

Bob Hope
Show Tours
Vietnam

★ ★ ★
(See Page 8)

The Observer

Published Weekly For The U.S. Forces In Vietnam

Volume III, No 35

SAIGON, VIETNAM

Jan. 1, 1965

Brink
Explosion
Kills Two

★ ★ ★
(See Page 7)

Tonkin Gulf Highlights 1964

Saigon (CIB) — Three North Vietnamese PT boats attacked the destroyer USS *Maddox* in the international waters of the Gulf of Tonkin on Aug. 2. Four days later the com-

munists launched another attack on the destroyers *Maddox* and *C. Turner Joy*.

In retaliation for these unprovoked attacks President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered U.S. Forces to

"take action in reply."

Air strikes by Navy aircraft from the carriers *Ticonderoga* and *Constellation* bombed torpedo boat bases and an oil depot in North Vietnam. On Aug. 8

Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh proclaimed a state of national emergency.

This was the "Tonkin Gulf Incident," the top story of 1964 in Vietnam.

Ushering in the "Year of the Dragon" was the cholera epidemic in January. U.S. military and civilian medical and public health personnel assisted the Vietnamese government in inoculating some eight million people.

Also, in January, the USS *Providence*, flagship of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, commanded by VAdm. Thomas H. Moore, arrived in Saigon for a good-will tour. Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, inspected Marine units and decorated 20 Marines for their outstanding service in Vietnam.

Lt. Gen. W. C. Westmoreland arrived in Vietnam to assume duties as deputy commander of the Military Assistance Command under Gen. Paul D. Harkins. In a bloodless "reorganization" Maj. Gen. Nguyen Khanh, I Corps Commander, took over as chairman of the Military Revolutionary Council replacing Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh.

The United States Operations Mission in Vietnam announced the \$71 million 'Food-for-Peace' 1964 appropriation for Vietnam. Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Moore, who won the 1959 Bendix Trophy for setting a world speed record (1,216 MPH) in a F-105 fighter interceptor, succeeded Maj. Gen. Rollen H. Anthis, as commander of the 2nd Air Division.

TV star Raymond (Perry Mason) Burr arrived in Vietnam for the first of his three visits during 1964.

FEBRUARY

In February the top news stories were the terrorist bombings of the Pershing baseball field at Tan Son Nhut where 3 U.S. personnel were killed and 23 injured and at the Capitol Kinh Do theater, where three U.S. personnel were killed and 51 injured. On Feb. 8, the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, celebrated its second anniversary.

MARCH

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in March for an on-the-spot inspection of the situation in Vietnam. U.S. Army Capt. Thomas W. McCarthy, an advisor to the Vietnamese Airborne Brigade, was killed Mar. 3 during action against the Viet Cong near the Cambodian border. Captain McCarthy was the first American to be awarded the Vietnamese Medal of Honor First Class, Vietnam's highest combat decoration awarded to foreigners.

APRIL

U.S. troops mourned the death of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur in April. Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Army Chief of Staff, preceded the arrival of Secretary of State Dean Rusk who attended the meeting of the Council of

(Continued on page 3)

The Bob Hope show, taped at performances in Vietnam, will be broadcast on AFRS, Saigon, Jan. 1, at 4 p.m.

The Orange Bowl game will be broadcast Jan. 2, at 8:45 a.m.



Year-End Review Of 1964's Top News

The Observer

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Must File Return

(AFNS) — Shortly after the first of the year, you will receive, along with your pay-check, a Treasury Department Form W-2. The form shows how much pay (not including nontaxable quarters, subsistence, travel or moving allowance) you received during 1964. It will also show the amount of Federal income tax that has been withheld from your pay during the last year.

The Form W-2 is not a tax return. It is a record only of the amount of money paid to you by your employer and, of course, does not show money paid to you by other employers on part-time, off-duty jobs either on or off the base. It also shows the amount of Federal income tax withheld by your employer during the year.

Even if you had only one employer during the year, the amount of Federal income tax withheld from your pay is probably not exactly equal to the amount of tax you are required to pay on the income you earned.

You must file a return on which you figure out the amount of tax you actually owe and to which you attach a copy of the Form W-2. If too much has been withheld from your pay, it will be refunded. If too little has been withheld you should send in the additional amount with the return.

Although in many previous years you may have had more tax withheld than you actually owed, this may not be true this year. In 1964, the Congress reduced the tax rates. But it did it in two stages: The first reduction to take effect with respect to 1964 income, the second reduction to take effect with respect to 1965 income.

However, the amount of tax withheld from your pay has been as though the entire reduction for both 1964 and 1965 had taken effect.

Thus, you may well owe some tax when you file your return after Jan. 1, because in 1964 too little was withheld from your regular paycheck. In 1965, the tax rate and the withholding rate should be more in line. But to avoid a possible big tax bill in 1966, it is wise to check and compare.

Your legal assistance officer can help you with the figures.

DOUBLE AWARD — In a Christmas morning ceremony at the Saigon Navy Hospital, Lt. Gen. John L. Throckmorton, DEPCOMUSMACV, presented the First and Second Oak leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star for Valor to SSgt. Julio J. Maldonado-Figueroa of the Airborne Brigade Advisory Detachment. Sergeant Maldonado, a Silver Star holder, is the most decorated man among the Airborne advisors.

HONOR ROLL

LEGION OF MERIT

First Award

Lt. Col. John N. Knight
Lt. Col. Peter G. Olenchuk

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

First Award

Capt. William C. Stewart
PFC Jerome L. Riggs

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Third Award w/V

SSgt. Julio J. Maldonado

Second Award w/V

Capt. William E. Missildine
Capt. Jeff E. Chancey
SFC Clarence E. Bath
SFC Albert Slugocki

First Award w/V

SFC Elwood L. Currier
Sp5 Richard J. Sabo
Sp4 Anthony E. Veaider
Sgt. Glenn W. Hogg
1st Lt. Quentin M. Garcia
1st Lt. John J. Theologos
SFC Vernean A. Brockman
(Posthumous)
Sgt. Earl A. Patterson (Posthumous)

PURPLE HEART

First Award

Lt. Col. Edmund K. Hartenberger Jr.
Maj. Lonis R. Kundinger
Maj. Chester R. Ratcliffe Jr.
Maj. James F. Smith
Capt. Roy L. Crawford
Capt. Robert N. Russell
1st Lt. Robert L. Reininger
Maj. Carl A. Greene
TSGt. Larry R. Ledbetter
Sgt. Joe M. Roberts
A1C Edgar D. Beebe Jr.
A1C Donald R. Marshall

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Capt. Kenneth W. Smith
Capt. Cecil K. Simmons
1st Lt. L.B. Snyder II

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

First Award

Capt. Joseph A. Tvedt, USN
Lt. Col. Vance O. Smith, USA
Lt. Col. Harry L. O'Bryan, USA
Maj. James F. Boylan, USA
Maj. Victor L. Miller, USA
LCdr. Richard C. Allen, USN
Maj. Charles A. Stewart, USA
Capt. Daniel J. Fischer, USA
Capt. William Van Hemert, USA
Capt. William E. Moore Jr., USA
CWO Donald R. Coplen, USA
SSgt. Robert J. Jones, USA
RMI Leon S. Boyd, USN
SSgt. Linus A. Anders, USA

AIR MEDAL w/V

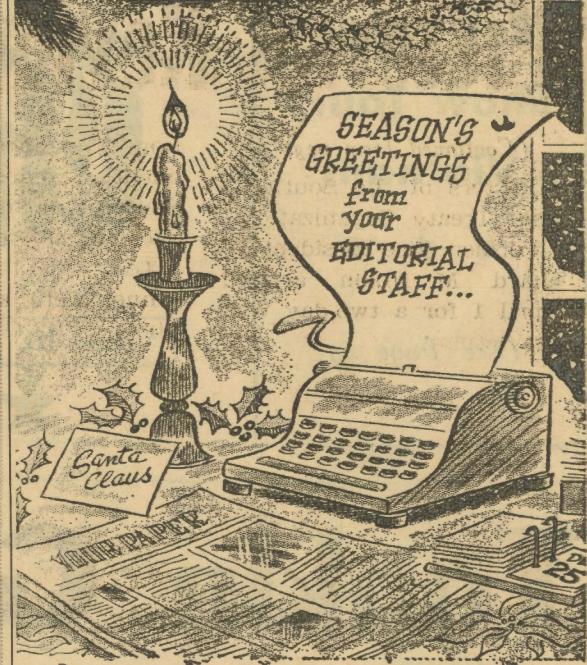
Maj. Robert E. Chaves (8th)
Lt. Col. Crawford Buchanan (8th)
WO Roy G. Azbill (12th)
1st Lt. Glen E. Wearden (2nd)
Capt. George E. Leaf (11th)

AIR MEDAL

First Award

Lt. Col. Donald P. Doerflein
Maj. Charles J. Graves
Maj. Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Capt. Louis W. Adams
Capt. Harold G. Beddow
Capt. Elmer E. Count
Capt. Thomas W. Marshall III
Capt. Don S. McCoy
Capt. William E. Missildine
1st Lt. Robert W. O'Keefe
Maj. William P. Barker
Maj. Donald W. Gluck
Maj. Charles C. Allison
Maj. Weston W. Cuta
Maj. Alan J. Francisco
Maj. Robert T. Hayden
Maj. Addison N. Hogan
Capt. Allan W. Harris
Capt. Raymond H. Miller
Capt. Ralph E. Reel
Capt. Charles S. Zeigler
SMAj. Richard J. Hoover
Capt. Bobby T. Helms
Lt. Col. Volney F. Warner
Maj. William T. Ashley

Maj. James B. Guthrie
Maj. Charles B. Lee
Maj. Lloyd J. Matthews
Maj. George A. Millener Jr.
Maj. Albert L. Walker
Capt. Asa N. Chandler
Capt. Norman C. Floyd Sr.
Capt. Dennis S. Greene
Capt. Larry E. Joyce
Capt. Barrie P. Masters
Capt. Floyd H. McCaffre
Capt. Arthur J. Palmer
Capt. Marx F. Tatton
1st Lt. Herbert G. Thomas
SFC Richard C. O'Neill



Charting The Course

Our busy 20th century world makes demands of all of us. And as good citizens, by varying degrees we give our all to fulfill its expectations. There are many things different about our age. But one important characteristic stands high on the list. In no other age has there been so much emphasis placed upon the need to relate ourselves. And it seems that it doesn't matter so much as to what or whom we are to relate — the important thing is to establish as many relationships as we can.

The real falacy and danger of this lies in the multiple number of relationships that life might require of us. There is always the danger of biting off more than we can chew or getting in deeper than we intended. Carl Sandburg tells of the chameleon who got along very well adjusting moment by moment to his environment until one day he had to cross a scotch plaid. He relates that he died at the cross roads, heroically trying to relate to everything at once.

The real dilemma of modern man stems from the necessity to chart his course in life by choosing properly the relationships that will be important to his development. Man may try, but he cannot relate to everything. He must be willing to put the less important aside and the most important in its proper place. Jesus of Nazareth went one step further than this when he taught that man's relationship to everything would be right — if his relationship to God was in proper order. And down through the centuries, Christian followers have witnessed to the truth of this idea. So often we are like the chameleon on the scotch plaid — and we die in our efforts to keep up with the world. The chameleon has no choice, he must always be a chameleon. But the hope for man is that someday he may stop acting like a chameleon and start acting like the child of God that he is.

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- Tape Recording
- Music Room
- Photo Darkroom
- Bingo

Pictorial Review: "1964 - Year Of The Dragon"

(Continued from page 1)

Ministers of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

Former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon arrived April 1 for a two-day visit to Vietnam.

On April 25 President Lyndon B. Johnson named Lt. Gen. W.C. Westmoreland to succeed Gen. Paul D. Harkins as Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

MAY

The USNS *Card*, a converted escort carrier settled to the bottom of the Saigon river May 2 when a powerful explosion ripped the hull of the ship. This was the first U.S. ship to be damaged by Viet Cong ac-

tion. The *Card* was subsequently refloated, towed away for repairs and is now back in service.

Ten U.S. military personnel were killed May 5 when a CV2 Caribou crashed at the Tan Hiep airfield, 25 miles southwest of Saigon. The mishap was the worst single U.S. air disaster in Vietnam during 1964.

On May 15, the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam, commanded by Maj. Gen. Charles J. Timmes, was disestablished after nearly a decade of service to the Vietnamese government. Secretary McNamara and General Taylor arrived May 11 for another on-the-spot visit. On May 30, the square in front of the Saigon Cathedral was

renamed Kennedy Square in honor of the late President John F. Kennedy. Memorial Day services were held at the Tan Son Nhut airbase honoring U.S. war dead in Vietnam. Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge and General Paul D. Harkins spoke at the services.

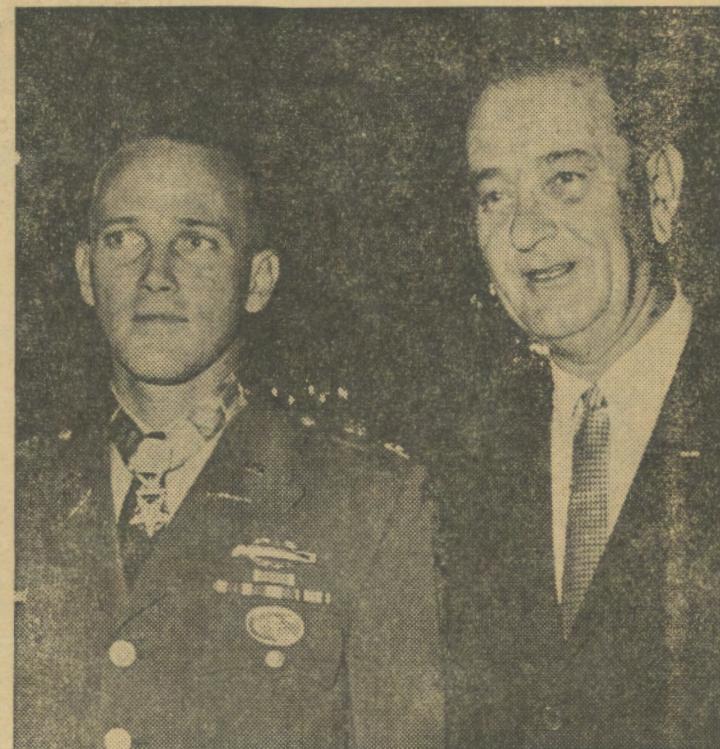
JUNE

General Harkins received, on June 4, the two highest awards presented to a foreigner by the Republic of Vietnam. Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh presented the Grand Cross of the National Order and the Cross of Gallantry. General and Mrs. Harkins returned to the U.S. June 20, where the General received the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished Service Medal from President Johnson at a White House ceremony.

General Westmoreland assumed command of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, June 20 and was nominated to four-star rank effective Aug. 1. Ambassador Lodge resigned June 23 and President Johnson named Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor as U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. U. Alexis Johnson arrived June 27 to assume duties as Deputy U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam.

JULY

Ambassador Taylor arrived July 6 and on the same day Army Capt. Roger H.C.



MEDAL OF HONOR — U.S. Army Capt. Roger H.C. Donlon proudly wears the Medal of Honor presented to him by President Johnson following White House ceremonies Dec. 5. Captain Donlon earned the first Medal of Honor awarded for action in South Vietnam, "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" during action at Nam Dong Special Forces Camp on July 6.

Donlon, commander of Special Forces Detachment A-726, earned the nation's highest combat award—the Medal of Honor — by distinguishing himself in action against attacking Viet Cong guerrillas at Nam Dong in Quang Tin province.

Captain Donlon, who was presented the Medal of Honor by President Johnson at White House ceremonies Dec. 5, is the first recipient of the award since the end of the Korean War.

AUGUST

Philippine Vice-President Emmanuel Pelaez arrived Aug. 11 for a four-day visit to Vietnam. The first group of Filipino medical and civic action personnel arrived Aug. 16.

After a week of civil demonstrations, Prime Minister Khanh, on Aug. 25, announced that he was stepping down as Chief of State — a position he had assumed only nine

(Continued on page 4)



DEPUTY COMMANDER ARRIVES — Lt. Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, who arrived Jan. 27 to assume duties as Deputy COMUSMACV, is greeted by Gen. Paul D. Harkins, COMUSMACV.

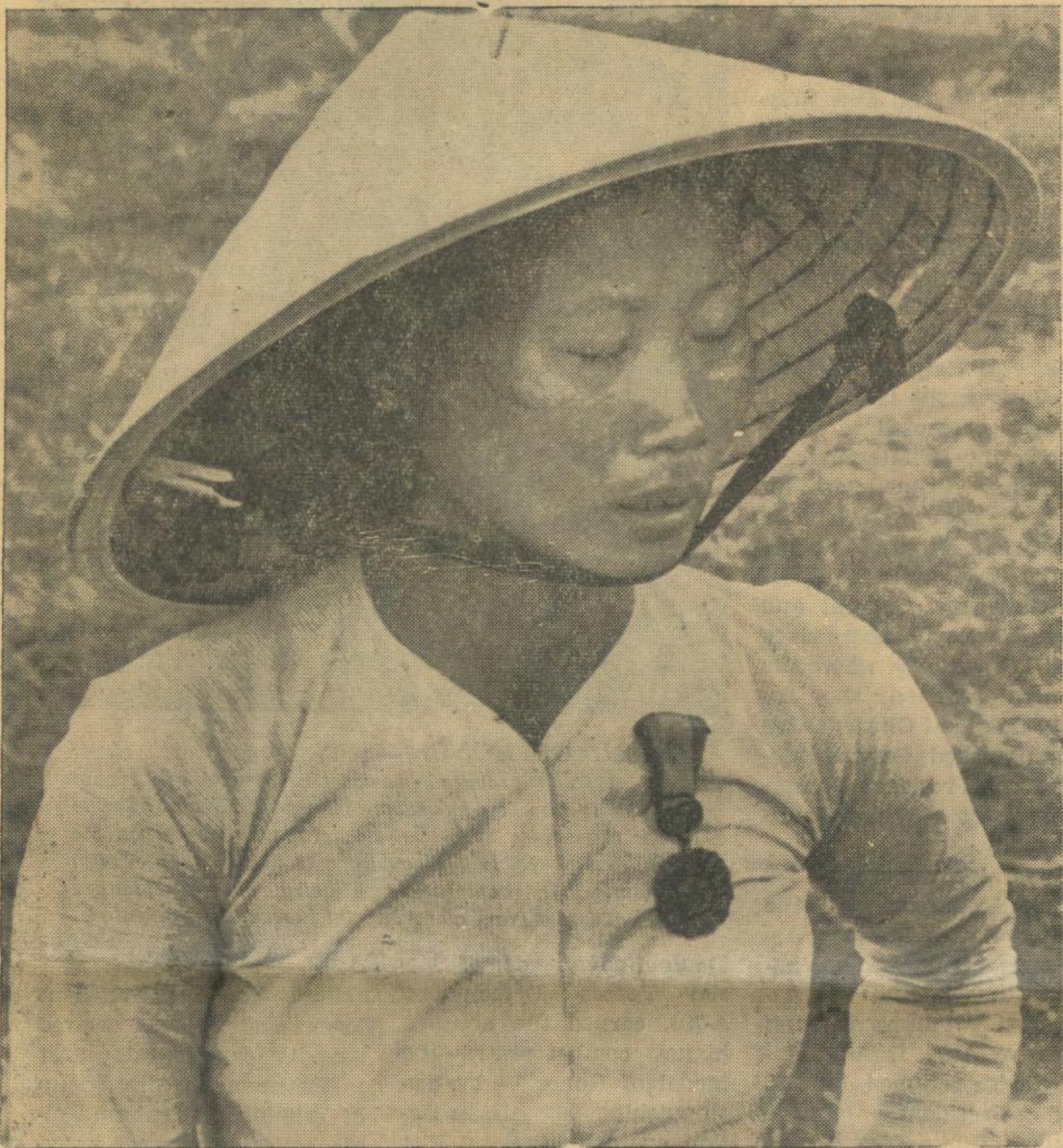


PLAQUE UNVEILED — Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., unveils plaque at the dedication of the John Kennedy Square in Saigon as Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh looks on during Memorial Day ceremonies.



BIEN HOA MORTARED — Amb. Maxwell D. Taylor and Gen. W. C. Westmoreland view damage following Nov. 1 mortar attack on Bien Hoa Airbase. Maj. Harvey E. Stewart, (right) CO, 118th Avn. Co, points to probable location of VC mortar positions.

Pictorial Highlights Of 1964 - "The Year"



FACE OF GALLANTRY — Tears of a widow and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry tell the story of a small outpost that withstood three days of attacks by a VC battalion in August.



OUTGOING COMMANDER — Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh presents Gen. Paul D. Harkins, outgoing COMUSMACV, with the Grand Cross of the National Order and the Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the highest award ever presented to an American.



THEATER BOMBED — A terrorist bomb ripped through the Capitol Kinh Do theater Feb. 16, killing two Americans and wounding 51 others. An MP guard was shot and killed outside the theater.

▲Round-Up

(Continued from page 3)

days earlier. Following Khanh's announcement a ruling triumvirate was formed consisting of Lt. Gen. Tran Thien Khiem and Maj. Gens. Duong Van Minh and Khanh.

SEPTEMBER

On Sept. 22, the Korean Mobile Surgical Team, composed of 34 officers and 96 enlisted personnel arrived aboard a Korean LST.

Col. John P. Freund, II Corps deputy senior advisor, and Lt. Col. Irving R. Wendt, 23rd Division deputy senior advisor were awarded Bronze Star medals by General Westmoreland for their role in mediating the Montagnard rebellion at the Bon Sar Pa Vietnamese Special Forces camp Sept. 20.

OCTOBER

An eight-man Italian surgical team arrived Oct. 11 to provide medical assistance to the Vietnamese government. On the same day, Prime Minister Khanh made public a statement asking for a replacement by Oct. 27. Khanh said he would return to his post as a general in the Army.

The Bien Hoa incident was followed by the devastating fury of Typhoons Iris and Joan as they cut a destructive swath across Vietnam's central highlands.

A big step toward the formation of a civilian government. Torrential rains and floods

ernment was taken on Oct. 20 when the 17-member High National Council drafted and released a new provisional constitution. The constitution called for a National Security Council to be headed by the Chief of State with the Prime Minister serving as deputy chairman. During the last week in October, as General Khanh was making his farewell rounds prior to returning to the military, the High National Council announced that Phan Khac Suu had been selected as Chief of State. On Oct. 30, Suu announced the appointment of Tran Van Huong, a former mayor of Saigon, as the new Prime Minister.

NOVEMBER

A close second top story of the year, next to the Tonkin Gulf incident, was the mortar shelling of the Bien Hoa airbase by the Viet Cong on Nov. 1. Four U.S. military personnel were killed, 72 U.S. wounded and two Vietnamese killed in the action. A total of 27 aircraft were destroyed or damaged.

The Bien Hoa incident was followed by the devastating fury of Typhoons Iris and Joan as they cut a destructive swath across Vietnam's central highlands.

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on page 6)



DOD CHIEF IN VIETNAM — Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara talks to Vietnamese villagers during one of several visits he made to Vietnam during the year.



WAR AGAINST CHOLERA — A MEDCAP field advisor administers cholera immunization as part of a massive program to stem the January epidemic that swept South Vietnam killing more than 200.



VI ENGINEERS — New Zealand engineer detachment arrived in June to work with the Pacification Program. Inset: Lt. Col. William T. Foley.



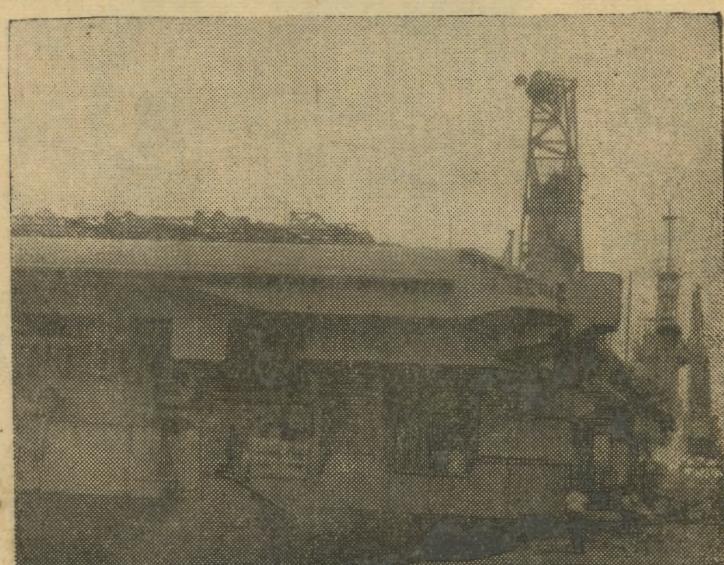
AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL — Amb. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., in Vietnamese garb, and Mrs. Lodge bid farewell to South Vietnam after the Ambassador's resignation in June.



MAAG DISSOLVED — May 15 marked the end of the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Vietnam. The present command, MACV, absorbed the functions of MAAG.



EVEN STARS — Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, receives fourth star from Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor (left photo) in Aug. 1 ceremonies. The next day, the Ambassador and General Westmoreland joined in pinning three stars on Lt. Gen. John L. Throckmorton (right photo).



USNS CARD SUNK — Converted escort carrier rests on bottom of Saigon River following May 2, terrorist bombing.

▲Round-Up

(Continued from page 5)

nam involving 115 helicopters and 1,100 Vietnamese troops was launched Nov. 18 in Tay Ninh Province, 40 miles northwest of Saigon.

Ambassador Taylor flew to the U.S. Nov. 24 for consultation with President Johnson.

Riots broke out on Nov. 24, and on Nov. 27 Chief of State Phan Khac Suu proclaimed martial law in Saigon. The demonstrations started when students clashed with police and firemen in downow. Saigon.

The month of November ended with optimistic news as ARVN forces reported the highest kill ratio of the war with 630 Viet Cong killed by government forces during the week ending Nov. 28. ARVN forces suffered 110 killed during this reporting period giving the government a 5.7 to 1 kill ratio.

DECEMBER

Ambassador Taylor returned Dec. 6 from Washington after a round of high - level consultations with President Johnson,

(Continued on page 8)



MERCY MISSION — U.S. Army helicopter comes to the aid of flood refugees in Central Vietnam during November disaster. An estimated 7,000 lives were lost and 700,000 persons left homeless by Typhoons Iris and Joan.

CJB Photos By
SFC TONY BERMUDEZ
SP5 MAX GRUZEN
SP5 RAY JEWETT

* * *

WELCOME — Secretary of State Dean Rusk is greeted by USIS Director Barry Zorthian and General W.C. Westmoreland at Vietnam's Tan Son Nhut airport.

* * *

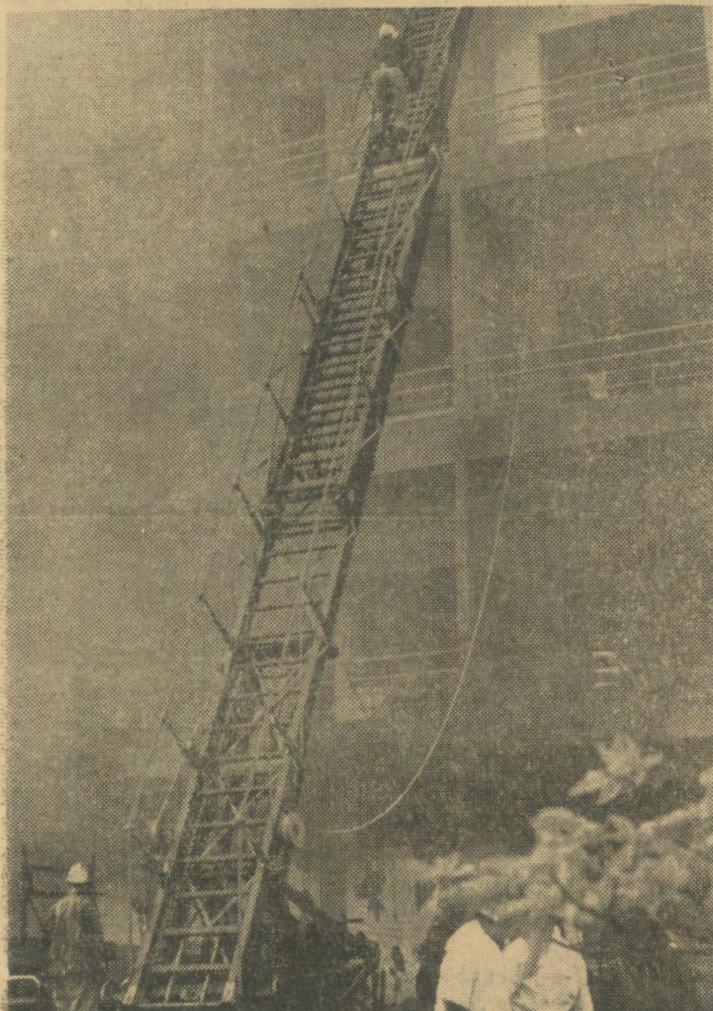


MEDCAP AT WORK — Capt. Dennis McDonnell checks aging man in Cai Be village in the Delta. Medical Civic Action teams worked throughout the Republic treating the wounded and ailing.



FREQUENT VISITOR — Raymond Burr, movie and television star, talks to soldier while visiting remote outpost in Delta. Mr. Burr made three trips to Vietnam during 1964.

BRINK BLAST KILLS TWO



Extension ladder is utilized to rescue victims of blast.



Firemen pour water on blazing vehicles under Brink.



Civilians evacuate homes behind the Brink after explosion.

Saigon (CIB) — A terrorist's bomb, believed to be between 100 and 200 pounds, ripped through the Brink Officers' billets during the dinner hour Christmas Eve killing two Americans and wounding 107 others including Americans, Vietnamese and one Australian.

The two Americans killed were identified as Lt. Col. James R. Hagen, Oklahoma City and David W. Agnew, HSAS real estate officer, Winter Park, Fla.

The hotel, located in downtown Saigon, housed some 125 persons including officer personnel of the American and Australian military, nurses from the Saigon Navy Hospital and a number of U.S. civilians.

U.S. officials believe the charge was placed in a vehicle parked in an open archway under the center of one of the hotel's two wings.

The bomb, believed to have been detonated by a timing device, was apparently left in the vehicle approximately 30 minutes before the explosion, U.S. military sources said.

In the same wing of the hotel, less than 100 feet from the center of the explosion, the Armed Forces Radio Station weathered the bombing and was back on the air within 45 minutes of the blast.

The blast occurred at 5:55 p.m. shattering windows in an area one-half mile square.

Wreckage from several vehicles was found scattered a block and half away. Mangled pieces of metal were left hanging from power lines about the area.

Residents of the Ambassador BEQ, opposite the Brink, reported debris from the explosion crashed through some of the rooms facing the Brink.

Security measures were increased at all U.S. installations in the Saigon-Cholon-Tan Son Nhut area and extra guards were stationed in front of all American billets in the capital area.



Wounded U.S. officer is rushed to ambulance.



U.S. sailor helps Vietnamese firemen man hose.



Blast victim gets first aid.

CIB Photos By
SP5 Max Gruzen and
SFC Tony Bermudez.

Hope In Vietnam

Saigon (CIB) — Bob Hope and his USO show, weary and worn after three hectic days of hop-scotching the country, left Danang Sunday for the Philippines after giving the final performance of their six-show Christmas package to Americans in Vietnam.

Before Danang it was Nha Trang, Pleiku, Tan Son Nhut, Vinh Long and Bien Hoa.

And at every one of the six stops, an otherwise empty Christmas was forgotten for an hour or two while Hope and a long list of stars kept the jokes, songs and dances flowing..

Christmas in 90 degree heat on an air field in Vietnam lacks something, but Bob Hope and company brought more than enough to make the difference.

When Anita Bryant led the audience in 'Silent Night', Christmas became real again.

When John Bubbles asked "What did you do today?" in poem, the war was forgotten.

Even the sound of the Hueys overhead was drown-

ed out by the whistles when Ann Sydney, Miss World of 1964, walked across the stage.

When Janis Paige, Jill St. John, Anne Maria Alberghetti, Jerry Colona and the rest of the troupe drank from a Montagnard wine jug, the calendar and the days 'til DEROS were forgotten in the cheering.

But most of all it was Bob Hope and his steady stream of wit that made Christmas in Vietnam a laughing matter.

The jokes were typical Hope jokes — spur of the moment barbs aimed at the local situation.

At Bien Hoa Hope noted the "18-hole runway," at Pleiku it was the Montagnard "good humor" band that brought the laughs, at Nha Trang, Vinh Long, Tan Son Nhut and Danang Hope took potshots at the VC.

Undoubtedly, members of the Hope entourage carry with them impressions of Vietnam they won't soon forget.

As they arrived for an overnight stay in Saigon on

Christmas Eve a terrorist's bomb exploded in the Brink Officers' billet less than 100 yards from the hotel where members of the cast were to stay.

Hope's comment was: "On the way to the hotel we passed another hotel going the other way."

He interrupted his schedule to go to the hospital and visit with the patients, many of them wounded in the Brink explosion.

Speaking of... **LABOR**



LABOR DISGRACES NO MAN;
UNFORTUNATELY YOU
OCCASIONALLY FIND MEN
WHO DISGRACE LABOR.

...U.S. GRANT
18TH U.S. PRESIDENT

▲Round-Up

(Continued from page 6)

Defense Secretary McNamara and Secretary of State Rusk.

Four days before Christmas, the High National Council was dissolved by the Armed Forces Council. Chief of State Phan Khac Suu and Prime Minister Tran Van Huong were retained as the top leaders of Vietnam.

On Christmas eve an explosion at the Brink Officers Quarters in downtown Saigon killed two Americans and wounded a total of 107 including 63 U.S. military and civilian personnel, 43 Vietnamese civilians and one Australian officer.

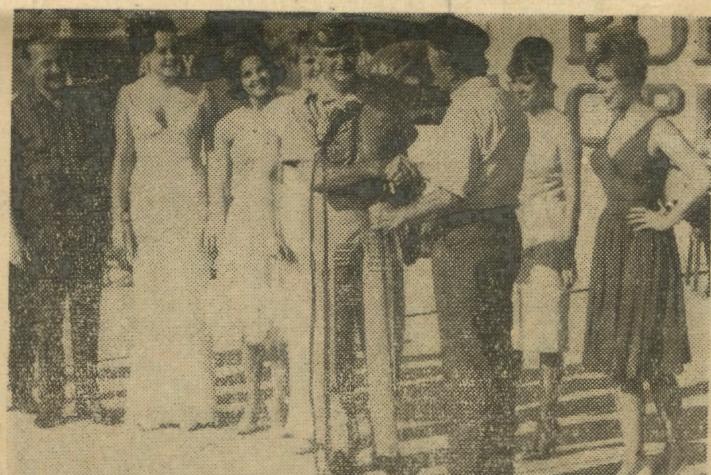
The Bob Hope show with Hope, Jerry Colona, Les Brown and his band of renown, and a bevy of beauties arrived in Vietnam Dec. 24 and performed six shows in three days to provide a happy ending for 1964, "The Year of the Dragon."



FOR GOLFERS— During the show at Tan Son Nhut airfield Hope commented: "You people should go up to Bien Hoa. That's great golfing country. Even the runways have eighteen holes."



CHOI OI— Laughing it up with actress Jill St. John, Hope told the Tan Son Nhut crowd: "If there any Viet Cong among you, remember I already got my shots."



THANK YOU— At the conclusion of the Tan Son Nhut show Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, presented Hope with a plaque signifying the gratitude of all U.S. personnel in Vietnam. Members of the troupe are: (left to right) Jerry Colona, Ann Sidney-Miss World, Anita Bryant, Janis Paige, Anne Maria Alberghetti and Jill St. John.

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