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U.S. NAVAL FORCES II, III, IV, CORPS, VIETNAM

APRIL 21, 1967



Captain Burns W. Spore

Drawing by James Hummel

Market Time Personnel Engage in Many Actions

Operation Market Time personnel have been engaged in numerous actions during the past few weeks as they patrolled the seas off South Vietnam to prevent personnel and supplies from being infiltrated from the sea.

They have also deviated at times from their primary mission, as on March 16 when Viet Cong who opened fire upon a spotter aircraft found themselves on the receiving end of 81mm mortar fire from PCF 11 based at An Thoi. The enemy were quickly silenced.

The afternoon of March 19, PCF 94 crewmen killed all five occupants of a sampan when they ignored a warning shot and attempted to swim to the beach. VC supplies and a M1 rifle were recovered from the sampan. The action took place off the tip of the Cau Mau peninsula, southernmost point of land in South Vietnam.

Swift boat 94 is also based at An Thoi.

On the afternoon of March 20 approximately 25 persons in green uniforms were sighted from the

Coast Guard cutter Point League on a beach in the area of the mouth of the Co Chien River. Upon seeing the cutter, the VC ran into bunkers and huts.

After receiving permission to fire on the positions and calling in PCF 98, the positions were blasted with 81mm mortar rounds which produced two secondary explosions.

In a similar incident the same day, PCFs 38 and 68 received fire from automatic weapons and small arms after closing the beach to investigate ten men seen running along the dunes. Counterfire from the Swifts destroyed four bunkers and caused two secondary explosions, one with a huge fireball.

Also on March 20, PCF 65 detained five young men who were later determined to be Viet Cong. The

(Continued to Page 4)

Capt. Spore Is Scheduled To Take NSA Helm Today

Captain Burns W. Spore, USN, was scheduled to become the new Commander Naval Support Activity, Saigon April 21 in ceremonies at the Cofat Compound in Saigon. He relieves Captain Herbert T. King, USN, who has held the post since the command was established on May 17, 1966.

Captain Spore comes to Vietnam from the Atlantic Fleet where he was Commander Service Squadron Eight. Capt. King has been ordered to the Washington, D.C. area where he will study at George Washington University.

Born in Annapolis, Md., Capt. Spore is the fourth generation of his family to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. He was graduated with the class of 1941.

His duties during World War II consisted of gunnery, executive and commanding officer assignments in the destroyers Flusser, Spence, Duncan and Ralph Talbot in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

In 1946, while commanding officer of the Ralph Talbot, he took part in Operation Crossroads, the atomic bomb tests at Bikini.

After completing a post-graduate course in Intelligence-Linguistics (Russian) in 1950, he served during the Korean conflict as Seventh Fleet Intelligence Officer. This tour included nine months with the U.S. element of the United Nations Armistice Delegation at Kaesong and Panmunjom.

After Korea came assignments as First Fleet Intelligence Officer

and with the Foreign Intelligence Branch of the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Capt. Spore commissioned the guided missile heavy cruiser USS Canberra and served with her as operations officer. In mid-1957 he took command of the destroyer USS Robert A. Owens, a unit of ASW Task Force "ALFA".

Two years later, in March 1959, he became Director of Operations for the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations). Then, in June 1961, he began a three-year tour at the Headquarters, U.S. European Command in France as Assistant Chief of the Joint Special Warfare Branch in the Plans, Operations and Policy Division.

His next post was commanding officer of the attack cargo ship USS Thuban, in which post he participated in operation "STEELPIKE", the amphibious assault exercise on the southwest coast of Spain, and in operation "BARDRINK", the combined amphibious assault exercise with the Norwegian armed forces north of the Arctic Circle.

He took command of Service Squadron Eight in September of 1965.

Shipover Site Determines Tax

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that it is the place of reenlistment which governs whether a man's variable reenlistment bonus is taxable or not — not where the man is located when he receives his payments.

In ruling on the VRB payments — which the Navy says is apparently doing a good job of keeping "hard-skill" people in the service — the tax man was doing a big favor to those who shipover in tax-free hostile areas and who have been or will be denied lump-sum payment of the incentive money.

As long as they re-enlist in a tax-free zone, their reenlistment cash will be paid them without the tax bite, regardless of whether they collect it all at one time or in more than one annual installment.

Adm. Hooper Tours

Rear Admiral Edwin B. Hooper, Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, is completing a 15-day inspection tour of logistic support facilities in the Western Pacific this week.

Admiral Hooper and an 11-man inspection party from his staff viewed Service Force commands in the Republic of Vietnam, the Philippines and Guam.

He and his party are scheduled to return to Hawaii April 22.

As the principal logistics agent for the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral Hooper commands over 46,000 personnel who man more than 115 ships, 14 overseas shore activities including the Naval Support Activity, Saigon, and numerous other mobile support units and staffs of the far-flung Pacific Service Force.

Dean Rusk States Our Vietnam Policy

The following statement of United States policy in Vietnam was made by Secretary of State Dean Rusk at the opening of a recent news conference:

There has been a good deal of discussion in recent days about the prospects for peace in Vietnam. President Johnson has pressed for peace in Southeast Asia in capitals all over the world, over and over again. He has demonstrated that he is prepared to meet the other side more than half way.

He has urged a conference, unconditional discussions, or private and discreet contacts in order to move ahead with talks which might open the way to peace. He has responded affirmatively to the efforts of 17 non-aligned nations, of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers of Asian Nations, of the British co-chairman, of members of the International Control Commission and to attempts made by leading personalities.

The United States has made it clear that Hanoi's four points could be discussed along with points which others may wish to propose or that we would engage in preliminary discussions to attempt to find an agreed set of points as a basis for negotiation. We have made it clear that we want no bases in Southeast Asia and do not wish to retain United States troops in Vietnam after peace is assured.

At Manila, the Allies stated that they would withdraw their forces not later than six months after the other side withdraws its forces to the North, ceases its infiltration and the level of violence thus subsides. We have stated that we believe that the question of reunification should be determined by the Vietnamese through their own free decision.

We have emphasized that we would much prefer to use our resources for the economic reconstruction of Southeast Asia rather than war and that peace could permit North Vietnam to participate in a regional effort to which we would be prepared to contribute at least one billion dollars.

On the military side, we have on two occasions stopped the bombing of North Vietnam to discover whether there might be some constructive reaction from the other side. In May 1965, a pause was limited to five and a half days because it was rejected by the principal communist capitals during the first three days.

At the beginning of 1966, there was a cessation for 37 days—a period much longer than had been indicated might produce some constructive result. It elicited no response other than the continuation of the movement of men and arms into the South, and an assertion that Vietnam must be settled on communist terms. We have emphasized that we would be prepared to discuss steps of mutual de-escalation or would take note of any de-escalation and respond accordingly.

But for some time now there has been evident a systematic campaign by the communist side to bring about an unconditional and permanent cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam without any corresponding military action on their side in exchange for the possibility of talks—talks which are thus far formless and without content.

We cannot accept a situation in which men and arms move, without interruption by us, to cross the 17th parallel and attack allied armed forces and Vietnamese civilians in the South. We must know the military consequences of such a military action on our part. They must not expect us to stop our military action by bombing while they continue their military action by invasion. No one has been able or willing to give us any information on this subject.

It is entirely within the resources of the quiet diplomacy of both sides to talk about peace and to discuss mutual steps to reduce the violence. We have been trying in every way known to us to invite and to engage in such talks. Unfortunately I cannot report to you today any tangible forward movement in this direction. All channels remain open and are being utilized.

Chaplain's Corner

Is Religion for Kids ?

By Chaplain Freistedt

"Religion is for kids!"

How many times have you heard that one? You know the fellow who recites the story of his life; how he was forced to go to Sunday school and church and now proudly announces: "Nobody is going to make me go any more!"

Well that is his choice and a bad one, I might add. Oh, he believes in God, he says. But remember just believing there is a God is not an automatic ticket to heaven, anymore than believing in baseball makes you a good player.

After all, the world's greatest "believer" is the devil. And though once he was in, he eventually was thrown out.

For kids you say? Well there were a few Christians around who didn't think it was child's play; like St. Paul, who was beheaded for his faith, St. Francis of Assisi, who served unselfishly to his death, and other men like Albert Schweitzer and Dietrick Bonhoffer who laid their lives on the line for Christ.

For kids? Well, in a way you are right. It is for the "Children of God". Those are the fellows who really know their Eternal Father.

Hooray for the Squares!

Another of the good old words has gone the way of love, modesty and patriotism. Something to be snickered over or outright laughed at. Why, it used to be that there was no higher compliment you could pay a man than to call him a "square-shooter".

A man's promise of a "square deal" once was binding—but today a square is a guy who volunteers when he doesn't have to. He's a guy who gets his kicks from trying to do a job better than anyone else.

He's a boob who gets so lost in his work he has to be reminded to go home. He hasn't learned to cut corners or goof off. . . This nut we call a square gets all choked up when he hears children singing "My country 'tis of thee". He even believes in God and says so.

Some of the old squares were Nathan Hale, Patrick Henry, George Washington, Ben Franklin. Some of the new squares are Glenn, Shephard, Carpenter, Cooper, Schirra, and Young. John Glenn says he gets a funny feeling down inside when he sees the flag go by says he's proud he belonged to the Boy Scouts and the Y.M.C.A. How square can you get?

A square is a guy who lives within his means, whether the Joneses do or not. He doesn't want to "fly now and pay later".

A square is likely to save some of his own money for a rainy day, rather than count on using yours. A square gets his books out of the library instead of the drug store. He tells his son it's more important to play fair than to win. Imagine?

A square is a guy who wants to see America first in everything. He believes in honoring his mother and father and "do unto others". He thinks he knows more than his teen-ager about politics, world affairs and morality.

So, will all of you who answer this description please stand up, you misfits in this brave, new age—you dismally disorganized, improperly apologetic ghosts of the past—stand up!

Stand up and be counted. You squares who turn the wheels. . . dig the fields . . . move mountains . . . put rivets in our dreams—you squares who dignify the human race—you squares who hold the thankless world in place!

The Jackstaff News

Captain Herbert T. King, USN
Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity Saigon
Lieutenant (junior grade) D.E. Schon, USNR, Officer In Charge
C.K. Ferguson, JOC, Editor
R.I. Edwards, JO1, Assistant Editor
James E. Hummel, AE2 (JO), Art Editor/Circulation

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Game Warden Units 'Mix It Up' with Viet Cong

Operation Game Warden units continued to see heavy action in recent weeks as they kept up their efforts to prevent infiltration of men and supplies by Mekong Delta waterways.

A large mine exploded between two speeding river patrol boats on the lower Long Tau River the morning of March 15 throwing a column of water 150 feet into the air. The mine, which was evaluated as a command-detonated device, caused no casualties or damage.

PBRs of River Patrol Section 513 based at Vinh Long killed two Viet Cong and destroyed a sampan the night of March 15.

The patrol spotted and illuminated two sampans with three persons aboard and at the same time came under small arms fire from the riverbank. One sampan occupant was seen to be holding a rifle.

The PBRs took the sampans under .50 caliber machine gun and grenade fire, killing two of the men and destroying one sampan. Machine gun fire also suppressed the small arms fire from the riverbank.

Patrol officer was Chief Petty Officer Ross H. Hall.

PBRs from Nha Be were hit by nearly everything in the enemy armory the early morning of March 16 while on a routine patrol of the Long Tau River in the Rung Sat special zone.

The two-boat patrol was illuminated with a flare and then received heavy machine gun, 57mm recoilless rifle and anti-tank rocket fire from the riverbank.

The patrol cleared the area, but returned after being reinforced by another 2-boat patrol and the PBRs then suppressed the enemy fire. One boat was damaged by a 57mm recoilless rifle hit and one crewman wounded.

Navy Seawolf helicopter gunships made a strike on the area following the departure of the PBRs.

On the afternoon of the 16th, PBRs and an Army helicopter team joined forces to aid a merchant ship, the SS Conqueror, which was

under recoilless rifle attack on the Long Tau River channel to Saigon.

The enemy fire was suppressed but not before the ship had been hit six times, wounding three men. Two seriously-wounded men were taken by the PBRs to Nha Be for first aid.

On the afternoon of the 17th, Game Warden boats from Can Tho helped beat off an attack by an estimated 200 Viet Cong on a Vietnamese outpost near Tra On on the Bassac River.

The fire support by the PBRs and Army artillery caused two huge secondary explosions, throwing a fireball and smoke 70 feet into the sky. The Vietnamese outpost commander later credited the PBRs with killing 16 of the enemy.

March 22 was an eventful day for the PBR crewmen with three major fire fights reported. In one incident, four of five Viet Cong occupants of a motor-propelled sampan were killed when on the approach of Can Tho-based PBRs 31 and 32 they beached their craft and attempted to flee into the brush. At the same time, other VC opened up on the PBRs from the riverbank.

The PBRs then killed four of the fleeing men with their automatic weapons. One PBR received light damage but there were no friendly personnel casualties. Patrol Officer was Chief Petty Officer Paul J. Hendrix.

The same day, newly-assigned men on a training exercise on Can Tho-based PBRs 59 and 60 found their training more realistic than planned when Viet Cong gunners opened up on the boats with automatic weapons from four positions along the Bassac River.

The PBRs returned the fire and there were no friendly casualties.

The third incident of the day occurred when PBRs received small arms fire on the Long Tau shipping

channel to Saigon. One boat received light damage but there were no personnel casualties. Navy Seawolf helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft were called in on the VC positions.

March 23 turned out to be another action-filled day.

That day the river patrol boats went to the aid of a Vietnamese Navy river convoy that was being fired on by recoilless rifles, mortars and automatic weapons from approximately 25 positions. The PBRs provided covering fire for the withdrawal of the convoy and then spotted artillery fire directed at the enemy positions. Patrol Officer was Chief Petty Officer Grant E. Fuqua.

The other actions included an ambush from the banks of the Bassac River in which at least 200 rounds of .50 caliber machine gun fire were directed at the PBRs. A helicopter fire team helped suppress the enemy fire. There were no friendly casualties. Patrol Officer was Petty Officer First Class Artley Driggers.

Also during the busy day the PBRs supported a Vietnamese troop landing with fire and blocking support, and, later in the day, river patrol craft 34 and 36 blasted a VC combat hamlet with machine gun, grenade and automatic rifle fire. Some small arms fire was received in return. Patrol Officer for the latter action was Chief Petty Officer Billy D. Strength.

A relatively routine fire fight also on the 23rd occurred on the Ham Long River when PBRs found themselves the targets for automatic weapons fire and responded with machine guns, grenades and automatic rifles plus calling in artillery fire.

On March 24, MBS 31, based at Nha Be, was rocked by what was later confirmed to have been a claymore mine detonated on the west bank of the Long Tau channel.

MSB 31, which was conducting a routine sweep at the time in company with MSB 18, received superficial hull damage but no personnel were injured.

Immediately after the large explosion, small arms fire was also received. The fire was returned by the MSBs and river patrol boats and helicopter gunships joined in hitting the enemy positions.

It was the third attack of the month on the MSBs and the second utilizing a claymore mine. None of the attacks caused any personnel casualties. This was in sharp contrast to February when two Navy men were killed and 16 wounded during numerous attacks on the minesweepers as they battled to keep the vital shipping channel to Saigon open.

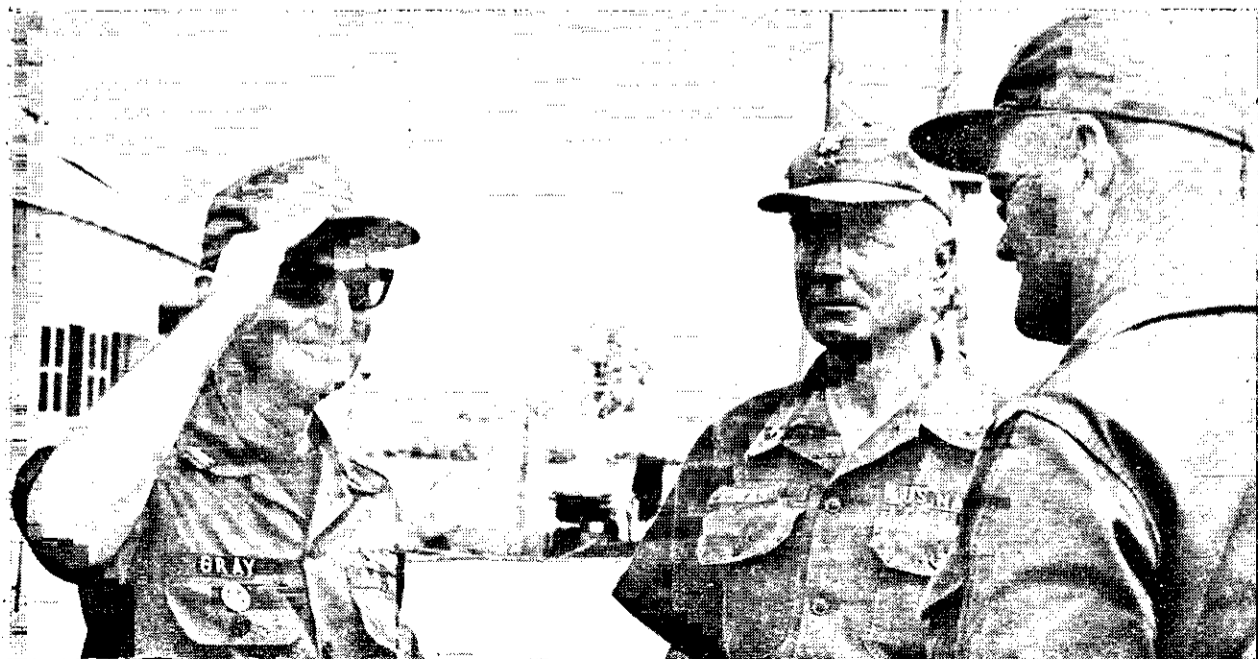
And so it went, with firefights a daily routine for the valiant river patrol boat crewmen. But mercy missions were so numerous as to become nearly routine also. Some 24 wounded Vietnamese popular forces soldiers and civilians were medically evacuated the morning of April 5 alone. The boats participating in this mission were from River Patrol Section 522 based at the new Tan Chau base.

An unusual type of attack was made against a Navy Seawolf helicopter March 26 when the enemy attempted to down it by exploding a charge underneath it as it was gaining altitude after taking off from the tank landing ship USS Jennings County. The VC succeeded in raising a large cloud of dust and debris that rose about 150 feet into the air but the Seawolf was unscathed.

Also nearly a daily occurrence was fire support to Vietnamese outposts under VC attack. A typical such action was on March 31 when enemy forces attempted to overrun a Vietnamese outpost on the Co Chiep River, attacking from three sides.

Game Warden boats patrolling nearby brought their .50 caliber machine guns into play and called in Seawolf helicopters for additional support. The two-prong Navy punch was too much for the VC, who broke off the attack.

One of the most eventful recent days for the Game Warden sailors was Saturday, April 9, when a supply sampan was destroyed with a large secondary explosion, three ambushes were suppressed, an attack on a friendly outpost was repulsed and a merchant ship under attack on the main shipping channel to Saigon was aided. (In the latter incident the mere presence of the PBRs caused the prudent VC to cease fire.)



NEW RIVER FORCE COMMANDER—Capt. Paul N. Gray (left) salutes Capt. Burton B. Witham during a change of command ceremony at which Captain Gray assumed command of Operation Game Warden. Rear Admiral Norvell G. Ward (center), Commander Naval Forces Vietnam, commended Capt. Witham for his job during the past 12 months as head of the operation. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by Wendell, PH2)

Sinking of Enemy Trawler Is Described by PCF Skipper

CNFVN—"When we were about 100 yards from the enemy trawler we illuminated her with a search light and then there was a big explosion—it shook my boat up pretty bad and the port engine was suddenly sluggish. At first I thought they had hit us!"

Lieutenant (jg) F. Kelly McCutchen Jr., patrol officer of Swift boat 78, based at Chu Lai, was describing the beginning of the two-hour action that blocked an enemy infiltration attempt and netted a large amount of enemy weapons six miles south of Chu Lai in the early morning hours of March 14.

The explosion described by Ltjg. McCutchen was a near-miss and did not damage the Swift. It was believed to be a mortar round.

"When the trawler turned her stern to us, I knew they were up to something and we made a sharp right. Then the explosion went off astern. As soon as the shock of the explosion was over they were throwing .50-caliber at us. We turned our stern to hers and got out of the area as fast as possible!", Ltjg. McCutchen said.

The Swift had been ordered by the "On Scene Commander", the com-

manding officer of the destroyer radar picket ship USS Brister (DER-327), to cut off a suspicious contact headed for the beach. The Coast Guard Cutter Point Ellis was also ordered into the area.

"We regained contact with the trawler by radar, but it was still dark and we couldn't see her," McCutchen continued. "We waited about 30 minutes until first light and as soon as we saw her on the beach we opened fire on her and on the immediate vicinity to keep anyone onboard from leaving and to stop any attempts to off-load her."

About 30 minutes later, at 6:12 a.m., the trawler was disintegrated by a violent explosion with a tremendous cloud of white smoke.

"The shock wave of the explosion was so strong that the Brister reporting feeling it three miles away. It was the biggest explosion I've

ever seen," Ltjg. McCutchen said.

After three minutes, when the cloud of smoke cleared, all that could be seen of the trawler was a small portion of her hull. Soon the incoming tide covered it.

After the explosion, the Swift boat, joined now by PCF 16, the Brister and the Point Ellis, remained in the area until late that afternoon. They fired into the tree line with the .50-caliber machine guns to prevent the enemy from recovering anything from the beach and from the submerged remainder of the trawler's hull.

The Brister dispatched a motor-whale boat with four men to go ashore and see what was scattered on the beach. The four men, covered by Coastguardsmen in the Point Ellis skiff, recovered claymore mines, cases of blasting caps, cases of rifle ammunition, bolt action

rifles, heavy automatic weapons, packages of spare parts for weapons and plastic explosives.

As soon as it was determined from the Brister shore party and Navy Underwater Demolition Team members who investigated the sunken hull that salvage would be worthwhile, U.S. Marines were landed by helicopter to set up a defensive perimeter. Salvage crews then went to work.

The trawler was the sixth captured or sunk by Operation Market Time units since the operation began in March, 1965. It was the first trawler discovered by Market Time units along the northern coast of South Vietnam.

There were no friendly casualties in the action but the Swift sustained moderate damage from the trawler's automatic weapons fire. Enemy casualties are unknown.

Market Time Report

(Cont. from Page 1)

men were taken off several small junks because they weren't carrying draft cards.

In a final action on March 20, PCF 72 gave gunfire support to a spotter aircraft being fired on by the enemy.

The action continued the following day when PCF 66 "neutralized" with mortar rounds a position near Tuy Hoa that was being used by the enemy to fire on Vietnamese Navy junks. And Swifts 38 and 68 started new fires in bunkers in the enemy positions near the mouth of the Co Chien River that had been bombarded the preceding day.

There was cooperation by friendly civilians the afternoon of March 23. As PCF 101, based at Danang, approached a cluster of fishing boats two men attempted to swim to the beach. One of them was hauled out of the water by the fishermen and delivered to the Swift crewmen.

The Coast Guard cutter Point Partridge turned its mortar fire on enemy positions near the mouth of the Bassac River March 24, setting off a brush fire and petroleum fire besides destroying several VC structures.

Swift boat 89 and the Coast Guard cutter Point Comfort found themselves called on to hit a somewhat out of the ordinary type of target March 25—enemy cave positions which were only vulnerable from seaward. The Market Time units lobbed mortars rounds into the caves resulting in three secondary explosions.

On March 26 it was confirmed that 44 of 197 "exfiltrators" (persons detained by Market Time forces trying to escape from the area of Operation Pershing) were Viet Cong.

The Coast Guard cutter Point Cypress had its inning March 27

when it hit enemy structures along the beach in a VC-controlled area of Vinh Binh province known as the "Long Toan Secret Zone". Eight camouflaged structures were destroyed.

Swift boat 92 went into action off the coast of An Xuyen province April 7 when it was led by two evading sampans to an enemy position on the coast that included a camouflaged metal building. The Swift was taken under fire from the position. Four persons in the sampans tried to escape ashore but were hit by the Swift's .50 caliber machine gun fire.

The An Thoi-based craft then put 24 rounds of 81mm mortar fire on the position.

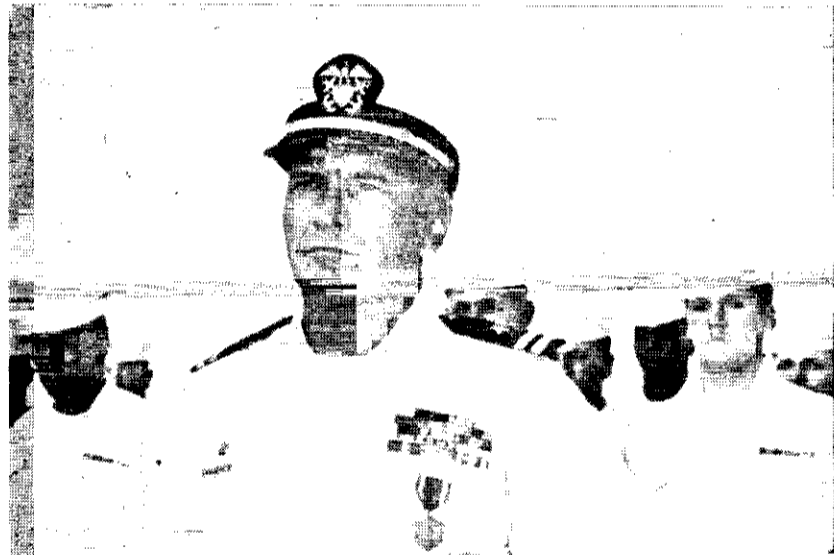
The Coast Guard cutters Point Grace and Point League were in the spotlight April 8. The Point Grace received heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire while patrolling 2,000 yards off Vinh Binh province. The Cat Lo-based cutter suppressed the enemy fire.

And the Point League, also based at Cat Lo, spotted 15 persons unloading a sampan near the mouth of the My Tho River. Upon receiving permission to open fire, the cutter caused a large secondary explosion with 81mm mortar rounds.

The most profitable single operation for the Market Time forces in terms of confirmed enemy killed was the afternoon of April 9 when PCF 15 killed eight enemy while supporting Operation Canyon.

The Swift crewmen spotted two groups of armed men running from advancing Marine elements at the mouth of the Cua Dai River (about 20 miles south of Danang). The Swift also received small arms fire.

The PCF swept the area with intense fire for five minutes before ceasing fire to let the Marines advance. The Marines counted eight bodies and recovered one BAR and two carbines.



'EXCELLENCE HAS BEEN THE CHARACTERISTIC OF EVERY TASK PERFORMED'—Lieutenant Francis R. Sanderlin stands proudly during reading of the citation after receiving the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V for meritorious service while in command of the light cargo ship USS Mark. The presentation was made by Capt. H.T. King, Commander NSA Saigon. Through his efforts it was found that many of the rivers in the Mekong Delta were navigable for small ships though such passages had not been attempted for many years. One such route reopened to use saved a detour of 225 miles. The citation further stated that his ship was subject to enemy harassment and automatic weapons fire on frequent occasions. The Mark, under the operational control of Commander Naval Support Activity, Saigon, provides logistic support to Operations Game Warden and Market Time bases in the Republic of Vietnam.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by Bruce Whitmarsh, PH2)

Aussie Ship Joins 7th Fleet

The first Australian ship to take part in the Vietnam war the guided missile destroyer Hobart, is now operating with the U.S. Seventh Fleet off Vietnam.

An improved version of the U.S. Navy's Charles F. Adams class guided missile destroyer, Hobart is the second of three similar ships built for Australia in the United States. She was purchased from the United States for 45 million dollars and commissioned in Boston on October 26, 1962.

Similar to U.S. guided missile destroyers, Hobart carries Tartar guided missiles, two automatic five-inch/54 caliber rapid fire guns and anti-submarine torpedos. In addition, she is equipped with Ikara,

an Australian designed and built long-range anti-submarine weapon. The 437 foot ship has a crew of 20 officers and 312 enlisted men. She is commanded by Captain G.R. Griffiths, DSC, of the Royal Australian Navy.

The sleek gray-green ship slipped alongside the U.S. guided missile destroyer USS Henry D. Wilson at Subic Bay, the Philippines March 15 for a short period of indoctrination training before joining the naval forces off Vietnam.

Sinks Steel-Hull Ship

The positions on the beach were immediately taken under fire by other Operation Market Time units which had now arrived on the scene to assist.

As PCF 68 turned around to re-engage the trawler, it could not be picked up on the radar screen and the fire could no longer be seen. Presumably, the trawler had sunk. A week later the sinking was con-

firmed by debris found in the area.

The Swift boats are a part of the Navy's Operation Market Time, a force assigned the task of preventing the infiltration of Communist men and supplies into South Vietnam by sea.

The fast little patrol craft, which carry a crew of six, are the operation's most numerous units with over 80 Swifts in Vietnam.



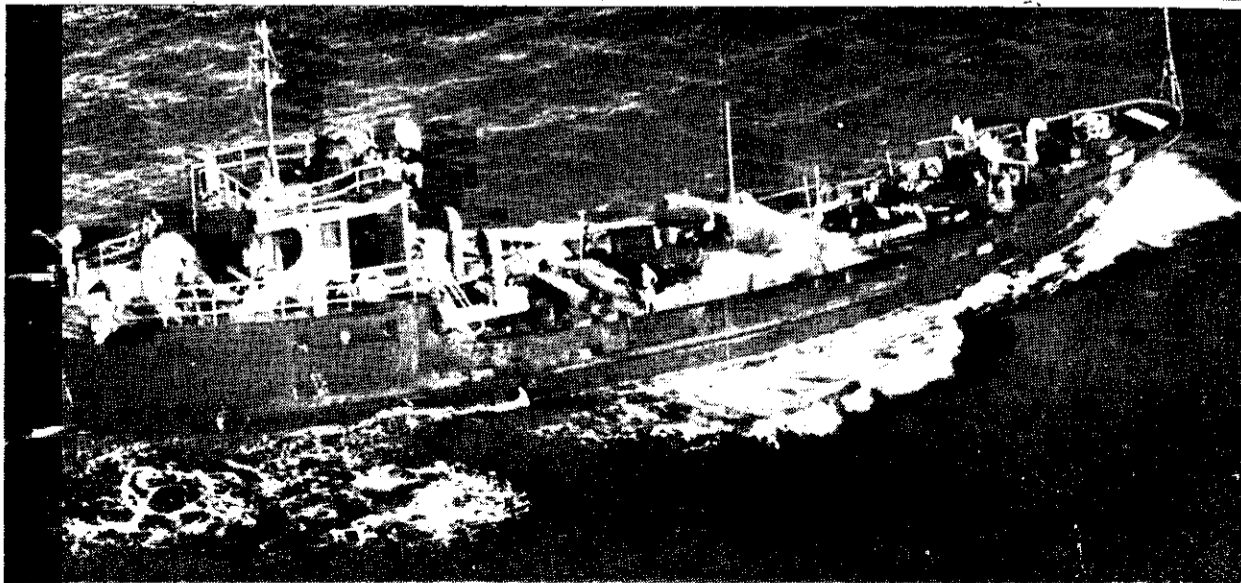
TWIN STINGERS . . . Seaman J. Wayne Farley operated the twin .50's during PCF 71's battle with a communist supply trawler which was attempting to infiltrate tons of armaments to the Viet Cong.



'SKIPPER' . . Lieutenant (jg) Richard W. Dawson was at the conn when his Swift met up with a steel-hulled communist trawler with disastrous results for the enemy craft.



WE GOT A BIG ONE . . . Was the gist of some of the messages sent from PCF 71 when it encountered an armed, 80-foot, steel-hulled communist trawler. Petty Officer Second Class Ronald L. Moore is establishing a radio contact.



SIGHTED TRAWLER, SANK SAME . . . Might have been the message relayed by Swifts 69 and 71 after a recent encounter with a communist supply trawler of the type pictured here.

Navy's Civil Engineer Corps Is 100 Years Old

Pay Teams Go Out to Field

"Hey! The payteam's here!"

The men of the Mobile Pay Team hear this six times a month as they make their way around the Delta paying Navy men located at Long Xuyen, Sa Dec, Vinh Long, Can Tho, My Tho and Dong Tam. Each month these detachments are visited by a team consisting of one officer and two disbursing clerks.

The team holds payday, sells piastres, takes deposits to the ten percent savings deposits program and endeavors to answer all questions regarding pay and allowances.

Several months ago the disbursing office realized the men in the field weren't getting the disbursing service they had a right to expect. Branch disbursing offices were then established at Cam Ranh Bay, Cat Lo and eventually at Qui Nhon—and the Mobile Pay Team commenced trips to the Delta Detachments.

An Thoi is paid by the station ship and Nha Be is paid by the main disbursing office in Saigon. This arrangement affords every man the opportunity of discussing his pay with a disbursing clerk at least once a month.

While the men of the Delta Detachments eagerly look forward to the Mobile Pay Team's monthly visit,

the disbursing clerk volunteers find the trips a welcome break from their daily work in Saigon. Everyone who has made the trips agrees the chow is much better, the working hours shorter and the air fresher than in Saigon.

So far the team has traveled almost every way but on a caribou's back. They have flown on "Air Cofat's" C45's and C47's; Air Force C123's. and Army Caribous and choppers. They have travelled on land by jeeps and other trucks and on water by PBR's and Mike boats.

The strip at My Tho is too short for "Air Cofat" so the Army takes the team down in a chopper or Caribou. Sa Dec can only be reached by road from Vinh Long, but so far there have been more than enough volunteers from Sa Dec to pick the team up—even though the area is known to be VC infested.

From dividers to slide rules to computers — officers of the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps have worked with a wide variety of tools since their inception 100 years ago. And the locations in which they have operated have taken their place in history: Guadalcanal, Inchon, Antarctica . . .

Today, throughout South Vietnam, the Navy Civil Engineer Corps is managing and directing one of the largest construction projects in our military history. Despite a 10,000-mile logistical pipeline, difficult terrain, enemy harassment and monsoon rains, Navy Civil Engineers and their contractor, RMK-BRJ, have managed to complete over half the \$1 billion plus military construction program of airfields, port facilities and supply depots.

Facilities have been provided for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard in a remarkably short period and under combat conditions.

A few of the most significant accomplishments have been:

An 8,000-foot runway with accompanying facilities at Cam Ranh Bay.

Permanent 10,000-foot runways at Chu Lai, Phan Rang and Da Nang.

Two deep draft piers and LST berths at Da Nang.

Two deep draft berths in Saigon.

A vast network of logistical support facilities throughout Vietnam including open and covered storage

areas, POL tank farms, depots, etc. Ammunition storage areas at Can Ranh, Da Nang, Phan Rang and Chu Lai.

Hospitals at Qui Nhon, Can Tho, Vung Tau and Saigon.

Cantonments at various locations throughout Vietnam.

This work has all been managed by the Navy Civil Engineer Corps officers who comprise the Officer in Charge of Construction Republic of Vietnam (OICC/RVN) which is the on-site representative of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC). NAVFAC is the Department of Defense construction agent for Southeast Asia.

With the stroke of the Presidential pen on the second of March, 1867 the Civil Engineer Corps was born. Congress had passed an act which provided that Navy Civil Engineer Corps officers should be commissioned by the President with the consent of Congress. Until the Spanish-American War their number was limited to ten. Forty years later, they numbered only 126. Today the CEC/Seabee "family" consists of 2,000 Civil Engineer Corps officers and some 23,000 Seabees.

Chief Finds Navy Has a Heart

The U.S. Navy recently proved that a military organization can also have a heart of gold when Admiral David L. McDonald, Chief of Naval Operations, personally approved the reenlistment of Senior Chief Gunner's Mate Thomas A. Slater, a Navy veteran of 36 years.

Chief Slater, who was serving aboard the USS Saint Paul (CA 73), took his reenlistment physical and passed it on November 16, 1966, but was turned down by the Bureau of Naval Personnel. The Bureau has a policy of not reenlisting men who have served more than 30 years, a policy designed for the welfare of the individual Navyman.

Chief Slater, however, had other ideas about reenlistment. He was only working on his tenth gold hash mark; why stop now?

So, the 57-year-old member of the Fighting Saint team decided to do just that—fight. He wrote two letters to BuPers asking that he be reenlisted; both times the reply was negative.

While on leave during December he made a trip to Washington, D.C. in order to speak directly to Bureau personnel. There he was told by a captain that "Although the Bureau would like to help him, it could not break its policy. However, said the captain, perhaps if you spoke to someone higher up..."

"I made up my mind that I was going to fight this to the end," says the Chief and two days later he was telling his story to Admiral McDonald, who assured him that the matter would be taken care of.

The happy Chief is still on active duty and intends to stay in the Navy until his retirement at the age of 62 in five years.

Serial Numbers To Be Out; Social Security Numbers In

The serial number, universal brand of the military brotherhood for nearly 40 years, is on the way out. It will yield to the social security number for all purposes of pay, identification, security checks and general filing. A new pay system is forcing the change.

And the recruit of the future may be instructed to tell the enemy, if captured, nothing but "name, rank and social security number."

All military pay records include the social security number and pay must be reported by the number both to social security and Internal Revenue Service. So it is a firm fixture in the pay records.

The social security number was adopted for both purposes.

Keying the personnel records to the new nine-digit numbers will be a big and complicated paper and electronics job. BuPers has been ordered to draft a plan that would accomplish, by July, 1969 the entire shift-over.

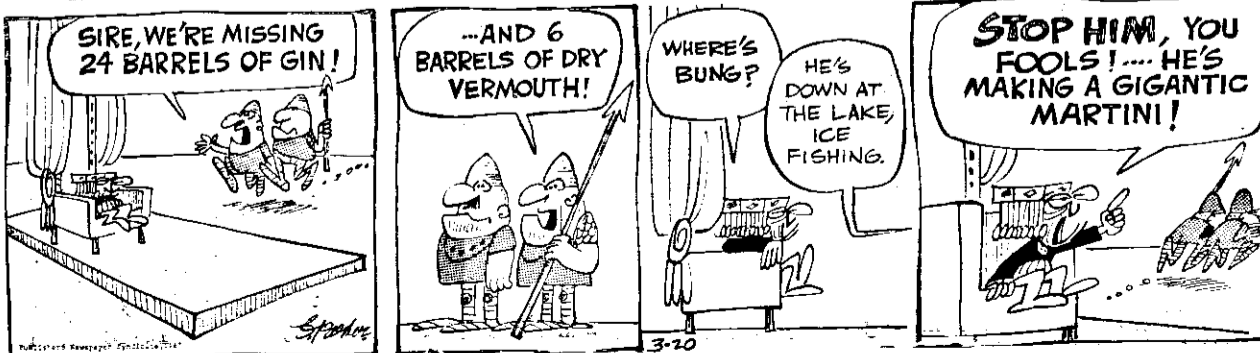
First step will be using social security instead of file and service numbers for newcomers to the service. Because the officer management is more centralized, the very first of the new numbers will probably go to new officers and the process may begin within a few months.

A couple of years ago, when the Navy was about to run out of seven-digit numbers, it considered going either to its own eight-digit groups or to social security numbers. It concluded that either would be too much work. Instead, they adopted a letter to replace the first digit, thus creating a huge new supply of seven-place identifiers.

The first Navy identification numbers, beginning with 500, were assigned to officers in 1903. They began assigning them to enlisteds in 1918.

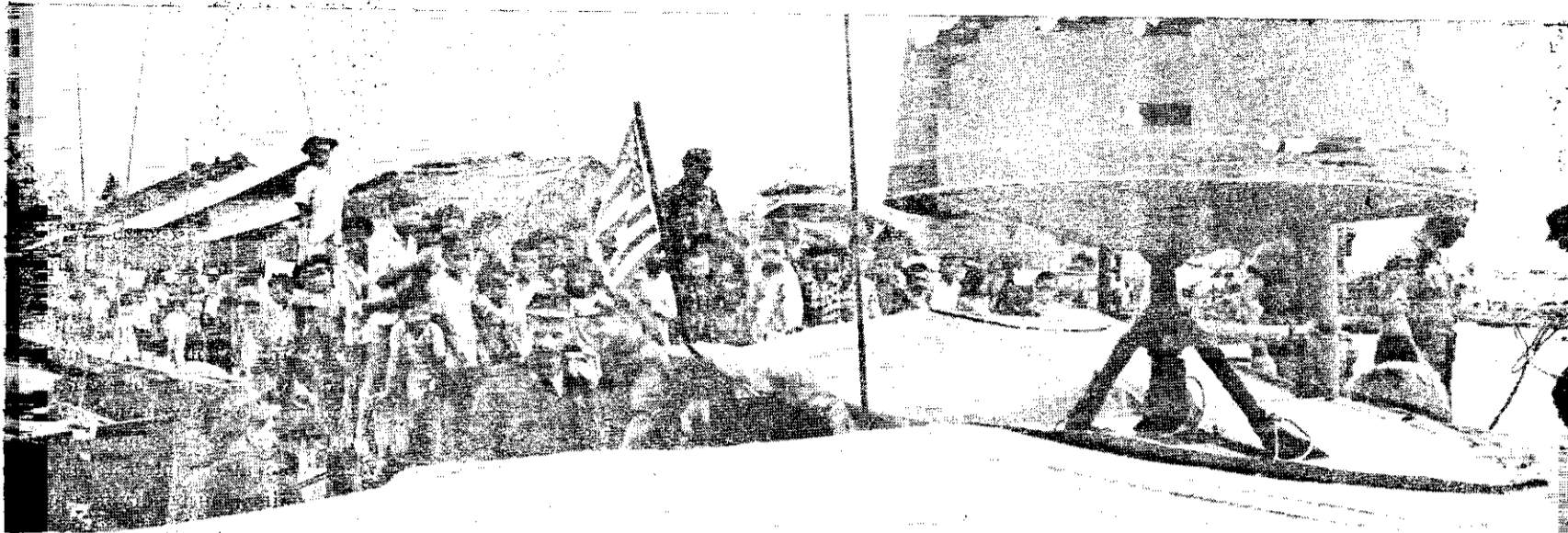
Some old timers have a sentimental attachment to their five-digit officer numbers. Except for this, and for having to memorize new numbers, Navy-Marine Corps personnel are believed to have no objection to the new scheme.

THE WIZARD OF ID



by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

Mission Accomplished: Navy Wins Friends



WARM WELCOME . . . The Navymen weren't sure of their reception on their first visit to the VC-influenced village of Than An, located near Vung Tau, but received an enthusiastic greeting from the kids.

(All photos this page official U.S. Navy photos by Bruce Whitmarsh, PH2)

By R. I. Edwards, JO1

It seemed that 10,000 kids were on the ten-by-fifteen-foot dock to welcome the first Navy visit to the island village of Than An, a few miles northwest of Vung Tau.

The men of River Patrol Section 543 in Cat Lo felt that a visit to the little fishing village might help strengthen Vietnamese-American friendship.

Two PBRs (River Patrol Boats) left Cat Lo at 1300. Aboard the lead boat was Lieutenant H.H. Mauz, the commanding officer of River Patrol Section 543. With him was Doctor (Lieutenant) J.B. Hackworth and Hospital Corpsman First Class E. B. Norton.

Soon after leaving the Cat Lo Pier, Lieutenant (junior grade) R. Frey, Executive Officer of PBR Section 543, held an informal briefing.

"We know that the village is influenced by the Viet Cong," he said. "We have no idea what kind of reception we will get when we arrive."

The reception was a pleasant one. On the way to Than An, the boats stopped to pick up Captain Dang, a District Police Chief, and an Army Medic, Sergeant First Class R. D. Hilley, and two workers from the district health supervisor's office.

Most of the 1,500 villagers got their first close-up view of a U.S. Navy River Patrol Boat when the two craft arrived at Thanh] An. The children were particularly enthusiastic.

Nearly 200 people of all ages were treated for complaints ranging from skin rashes to internal disorders.

One of the health workers and the village midwife inoculated another 150 people, mostly children, for cholera and smallpox. Some of the children were reluctant, but one or two pieces of candy helped to take the sting out of the needle.

Two cases were earmarked for further treatment. An elderly woman was sent to the Korean hospital in Vung Tau for X-rays and possible treatment for tuberculosis, and a two-month-old boy was scheduled for surgery to correct his cleft lip.

After two hours of intense medical work, the visitors said good bye to their new-found friends and struck out for the return to Cat Lo. The group had accomplished its mission.



WATCH IT, DOC! . . . This child wasn't as happy about the Americans coming as were the rest of the villagers. Lieutenant E.B. Hackworth, MC, is checking her respiration.



BRAVE . . . Most of the children received their shots and medicine with as little fear as this boy. The inoculations are being given by a technician from the the District Health Supervisor's Office.



Cam Ranh Bay Hog Factory Closes Down

Story & Pix

By Larry Lindberg, PH2

Hard times have befallen Willie Sutton's "hog works" at Cam Ranh Bay with the banishment of the hogs from the detachment for "sanitary reasons" and the escape of Willie's 17-foot python ("World's Largest Reptile").

Willie, who says everyone stationed in Vietnam should have a hobby, raised two piglets to over 500-pound porkers in seven months. He plans to donate the hogs to the Vietnamese in the interests of improved animal husbandry here when he is rotated shortly. They are now "boarders" at a farm near the detachment.

Anyone who finds the python is welcome to it!



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FROM:
PAO
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Jim Scott RIVER PATROL

LUCKILY SCOTT AND O'BRIAN WERE SPOTTED IN TIME. STANDARD COMBAT RESCUE PROCEURES ARE STARTED....

WE'LL PICK THEM UP ON THE WAY OUT... KEEP THOSE GUNS FIRING.

BETWEEN THE HELOS AND THE PBR, CHARLIE WAS SOON UNDER CONTROL....

AHOY!! WE HAVE SOME OF YOUR MEN ABOARD. WE'LL DROP THEM OFF.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU GUYS ARE OK.... WE'RE GOING OFF PATROL AND WE'LL DROP MIKE OFF AT SICK-BAY FOR A CHECK.

THOUGHTS OF LIZ AND HIS SON CROSS JIM'S MIND AS HE REFLECTS ON THE DAY'S EVENTS AND THINKS ABOUT HIS NEXT PATROL... WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD ???...

TO BE CONT.