

Downed Hueys Recovered

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(See Page 3)

The Observer

Published Weekly For The U.S. Forces In Vietnam

Volume III, No 37

SAIGON, VIETNAM

Jan. 16, 1965

"Operation Toylift"

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(See Page 6)

MONTAGNARD RITES...

Photo Feature — Pages 4 & 5



Montagnards Pledge Government Loyalty

Saigon (CIB) — As burning incense swirled madly aloft on a steady mountain breeze, some 1700 loudly cheering Montagnard militiamen swore allegiance to the Vietnamese government Jan. 9. During the second in a series of ceremonies held in Darlac Province, five hundred mountain women and children watched the large group of armed but unpaid hamlet militia from villages in Lan Thien district about 30 miles from Ban Me Thuot bite rifle muzzle as gestures of loyalty to the Republic.

The exotic lakeside rites began with the sacrifice of a water buffalo to appease the spirit gods. The head of the animal was placed on an ornately decorated altar set in the middle of a field amidst the milling throng. The carcass was divided among the villagers.

Amid festive flags and fluttering pennants, tribal musicians thumped throbbing drums and resounding gongs announcing the arrival of the province chief, Major Vinh and American counterpart sector advisor, Lieutenant Colonel W. N. Bringham.

Also joining in the colorful exercises were U.S. Army Major General W. R. Peers, a visitor from Washington, D.C.; Vietnamese Sub Brigadier General Lan, commander of the 23rd Division; Colonel T.C. Mataxis, senior advisor II-Corps; Colonel D. A. Kersting; 23rd Division advisor; and Colonel P. L. Bogen, chief of the Army Concept Team in Vietnam.

After trooping the line of massed mountaineers representing 47 hamlets and 8 villages from the surrounding area, the visiting dignitaries viewed the allegiance ritual by the Rhade and Muong tribesmen.

Three rounds of ceremonial artillery boomed overhead as the chanting province chief pledged the loyalty of the troops to the government and the 1700 assembled warriors bit the muzzle ends of rifles, symbolic of the oath.

As the oath-taking ended, the visiting officials were invited to participate in the rice wine-drinking ceremony. Huge earthen jars were aligned containing the traditional native drink for community celebrations.

The mixture is brewed by placing a special tree branch

(Continued on page 4)

Armed Forces Return Power To Civilian Government

Saigon (CIB) — A joint communique signed Jan. 9 by top-level civilian government officials and Lt. Gen. Nguyen Khanh, representing the Armed Forces of the Republic, restored power to the civilian government and brought to an end the three-week old government crisis.

The move followed three weeks of dissention between

the military and the government headed by Prime Minister Tran Van Huong and Chief of State Phan Khac Suu who joined Khanh in signing the communique.

Legislative power was turned over to the Chief of State until a National Convention is formed.

The communique was greeted by a statement from the American Mission here

which welcomed the agreement and expressed the hope that the move would "pave the way for more effective prosecution of the war against the Viet Cong."

Three days prior to the release of the communique, American Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor had made public in an interview with Newsweek magazine the United States' position in the crisis.

"We have made no demands on the government (of South Vietnam) at any point... But we have emphasized that there should be a single government, not a dual government," the Ambassador said.

"If this were not the case," he continued, "it would be very difficult for the United States to cooperate effectively with Vietnam."

The Ambassador said that there was no "clean, tidy, immediate solution" for the problems facing Vietnam but added that "we ought to carry on and never give up because we are frustrated or discouraged... The essential thing is to get a government which is master in its own house, which can carry out decisions, and move toward real stability."

EDITORIAL

Why We Stand Firm

Three North Vietnamese PT boats fired torpedoes and shells at the U.S. destroyer Maddox on the high seas in the Gulf of Tonkin, Aug. 2, 1964. The destroyer and U.S. aircraft promptly fired back and drove off the PT boats.

In addition, air units of the 7th Fleet struck at the bases and other facilities in North Vietnam which supplied and supported the attacking boats.

The next day the President told the nation and the world:

"Aggression—deliberate, willful, and systematic aggression—has unmasked its face to the entire world. The world remembers—the world must never forget—that aggression unchallenged is aggression unleashed.

We of the United States have not forgotten. That is why we have answered this aggression with action:

America's course is not precipitate.

America's course is not without long provocation...

To the south, it (North Vietnam) is engaged in aggression against the Republic of Vietnam.

To the west, it is engaged in aggression against the Kingdom of Laos.

To the east, it has now struck out on the high seas in an act of aggression against the United States of America...

To any who may be tempted to support or to widen the present aggression I say this:

There is no threat to any peaceful power from the United States of America. But there can be no peace by aggression and no immunity from reply. That is what is meant by the actions that we took yesterday."

On August 7, the Senate and the House of Representatives in a joint resolution supported and approved the measures taken by the President and added:

"The United States regards as vital to its national interest and to world peace the maintenance of international peace and security in Southeast Asia."

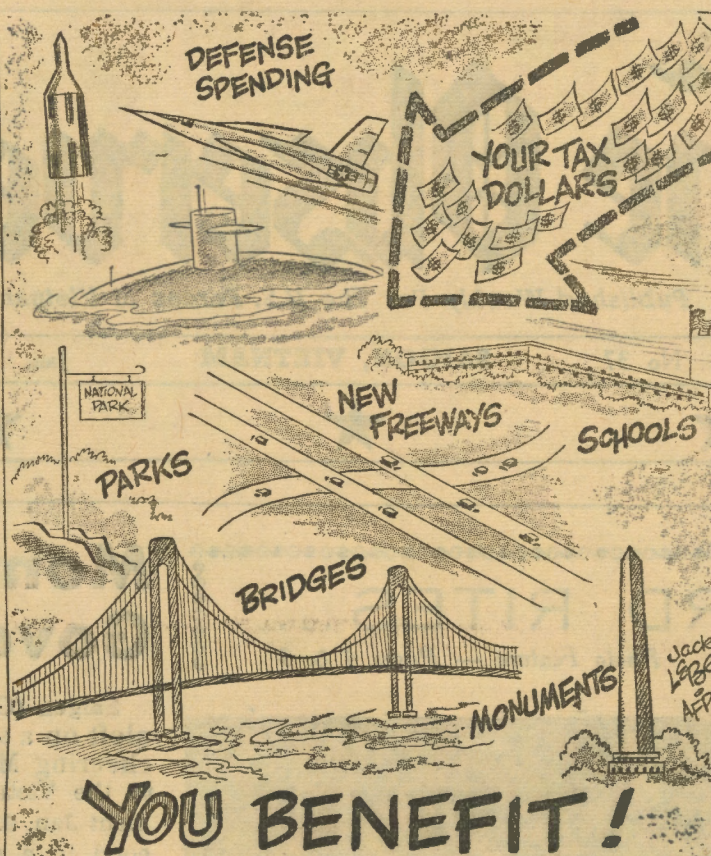
Over 200 million people live in the non-communist countries south of China and east of India, a region rich in culture, land, and resources—the one part of Asia that is relatively underpopulated. From it come Asia's most important food exports, 70 per cent of the world's tin, and 70 per cent of the world's natural rubber.

The Communists of North Vietnam and China are eager to take over this fertile area, not by the type of open aggression used in Korea, but by attack from within, by covert aggression through guerrilla warfare, and by infiltrating trained men and arms across national frontiers.

Communist success in Laos and South Vietnam would gravely threaten the freedom and independence of the rest of Southeast Asia.

It would confirm the Asian communist belief that a policy of militancy pays dividends, and could undermine the will of free peoples on other continents to defend themselves.

That is why we stand firm in Southeast Asia today. And that is why we are determined to keep free men free in Southeast Asia tomorrow and in the years ahead. — (DOD).



Tax Time Is Just Around The Corner

Withholding tax statements, the "W-2" form, will be popping up with your paycheck in the near future. For personnel here in Vietnam, the "W-2" form should arrive with your January paycheck.

After some calculation, and sometime before the April 15 deadline, each of us will

MACV Personnel Section advises that Forms 1040 and 1040-A income tax returns are not yet available through either MACV or HSAS. A limited supply of these forms will be made available in the near future.

file an income tax return based on the information supplied in the "W-2".

Part of this yearly ritual is the wailing and grumbling that accompanies most of our returns.

But before we get too involved in our grumbling, let's take a look at the brighter side of the tax picture.

In the first place, consider that the tax bite on our earnings was less last year than in previous years. Laws enacted in 1964 cut withholding rate at least two percent for most of us and those same laws will chop another two percent from the rate this year.

Also consider that a larger part of the tax flow is spent on defense and service-associated programs. Our tax dollars are being spent in large amounts to make our Armed Forces stronger, more efficient and more pleasant.

Finally, remember that our tax dollars make possible federal-supported programs to provide better roads, schools, bridges, parks and many other things to make the American way of life the high standard that it is today.

When April 15 rolls around, keep these things in mind and maybe you'll see that there is a brighter side to the tax picture.— (CIB)

HONOR ROLL

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

First Award
Posthumous

CWO Lowell I. Farris

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

First Award
Posthumous

Sgt. Tommie D. Emert

BRONZE STAR MEDAL w/V

First Award
Posthumous

Sgt. Tommie D. Emert

BRONZE STAR MEDAL w/V

First Award

SFC Joedy L. Headrick
SFC Charles W. Money
SFC Michael F. Collins

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

First Award w/V

SFC Donald Rittenhouse

AIR MEDAL

First Award

Col. Robert H. Schulz
Maj. Richard G. Booth
Maj. John W. Chism
Maj. William E. Crouch Jr.
Capt. Charles B. Hedrick
Capt. William H. Lockhart
Capt. Francis L. Maccini
Capt. Robert L. Merrick
Sgt. Herman Salz

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

First Award
Posthumous

Capt. James F. Ray
1st Lt. William T. Reach

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

Third Award

Lt. Col. Roy W. Preston
SFC James M. Wojciechowski

Second Award

Lt. Col. Arthur E. Lomax
Maj. Daniel Boatwright
Maj. Curtis B. Eidell
Capt. Millard M. Valerius

MSgt. Lilburn O. Stringfield
SFC William J. Dunn
SFC Jack E. Huston
SFC Henry G. Ratliff
SFC Donald G. Fisher
SFC Daniel H. Zervasky
SFC Robert W. Baldwin
SSgt. William S. Karr

First Award

Lt. Col. Dale Danman Jr.
Maj. James L. Scovel
Maj. Robert S. Ball
Capt. Carl F. Freeman
Capt. Kenneth C. Griffith
Capt. Charles J. Harrell
Capt. Carl B. Koon
Capt. Charles M. Luce Jr.
Capt. Olin J. Moore
Capt. Paul R. Reed
Capt. Leroy N. Suddath Jr.
Capt. Edward S. Brown
Capt. Duane G. Cameron
Capt. Wallace S. Crain
Capt. Carlton J. Holland Jr.
Capt. Robert Lomax Jr.
Capt. Austin E. Miller
Capt. Robert J. Moore
Capt. Hugh B. Mulvaney Jr.
Capt. Thomas A. O'Rourke Jr.
Capt. John S. Pavlitos
Capt. Robert C. Reid
Capt. Nicholas J. Robinson
Capt. Cole B. Whaley Jr.
Capt. Robert L. Farrington
Capt. Charles H. Dyhuff III
1st Lt. Charles K. Eden
1st Lt. John G. Evans
1st Lt. David C. Kiger
1st Lt. Allan L. Leonard III
1st Lt. Antonio V. Smaildone
1st Lt. Thomas B. Vaughn
1st Lt. Elwin J. Ball Jr.
1st Lt. Jerome J. Comello
1st Lt. David L. Davis
1st Lt. Vernon R. Hull
1st Lt. Edward E. Krukowski
1st Lt. James H.M. Malley
1st Lt. Leon L. Peterson
1st Lt. Stanley W. Russell
1st Lt. Gary J. Teller
SFC William G. Cain
SFC Julio Gutierrez
SFC Alfred J. Macias
SFC Vincent J. Nappa
SFC Foster Ray
SFC Curtis E. Chaney
SFC Donald M. Tedford
SSgt. Arthur L. Parker
SSgt. Edward J. Powers
SSgt. Norman J. Purinton
SSgt. Kenneth D. Rainwater
Sp4 Franklin G. Slusser
Sgt. Gary A. La Jole
Sp4 Benjamin Jackson
Sp4 Nathan D. Pumphrey
Sp4 Billy D. Williams
PFC Ivan L. Moen
PFC Larry Yancy
PFC Richard L. Daylong
PFC Lawrence L. Harris
PFC Anthony J. Kasalavage
PFC Albert J. Mansfield

MEDICAL BADGE

First Award

1st Lt. Chauncy P. Brothers
SFC Lawrence J. Broussard
SFC Charles W. Burbage
SFC Earl Cross
SFC Herman Dominguez
SFC Harry F. Lambert
SFC John H. Spearman
Sp4 Jose A. Burgos-Jimenez

Come To The Facilities Available :

USO

(119 Nguyen Hue
Saigon)

"Your Home Away
From Home"

- Reading Room
- Snack Bar
- Ping Pong
- Tape Recording
- Music Room
- Photo Darkroom
- Bingo

The Observer

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Army Recovery Team Finds, Fixes Downed Helicopters

Saigon (MACIO) — In this land where the helicopter has become familiar as the water buffalo, a group of U.S. Army "Mr. Fixits" are working to assure the choppers keep flying.

The officers and men of the 56th Transportation Company (Direct Support) live their motto: "Find 'em, Fix 'em, Fly 'em." The "Find 'em" of their motto refers to volunteer members of the 56th's recovery team, who whirl to the scene in huge twin-engined Mohave H-37 helicopters when word of a downed helicopter or aircraft is received.

"We don't want the Viet Cong to get any of the weapons or radio equipment," explains Capt. John R. Stamps, operations officer, of Albany, Ore.

The Mohave, nearly 80 feet long, looms as a big target for Viet Cong gunners. The recovery team is sent into the crash site on UH-1B "Huey" choppers. A "Huey" gunship remains overhead to intercept any Viet Cong interference in the recovery operation, while the hovering Mohave remains at a safe altitude until riggers have prepared the downed bird for pick up by the H-37.

On the ground, the recovery team works quickly to ready the downed craft. Everything that can be removed easily is taken. Radio, seats, batteries and weapons all go. Fuel is drained to lighten the load. The hot humid weather in Vietnam cuts down on the lift capability of helicopters; every pound removed helps the recovery ship.

Sp4 Scott J. Drew, a helicopter mechanic on the team from Fort Bragg, N.C., has devised a "Monkey Bar" which holds the rotor of the downed craft in position.

"If the rotor breaks loose, it will spin and cause an airfoil that will rob the recovery chopper of its lift. The only thing a pilot could do then would be drop it. We make sure it's tied down tight," Drew said.

After the downed craft is readied and the lift cable attached to the main rotor shaft, two team members climb on top of the rotor head, one armed with a grounded probe, the other with the lift cable. The first man touches the Mohave with the probe to release accumulated static electricity.

"If you don't touch the recovery ship with the

probe before, you try to hook up," said Drew, "the static electricity will knock you right off the top." The second man slips the lift cable over a hook suspended from the bottom of the H-37.

Once back in the Company's repair shops, mechanics, sheet metal workers and electrical technicians take over. Their task: get the aircraft back where they belong — in the air. Sometimes they may be damaged beyond repair, but still the Viet Cong have been denied valuable equipment.

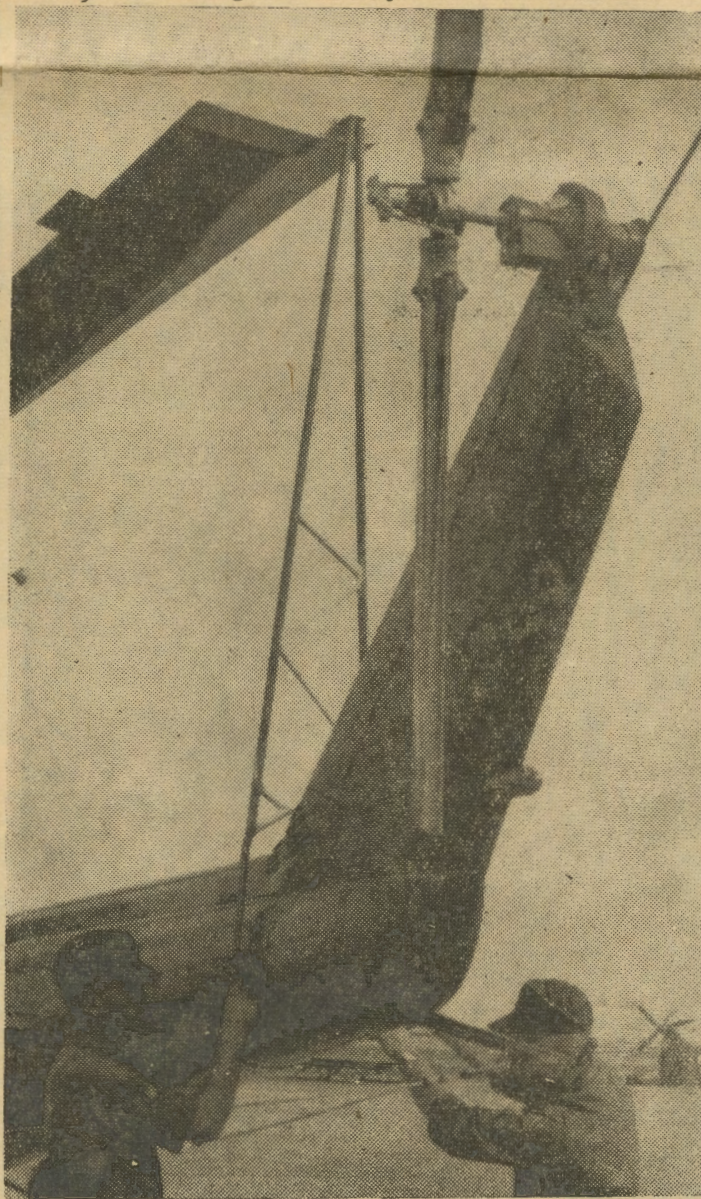
The 56th Transportation Company (DS) is commanded by Maj. Paul E. Needles of Springfield, Ohio. Members of the recovery team are SSgt. Carl E. L. Hammerick, of Hayward, Calif.; Sp5 Andrew G. Thessan, of Laurel, Md.; Sp4 Patrick M. Hough, of Pasadena, Calif.; and George E. Barton, of Ocala, Fla.



ON THE WAY— A twin-engined Mohave H-37 helicopter easily lifts the hulk of a "huey" from the site where it crashed and returns it to base where parts of it may be salvaged. Members of the 56th Transportation Company fly the huge choppers into zones where other copters have crashed to salvage the craft if possible but mainly to deprive the VC of parts and equipment on the crashed bird.



PREPARING FOR LIFT — Sp4 Drew, left, holds static electricity probe as Sp4 Hough readies lift cable for hook-up to hovering H-37.



MONKEY BAR A-OK — SP4 Scott J. Drew, and SP4 Patrick M. Hough, secure the "monkey bar" that Drew developed to the rotor and fuselage to keep the rotor from spinning while 'copter is being airlifted back to repair facilities.

R & R Schedule

January 1965

All flights have 36 spaces. Passenger check-in at TSN, 0530-0600 for Hong Kong, 0800-0830 for Bangkok.

Depart	Return
HONG KONG	
Jan. 17**	22
19*	24
21**	26
23*	23
25**	30
27*	Feb. 3
29**	3
31*	5
BANGKOK	
Jan. 19	25

* Stop at Danang. Panang personnel report 1330 for 1430 departure.

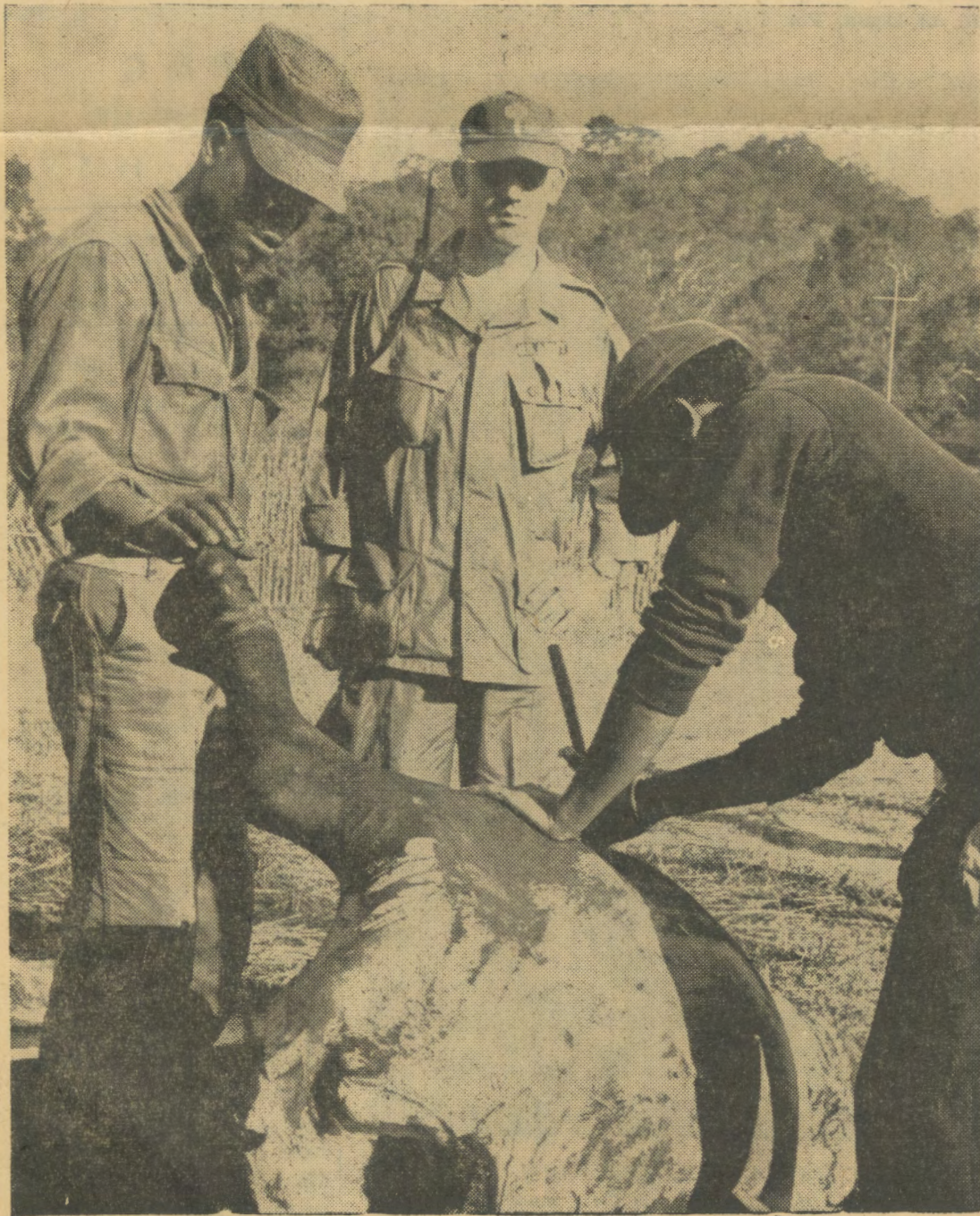
** Stop at Nha Trang. Nha Trang personnel report 1230 for 1330 departure.

Goodwill Sailor Receives Award

Saigon (CIB) — U.S. Navy Machinist Mate Philip G. Ambrose received the Vietnamese Army's Medal of Merit for assisting in the care of wounded at Cong Hoa Hospital, Saigon, and at the Vietnamese Airborne Brigade Dispensary during off-duty hours.



TROOPING THE LINE — U.S. Army Maj. Gen. W.R. Peers, left, and Darlac Province Chief Vietnamese Maj. Vinh, arrive at Lan Son hamlet with Sub Brig. Gen. Lan, commander of the Vietnamese 23rd Div., right, to participate in Montagnard allegiance ceremonies Jan. 9.



BUFFALO BUTCHERED — Sacrificed water buffalo is butchered by Montagnard tribesman. The carcass was divided among villagers. Looking on is Army advisor, 1st Lt. J. B. Gramzow of Adatsoru Team 33.

Montagnard R

(Continued from page 1)
or bush in the jar. A volatile base is added and the jar is filled with water from nearby creeks.

While a village elder squats in the hot sun reciting an ancient invocation, each person, advancing a chair at a time, in turn draws a generous mouth-

ful from each of the jars through a bent bamboo straw about four feet long. Everybody drinks from the same straws.

To signify friendship following the wine jar amenities, each jug-sipper receives a brass bracelet as visible evidence of Montagnard trust.

The overall two-day pro-

gram started with the arrival of Montagnards at Lan Son hamlet. Individuals were registered and given identification. Through the day there were government lectures, tribal entertainment, sports teams and singing. Pigs and chickens grazed in the fields.

When the soldiers and government of America arrived, personnel departed the isolated hamlet. After the ceremony, the mountain tribes were busy emptying the jars and slaughtering small animals. Others had seen the long trip, 40 kilometers into the mountains for protection from the Viet Cong attack.



TRIBAL TRUST — Following rice wine ceremony, Maj. Gen. Peers is presented brass bracelet, symbol of Montagnard trust.



OATH OF ALLEGIANCE — Armed but unpaid Montagnard militia from Buon Mlieng A hamlet swear oath to government by biting rifle muzzles. Tribesmen from 47 hamlets participated in the oath-taking ceremonies.

MILITIA leader listens in Darlac's varied and

Rites Mark Allegiance To Vietnam

and late Jan. 7
arrival of the Mon-
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small campfires.
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for some — to
hamlets against
attack.



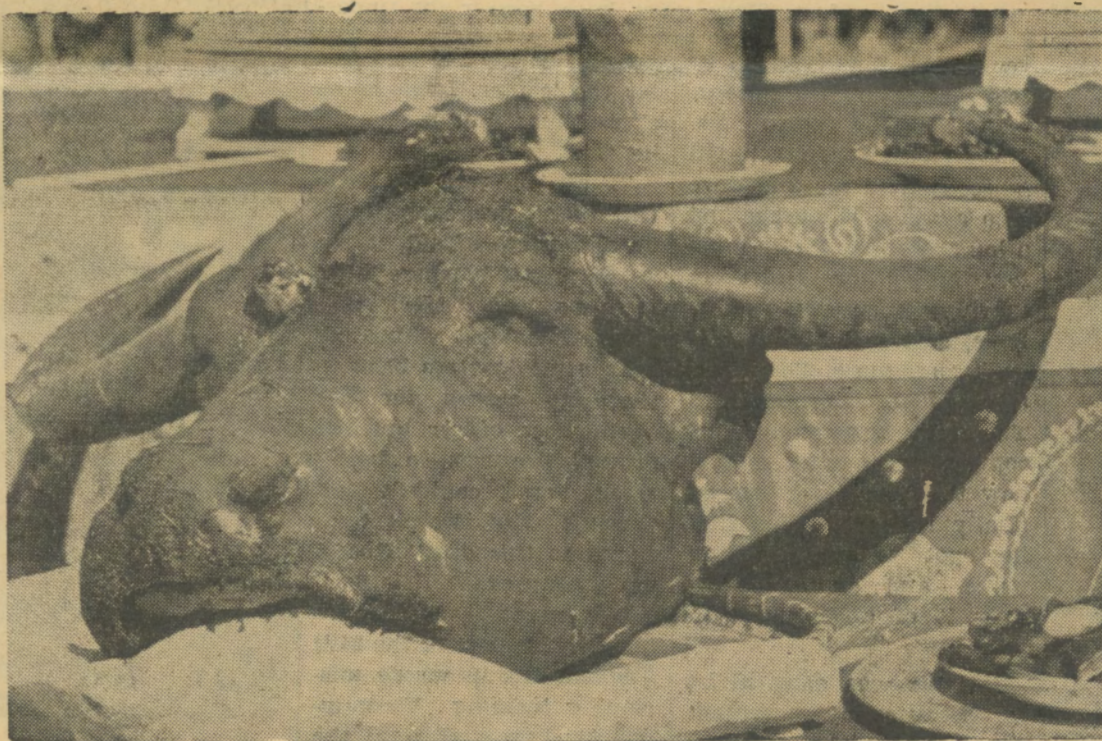
OFFICIALS LEAD PRAYER — Province officials kneel before the altar leading oath prayer in presence of the gods' witness. More than 1700 Montagnard tribesmen took part in the allegiance ceremonies.



WINE CEREMONY — Visiting military officials join rice wine drinking rites. Each person, advancing a chair at a time, drinks from every jar through a bamboo straw about four feet long. Seated opposite Montagnard tribesmen are (l-r): Col. T.C. Mataxis, Maj. Gen. W.R. Peers, Sub Brig. Gen. Lan, Maj. Vinh, Col. P.L. Bogen and Col. D.A. Kirsting.



LEADER — Montagnard hamlet militia men to province officials during ceremonies held in Lac Thien district. He wears one of the many uniforms typical of the Montagnard militia.



RITUAL SACRIFICE — Head of water buffalo sacrificed during rites sits in front of altar at Lan Son. The animal was slaughtered to appease spirit gods as part of allegiance ceremonies.

GATHERED FOR RITES — Lan Son hamlet field is a sea of faces as hamlet militiamen gather to participate in the ceremonies reaffirming loyalty to the Republic.



MONTAGNARD MUSIC — Montagnard gong musicians beat an eerie rhythm during allegiance ceremonies at Lan Son hamlet in Darlac province.



Army Receives Award From Safety Council

Washington (ANF) — The Army received the Annual National Safety Council Award of Honor in recognition of its safety record during the past year at a ceremony in the Pentagon.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Development Willis H. Hawkins, representing Secretary of the Army Stephen Ailes, received the plaque on behalf of the Army from Mr. Howard N. Pyle, president of the National Safety Council.

This year's award marked the 19th time over the past 21 years that the Army has been honored by the Council.

A Child's Pride



TOYS, TOYS, TOYS — Vietnamese elementary school children at Bien Hoa Airbase, show off presents sent to them by citizens of Santa Barbara, Calif.

People-To-People

Californians Send Cheer To VN Through 'Toy Lift'

Bien Hoa (IO) — Happiness is a new toy for more than 3000 Vietnamese children, thanks to the joint efforts of citizens of Santa Barbara, California, and airmen of the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam.

"Operation Toy Lift," a joint people-to-people project, has provided toys to school children, orphans, and Montagnard youngsters during the past holiday season.

The idea for "Toy Lift" came from Col. William Kemble, deputy commander for Materiel of the 34th Tactical Group here. After the Colonel relayed the idea to his brother, a Santa Barbara businessman, the project received enthusiastic support from the city's mayor and from the public.

Toys were collected at Santa Barbara fire stations, gift wrapped by volunteers and shipped to Vietnam by the Air Force. Upon arrival

here, Colonel Kemb'e, Group Chaplain (Captain) Jim Jones and U.S. airmen assisted Vietnamese authorities with the distribution.

"This sort of gift with a heart in it can go a long way toward helping to bolster the determination and will to win of the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the Viet Cong," explained Colonel William E. Bethea, 34th commander.

Vietnamese Air Force Major Nguyen The Anh, Bien Hoa base commander, expressed the sincere gratitude of the people of the Republic of Vietnam. "We who are connected with 'Operation Toy Lift,' will retain a warm spot in our hearts for the people of Santa Barbara," he stated.

Bien Hoa Pilot Bails Out; Outwits VC Search Party

Bien Hoa (IO) — "It was about 9 a.m. and we were at 100 feet on our practice run. Suddenly the whole plane bounced about a foot. They must have been right underneath us when they let go."

1st Lt. Kemp (Buddy) Roedema, an instructor-pilot with the Vietnamese Air Force's 602nd Fighter Squadron at Bien Hoa Air Base, was recounting the beginning of the longest morning of his career.



Roedema

Roedema and his Vietnamese student pilot were shot down by Viet Cong ground fire while flying a training mission 15 miles north of here.

"We lost all communications immediately and dense smoke filled the cockpit. I tried to pull the aircraft up higher so we could make it back to the base and we managed to get the canopy off so we could breathe," he continued.

However, Lieutenant Roedema could not find the source of the fire and the smoke became so bad he motioned to his Vietnamese counterpart to bail out, then did so himself. His altitude was about 700 feet and he came down in the jungle moments after the chute opened. The Vietnamese Air Force pilot was nowhere in sight.

"The jungle growth was at least four feet high and

very thick. I went about 20 feet and stumbled onto a maze of Viet Cong tunnels. Just about then I heard noises behind me and dove into a draw, slipped behind a log and froze. There must have been 10 or 12 of them moving in spurts; walk a little, stop and listen, then walk some more. They were talking in Vietnamese." The crew-cut veteran of 130 combat missions related how the Viet Cong squad finally rushed by his hiding spot to the burning plane, and attempted to strip it of anything valuable.

All this was detected by ear because any movement might give his position away.

"It was about 10:30 a.m. when the first rescue choppers came in. After awhile the first one left, and the second was hovering in a clearing about 45 yards away. The Viet Cong had been silent ever since the helicopters arrived. It seemed at one time that they were right on top of me," stated the 26-year-old officer.

"I was really beginning to worry, because once the last 'copter left the VC would probably swarm all over the area. I figured I had to take a chance so I

pulled out my .45 and ran for the 'copter. I fell down three times, but made it," he said.

"I can't figure out why they didn't fire, except maybe they were afraid of the A-1E fighter-bombers that were patrolling the area. Later that day I wanted to take some 'copters back in there to search for the Vietnamese officer but the ground fire was so heavy rescue craft couldn't get through. He hasn't been found to this day," Roedema recounted.

Lieutenant Roedema's squadron is part of the 34th Tactical Group whose mission is training Vietnamese Air Force pilots in the A-1E fighter-bomber. The Air Force officer volunteered for this tour, his second in Vietnam. He spent six months on temporary duty here in 1963 flying C-123 cargo aircraft.

PACAF Hikes Announced

Hawaii (PACAF) — Promotion quotas for the grades of staff sergeant, A1C and A2C in the February cycle were released this week for PACAF.

PACAF will give hikes to a total of 437 A1Cs and 694 A2Cs.



HAPPINESS IS A NEW TOY — Col. William H. Kemble, deputy commander for Materiel, 34th Tactical Group, Bien Hoa Airbase, helps a Vietnamese kindergarten student open her "Operation Toy Lift" present. Instigated by Col. Kemble, "Operation Toy Lift" brought thousands of toys to the Vietnamese children here from citizens of Santa Barbara, Calif.

Services Held For Two KIA

Saigon (CIB) — Memorial services were conducted at Tan Son Nhut Chapel Jan. 12 for Army Captain James F. Ray and 1st Lieutenant William T. Reach.

Capt. Ray was killed Jan. 9 by Viet Cong small arms fire while accompanying a Regional Forces platoon patrol about eight

miles southwest of Saigon in support of the Nha Be Tank Farm defense.

Lt. Reach was also killed Jan. 9 while accompanying an ARVN company under attack by a Viet Cong battalion at Tan Buu village in Long An Province about 10 miles southwest of Saigon.



DAMAGED MAIL — MSGT Walter Atkinson, NCOIC of Det 1, 11th Air Postal Squadron, Tan Son Nhut, examines part of the damage caused by a can of paint sent through the mail. The top of the gallon can opened during the handling of the mail bag, covering 300 States-bound letters with green paint. Quick action by APO Personnel in removing the wet paint saved the mail and got it on its way to the States within 24 hours.

Viet Cong Corralled In Long An Airlift

Tan An (III Corps IO) — In the pre-dawn darkness of a late December day, 10 U.S. Army helicopters approached the staging area. Below them, jeep lights flashed on to mark the small road that served as the landing pad.

The morning quiet burst into a flurry of wind and noise as the "choppers" swooped over to check the landing area. On their second pass, under the radio guidance of American advisors, the powerful "birds" sat down.

"The object," explained Maj. George D. Hardesty Jr., Long An sector advisor, "is to drop 38 Popular Force soldiers five miles northwest of Thu Thua District Town in the Viet Cong populated Plain of Reeds." Major Hardesty indicated the landing zone on the map with his flashlight.

"After they are dropped," he continued, "they will move southeast toward Thu Thua forcing any Viet Cong in the area into a blocking force being formed approximately two miles outside of town."

"Dawn was breaking as pilots and crewmen returned to their helicopters and the Popular Force soldiers began to load. With the

signal blast of three 105mm artillery shells, the first operation in the history of the Vietnamese III Corps involving an air lift of Popular Force personnel was underway.

Two Regional and Popular Force companies, one from Tan An, the province capitol; the other from Thu Thua, were in their blocking position. After the lift, two armed helicopters of the 118th Aviation Company's "Bandits" remained to lend fire support where necessary.

By 8.30 a.m. reports began arriving at the operation command post. "Four Viet Cong killed, two captured," repeated Major Daly H. Stanford, Operations and Intelligence advisor, Team 86, from a radio report. The Viet Cong, who almost nightly harass Thu Thua with small arms fire, were getting a taste of their own tactics.

The two armed "Hueys" (Continued on page 8)

The Roving Photographer

Question:

What is your first choice for reassignment after your tour in Vietnam?



Capt. John L. Shen; Ft. Hood, Tex.

"Ft. Hood, Texas. You can't get any better than Texas! It's as close to heaven as you can go!"

SSGT. Willie Barrett; Greenwood, S.C.

"Ft. McPherson, Ga. I enjoy the Southern United States, especially the Atlanta area. I've heard that the post is very pleasant and that the housing facilities are good."



A1C David A. Derosett; Old Hickory, Tenn.

"Sewart Air Force Base, Tenn. 25 miles from my home. I spent four years there from '59 to '63 and enjoyed the assignment very much."

SGT. Gary A. La Jole; Worthington, Col.

"Ft. Carson, Colorado. I spent two years at Carson before coming to Vietnam. The off duty activities of the area, especially the excellent hunting and fishing, are what I enjoyed the most."



SP5 Eugene L. Sill; New Orleans, La.

"Ft. Benning, Ga. I was stationed at Benning from '62 to '64 and liked the area so much that my wife and I bought a house there. Benning has everything we want."

Sgt. Leslie L. Wilson; Pensacola, Fla.

"Ft. Stewart, Ga. I like that part of the country and have heard that duty there is very good. I'm married and have two children and the excellent housing facilities there are an important consideration."



DRIVER TRAINING — AIRBOAT STYLE — Driver trainees of the ARVN 21st Engineer Battalion complete an indoctrination run in their newly introduced airboat. The unique craft are being tested for possible use against the communist insurgents in the ricefields and swamps of Mekong Delta areas.

Counterpart Lingo

(This is the first in a series of translations of common Vietnamese phrases and expressions. Our pronunciation guide may leave something to be desired but should, with a little luck, get you where you're going.)

Hello! How are you?

Chào ông mạnh giỏi?
(Chow om' man joy?)

Thank you, I am fine.

Cám ơn, tôi mạnh giỏi.
(Cam on, toy man joy)

Where are you going?

Cô đi đâu?
(Co' de dow)

I am going to work.

Tôi đi làm.
(Toy de lam)

How much is this?

Cái này bao nhiêu?
(Can I bow knee-you)

Oh! It is too expensive!

Trời ơi! mắc quá!
(Choi oi! mac qua)

On the right

tay mặt.
(die mac)

On the left

tay trái.
(die chai)

Turn around

quẹo lại.
(kweo lie)

Stop

ngừng lại.
(young lie)

(om) ong, man; (on) anh, young man; ba, married woman; co, single woman; em, young child.



PURPLE HEART — Lt. Barbara D. Reynolds, one of four Navy nurses wounded in the Binh explosion, receives the Purple Heart from Captain Archie C. Kunze, commanding officer, Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon. The awards were the first U.S. combat decorations presented to women in Vietnam.

News Cont'd...

▲ Long An Airlift

(Continued from page 7)
back from refueling, flew over the plain at 500 feet. The fire team, circling in search of a target, could hear small arms fire on the ground. Vietnamese observers on each chopper maintained contact with ground forces. Within minutes the 'Hueys' received a request for support.

The turbo-jet helicopter came in low and fast, machine guns spitting. The pilot pulled out in a tight right turn and headed up. "We've got something," yelled one of the door gunners. Another right turn for a second pass. No need for rockets. Machine gun fire had done the job of flushing the Viet Cong snipers.

The slow, dirty job of capturing or killing the now-routed Viet Cong remained for the black uniformed Popular and Regional Force soldiers. The ring of friendly soldiers was drawing tighter with no friendly casualties, and the possibility of complete success grew brighter.

Capt. Clayton J. Mansfield, civic action advisor, explained: "On operations such as this, we are not only looking for Viet Cong but also their weapons."

He had just returned from an observation flight over the area. "I could see our soldiers searching the canals and fields for these weapons. When a Viet Cong sees that he is trapped, he will often hide his weapon and attempt to melt into the countryside," he added.

By afternoon, the operation drew to a close. The trap had been sprung. The score: seven Viet Cong dead, four captured, three weapons taken. Friendly losses: none.

As Major Stanford explained it, "In the counterinsurgency war we are fighting here, this operation can be classified as extremely successful. More than one guerrilla squad has been killed or captured. Many valuable documents have been taken. Furthermore, we have plainly shown the effectiveness of Regional and Popular Force soldiers in an air mobile operation."

OUTSTANDING!

Hawaii (PACAF) — Two Yokota Air Base units in Japan, the 421st Air Refueling and 6091st Reconnaissance Squadrons; and the 400th Munitions Maintenance Squadron from Okinawa have been named to receive the coveted Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1- Detests
- 6- Slumber
- 11- Refund
- 12- Analyzed
- 14- City in Russia
- 15- Din
- 17- Symbol for ruthenium
- 18- Danish land division
- 19- Fruit cakes
- 20- Beast of burden
- 21- Roman gods
- 22- Bristles
- 23- Conspiracy
- 24- Guided
- 26- Showers
- 27- Fewer
- 28- Son of Adam
- 29- Mortification
- 31- Join
- 34- Shallow vessels
- 35- Stupid persons (slang)
- 36- Three-toed sloth
- 37- Goal
- 38- Complain
- 39- Shade tree
- 40- Lord (abbr.)
- 41- Old womanish
- 42- Heraldic device
- 43- Deadly
- 45- Sprinter
- 47- Speak in slow, lengthened tone
- 48- Beef animal

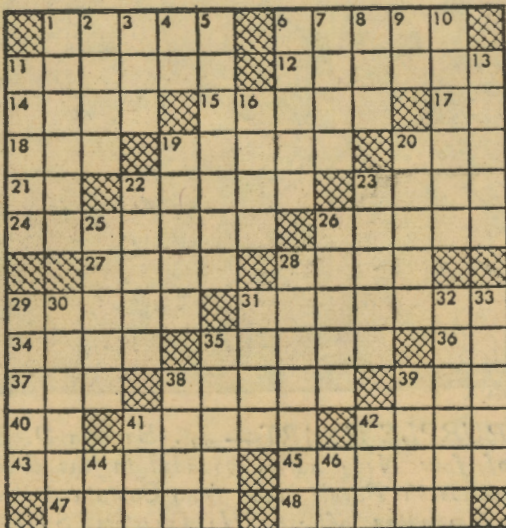
DOWN

- 1- Recluse
- 2- Encourage
- 3- Hindu cymbals
- 4- Latin conjunction
- 5- Lawmaking bodies
- 6- Malice
- 7- Girl
- 8- Before

- 9- Plural ending
- 10- Individual
- 11- Highways
- 13- Cleans away powdery dirt
- 16- Toward the mouth
- 19- Brief
- 20- Place in line
- 22- Appears
- 23- Aches
- 25- African antelope
- 26- Hindu queen
- 28- Penhies (colloq.)
- 29- Recess from work
- 30- Passed along by hand
- 31- Spiral
- 32- Announcer
- 33- Device for measuring minutes

TAR BEAD PASS
OVA CRNE OLIO
NATIONAL LAND
INNS ALASKA
SPOKE SWAN
PINS STANDARD
ALA STARE ROE
RELATIVE STAY
GALE REINS
SAVAGE MARE
PEAT TREMBLED
ERSE TARO EL
TOES OWES SAM

- 35- Instruct
- 38- Eat away
- 39- Sea eagle
- 41- Exclamation
- 42- Number
- 44- Initials of 26th President
- 46- Guido's low note



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Distaff Magazine Describes Life In Saigon

Saigon (MACOI) — U.S. Lady, a popular service family magazine, describes life among American families in Saigon in the January issue.

What it is like to live with a war on your doorstep is told by Else Baker, wife of Colonel Basil L. Baker, Military Assistance Command Information Officer.

She says "the ugly little war" is not the only trouble that plagues the country. Dissatisfaction with the central government results in rioting and street demonstrations that sometimes are violent, but are usually of short duration.

Mrs. Baker writes about the daily life of 2000 American women and children living in the uneasy capital of South Vietnam.

Copies of the journal will be available at the Naval Exchange facilities, Saigon, in the future.

VA Answers Questions

Q. — When will educational and training benefits expire for veterans of the Korean war?

A. — The educational program for Korean veterans will expire on Jan. 31, 1965. The educational program for World War II veterans has already expired.

Q. — My husband's World War II insurance is more of a burden on our very limited finances. Will this ever be paid up?

A. — Some types of insurance contracts are paid up after 20 or 30 years. If you cannot tell from reading the policy, you may write to the office to which you pay your premiums.

Q. — In the case of a serviceman's death while he is on active duty, what are the limits of the Death Gratuity?

A. — The benefit is a sum equal to six months pay of the deceased. However, it shall not be less than \$800, nor more than \$3,000.

Vietnam By Camera...



Vietnamese artists create intricate designs with simple tools and materials. Working on a Saigon street, a painter magically transforms a common balloon to a work of art for admiring youngsters.

Holidays In Vietnam

New Year's Day	Jan. 1
Buddha's Illumination	Jan. 10
Lunar New Year	Feb. 1-4
Anniversary of Dong Da victory (Quang Trung Day)	Feb. 6
Trung Sisters Day (VN Women's Day)	March 8
Hung Vuong Day	April 11
Labor Day	May 1
Buddha's Birthday	May 15
Ascension Day	May 27
Anniversary of Vietnam's partition	July 20
Wandering Souls Day	Aug. 11
Assumption	Aug. 15
Nguyen Du anniversary	Sept. 5
Mid-Autumn Festival (Children's Day)	Sept. 10
Tran Hung Dao Day	Sept. 15
Le Loi Day	Sept. 17
Confucius anniversary	Sept. 28
Anniversary of Nov. 1 Revolution (National Day and Armed Forces Day)	Nov. 1
War Dead Memorial Day	Nov. 2
Christmas	Dec. 25

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