

AMERICAL

news sheet



MIRACLE WEATHER REMOVED

Friday partly cloudy with early morning ground fog clearing by mid-morning. Winds will be north-easterly at 8-12 knots per hour. Friday's high 87. Low Friday night 70.

Volume 1 Number 287 Thursday February 1, 1968

VIETNAM WAR NEWS

SAIGON (UPI) -- The Viet Cong launched their mightiest offensive of the war yesterday and sent thousands of troops smashing into dozens of towns and villages still celebrating the Lunar New Year cease-fire. They inflicted untold millions of dollars in damage but were defeated.

U.S. and Allied Forces canceled their part of the Tet truce and drove back the guerrillas in daylong fighting that ranged from house to house, from street to street. Seven major cities, and many U.S. military installations were hit.

First Time In 103 Yrs

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Historic Ford's Theater reopened Tuesday night for the first time since President Lincoln was assassinated there in 1865.

Rain fell and anti-Vietnam war pickets chanted as Vice President and Mrs. Hubert Humphrey led an audience into the refurbished play house in downtown Washington.

The evening was dedicated to Lincoln, with

(Cont'd Page 2 Column 3)

Viet Cong Attack Chu Lai: Totalling 302 Enemy Killed

CHU LAI (AMERICAN IO) -- Enemy attacks on the Chu Lai Air Base and other division camps prompted quick reaction fighting that accounted for 302 enemy kills by Americal Division units in southern I Corps yesterday. Five U.S. soldiers were killed and 23 infantrymen were wounded in day long fighting.

In continuous heavy fighting yesterday, units of Americal's 198th Brigade doggedly pursued enemy forces that staged a rocket attack on the Chu Lai Air Base Wednesday morning, and accounted for 137 kills.

The Air Base attack began at 4:06 a.m., with 48 enemy 122mm rockets fired. Although moderate damage was sustained on a number of the aircraft, the airfield was relatively unaffected. Shortly after the attack on the air strip an ammunition dump located about a mile south of the air strip was hit by rocket fire. A large explosion occurred and several secondary explosions followed lasting throughout the early morning.

"Brave and Bold" units began an immediate pursuit of the attackers in the early morning darkness. Flares guided the brigade gunships and at first light infantry companies moved out to intercept the escaping Viet Cong. As contact tapered off yesterday afternoon 198th Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) units reported 72 enemy were killed.

In the largest contact of the day, an infantry company led by CPT Virgil Lee Con (Greensboro, N.C.) set up a blocking position 20 miles south of here while gunships engaged an enemy

(Cont'd Page 2 Column 1)

CLEAN CUT: MURPHY

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The U.S. Post Office Department, concerned about its own image and the morale of its regular workers, is preparing a set of regulations designed to clean up its newly hired hippie help.

Richard J. Murphy, Assistant Postmaster General in charge of personnel, said Tuesday he has received complaints from the public--especially in San Francisco--about letter carriers who wear "flamboyant and outlandish garb--bear coats and beads and bells."

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force from the air. Forty-four enemy were killed in the hour long battle that began at 9:45 a.m., in the Operation Muscatine area.

In addition to the rocket attack at Chu Lai an enemy force simultaneously mortared and launched a ground assault on a small bridge force of military police and infantrymen guarding the An Tan Bridge on Hwy #1. During the heavy fighting the Viet Cong blew the center abutment causing the west span of the bridge to collapse. North-south traffic continued over the An Tan River on the east span of the bridge which was undamaged. Five Viet Cong were killed during the raid.

Later in the morning a brigade element operating south of here engaged more escaping enemy and killed nine Viet Cong. A brigade air observer
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"Shame and A Disgrace": Thurmond

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Sen. Strom Thurmond, Republican-South Carolina, shouting and clapping his hands in an almost empty Senate chamber Tuesday charged that the U. S. handling of the war in Vietnam was a "shame and a disgrace."

"How much longer are we going to wait?" Thurmond said in an extemporaneous 15-minute speech after he was advised Communist troops had attacked the U.S. Embassy compound in Saigon.

"How many more Americans are going to be killed before we take the firm, decisive action we should have taken long, long ago?"

This is by the way

Instructors Needed;
CALL 251 NOW

University of Maryland Instructors: The Division Education Center has a continuing need for University of Maryland instructors. Personnel who have the time and interest for off-duty evening instruction should contact the Education Center (Chu Lai 251). Minimum requirement for appointment as an instructor, MASTERS DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

LONDON (UPI)—Helen Vlachou, the Greek publisher, said yesterday she was unimpressed by the Greek government's amnesty offer Monday.

She said dismissal in an Athens court of charges against her "makes no difference to me at all. It's a clever little gimmick trumped up by someone seeking favorable propaganda. It changes nothing."

Ford Theater (From Page 1)

the First Lady of the theater, Helen Hayes, becoming the first player to stand on the stage since the President was shot nearly 103 years ago.

The theater, restored under a three-year project of the National Parks Service, was officially dedicated January 21. A galaxy of stars took part in the opening performance, televised on a special hour-long program broadcast nationwide.

-----AMERICAL NEWS SHEET-----

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flying south of Chu Lai spotted an armed enemy force of 150 Viet Cong and directed artillery fire on their position. Five confirmed enemy kills were reported.

At 5 p.m., soldiers of "H" Troop, 17th Cavalry guarding the Binh Son Bridge south of here engaged a large enemy force. With the help of brigade infantrymen, the cavalrymen forced the enemy to break contact shortly before dark. The brigade has been the target of previous enemy attacks.

North of Tam Ky along Hwy #1 "C" Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry engaged a VC force estimated at two battalions. Fifty-eight enemy were killed by "C" Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and 12 killed by "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry.

The action began early in the morning when "C" Troop, of the 1st Cavalry came under heavy recoilless rifle, automatic rifle fire, and a mortar attack at their night position at Quang Tin Province Headquarters. The contact continued throughout the morning and ended early in the afternoon.

Sharp activity in American's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry's area of operation resulted in 66 enemy killed, seven suspects detained and the capture of four weapons.

At 3 a.m., yesterday morning, brigade artillery fired 247 rounds of 105mm

at a large enemy concentration. Fifty-four enemy bodies were credited to the artillery fire. An additional 54 enemy kills were credited to the 2nd ROK Marine force located south of Hoi An who were conducting a joint operation with elements of the "Broncos".

An element of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry in several contacts killed seven VC and captured 400 pounds of rice, one M-16 and an anti-aircraft

(Cont'd Page 4 Column 1)

DATELINES -- (AP)

PALM SPRINGS, Calif.
-- More than 500 golfers got in final practice shots Tuesday for the 122,000 dollar Bob Hope Desert Classic.

WASHINGTON-- The Internal Revenue Service has suspended all its activities directed at criminal prosecution for possession of unregistered firearms or for failure of gamblers to register and pay special taxes, the agency announced Tuesday.

EL TORO MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, California
--Two Marines who escaped from the North Vietnamese last week after being held captive since Jan. 7 arrived here Monday after a 10 hour flight from Okinawa.

Six Killed From Explosion

PITTSBURGH (AP)--Six persons were killed and 17 others were injured Tuesday when an earth-shaking explosion ripped apart a row of shops and apartments. Two others were missing.

The frame buildings were blown into a heap of burning rubble. Windows were shattered throughout the area in suburban Ingram.

The blast let loose as a 12-man crew from the Equitable Gas Company was digging up the sidewalk outside looking for a gas leak. Five of the dead were gas company workers.

The company said the crew was working on a four-inch gasline; and said that gas to the buildings was shut off.

"There is a lot of investigation involved," said a company spokesman. "Actually, the real cause probably will never be known."

Firemen also recovered the body of a woman. She was not positively identified immediately.

SEOUL--The North Korean military machine has been rebuilt into a much more powerful force than it was before the Korean War, according to South Korean military intelligence officials.

It is supplied, supported and advised by the Russians and the Communist Chinese but is moving closer to self-sufficiency, the officials said.

AMERICAN DIVISION NEWS (Continued From Page 3)

rocket and launcher. Early in the afternoon, a company of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry killed five VC and detained seven suspects who were hiding in a cave. Also discovered in the cave was one .38 caliber pistol. Another company of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry uncovered a homemade zip gun hidden in a hut.

Units of Americal's 196th Brigade killed 27 VC in moderate contacts in eastern portions of the "Chargers" area of operation in Operation Wheeler/Halloway.

In the heaviest action of the day "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry engaged a large group of VC killing 12 and detaining 11. In a delayed report from Tuesday night "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed five VC and a company from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry led by CPT John T. Thomason (Severna Park, Md) killed one VC they found hiding in a tunnel. The company also found one wounded NVA soldier hiding nearby. He had web gear and ammunition for an AK-47 rifle. He was evacuated for treatment at 2nd Surgical Hospital.

A small reconnaissance unit from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry killed three VC they spotted fleeing from a hut. A small unit observed four VC with gray uniforms enter a hut. Artillery from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery was called in killing the four VC. A small unit from the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry observed eight VC moving down a trail. They called in artillery from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery killing two VC.

Two tactical air strikes were flown yesterday in support of the "Chargers". The missions resulted in two fortified structures destroyed, 10 meters of trench opened up and two bunkers destroyed.

Operations in the Duc Pho area yesterday netted Americal's 11th Brigade's "Jungle Warriors" two VC kills and one suspect detained.

An element of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry led by CPT Joe Rhinehart (Canton, N.C.) engaged two enemy soldiers nine miles west of Duc Pho. After a brief firefight one VC was killed and the other fled.

A helicopter from the brigade's aviation section, "Primo Aviation Limited", on a reconnaissance flight spotted two VC carrying weapons four miles southwest of Duc Pho. After an exchange of fire one VC was killed and two M-1 carbines with ammunition and miscellaneous clothing were captured.

INSTRUCTORS WHERE ARE YOU?

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND INSTRUCTORS: The Division Education Center has a continuing need for University of Maryland Instructors. Personnel who have the time and interest for OFF-DUTY evening instruction should contact the Education Center (CHU LAI 251). Minimum requirement for appointment as an instructor, MASTERS DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

!!!!!!ZIP CODE!!!!!!
Lest one of the 867 residents of Melcher, Iowa, forget his Zip Code, the number has been painted on the town's water tank in figures six feet high. DON'T FORGET YOURS!!!!!!