

# The Observer

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March 28, 1964

Dateline Viet Nam

## Heavy Pressure On VC In III Corps Tactical Zone

Heavy pressure was kept on communist guerrillas in the III Corps area in provinces surrounding Saigon last week by government forces' accelerated operations to clear the Viet Cong from established strongholds.

In Kien Phong province about 65 miles west of the capital—the scene of heavy action over the past month—a two day operation ended Monday with 126 Viet Cong killed and 16 suspects captured, according to the government press agency.

The VC also lost two .30 cal. machine guns, four Russian submachine guns, and 14 rifles of Czech and Russian make. Government losses were pegged at four killed and 22 wounded.

Another operation concluded in Hau Nghia province adjoining the capital to the west, on Sunday. In the four day operation, 11 VC were killed and 59 captured, of whom eight were listed as suspects. Twelve rifles and large quantities of ordnance were seized by

Vietnamese troops, who also destroyed three information stations, three first aid posts, an arms plant and 120 pit traps.

The operation covered 200 square kilometers ranging close to the Cambodian border and was aimed at destroying enemy installations and pursuing elements of Viet Cong Battalion 506 whose presence had been reported by local residents.

Scores of clashes occurred in the operation which saw units of the 5th division, marines, Civil Guardsmen, artillery and air support in action in the swampy regions of the province. Amphibious M-113 troop carriers



**MARINE ADVISOR IN ACTION**—Capt. Willem Van Hemert (1) of Chevy Chase, Md., MAAG advisor to the VN 1st Marine Battalion holds a captured VC BAR following the recently concluded 'Operation Phuong Hoang 41' in Dinh Tuong province in the Mekong Delta. To his left is Capt. Ton That Soan, battalion commander. The Marines battled the crack VC 514th Battalion, losing 20 killed and 40 wounded. The VC left 5 killed behind, lost 12 weapons and presumably carried off more killed and wounded.

### Terrorist Tosses Bomb Into U.S. Bus; Fails To Explode

A terrorist made an abortive attempt to bomb a U.S. military bus in Cholon last Friday, but the device failed to detonate.

The bus had stopped on Hung Vuong St., near the Five Oceans BOQ shortly before noon, to discharge a passenger when a Vietnamese man ran to the bus and tossed the homemade bomb inside.

Some 20 U.S. military personnel were on the bus, and two of them pursued the terrorist who eluded them in a maze of alleys.

American demolition experts removed the bomb from the bus, and discovered it consisted of about two pounds of TNT resealed into a powdered milk can.

Carriers were also pressed into service.

Friendly losses in the operations were nine wounded.

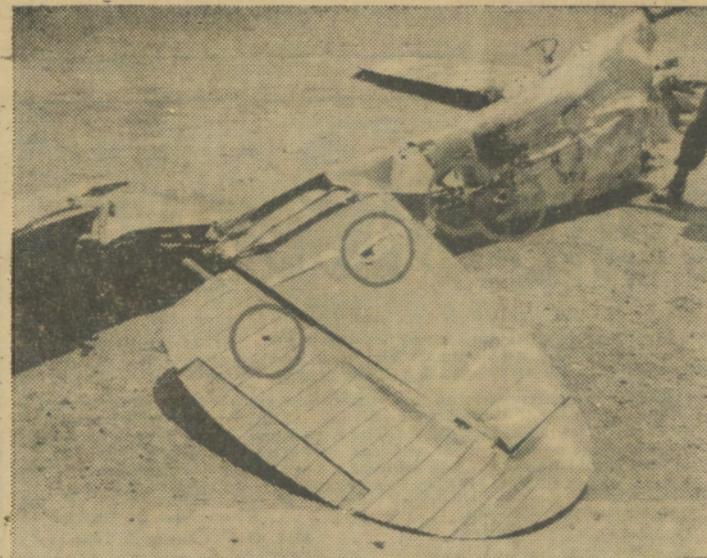
An earlier operation in Kien Phong province along the Kien Tuong province boundary about 80 miles west of Saigon ended last Thursday with 15 VC bodies counted, one guerrilla captured and five rifles seized. Government losses were one killed, and 11 wounded, including one American. An L-19 plane was also lost. (See related story, this page.)

A U.S. Army sergeant first class was accidentally killed in Quang Duc province about 110 miles north of Saigon Monday morning when he was helping emplace mines and he accidentally kicked one causing it to explode.

The Viet Cong continued to create harassment throughout the country with scores of small scale attacks on hamlets and outposts, and propaganda and terrorist acts.

The insurgents blew up a civilian bus last Sunday in Long An province about 20 miles south of the capital, killing 22 passengers and wounding four. On the

(Continued on page 8)



L-19 WRECKAGE BROUGHT TO TAN SON NHUT  
Bullet holes (circled) show peppered tail.

### VNAF Mistakenly Bombs Village

## Cambodian Fighters Shoot Down Unarmed L-19 Plane Over Viet Nam

Two Cambodian fighter planes shot down an unarmed Vietnamese Air Force L-19 observation plane last Thursday over Vietnamese territory, investigators have discovered.

The Vietnamese army observer aboard—an artillery captain—was killed and the USAF lieutenant who was piloting was still listed in critical condition with multiple injuries this week.

VNAF commander, Col. Nguyen Cao Ky said the L-19 crashed about noon last Thursday in Kien Tuong province about four kilometers this side of the Cambodian border and about 35 miles west of Saigon.

When the U.S. pilot regained consciousness he described the attacking planes as T-28s painted gray with red tails. He said one of the attacking planes pulled in behind him and opened fire, instantly killing the observer and wounding him in the head.

Colonel Ky said the Air Force radar picked up two unidentified planes crossing the border at 11:46 a.m.

### Tax Deadline June 15 For VN-Based Troops

U.S. military personnel assigned to Viet Nam are automatically granted extension till June 15th to file their personal income tax without penalty, according to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, MACV.

The extension privilege for personnel serving outside the continental United States is contained in the 1964 edition of the Federal Income Tax pamphlet published by the Office of the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

Personnel requiring assistance with their income tax are encouraged to call the MACV SJA at 50515.

into Vietnamese territory and returning to Cambodia six minutes later.

### Bombed Village

In the same operation last Thursday, Vietnamese Air Force planes mistakenly bombed a village in Cambodia due to "map error and mistaken location."

The Vietnamese government sent apologies and condolences to the Cambodian Foreign Minister, accepting "both moral and material responsibility for the accident," and proposing ways of compensating the victims.

### New Air Controller Course To Open Here

The second one-year air traffic control (ATC) training course is scheduled to open in April at Tan Son Nhut.

The course is designed to provide Viet Nam's understaffed control towers with thirty more controllers. The first course, graduating 20 students, ended in 1962. Prior to 1961, all Vietnamese controllers and other control tower specialists were trained in France or the United States.

This year's class of thirty has been carefully selected from among the 300-odd candidates, aged from 18 to 30, holding the first part of the Baccalaureate (or senior high school degree) and having fluency in both French and English.

# The Observer

"Comment is free but facts are sacred."

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CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

## Easter Message

By Chaplain (Maj.) EARL C. KETTLER

*Christ the Lord is ris'n again;  
Christ has broken death's strong chain.  
Hark, the angels shout for joy,  
Singing evermore on high:  
Hallelujah!*

Easter celebrates the decisive victory of our Lord over death and the grave.

The resurrection of Christ confirms that Christ is the divine Son of God. He has the power of life and death. This means that our faith in Him is not in vain. It means that our sins are forgiven.

He is not a kindly teacher with words of wisdom, but He is God with the power to redeem us and, through His grace, to give us a new life. His resurrection means a complete removal of our sins. Our redemption is complete. We share in His victory.

He overcame eternal death and hell for us. There are, according to God, the normal rewards of man who alienates himself through sin. Jesus Christ changed that and made eternal life possible with His death and resurrection. Easter doesn't mean very much unless it is applied to our sins.

His resurrection also means that we shall one day rise from the grave. The one who overcame death said:

"This is the will of Him that sent Me, that everyone which seeth the Son and believes on Him will have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

The Easter proclamation is the most tremendous message of hope ever given to mankind. When the history of man is written someone may do it in a few words: They were born, they suffered, and died. But the resurrection of Christ adds hope, love, joy, peace, forgiveness and arising to a new life.

## Come To The USO

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- Tape Recording
- Music Room
- Photo Darkroom
- Bingo
- Full Length  
Movies

## Easter Sunrise Services Slated

The annual Easter Sunrise Service sponsored by the U.S. Forces' American Chapel in cooperation with the Christian and Missionary Alliance International Protestant Church and St. Christopher's Anglican-Episcopal Congregation will be held at 6 a.m. Easter Sunday, 29 March 1964 on the roof of the Rex BOQ Hotel.

The Rev. Jack Revelle, Rev. Theodore Evans and Chap. Harry Miller will be the participating clergymen and a combined choir from the three congregations will provide special music.

Following the Sunrise Service, the Protestant Men of the American Chapel will sponsor a fellowship breakfast at the Coco Club in Saigon.

### Holy Saturday Catholic Services

Holy Saturday Catholic services will be held at 11:15 tonight at Clité Marie Paul, 42 Tu Xuong in Saigon.

The services will be followed by a midnight mass.

## New Commander For 17th Aviation Co.

Qui Nhon (10) — Maj. Virgil P. McGuire has succeeded Maj. William S. Aiton as commanding officer of the 117th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light).

Major McGuire arrived recently from the Department of Advanced Fixed Wing Training, U.S. Army Aviation School, Fort Rucker, Alabama. He is a Senior Army Aviator, qualified in rotary, and single and multi-engine fixed wing aircraft.

Major Aiton has been assigned to the Office of the Chief of Transportation, Washington, D. C.

## FOOF'S SPOOFS

LACK OF A GOOD REASON  
FOR DOING A THING IS A  
GOOD REASON FOR  
NOT DOING IT.



## EDITORIAL

# Freedom Was Priceless Then; It Is Just As Precious Now

(First in a series of ten award-winning editorials from the San Diego, Calif., Evening Tribune. Reprinted with permission.)

Freedom never can be taken for granted, lest it be lost. Neglected, it withers and dies, like a flower denied moisture and nourishment...

Or is it smothered by the creeping weeds of tyranny's lust for domination and for ever-spreading aggrandizement.

Those who came to what is now our United States of America in longing search for freedom were aware of this. They had known tyranny and its ways firsthand in the Old World.

So, when they and their descendants found it necessary to give their lives, their all, to achieve that freedom by establishing a government of, by and for free men, their first thought was of a Constitution which would safeguard what they so agonizingly had won.

Thus it was that the Constitution for the United States of America came into being Sept. 17, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

And that, further to safeguard the rights of the individual and of the states, the historic Bill of Rights — the first 10 Amendments — became part of the Constitution Dec. 15, 1791, upon ratification by the states.

Yet, farseeing though they were, these safeguards for the dignity and freedom of the individual cannot alone preserve this heritage.

Neglected, they wither and die.

Or are erased or subverted by ambitious or foolish men, from foreign shores or within our own land.

So it is that Americans of our troubled and perilous times must remain as aware of the origins and meaning of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, and as vigilant in guarding them, as were the Founding Fathers who achieved them.

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, a nonpolitical, nonprofit, nonsectarian organization, is dedicated to maintaining that awareness and vigilance.

It has formulated a "Credo of the American Way of Life," an expression of the political and economic rights provided us by the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the laws of the nation stemming from these.

That the first freedom mentioned in this credo is the "right to worship God in one's own way" seems particularly fitting and significant.

For it comes, of course, from the very first clause of the first Article of the Bill of Rights:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Further, the search for freedom of worship and the concept of self-government went hand in hand in the beginnings of the United States of America.

H.G. Wells, in his "The Outline of History," describes the Plymouth Colony settlers as "republican-spirited men, hopeless of resistance to the Grand Monarchy of James I and Charles I."

The Pilgrim fathers, along with desire to worship according to their own likes, carried also the spark which well may have given the first glow to the beacon of self-government.

That freedom of worship was so preeminent in the minds of the founders of free America carries a further significance.

It is a right which always is among the first to be limited or wiped out by those who, like the Communists, put the state above all individual rights and freedoms.

Freedom of worship is one of the stones in the arch of liberty which the Constitution raised in protection over Americans.

This is a stout and stalwart arch, if those whom it protects keep it in repair and safe from assault.

And, in an arch, each stone must be forever kept firm and unbroken. For, if one is lost, the whole structure tumbles into dust.

It is the same with the freedoms erected by the Constitution for the United States of America.



COLONEL CARNEY BRIEFS CREW OF H-19  
Nguyen Minh and Lt. John McKibben Jr.

## Record Holding Chopper Pilot Teaches Vietnamese How To Fly

By SSgt. HENRY MARQUEZ

A veteran USAF Officer who was named the world's outstanding helicopter pilot for 1962 and holds four altitude records is commanding a unique helicopter school here.

Lt. Col. Francis M. Carney, of Philadelphia, commands 23 USAF instructor pilots and 77 enlisted men who compose 917H Field Training Detachment of the Air Force Section MAAG. In charge of the overall program is Brig. Gen. Robert R. Rowland, chief of the AF Section, MAAG. The detachment is quickly overcoming an acute shortage of Vietnamese helicopter pilots specially created by war, lack of training facilities and the demands for mechanics in warfare operations in deterring communist aggression in Viet Nam.

The versatile colonel who in 1961 broke the helicopter altitude record by reaching 32,846 feet in one hour and 15 minutes in an H-43B Kaman Huskie, now trains Vietnamese students to operational level in 180 hours of ground training and 75 hours of flying; student pilots have never had any flight training before enrollment.

In this short time they must learn the aerodynamics of the H-19B, fly it in transition, solo, night, instrument and hoist and sling training, and the USAF instructors teach all these things despite a language barrier. Although the cadets have attended an in-country English-language school,

some translation problems arise especially with technical terms.

To the students, getting off the ground with three 26-foot rotating blades whacking the air over their heads may seem a remarkable achievement, but to Colonel Carney, who reached 30,000 feet in record time breaking two other records on the way, it is strictly routine.

The USAF school, opened in Feb., 1963, has graduated 39 pilots. Since a mechanics' school was started in July at the heliport, 60 maintenance men have finished the course. Thirty pilot cadets and 30 mechanic students usually begin and end the accelerated courses together. In the present class, which ends in April, there are 29 pilots and 30 mechanics. The next and final class begins April 27 and finishes July 30.

The amiable colonel is holder of the Sikorski "Winged 'S' Emblem" for performing the largest night rescue operation in 1954, when he saved 66 fishermen caught in a storm off the South Carolina coast. The 22-year Air Force veteran has rescued 114 people during his career despite never having served in Air Rescue Service.

## HONOR ROLL

### PURPLE HEART

#### Third Award

Capt. Dickey R. McKinney  
Second Award  
1st Lt. Fred T. Stephenson  
Capt. Dickey R. McKinney  
PFC John H. Meyers

#### First Award

Capt. Robert M. Bower  
1st Lt. Daniel R. Bauer  
SSgt. Joseph R. Morin  
SSgt. Hugh K. Sherron  
Sp4 Thomas W. Ashley  
Sp4 Claude E. Cooper  
Maj. L. E. Rodd  
1st Lt. Duane C. Kasper  
CWO Patrick E. Gray  
SFC Thomas J. Courtney  
SFC William D. Edge Jr.  
Sp5 August R. Delucia  
SSgt. Raymond D. Slahery  
Sgt. Thomas J. Melgares  
Sgt. David J. Shapiro  
Sgt. John W. Watson  
Sgt. Charles N. Wood  
Sp4 Phillip M. Dierks  
PFC James L. Collins  
PFC Paul J. Gerner  
PFC George Martinez  
PFC Johnnie L. Sullivan  
1st Lt. Daniel R. Bauer  
1st Lt. Fred T. Stephenson  
SSgt. Joseph R. Morin  
SSgt. Hugh K. Sherron

### COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

#### Second Award

Maj. William T. Ashley  
Maj. Alfred D. Cerny  
Maj. Otis B. Collins  
SFC Russell W. Scott

#### First Award

Maj. Weston W. Cuta  
Capt. Marshall F. Atkins  
Capt. Thomas J. Nugent  
Capt. James P. Smith  
1st Lt. Joseph J. McCann Jr.  
1st Lt. Thomas F. Schatzman Jr.  
SFC Joseph Z. Peto  
SFC George W. Poston

### AIR MEDAL

#### Fourteenth Award

Sp5 Wyley Wright Jr. (posthumously)

#### Eleventh Award

Capt. Willard F. Boyle

#### Tenth Award

Lt. Col. William C. Sibert  
Sp5 Larry L. Beard

#### Ninth Award

1st Lt. Millard Burke  
CWO John E. Brazil

#### Sixth Award

CWO John F. Atkinson

#### Fifth Award

Capt. Richard W. Auth  
Sgt. Lemuel D. Burns Jr.  
Pvt. Raymond L. Baker  
Pvt. John D. Blackie

#### Fourth Award

Sp4 Ira H. Belford  
Pvt. Larry P. Bronemann

#### Third Award

Lt. Col. Crawford Buchanan  
Maj. William S. Alton  
2nd Lt. Thom J. Barta  
2nd Lt. Arthur P. Bein  
Sp5 Clyde R. Armstrong Jr.  
Sp4 Russell L. Behnke  
Pvt. Charles N. Akagawa

#### Second Award

Capt. Edwin M. Aguanno  
Capt. James A. Bond  
Capt. Arthur F. Boudreau  
Sp5 Leon A. Alston  
Sp4 Ronald A. Beck  
Sp4 Francis J. Burns  
Pvt. Dominic Albano  
Pvt. Daniel L. Bonfield  
Pvt. James W. Burdette

#### First Award

Capt. Allen G. Alter  
Capt. Donald R. Ancelin  
Capt. Odie E. Biggs  
Capt. Robert L. Broughton  
SFC Billee J. Bolin  
SFC Wallace A. Bresette  
Sp4 Charles C. Auckerman Jr.  
Sp4 John F. Bennett  
Sp4 John E. Buehner  
Pvt. Donald S. Adriano  
Pvt. Sharrell R. Balser  
Lt. Col. Lewis J. Cox  
Maj. Marcus W. Coyle  
Maj. Patrick N. Delavan  
Maj. James E. Hill  
Maj. John A. Hottell  
Capt. Phillip B. Caldwell  
Capt. Joseph R. Campbell III  
Capt. Raymond R. Carlson  
Capt. Dudley J. Carver Jr.  
Capt. Buddy J. Cheat  
Capt. Michel Costino  
Capt. Douglas Cullimore  
Capt. Eugene M. Diamond  
Capt. J.C. Droke, Jr.  
Capt. Albert D. Farnum  
Capt. Jesse R. Forches  
Capt. Howard R. Foster  
Capt. James O. Frownfelter  
Capt. John W. Fust, Jr.  
Capt. Billy R. Goodall  
Capt. Robert A. Greene  
Capt. Ralph H. Hamner

## POCKETFUL of NOTES

By SSgt. Bob Reid  
USAF



**KEEPING UP WITH THINGS** — The American press is no longer the voice of the people. Bet you didn't know that, did you, Roderick? Neither did we until one of those strange pieces of mail floated across the desk the other day, informing us that American journalism has grown fat and lazy, shrinks from controversy, and prints only those articles that will please advertisers and preserve revenues.

Naturally, it was a pitch, this time for a new magazine called "Fact" which bills itself as America's "permanent roving Diogenes... fearless, beholden neither to advertiser nor to vested interest."

Completely hooked — fascinated, perhaps — we explored deeper into the brochure.. Any magazine that will not hesitate to ask, "where are the emperor's clothes?" is the gazette for us. You wouldn't believe it, but we didn't even know the emperor had lost his clothes, or had them stolen, or whatever.

"Fact" generously provided us with a summary of articles it intends to print in its crusading manner. Most we can't repeat here, because we like this job (it beats work) and we don't want to get the clergy down on us.

But how about these for real keen articles, the stuff you only get to read once in a lifetime: "Should a Jew Buy a Volkswagen?" We'll wager you never thought about that one with your hummingbird-sized brain.

Then there's "Public Hostility to the Peace Corps," or, if you don't like that gasser you can read "Should the Government Break Up AT&T," or, should you desire to examine the wayward press you can try "Time: The Weekly Fiction Magazine."

At only seven and a half clams for six issues you can get in on "Lincoln's Bawdy Humor," something that they didn't teach you in high school, it says. If you happen to be a soft drink fan, then don't miss the exciting installment titled "The Dangers of Coca Cola," and if that doesn't satisfy your death wish, why not try "Suppressed Government Report on Relative Safety of American Car Makes and Models," coupled with "Is Cancer Psychosomatic?"

We don't see how anyone would want to miss all that excitement, all that mystery, and, we assume, all these stories that have been suppressed these many long years by underhanded journalists.

This magazine is so difficult to put together it takes 'em two months to get out each issue. Sounds like two years would be more like it.

**NOTES IN OUR POCKETS** — The epitome of something or other: a Playboy putter for only \$22, advertised in the current issue of that mag. With a Playboy bunny engraved on the blade. Almost as much a status symbol as our tiger claw cufflinks we got the other day. (And do tigers wear human fingernail cufflinks?)

Good bargains at the navy exchange: television sets when there is no television station here, and electric clocks that run on 60 cycle current, thereby losing 10 minutes each hour, and helping the time go slower for you.

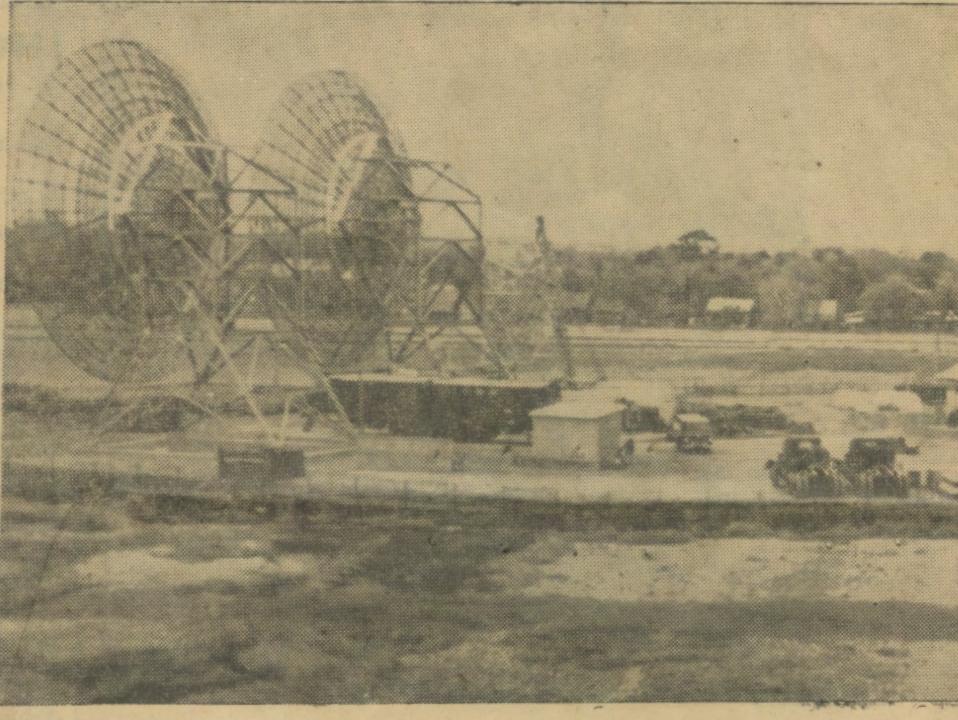
Slogan of the Week: "Cassius Clay NEVER flunked sandbox in kindergarten."

They put a pool table in the Victoria BOQ. No cues or balls, just the table. Then they took it out. Then they put it back in. On and off for three weeks, an operation that slowly drove all the officer tenants crazy. But it turned out alright. It's back in... this time with balls and cues.

And finally, we can't help but note that the latest weapon for jealous lovers in Paris is the automobile. They run down their rivals with the faithful family chariot. It's the rage. Next thing you know, they'll be pelting them with those nice creamy, delicate French pastries.



**FACILITIES CONTROL**—Communication specialists manning the complicated signal equipment of the facilities control of the STARCOM/DCS station work on a 12-hour shift. Lighted up like a Christmas tree, the rows of instrument panels and teletype machines relay incoming and outgoing messages from MAAG, MACV, USASCV and other U.S. agencies.



**AROUND THE WORLD**—Official U.S. military and government message Communications (STARCOM) Station through the world-wide network facility Saigon station relays messages through powerful (see above) antennae and an intri



**COMMUNICATION EXPERTS**—Maj. Jimmy C. Sutton, (right) CO, STARCOM/DCS 6600, and Maj. Robert G. Clark, Executive Officer, study relays within Viet Nam. The main station relays messages to Bangkok, Okinawa and the Philippines.



**RADIO RELAY**—In-country messages are relayed from MAAG Communications Center to field units by Sgt. Bueford Hensley, (right) radio relay team chief, 39th Sig. Bn., and ARVN Sgt. Nguyen Van Nghia.



**READING TAPES**—Sp4 Jerry A. Campbell, (left) teletype operator and AF SSgt. Robert A. Pearce, communication center specialist, examine processed message tapes from a AN/FGC-25 machine at the MAAG Communications Center. Communications personnel include Army, Air Force and Navy personnel.



**MAAG SWITCHBOARD**—Sgt. Elmer L. Cummings, (Standing) MAAG, Telephone Switchboard NCOIC, supervises Vietnamese telephone operators Mesdames Dinh Thi Van Huong and Nguyen Thi Ngoc Nu. Switchboard handles 750 calls a day.

## "Effective Communications-Voice"

STORY BY  
SFC TONY BERMUDEZ  
PHOTOS BY  
SP5 RAY JEWETT

In a recent address to members of the Association of the United States Army in Colorado, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, said that battles and wars are won by armies that are able to "move, shoot and communicate."

Communications is the key to effective control and has marked the successful commander — from an infantry squad leader to the field army commander. Communications is the Voice of the commander!

Communications "know how" touches the daily lives of U.S. military personnel in their jobs. Knowledge of basic signal communications such as installing a field telephone (TA 312/PT) and the operation of signal radios (AN/PRC-6 and AN/PRC-10) is learned in basic and advanced infantry training.

Sometimes, the men that support the frontline soldier, sailor, airman and marine are forgotten. A good example is the group of highly trained men in the field of communications — skilled specialists charged with the mission of "getting the message through."

"Our Communications Center here at MAAG is the best in the world," proclaims CWO Lewis L. Lefingwell and SFC Raymond E. Crane, both veteran communications specialists, "and that boasts stands until otherwise proven."

The MAAG ComCen provides fast and secure transmission and receipt of electrical messages for Maj. Gen. Charles J. Timmes, Chief, MAAG and his staff. It also services other authorized subscribers. MACV and USASCV have their own communications centers.

Organized with a two 12-hour shift and a relief shift, the MAAG ComCen operates 24 hours a day. Some 500 messages, incoming and outgoing, are processed daily. Teletype conferences

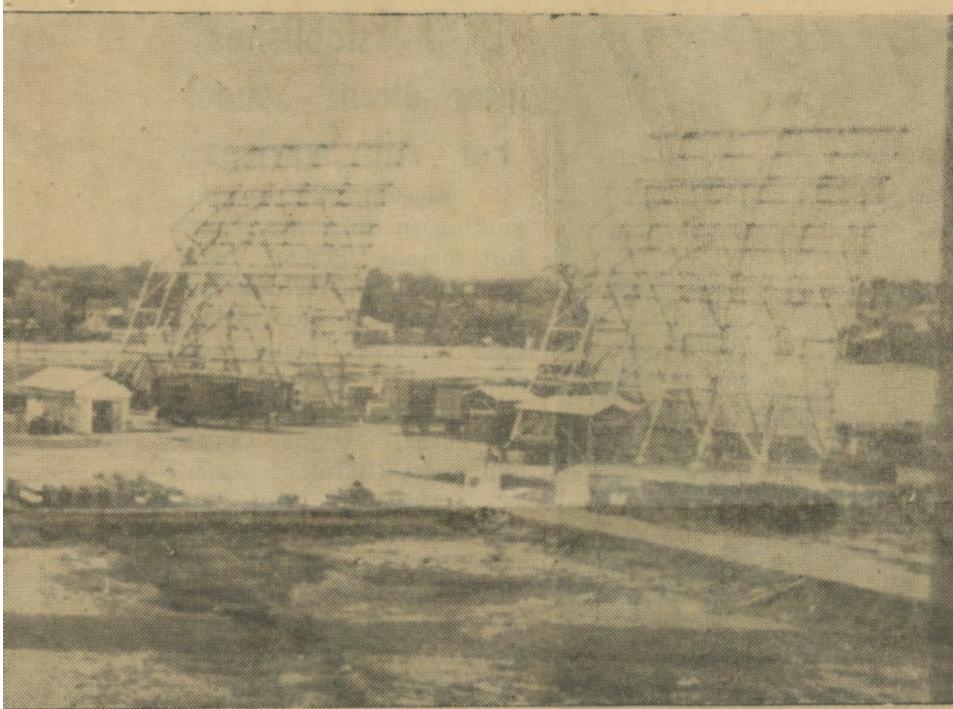


between MAAG headquarters and Nam are also the ComCen.

Maj. Gen. Roland, Chief, Air Staff, MAAG, held a conference with CINCPAC headquarters Hawaii. The ComCen averages highly intricate conferences a

Heading the is Lt. Col. T. Signal Staff Maj. L.G. Matignal Officer. ComCen has three officiant officer and men. Working personnel are tions specialists and Air Force

Working around the MAAG routine operations states Sergeant Signal Chief NO our peak tra our entire C like Western plained CWO ComCen OIC, communication the tempo of pressure like diers."



Messages in Viet Nam are transmitted, received and relayed by the Strategic Army facilities of the Defense Communications System. Operating around-the-clock the intricate communications complex manned by highly trained U.S. military personnel.

## E of The Successful Commander"



MAAG and other units outside Viet Nam are also handled by them.

Robert R. Rowan, Air Force Secy., held a teletype Mar. 17, with headquarters in the MAAG Comcen. Two such intricate teletype messages a month.

The signal team T.D. Franzek, Staff Officer and Mather Jr., Signal Comcen MAAG officers, a warrant and 30 enlisted men, working with Army are communicationists of the Navy force.

around-the-clock MAAG Comcen is in operation for all battalions personnel. Captain Crane, Signal NCO. "During traffic periods, the Comcen looks to the Western Union," ex-WO Leffingwell, OIC, "and our communications crew meet the increased needs of the increased front-line soldiers."

The monthly high record for the Comcen was last Oct. with 5,900 outgoing messages and 8,700 incoming messages. Considering the volume of messages handled, the Comcen has recorded a 7% error (administrative and procedural) on outgoing messages and for incoming messages a record .10% error. The Comcen has lost only one message.

Serving the Communications Center of MACV, MAAG and USASCV is the STARCOM/DCS Station 6600 located in Phu Lam, commanded by Maj. Jimmy C. Sutton, a veteran signal corps specialist and assisted by Maj. Robert G. Clark, ExO, and Maj. James D. Crumpler, operations officer.

The station is manned by eight officers, a warrant officer and 249 enlisted men. The station is a link in the globe encircling chain of relay stations that make up the Defense Communications System. Its powerful antennae relays messages to Bangkok, Okinawa and the Philippines.

In Viet Nam, the highly skilled team of communications personnel operate and maintain link systems and keying facilities interconnecting the various commands with the Saigon complex. The station, which went into operational status at the new location in January this year handled a record of 164,000 messages for the month of February. The station was formerly



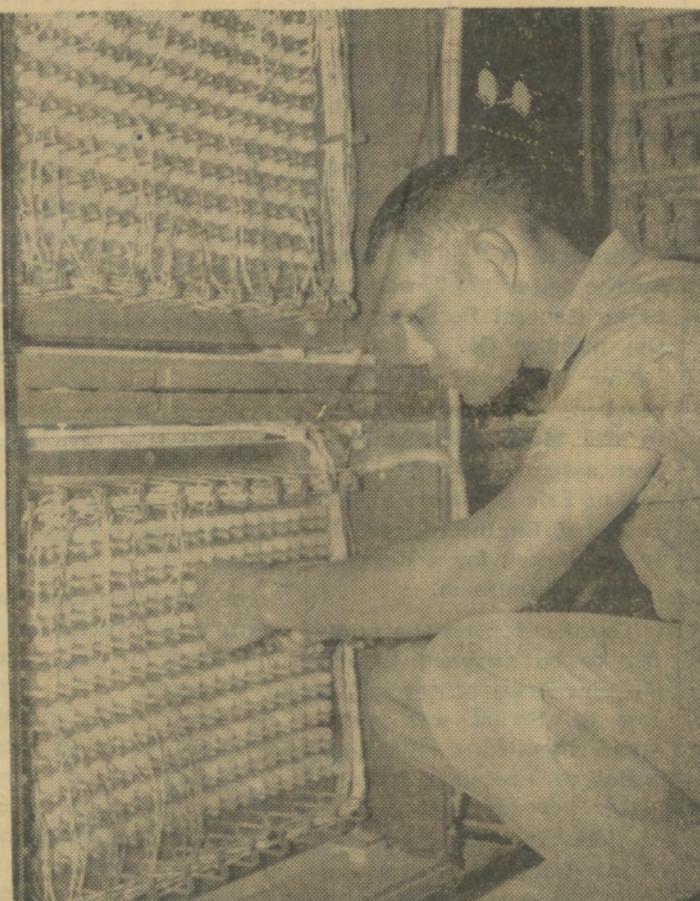
STARCOM TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD—Working the overseas telephone switchboard (left to right) operators PFC Donald L. Holmes, PFC Raymundo Hernandez, and PFC Elmer M. Fox Jr., handle calls originating in Viet Nam and incoming calls from all over the world.



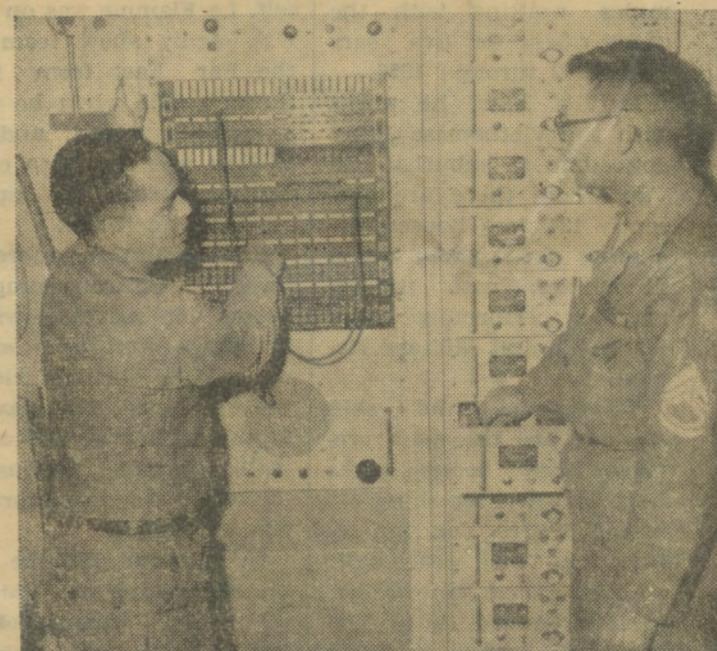
STATISTICS—SSgt. Jack R. Moody, Asst. NCOIC of the MAAG Comcen and Chief, Methods and Results, compiles statistics on incoming outgoing messages.



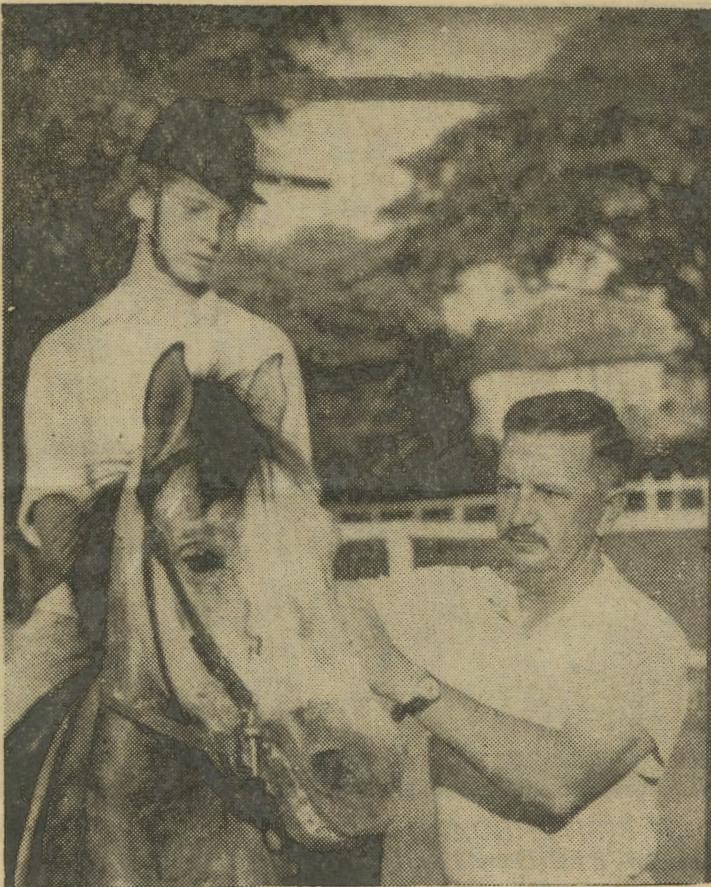
WORK SCHEDULE—CWO Lewis L. Leffingwell, MAAG Comm. Officer, (Seated) and OIC, MAAG, Communications Center, discusses peak traffic load periods with SFC Raymond E. Crane, Chief, Signal NCO.



TROUBLE SHOOTING—Sp5 Roy Pitts, signal repairman checks main distribution frame containing 250 lines for possible cross-wiring.



ADJUSTMENT—SFC Landry F. Hargrove, (right) Asst. NCOIC, STARCOM/DCS, Saigon complex, supervises signal equipment linked to the main station from the MAAG Communications Center. PFC Jose A. Gonzalez, (left) an equipment repairman notes correction on oscilloscope screen after making a minor adjustment.



SOME POINTERS ON THE ART OF HORSEMANSHIP  
To Peggy Nes, daughter of U.S. Charge d'Affaires.



LA FLAMME HOLDS SHEPARD FOR INJECTION  
110 pounds of threshing animation.

## MAAG Sgt. Is True Horse - Dog Expert

*109 DIV  
MAAG* Be it canine or equine, a MAAG advisor here can claim equal and outstanding ability in either field.

SSgt. Andrew L. La Flamme, 35, of Wheaton, Md., is a veterinary technician advisor by day, assisting Vietnamese army vets with their German Shephard scout and sentry dogs by day, and a riding master at a first class horse club in Saigon on his off-duty time.

A former cavalryman, La Flamme has been closely associated with animals in particular and horses in general for some 20 years, and was once in charge of the famed West Point army mules, working with the cadet riders for five years from 1952 through 1956.

In Viet Nam, he works with the Vietnamese Army dog clinic at suburban Go Vap where there are currently 134 dogs housed, including about three dozen ill canines, with the remainder performing duties in the Capital Military Region.

"Hookworm and skin diseases are the most prevalent here," he says as he holds down a threshing 110 pound sentry dog for an injection, "and occasionally we get a dog in who has been wounded by a Viet Cong spike trap or booby trap."

"But," he continues, "German Shephards adapt quite well to the tropical heat and keep healthy on their diet of rice, vegeta-

bles and water buffalo meat."

Upon completion of his day's chores, La Flamme heads for the exclusive Cercle Sportif riding club where several nights a week and on weekends he instructs American dependent children on the fine arts of horsemanship.

"Vietnamese horses are tinier," he comments, "about 14 hands high as against 17½ (56" against 68") for an American jumper, and colic is a big problem with our 34 horses, but other than that, they are about the same."

A champion jumper himself, La Flamme was on the U.S. Army show team in the Far East from 1947 through 1951 when he was a stable sergeant, and in 1948 he was first in a competition against the Japanese Olympic Team.

He has also appeared throughout Europe jumping horses for private owners in shows, and once experienced the thrill of riding the renowned Yugoslavian Lippisno horses, the white stallions made famous by the Walt Disney picture of the same name.

In 1951 and 1952 he was an advisor to the Chinese cavalry on Formosa, following which he was assigned to the U.S. Military Academy and the mule job.

The riding he teaches in Saigon is not the free and easy Western style of U.S. riding, but the ramrod

straight, highly disciplined English version with all the trimmings, a fact which many youngsters who previously thought themselves experts have discovered to

their chagrin.

"It all makes for an interesting life," the sergeant comments, "and I hope to keep it up for a good many years to come."

## Service Number System For Officers Fades Away

Washington — Like the old soldiers they identify, the Regular Army officers' service numbers of five digits and less are fading away.

General John J. Pershing ordered the use of service numbers ("serial numbers" until 1949) for enlisted personnel when the Army rose to unprecedented strength during World War I. In 1921 the system was applied to male Regular Army officers and a block number, 1 through 99,999 preceded by the letter "O," was set aside. General Pershing got the number O1.

Now the end has been reached. The last number in the block, 99,999, has been assigned to First Lieutenant Eric E. Smart of the Corps of Engineers, recently nominated for a Regular Army commission.

The decision on the number to be assigned to the Regular Army officer to follow Lt. Smart was somewhat complicated. Six digit numbers preceded by the letter "O" are being used to identify officers of the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and the Army of the United States. The number OF-100001 has been assigned to Signal Corps Captain William E. Smart, who followed Lt. Smart on the alphabetical nomination list. The number OF-100000 is not being used because of technical problems in data processing.

## DOD Establishes Information School For All Services

Ft. Slocum, N.Y. — Beginning in July, the Army Information School here will become the Defense Information School (DINFOS) for would-be journalists and radio-television specialists of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

The Department of Defense announced that the Department of the Army will conduct the school with the Secretary of the Army charged with responsibility for developing its professional standards and instructional programs.

"Consolidation of information training," Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara declared, "will promote economy and efficiency by eliminating administrative over-head and permitting use of common training facilities."

DOD said the school will be jointly staffed with personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force. The commandant will be an Army colonel.

The Navy journalist school at Great Lakes, Ill., will be phased out and its staff and faculty transferred to DINFOS. The Air Force has no information school, but its personnel have been training with the Army here.

The first class under the new setup is expected to begin in July, officials said. Classes will be of varying lengths up to 10 weeks.

Fort Slocum is scheduled to be deactivated by July 1966. DINFOS will then be moved to Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind.

### SCUTTLEBUTT



'I TOLD YOU SHE WAS A TALL BLONDE, ERNIE! //

## Roving Photographer

No Tax-Time Laments  
From Man On Street In VN

As one wag once put it, the only thing one can be sure of in life is death and taxes... unfortunately not in that order.

Apparently beset with tax problems of his own, our preoccupied roving photographer sallied forth among 'em this week and tried to dig into the personal tax life of the man on the street with the query:

What problems do you have at income tax time each year?



GREEN NILES

substitute for a pay raise."

SFC W. B. Niles, airborne advisor, MAAG, (Southern Pines, N.C.): "I own my own home and gathering together all of the necessary data to fill out the long form is my biggest problem."



KYLE TATE

HM3 James A. Kyle, assistant night master at arms, Station Hospital, (Washington, D.C.): "The only problem I have is my changing of addresses: my form 1040 never reaches me till April and then it's nearly too late to file."

Sp6 Andrew E. Tate, Chief Clerk, MAAG Comptroller, (Kalamazoo, Mich.): "With my wife and our six children I don't have ANY income tax problems. We should get some kind of a refund, though."



ANDERSON BREWER

EAS3 Donald R. Anderson, Seabee Construction man, (Chicago): "Due to a very limited income I find it a rather easy job to prepare my income tax forms."

PFC Richard T. Brewer, Military Policeman, 560th MP's, (Chicago): "Well, I don't have any tax problems because my wife takes care of all the business while I am doing my tour in Viet Nam."

MSgt. James L. Green, senior enlisted advisor, 1st Div., Quang Tri, (Webster, W. Va.): "No problem. I'm happy that my income tax will be less next year as a

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# SPORTS

YOUR RED CROSS  
+ Always  
there ...  
with your help

## Cobras Clobber MAAG, 24-6 To Open Softball Playoffs

The powerful 2nd Air Div. Cobras and the 330th Transportation Co. in the American League; and HSAS and the 1964th Communications Gp. in the National emerged victors in the first round of Saigon softball playoffs last weekend.



(AFPS Feature)

Cassius Marcellus Clay and his brother Rudolph Valentino Clay hopped nimbly from a cab that had pulled up to a Broadway corner in the heart of New York City.

"Aren't you Cassius Clay?" asked an Armed Forces reporter who happened to be passing by.

"Indeed I am," Clay boomed. "I am the Greatest, I am the King."

That was in September, not long after Sonny Liston retained his heavyweight championship by knocking out Floyd Patterson in the first round. Clay was in New York to have his picture taken for the cover of his record album, which is entitled, naturally, "I Am the Greatest."

Today, of course, Clay IS the King — the King of Heavyweights, having beaten Liston in seven rounds at Miami Beach. One newspaperman has even tagged Clay, "Cassius the First."

Later that September day The Lip decided to exercise his other talent — talking — for the benefit of boxing fans in uniform, via Armed Forces Radio beamed to U.S. military installations all over the globe.

Then, when his now well worn banter was fairly fresh and new, Clay told service radio listeners, "Liston will fall in eight to prove that I'm great."

He also gave a special "hello-and-keep-smiling" greeting to men in uniform. "I know it's tough," he said, "but I'm proud of you."

After the radio interview, Clay was asked if he'd given much thought to his military obligation. The question stung like a Liston hook. For once, maybe, Clay was speechless.

But his concern wasn't for the rigors of basic training, or for the time he'd have to spend away from the fight game. Five months before he was to snatch Liston's title, Clay's only concern with a service tour was:

"When I go into the service, will Uncle Sam let me take my heavyweight title with me?"

Cassius the First breathed a satisfied sigh of relief when he learned that Joe Louis held the heavyweight title while serving in the Army during World War II.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: At press time, late word revealed that Cassius has "no sweat" about Army service. The Army said he failed his second pre-induction service examination and is not qualified. However, Clay was developing new problems, with the World Boxing Association threatening to strip him of his title for "unbecoming conduct.")

**EXTRA POINTS** — Woody Vaughan, Navy's basketball captain, is the son of Brig. Gen. Woodrow W. Vaughan, who was an All-America basketball player at West Point in the early 1940s.

The Air Force Academy pistol team, which has three All-Americans, finished the regular season with a 5-1 mark, losing only to Ft. Carson, Colo.

One of the Marine Corps' brightest track stars is 2d Lt. Charles Buchta, who has won the 600-yard run in two big indoor track events this season — the National AAU at New York and the Boston AA.

Resuming action for the first time since the Feb. 9 bombing of Pershing Field, two games were played Saturday and two Sunday on the military diamond at Tan Son Nhut air base.

The Cobras, winners of 47 straight games over the past two years, unloaded against MAAG's Support Branch in the opener, bombing the advisors 24-6 with five runs in the first, seven in the fourth, and five in the seventh, their biggest innings.

Durwood Higgenbottom homered twice for the winners, and Russ Maxwell hit a round-tripper for the MAAG team.

In Saturday's second game, National League action saw the 1964th Communications Gp. roar back from a four run deficit to score five times in the sixth inning and squeeze by the 3rd RRU, 7-6.

American League teams returned to action Sunday, with Tip Canady striking out 14 batters to lead his 330th Transportation team to a 7-2 win over the Embassy nine. First baseman Stiele homered in the fourth for the winners.

Sunday's National League play saw a slugfest between HSAS and the 232nd Signal Co., and when the dust had settled, the sailors had squeaked by, 20-18. Signal managed a big rally in the last of the seventh, notching five runs, but fell three counters short of victory.

Resuming action this weekend, RRU and Signal meet at 2 p.m. today in the American loop opener, with Support Branch taking on the Embassy in the National League's 4 p.m. tilt.

Tomorrow, it's HSAS against Communications at 2 p.m. in the National, and the Cobras versus the Transportation nine at 4 p.m. in the American.

# Impulsive Gift To Fire Victims Wins Lifelong Friends For Sp4

Tan Son Nhut, USASCV (IO) — A man from the Army Support Command, who became curious about American aid in Viet Nam, visited the scene of a recent fire in the Chinese suburb of Saigon, gave the equivalent of \$80 to a distressed family and returned a rich man — with "five friends for life."

Sp4 Jacque Wilhelm, who works in the Inspector General's office, says he has been wondering about the

clothing of the elderly mother, father and their three children. The old man didn't have any clothes at all, except for a pair of shorts that he was wearing. They were hesitant when I offered financial aid, but I persuaded them to accept."

The household assisted by Wilhelm was one of ten whose houses were destroyed directly by the fire. Ten more were damaged by fire fighters trying to halt the blaze, and more than a hundred were gutted when wind carried the fire to adjacent Binh Thoi in Saigon's sixth district.

Reports said that relief was first sent to the area by public and private charity groups, then the Republic of Viet Nam Social Welfare Department organized additional emergency relief operations.

Wilhelm says he "shot quite a hole" in his budget for the month, but says: "I don't really care. It was an impulsive act, I guess, but it turned out to be a good impulse. I've probably got five good friends for life."

## U Of M Lists New Night Classes

Seven courses will be offered for the fourth term of the University of Maryland classes at the American Community School at Tan Son Nhut starting Apr. 6 through May 29, according to HSAS education officer Navy Lt. (jg) S.R. Vrabel.

Registration starts Monday, Mar. 30 to Apr. 6, during normal working hours at the HSAS Admin. Bldg., 100 Hung Vuong.

Courses to be offered this term include French I & II, Business Administration 20 & 160, Government and Politics I, Psychology 5 and History 5.

Air Force personnel desiring to enroll in any of the courses are advised to report to the 2nd Air Div. library for the necessary requirements. For further information call Lieutenant Vrabel at 60688 or Sp5 Thomas F. Brown at 60851.

## ▲ Dateline

(Continued from page 1)

same day, they halted 10 more buses in Hau Nghia province and abducted an undetermined number of passengers.

Typical of VC attacks was an assault on the Huu Ong Civil Guard post at 10:30 last Sunday night which resulted in four government dead and 15 wounded. Artillery and fighter support helped the defenders and a relief force clashed with the attackers later.

The VC attack cost the enemy 40 dead, as observed by a L-19 observation plane, which also reported sighting about 30 sampans on a canal, full of wounded or dead VC.

In other typical VC night attacks, a village chief was wounded in Da Nang by a grenade attached to his motor bike; the Saigon-Hue train was mined at 4 a.m. Monday, wounding three trainmen; and a band of Viet Cong wearing Vietnamese army uniforms entered a hamlet in Quang Tri province at 3 a.m. last Friday, murdered the hamlet's deputy security chief and fled with seven shotguns, two rifles, 17 grenades, cartridges, and a transistor radio.



**DOUBLE DECORATION** — 1st Lt. James E. Allerheiligen of the 309th Troop Carrier Sq. receives the Air Medal and Purple Heart from Col. Thomas B. Kennedy, 315th Troop Carrier Gp. commander, for piloting C-123 Providers in Viet Nam under hazardous conditions and enemy ground fire. (2nd Air Div. OI photo.)

## Three Sections Report 100% Participation In Red Cross

Two MAAG sections, A&S Div. and Security Div., and J-1 MACV, reported 100% personnel participation as the 1964 ARC campaign fund drive moved into its third week yesterday.

This year's slogan is "Always There... With Your Help."

Serving a second term as general chairman of the American Red Cross fund drive is Maj. R.G. Weede, Chief of Staff, MACV.

Adm. Harry D. Felt, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, and Gen. Paul D. Harbins, Commander, Military Assistance Command, Viet Nam, have appealed to members of the command to donate generously to the 1964 Fund drive. The American Red Cross depends on the voluntary contributions of the American people for

the successful accomplishment of their many programs.

"The work of the Red Cross is so extensive and diverse," said Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, "that most of us are aware of but a few of its many services. But this wide scope of effort requires funds to sustain it."

"Hence it is so important for all of us to rally at this time to support the campaign for keeping the Red Cross 'ALWAYS THERE WITH YOUR HELP.'

## R & R SCHEDULE April 1964

Date of Departure/Return	Passenger Check-in TSN	Spaces Available
<b>TO HONG KONG</b>		
** 3-8 Apr.	0800-0830	36
* 7-12 Apr.	0800-0830	36
** 11-15 Apr.	0800-0830	36
* 13-18 Apr.	0800-0830	36
** 21-26 Apr.	0800-0830	36
* 28 Apr.-3 May	0800-0830	36
** 29 Apr.-4 May	0800-0830	36
<b>TO BANGKOK</b>		
9-14 Apr.	0500-0530	36
17-22 Apr.	0500-0530	36
25-30 Apr.	0500-0530	36
<b>TO NHA TRANG</b>		
17-20 Apr.	0600-0630	36
24-27 Apr.	0600-0630	36

\* Passenger stop at Da Nang. Reporting time Da Nang personnel: 1130 for 1230 departure.  
\*\* Passenger stop at Nha Trang. Reporting time Nha Trang personnel 1030 for 1130 departure.

## Mail THE OBSERVER Home

From:

Major Edward R. Hicks  
HQ MAAG USASEC-Log Div.  
APO 143, San Francisco, Calif.



AIR MAIL

TO :  
Mrs. Edward R. Hicks  
Floresville, Texas 78114

