

# Pre-Deployment Edition



1943 U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 71 1968

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THE TRANSIT

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## Lejeune Training Ends



MARINE INSTRUCTORS train MCB 71 Seabees in the use of the M-60 machine gun at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. MCB 71'ers attended many special schools while at Camp Lejeune, including: 81mm mortar school, communications school, 3.5 rocket launcher and 106 recoilless rifle school, and counter-guerilla warfare school.

## 7101 Leaves for Saigon

Seabee Team 7101, MCB 71's first Seabee Team, spent two weeks being harrassed by enemy infiltrators and snipers while building a road through the rocky New England countryside in a realistic training exercise. As the phase of the team's training that comes as close as possible to the conditions the team will encounter when it deploys to Southeast Asia in late Winter, this was the first time the members had trained together as a team.

On 11 December, the 13-man team, composed of one officer and 12 enlisted men, set up a temporary camp of strong-back tents in the Woody Hills-Multiple Use Reservation in Bradford, R. I. For the next 11 days they built a dirt road—clearing trees, some with 15 inch diameters, thick underbrush, and boulders weighing up to four tons with equipment provided by CBC Team Training.

Under constant threat of attack by guerilla aggressors from CBC Team Training, the team members had to provide their own security while the work was being accomplished. Security problems were height-

ened by the fact that two members of the team did not take part in the exercise for medical reasons, causing an extra strain on the remainder of the team during the 24 hours of alternating watches.

Although the lack of two team members caused complications in security matters, the construction work continued without difficulty. This was possible because all Seabee Team members are cross-trained in all the construction skills, thus permitting one team member to take over someone else's job in an emergency. Previous military training included three weeks of Survival, Escape, and Evasion School with the Army at Fort Devens, Mass.

Traditionally a close working, tight-knit group of 13 dedicated men, Seabee Teams have served in Africa and South and Central America, but are now assigned exclusively to civic action and Special Forces work in Southeast Asia. Work by the teams covers military projects, constructing camps for the Army's Special Forces and civic action work for the people of Vietnam under USAID and USOM (U.S. Operating Mission).

On January 30, Seabee Team 7101 participated in a graduation ceremony at the 21st Naval Construction Regiment with two other Seabee Teams—MCB 40's Seabee Team 4002 and MCB 58's Seabee Team 5802. After 16 weeks of intensive training, the teams were presented with their diplomas by Commander A. C. Perkins, Commanding Officer of the 21st NCR. When MCB 71's advance party left on March 7, Seabee Team 7101 went with it and is presently stationed in Saigon, RVN.

The Team's Officer-in-charge is Lieutenant (jg) Edward A. Rudegear of Lawrence, N. Y. The 12 enlisted men are: Wayne R. Jordan of East Greenwich, R. I.; George D. Jones of Riverside, Calif.; Gary G. France of Ipava, Ill.; Ralph R. Anderson of Worthington, Minn.; Frank R. Garvin of Beebe, Ark.; David G. Athman of Mt. Clemens, Mich.; Jack T. Miller of Deland, Fla.; James L. Eldredge of Redwood City, Calif.; Newton J. Coughenour of Sportsylvania, Va.; Dennis K. Graham of Cedar Springs, Mich.; Kenneth E. Giddens of Boaz, Ala.; Donald L. Urey of North Kingstown, R. I.

The first two days at Camp Lejeune were spent unpacking and setting up at this new camp. It took a little re-adjustment to get used to sleeping in Marine type barracks after living in those comfortable cubes at Davisville, but after two days the men were used to this new environment and were ready to start training.

The first few days of actual training were spent on the rifle range with the M-16. The training included the many different types of fire that can be inflicted upon the enemy. The Marines of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines acted as hosts to our Battalion while we visited their camp for this specialized training.

Companies were pared up and instructed on the basic nomenclature of these weapons and were briefed on the practical usage of such weapons as the M-16, the 45 valiber pistol, the M-60 Machine Gun, the 3.5 Rocket Launcher, the 81mm Mortar and the many other types of small arms commonly used by the Battalion.

These classes were held during the second week for some of the companies, while the rest of the companies were out in the field gaining some valuable practical experience. Then came the specialized schools. These specialized schools were for smaller groups of men selected from different companies so that at least a small handful of men from each and every company would know how to use all the weapons carried by the Battalion in case of an emergency.

The third week of training was devoted to the preparation for and carrying out of a three day field exercise. On Monday of that third week, Reville was held at 0430. By 0530, the men were formed up outside outfitted in full battle dress and marching toward the busses that were waiting to take them to the area of the problem.

On the way in, all the men knew was that we were going to be assaulted by the Marines, most of whom were already veterans of Vietnam. A large tent, known as the Command Post (C.P.) was set up in the middle of this area. The men were split up into their individual Fire Teams, Squads and Platoons.

About four companies were set up as the Outside Perimeter and the rest of the men made up the Inside Perimeter and the Reactionary Platoons.

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The job of the Marines that were assaulting us was to penetrate both the Outside and Inside Perimeters and overpower the C.P. The reason for this being that if the C.P. was overtaken, the strength of the Battalion as a unit would be lost. From there, the men would be fighting in small, individual groups, and could be easily overpowered.

It is the job of the Outside Perimeter to insure that the enemy, (in this case Marines) do not penetrate their lines which encircle the entire camp. Included in this Outside Perimeter are both Bunkers and line defenses. The Bunkers which house a machine gun and crew, an automatic rifleman and one or two riflemen, is the main artery between the Outside Perimeter and the C.P. Constant radio communications are also maintained by the C.P. and each of the Bunkers. One of the many advantages of these Bunkers is that they can pin down an enemy with their rifleman and automatic rifleman and then two of the Bunkers can work together through radio communication and get the enemy in a crossfire. Then if needed, again by way of radio communication, they can call in for either ground or air support.

If the enemy should break through the Outside Perimeter, it is the job of the inside perimeter to defend the C.P. and drive the enemy back outside the limits of the camp. The inside perimeter is set up basically the same way as the Outside Perimeter, but is spread out a little thinner. Also within the limits of the Inside Perimeter is a force of two or three Platoons, known as the Reactionary Force which is set up as an always on the alert force. In case of an emergency, these Reactionary Platoons can

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# Cold!!

In record cold weather with temperatures reaching from 7 to 10° below zero, Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-ONE underwent three weeks of military training at Camp Fogarty, Rhode Island in January. The training schedule was split into three sections of which one week was instruction in the classrooms, the following week was spent both in the classroom and the field, and the last week was firing and qualifying with the M-16 rifle.

During the classroom lectures, a wide range of subjects were taught including communications, compass and map reading, defensive and offensive tactics, mine and bobby-trap warfare, civic action, and demonstrations of the .81mm mortar and the 106 recoilless rifle.

In the field, the men went on tactical marches and set up defensive perimeters while being harassed by enemy aggressors. The realistic combat conditions provided by the aggressors and the use of blank-firing weapons gave valuable experience and just the right touch of authenticity to the men during the field problems.

Along with the weapons demonstrations, the men had the opportunity to fire the following weapons: M-60 machine gun, 3.5 rocket launcher, M-79 grenade launcher, M-14 rifle, and M-16 rifle. Instruction was also given in the nomenclature, care, and cleaning of these weapons.

An entire week was devoted to the firing of the M-16 rifle which will be the Seabee's primary weapon during the deployment. The Military Training Department at Camp Fogarty is not merely interested in having the men fire the M-16, but also in their qualifying with it on the range. So, for one week MCB 71's Seabees fired their M-16's in the standing prone, kneeling and sitting positions, with slow and rapid fire, and semi-automatic and automatic fire on the Camp Fogarty rifle ranges while their scores were marked and recorded.

The three weeks of military training at Camp Fogarty



RAY FIELD, 23-year-old UTB3, sights down the business end of a M-79 grenade launcher at Camp Fogarty, Rhode Island. A member of MCB 71's rear echelon, Ray is now an instructor with the Military Training Department at Camp Fogarty. (Photo by John Cliett)



Senior Chief Construction Electrician Jesse Sherrod sights in on a target at Camp Fogarty's rifle Range. MCB 71 underwent a week of qualifying with the M-16 rifle during the battalion's training at Camp Fogarty in January. (Photo by John Cliett, SN)

served as an important preparatory prelude to the even more intensive combat training

with the Marines that soon after awaited the battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

# Cameras Anyone?

Interested in cameras and photography? Well, you're going to the right place to become interested. When you deploy, the fascinating world of photography will be available to you as it has never been before. Not only are a great number and variety of cameras close at hand at unbelievably low prices, but you will be in a place where photography is at a premium. Southeast Asia is an exciting part of the world, and you may never be able to forgive yourself if you go back to the States without its exotic beauty recorded on pictures, slides, or movie film.

So, let's take a brief look at what you can expect to see in the way of photography during the upcoming deployment. Perhaps Tokyo is the most well-

known for its camera and optical equipment, but cameras at bargain prices are to be found in ALL of the R & R cities—Bangkok, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Okinawa, and Taipei. Prices may vary in different places and for certain items, but on the average you can expect to pay from 40 to 70 per cent less for camera equipment in the above mentioned places than in the United States.

The Public Affairs Office will also be looking for pictures of projects, detachments, convoys, R & R cities, etc. to be used in the TRANSIT and the cruise book. Contact the Public Affairs Office if you think you have some good interesting pictures that you would like to share in these publications with the people back home. We will print several extra 8" x 10" photos for yourself, give you a credit line under the photo in the paper, and maybe even some free film.

The people, cities, and the way of life of Southeast Asia await the enterprising photographer who realizes the opportunity he is presented which may never come again. Quick, get a shot of those children riding the water buffalo! Click.

## Chaplain

### Condition Of Readiness

The "Condition of Readiness" is a naval term used to describe the preparedness of a ship or station or battalion to fulfill its mission under various circumstances. You may have noticed the "hum" or activity around S-6 and S-8 as MCB-71 strives to get the "Condition of Readiness" for our deployment. And we don't want to be caught off guard if any emergency arises, so we must keep a duty section aboard, even in safe Davisville. We never know when an emergency may arise. Sometimes this looks like a terrible waste of manpower and time, but when the emergency comes we are always glad we are ready.

This Doesn't stop with our Navy career. Life is like that. We want to be prepared for any eventuality. Sometimes life strikes us hard and demands that we bear great suffering, or that we endure a terrible loss or that we put forth tremendous effort. Unlike the Navy we are not always having inspections to see if we are prepared.

As a father or a brother or just a friend, I am under obligation to be prepared to do a lot of things for others: to dash into a burning house to save a person, to be quick with the inspiring word of helping hand. If we are really well prepared, well trained, we do a lot of things by "relaxation", and sometimes this training saves the lives of others and saves our own life. Training, this getting ready for things that may happen, is important.

And what about your inner resources, your spiritual resources, are they in a "Condition of Readiness"? A man who had wandered far from his faith was told by a physician that his child had hardly any chance to live. In anguish he said, "I want to pray, but I have forgotten how." This man may have been prepared for some eventualities, but not all. Also, are you helping others about you to be in the "Condition of Readiness", your buddies who may be faltering on the way, your family which may be burdened with worry and fear about your leaving?

Now is the time, before you deploy to pull your own private personnel and Administrative inspection. Are you in every way, in a "Condition of Readiness"?

Billy Dennis, Lt. CH,CUSNR

## Lejeune

(Continued from page 1)

be called upon and utilized as needed.

For three days and nights, the Battalion was assaulted, heat of these repeated attacks, didn't shave, couldn't sleep and ate C-Rations and it was like music to the ear when a halt was called to the problem. Most of the men were more than glad to return to their Barracks on Wednesday after a good, in the field clean up was held.

Then came a day or two of rest, and preparations were made for the return trip to Davisville. For some it meant the start of a long-awaited leave period to see both family and friends, and for others it meant the return to Davisville where soft living and good food awaits all those who enter her gates!!!



ART BOOTH, battalion barber for MCB 71, fires the M-60 machine gun in the assault position at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Art and a select group of MCB 71 Seabees received a week of instruction from the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines at Camp Lejeune's M-60 machine gun school.

## Who Reads the Transit?



TAKEN TIME to peruse the latest battalion happenings in the TRANSIT, is J. W. Davis, Second Class Builder from Scottsboro, Alabama who has been with MCB 71 since its recommissioning in October 1966. Davis knows that to keep abreast of what's happening—the TRANSIT is your best bet.

## Wives Meeting

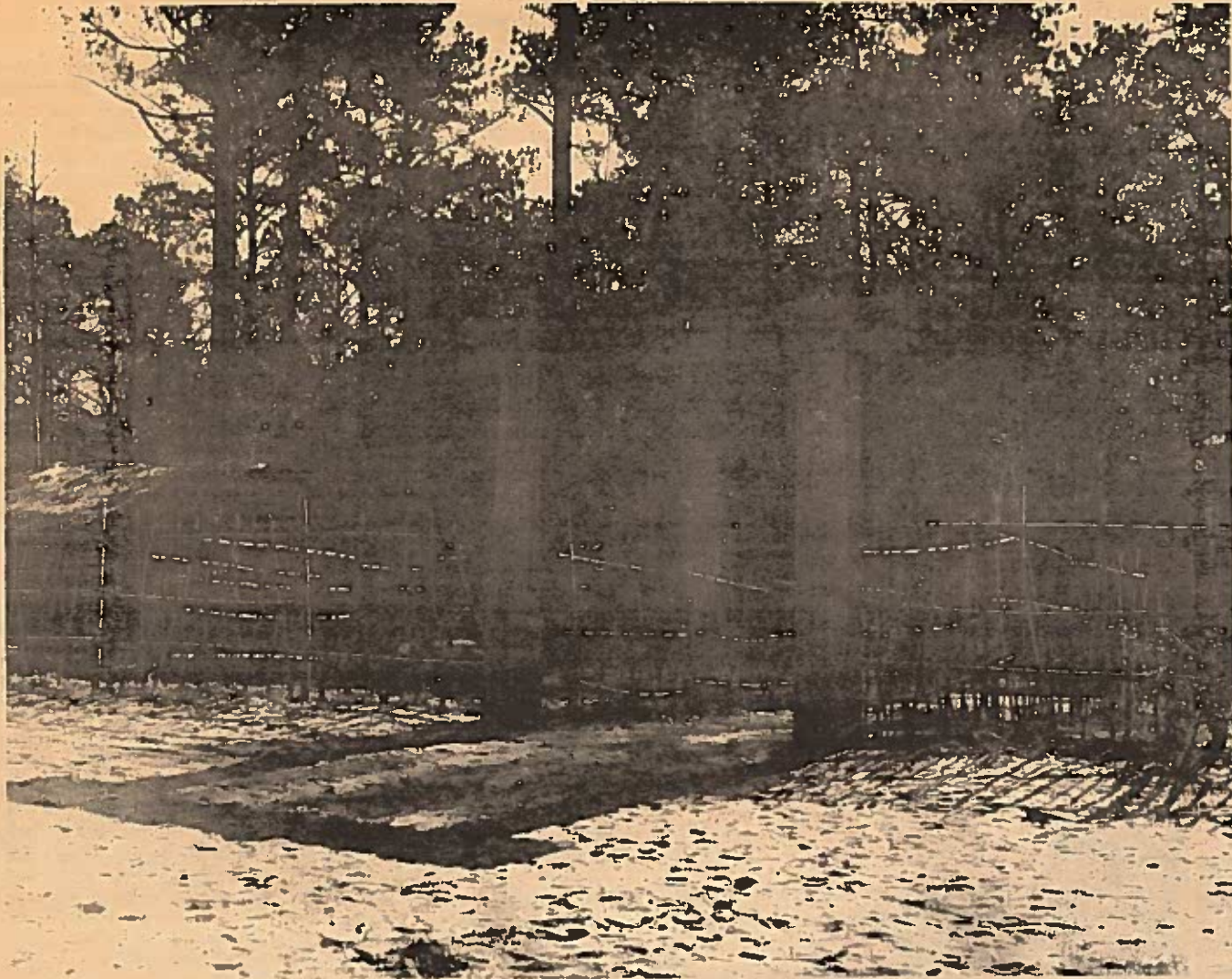
The MCB 71 Wives Group will meet at the Wickford Recreation Center on Roosevelt Avenue in Wickford Monday, April 22 at 7:00 p. m.

The program for the night's meeting will be the sharing of hobbies and crafts such as needlework, knitting, sewing, painting, reading, and ceramics. Everyone is encouraged to bring something they have made or started to make to show the others. These people will be available to help other wives start a new hobby or help them with a project they have started.

The meeting will also feature a brief informative talk on how the Navy Relief Society can assist the wives and what they can do to help the Navy Relief Society.

Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by the officer's wives.





A SWASTIKA-TYPE marker in the middle of Camp Le Me II. In the background, a symbol which appeared on the faces of the enemy who have destroyed Temples or pagodas in the villages and hamlets.

THE TRI ME II VIET CONG VILLAGE represented to the Seabees of MCB 71 an idea of what they can expect should the need to invade a village arise. It provided the men with valuable experience under realistic conditions.

# Vietnam NORTH CA

PHOTOS BY JERRY FREED



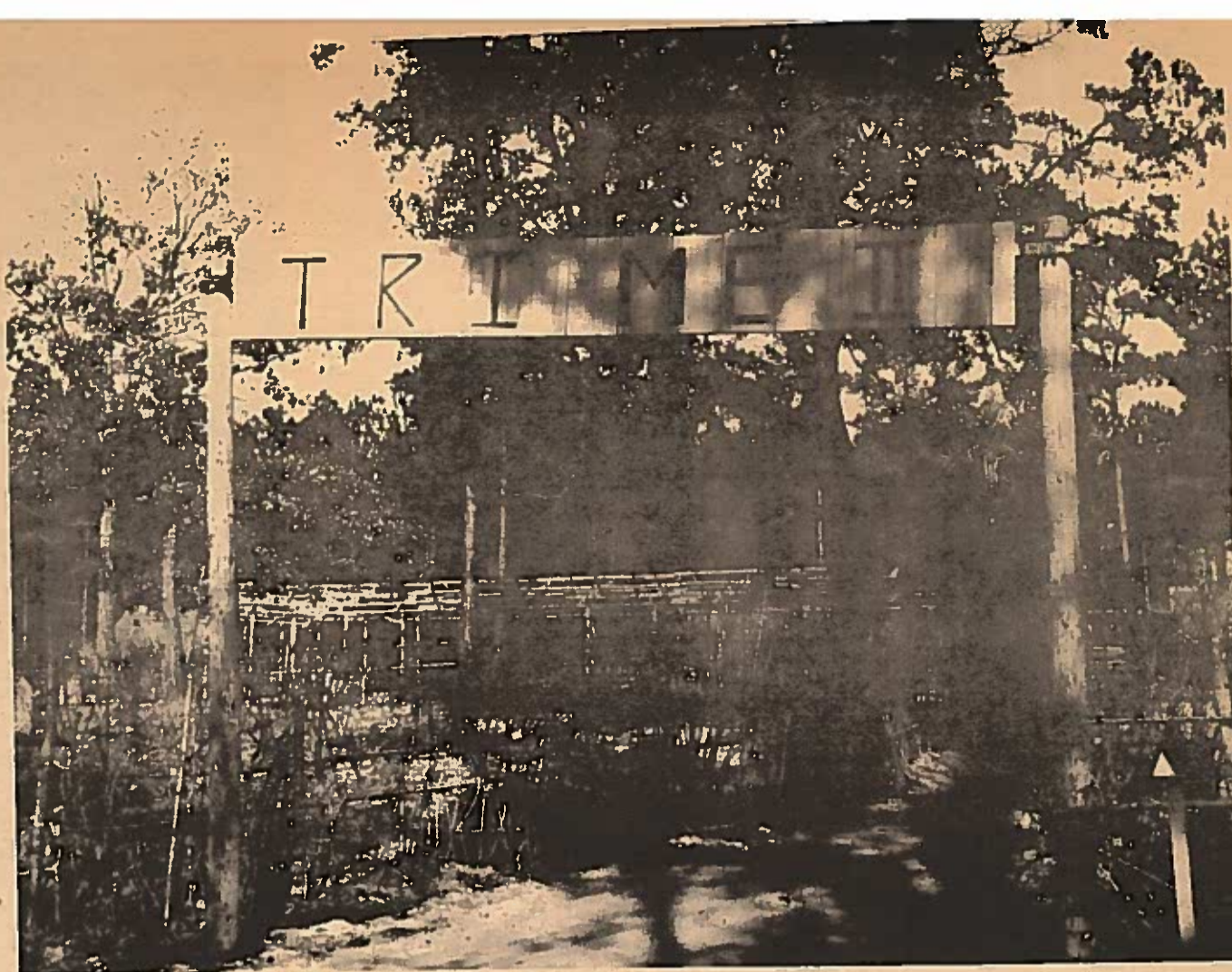
A BAMBOO POLE equipped with sharp, poison-tipped punji stakes whips from a tree and slashes into a dummy at the Vietnamese village as MCB

71's Seabees look on. This device, called a "Maylayan Whip", is used effectively by the Viet Cong along narrow jungle paths.





AGODA stands in the mid-Vietnamese village of Tri-Me-II, the swastika is the chest of the enlight- the final stage of nirvana. found in virtually all of the Southeast Asia.



THE SHADOWY ENTRANCE to Tri Me-II may be filled with mines and booby-traps to surprise the unwary Seabee who enters with the proper caution.

The entrances of villages are favorite locations of the Viet Cong for placing deadly booby-traps.

# NCAROLINA STYLE

## Camp Lejeune

## Own - VC Village

If you can picture Vietnam having even a mild winter, try walking through the village of Tri Me II and you will get a good idea of what it would be like.

In a matter of minutes, a grunt-type marine or a well-trained Seabee can be transported from the well equipped, modern, coke-infested barracks to the ancient bamboo huts and ancient equipment that was used hundreds of years ago.

This small but important village which is of early Asian decent was built by Marines and Seabees a few years ago to aid in the training of both Marines and Seabees who will be deploying shortly for Vietnam. Another of its more important purposes is to give those who train there a "first-hand-look" at some of the conditions that are to be expected during deployment.

The village itself is small, but a true Vietnamese radiates from within it's walls due to the fact that most of the men who took part in it's construction are veterans of Vietnam. It comes complete with rice paddies that actually grow live rice during the summer months.

During our three weeks at Camp Lejeune we had approximately 65 men go through a three day course at the school. The first day the men were marched through the village and were told to remember and acquaint themselves with as much as possible. The second day was devoted to teaching them all about the ingenuity of the North Vietnamese soldier and his ability to utilize almost anything and make it into a particularly dangerous weapon. Most of these weapons that were in the



ONE PHASE OF THE SCHOOL deals with the detection and dismantling of punji stake pits and traps which can cripple and even kill. Here the men view the different types of punji stake foot traps.

village were made from everything from bamboo to rubber and were highly effective. Shown the types of injuries that can be inflicted by such weapons, the men gained some practical knowledge of what to look for and also some valuable knowledge of how to treat such wounds. At the end of the second day, the men were ready to be re-marched through that same village under simulated combat conditions to gain a working knowledge of what is to be expected and that . . . is the unexpected.