

VC ATTACK U.S. MERCHANT SHIP

CNFV—A Viet Cong attempt to sink a U.S. merchant ship in the Rung Sat Special Zone of South Vietnam turned into a death trap for the enemy involved recently, as 16 VC died in the attempt.



VOL. 2 No. 3 U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon December 2, 1967

Russian - Made Rocket Launcher Found



EXPLAINS OPERATION — U.S. Navy Commander Donald Warthen, (left) senior advisor, Rung Sat Special Zone, explains the operation of a captured Russian-made rocket launcher to Rear Admiral Kenneth L. Veth, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. The Viet Cong used the rocket launcher to attack a Chinese merchant ship on the Long Tau River in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 D.G. Edmonds)

Vice-President Expresses Gratitude

On the occasion of awarding Distinguished Service Crosses to two U.S. Army sergeants in Vietnam, Vice-President Humphrey made the following remarks in regard to the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam.

"First I want to bring to the American military forces the gratitude, the respect and the admiration of your President and your Vice-President and your fellow Americans. And through you, General Westmoreland, I ask that you convey this to every man, every officer in the field and in your command... in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, every branch of our military... I ask that you convey our deep gratitude and appreciation for service beyond the call of duty. And let it be known from this platform that the men and the women of the Armed Forces of the United States today represent the finest generation of Americans that this nation has ever known. This is the testimony of the officers who are in command and so when I read of the limitations of our young people these days I am reminded of what

the men who command them tell us. Remember these young Americans who are here are your brothers. They are your neighbors from back home. They are the same Americans that you see back in your home town, and they are doing a mighty good job, adjusting themselves to a new and strange environment, to all the difficulties of climate and terrain. They see problems that they never dreamed ever existed and yet I think it is fair to say that we have never put a better defense force in the field. Never have men worn the uniform of the United States of America who have done a better job as soldiers, as airmen, as sailors and Marines and Coast Guardsmen than those that are here today serving in this struggle as an ally to the Republic of Vietnam. I'm proud of them, the President is proud of them, and I want them to know that we are humbly grateful."

U.S. Army and Navy Forces and South Vietnamese Popular Forces killed the 16 Viet Cong and destroyed four enemy sampans during counter-attacks lasting more than four hours.

The ship, SS President Buchanan, was hit 19 times by recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire while enroute to Saigon on the Long Tau River.

The enemy fire hit the hull and superstructure ripping holes ranging from six inches to two-and-a-half feet in diameter. The attack lasted for approximately 10 minutes. There were no casualties.

Rung Sat Special Zone head quarters at Nha Be dispatched four River Patrol Boats (PBRs) to the area after receiving word of the attack.

A U.S. Army spotter plane and assault helicopter team were also dispatched. The PBRs set up a blocking force on the Dong Tranh and other nearby rivers to prevent the Viet Cong from escaping. They received light weapons fire, but it was suppressed.

The helicopter assault team received automatic weapons fire upon arrival in attack area. One helo was hit and forced down.

The downed aircraft was attacked by small arms fire and hand grenades before it could be lifted and returned to Vung Tau.

The remaining Army choppers were joined by U.S. Navy assault helicopters, piloted by Navy "Seawolves," and continued to attack enemy bunkers in the area. The helicopters received automatic weapons fire during the strikes.

Three UH-1B helicopters attached to the Army's 120th Aviation Company air-lifted South Vietnamese Popular Forces to the area. They immediately received enemy fire upon landing.

Later, the Army spotter plane observed approximately 20 to 30 VC attempting to escape the area. The plane then directed a strike by the 334th Aviation Company armed helo team on the fleeing enemy.

After the air strike, the ground forces pursued the enemy and found 16 dead VC.

The SS President Buchanan continued up the river and docked at Saigon.

The U.S. and Vietnamese forces captured two recoilless rifles, a hand grenade, a Chinese Communist carbine and miscellaneous ammunition.

BEAT ARMY

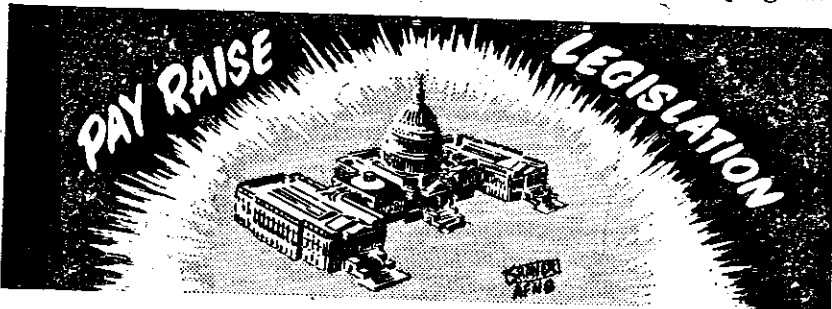


EDITORIAL

Lawmakers in Action

LEGISLATION now before Congress proposes a 5.6 per cent basic pay increase for members of the armed forces.

In this pay bill, the Department of Defense sent a request simultaneously to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate as part of the Defense legislative program.



The measure has been referred by both houses to their Armed Services Committees.

The chairman of each committee has introduced identical bills on the proposal.

In a bill of this nature, hearings are normally held and Defense Department officials asked to testify.

Once in a committee, the bill may be amended. Assuming a favorable report is made by the committee, the bill is then sent to the floor of the House or Senate to be debated.

At the end of the debate, a voice or roll-call vote is taken and if the bill passes by a majority, it is sent to the Senate (assuming the House acted first) where the House bill is considered. If the Senate has not yet held hearings on its bill, it will consider the House proposal, but may amend it and report out a new bill.

If the House and Senate debate their own bills and pass them with any differences between the two or if an amended version of the House bill is passed by the Senate, a conference committee is appointed by each House to resolve the differences.

Once approved by both House and Senate, the bill is sent to the President. The bill becomes law after it is signed by the President or when passed a second time by a two-thirds vote of Congress over a Presidential veto.

If the President holds the bill 10 calendar days (excepting Sundays) without signing it, the bill automatically becomes law. However, if Congress adjourns during the 10 days, the bill is automatically killed. (AFNB)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Clock that Thought

by

Chaplain F.P. Burchell

There is a story told of a clock which had the capability of thinking. One day this clock began to meditate about the future. It thought and it thought about its future life. It reasoned that it had to tick twice each second, 120 times each minute, or 7,200 times every hour. In 24 hours it would tick 172,800 times. This meant 63,072,000 times every year and in ten years it would have to tick 6,300,720,000 times.

At this point it began to shake. The main spring started trembling and the hands drooped from nervous exhaustion. When it revived it came to a new and startling conclusion. The clock said to itself, "I need not get upset about my future. All I have to do is tick one tick at a time." Because this clock discovered how to live it is still ticking today. That is how the legend of the Grandfather's clock all began.

Now, why would a Chaplain tell the story of a clock? I believe you can find the point by meditating on these words spoken by Jesus Christ. He said, "Do not worry or be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries of its own. Sufficient for each day is its own troubles." (Matthew 6:34)

So, for tomorrow and its needs

I do not pray

Lord help me, keep me,

Just for today.

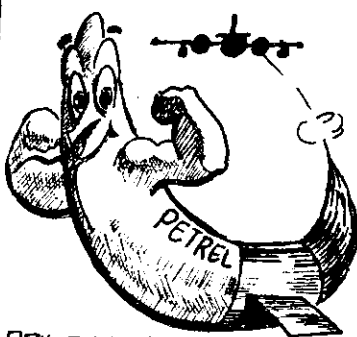
Did You Know?

ADM. W.A. MOFFETT



1921-33

FIRST CHIEF OF BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS.....



APRIL 3, 1956: THE PETREL AIR TO SURFACE GUIDED MISSILE WAS IN OPERATIONAL USE FROM P2V-6MS OF VP-24.....



NOV 3, 53

REGULUS ASSAULT MISSILE (RAM) WAS LAUNCHED FROM THE NORTON SOUND AND LANDED ON SAN NICHOLAS ISLAND, THE FIRST SHIP BOARD DEMONSTRATION..

FLAGS OF THE PAST.....

"PINE TREE FLAG"



(WASHINGTON'S NAVY)

DRAWN & WRITTEN BY J. HUMMEL

Hummel's Vietnam



AH. COULD I INTEREST YOU IN THE CHIEU HOI PROGRAM?

FLAMING ARROWS

by PHC V. McColley

The flaming arrow used by the Indians more than 100 years ago isn't obsolete yet, according to Lieutenant Commander Donald D. Sheppard.



BASSAC BOWMAN — Lieutenant Commander Donald D. Sheppard aims a flaming arrow at a bamboo hut concealing a fortified bunker near the Bassac River.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 C.B. Hall)

Sheppard, Commander of River Division 51 at Binh Thuy, South Vietnam, has demonstrated his prowess with the long bow in the past month while on river boat patrols.

The arrows, with a piece of burning burlap tied to each point, are shot into Viet Cong bamboo huts built along the river banks to conceal bunkers from which the Viet Cong fire at passing patrol boats.

"The Viet Cong usually come out in a hurry when the hut over their bunker begins to burn," said Sheppard. "We have accounted for five confirmed Viet Cong KIAs (killed in action) using this method."

"There are other methods of destroying huts," said Sheppard, "but most have proven ineffective. The heavier artillery passes right through and a grenade only blows holes in them."

"Our main job is to stop the Viet Cong from crossing the rivers or using them for any reason," Sheppard said. "However, we have carried our job a step

further."

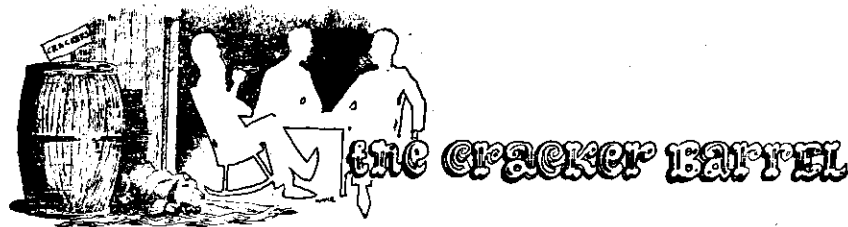
At any given time, the patrol boats may turn into one of the numerous small rivers and canals that line the main river and catch the Viet Cong by surprise where they are staging for a river crossing.

"This really keeps them off balance. It has forced them to do their staging further up the small rivers and canals where they are more likely to be detected by the helicopter gunships," said Sheppard.

Taking the offensive this way has proven quite successful. No longer are the patrol boats merely decoys, to be shot at whenever the Viet Cong want to.

Sheppard had only the highest praise for the officers and men operating the river boats in his division.

"I've been in the Navy 19 years," he said "and I have never seen sailors like these. They are certainly dedicated Navymen. Their morale is the highest and they really like to get in there and fight."



Mexican Style Beanbagger Supper

by Charlie Noble

I'll enclose a special Mexican style supper in this issue to start you off on weekly specials.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Bowl of Chili Con Carne (J-37) | — Saltines | Banana fruit cup (628) |
| Crunchy Sombrero Sandwiches (N-7) | | Vanilla ice cream (G-35) |
| Mexican Kidney Beans (Q-63) | | Mince cookies (D-44) |
| Spanish Rice (Q-63) | | Coffee, tea |
| Cole Slaw (M-18) | | |

For an added treat, reconstitute raisins until they "puff" up, let the men serve themselves, pouring them over the rice.

Here's how you make the crunchy sombrero sandwiches: for 100 rations use recipe N-7 with the following: combine 1 quart salad dressing, 2 3/4 quarts olives, 4 pounds shredded chesse, 1/3 cup chili powder and 3 table-
spoons hot sauce. Thoroughly

blend in 6 pounds minced cooked ham. Continue with step 5 on the receipte card N-7. Continue with step 6 substituting 6 quarts cornflakes crumbs for the 2 pounds of dry bread crumbs. Continue with step 7.

Garnishing and decorations should be colorful in keeping with the mexican fiesta trend. VAYA CON DIOS.

One Sampan Fleet

by JOCS Dick Rose

Sea duty is dear to the heart of every Navyman, even when the sea is quite a distance down river. The Vinh Long Maintenance crew of Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3 (HAL3) is no exception. It even has its own fleet — one leaky sampan.

"But we're going to fiberglass it and paint it gray," says Aviation Technician Second Class John J. Koscis, Jr., head of the group's avionics division.

The 15-foot sampan was given to the aviation unit by men of the nearby PBR (river patrol boat) base in early October, after it had been captured from the VC.

Right now the men use it for fishing on the shallow pond located just behind the maintenance revetments on the flight line at

Vinh Long airbase in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

They are also getting ready for the big race on the quarter-mile-long pond on Dec. 2, the day of the Army-Navy football game.

It's once across the pond and back for the Navy unit and a sampan from the Army's 199th Aviation Company.

"We should make it," says Koscis. "I've gotten all my sea duty aboard this boat. I know it well."



"SEAWOLVES" CHALLENGE — Members of the helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3 (The Seawolves) maintenance division prepare for the big sampan race on Revetment Pond, Dec. 2.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH (JO) 1 Dan Dodd)

The Jackstaff News

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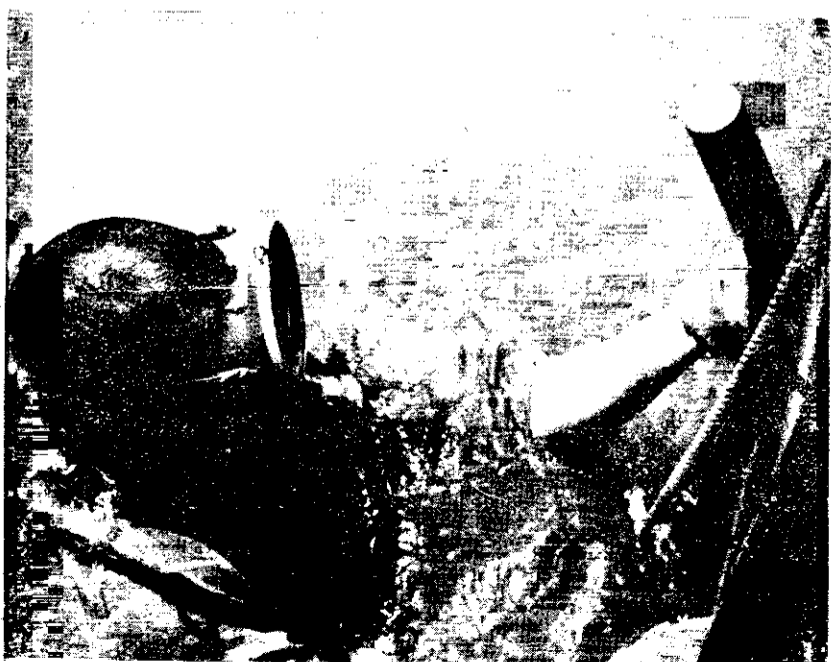
RECORDING RIVER BOTTOM—Mr. Robert C. Burchell, an electronics technician with the Naval Oceanographic Office (left), is assisted by U.S. Navy Seaman Ken C. Lockwood, as he operates a Bottom Profile Recorder.

NAVY CONDUCTS HAZARDOUS RIVER STUDY

Story by JO2 Ray Tills

Photos by PH(JO)1 Dan Dodd

A group of U.S. Navymen, working with scientists and engineers of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office and the Navy Research and Development Unit (NRDU), Vietnam, have literally gone "up the creek" in support of the fighting forces in the Republic of South Vietnam. The creek, figuratively speaking, is the Long Tau River, the main shipping channel from Saigon to the South China Sea.



BOTTOM SAMPLE — U.S. Navy Warrant Officer Donald R. Reeves, surfaces with a core sample of the bottom of the Long Tau River.



WATER SAMPLES — An empty bottle is inserted into a sediment sampler by Navy Equipment Operator Constructionman Darrell A. Tamerius. The device was used to collect water samples at selected depths.

Working through all hours of daylight and darkness from aboard an armored Navy landing craft (LCM), the 11 U.S. Navymen and five civilian scientists and engineers have completed a historic, and quite possibly the most hazardous, oceanographic survey in history.

Operating from the joint Vietnamese/U.S. Naval Base at Nha Be, eight miles south of Saigon, the 16 men recently completed an oceanographic environmental study of the Long Tau shipping

channel from Phu An, north of Saigon, to Kan Gio where the Long Tau enters the South China Sea. It was a survey of some 35 miles of deep draft channel, conducted under combat conditions with the men in constant danger from Viet Cong sniper fire and mines.

Never before had a survey of this nature been attempted and so successfully completed under combat conditions, setting standards for surveys to come.

The U.S. Navy Research and



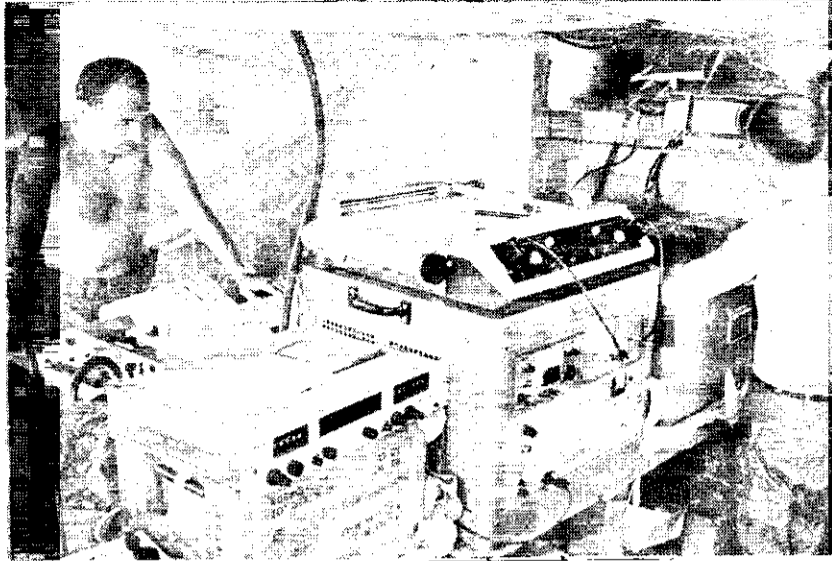
PROJECT OFFICER—U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Leslie J. Horn uses a sextant at an angle to determine navigational position during a survey of the Long Tau River.

Development Unit, Vietnam project officer, Lieutenant Commander Leslie J. Horn, joined with Mr. Ronald P. Kopensky, a scientist with the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), to direct the Long Tau survey project.

NRDU, Vietnam is the only unit of its kind in the Navy today, although 16 large Navy research and development laboratories can be found in the U.S., spread coast to coast. Working alongside civilian scientists from these Navy laboratories who rotate to Vietnam for individual projects, the NRDU Navymen provide "quick fixes" or solutions to technical problems of the operating forces as they arise right in the field—usually within 30 to 90 days.

When the requirement arose to discover how the characteristics of the Long Tau River affect sonar and other watermine counter measures of the Navy, Commander Christopher J. Limerick, Jr., Chief NRDU, Vietnam and his men took over the problem. Lieutenant Commander Horn was assigned as project officer.

Scientific equipment for the survey was available from the Naval Oceanographic Office, but everything else had to be sought out and pieced together. A 51 foot landing craft (LCM), con-



verted to a minesweeper to clear enemy watermines from the Long Tau, was provided by Nha Be's Mine Squadron Eleven detachment for use as a survey craft. It was soon to carry some of the most sophisticated oceanographic sensors ever to probe Vietnamese waters.

To man the landing craft and assist in survey, Navymen were borrowed from other units in the area.

Since most of the Navymen had no previous survey experience, the first two days were spent in training, learning how to operate the complex equipment. From then on, they had to be adaptable,

learning and making modifications to the equipment as they went along.

To prepare themselves for possible enemy attack, machine guns, automatic grenade launchers and individual rifles and sidearms were borrowed from the Mine Squadron Eleven detachment. Each man, civilian and Navy alike, was checked out and required to fire every weapon in the arsenal and then assigned a battle station aboard the LCM. For the next month, the men were to work with their weapons close at hand.

Fortunately, the team never came into direct contact with the VC, although at one time they had a ring-side seat to a battle going on only a few miles away.

Plans called for the team to survey the entire length of the shipping channel, with special observations to be conducted at three main points along the way. This meant being anchored for up to 12 hours at the three stations. With the busy river traffic constantly moving about them, this could have proven hazardous in itself. As it was, one station was located at a bend in the river and at one point, a large merchant ship nearly rammed the survey craft as it rounded the blind turn, only spotting the team and turning away at the last moment.

Enemy watermines were a constant source of danger. Since the team was forced to put in 15 to 18 hour workdays on occasion, they found themselves leaving the base at Nha Be before the Navy minesweepers got underway to begin their daily sweeps of the Long Tau and arriving back well after the last sweep for enemy mines was completed.

During the survey, the team tested the water for temperature, salinity, conductivity, currents and sound velocity at some 65 different observation points.

Seismic and bathymetric profiles were run the entire length of the Long Tau and along both

THE NERVE CENTER — of the survey craft on the Long Tau River is manned by Dr. Lloyd R. Breslau and Mr. Robert C. Burchell, both with the Naval Oceanographic Office in Washington, D.C.



STANDING BY — Seaman Ronald F. Cowart stands by to lower a Price Current Meter.

banks. The seismic record revealed the structure of sediments beneath the river bed while the bathymetric record displayed the configuration of the river's bottom.

The Navy divers installed current meters on the bottom in various locations which were capable of recording internally the direction and speed of water movements.

As the Navymen became proficient in handling the scientific devices, they took on more and more responsibility from the civilian scientists in monitoring and handling the complex equipment.

Finally, when the last piece of information had been gathered and recorded, the individual team members returned to their parent organizations.

It had been 30 days of long, hot, dangerous work. But in those 30 days, oceanographic survey history had been made.



BOTTOM PROFILE RECORDS — produced by a Seismic Lloyd Recorder during a survey of the Long Tau River, is scanned by Dr. R. Breslau, an oceanographer with the Naval Oceanographic Office, Washington, D.C.

Amphibious Raids Combine Tradition and Fashion

Story by JO2 Richard N. Edwards

Photos by JOC R.D. Moeser

Just the Asian moon and bright starlight illuminated the ship's starboard quarter, but crewmen worked hastily to launch the boat group commander's craft from the overhanging davit. It was barely 4 a.m. and H-Hour was approaching.

Once waterborne, Lieutenant Chuck Dougherty lead Seventh Fleet Marines in their latest amphibious raid against hostile forces in South Vietnam.

Since March 1965, with the initial U.S. troop landing at Danang, two Navy-Marine Corps amphibious ready groups have launched an average of more than one assault per month in the Republic of Vietnam. Each operation, however, is tailor-made for the objective and deploys both air and sea forces in numerous combinations.

On this operation, other Marines from the amphibious assault ship Tripoli would land by helicopter in the now-popular fashion of vertical envelopment, but the tradition of surface landings by sea was now assigned the 10-year-old dock landing ship Monticello.

Between his underway steaming watches as officer of the deck, Lt. Dougherty, Monticello's communications officer, would literally spearhead the invasion from the South China Sea.

Cradled within Monticello's well decks, a sizeable fleet of landing craft began jockeying in-

to position. Tank-like tracted vehicles or amphibious tractors (Amtracks) would soon be loaded with combat-ready leathernecks going ashore.

D-Day was here again, the dark sky billowy but fair. Sailors and Marine troops alike, though somewhat tense, were alert and well prepared for the coming attack. Timing, however, must be synchronous to assure success and all bands seemed to begin their won countdown in the schedule. Besides the Navy Lieutenant, the light personnel landing craft (LCPL) carried two seamen, a radioman, electronics technician, engineman and a three-man underwater demolition team (UDT).

As boatswain's mates slackened the falls, a gentle swell lifted the small command craft seaward and the young coxswain circled behind Monticello's open stern to await the troops, soon to emerge in two aplashing waves.

Dock landing ships carry utility and special purpose boats suited to numerous tasks, but this landing would be made only from the enclosed, tread-powered Antracks.

Quickly launched from another

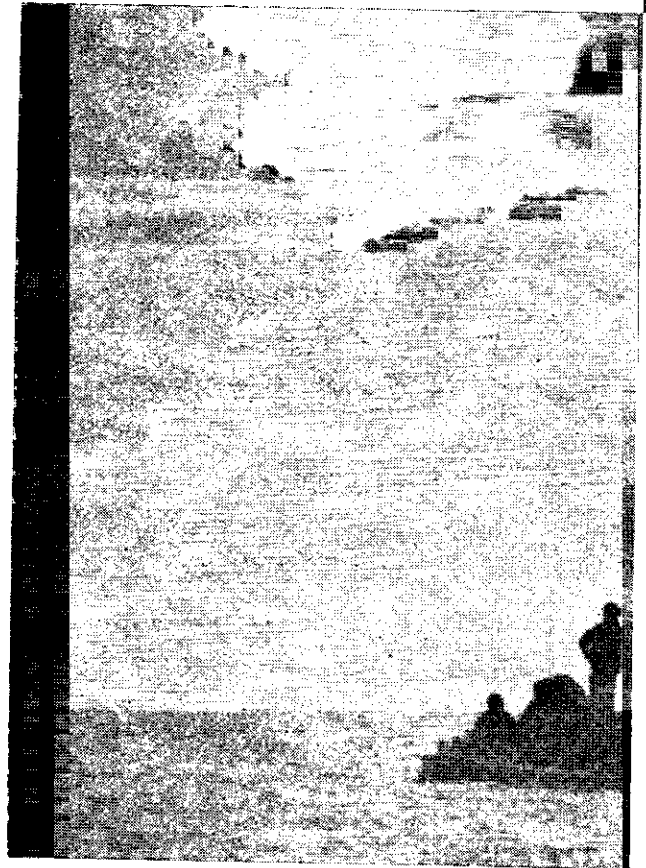
position on deck, however, an open, square-end craft called a Papa boat took up a fixed position as marker for the line of departure toward the beach, about 3,000 yards offshore. Around this point, radar and radio operators in Monticello's combat information center plotted and coordinated the assault approach with the boat group commander.

With communications established between all ships and small boats, the noisy troop carriers began plowing from Monticello's tailgate, grinding five in a line from the flooded dock area inside.

There were two waves of five Amtracks and the boat group commander was also wave commander for the first. Another LCPL, from the nearby attack transport Paul Revere, lead the second wave.

As if to answer the command to launch, a colorful sunrise broke over the horizon, revealing the white sand, scattered tree lines and cloud-streaked mountains at the objective area, some 13 miles from the so-called demilitarized zone bordering North Vietnam.

Here began Operation Belt



FINAL APPROACH—As another D-Day breaks over with combat-ready Marines makes its final approach

Drive, a sweep and destroy offensive near the village of Quang Tri. The landing point was Blue Beach and, except for a few sampans and thatched huts, the zone looked almost inviting. Even the dreaded heat and humidity were tolerable.

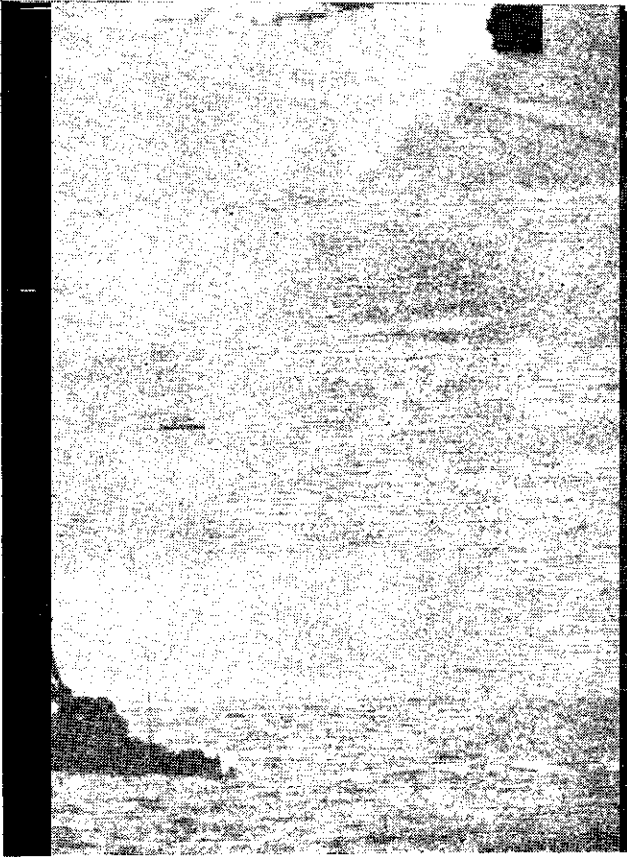
Churning low at close, straight tractors slowly plowed boat and, following Lt. Dougherty, together in a right for the final leg of Reaching the



ALL CLEAR—Ensign Ralph Whittum, a swimmer reports surf conditions and reconnaissance information commander's craft. Radioman Third Class Jack G. small boats of the Amphibious Ready Group during a



COMMANDING—Captain Robert F. Stanon, Commanding Officer of the USS Monticello (LSD-35), observes Marines going ashore from his ship to an objective area.



the horizon, an amphibious tractor (Amtrack) loaded toward the South Vietnam Coast.

in the water and boat turned parallel to the shore-ranks, the steele line but the Amtracks charged all assed the marker ahead, full speed. The UDT men ng the signal by leaped over the side to record maneuvered to surf conditions and make a final flank formation check of interference before the of the approach. troops touched down. surf, the leading No sooner had the flipper-foot-



in Underwater Demolition Team 11, Detachment F, tion to Monticello after returning to the boat group arcia (right) maintains communication with ships and assault landings.

ed Navy swimmers completed their task than the Amtracks of the initial wave began treading sand instead of water. Followed quickly by the second rank of waterborne Marines, all hatches open and the pack-laden troops swarmed over rolling dunes toward the cover of sparse foliage, then disappeared.

All that remained of the landing phase now was to withdraw the Amtrack and return them safely to the cavernous well inside Monticello. But the operation had just begun.

While fighting Marines and aiding Navy hospital corpsmen advanced on enemy positions in rugged combat and through hostile natural elements as well, Seventh Fleet would supply them continuously.

Casualties were evacuated in minutes to waiting hospital facilities aboard ship while more men, ammunition and stores lifted by helicopter to the front lines just as quickly.

Duration, tactics and opposition vary with each assault. Landings, like the 1965 arrival at Danang, may secure and hold an area indefinitely. Still others are coordinated with friendly units already ashore.

But whether by boat or helo, Fleet Marines continue to land anywhere, anytime, and ships of the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force, like Monticello, remain their launch, supply and recovery stations at sea off Vietnam.

READY FOR ACTION—A pack-loaded, combat-ready Marine climbs a ramp toward a waiting amphibious tractor (Amtrack).



COMBATPLOT—Seaman Patrick W. Burnight charts a course for the assault while in voice communication with the radar operator and officers on deck.



Ships of Mercy and Persuasion

by JOI E.T. (Tom) Tomkins

Steering his sampan into the shadows of the heavy palm foliage along the river bank, 26-year-old Phan Chi Quyen is careful to avoid low-hanging tree branches.



SICK CALL — A Vietnamese mother carries her sick child aboard the Han Giang (HQ-401) for treatment as others await their turn.

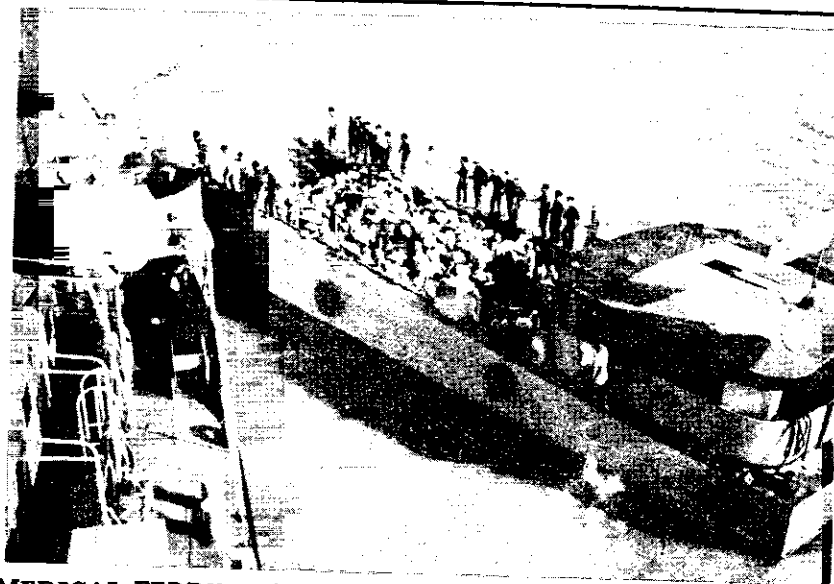
(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PHC Bob Veeder)

In the craft with him are his wife and only heir, a six month old son. If his sampan is suddenly thrashed with palm fronds, the baby will surely awaken from its fitful sleep and once again begin crying. That could possibly mean trouble for the entire family.

For several days the baby has been sick, running high fevers. Quyen knows that time is critical for his son, and that something must be done soon.

Hearing that a doctor is scheduled to visit a nearby village, Quyen began making preparations for the journey immediately. It would be dangerous indeed. They might not make it. And, even if they do, there is always the chance that they will be discovered and not allowed to return home. Phan Chi Quyen is a Viet Cong.

Arriving early, they are hesitant to join the crowd of people waiting along the river bank for the doctor's visit. Soon, they will see the doctor and ask him to examine the baby. His treatment will allow the child to become well again. So, Quyen reasons, it will be best to draw as little attention as possible, at least until the doctor arrives. In the palm tree shadows is a good place to wait.



MEDICAL FERRY — An LCM (Landing Craft Medium) boat loaded with patients pulls alongside the Hat Giang (HQ-400).

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 T.L. Lawson)

Soon, a ship appears from around the river bend. On its side is painted a huge red cross. The doctor is on his way.

Phan Chi Quyen and his family are fictitious persons. They are, however, characteristic of a type of people who are sometimes encountered during medical missions into Viet Cong-infested areas of South Vietnam. While mythical, they do typify both the anxiety for personal safety and dire needs of the people controlled or influenced by the insurgent Communist.

—The "ship with the red cross on its side" is one of two ships of the South Vietnamese Navy that aren't assigned battle missions. Yet, they are fighting wars. Wars against sickness and disease, and wars aimed at winning the hearts and confidence of the people.

These two vessels are hospital ships—the Han Giang (HQ-400) and the Han Giang (HQ-401).

Both are converted Medium Landing Ships (LSMs) formerly part of the U.S. Fleet of warships.

The ships have two big jobs to accomplish; they treat the sick and wounded, and help, in a peaceful way, to end insurgent fighting in South Vietnam by convincing the people that their government is actively interested in them and their well being. They are ships of mercy and persuasion.

In their conversion from war to mercy ships, four vans were loaded onto each of the 203-foot LSM's well decks. Each van is designed for a specific purpose—medical examinations, surgery, dentistry and a combination of X-ray and laboratory.

Last year, the staff of doctors and hospital corpsmen aboard the Han Giang treated nearly 35,000 patients—more than twice as many as were reached a year earlier. The Han Giang was being converted and outfitted during much of this period.

Early this year, the Han sailed to Guam for an overhaul and modernization. Since her return, she has rejoined her sister ship, and now both are participating in joint missions along the rivers and the coast of South Vietnam.

These sailors of mercy believe that any person who is sick or wounded deserves medical treatment even a Viet Cong. If a VC comes on board one of the ships, they treat him well. If they can, they convince him to come over to their side for good. If they are unsuccessful in this attempt, they let him go back with the knowledge that he has been treated well.

Assisting the medical staffs in an advisory capacity is U.S. Navy Chief Hospitalman Roger W. Schalk, a veteran of 15 years in the medical field. He helps ensure that a sufficient amount of medical supplies are on board the ships prior to their deployment. He also assists in administering the ships' pharmacies and helps the doctors and corpsmen in treating the sick and wounded.



DOOR OF HOPE — The bow doors of the Han Giang (HQ-401) open onto the beach near a village in the Mekong Delta to receive patients.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PHC Bob Veeder)



EXPERT HELP — Chief Hospitalman Roger W. Schalk, U.S. Navy Advisor to the medical teams aboard the twin hospital ships, assists a Vietnamese hospital corpsman and social worker dispensing medicine to villagers. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 D.G. Edmonds)

Moving along the coast and in the rivers of the Mekong Delta, these ships make stops at villages to treat the sick in the area. Many times, they are able to save the lives of the very seriously ill.

On one trip, the doctors of one ship saved the life of a baby suffering from pneumonia. The next time that ship visited the village, over a thousand people came to the ship for treatment of various ailments.

However, the people are not always trusting and eager to go aboard the ships for medical treatment, due to false propaganda and fearing Viet Cong terror. As Lieutenant Doan Dahn Tai, Commanding Officer of the Hat Giang, explained it, "The people are told by the VC that these ships are used to harm the people. They are told that if they come aboard for treatment, we will harm or kill them."

"But," the Hat Giang's skipper continued, "the people come anyway. When they see that we treat them well, they are happy and at ease."

Most of the medical treatment

for the people is done on board the ships. However, the doctors will, on occasion, journey to remote areas to treat those who have no transportation. The ships will also beach anywhere an emergency requires treatment of battle casualties.

When a Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group (Junk) Base near Chu Lai was overrun by enemy troops on August 7, 1967, the Han Giang sailed to the scene and took wounded dependents aboard for treatment.

Evidence of the success of these hospital ships in winning the confidence of the people is evidenced by the increase in the number of patients on each successive mission. On one eight-day trip along the coast, the staff of one ship treated more than 3,300 patients. During the flood in the Mekong Delta in 1966, the Hat Giang's medical teams treated 15,572 patients in 18 days.

Moving along the Mekong and Bassac Rivers on a recent 15-day mission into the Delta, the two ships made calls to many villages located in Viet Cong infested

territory, treating 11,410 patients. While providing direct medical assistance to the people, the hospital ships also carry on an extensive program of persuasion. Teams from the ships endeavor to make clear to Viet Cong that they should end their fruitless insurgent fighting. This effort is directed into three main areas.

The first is the government's Chieu Hoi (open arms) Program. Under the provisions of Chieu Hoi, the Hoi Chanh (ralliers) returning to the side of the government are offered good treatment and a pardon for their guerrilla activities.

A second area is pacification. In this, the crews and psychological operations teams of the two hospital ships inform the villagers that the government wants to help them, is concerned about their welfare, and needs their trust. Special attention is given to the widows and orphans of Vietnamese soldiers who have died in service to their country.

In the third, the ships provide entertainment for the people. As Lieutenant Nguyen Van Phap, Commanding Officer of the Han Giang, explained "The entertainment is good for the morale of our soldiers and their families. The shows for the people are geared for persuasion as well."

"In Viet Cong areas," he continued, "we play our music over the loud-speakers. It reminds the VC of their homes and families."

The Hat Giang and Han Giang are probably the world's only armed hospital ships. Each carries,



PACIFICATION — South Vietnamese sailors carry medical supplies ashore from the Hat Giang (HQ-400).

(Official U.S. Navy Photo)

for self defense, four 20mm and two 40mm naval guns. The Viet Cong do not respect the medical status of the ships because of their weapons and psychological missions. But, as the Hat Giang's skipper stated, "We will keep the guns as long as there is danger to our ships from hostile forces."



FADING DOUBT — The facial expressions of these two Vietnamese women show the comparison of past and present. The elder woman, a recipient of medical treatment aboard the Vietnamese Navy hospital ship Han Giang (HQ-401), reserves her pleasure until all doubts are removed regarding the ship's real mission. Past experiences over the years have taught her to view any "special" treatment with uncertainty. On the other hand, the younger woman smiles as she reveals the "trust" of the young with a happy smile. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by PHC Bob Veeder)



DEPENDENTS CARE — A Vietnamese River Assault Group (RAG) sailor stationed at a RAG base along the Mekong River, smiles as he leaves the medical van with his children. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 T.L. Lawson)

Soap—a Good Weapon

by CMA2 L.W. Chamblee

In Vietnam, a bar of soap can be as dangerous as a land mine. That bar of soap can knock the VC out of operation just as surely as a rifle or grenade, and they haven't got a weapon in their arsenal that can match it. Neither, for that matter, have we.

The soap is part of the armament of the Civic Action Program of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three (NMCB-3). The only thing it can kill is germs, but it helps win the Vietnam War as well as, if not better than, bullets.

This arm of the war is called Civic Action and Revolutionary Development. Civic Action is the name for all community work done by American military units like NMCB-3, and Revolutionary Development is the Vietnamese counterpart program.

The goal of the Civic Action-Revolutionary Development Program is to bring the larger portion of the population of South Vietnam to support the Government of the Republic of Vietnam (GVN)

by means of helping the people improve their living conditions and instilling a civic awareness in them. This is accomplished, village by village, by a painstaking program of agricultural improvement, construction assistance, medical aid, instruction, information and subsidy to education.

The Civil Action Department of NMCB-3 headed by Lieutenant Richard C. Hunkins, the battalion chaplain, has been working in the village of Phu Luu, Phu Vang District, Thua Thien Province, for three months. Phu Luu is an island in the Perfume River, just north of Hue.

Although within sight of one of the three largest cities in South Vietnam, Phu Luu was very primi-



PRESCRIPTION—Doctor Ellyson measures out a prescription as Petty Officer Lawrence W. Chamblee (center) serves as an interpreter. The battalion chaplain (right) looks on.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH3 R.C. Jones)

tive as far as medicine is concerned. Disease was running unchecked throughout the population of 3,000. Most of the people are too poor to afford medical aid and the infant mortality rate was one in three.

The people have no warm clothes [since a suit of "black pajamas", the traditional peasant costume made of thin cotton, costs about 600 piastres (\$5.01 U.S.) which represents about 86 hours work for the average peasant. NMCB-3 has distributed over 4,000 articles of clothing to the people of the village.

The first step of the program was to bring in a medical team consisting of the Battalion Medical Officer, Lieutenant John Ellyson; the Dental Officer, Lieutenant George Martin; and several Navy hospital corpsmen to the village. Twice each week, the Medical and Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) holds sick call for the villagers. An average of 400 patients a week are treated by the NMCB-3 MEDCAP Team.

[After each patient is treated, he is given a short lesson in hygiene explaining that regular use of soap will prevent most of the sickness in the village. In three months the NMCB-3 MEDCAP

Team has distributed over 3,500 bars of soap, and in the same length of time, the number of skin infection cases at MEDCAP has dropped by two-thirds.

The VC are aware of the value of Civil Action operations too. U.S. intelligence has received reports of VC MEDCAP teams operating in remote areas recently. The only possible impediment to the success of their program is that they extract payment for medical aid.

The only weapon the VC have against the effects of Civil Action is terrorism, but it never produces lasting effects, and all too often it backfires on them. Murdering village chiefs frightens the people temporarily, but wins few friends for the VC.

Care must be exercised in the early stages of any Civil Action effort to provide security for a cooperative village chief, as he immediately becomes a VC assassination target. Often it is not safe for such local leaders to sleep in their own villages. One good indication that pacification is well under way is when close security can be lifted from the local officials.

In Phu Luu, where Chaplain Hunkins and his Seabee Civil Action Program have been working for three months, the village chief Phan Van Ban, and all the local GVN commissioners who have been very helpful and enthusiastic about the program, live and sleep safely in the village.

"This thing works," says Chaplain Hunkins. "This war can be won as easily in a medical dispensary as in a jet fighter, as satisfactorily in a classroom as in a man-of-war, and as assuredly in a village meeting house as in a fighting hole."

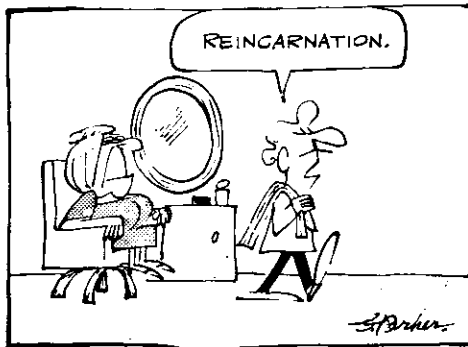


CLOTHES FOR THE NEEDY—Petty Officer L.W. Chamblee hands out clothing to a Vietnamese elder.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH3 R.C. Jones)

THE WIZARD OF ID

by Brant parker and Johnny hart



SAILOR AIDS AMERICAN BOY SCOUTS IN SAIGON

Amidst Vietnam's war for democracy, an American Boy Scout Troop in Saigon is helping to enhance the relationship between the two peoples by aiding a group of Vietnamese Boy Scouts, with the help of an American sailor.

It all started a year ago when an American serviceman, Army Captain D. Wortendyke from the Defense Communications Agency, felt the need for a boy scout troop to occupy the spare time of the American children who were living in Saigon with their parents.

Capt. Wortendyke started his "Neighborhood Patrol" with three boys. Then in May of 1967, Capt. Wortendyke's "Patrol Troop" merged with the Trinity Baptist Church—Saigon's branch of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop Number 1, began.

Throughout the past year, the troop has increased to 15 scouts ranging in age from 13 to 15 years old. Presently, the head Scout Master is Army Captain J.B. Forrest, who is the MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) Scout Project Officer. Assistant Scout Master is Draftsman Third Class E. Perry Frazier, a sailor attached to the drafting shop of Naval Support Activity, Saigon.

DM3 Frazier has been the Assistant Scout Master of the troop for the past five months. Donating

his spare time, he supervises the troop for the personal satisfaction of seeing that the children have fun while accomplishing meaningful tasks as a scout. "Perry," as the scouts call him, supervises the troop when Capt. Forrest is unable to attend the meetings. Frazier, who is a scout at heart, goes on all the hikes and camp-outs with the youngsters.

Troop Number 1 Meets every Monday night at the Trinity Baptist Church for one and a half hours. Here, the scouts receive regular Boy Scout Training and classes in the arts of knot tying, food preparation, hunting and fishing techniques, wood crafts, first aid, games and a host of other subjects. The pastor of the church, Reverend Herman P. Hayes, donates the room where the troop holds its meetings. The church is also the basic financial backing for the support of the troop.

The American Troop, which is formed by the dependents of American businessmen and missionaries, has assisted the Vietnamese Boy Scouts in many ways.



BENEDICTION — Captain J.B. Forrest (left), Scoutmaster, leads the troop in the Boy Scout Benediction. Assistant Scoutmaster, E. Perry Frazier, a NAVSUPACT sailor, (upper top) continues the "crossed hands of friendship" ring with one of the scout's father who attended this meeting. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH3 F.C. West.)

Recently, the American Scouts taught the Vietnamese Scouts how to prepare food for the National Boy Scout Jamboree (in which all nations are represented by sending three troop representative scouts).

Four miles outside of Saigon, on the Ben Hoa Highway, a campsite is heavily guarded by ARVN Troops (Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam). This is where both the Vietnamese and American Boy Scouts hold their cook-outs and outdoor classes on scouting. These troops even take

long hikes, but due to the war and Viet Cong activity, they must hike only within the city limits of Saigon for their own safety.

American Boy Scout Troop Number One of Saigon has progressed greatly in spite of its very limited financial condition and the difficult task of obtaining the necessary supplies needed for a boy scout troop.

These scouts of both nations are working hand in hand, helping to enhance the social harmony between our two allied countries.

War of Nerves on the River

by
JOC Jim French

"This is a war of nerves," he said. "It's hard on the men because you go down these rivers every day and night and you don't know if you're going to live or die. The big threat is the mines. Most of the time we give the Viet Cong a good whipping when we catch 'em. But you don't know about the mines until they've got you. You can't help but worry. I sweat more. I pray more. I bite my nails. I'm scared. To be truthful, I'm scared right now."

Talking in a slow southern drawl was Boatswain's Mate First Class Fred P. Coleman, an 18-year veteran who served aboard aircraft carriers in the Atlantic Fleet and on destroyer duty in Korea and Cuba. But Vietnam is different.

As boat captain of T-92-5, he is responsible for a crew of six Navy men and a 60-ton, armored and heavily-armed assault craft that transports and gives fire support to combat infantrymen in the delta.

Skipper Coleman and his crew, assigned to River Assault Squadron Nine, a unit of River Assault Flotilla One, work with elements of the Army's 9th Infantry Division. The combined strike force known as the Mobile Riverine Force, conducts search and destroy, strike missions in the rivers and swamps of the Mekong Delta south of Saigon.

"I never volunteered for this job," said Seaman Clyde Pugh, a gunner aboard the boat, "but it's got to be done and I'm not going to try and get out of it. Somebody's got to do it, and 'George' isn't around."

The attitude of the sailors on T-92-5 is understandable. In the last six months, the study green hoats have been in steady and deadly combat with Viet Cong guerrillas. Close to 200 Navy men have been awarded Purple Hearts for wounds received in action.

"The Viet Cong are going after our boats now," said Coleman. "They realize," he added, "that we stand between them and escape when the Army boxes them in during an operation. They also found out the hard way that we can get pretty mean ourselves." Conspicuous in and on Coleman's boat were grenade launchers, cannons, machineguns, automatic rifles and other weapons.

The Mekong Delta which extends as far north as Saigon is a low, unbelievably flat area about the size of Maryland. It is the home of nearly seven million peasants who live in scattered hamlets among groves of fruit trees and toil in the mud of a hundred thousand shimmering rice fields.

During the wet season when the waterways are filled, there are 5,000 miles of a navigable water highway system. Above all, is the fortifications of the Viet Cong.

The Family and Spirit Worship

The family is one of the deepest concerns of nearly all Vietnamese who dwell in rural areas. The family, in the Vietnamese sense of the term, consists of the husband, wife, children, grandparents and the spirits of the departed ancestor who continue to live in close proximity to the family home. In the larger sense, a family also includes the various living and deceased relatives for a number of generations.

Because of the unique position which the spirits of deceased ancestors hold in the minds of so many rural Vietnamese, the desertion or destruction of their ancestral homes, graves and spirit houses is a matter of serious concern. Leaving their homes and fleeing to the safety of areas controlled by the Vietnamese government, because of communist terrorism, is therefore, a last resort. Yet over 2,000,000 Vietnamese have taken this drastic step. This is to say that over 12% of the total Vietnamese population, through this move, have voted with their lives that victory will belong to the Vietnamese government and its allies.

This prevalent spirit veneration undergirds the popular religions of Vietnam. Because it is non-creedal and largely non-structured, this religious force is not usually called "Dao" religion. Instead, the basic term is "Luong", indicating all that is good, honorable, right and in accord with society. The Vietnamese ancestral veneration practice has its theoretical basis in Confucianism and has found its way into nearly all Vietnamese religions. Thus, the sense of the loyalty of son to father, wife to husband, brother to brother, friend to friend and the living to their own dead is a basic pattern of idealized

Vietnamese values in daily life.

This filial loyalty is believed to create prosperity through the promotion of harmony among the members of the family. The ancestral spirits are believed to respond to the special and daily offerings giving the living the necessities of life. Even those Vietnamese who disavow belief in the existence of the spirits of departed ancestors seem to favor the custom of the incense of burning joss sticks, rice, wine and other miscellaneous offerings. They declare it to promote well-being through organized, conservative relationships among the living while perpetuating the family heritage.

These influences of luong are evident in the presence of spirit-houses, the small platforms on posts within the yards of many homes. They contain used joss sticks, containers for rice or wines etc. Small ancestor shelves within the Vietnamese home or shop also indicate the prevalence of ancestor veneration. These shelves usually hold either portraits of the deceased or the encribed names of three paternal ancestors along with candles and perhaps flowers or fruit as offerings. Luong is also evident in the Vietnamese custom that requires an unmarried girl to remain single for three years following the death of her father.

Navy Chaplain Corps Celebrates 192 Anniversary

The Navy Chaplain Corps celebrated its 192 anniversary on November 28.

At the present there are 1,073 chaplains on active duty representing 47 religious denominations. 81 percent of the chaplains come from six major religious groups: Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Episcopal.

The chaplains serve not only Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their dependents, but also on a reimbursable basis, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine personnel.

In Vietnam, there are 103 chaplains serving Navy and Marine Corps units ashore. This is the heaviest concentration of Navy chaplains ever committed to shore combat in a single geographical area and yet, the effectiveness of that ministry requires cross-fertilization as chaplains serve as many as six units other than their own.

Off shore, an average of 35 chaplains serve with units of the Seventh Fleet. By highline and "holy-helo," these chaplains move from ship to ship, extending their ministry to the limits of their time and energy.

The costly, sacrificial and courageous aspects of the chaplains ministry in Vietnam have been identified in the religious and secular press, letters and reports of command, official citations and awards for meritorious achievement and heroic action and the casualty reports. Visible evidence of the response to the work of the chaplains are to be found in the construction of more than 50 chapels in the I Corps area, often initiated and constructed by combat personnel in off duty hours.

Although the responses to the ministry of chaplains serving in other areas in the naval establishment is not as visibly identified, there are many evidences for confidence that equally dedicated chaplains are producing equally satisfactory results.

A new program began by the Chaplain Corps is the Personal Response Program, a systematic effort in cross-culture understanding and attitudinal improvement. It was started in 1965, when a chaplain was made available to the Coast Guard, FMFPAC, for work in Vietnam. There are now four chaplains engaged on a full time basis in this project.

"Seawolves" Kill 13 VC

CNFV — U.S. Navy "Seawolves" hit enemy positions and river craft Friday in the Mekong Delta, killing 13 Viet Cong and sinking or damaging six sampans.

The two helicopter "gunships" were on Operation Game Warden patrol from the support ship USS Hunterdon County when they sighted a large covered sampan hidden in a canal under overhanging trees. It was in an area of known enemy activity 43 miles southwest of Saigon on the Ham Luong River.

Observing a small enemy group hidden in tall grass nearby, the

helicopters took the area under fire, killing two VC and severely damaging the sampan.

Several miles up river the choppers hit a nest of enemy sampans, sinking three and damaging three others. One was supply laden and camouflaged. Several enemy were seen hiding behind a nearby dike. The "Seawolves" took the enemy under fire, killing three.

Down river, the "Seawolves" twice sighted Viet Cong attempting to evade detection. With permission from the Huon My Sector Chief, they took the enemy under fire, killing eight.

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