

tain air and founded the present day site of Dalat. Dalat has grown and become the mountain resort for the residents of Saigon, for in the hot season Dalat's climate provides a welcome and invigorating change for southern residents. The surrounding scenery with its wealth of waterfalls, lakes, rivers, forests, and beautiful rolling hills provides an ideal vacation ground. The area is rich in legend and folklore and it is not surprising that the surrounding woods and forest lakes have given rise to some of Vietnam's most romantic legends.

For the sports-minded Dalat's golf course, sports club, with tennis, water skiing, sailing, and fishing provide plenty of recreation. One also has a chance to visit Montagnard tribesmen in their resettlement villages that have been constructed to remove these mountain people from the menace of the Viet Cong terrorists.

The National Military Academy, a university, and an atomic research center are located at Dalat. One also has the opportunity to visit the Da Nhim hydroelectric project which is the source of Saigon's electric power.



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## General Information

### Passport and Visas :

Travellers in transit through Viet-Nam may stay up to 72 hours without a formal visa if their tickets show confirmed seats for a flight to their next point within this period. Holders of American pass-ports do not need a visa (entry or exit) if they stay in the country less than 7 days. In the case that an exit visa is required, visitors may apply for it from the Immigration Service 335-337, Vo-Tanh, Saigon. Tel. 24.952.

### Health Record :

Must be kept up to date. All persons entering Viet-Nam are required to produce Cholera and Smallpox inoculation certificates. A yellow-fever inoculation certificate is needed if the travellers are arriving from an infected area. Regulations frequently change and the traveller must keep himself informed as to the latest requirements.

### Customs Regulations :

Travellers may retain duty-free, such goods as tobacco, liquor, toilet articles and medicines provided these are for their personal use and do not exceed the following limitations :

— Tobacco : 500 cigarettes, or 100 cigars, or one pound of pipe tobacco

— 2 still cameras of different sizes

- 1 movie camera
- 1 portable tape-recorder
- 1 portable gramophone
- 1 transistor radio
- 1 typewriter.

### Currency :

The monetary unit in Viet-Nam is the Piaster and it is worth about 73 Piasters per US dollar or 205 piasters per pound sterling. All travellers are required to declare all currency in their possession when filling in customs forms before arriving in Viet-Nam. When travellers leave VN their unspent piasters may be reconverted into foreign currency upon presentation of the certificate delivered to them when they sold their original foreign currency, to an authorized Bank.

### Tipping :

As in many European restaurants and hotels, tips are often included at the end of a check or bill, under an item called «service». When the service is not included, a tip of 10% of the total is customary.

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— Pound sterling . 329,00

— French fr. . . . . 24.10

### **Bargaining :**

Bargaining is an established practice in most of the smaller shops. However there is a definite and growing trend in the direction of one-price business. In the leading stores, a fixed price policy is set ; but in smaller shops bargaining often is expected.

### **Climate :**

The climate here is pleasant, with two main seasons, the rainy, and the dry season. The average temperature in Saigon is 75°F. low and 90°F. high with alternate rain and sunshine from May to October. From November through April, the climate in Saigon is much milder than that in Manila, Bangkok, Singapore or Djakarta,

with many a cool day whenever there is a depression in nearby areas.

### **Transportation :**

*TAXIS* are painted a distinctive light blue and cream in Saigon, and are all licenced. All carry meters which commence at VN\$ 2.50 at flag-fall. However the minimum legal fare payable is VN\$6, and thereafter the fare increases by about fifty cents for every hundred yards. Between the hours of ten PM and six AM all fares are increased by fifty percent, although this is not shown on the taxi-meter. For long rides outside town, (excluding Tan Son Nhut airport) the driver should



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be given the return fare back to town.

*CYCLOS* or pedicabs, or pousses, are three wheeled pedal operated Trishaws, which operate within the limits of Saigon. These afford a pleasant manner of touring the city; the fare should be established with the driver in advance.

*CYCLO MAYs* are three-wheeled motor driven vehicles, that resemble a motorcycle pushing an armchair. They are naturally faster than the cyclos, and emit vast quantities of dense blue

smoke from their two-stroke engines. Again the fare should be established by negotiation in advance.

*BUSES* are extremely cheap within the capital area, and are also available between Saigon and the provincial cities.

*CAR HIRE*, either with, or without a driver, is very reasonable, either in Saigon/Cholon, or to go to the countryside. Visitors should consult their travel agent, or The Caravelle hotel. A wide range of modern cars are available.



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## *What to Eat in* *VIETNAM*

Visitors to Viet-Nam will of course find a great variety and excellence in the different culinary styles to be found in the foods served here.

This is not really the place to expound on the various dishes of foreign cuisine, for the traveller or tourist will already be familiar with the arts of other Oriental and Continental dishes, so we shall confine ourselves to a few remarks about the local indigenous Vietnamese dishes.

Basically the Vietnamese style of cooking is similar to the styles found in Southern China, although there are marked differences, and nobody would mistake one for the other who had tried both styles. The two differ in the styles of their soups, and in the serving of different forms of green vegetables, and vegetable leaves, with the dishes. The most distinguishing thing about a Vietnamese meal is the use of the famous «Nuoc Mam» sauce. This is a piquant and highly appetising sauce prepared from sun dried fish, and unfortunately it does have an odour which, in the not-so-well prepared varieties of the sauce, can be a little strong. It is especially appetising when lemon or red peppers are added.

Vietnamese meals are not especially hot in taste, although one does find dishes that are curried. Others are sometimes

too piquant for the European palate, but usually peppers and chilies are added by the individual to suit his or her taste. No matter what your preference, you are sure to find something new and enjoyable when you sample our National dishes.

A few selected specialities that are only to be found in Vietnam are listed below for the guidance of newcomers.

### **Cha Gio :**

These are small two inch, to four-inch long rolls depending on the manner in which they are prepared. The contents are prepared by mixing crabmeat, pork, noodles and chopped vegetables together, rolling them in a thin rice paper wrapping, and deep frying the finished delicacy. Cha gio are a very popular Vietnamese dish and will prove to be something memorable.

### **Chao Tom :**

This dish comprises individual sticks of sugar-cane, around which has been rolled a spiced shrimp paste, and which is then grilled. The flavour is delicious and haunting.

### **Bo Bay Mon :**

Literally translated this means «Seven beef dishes», and this is just what it is. Each dish is prepared in a different manner,

and while some have vegetables added to them, others have the beef diced, sliced, minced, or made into a paté. Each one is eaten in a special manner, and they all have their own special, and traditional sauces.

Whilst there is not the infinite variety of dishes in the Vietnamese culinary art that one finds in the Chinese forms of cooking, it is possible to sample our cooking and feel that a lasting friendship with the style has been struck-up. One of the delight-full things about a Vietnamese meal is the freedom of choice, for the dishes are often placed on the table together, and the diner moves from one to the other, taking as much of each one as he wishes, in whatever order he wishes.

#### Com Tay Cam :


This is a special treat that consists of a basic rice dish cooked in a covered earthen pot, with a mixture of mushrooms, chicken, and pork, sliced

very fine. The whole dish is served with a ginger sauce, and this is truly a Mandarin's delight to taste.

#### Pho:

This is a soup in which are mixed an infinite variety of choice morsals, depending on the traditions of the cook. Basically it resembles a consommé prepared with beef and noodles.

The bouillion, or broth, is very carefully prepared, and the main beef and noodle ingredients are added at the last minute; in this manner the particularly delicate and unusual flavour of the broth is kept separate from the flavour of the beef and other added ingredients. The result is a delicious blend of flavours that is absolutely unique. Pho should not be confused with the many varieties of «Soupe Chinoise» that are prepared from various bases, and are indeed similar to the Tonkinese Pho. These soups provide an excellent late night supper before the nightclub reveler returns home.

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# Useful Addresses

## AIRLINES

Air Vietnam — Japan Airlines  
— Royal Air Cambodge —

BOAC/QANTAS — Air India,  
Northwest Airlines.  
116, Nguyen-Hue, Tel. 91.624

Air France — UTA.,  
130, Tu-Do, Tel. 90.981

Air Laos,  
10, Ngo-duc-Ke, Tel. 92.178

Civil Air Transport (C.A.T.),  
— T.W.A.,  
16, Tu-Do, Tel. 92.144

Pan American — C.P.A.,  
23, Ngo-duc-Ke, Tel. 22.008

S.A.S. — Swissair —  
Thai International,  
100, Tu-Do, Tel. 92.417

## BANKS

Bangkok Bank Ltd.,  
44, Ng.-cong-Tru, Tel. 93.764

Hongkong & Shanghai  
Banking Corporation,  
9, Chuong-Duong, Tel. 90.036

National Bank of Viet-Nam,  
17, Chuong-Duong, Tel. 23.531

## BARBER SHOP

Jacqueline's,  
135, Nguyen-Hue,  
1st floor Tax Building.

## BOOK STORES

Majestic Store,  
11, Tu-Do.

Johnny's,  
213-B, Tu Do.

## DENTISTS & DOCTORS

**Dr. Phan-huy-Quat**  
(Analytical Laboratory)  
219, Hai-Ba-Trung, Tel. 25.725

Dr Nguyen-van-Hien (Dentist),  
86, Le-Loi, Saigon.

Dr Mathieu (Gynecologist),  
Clinic St. Paul,  
280, Phan-th-Glan, Tel. 20.469

## EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

American Embassy,  
39, Ham-Nghi, Tel. 93.251

Australian Embassy,  
Caravelle Building,  
Lam-Son Square, Tel. 91.442

British Embassy,  
25, Thong-Nhut, Tel. 23.341

Belgian Embassy,  
26, Gia-Long, Tel. 23.345

Chinese Embassy,  
47, Pasteur, Tel. 91.732

Danish Consulate,  
15, Nguyen-cong-Tru Tel. 93.441

French Consulate,  
216, Phan-D.-Phung, Tel. 20.047

German Embassy,  
106, Nguyen-Hue, Tel. 91.071

Greek Consulate,  
3, Vo-di-Nguy, Tel. 20.775

Italian Embassy,  
135, Pasteur, Tel. 23.916/17

Indian Consulate Gen.,  
213, Tu-Do, Tel. 21.340

Japanese Embassy,  
13-17, Nguyen-Hue, Tel. 23.545

Korea Embassy,  
109, Nguyen-Du, Tel. 23.146

Laotian Embassy,  
93, Pasteur, Tel. 21.034

Malaysian Embassy,  
118, Truong-m-Giang, Tel. 20.722

Netherlands Embassy,  
147, Phan-d-Phung, Tel. 24.222

New Zealand Embassy,  
45, Phung-kh-Khoan, Tel. 93.150

Norwegian Consulate,  
7, Han-Thuyen, Tel. 20.475

Philippines Embassy,  
42, Doan-th-Diem, Tel. 22.869

Portuguese Consulate,  
35A, Chuong-Duong, Tel. 91.856

Swedish Consulate,  
35, Chuong-Duong, Tel. 22.695

Swiss Consulate,  
26, Gia-Long, Tel. 22.396

Thai Embassy,  
77, Truong-m-Giang, Tel. 20.172

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Mimi,  
50, Le-Loi, Tel. 23.561  
392, Nguyen-cong-Tru.

### HOSPITALS

Grall Hospital,  
14, Gia-Long, Tel. 21.723

Saint PAUL Clinic,  
280, Phan-th-Gian, Tel. 20.469

### HOTELS

Astor Hotel,  
70, Tu-Do, Tel. 91.415

Caravelle Hotel,  
23, Lam-Son Square, Tel. 93.704



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73, Huynh-q.-Tiên, Tel. 91.194

**Embassy Hotel,**  
35, Nguyen-tr-Truc, Tel. 25.140

**Imperial Hotel,**  
24, Hai-Ba-Trung, Tel. 93.316

10, Truong-c-Dinh, Tel. 24656  
84-B, Ba H. Th.-Quan

**Mai-Loan Hotel,**  
16, Truong-c-Dinh, Tel. 22.354

**Mercury Hotel,**  
193, Tran-hung-Dao, Tel. 93.719

**Tan Loc,**  
177-179, Le-th-Ton, Tel. 92.540

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86, Nguyen-v-Thinh, Tel. 23.471

## NIGHT CLUBS

**Baccara,**  
165, Tran-qui-Cap.

**Caruso,**  
125, Vo-di-Nguy, Tel. 22.169

**Kontiki,**  
20, Phan-thanh-Gian, Saigon.

**La Cigale,**  
18, Dinh-tien-Hoang, Tel. 21.431

**Maxim's,**  
13-17, Tu-Do, Tel. 20575/76

**Van-Canh,**  
184, Calmette, Tel. 20.963

## PHARMACIES

**La-Thanh,**  
195-201, Tu-Do, Tel. 90.577

**Pharmacie de Saigon,**  
120-124, Le-Loi, Tel. 20.714

### *After Hours Pharmacies*

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35, Le-Loi, Tel. 22.829



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4-6, Ho-h-Nghiep, Tel. 91.318  
Caruso,  
125, Vo-di-Nguy, Tel. 22.169  
Fuji, 96, Hung-Vuong,  
Cholon, Tel. 36.368  
Guillaume Tell,  
32, Trinh-m-The, Tel. 22.836  
Kontiki,  
20, Phan-thanh-Gian, Saigon.  
La Cigale,  
18, Dinh-tien-Hoang, Tel. 21.431  
Mayfair,  
40B, Gia-Long.  
Van-Canh,  
184, Calmette, Tel. 20.963

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110, Tu-Do.  
Coya Tailor,  
8, Tu-Do.  
Diamond Tailor,  
173, Tu-Do.  
Wakin Tailor,  
18, Eden Arcade.  
Waloc Tailor,  
9, Eden Arcade.  
Yen Tu Tailor,  
37, Tu-Do.

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# INTERNATIONAL

## *Air Lines Schedules*

### AIR VIETNAM

#### MONDAY

Departures to		Arrivals from	
Hongkong (Caravelle)	12:30	Hongkong	19:00

#### TUESDAY

Phnompenh-Bangkok	12:00	Phnompenh-Bangkok	17:45
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#### WEDNESDAY

Vientiane	08:30	Vientiane	16:35
Singapore-Kualalumpur	09:00	Kualalumpur-Singapore	15-15

#### THURSDAY

Hongkong	10:30	Hongkong	19:00
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#### FRIDAY

Phnompenh-Bangkok	12:00	Bangkok-Phnompenh	17:45
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#### SATURDAY

Vientiane	08:30	Vientiane	16:35
Hongkong (Caravelle)	12:30		

#### SUNDAY

Kualalumpur-Singapore	14:00	Singapore-Kualalumpur	19:00
		Hongkong	13:00

### AIR FRANCE

#### MONDAY

Europe-Calcutta	17:25	Manila-Tokyo	16:30
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#### WEDNESDAY

Hongkong-Tokyo	14:05	Bangkok-Europe	13:30
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**THURSDAY**

Departures to	Arrivals from	
Bangkok-Europe	17:35 Hongkong-Tokyo	16:40

**FRIDAY**

Manila-Tokyo	14:10 Europe-Calcutta	13:35
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**SATURDAY**

Bangkok-Europe	17:25 Manila-Tokyo	16:30
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**SUNDAY**

Manila-Tokyo	12:50 Bangkok-Europe	12:15
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**U.T.A. (Represented by AIR FRANCE)**

**WEDNESDAY**

Djakarta	14:25 Europe	13:40
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**THURSDAY**

Europe	12:40 Djakarta	11:55
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**CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS**

**MONDAY (ELECTRA II)**

Hongkong	11:45 Hongkong	11:10
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**FRIDAY (ELECTRA II)**

Hongkong	11:20 Hongkong	10:45
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**SATURDAY (CONVAIR 880)**

Hongkong	10:20 Hongkong	09:45
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**PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS**

**MONDAY**

Singapore-Djakarta	11:40 Manila-Guam-Honol.-USA	11:00
Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30 Europe (AR Bangkok)	10:00

**TUESDAY**

Manila-Guam-Honol.-USA	11:00 Singapore	10:10
Europe-Calc. (LV Bang.)	00:30 Europe-Calc. (AR Bang)	10:35

**WEDNESDAY**

Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30 Europe (AR Bangkok)	10:00
Guam-Honol.-USA	11:30 Guam-Honol.-USA	10:00

**THURSDAY**

Hk-Tokyo-Honol.-USA	12:35 Manila-Guam-Honol.-USA	11:00
Singapore	11:40 Bangkok-Europe	11:45
Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30	

**F R I D A Y**

Departures to		Arrivals from	
Manila-Guam-Honol.-USA	11:00	Singapore	10:10
Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30	Europe (AR Bangkok)	10:00

**S A T U R D A Y**

Singapore	10:45	Guam-Honol.-USA	10:00
Europe-Calcutta	00:30	Europe-Calcut. (AR Bgk)	10:30

**S U N D A Y**

Guam-Honol.-USA	11:45	Singapore	10:55
Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30	Europe (AR Bangkok)	10:00

**ROYAL AIR CAMBODGE**

**M O N D A Y**

Phnompenh-Siemreap	12:00	Phnompenh-Siemreap	10:45
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**S A T U R D A Y**

Phnompenh-Siemreap	13:30	Phnompenh-Siemreap	12:30
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**ROYAL AIR LAO**

**T U E S D A Y**

Vientiane	13:15	Vientiane	12:15
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**F R I D A Y**

Vientiane	13:15	Vientiane	12:15
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**THAI INTERNATIONAL**

**W E D N E S D A Y**

Bangkok	17:10	Bangkok	16:30
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**S U N D A Y**

Bangkok	15:20	Bangkok	14:40
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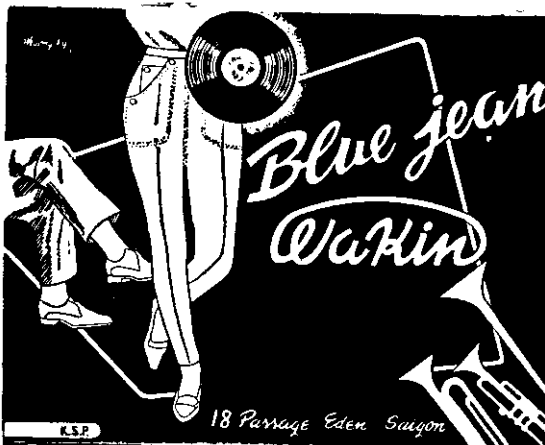
# THE LOTUS-ITS LURE, LOVE

By Cdr. R.L. Mole

Amid the dirty waters of small streams and rivers as well as from the semi-stagnant pools of water throughout the tropical area of Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, etc.) can be seen the bright green floating leaves and the lovely colors of the LOTUS. Such is the flower to the environment wherein it grows, that long ago, Buddha used it as a symbol of his teachings. Growing out of the impure, the dirty, and the waste-products of a civilization, where sanitation is practiced quite differently than in America, the Lotus lifts high its stately and lovely blossom in such insullied and pure form,

it is an object lesson. Buddha taught that as the flower in spite of its environment achieves its mark, so men may loose the thralls of passion and desires and thereby find release in the spiritual serenity of Nirvana.

The LOTUS Flower thus became a religious symbol as well as a popular food and a sight that creates aesthetic pleasure. The Lotus bud is perhaps the single most popular offering of the Buddhist as he worships at his temple, or his home altar. It is quite often held in the folded hands of the listener within the temple as sermons are given or meditation is practiced. Often in the early



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morning hours as the Buddhist Bonze makes his way through the streets with the «merit-bowl» wherein the laity may earn merit by giving cooked rice, there will be a Lotus bud or two within his hand. Likewise, it has come to form a part of Asian architectural and sculptural motifs.

Sometimes the Lotus is compared to the feet, the heart or the living — giving attributes of the Buddhist female. Moreover it has a history that predates Buddhism as its symbolism was also of Hindu heritage. For instance, Brahmin legend tells the story of how when Brahma, the god of the universe was creating this universe, he went to sleep on the job; as he slept, the Lotus bud appeared from his naval and as its petals opened, Vishnu emerged and finished the creation.

Buddha used its four stages to symbolize the four types of people and their distance from enlightenment; the four stages being (a) the Lotus bud being deeply submerged as it first starts its development; (b) the next is just as the bud is about to reach the surface of the pond where it is located; (c) the third is after the bud has cleared the surface, but with still folded leaf and bud; while the fourth is when the bud stands tall and straight with its beauty undefiled by the mire in which it grows. Because of this symbolism, it is always proper to use it as a floral offering to priests when ceremonies are performed or as

means of earning merit. While the Lotus bud signifies in Buddhism that the worshipper is capable of reaching enlightenment because of the opportunities within his grasp, the unopened bud tends to last longer than other flowers, plus the fact that it will eventually bloom of itself when placed in water and left before the altar.

Incidentally, there are at least five varieties of the Lotus with the water lily being included, even if not always accepted as a true Lotus; but the Thai people refer to the two types as «string Lotus» and «stalk Lotus» with several types of «string Lotus» with flowers of purple, white to pale

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blue, and red. There are also at least five kinds of «stalk Lotus», with each having its own characteristics and charm when closely studied.

Apart from its religious symbolism and its aesthetic and at times almost ethereal beauty, the Lotus is also a food-plant. As food, it was known to Homer of Greek fame, as well as being widely used by the Chinese, Japanese and South-east Asians. Its seed may be

eaten either fresh or dried and used in sweet soups and deserts. The root may be used in salad, boiled in soup, or preserved in sugar and used as desert. From the root may also be extracted a fine starch used by the inhabitants of that area for certain special foods. Thus, while in many places it might be just a pest, the Lotus has been turned into food and given religious values while adding lovely colors in unexpected places.

## MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER

**TAN SON NHUT.** — Lieutenant Charles Q. Williams, Medal of Honor winner, has arrived in Vietnam to begin a Special Forces recruiting program.

Lieutenant Williams, on temporary duty from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he is attached to the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Johnson at the White House on June 23, 1966. He received the award for his actions at Dong Xoai, Vietnam on June 9 and 10 of 1965.

When interviewed, Lieutenant Williams stated, «We want to get experienced and qualified people who are rotating back to the States to go into Special Forces.» Lieutenant Williams was asked where he would be doing his recruiting and he replied: «All over the country.»

The Special Forces Lieutenant was greeted at the airport by Lt. Col. Casilear Middleton, Liaison Officer to MACV and USARV from the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare.



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Magazine 24 Tu Do Saigon

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# SEVENTH FLEET

The image of today's Navy is focusing more than ever on air power, according to Commander of the U. S. Seventh Fleet, Vice Admiral John J. Hyland.

During an interview on his guided missile cruiser-flagship USS OKLAHOMA CITY in the South China Sea, the 54-year-old three-star admiral called aircraft carriers «the capital ships of this era.»

«Half the strike missions over North Vietnam and nearly that percentage of the support missions in the south have been flown from our five carriers,» he said.

Three of the fleet's floating airfields operate in Vietnam waters at all times.

«Of course the other ships are doing their part. The carriers couldn't operate for such long periods without supply ships; the destroyers and rocket ships are doing a magnificent job with gunfire sup-

port. But the carrier-based pilots are accomplishing feats we never heard of before,» he said.

Hyland continued to tell how today's naval aviators are subjected to hostile fire more often and for longer periods than in any other war.

«These young pilots are returning after one cruise with more combat experience than most fliers got in all of World War II,» he said.

It isn't uncommon for a carrier-based pilot to pick up 125 combat missions during a seven-month cruise with Seventh Fleet. Hyland, a veteran of 30 years in naval aviation, said his 75 combat missions during nearly two years in the Pacific Campaign was about average for World War II.

The Navy's main mission in Vietnam, the admiral said, is «providing a tactical air force. Naturally our naval gunfire

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Getting a first hand look at amphibious operations Hyland last February heloed to the beaches near Quang Ngai with his amphibious warfare officer, Cmdr. George Davis to watch fleet Marines land for Operation Double Eagle.

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plays an important role in supporting friendly ground forces, but the bulk of our work is done by the carriers.

In providing air power the Navy pilots are running into new developments in air warfare. This is the first war in which missiles have been used widely. Modern jet aircraft are much faster and more sophisticated than those used in Korea.

«The surface to air missiles gave naturally us reason for sharp concern at first, but we have been able to learn to live with this additional hazard. However, it is something we must always take into account in planning our operations.»

Another threat to U. S. air superiority is the MIG aircraft. Hyland said the MIG encounters have been relatively light so far, but that this could change.

«I think the MIG threat is greater now than before. We

haven't really hit their airfields yet, but if we do, as the war continues, I'm sure we'll see more MIG encounters,» he said.

Still another North Vietnamese threat to Seventh Fleet is the PT boats. They brought the war to the north when they attacked U. S. destroyers two years ago and they still attempt attacks on the fleet's northern destroyers.

«Through close coordination between the destroyers and the carrier-based aircraft, we've beaten them off in each attack,» said Hyland. «The fact that we seldom see them in the open indicates they aren't aggressive, but still, knowing that they carry a torpedo at 30 knots gives us reason to stay alert,» he continued.

According to Hyland, the Navy has provided a large portion of brain power through test and development in providing the bulk of air power used in Vietnam.

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# AROUND THE COUNTRY

Accelerated election eve harassment by communist insurgents sent Air Force AC-47 and Vietnam Air Force C-47 flareships to 23 locations in South Vietnam last night to light the skies for friendly forces.

More than 1,000 flares were used, and the AC-47 Dragonships fired more than 65,000 rounds of 7.62 mm mini-gun ammunition at enemy positions.

Flares were dropped at 10 positions in the III Corps provinces around Saigon, at nine locations in IV Corps' Mekong River Delta and at two points in I and II Corps. Some flares were over Tan Son Nhut air base and in the outskirts of Saigon. Twenty-three Air Force and nine VNAF flareship sorties were launched.

Most of the night incidents were enemy mortar, recoilless rifle or small force attacks on government outposts and friendly villages.

U. S. fighter-bomber pilots hit enemy strongholds in South

Vietnam with 330 sorties, destroying or damaging 360 enemy buildings, eight bunkers and several trenches, tunnels and fortified positions.

★

An Air Force AC-47 Dragonship responded to a call from Ha Thanh, a Special Forces camp under heavy enemy attack, at 3:20 a.m. September 11th. Circling the camp until 7 a.m., the ship, piloted by 1st Lt. George R. Dixon, 25, of Hamilton, Mass., dropped 46 flares and fired 10,500 rounds of 7.62 mm mini-gun ammo directly at enemy muzzle flashes.

«By the time we got there the enemy had the camp zeroed in. They were using 30-caliber automatic weapons, 57mm recoilless rifle fire, and mortar fire,» said Dixon. «It was the heaviest ground fire I've seen in the six months I've been here.

«At one time I could see tracers coming right at us. I hollered at the guys to hit

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the deck and rolled the plane on its side. They just missed our nose,» he continued.

«There was no forward air controller in the area, so I acted as one. I called in six Marine A-4 Skyhawks and directed them in on ground mortar flashes.

«I had one particular muzzle flash I couldn't seem to knock out, so I had a flare set to light after it hit the ground and dropped it as close as I could. An A-4 rolled in, dropped two 1,000-pound bombs, and leveled the trench area. The muzzle flashes stopped.

«The A-4s really plastered the area with 500-pound bombs and 20mm cannon fire. I saw one Skyhawk hit by 30-caliber ground fire, but he was still flying.»

Weather in the area was marginal overcast, with low-lying clouds in the valleys. The battle was still raging when the Dragon-ship left the area.

«We flew a similar mission at a camp north of Qui Nhon the night before,» continued Dixon. «I thought that one was exciting — but this one topped it!»

Flying as navigator was Capt. James P. Cavell, 25, of

Taylor, Mich., while T.Sgt. Virlyn C. Davenport served as the Dragon-ship's flight mechanic S.Sgt. Gary K. Heinz, 26, of Clearwater, Fla., and A1C Richard G. Fox of Plainview, Neb., manned the ship's mini-guns.



The «Emerald Knights» of the 308th Tactical Fighter Squadron flew their 5,000th combat sortie in Vietnam last week.

The 5,000th sortie came when Lt.Col. Alan E. Wockenfuss, 42, of Groton, S. D., squadron commander, and Capt. Russell S. Schultz, 35, of Bingham Canyon, Utah, attacked an enemy force 60 miles southwest of Bien Hoa.

During their 22 minutes over the target, the two F-100 Supersabres destroyed three buildings and damaged 15 others.

Since arriving at Bien Hoa air base from Homestead A.F. B., Fla., this past December, the Supersabre pilots are credited with destroying 4,415 enemy structures and damaging 5,380 others. During this period the squadron's planes destroyed 300 enemy sampans and damaged 227.



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