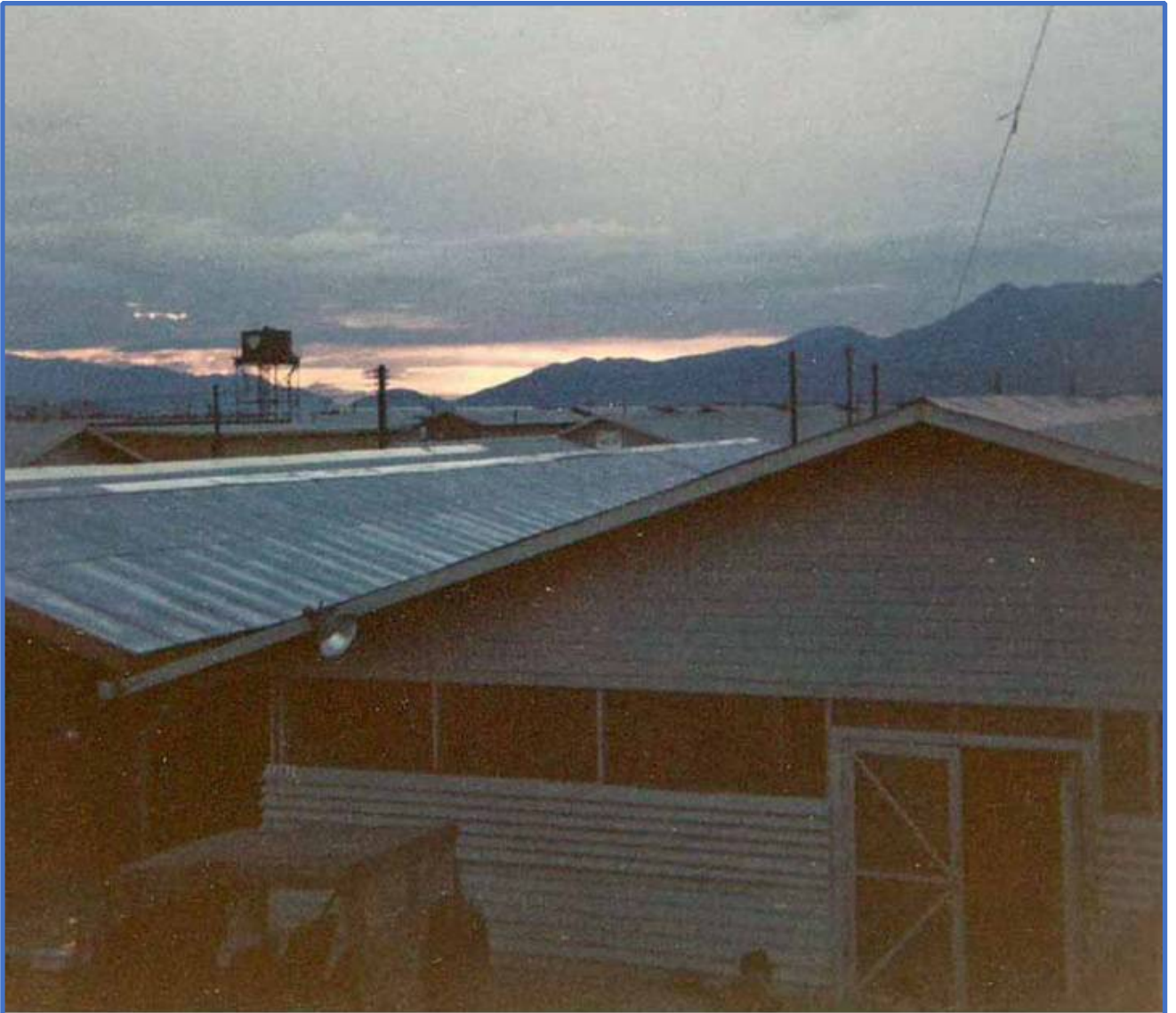


Tom Firchow's Photos

01 of 99 Photos



The barracks (huts) at Cam Ranh Bay.

Tom Firchow's Photos

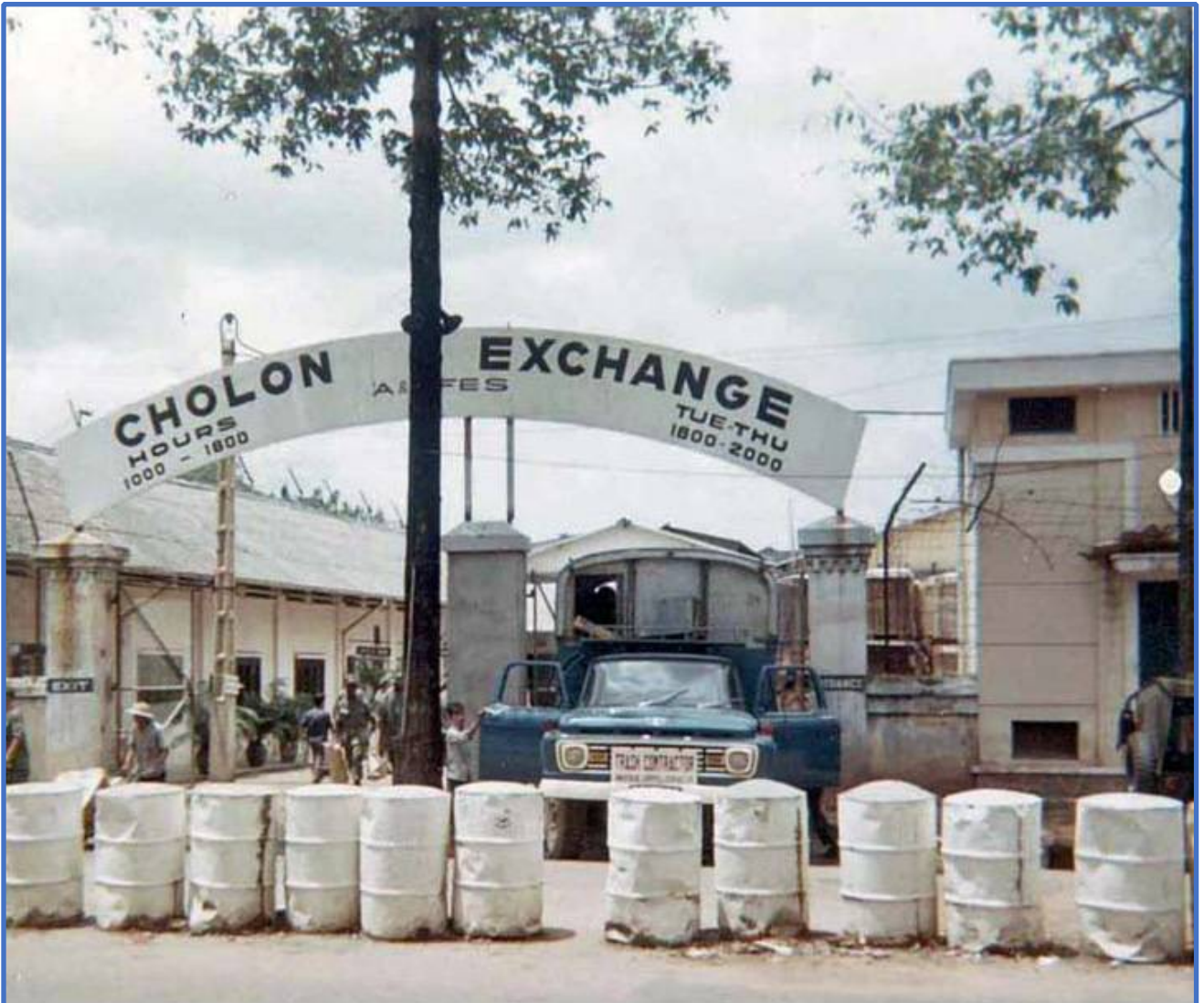
02 of 99 Photos



Cam Ranh Bay shortly after arrival in South Vietnam (that's sand, not snow).

Tom Firchow's Photos

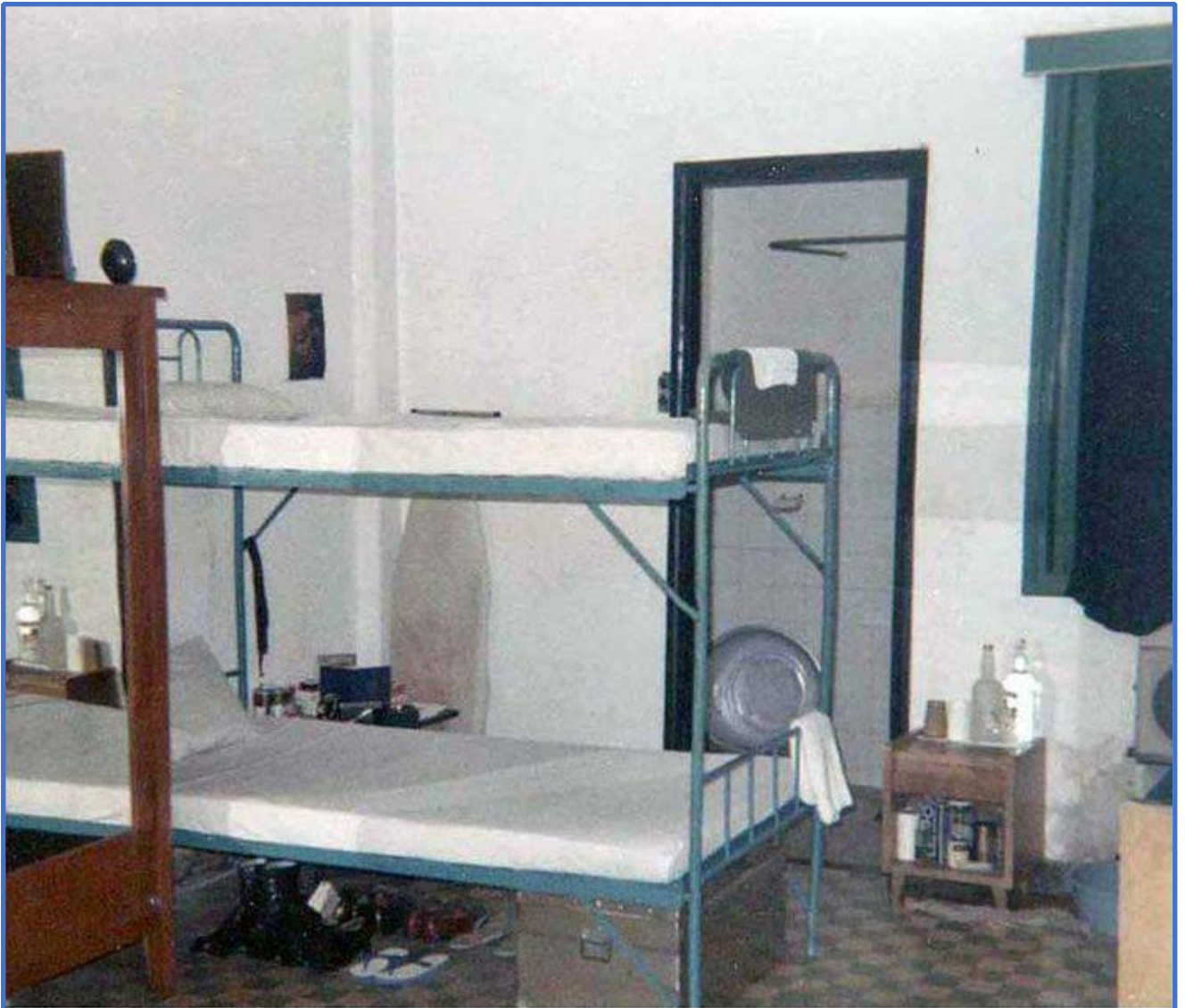
03 of 99 Photos



Cholon (COFAT) Exchange
Possible the largest in the Saigon area?

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Tom's room at the Ky Son Annex BEQ.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Another view of Tom's room at the Ky Son.
Lots of bug spray on the desk.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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View from the roof of the Ky Son Annex BEQ?

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Another view from the roof.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The Metropole seen from ground level.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Again, from the roof of the Ky Son Annex BEQ.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The TV Control Room

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Studio Set and TK60 camera.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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(L to R) Tom Firchow, Bob Cordell
and Charlie Taylor

Tom Firchow's Photos

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(L to R) Peter Halperin, Charlie Taylor (standing)
and Tom Steinbeck

Tom Firchow's Photos

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SP5 John Pletsch, USA and
SSG Bob Cordell, USA

Tom Firchow's Photos

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SP5 Tom Steinbeck, USA on the left and
SP5 Peter Halperin, USA behind the tape deck.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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**Back: Charlie Taylor, SP5, USA & Kenneth Repsher, MSG, USA.
Front: Richard Miller, SSG, USA; Thomas K. Johnson; John Shives;
Paul Baldrige, SP5, USA and Bob Cordell, SSG, USA.**

Tom Firchow's Photos

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**William "Bill"
Parrott,
SSG, USA.**

Tom Firchow's Photos

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**J. F. Kennedy
Catholic Church**

Tom Firchow's Photos

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**The
AFVN
Tower.**

Tom Firchow's Photos

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A pedicab driver wondering why his picture is being taken?

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The well-known statue of an American and a South Vietnamese soldier.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The statue
from the
front.

Many
Americans
thought it
represented
a South
Vietnamese
soldier hiding
behind an
American.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The National Assembly Building.
The lighter part of the roof on the right shows
where it was repaired after a rocket hit the
building in September 1968.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The (new) American Embassy.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The British Embassy

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The South Vietnamese Presidential Palace.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Guards outside the Presidential Palace.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Yellow and blue taxi, motorized cyclo
and military jeeps.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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General William C. Westmoreland (Commander, MACV) giving a televised press conference in the AFVN studio.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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General Westmoreland again.
Lots of press and media representatives
were on hand.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Joey Bishop, comedian and actor being interviewed at the AFVN studio

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Taken through the front window of the
AFVN work bus (between the
Ky Son Annex BEQ and the AFVN Station.)

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Both pedestrian crossings and
“crossing pedestrians” are studiously ignored.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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As were most all of the other traffic regulations.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Parking spaces, even for scooters and bicycles were hard to find.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Note the Christmas trees in the background.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Driving and/or riding was strictly
"every man for himself."

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The little three-wheeled trucks were used as buses or taxis also.

One day 5 or 6 of us from AFVN decided to go out to eat so we got one of these trucks. An MP jeep pulled up and we were ordered out because we made a very tempting drive-by hand-grenade target.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The cyclo passenger's view--low, fast
and sometimes not feeling all that safe.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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It was also always smoggy and smelly!

We used to kid each other about anyone coming back from R&R had to go lay down behind a smoky bus and refill his carbon dioxide and fume level.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Lots of roadside and sidewalk food stalls.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Also many other kinds of outdoor vendors.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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A closer view of one of the vendors.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The view from inside a taxi.
Cramped but somewhat safer.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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SP4 Jim Havens, USA waiting
for the AFVN work bus.
Everyone always hoped it was really
going to Oakland or San Francisco.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The AFVN work bus in front of the
Hung Dao BEQ.

These buses were leased from a Japanese company
which had leased the same model of buses to the US
Forces in Japan and Korea.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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A Kinescope. They were used to copy images from a TV screen to either 16 or 35 mm film.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The telecine was used to transfer
film to video.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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MSG Kenneth Repasher, USA

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The TV News Set

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The AFVN Lobby, Christmas, 1968

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Most likely taken from the roof
of the Ky Son Annex BEQ.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Again taken from the roof of the
Ky Son Annex BEQ.

It is very faint but the AFVN tower
can be seen in the distance.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Perhaps looking in the direction of
the Port of Saigon from the Ky Son roof.

Tom Firchow's Photos

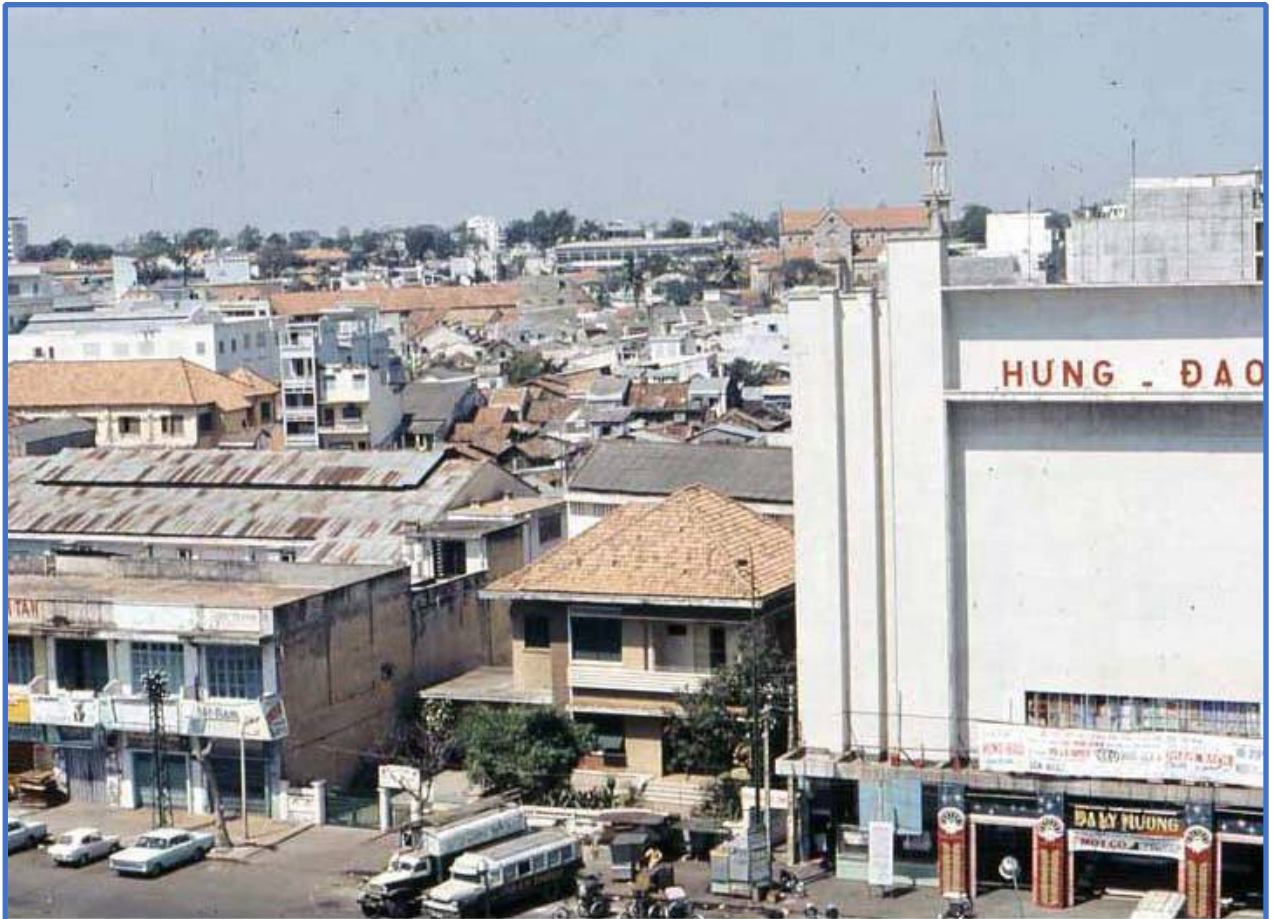
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The Hung Dao BEQ as seen from the Ky Son Annex BEQ roof.

Tom Firchow's Photos

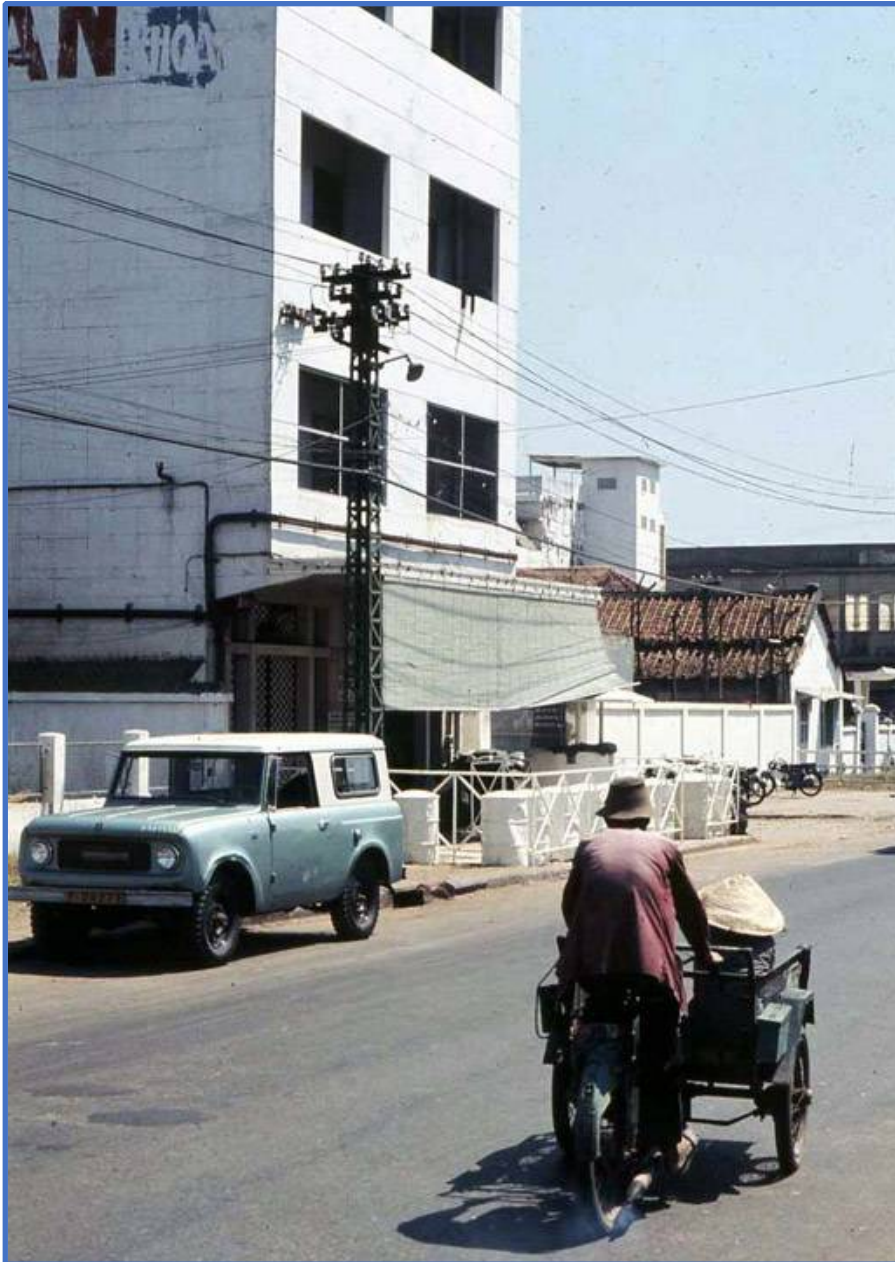
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This time looking a little to the left
of the Hung Dao.

Tom Firchow's Photos

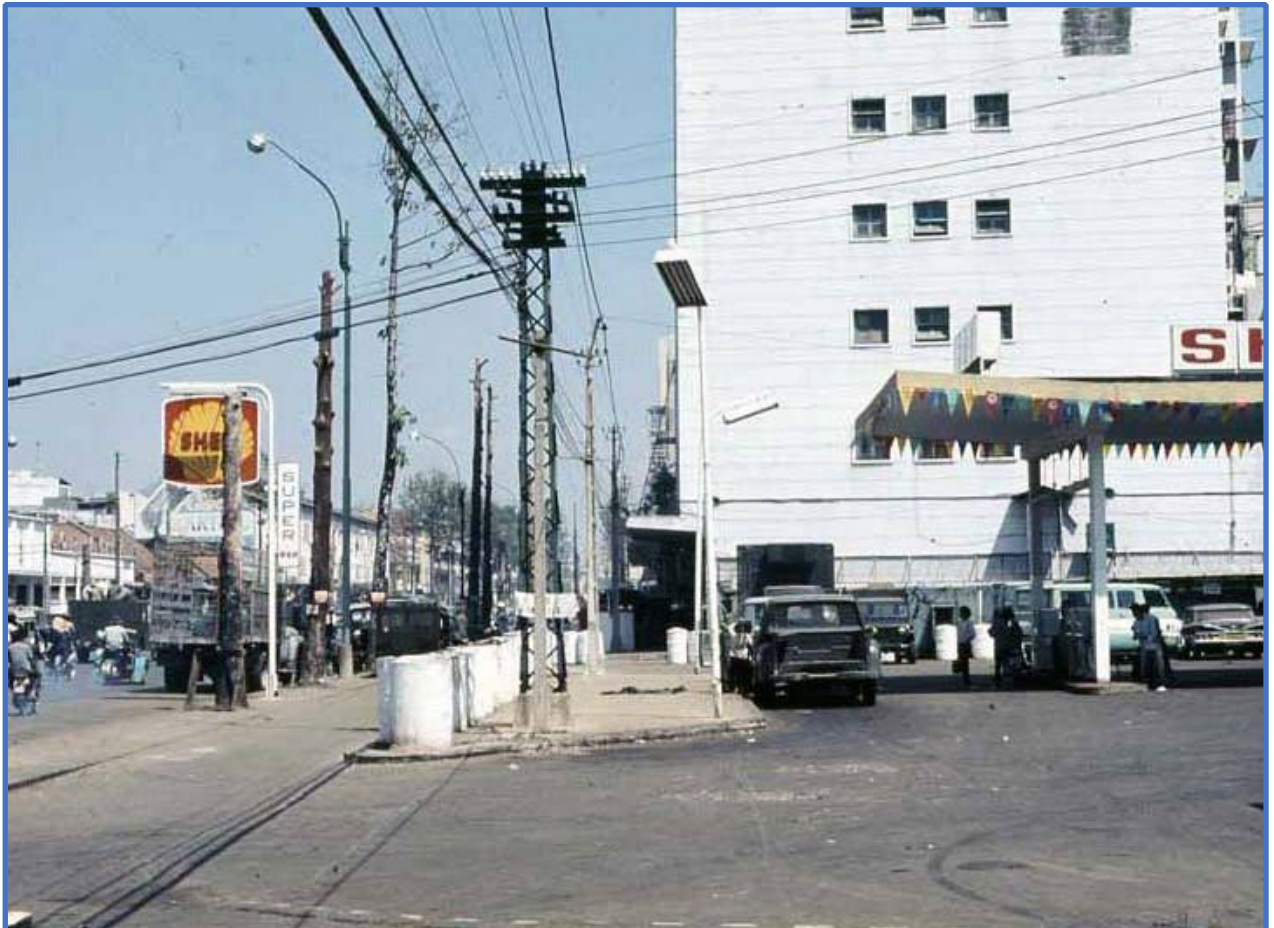
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Perhaps the
entrance to
the Ky Son
Annex BEQ.

Tom Firchow's Photos

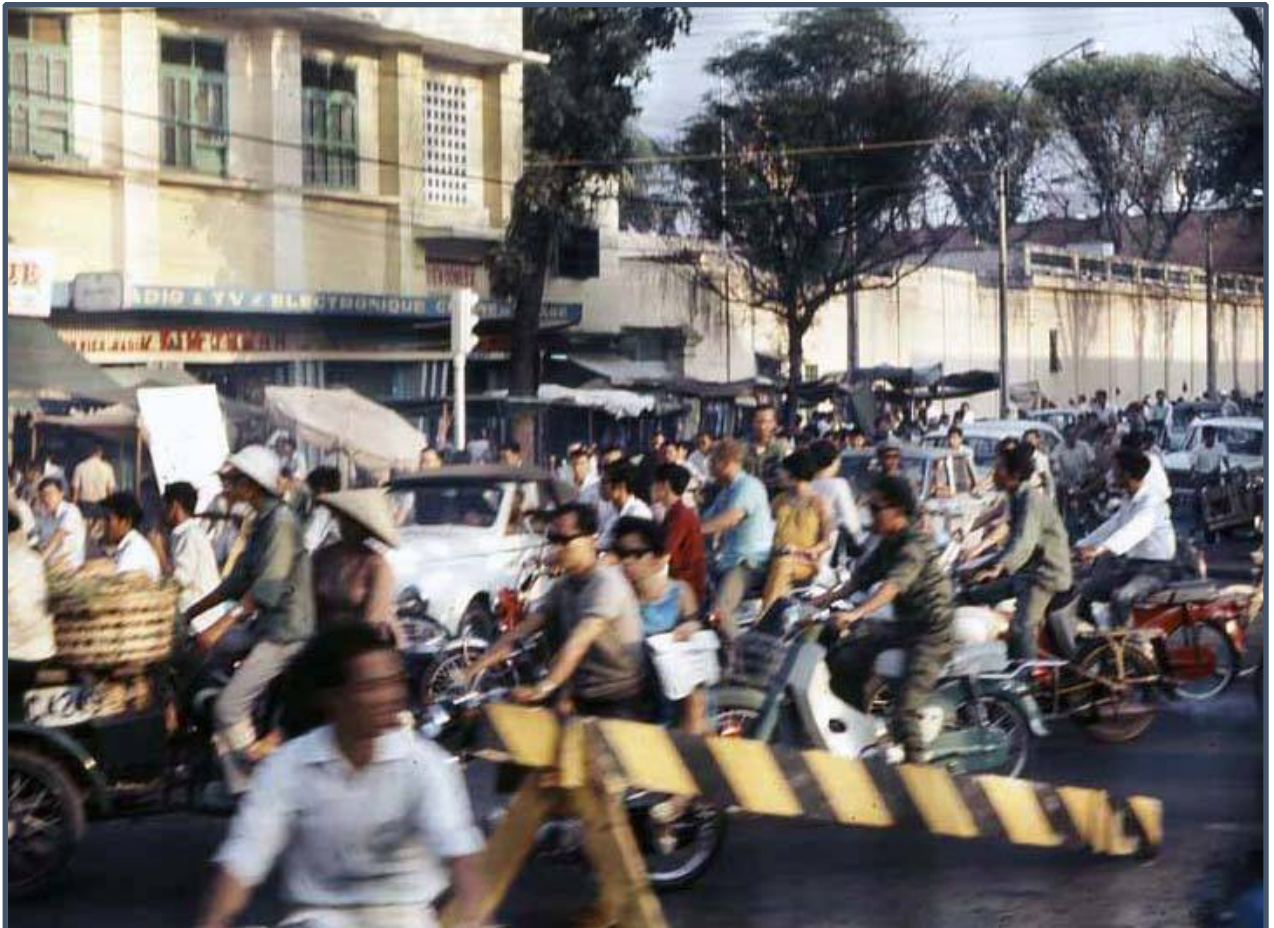
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Generally looking east from the
AFVN Work Bus bus stop.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Most of the time Saigon traffic could only be described as "heavy."

Tom Firchow's Photos

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A large fire not too far from the
Ky Son Annex BEQ.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Women street vendors, possibly selling produce from their own fields.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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One of the less fortunate residents of Saigon, most likely a rag picker.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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A somewhat closer view.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Some kids playing in a pool while a vendor sits in the shade waiting for customers.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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A closer view of the kids in the pool.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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How to prevent climbing over the wall.

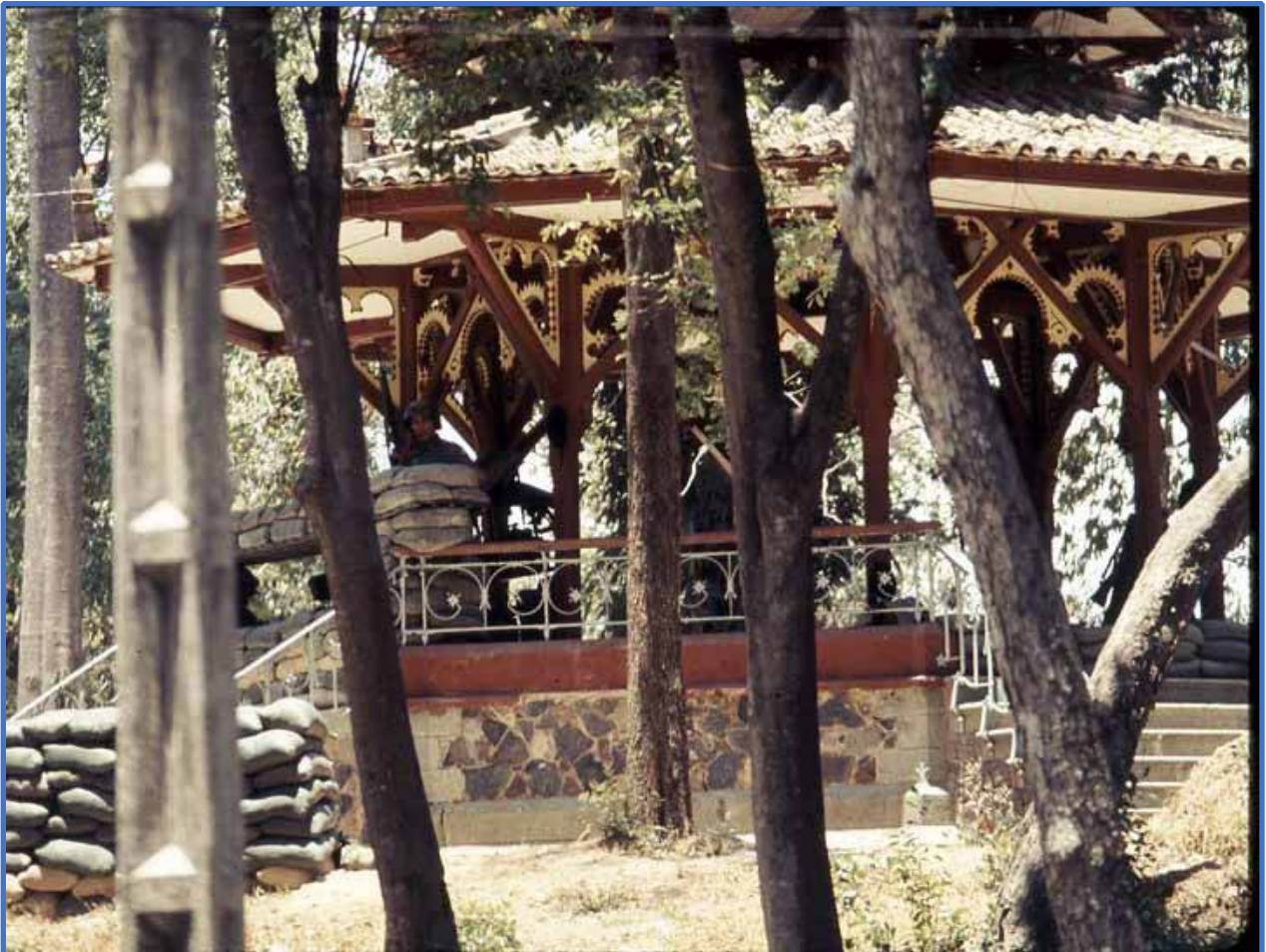
Broken glass on the top of wall like this was fairly common in Japan in the 1950's and 60's or so.

I also saw it in Taipei in the early 1970's.

Jim White

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Trees and a pavillion of some kind.
Perhaps in the Saigon Zoo?

Tom Firchow's Photos

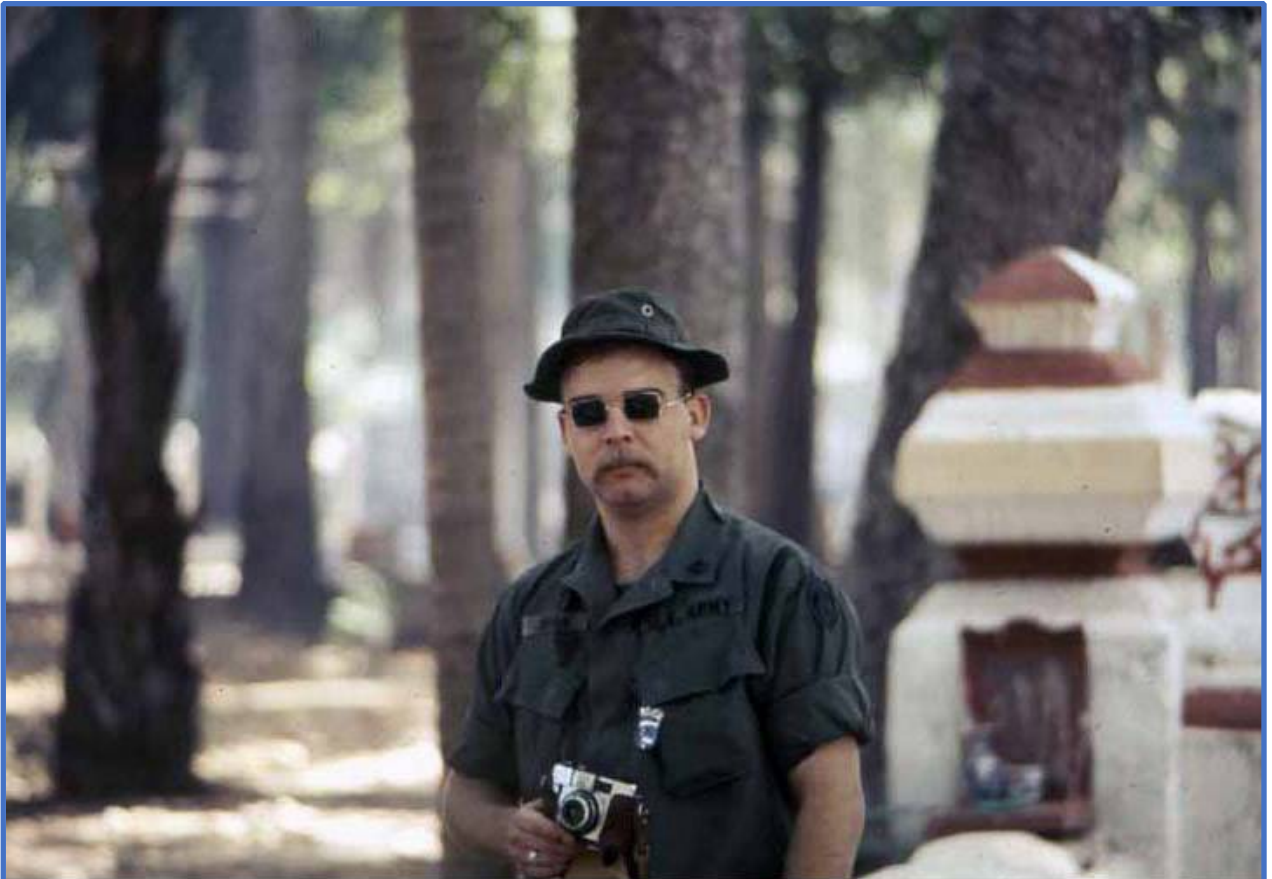
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Perhaps a memorial of some kind.
The stylized lotus flowers are common
in Buddhism throughout Asia.

Tom Firchow's Photos

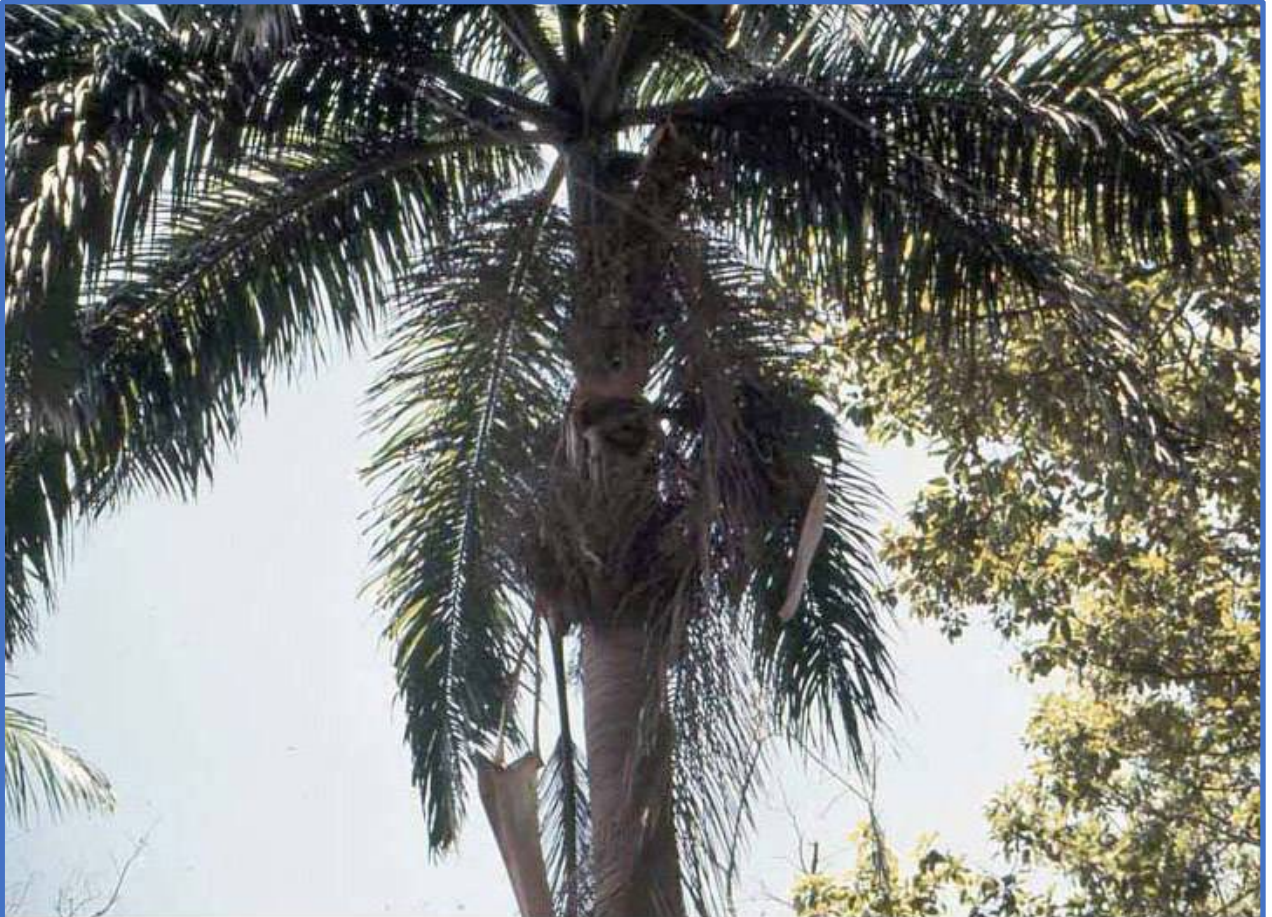
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This photo is titled "Jerry" but Tom doesn't remember his last name. It could be SP5 Jerry Dean, USA who was with AFVN at the same time.

Tom Firchow's Photos

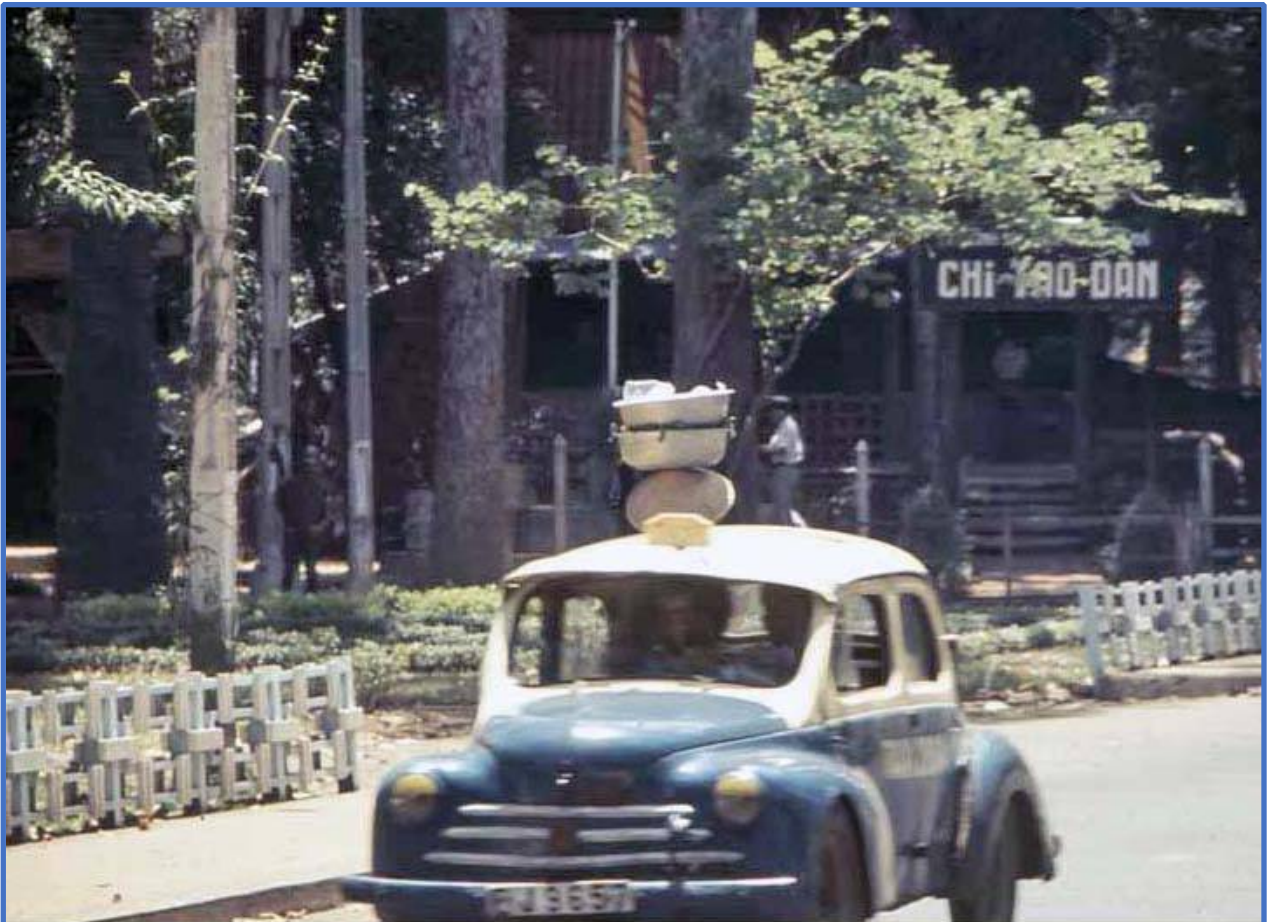
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A large palm tree of some kind.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Another Renault taxi.

This same model of Renault was made in Japan in the 1950's under the name of "Hino Renou." They were commonly used as taxis during that period and I think that they were even the same blue and yellow.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Sidewalk barbershops

Tom Firchow's Photos

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A food vendors portable stall.

Some cities in Japan after similar roadside stalls but they are usually open only in the evening and are mainly for drinking as well as having small snacks.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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A couple of RVN military
and a busy street vendor.

Tom Firchow's Photos

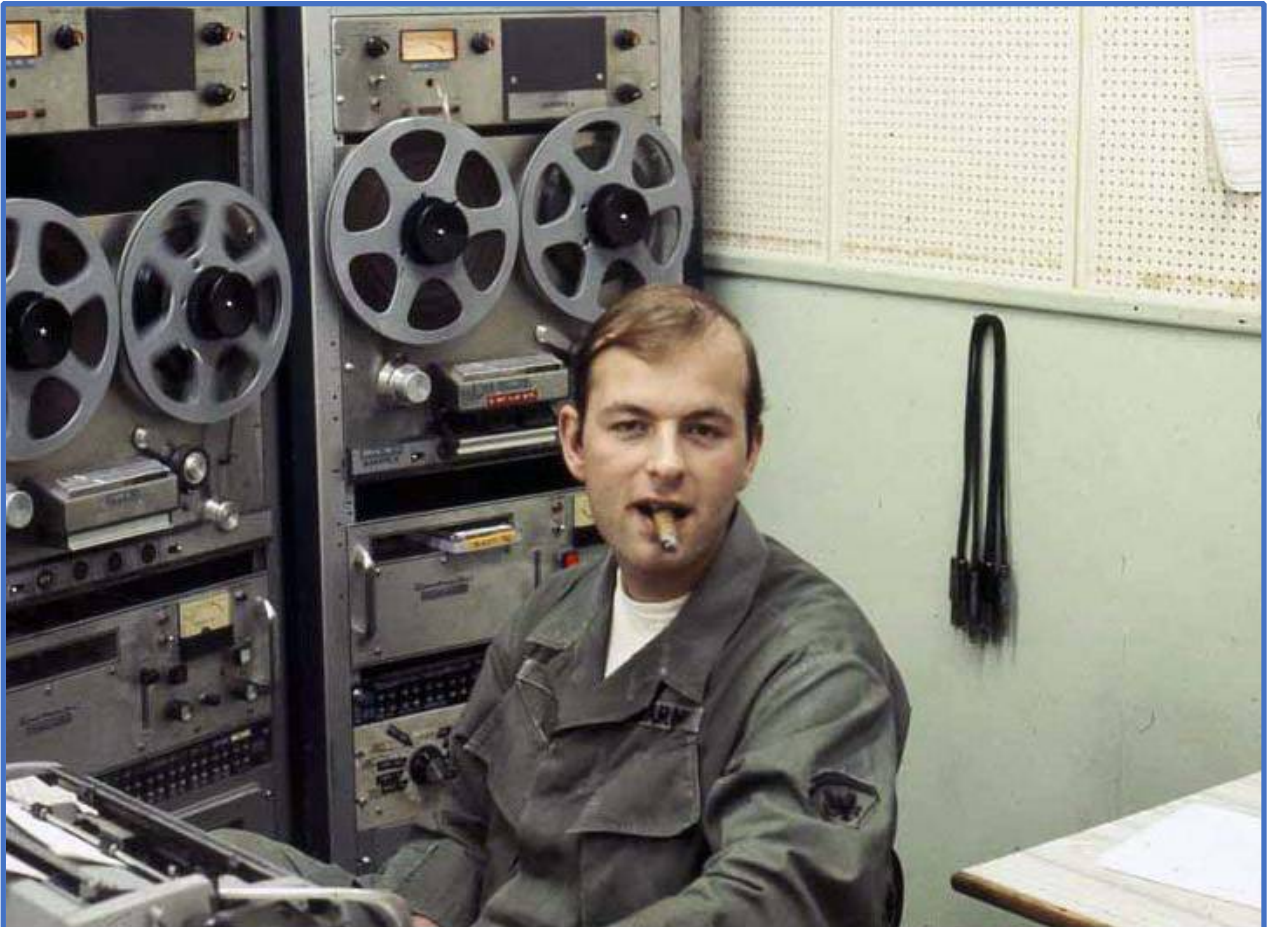
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Tom Firchow, perhaps towards the end of his tour.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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SP5 Gary Gears, USA

Tom Firchow's Photos

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From the roof of the Ky Son Annex BEQ again?

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Five on a motorbike might be OK
if they all hold on tight.

Tom Firchow's Photos

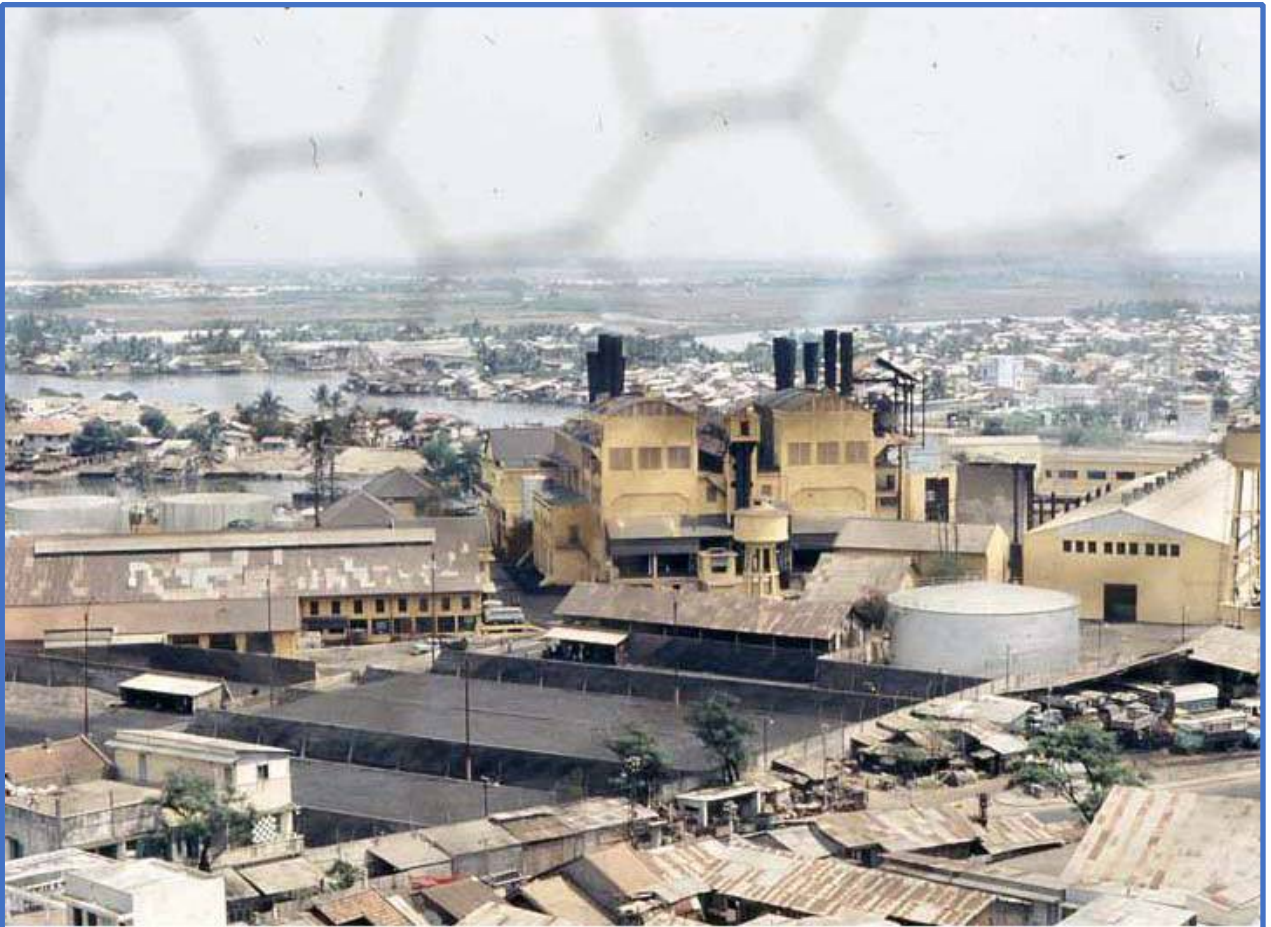
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A rather unique three-way bridge.

Tom Firchow's Photos

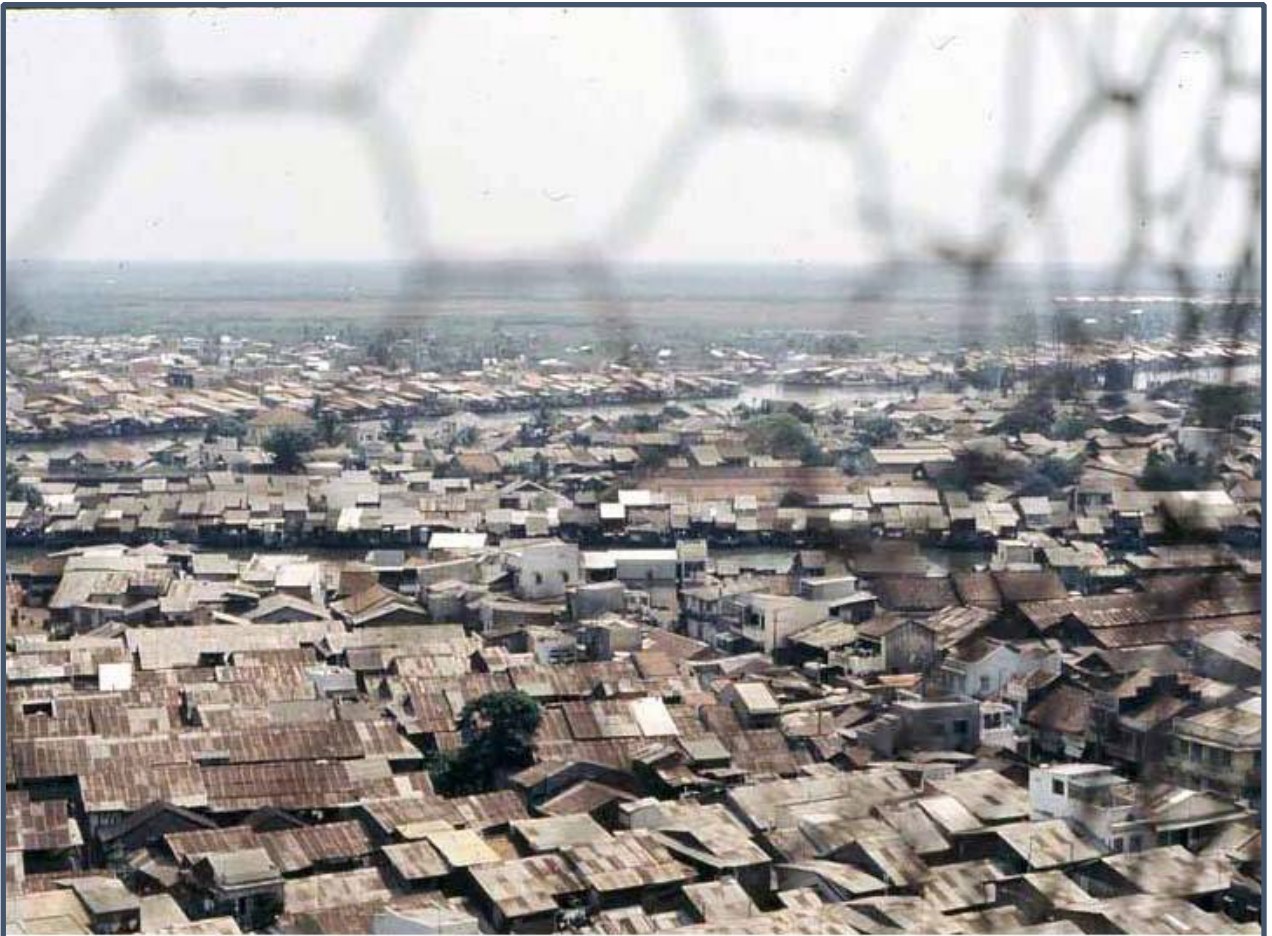
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A power plant of some kind?

Tom Firchow's Photos

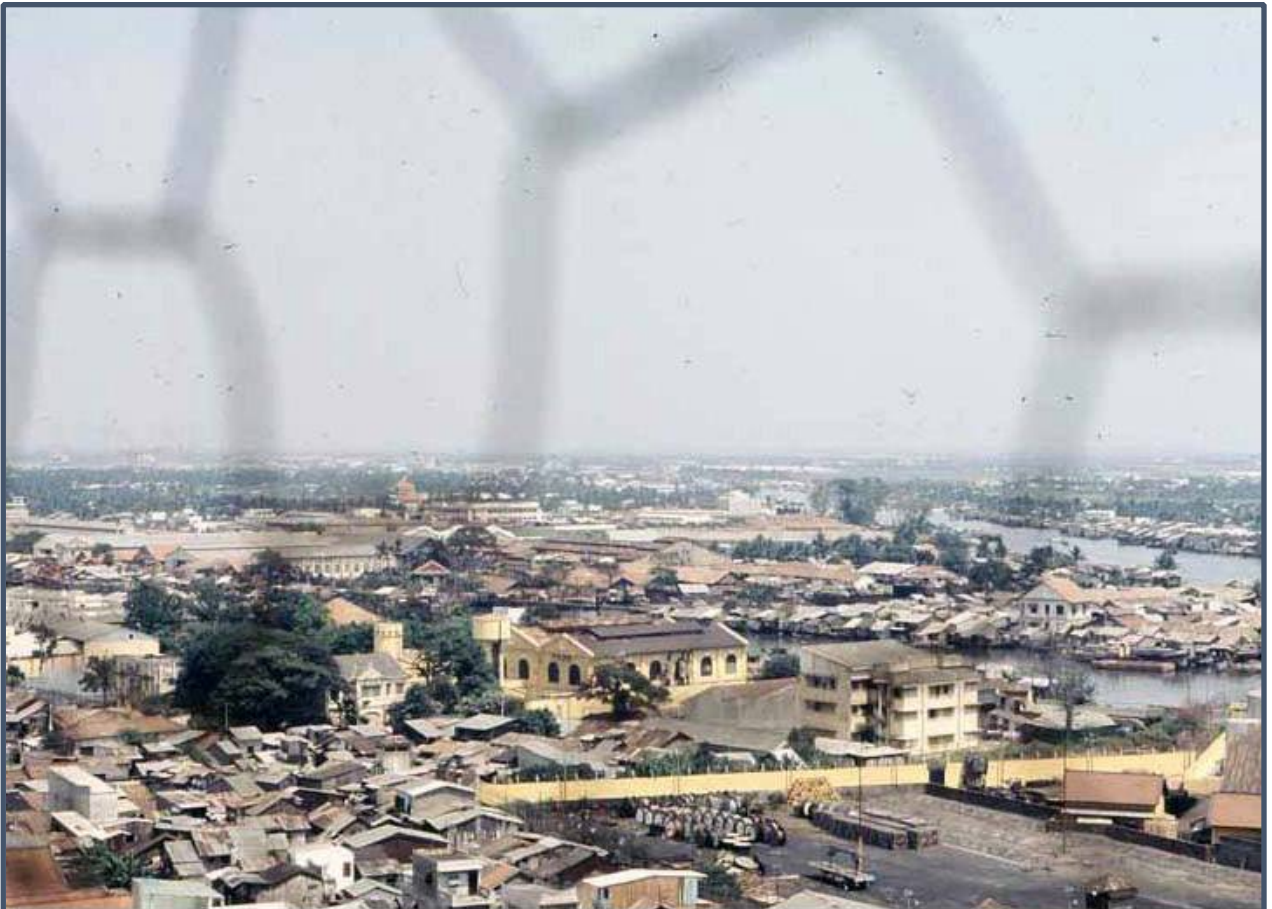
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Another view of the river.
Note that almost all of the buildings
have sheet metal roofs.

Tom Firchow's Photos

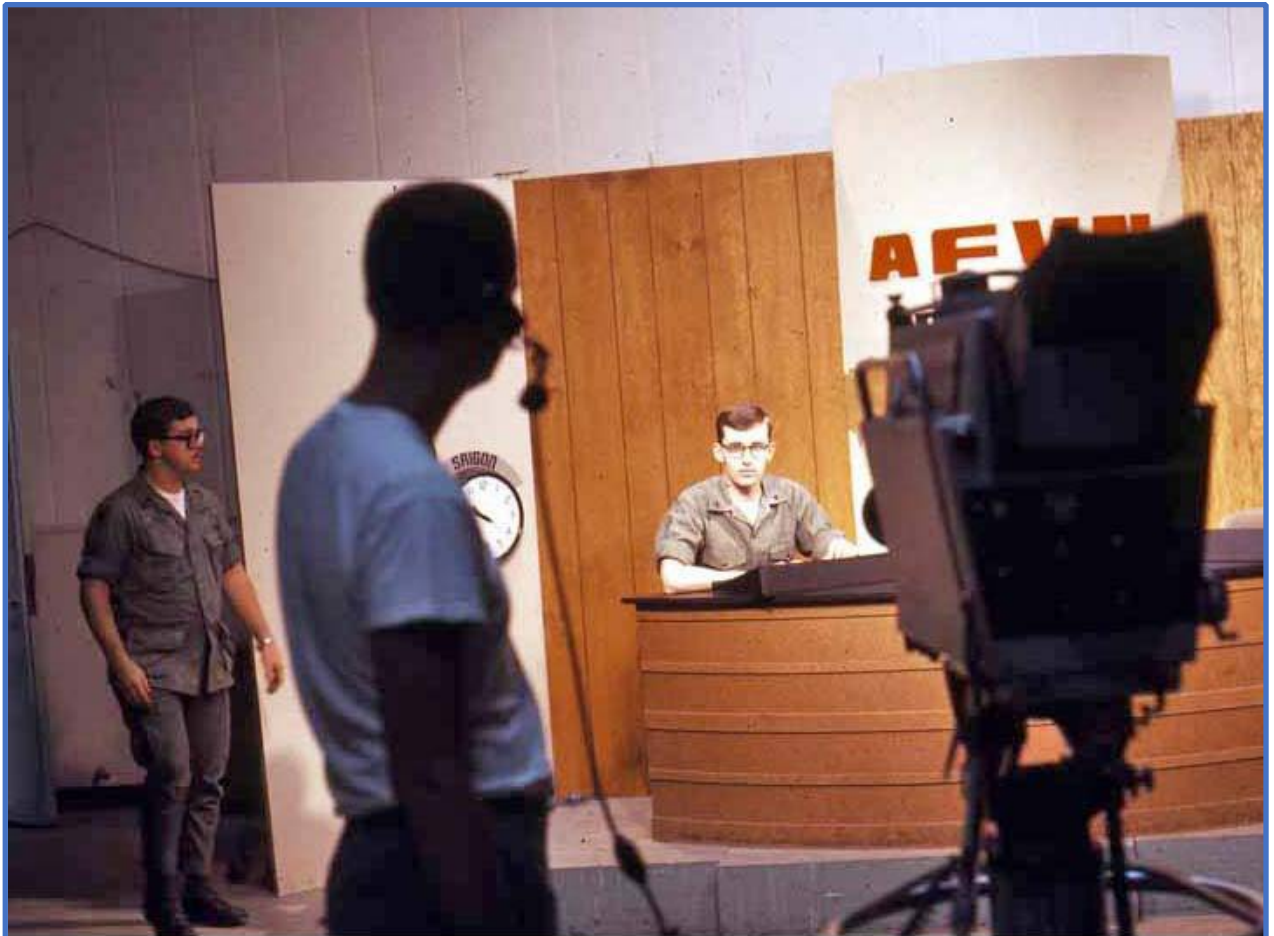
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A final photo taken from the top of a building with a wire safety net.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Cpl Rick Fredericksen, USMC, during a TV newscast.

Tom Firchow didn't title this photo--Rick saw himself on the AFVN Website and wrote the Webmaster.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The view through the camera
and the real view.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Giving a cue.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The view from the control board.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Looking into the studio
from the control room.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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SP5 John (Heinz) Pletsch, USA
taking a break.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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SP5 Harvey J. Geminder, USA
still hard at work.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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SP5 John (Heinz) Pletsch, USA,
SP5, Harvey J. Germinder, USA,
and two unknowns.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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If you know who these two are,
please tell the Webmaster.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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SP5 Harvey J. Germinder, USA is on the right but the other two are unknown.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The radio announcer's booth is on the other side of the window.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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The TV studio ready for the news
on the trip to the moon?

Tom Firchow's Photos

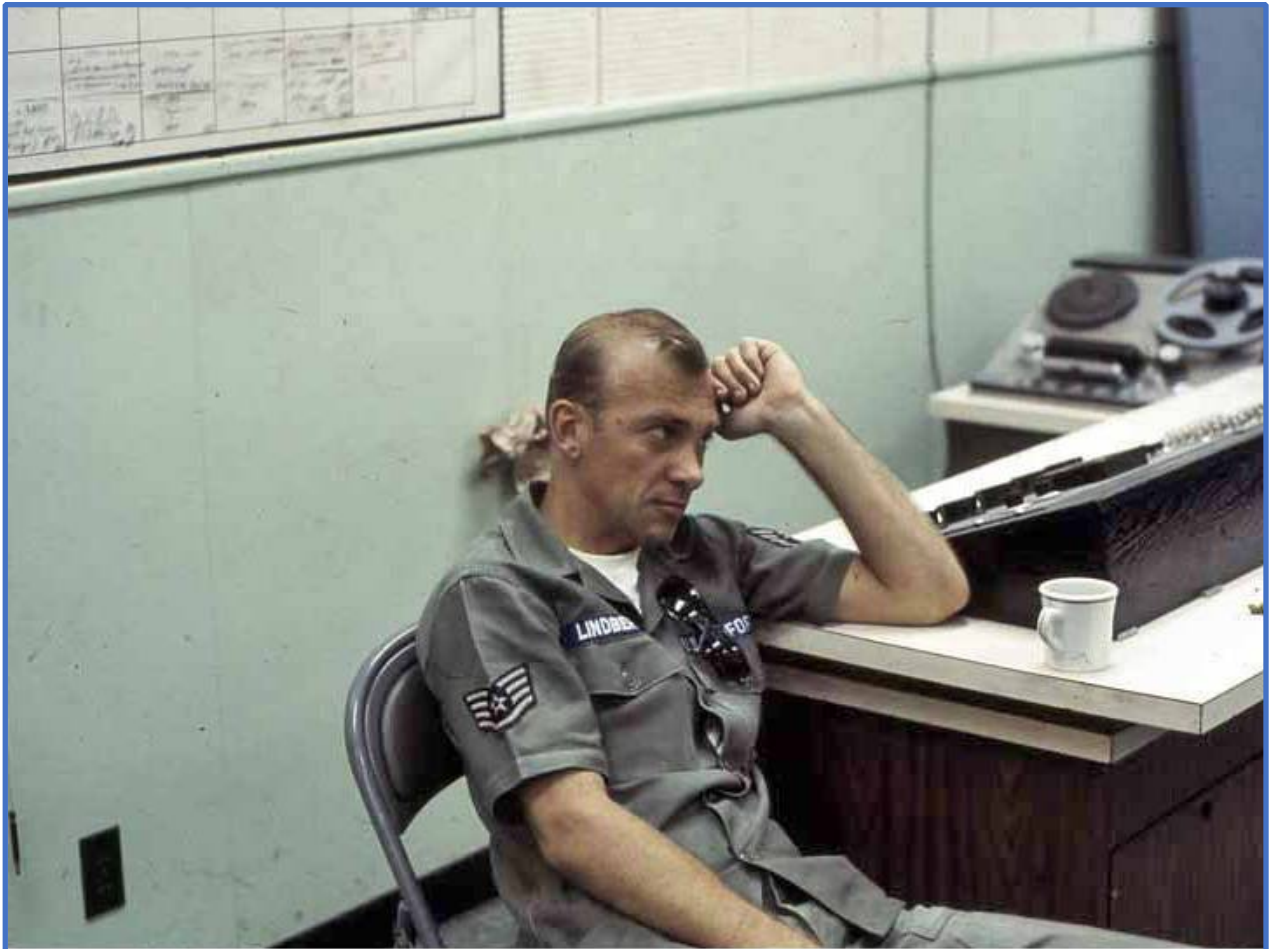
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SP5 John (Heinz) Pletsch, USA and
SP5 Harvey J. Germinder, USA

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Sgt James Lindbert (Lindbergh?), USAF

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Leaving Tan Son Nhut Air Base for home.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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Leaving Tan Son Nhut Air Base for home.

Tom Firchow's Photos

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There was a great cheer when
the wheels left the ground.

The End