winston Gouzoules (Ashland, Mass.) of the Brigade Civil Affairs Section.

"We have been reminding people of Hiep Duc Valley of the peaceful existence they led before the enemy came into the area."

Posters depicting a rich market place are displayed with the question, "Do you remember the old Hiep Duc Market?—When were you able to get there last?" Farm scenes are shown with the words, "The GVN will bring peace and prosperity to new residents of Hiep Duc."

Perhaps the most significant result has been the large number of VC in the area who have rallied.

As one told a Civil Affairs interpreter, "we want to feast again too."
(196th Bde. IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 8 **CHU LAI, VIETNAM** **April 13, 1969**

SAVING MONEY BECAME EASIER with the opening of a Military Banking Facility in the Americal Div. headquarters area recently. (Photo by SP4 John Hollenhorst, 523d Sig. Bn.)

Offers 'Financial Flexibility'

Banking Facility Open

By PFC TERRY MACK

CHU LAI—Americal Division soldiers now have good reason not to store their well-counted millions in wall lockers, foot lockers, and that old sock in the floorboard.

As of March 22 when the Chu Lai Military Banking Facility became operational, Americal's big-spenders finally had a safe spot nearby to keep their cash.

"The MBF is a tremendous addition to the services available for all service members in the Chu Lai AO," said LTC Harold R. Golden, division finance officer. "It gives the soldier a great deal of financial flexibility."

MBF is managed by John Schubert, no stranger to Vietnam and a GI's money problems. He was a Marine Corps captain assigned to MAG 12 from Aug., 1966 to Sept., 1967.

Pay System

"American Express is over here at the request of the U.S. Treasury to provide banking services to GI's. We want to provide service not only to soldiers in Chu Lai, but also to men in the field," said Schubert.

The Military Banking Facility, located between the motor pool and the Division Finance office, is open from 0900-1500 hours Monday through Friday and from 0900-1200 Saturday.

MBF offers five percent interest paid and compounded quarterly on accounts.

MBF plans to open small offices at Duc Pho and LZ Baldy to handle opening of accounts. An opportunity will also be given each new arrival at the Combat Center to open a checking account.

Soldiers may open accounts by making an initial deposit and filling out an American Express account application. They then receive checkbooks and account identification cards.

Every soldier may have his net pay sent to the bank on payday by the finance office if he completes necessary forms available at the finance office or bank. He will receive his military pay voucher by mail.

Insured

To open an account in the filed, GI's should request three things: a pre-addressed envelope from American Express, blank deposit slips, and MACV Form 385. Complete the forms and mail them or have them delivered to MBF along with an initial deposit. Soldiers wishing to open an account should write to American Express: International Banking Corp., Military Banking Office, APO S.F. 96325.

"All of our accounts are insured up to $10,000, and each transaction is put on microfilm and sent to our underground vault system in Hutchinson, Kan.," said Schubert.

"I think we have a real service to offer, and I hope the troops will take advantage of it." **(AMERICAL IO)**

Joint Operations Underway Here

CHU LAI—Three major long-term operations began in the southern I Corps area March 18, marking common areas of operation in which both Americal Div. and 2d ARVN Div. soldiers will work jointly.

Each operation will have one Americal brigade and one regiment of the 2d ARVN Div. participating in combined tactical operations.

The 196th Inf. Bde. and the 5th ARVN Regt. have joined in Operation Frederick Hill; the 11th Inf. Bde. and 4th ARVN Regt. are conducting Operation Iron Mountain; and the 198th Inf. Bde. and 6th ARVN Regt. began Operation Geneva Park.

Close control and coordination of the joint operations will be affected through co-located brigade and regimental command posts.

Back On Batangan

BATANGAN PEN.—Sampans swept ashore, leaving some refugees to wade the last 50 feet, as the final key phase of Operation Russell Beach began here recently amid scattered enemy resistance.

The last stage of the combined service operation called for resettlement of the peninsula after it had been cleared of enemy troops in a cordon and sweep movement by Americal Division, Marine, Navy, and ARVN units.

During a 20-day exodus in March, almost 12,000 refugees were brought here from the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center near Quang Ngai in a massive resettlement project coordinated by the Quang Ngai Province chief.

The 15-mile trip was accomplished by Americal Division Chinook helicopters from the 132nd Aslt. Spt. Hel. Co., South Vietnamese Navy landing craft, and a flotilla of civilian sampans.

Problems

Four "new" villages are now rising from the rubble of combat as the rebuilding process begins on old homesites.

Getting ready for the villagers' return meant clearing four large village sites and construction of a 25-mile road system by elements of Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn.

"We've had a few problems because mines still make the area quite dangerous," said CPT Warren W. Sullivan (Fredericksburg, Va.), the engineer company commander. "We've built roads connecting each village and an inland road from the peninsula. That should help the peninsula economy."

Although Operation Russell Beach was conceived by

(Continued on last page)

Do We Learn?

One by one, they are leaving us.

They are those who, by chance or destiny, rise to the task when the peril is greatest; warm to the work when the work is hardest; and lead when a nation needs to follow.

Many are thrust forward by chance and circumstance; few are destined to excel. Even fewer are destined to lead, then able to lead when chance and circumstance predominate.

One by one, they are leaving us, these men born to lead and bred of crisis, decision, and perlious times.

A Roosevelt dies, and the world mourns a great leader; a Churchill dies, and the world mourns the bulldog tenacity of a master statesman; an Eisenhower dies, and the world mourns a superb soldier become President.

The great heroes are leaving us, and the record of their accomplishments reels endlessly before us.

Do the ages make great men? Or do great men make the ages?

Dwight David Eisenhower, General of the Army and 34th President of the United States, takes his place in the memory of a thankful world. His fighting skill helped end a bloody war, and his eight years as President saw no major military conflict.

We must grasp, each for himself, a small bit of the magic of Dwight David Eisenhower, his disciplined determination to excel, his skill as a soldier, his personal charisma, the qualities that made him great.

As they leave us, the great men are not always equalled. But they are always imitated.

Dwight David Eisenhower, 1890-1969; United States Military Academy, 1915; Supreme Allied Commander, 1944; Army Chief of Staff, 1945-48; president, Columbia University, 1948; Commanding General, NATO, 1950-52; President of the United States, 1952-60; Advisor to three Presidents, 1961-69.

One by one, they are leaving us.

'Keep Off The Grass, Man'

By SFC
LARRY BABITTS

If everything were nice and simple; if everything were a question of black and white; if every action could be isolated from each other, then we could argue about marijuana as the converts like to do.

It is easy to make a case for or against anything if one is permitted to pick and chose his facts...using only those which favor his argument.

Nothing about "pot" or "grass" is that simple. Marijuana is a complex subject combining facts, legends, half-truths, and fiction thrown loosely together by those arguing both sides of the question.

Much can be said for both sides, and the few facts available tell us more about the "pot people" than about the drug itself.

Pot People

Is it true that certain intellectuals and creative persons use marijuana for inspiration? Some do. But so do many clods and non-intellectuals. While under the influence of marijuana or other "mind expanding" drugs, the creative thought process becomes disjointed or disoriented. Therefore, no person bent on true creativity would use pot for "inspiration."

Isn't pot used as a tranquilizer? True, in some cases marijuana brings about a sense of well-being, but not in all cases. Often, pot creates a panicky sensation and a violent reaction and, if the user has any psychopathic tendencies, pot makes them quite obvious.

How about reports that pot is less harmful, medically speaking, than regular tobacco? Probably true. Then again, the death rate caused by skin cancer and some tropical diseases is lower than that for drug addiction, and one wouldn't voluntarily afflict himself with those diseases.

Can we state for certain that pot is addictive? No proof exists yet that marijuana itself is either addictive or that it encourages a physical dependence by the user. One won't get turkey-bumps or junkie-thumps (the withdrawal symptoms) when he quits using it. An emotional dependency, however, upon the drug does develop after continued use.

Anyone who has tried to break the dependency on tobacco knows how enslaving habits can become.

Weird, Wild World

Many statistics show that those who try the "mind-expanding" drugs will probably advance to use of stronger, addictive, potentially lethal drugs. No reliable statistics exist for this generation yet, but unless radically different from the previous ones the repetitive users will also plunge ahead into the weird, wild world.

How about good points for pot users? Isn't pot an inexpensive high without an alcoholic-like hangover? And lots of apparently important people brag about using pot, don't they? Correct. But lots of important people don't qualify as experts in medical science or pharmacology.

Ever notice that whenever the "experts" answer questions about marijuana, they never say, "I don't know yet" the answer often given by careful scientific investigators?

Ever wonder how many of these people became experts using the flimsey sort of evidence they offer about the marijuana question?

Up In Smoke

What about smoking pot here in Vietnam? Doesn't the combat situation allow more premissiveness? Isn't a guy entitled to a relaxing "smoke" break once in a while?

Of course, soldier, of course. That's the purpose of extensive R&R and Special Services programs in Vietnam. But don't go up in smoke!

One fact we can substantiate about pot is that the user almost always develops hallucinations and a slower reaction to the world around him.

Imagine what some pot-inspired mental movies could do to a guy on patrol or the defense perimeter. He becomes unreliable, and his performance is much less effective if he's fudging with the hemp plant.

The nature of a soldier's work demands that he maintain himself in a manner that will permit him to respond immediately in any contingency. This is true, whether he be an infantryman, a driver, mechanic, cook or clerk. Marijuana has a drastic effect upon man's reaction time.

A man on pot becomes a hazard to himself and the people who rely on him to perform effectively. Pot on the perimeter is not even a question of good and evil... it's one of evil alone.

VIETNAM-STYLE

By SP5 THOMAS MOORE

A People's Diet

Take a head of cabbage, an onion, a spoonful of vegetable fat, and two eggs. Slice the vegetables in long thin strips and brown the onion in the fat. Put in the cabbage gradually, and stir often. Add two spoonsful of water, salt to taste and cover the pot. Cook for about 10 minutes. When the cabbage is tender, break in the eggs and stir, and you've got yourself a batch of "Vietnamese cabbage."

Vietnam takes most of it's food products from the soil, though fresh and salt water fish also play an important role. Meat is not plentiful, and what there is comes mainly from pigs, chickens, and ducks. There is almost no dependence on dairy products in the country.

The Vietnamese food staple is rice, while peas, corn, soy beans, potatoes, peanuts (for frying oil), sesame, lotus, bamboo shoots, and a native green called rau muong, which tastes like spinach, are plentiful.

While American children raid the refrigerator or indulge in candies, Vietnamese children reach for the fruit basket, containing bananas, grape fruit, oranges, tangerines, papayas and pineapples.

Naturally, tea is the most popular drink. The favorite dessert is a sweet pudding of beans.

Most Vietnamese food is chopped or sliced before cooking, and very seldom does a meat or vegetable figure alone in a dish. A typical meal always includes rice, soup made of a clear bouillon of vegetable, with bits of meat or fish, one or two dishes of sauted or boiled vegetables, a dish of meat or fish, and the ever-present "nuoc mam."

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for all division units in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Armed Forces Press Service material is used. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374, Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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BEWILDERED AND UNABLE TO KNOW WHY, this Vietnamese tyke stands alone among refugees and their belongings as his fellow villagers are resettled after an enemy terrorist attack. (Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, 198th Bde. IO)

Aftermath of a Terrorist Attack: Mute Acceptance Among Coffins

By SP4 JIM BRUCE

TAM KY—One small Vietnamese child stood amid smoldering rubble and ashes. Tears streamed down his face, but not a sound came from his thin, chapped lips.

He had seen death and destruction already in his short life, and the pre-dawn VC terrorist attack had left a tragic scene before him.

On a side street of Que Son refugee village 20 miles northwest of here, stooped elders and half-clad children mourned in unbelieving silence over the bodies of family and friends. They ambled aimlessly through remains of gutted homes.

An old man salvaged a broken pot and a piece of tin roofing from the debris. His wife scooped rice from the juncture of two charred walls. Over everything, silence hung as heavily as the smell of smoke and burned flash.

Mute Acceptance

At the crowded village dispensary nearby, Vietnamese and American medical personnel worked feverishly over the wounded while, at a temporary morgue in a school, mourners maintained a vigil over the dead and carpenters prepared traditional red and yellow coffins. Joss sticks and candles burned a fragrant, flickering memorial.

Emotions hidden behind a mask of mute acceptance, a Regional Force sergeant knelt and sifted a mound of fine sand to cushion the tiny coffin of his three-month-old daughter.

Cradling the naked body of a young girl in his arms and administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as he ran, a Vietnamese medic broke through a circle of onlookers and raced toward a chopper waiting on the village soccer field.

As the Medevac ship lifted, the medic could still be seen through the dorway as he bobbed up and down on hands and knees and tried to force his breath into the dying child's lungs.

34 Killed

Back in the village, Civil Affairs personnel from the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. at nearby LZ Ross, were distributing clothing and almost a ton of rice to victims of the raid. The village refugee aid fund, established through efforts of Que Son elders and 2-1, contained $1200 for relief projects.

In the two refugee camps hardest hit, blank faces mirrored sorrow and disbelief but without desperation or surrender. The job of picking up had already begun.

During pre-dawn hours recently, this Vietnamese community of 26,000 was hit in a lightning VC terrorist raid. Thirty-four villagers were killed, 55 civilians and three RF defenders wounded, and 86 homes burned to the ground.

Most of the victims, many women and children, died as terrorists systematically fired two blocks of thatched-roof houses. Others were trapped in the flimsy, burning structures, and survivors, moved once previously from VC-controlled regions, were again left homeless.

An estimated enemy platoon left 17 VC dead and two AK-47 rifles behind in the vain attempt to overrun an RF hilltop fortification north of the village.

'Success'

The attack on Que Son apparently was meant to disrupt the pacification program there.

"Que Son was hit because the village has been an obvious success," said 2-1 commander LTC Sinclair L. Melner (Reno, Nev.). "Only when a pacification program of this type begins to show positive results does it become a primary target for VC reprisals."

The VC apparently hoped to break the will of the people and drive them back into a valley where they could be forced to support VC, according to battalion S-2, CPT Robert Netter (Kingston, N.Y.).

"Judging by the way the refugees are already cleaning up and putting the pieces back together," he said, "the raid only strengthened their resolve to stick it out right where they are."

(196th Bde. IO)

Two CO's Also Cited

Silver Stars to 4 EM

CHU LAI—Six Americal soldiers have received the nation's third highest award, the Silver Star, for extraordinary heroism.

SP4 Larry J. Tiller (Athens, Ga.), A Co., 3d Bn., 1st Inf., 11th Inf. Bde., was on a search and clear operation west of Quang Ngai City when his platoon was pinned down by heavy automatic weapons fire.

A radio-telephone operator (RTO), Tiller directed gunships and air strikes against the enemy position, and assisted in treating and evacuating the wounded.

Two members of a Ranger team from Co. G, 75th Inf. received the Silver Star when they and two other Rangers surprised seven enemy soldiers, killing six.

SGT Richard T. Roth (Renton, Wash.), team leader, and SP4 Larry G. Mosley (Oakland, Calif.) routed the enemy and captured important documents.

CPT Sidney Ordway (Columbus, Ga.), CO of D Co., 4th Bn. 31st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., distinguished himself by leading his men against a well-entrenched enemy force.

Wounded by the enemy, CPT Ordway ignored his injuries to rally his men and call in artillery and gunship support. He continued to direct fire until he collapsed in the field.

Another 11th Inf. Bde. CO, CPT Thomas L. Smith, Jr. (Long Island), A Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., heroically rallied his men when they were caught in an intense enemy crossfire.

CPT Smith threw several grenades into the hostile emplacements and engaged two insurgents, killing them both.

Disregarding intense enemy fire, SP4 Billy D. Pearce (Hazel Park, Mich.), a squad leader with the 11th Bde.'s 3d Bn., 1st Inf., earned the Silver Star when he hurled hand grenades and fired his M-16 to silence an enemy ambush position.

(AMERICAL IO)

Chopper Crew In Trouble: Boxcar 470's Ordeal By Fire

CHU LAI—Quick action and the right decisions saved crew members of a Chinook CH-47B of the 178th Aslt. Hel. Co. when it was forced down by intense hostile fire on a tactical emergency resupply mission northwest of here recently.

Aircraft commander CWO Fred Lindsley (Lebanon, Tenn.) and pilot WO1 Charles Preaus (Tulsa, Okla.) responded to an urgent request of the 198th Inf. Bde. to resupply two forward fire bases, one of which was under mortar attack.

Suddenly, the crew heard the heartstopping sound of .50 cal. slugs ripping through the fuselage, followed by loud grinding from the combing transmission.

The flight engineer, SP5 Earl Evans (Portland, Ind.), shouted, "Get us on the ground, we're on fire!"

The crew remained calm as CWO Lindsley started an immediate emergency descent and WO1 Preaus keyed a mayday call.

Meanwhile, Evans attempted to fight the fire with an extinguisher. He kept the fire at bay, but then the No. 2 engine failed on the way down.

Realizing that the sling held a load of ammunition, Lindsley did not release the load until the craft was 200 yards from landing.

On touchdown, the crew removed weapons from the aircraft and established area security.

Evans had to be bodily removed from his position inside the aircraft. "I've spent six months building this bird," he exclaimed, "I'm not going to let it burn now."

Despite the crew's efforts, "Boxer 470" burned to the section just aft of the fuel cells in the center of the aircraft.

When the fire was finally extinguished, the fuel cells, loaded with 3500 pounds of jet fuel, were smoking.

"Boxcar 470," already short, has returned to the states for major repairs.

(16th CAG IO)

Boy, 12, Gets VIP Payoff

QUANG NGAI—Alert action by a 12-year-old boy earned him 300 piasters and may have saved a number of American lives near the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center here.

The youth, who lives in the refugee center, recently found a "bouncing betty" mine about 250 meters from the refugee center and just outside the perimeter of a compound manned by the Americal's 4th Bn., 3d Inf.

"The kid told one of my men that the mine was out there," said SGT Dennis Riley (Dellonvale, Ohio), "so we took a squad out and blew it in place." **(198th Bde. IO)**

Chopper Gets Real 'Test'

DUC PHO—A test pilot of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., which supports the 11th Inf. Bde., recently performed an emergency Medevac while on a routine test flight.

WO1 Thomas Reinshagen (Columbus, Ga.) was flying in the traffic pattern at LZ Bronco when his crew chief, SP5 James Simmons (Houston) alerted him to an explosion on Highway 1 approximately a half-mile north of here.

"I couldn't tell what it was from 200 feet, so I broke out of traffic and made a low pass," said WO1 Reinshagen. "I could see that a bulldozer had overturned after hitting a mine. I saw two men lying in the road and went in to pick them up."

After landing on the highway, the chopper crew loaded the two engineers and sped them to medical aid. Neither was hurt seriously. **(11th Bde. IO)**

Dustoff, Medic Aid CHIC After Attack

QUANG NGAI—An Americal Division dustoff helicopter sped 14 Vietnamese refugees from the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center near here recently after a VC mortar attack in which two rounds landed inside the refugee center.

After the night attack, in which two 60mm mortars injured 15 persons including four women and six children, SP4 Donald Stuge (Minneapolis), a company medic, treated the civilians and helped guide in the dustoff.

(198th Bde. IO)

Engineers Provide Muscle For Division

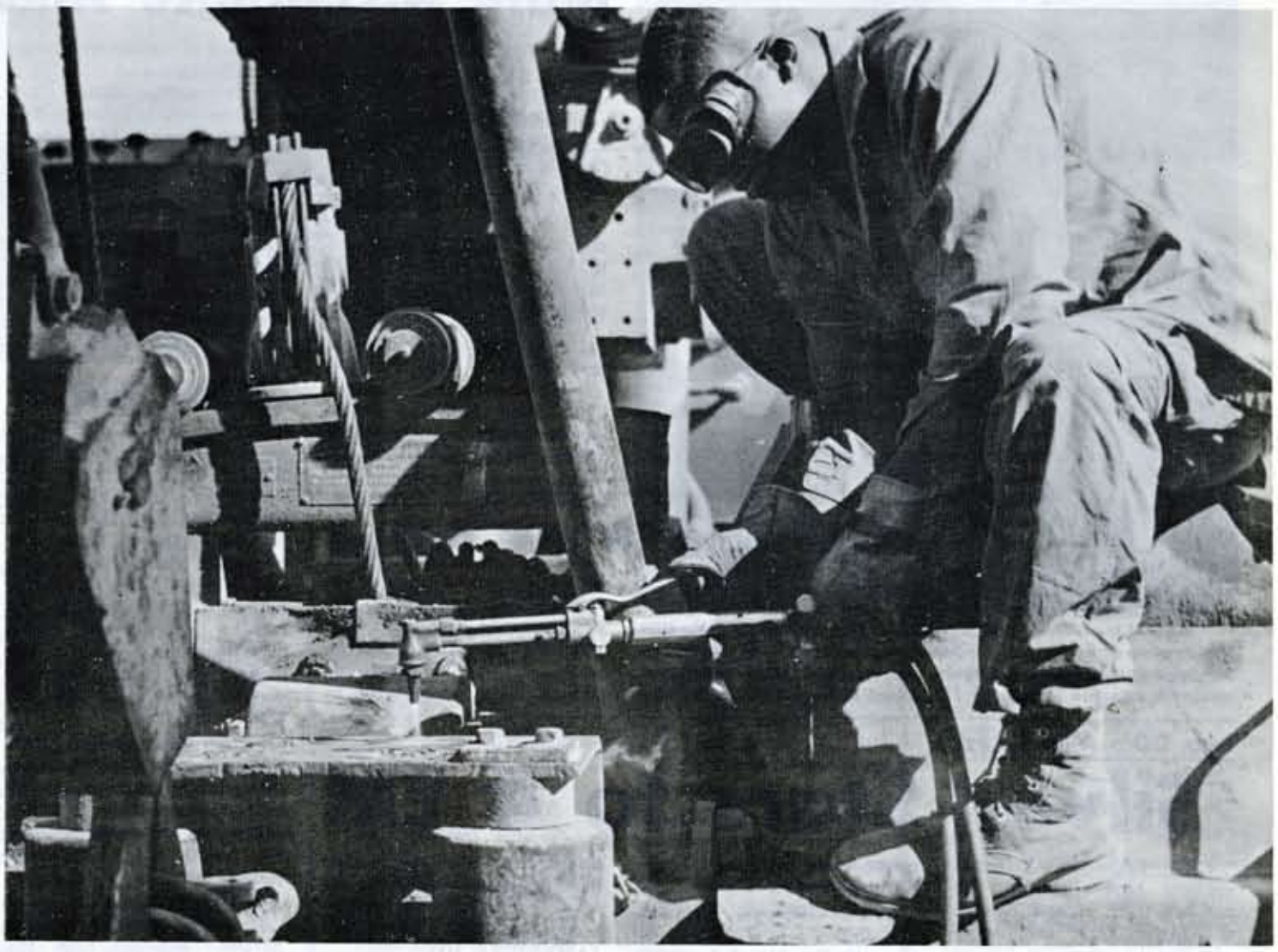
The never-ending task of building, clearing, repairing, and maintaining the Americal Division's communication roadways falls upon the broad shoulders of the combat engineer.

The 26th Engr. Bn. is the only battalion assigned directly to the Americal, but the division has three other engineer battalions supporting it. The 39th and 19th Engr. Bns. are part of the 18th Engr. Bde., headquartered in Cam Ranh Bay, while the 9th Engr. Bn. belongs to the Marine Corps.

"Each battalion is responsible for minesweeping, road upgrading, the building of bridges, culverts, and general maintenance in different sectors of the division AO," stated MSG Joseph White (Detroit), chief engineer NCO at Division Engineers.

The 19th and 39th Engr. Bns. operate from the I Corps southern boundary to Chu Lai, while the 9th Engrs. maintain the northern sector of the Americal AO. "White Lions" of the 26th are responsible for all lateral routes east and west of Highway 1.

"The job of a combat engineer is a never ending one," remarked MSG White. "Once an assignment is completed, two more take its place."



Photos

by

SP5 LOU FEDORSKI

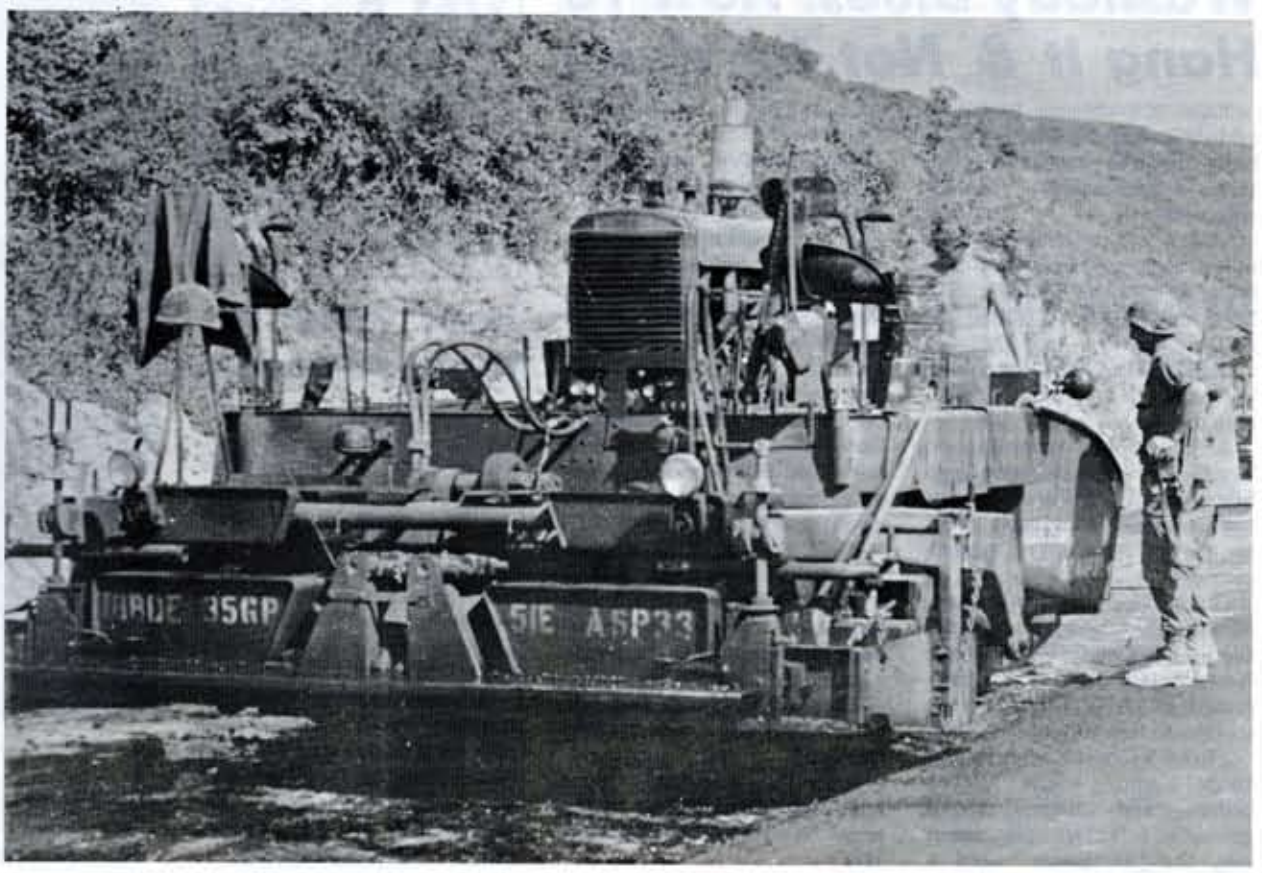
11th Inf. Bde.

Division Engineers work on a road-paving project. (Clockwise) Getting ready for the road trek, an engineer welds a support plate onto a heavy crane.

In a familiar pose, an engineer cautiously sweeps for enemy mines as men behind provide security. Members of the minesweep team probe for metal indicated by mine detector.

With the road free of mines, a monster-like asphalt machine spreads a hot black surface. Progress is slowed temporarily as engineers clear rubble from a bridge blown by VC. In less than two days, the bridge is like new.

A 10-ton roller puts the finishing touches on the ribbon of asphalt as it firms the the new surface into shape.



A Toothy Fellow

Flashing its fierce grin, a "Shark" helicopter of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. prowls the skies above Duc Pho. See story on page 8. (Photo by SP4 Rodney Preuss, 11th Bde. IO)

Wanna Bet, Charlie?

Surprise, GI!

LZ BALDY—What the VC don't know definitely hurts them, and that's exactly what proved true when four fleeing VC tried to spring two surprises on their fast-thinking pursuers recently.

Action began at dusk, 36 miles northwest of Tam Ky, when a Kit Carson Scout attached to Co. C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., detected the VC 400 meters away.

1LT Jerry Josey (Bishopville, S.C.) and several of his men pursued the VC. As he approached a thickly-foliated area, SSG Eran Gurierrez (Kingsville, Texas) was confronted with a VC who popped from behind a bush with an AK-47 rifle pointed right at him.

"The VC apparently was having difficulty getting his rifle on automatic because he fumbled with his weapon instead of firing right away," explained 1LT Josey.

Lifesaver

Gutierrez quickly killed the VC with one burst from his M-16. In addition to the AK-47, Co. C recovered documents that indicated the enemy was a local VC guerrilla leader.

Shifting their attention to the remaining VC, the "Chargers" cautiously approached a hedgerow. Suddenly, SGT Tim Peterson (Toledo, Ohio) fired a salvo of bullets at the feet of SGT Jack Straayer (Grand Rapids, Mich.).

The startled Straayer looked down and saw a dead enemy soldier lying in a spider hole right at his feet. Peterson had seen an SKS rifle muzzle inching out of the ground just in time to save Straayer's life.

A third VC then bolted from the bushes and was brought down by a blast of M-16 fire.

Later that evening on a cordon and search operation in a small hamlet, Co. C killed one VC and captured another. The "Charger" unit also captured a K-50 rifle, several 82mm mortar rounds, two Chicom grenades, and several magazines of AK-47 ammunition. **(196th Bde. IO)**

Strangers In The Night

LZ WEST—From one of 12 bunkers on a perimeter beseiged by a platoon-sized NVA force came the startling cry: "Help, I've got two NVA in here with me."

Recognizing that it was the voice of SGT Steven Martin (Calimesa, Calif.), his squad leader, SP4 Larry D. Tabor, (Pulaski, Va.) reacted quickly.

Only two NVA were able to penetrate the Co. C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf. perimeter and SGT Martin suddenly found himself host to both.

"When I ran over, I saw SGT Martin fighting barehanded," said Tabor. "He must have dropped his rifle because he was on top of one NVA, and another was on his back and trying to stab him.

"I dropped the one on his back and, when SGT Martin rolled over, I got the other one."

Neither Martin nor Tabor were seriously wounded. **(AMERICAL IO)**

Empty Village Erupts

DUC PHO—Battling for every inch, C CO., 3d Bn., 1st Inf. and E Trp., 1st Cav. stormed a deserted village 3½ miles north of Duc Pho and killed 32 NVA and captured 15 weapons in a recent encounter from noon till dusk.

"When we entered the village, they opened up with a machinegun," said SP4 Chuck Burnes (Atlanta), " we fired back immediately and killed six NVA."

Moving out to search nearby bunkers, C Co. ran into heavy RPG and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy force.

Staying on line was made easier by E Trp. tracks which spread .50 cal. fire to pin down the enemy sharpshooters.

Ominous Click

SGT Michael Krueger (Houston), a platoon squad leader, rode on the lead track as E Trp. charged through the village. "I knew where the NVA were hiding," he said, "as we moved forward, they threw Chicom grenades from all directions."

At one point, SP4 Marco Jimenez (San Antonio) stooped in front of an NVA bunker to help a wounded soldier. When he picked the man up, Jimenez heard the click of an empty NVA weapon and quickly scooted to cover. **(11th Bde. IO)**

Scratch One NVA Hospital

LZ BALDY—An NVA hospital complex, complete with operating and recreation rooms, office space, a barber chair, and an area for construction of crutches and peg legs, was found after several months of searching 36 miles northwest of Tam Ky recently.

Units of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf. finally located the complex on the second day of a sweep in Hiep Duc Valley near LZ Karen.

"They had some of the best OP's I've ever seen," said CPT Stanley F. Yates Jr. (Jonesboro, Tenn.), Co. A commander. "One position was in a tall tree with a field of vision extending 10,000 meters in all directions."

Receipts

The combination mess hall and recreation building bore a large picture of Ho Chi Minh and accomodated 60 people. The barber chair was in a barracks for wounded personnel kept busy making crutches and peg legs. A dud 105mm round served as a leg mold.

After destruction of the complex, Co. A captured an NVA soldier who carried receipts indicating he had been purchasing food and supplies for the hospital.

Discovery of the complex climaxed months of fruitless searching after persistent intelligence reports indicated the hospital was located in the area which is dominated by triple-canopy jungle. **(196th Bde. IO)**

Washday Blues: How To Hang It & Not Be Hung

TAM KY—Memo to NVA and VC laundrymen: Don't hang the wet wash too near those "concealed" tunnel complexes.

That's what one did 5½ miles west of here, and the mistake cost the enemy three NVA and eight VC killed as F Trp., 8th Cav. and B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. emptied the complex and cleaned house.

Action began when an F Trp. LOH spotted green and black enemy uniforms hanging on vegetation next door to the entrance of a tunnel complex.

Guided by the helicopter, SP4 John L. Snyder (Sheffiled, Ohio) and SGT Michael Kawela (Chicago) of B Trp. joined an ARVN interpreter to check the tunnel.

Three VC were seen in the tunnel and, when verbal orders and three smoke grenades failed to bring them out, the "Dragoons" used a satchel charge to kill the VC.

When B Trp. returned to recon the area the following day, 1LT Greg L. Yacovou (Norwich, Conn.), first platoon leader, saw three VC running near his tracks. Two were killed, and two RPG-7 rounds and a VC flag were found with the bodies.

Some 35 minutes later in the same area, Regional Force soldiers, working with the first platoon, found another tunnel whose occupants also tossed out grenades.

PSG Neil P. Farmer saw the action. "I fired on the VC and pinned them down until two tracks maneuvered near the tunnel and threw in a satchel charge."

Three NVA and two VC were killed and a weapon was captured.

And the laundry? None has been seen hanging in the area recently. **(AMERICAL IO)**

VN Bonus

WASHINGTON—Pennsylvania has become the sixth state to enact a Vietnam Bonus.

The other five states are: Illinois, Connecticut, Louisiana, Delaware and Massachusetts.

Jungle Garden Is Tip To Better Find

DUC PHO — Americal Rangers recently went gardening and produced a crop of VC materiel used to launch rockets at this area.

A Ranger patrol from Co. G, 75th Inf. spotted a freshly cultivated garden while on a sweep in heavy jungle six miles south of here. Several trails led from the garden.

At the end of one, the Rangers found a 16-hut complex with water and food and two hollow 15-foot logs used as rocket launchers. The sweep also netted one VC killed. **(AMERICAL IO)**

Time for a Bath

Like the dustoff chopper they are so blithely ignoring, these geese got a bath, thanks to the crew from the 54th Med. Bn. in Chu Lai. (Photo by SP4 Dean Norland, AMERICAL IO)

These Twins Didn't Stick

LZ BAYONET—It took 11 months and 10,000 miles for the two 21-year-old soldiers to do it, but Francis and Charles Frechette (Fitchburg, Mass.) are together again.

They are both engineers in Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn., which supports the 198th Inf. Bde. here.

Last year, the two soldiers turned topsy turvy the oft-told Army story of twins sticking together in the service. They did not enter the Army together, did not take basic or advanced individual training together, and did not transfer overseas together.

But on a sunny morning here last February the two brothers met each other for the first time since entering the service. They want to stay together—while in Vietnam, anyway.

Moves

It all began in Fitchburg in March 1968 when Francis left to join the Army and twin brother Charles did not. Then in May, the day before Francis completed basic training at Ft. Dix, N.J., Charles joined his brother in the service. By the time Charles got to Ft. Dix., however, Francis had moved on to Ft. Bragg, N.C., for advanced individual training.

When Charles finished his basic, he traveled to Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., for engineer advanced individual training, and then on to Vietnam, arriving Oct. 12. Meanwhile Francis remained at Ft. Bragg.

Now, however, it was Francis' turn to move, crossing one continent and an ocean for Vietnam. He arrived last Feb. 4.

Francis was initially assigned to the Americal Division and then to Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn., where his brother had already made his home as a radio-telephone operator trainee.

"Fortunately for us, they're both good men," commented CPT Warren W. Sullivan (Fredericksburg, Va.), B Co. commander. "Otherwise one of them could goof and get the other one in trouble. We're glad to have them here." **(198th Bde. IO)**

Americal Has Six New CO's

CHU LAI — The largest artillery element in Vietnam, Americal Division Artillery, welcomed a new commander recently in ceremonies here.

COL Leslie B. Hardy (Los Angeles), a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, took over leadership of Americal artillerymen from COL Lawrence M. Jones, Jr. (New York).

COL Hardy had previously served as CO of the 36th Arty. Grp. in Europe before joining the division.

Other new commanders include LTC Reed E. David (Omaha, Neb.) the new CO of the 198th Bde.'s 1st Bn., 52d Arty.; LTC Donald Hanson (Columbus, Ga.), leader of the 11th Bde.'s 4th Bn., 21st Inf.; and LTC James J. Durbin (Ventura, Calif.), who commands the 1st Bn., 14th Arty.

Also taking over new posts as commanding officers are LTC Donald L. Swygert (New Cumberland Gap, Pa.) of the 26th Engr. Bn. and LTC H.M. Singelton (Fairfax, Va.), CO of 723rd Maint. Bn.

123rd 1SG Chosen For R&R Contest

CHU LAI—A World War II veteran, serving as a first sergeant with the 123d Avn. Bn. of the 16th Cmbt. Avn. Grp., has been selected to represent the division in the "One Millionth R&R Participant Contest."

1SG Lawrence E. Tyson (Hacienda Heights, Calif.), the "top kick" of E Co., maintenance unit of the battalion, was chosen from among the most outstanding enlisted men of the Americal by a board of nine command sergeants major.

The winner of the Vietnam-wide competition, to be held at USARV headquarters, will be sent on R&R to Hawaii to meet his wife, all expenses paid.

Tyson is on his second tour in Vietnam, having served with the 118th Avn. Co. during 1964-65. He fought in New Guinea, the Philippines and Luzon in World War II. **(16th CAG IO)**

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Pam Moffitt and Jill Townsend

Taking time out from the television ratings war, Pam Moffitt (left) and Jill Townsend have a look at Chu Lai. Visiting on a USO handshake tour, Pam has been seen most often on "Ironside," while Jill co-stars in "Cimarron Strip." (Photo by CPT Cary S. Sklaren, AMERICAL IO)

English Class Is A Favorite

School Bells For Duc Pho

By SFC GENE K. MORENO

DUC PHO—A large drum, suspended from a rope on the veranda of a long, low, white-washed building, booms out. About 100 children playing volleyball and whatever games children play, run noisily toward the drum's sound.

They line up in neat rows. The boys are dressed in clean white shirts and blue trousers and the girls in flowing white ao dai the native dress for Vietnamese woman and girls for special occasions.

The occasion? School in the village of Duc Pho, located on the fringe of the 11th Inf. Bde. base camp.

This school, called Duc Pho High School by Americans who work there and officially known as the Pho Dai school, was constructed through joint efforts of the Vietnamese people and members of the 29th Civil Affairs Co., 4th AA Pltn., based at LZ Bronco.

Emphasis

Construction began in 1967 and was completed in 1968. All grades through high school are taught in spartan classrooms, furnished with long wooden benches and tables in place of desks.

Inside one classroom, a group of "senior" girls and boys look attentively toward their teacher, a tall young American Army officer, wearing green jungle fatigues with a .45 cal. pistol hanging from his belt.

"The lesson today is found on page 10 of your readers," announced 1LT Thomas A. Walton (Fort Wayne, Ind.), "listen carefully as I read the text to you. Follow in your books, and then we will answer questions later at the end of the chapter."

The lieutentant begins to read a lesson on the country of Norway, reading at a normal pace and emphasizing words he knows the Vietnamese will find difficult to pronounce.

Assurance

At the front of the room, his assistant instructor, SP5 Larry Rachal (Baton Rouge, La.) starts a tape recorder 1LT Walton brought along as an experiment. The platoon members decided to tape the class, then play back portions of the lesson so the children can hear themselves speaking English.

Outside on the porch, the platoon commander, 1LT Steven Gumbiner (El Cajon, Calif.), confers with a school official on the condition of the cement floor in one of the classrooms. The floor is badly worn, and more cement is necessary to effect repairs. The American notes the amount needed and assures the official it will be delivered from the iCvil Affairs warehouse that afternoon.

1LT Gumbiner also serves as an instructor at the school, teaching classes in English as do most of the 4th AA Plt. members.

Children not in class are busy bringing in bags of rocks and sand on the backs of the bicycles prior to mixing cement. Everyone is cheerful and seems to be happy to be working together on a project of mutual benefit.

In Depth

Back inside 1LT Walton's classroom, the young people are answering questions on the text read to them.

When called upon, the children stand and give their answers quickly and clearly, indications that their homework was thorough. The entire class is conducted in English, and the children sound much like their teacher in pronunciation.

When Rachal gives the class, the children immediately adopt his Louisiana accent, but their knowledge of English, gained over a four-year period, is not parroted. They know the language.

Three "foreign" languages are offered Pho Dai students-English, French, and Spanish.

These subjects are equivalent to American "elective" courses, and choice of language is left strictly to the students. Platoon members report, with pride, that English is the most popular choice.

Charge!

The hour-long class draws to a close, and 1LT Walton explains to the children what he and Rachal have done with the tape recorder. Rachael plays the tape back in part, and the children are delighted to hear their voices repeating English words in unison and individually. The idea was a success and will be used again.

Outside, on the sunny playground, the drum booms out, through the efforts of a small boy a little taller than the drumstick, and the students, like students anywhere, make an anticipatory start towards the door.

The urge to run outside is controlled however and, as the teacher dismisses them, they file out the door in orderly fashion, girls picking up conical straw hats and boys donning "pork-pie" style hats or pith helmets.

Outside the classroom, pandemonium. School is out! **(11th Bde. IO)**

VIETNAMESE VILLAGERS RETURN to their homes on the Batangan Peninsula, a VC stronghold until Operation Russell Beach began Jan. 13. Officials of the Vietnamese government are in charge of the resettlement as Americal Div. troops maintain a fire base on the peninsula to guard against further enemy insurgency. (Photo by 1LT Josef Hebert, 198th Bde. IO)

Thank You Erdelator For a Tall, Cool One

LZ FAT CITY—After a long hard trek through the steaming, oven-like jungles of Vietnam, nothing is quite as refreshing as a long drink of water.

Unlike the U.S. where pure drinking water is always available at the turn of a faucet, water used by soldiers here must be purified or boiled before consumption.

One of the functions of the division's 26th Engr. Bn. is to supply pure drinking water to Americal soldiers.

Pump and Purify

HHC and E Co. provide water for division artillery units based here. Four men operate and maintain a water purification unit which pumps and purifies more than 7000 gallons of water a day.

"It is a very simple operation to purify so much water every day," said CPL Donald O'Meara (Fairmont, N.D.), operations NCOIC here.

"Water is first pumped from two 30-foot wells to a portable purification unit contained in a 29-foot semi-trailer," O'Meara explained. "Then it is pumped into an erdalator, a huge bowl-shaped device which disinfects the water by adding chlorine."

Final Filter

After the water flows from the erdalator, it is filtered a final time and pumped into two 300 gallon storage tanks.

The 26th Engr. Bn. also supplies other division units with clean drinking water. Co. A supplies LZ Ross, Co. B pumps water to LZ Bayonet, and Co. C serves LZ Bronco.

"During the summer at Fat City alone, our water output rises to 10,000 gallons per day," O'Meara said.

"The increase in water consumption shows clearly the importance of water conservation. We simply do not have all the fresh water available here as in the states." **(AMERICAL IO)**

Fish Tales Abound

LZ BRONCO—Some of the fishiest stories of the war are now being passed around by crews of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.

The gunships, with large teeth on their noses are Sharks, while supply ships are the more docile Dolphins.

Light observation choppers are Guppies armed with machineguns. Tack on a minigun, and the LOH becomes a Piranha after the meat-eating fish. (11th Bde. IO)

It's Back to Batangan

(Continued from first page)

the Americal Division, the refugees' return is mainly a Vietnamese effort. To start the villagers anew, the South Vietnamese government provided each family with a kit of carpentry tools, tin roofs, and a month's supply of rice.

Over 700

"To my knowledge, there has never been anything like this before in a former hard core VC area," said LTC George A. Swearegen (Oakland, Miss.), deputy senior advisor to the Quang Ngai Province chief. "The same people are moving into their old village areas."

Since Operation Russell Beach began Jan. 13 and encompassed the short-run Marine phase, Operation Bold Mariner, more than 700 hard core Viet Cong, members of the VC infrastructure, and VC suspects have been killed or captured.

Now these civilians, fed and maintained at the CHIC tents, are returning to their changed peninsula to begin a new life. **(AMERICAL IO)**

Rangers Get a Lift In Almost No Time

CHU LAI—Dangling from a 150-foot rope fastened to a helicopter flying 80-90 miles an hour may seem like a daredevil act to some.

The Americal Ranger thinks it is "real security."

Working in small teams for recon purposes, Rangers often need a fast method of extraction when the enemy closes in. In many instances, the landing zone is not big enough for a chopper pickup.

The answer is the McGuire Rig, comprised of two loops at the end of a rope.

A Ranger in full field gear steps into the rig and is whisked away by a hovering chopper. Extraction is complete in seconds. **(AMERICAL IO)**

Election Underway

LZ ROSS—Under the eye of the GVN and the 196th Inf. Bde., residents of Que Son District have been conducting elections.

Elements of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf. are operating with ARVN troops near polling locations to prevent infiltration by enemy forces seeking to disrupt the self-governing process. **(196th Bde. IO)**

Nicknaming: A Growing Art

Who's Who, Anyway?

What's in a nickname?

If you're a fan, anything you can yell with gusto; if you're a team owner, something with zip that suggests power.

Try wading through the 83 nicknames of the country's 87 major professional football, basketball, baseball, and hockey teams. It's an education.

Yell "Rockets," and you're rooting for the Denver and San Diego basketball teams. A Royals supporter is either a Cincinnati basketball bug or a Kansas City baseball nut.

Easy Three

Of course, Cardinals fans just yell at each other in St. Louis and, until the move west, Giants fans could antagonize each other in New York. Now New Yorkers don't even have to think hard—it's the Jets, Mets, and Nets.

Many teams would be at home in a zoo—Chicago's Bears, Cubs, and Bulls; Detroit's Lions and Tigers; Los Angeles' Rams; Cincinnati's Bengals; Milwaukee's Bucks; Boston's Bruins; Miami's Dolphins; Oakland's Seals; and Pittsburgh's Penguins.

From the Wild West come Denver's Broncos, Dallas' Chaparrals, and Houston's Mavericks, Washington's Redskins, Cleveland's Indians, Atlanta's well-traveled Braves, and Kansas City's Chiefs could gang up on Dallas' Cowboys, backed by Baltimore's Colts, San Diego's Padres, and the Buffalo Bills.

Historians might root for Philadelphia 76ers, Minnesota's Vikings, Boston's Patriots, San Francisco's 49ers and Warriors, Boston's Celtics, Kentucky's Colonels, Toronto's Maple Leafs, Washington's Senators, and New York's Knicks.

Sports

High Flying

New Orleans, a city of combos, might match its Buccaneers with Pittsburg's Pirates or its Saints with California's Angels.

While Seattle's Pilots tool overhead at Super Sonic speeds, they'll tangle with most of the bird kingdom. Up there are Philadelphia's Eagles and Flyers, Atlanta's Falcons and Hawks, Chicabo's Black Hawks, and Baltimore's Orioles. They might even encounter some Houston Astros or Phoenix Suns.

Geography and civic pride figure heavily too. Take Houston's Oilers, Miami's Floridians, Philadelphia's Phillies, Pittsburgh's Steelers, Los Angeles' (once Minneapolis') Lakers, Minnesota's Twins and North Stars, and Montreal's Canadiens and Expos.

Cleveland's Browns, Cincinnati's Reds, Detroit's Red Wings, St. Louis' Blues, Boston's Red Sox, and Chicago's White Sox make a colorful sextet.

Class & Brass

How about names that imply action? Try Oakland's Raiders, Baltimore's Bullets, San Diego's Chargers, and Detroit's Pistons. For less fearsome action, take Indiana's Pacers, Los Angeles' Dodgers, and New York's Rangers.

For sheer class, who can top Rochester's American's or Quebec's Aces, a pair of hockey "minor" league teams?

And for sheer brass, few teams beat Los Angeles' other entries—the Stars and Kings.

Now test your memory. Which teams haven't been mentioned?

Here's a hint: they include two baseball teams, two basketball teams, and a famous football power.

Still wonder what's in a nickname? **(AMERICAL IO)**