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From: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subj: U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, August 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967

Encl: (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(2) River Patrol Force Summary
(3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(5) Selected Psychological Operations
(6) USN Statistical Summary
(7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary
(8) USN Civic Action Statistical Summary

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.

2. The data contained in enclosures (6), (7) and (8) is based on information available this date. Any adjustments to enclosures (6), (7) and (8) will be reflected in August's Historical Supplement.

J. H. ROBINSON
Force Historian

Copy to:
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)
CNO (Op-09B91E)
Director of Naval History

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
August 1968

The month of August found MARKET TIME units at a new high level of harassing enemy positions and movement as well as supporting friendly ground forces along the coast of South Vietnam. Between 16 and 23 August a new weekly mark of 224 naval gunfire missions established, more than normally carried out in an entire month during the first three years of Operation MARKET TIME. Efforts to obtain more reports of gun damage assessment also began to pay off during August and are reflected in statistics on enemy forces. In total, 859 naval gunfire missions were conducted in response to tactical intelligence and in support of friendly forces. This total included 29 incidents in which hostile fire on surveillance units were suppressed and 27 cases in which evading junks or sampans were taken under fire.

Indigenous fishing activity and coastal shipping were slightly below their normal seasonal levels for August as early autumn tropical storms brought unfavorable weather. During the month MARKET TIME units made a total of 94,194 detections of junks and sampans in their patrol areas. Of these detections, 46,757 were inspected and another 21,155 were boarded and searched. An effort was made to obtain more effective enforcement of restricted zones through the destruction of craft belonging to repeated violators. Additional surveillance results included 1,130 detections of steel-hulled craft transiting MARKET TIME areas. All were determined to

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be non-suspicious through 700 inspections and 62 boardings.

During a patrol on 7 August PCF 21 observed a concentration of 50 to 75 persons on the beach about 20 miles northwest of Chu Lai on four occasions. The personnel dispersed each time the "Swift" boat approached. A naval gunfire mission was authorized by sector authorities after an airborne spotter was called to investigate and noted tunnels and bunkers in the treeline. An estimated 25 enemy were killed or wounded as PCF 21 saturated the area with mortar and machine gun fire. Two days earlier the same craft had killed 5 Viet Cong as they attempted to evade at a point several miles north of Quang Ngai.

Shortly after midnight on 10 August PCF 31 was contacted by Detachment 4 of Combined Action Company O located near Chu Lai 10 miles east of Hue. The detachment was under heavy machine-gun and grenade attack and requested urgent illumination and gunfire support. The "Swift" boat was joined by PCF 39 and USS CLARION RIVER (LSMR409) in defeating the enemy attack. With the LSMR delivering the bulk of the destructive fire and the "Swift" boats illuminating, 37 structures were destroyed and 11 Viet Cong killed. Numerous blood trails and drag marks were also observed during a follow-up sweep of the area.

At a point 30 miles south of Quang Ngai on the morning of the 17th a sampan with 4 persons on board attempted to evade USCGC POINT DUME. Three of the occupants successfully evaded over a sand dune, however, the fourth was pinned down and captured by the cutter's small boat. Upon capture the

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man, age about 36 and carrying no identification papers, stated a desire to Chieu Hoi.

On 20 August USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC67) joined in an operation against a Viet Cong base area near the mouth of the Ong Doc River. Other MARKET TIME units participated with PCFs 72, 93 and 38 in support of an assault involving fixed wing air strikes, Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group 41 units, a Regional Force company, and a Popular Force platoon. After fueling the "Swift" boats in the early morning the cutter commenced firing in support of the coastal group junks and "Swift" boats as they headed for the objective with the troops 8 miles up the river. Following the group sweep MINNETONKA covered the return of the assault force down the river. During the day the cutter destroyed 16 sampans, damaged 62 structures and 16 other sampans, and covered 4 areas of enemy trenches. The operation at a cost of one friendly wounded netted two Viet Cong killed, three Viet Cong captured, numerous captured documents and four weapons, and one family desiring to Chieu Hoi.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
August 1968

Enemy activity continued at a low level during the early part of the month as the Viet Cong avoided major contact with allied forces. Although it was surmised that the enemy had commenced its third offensive around the 20th of August, enemy initiated attacks against GAME WARDEN Forces were minimal. There were 3 Navymen killed and 23 wounded by the enemy, while casualties inflicted on the communist aggressors totaled 88 KIA and 5 WIA. One helicopter gunship crashed, and was later destroyed when it was determined to be unsalvageable, after being hit by enemy ground fire. Four crewmembers were injured in the crash that occurred on 25 August, 6 miles east of Tan Chau.

Throughout the month TF 116 units continued to maintain pressure on the enemy so as to thwart his efforts to regroup and execute an effective major offensive. As the PBR's alertly patrolled the rivers and canals disrupting the enemies lines of communication, the SEALs conducted attacks against Viet Cong base camps and commo-liaison routes making the movement of troops and supplies a difficult chore for the enemy forces.

Attacks against friendly shipping on the Long Tau shipping channel increased to the second highest number this year when eight incidents occurred. Although the enemy was active, his attacks were also ineffective for there was no stoppage of traffic. In all cases damage was

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minimal; however one crewman on the SS TRANSGLOBE was killed. The ships attacked were: SS SOUTHPORT II on 10 August, the British tanker CALTEX NEWCASTLE, SS LAKEWOOD VICTORY and the USS CIBAO on the 22nd, the SS TRANSNORTHER, carrying ammo, on the 25th, the SS TRANSGLOBE on two separate occasions on the 30th and the Japanese ship YOTOKU MARU also on the 30th. In addition to the attacks on the Long Tau, the USNS LT ROBERT CRAIG and SS SANTA MONICA were hit, while unloading ammo at Cat Lai, with only minor damage resulting. Reaction forces responding to the SOUTHPORT II attack killed 20 Viet Cong.

On 2 August a PBR inspecting a beached sampan was hit by a B-40 rocket that wounded all five crewmen. The incident occurred about 5 miles south-southwest of Nha Be, on the Soirap River, in the same area where the patrol had intercepted and captured an invading sampan earlier that day. The occupants of the captured sampan had escaped leaving behind an AK-47 rifle and three B-40 rockets. During a SEAL/PRU operation conducted 31 July - 2 August, in Chou Doc Province near the Cambodian border, one SEAL was killed and another was wounded by a booby trap grenade. The friendly forces withdrew from their mountain objective area located 22 miles northwest of Rach Gia when it was evident that the mission couldn't be completed without heavy casualties due to the well entrenched enemy. During another SEAL/PRU operation held late on the evening of 15 August another SEAL was killed and one wounded when a recon patrol tripped a booby trap during action 12 miles southeast of Ben Tre. In another

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action seen the same day 7 miles southwest of Go Cong, the SEALs and PRUs turned the tide of battle and killed 17 Viet Cong and captured one during a raid on a political training school.

On the morning of 20 August, the hazards of war were felt by the SEALs of Team Detachment "G" Juliett Platoon when a patrol sustained heavy casualties when they were taken under fire by their own ambush element 9 miles northwest of Mo Cay. Warrant Officer Eugene S. TINNIN, the patrol leader, was killed and four others were wounded. One VN LDNN was also wounded in the tragic mishap. WO-1 TINNIN was buried at sea off the coast of RVN on 29 August per his earlier stated desires.

On 20 August PBR's from My Tho stopped and boarded a water taxi about 4 miles southeast from their base for a routine inspection. After finding 6 bottles of penicillin in a carrying bag, the alert patrol officer, LTJG GILBERTSON, ordered a search of all packages/containers in the boat. Ten thousand dollars worth of U. S. medicines were discovered. Three women and an eight year old boy were detained.

On 24 August SEALs and PRUs teamed up once again to conduct an operation against a Viet Cong hospital and grenade factory located about 8 miles southeast of Go Cong near the mouth of the My Tho River. In the ensuing encounter with the enemy the friendly forces killed 32 Viet Cong and destroyed 40 structures. There were no friendly casualties.

About 8 miles northeast of Vinh Long at 2320 on the 27th, a PBR patrol intercepted two sampans with 24 Viet Cong aboard attempting to make a river

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crossing. When the PBRs illuminated the area all occupants of the sampans plunged into the water. At the same time an undetected sampan with four Viet Cong opened fire. The patrol took the enemy under fire at ranges as short as 3 - 4 feet; soon no one was observed swimming. Nine Viet Cong bodies were counted floating, but due to the heavy concentration of fire it was highly probable that the remainder had also been killed and sunk from view. On 29 August a PBR patrol was attacked about 12 miles southeast of Vinh Long. One sailor died from a penetrating head wound received in the firefight.

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MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE SUMMARY
August 1968

During the early part of the month the Mobile Riverine Force conducted a highly successful riverine operation in the Chuong Thien and Kien Giang provinces of the Mekong Delta. On 4 August the forces of MRG ALFA extended their protracted operations into the Viet Cong-infested territory of the U-Minh Forest 48 miles southwest of Can Tho. This venture was the first allied major ground operation into the enemy haven in more than a decade. One of the most significant events of the month occurred during a series of vicious Viet Cong ambushes along the Xa No Canal and Can Tho River on 8 August when the riverine units and artillery barges accidentally killed/injured a considerable number of Vietnamese civilians and militarymen who were caught in the enfilade of the boats.

On the first day of the month RAD 111 lifted the 4/47th Infantry Battalion (Inf. Bn.) to an area near the Nga Ba Cai Tau Stream 16 miles southwest of Vi Thanh in Chuong Thien Province where they immediately discovered two large caches of weapons and ammunition. Included in the cache were: 55 weapons, 249 grenades, 51 mortar rounds, 24 mines and 9 rocket rounds.

The following day riverine craft of RADs 91 and 131, with embarked ARVN troops, were ambushed near the intersection of the Cai Nhut Stream and Cai Tu River 7 miles southwest of Vi Thanh. One Navyman was killed and 11 other sailors were wounded by the B-40 rocket and automatic weapons

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fire, while ARVN casualties amounted to 2 killed and 19 wounded. Four ATC's were damaged during the surprise attack.

On 3 August units of RAD's 92 and 112 were attacked on the Can Tho River 7 miles west-southwest of Can Tho by enemy recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire. There were three sailors wounded during the ambush, one of whom died of his wounds later that evening.

The next day MRG ALFA launched a riverine/airmobile attack into the U-Minh Forest, following in the wake of three B-52 strikes. Operations in the area continued until 7 August when MRG ALFA concluded almost nine days of continuous operations by discovering a moderate-sized arms and ammunition cache which included 18 weapons, 49 assorted mines, and sixteen 60-mm mortar rounds. While returning to the MRB the assault craft of RAD 111 were ambushed twice with recoilless-rifles and small arms on the Xa No Canal and Can Tho River 9 miles southwest of Can Tho.

Cumulative results for the period (30 July - 8 August) were: 244 killed; 116 bunkers destroyed; 101 suspects detained, of whom 10 were prisoners-of-war; 31 Hoi Chanhs rallied; and a total of 265 weapons, 725 mortar/rocket/recoilless-rifle rounds, 119 miscellaneous mines, 813 grenades and over 45,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition captured and/or destroyed.

On 8 August boats of RAD 92, transporting the 4/47th Inf. Bn., were assailed by a fusillade of enemy rockets and machine-gun bullets in a known Viet Cong ambush area on the Xa No Canal, just south of the Can Tho River.

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They suppressed the enemy fire with all weapons. Subsequent to the ambush, it was reported that 29 persons were killed and 27 wounded in the Phuong Dien Village market place 1½ miles from the ambush site. Later that same evening on the outskirts of a friendly village, the Viet Cong struck again. This ambush occurred 7 miles southwest of Can Tho when RAD 91 craft, with the 3/60th Inf. Bn. embarked, were attacked by heavy automatic-weapons and rocket fire. One ATC was deliberately beached to keep it from sinking.

One hour later the artillery barges with their riverine escort were hit by rocket and 75-mm recoilless-rifle fire while transiting the Can Tho River 4 miles southwest of Can Tho in the vicinity of the Cai Rang Bridge. The artillery barges, carrying over 1,000 rounds of 105-mm howitzer ammunition in an open storage area, lowered their howitzers and laid down a barrage of deadly "Beehive" artillery fire into the ambush positions. Shortly after the initial attack, the escorting craft which were interspersed amongst the three-mile column of boats, reported being under attack and returned the fire with their .50 caliber machine guns and 20-mm and 40-mm cannons. A number of Vietnamese civilians and militarymen in the town of Cai Rang were caught in the crossfire which resulted in 43 dead (1 ARVN and 42 civilians) and 177 wounded (15 ARVN and 162 civilians). This area has been the scene of frequent ambushes in the past few days.

On 15-16 August 6 riverine craft were damaged and 26 sailors and 5 soldiers of MRG ALFA were wounded, when ambushed in three separate incidents by enemy rocketeers and machine gunners from both banks of the Ben Tre River

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4 miles south of Ben Tre in Kien Hoa Province. Two days later RADs 91 and 111 craft were attacked in two ambushes along the Hai Muoi Tam Canal in Dinh Tuong Province about 6-8 miles northwest of Cai Be. There were 3 Navymen killed, 1 sailor declared missing in action and 29 wounded and "medevaced," while U. S. Army losses amounted to 2 soldiers killed and 53 wounded during the two devastating ambushes. There were six assault craft damaged, three of them heavily as a result of the two ambushes. During the period 18-19 August, enemy losses amounted to 41 Viet Cong killed.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
August 1968

The VNN River Patrol Group (RPG) 51 redeployed on 1 August to regular patrols on the Dong Nai River after completing its training phase in the RSSZ. The VN Navy's assumption of one day and 2 night patrols along the critical river east of Saigon relieved the U. S. Navy's PBRs of two-thirds the patrol area. One U. S. enlisted advisor has been assigned to each river craft as the VNN sailors perform the vital function of inspecting river traffic and maintaining area security on the perimeters of Saigon. In addition, the PBRs provide gunfire support to land troops during operations to halt the enemy's flow of men and materials into the capitol area.

Vinh Long base RAG 23/31 participated in two operations of note this month along the Mang Thit/Nicholai Canal in Vinh Long Province. Operation QUYET CHIEN/SD 9/5 was an assault operation conducted on 11 and 12 August by ARVN Ranger and Reconnaissance units in the area south of the canal and west of the Co Chien River. Thirteen RAG craft provided mobility, river blocking and bank security to the ground forces during the two-day operation. The enemy was located and overwhelmed; 22 ARVN soldiers suffered wounds while 18 Viet Cong were killed, 23 were taken prisoners and 61 suspect were detained. In addition to the numerous weapons, ammunition and war materials captured, 15 ARVN soldiers, held captive by the enemy, were

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liberated as a result of this operation. QUYET CHIEN/SD 9/8 was an ARVN probe of Vinh Long Province on 21 August. Just as the RAG convoy of 11 boats were off-loading 9th ARVN soldiers 12 miles south southeast of Vinh Long City, the enemy opened fire with B-40 and B-41 rockets, small-arms and automatic-weapons fire from both banks of the canal. After suppressing the fire and landing the troops, the RAG craft moved in a northeasterly direction to medevac wounded and again were attacked from the north bank. Navy "Seawolves" covered the air medevac and transit of the VNN boats to the Co Chien River where PBRs took up escort. One FOM and one monitor were in tow, having sustained damaging enemy fire; 4 VNN sailors were killed and 10 were wounded. Ground troops discovered 41 enemy bodies during their follow-up sweep of the area saturated by the air and naval gunfire.

The six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VNMC with their USMC advisors were committed to operations 100 percent of the time. In contrast to last month's heavy engagement reported (the 5th Battalion recorded 71 enemy killed on 30 and 31 July), this month proved to be relatively uneventful for all battalions. Task Force A, operating in IV Corps Tactical Zone under the operational control of the 21st ARVN Infantry Division, was composed of the 6th Infantry Battalion and the 5th Battalion, which joined the task force on 8 August having left NRF operations. Task Force B remained in the Capitol Military District conducting Operation TOAN

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THANG in northeast Saigon and was composed of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th battalions. Each task force employed small unit patrols which reported negligible enemy contact, but contributed to the deterrent effect on enemy movement throughout their areas of operation.

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Psychologocal and Civic Action Operations

The major psyop efforts during the month was directed to the exploitation of the VC/NVA THIRD Offensive. With the offensive imminent, all naval units developed active psyop programs to bolster the populace and to exploit the vulnerabilities generated or incurred by the VC/NVA. Lessons learned from the Tet and 5 May offensives provided many themes for exploitation. Several items were: failure of the populous to rise up and support the attacks; heavy losses sustained by the VC/NVA in both attacks; and discrepancies between VC/NVA indoctrination and reality regarding ARVN/allied fighting spirit. Heavy emphasis was also directed to Chieu Hoi themes. During the month there were at least 92 speaker missions conducted with a number of the missions drawing hostile fire. There were 10 Hoi Chanhs that rallied to naval units with TF 116 accounting for seven. In one incident PBRs, reacting quickly to intelligence information regarding potential Viet Cong ralliers, picked up four Hoi Chanhs east of Sa Dec on 14 August. On 18 August a rallier disclosed the location of 100 Viet Cong near Qui Nhon. Following the commencement of the Third Offensive, naval units capitalized on the repeated losses and failures of the enemy to achieve victories.

Civic action was also paramount in the planned operations of all units. Every opportunity was taken to continue the building of the GVN

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image and support of revolutionary development. MEDCAPs continued to be the best media to gain the support of the people. More prevalent were combined MEDCAPs where U.S. and VNN medical personnel worked as a team. During the conduct of 97 reported MEDCAPs over 23,400 patients were treated. The teams were well received and the villagers continued to provide valuable intelligence on Viet Cong activity.

During one MEDCAP conducted on 21 August a combined team composed of an AMA doctor, two Navy corpsmen, one U.S. Army medic and a VN doctor hiked two miles through paddies and jungle to reach an obscure village about 6 miles east of Ben Tre. The team, accompanied by security forces, treated over 192 persons in the area where no MEDCAPs had ever been held before. The night before, four Viet Cong were killed in the vicinity of the MEDCAP location by PF troops. The success of the MEDCAP was considered a victory for the allied effort. In Phong Dinh Province, at two hamlets located about 5 miles southwest of Can Tho, TF 116 psyops personnel in coordination with other local VN and U.S. officials distributed 225 special prepared school kits to needy school children. The kits also contained pro-GVN psyop appeal geared to the children's level of understanding. The program was well received by the children and much appreciated by the VN school officials. In Qui Nhon TF 115 personnel conducted a series of projects at the Save the Children Center, a hospital/rehabilitation center for children maintained by British volunteers. Cleaning, painting and repairs was the order of the day.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
August 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	95,324	174,290	*
Inspections	47,457	36,253	*
Boardings	21,217	75,223	*
Craft detained	*	4	*
Persons detained	1,140	*	174
Viet Cong suspects	15	107	*
Hostile fire incidents	29	48	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	91(BC)+99(EST)	88	332
b. Wounded	5(BC)+25(EST)	5	5
c. Captured	18	18	26
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	3	3	5 USN/25 USA/1 VNMC/2 ARVN
b. Wounded	3	23	83 USN/130 USA/2 VNMC/19 ARVN
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	1 USN
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	185	122	10
(2) Structures	290	149	1,036
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	3	0
(2) Weapons	10	10	1,274**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	100	*	52,776***
(4) Rice (tons)	*	.5	0
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	319	173	*
(2) Structures	431	137	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0
(2) Helicopters	0	1	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	2	14	22
(2) Helicopters	0	7	*
SAR missions	1	*	*

Remarks:
* Information not applicable or not availalbe this date.
** Includes 821 grenades and 124 mines.
*** Includes 843 rocket/recoilless-rifle/mortar rounds.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
August 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

COASTAL FORCE	Daily Average Operational	Daily Average Employed	Searched Junks	Searched People	Detained Junks	Detained People
I NZ	37.2	36.9	25,248	80,226	19	373
II NZ	52.3	51.0	27,219	73,698	45	488
III NZ	46.1	46.0	15,849	45,845	0	2
IV NZ	67.7	67.6	4,987	17,022	2	15
		Sub-totals	73,303	216,791	66	878
*FLEET COMMAND PATROL SHIPS	38.2	32.0	788	2,955	4	32
RIVERINE AREA CRAFT	134.5	130.4	8,740	32,724	0	0
#GENERAL RESERVE FORCE	40.6	37.1	1,170	3,381	0	0
		Total	157,304	255,851	70	910

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS: Figures not available at this writing.

Remarks:

* Provided 88 gunfire support missions.

\# Includes RAG 27, RTEG and RPG 51.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
August 1968

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 851.5

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN$ 748,323

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN$ 38,828

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. MILITARY CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITES CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

	Percent
Other FWMAF	5
RVNAF	4
U.S. civilian voluntary agencies	2
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	28

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	6	5,000
Education	28	23,756
Social Welfare	608	683,527
Transportation	135	40
Refugee	56	36,000

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	Number
Schools	10
Hospitals/dispensaries	5
Orphanages	10
Others	3

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