



CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS
100TH ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 2, 1967

UNITED STATES NAVY
CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS



SEABEES
25TH ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 5, 1967

SEABEES
IN
ACTION

THE DR. HENRY STORY

**" I knew the Viet Cong were making a
shooting gallery of the place !"**

LOS ANGELES HERALD-EXAMINER - 7 JUNE 1966

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
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U. S. NAVY CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS
"CONSTRUIMUS, BATUIMUS - WE BUILD, WE FIGHT"

"CAN DO!"



SEABEES

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

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He Operated Under



Viet Cong Fire

By **TED THACKREY JR.**
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

PORT HUENEME, June 7—Some men are born to be doctors. They know from the time that they are children that they will one day address the world with a bedside manner and a stethoscope discreetly tucked

into the side coat-pocket. And for them, the road is usually easy and clear.

Lt. Harvey M. Henry of the Ninth Seabee Battalion, stationed here, was not one of these.

When he was in high school, back in Media, Pa., he thought he wanted to be a teacher. His elder brother — whom he idolized — was to be the doctor of the family.

And even when he graduated from college, he thought he'd be a dentist.

But he is a doctor; the assigned medical officer for Ninth Battalion, and

anyone who doubts he is the greatest doctor on earth will have to fight about 500 men (give or take a few dozen.)

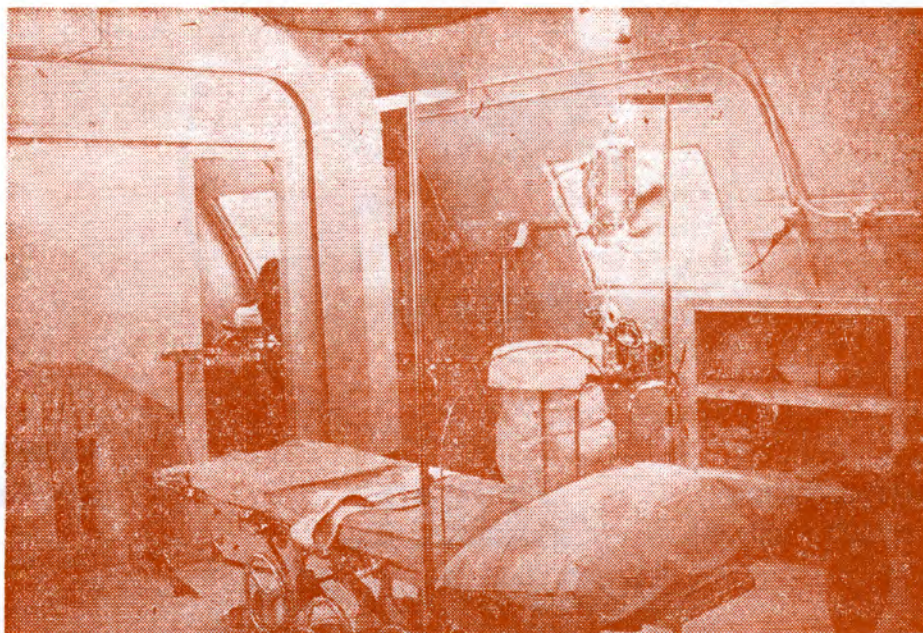
Dr. Henry was taken into the Navy almost immediately after finishing his year of internship, and he's been in ever since.

90 CASUALTIES

He admits he had a few qualms about himself, as most thinking men do, when he was informed that he would be going to Viet Nam when the Ninth was assigned to a construction site at Da Nang.

LT. HARVEY M. HENRY OF THE SEABEES
Examining the neck of Herb Jones of New Jersey

Before



SURGICAL WARD AT SEABEE HOSPITAL IN VIET NAM
This was before an attack by Viet Cong which destroyed the place

But any doubts he may have held (and any held by others) dissolved last Oct. 28 in a burst of rifle fire and demolition charges which all but destroyed the hospital which the battalion had built for him there.

In about an hour, the battalion took some 90 casualties.

Two of the wounds ultimately proved fatal. But the rest of the wounded men lived to tell the story about a preoccupied surgeon, standing cool and steady while the operating room came down around his ears, never missing a single motion in a series of life-saving operations.

MEN GRATEFUL

"If Harvey Henry ever needs any little thing, like an arm or a leg or a spare heart," said Capt. R. C. Anderson, commanding officer of the Ninth, "I guess he knows who to ask.

"There isn't a man in this outfit who'd think twice, or begrudge the gift . . ."

Dr. Henry himself tends to pass the whole thing off as an accident.

"I knew the Viet Cong were making a shooting gallery of the place," he recalled. "How could I miss that? The casualties I was getting hadn't been kicked by goldfish.

"But I swear I didn't know how bad the hospital was beat up until everything was done. I don't

know, maybe I'd have ducked under something if I'd realized what a pasting it was getting to be.

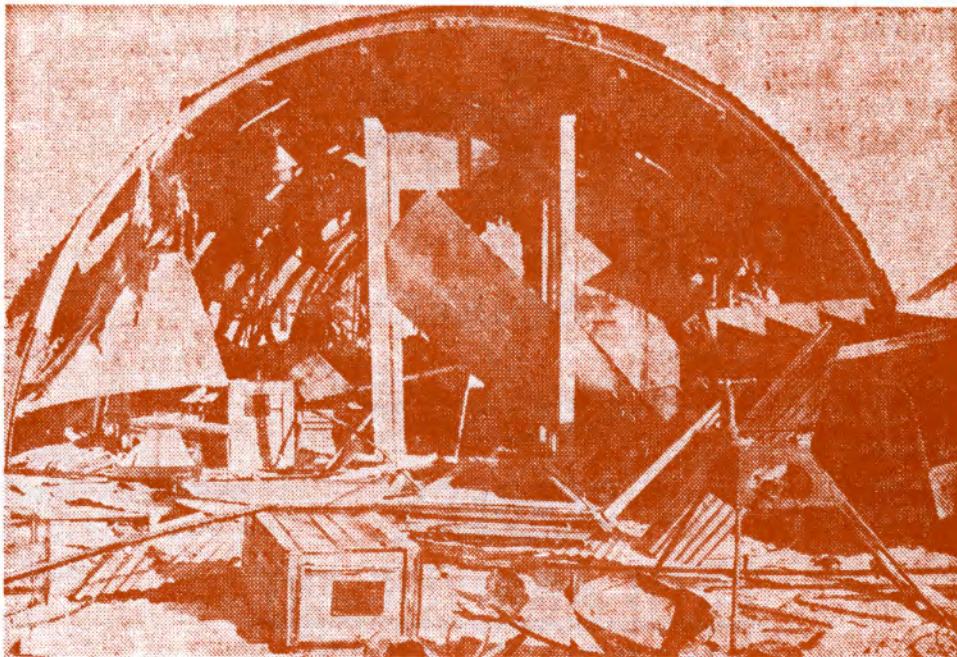
"But I was busy . . ."

He was all of that. Dr. Henry was the only medical officer in the area, and for help he had exactly two corpsmen, one of whom had a wound of his own before the attack was over.

One corpsman entered the receiving ward to find the doctor keeping a man's throat open for air with one hand while applying heart-massage with the other.

"Good thing the guy wasn't bleeding somewhere else," Dr. Henry grinned. "I don't know **WHERE** I'd have found a third hand."

and After



HOW THE HOSPITAL LOOKED AFTER VIET CONG ATTACK
The Seabees rebuilt it, and 200-bed facility was back in business

The corpsman snorted. "He'd have found one," he muttered. "He'd have figured something out."

The Navy seems to share the battalion's enthusiasm for their medical officer.

AWARDED MEDAL

For that day's work, Dr. Henry holds the Navy Commendation Medal, one of seven awarded to the Ninth Battalion during its eight-month Viet Nam tour.

"I'll admit, though, that I was pretty depressed when I finally had a chance to see what the V.C. had done to the hospital," Dr. Henry admitted. "It was a real mess. In the morning, it had been almost ready to go.

"By nightfall, it was a ruin. I wondered if anyone, even the Seabees, could put it back together again."

But they did. In just two months, the 200-bed facility was back in business, treating battle casualties, and Dr. Henry and his corpsmen were finding extra time to treat injured and diseased Vietnamese villagers of the area.

MORALE FACTOR

Now the Ninth is here at Port Hueneme, beefed up and preparing for another tour of war duty. Dr. Henry is still with the outfit, and the men of the battalion are glad.

"He's a big morale factor," said construction recruit Herb Jones, 19, of New York City. "I've never seen combat before, but if I'm going to — and it looks like I am — I'm glad he's the doctor.

"The old hands in the outfit say he doesn't miss. A real cool head . . ."

Dr. Henry grinned.

"I guess," he said, "I picked out the right thing to do, after all. Funny — you know that big brother of mine, the who who was going to be a doctor in the first place? Well, he didn't! Went into industrial engineering, instead.

"Good thing I got over the feeling I couldn't compete with him, and decided to be a doctor anyway."

And the men of the Ninth Seabees all seem to agree with him about that.



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POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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