

The Year Of The Snake—1965

A Brief, Month-By-Month, Description Of Major News Items During 1965

JANUARY

Saigon—The Year of the Dragon (1964) passed on and the Year of the Snake arrived in the midst of a raging battle at Tan Xuan January 21, the last day of the Vietnamese year. Government forces helilifted to the location, 50 miles south of Saigon, decimated the 580th and 590th Viet Cong companies in a surprise attack that cut short a VC raid on the district town of Binh Dai.

When the smoke of battle cleared, 46 VC had been killed and 60 captured.

FEBRUARY

As Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, began preparing for its third anniversary to be celebrated Feb. 8, Viet Cong guerrillas attacked Camp Holloway, just outside Pleiku, and the U.S. billeting area at II Corps headquarters compound with mortar and

recoilless rifle attacks, prompting President Johnson to order the evacuation of American dependents from the war-torn country. Three days later a terrorist attack on an enlisted hotel billet in QuiNhon leveled the four-story structure.

In late February, an alert Army helicopter pilot discovered a well-camouflaged enemy ship in Vung Ro Bay, 235 miles northwest of Saigon, which brought about sinking

the ship and capturing a huge arms cache in nearby caves. The block that was thrown into what was obviously a major weapons and ammunition supply point for the Viet Cong resulted in the capture of many weapons, part of which included 1,585 Communist Chinese rifles, 61 submachine guns, recoilless rifles, rockets and mortar am-

munition.

A 600-man Korean advance party arrived in Saigon Feb. 26 after a long sea voyage from the Land of the Morning Calm. The group of volunteers from South Korea was the forerunner of a 2,000 man force slated for duty in Vietnam as part of the Free World effort to stop

(Cont'd on P-8, Col. 1)

THE OBSERVER

Published Weekly For U.S. Forces In Vietnam
(Circulation: 60,000)

Vol. IV, No. 35

SAIGON, VIETNAM

Jan. 1, 1966

U.S. Marines, ARVN Troops Team-Up During 'Operation Harvest Moon'

Da Nang, (USMC-10)—"We're going down there to fight." With these words Capt. P.W. DeMartino finished briefing his company on Operation Harvest Moon.

The following morning "L" Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, boarded trucks at their camp outside of Da Nang.

Three Marine Battalions, along with Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops, were going into a

valley 20 miles south of Da Nang. Intelligence reports said there was believed to be 3,500 to 4,000 Viet Cong in the valley.

ARVN units already in the area reported heavy contact with the Viet Cong.

"L" Co., or "Leapen Lema" as it is called by the men of the company, was assigned the task of relieving an ARVN unit which was under siege. From the trucks the company was loaded aboard Marine helicopters. They

headed inland to a predetermined Landing Zone (LZ).

Two other Marine companies, "E" and "G" from (Cont'd on P-12, Col. 3)

But the men who fly the psychological warfare missions are taking their chances.

They fly slow-moving U-10s with loudspeakers mounted on the fuselage. At night or

(Cont'd on P-11, Col. 5)

Screaming Eagles Get Support From Offspring At Home

Phan Rang (USA-10)—The students of the Ringgold Elementary School in Clarks-ville, Tenn., have manifested their support of U. S. policy in Vietnam in the form of a scroll.

First Sergeant Robert L. Lawrence of the Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division received the scroll of 211 names from his 13-year-old daughter, an eighth grade student at the school.

The proclamation stated, "We the fourth through eighth grade students of Ringgold

(Cont'd on P-12, Col. 2)

Navy Destroyer Saves Sons Of Mother Carrier Ship

Saigon, (USN-10)—It was once written that many good things come in small packages. The nuclear aircraft carrier USS ENTERPRISE is a good thing, but indeed it is not a small package. However, behind every big ship there is the small one. And the ENTERPRISE found that she loves those small items, like the destroyer that tails her around the South China Sea. The small one's name is USS S. B. ROBERTS,

Three young men were helping to transfer cargo from the stores ship USS MARS onto the ENTERPRISE recently when suddenly, a net-full of cargo, that had just been received aboard, started to shift. As it swung toward the outside of the carrier, it caught the three men and carried them over the side.

A quick alert went out to the ROBERTS and the little vessel swung into

action. She started her search operation and within twenty minutes the sailors were picked up and taken aboard that "small package."

The commander of the task group, which includes both the ENTERPRISE and ROBERTS, Rear Admiral Henry L. Miller, had high praise for the commanding officer, Commander W.R. Glaser, and his crew for their "quick action."



GREETINGS—Comedian Bob Hope is greeted at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airfield by an old Vietnam hand, Comedienne Martha Raye, dressed in Army fatigues. Miss Raye had just returned to the airfield from a Christmas Eve show for the Seventh Fleet, when she bumped into Hope, who arrived with his troupe for his annual Christmas show for American servicemen. (UPI Radiophoto by: Steve Northup)

U.S. Forces In Vietnam

The Government of South Vietnam's strategy, with which we concur, is to achieve the initiative, to expand gradually its area of control by breaking up major concentrations of enemy forces, using to the maximum our preponderance of air power, both land-based and sea-based.

The number of "fixed-wing" attack sorties of U.S. aircraft in South Vietnam will increase many fold. Armed helicopter sorties will also increase dramatically over the same period, and extensive use will be made of heavy artillery, both land-based and sea-based. At the same time our air and naval forces will continue to interdict the Viet Cong supply lines from North Vietnam, both land and sea.

Although our tactics have changed, our objective remains the same. We have no desire to widen the war. We have no desire to overthrow the North Vietnamese regime, seize its territory or achieve the unification of North and South Vietnam by force of arms. We have no need for permanent military bases in South Vietnam or for special privileges of any kind.

What we are seeking through the planned military buildup is to block the Viet Cong offensive, to give the people of South Vietnam and their armed forces some relief from the unrelenting communist pressures—to give them time to strengthen the government, to re-establish law and order, and to revive their economic life which has been seriously disrupted by Viet Cong harassment and attack in recent months.

We have no illusions that success will be achieved quickly, but we are confident that it will be achieved much more surely by the plan I have outlined.

Robert S. McNamara
Secretary Of Defense

Robert S. McNamara

Capsule Law:

It's In The Law Book

Washington (AFNS)—If you are so unfortunate as to have marital problems and can solve them only by divorce, beware of the mail-order or "quickie" divorce.

There is no simple, sign-on-the-dotted-line way of getting divorced. Proper legal proceedings must be followed.

A mail-order divorce from a state with so-called "easy" divorce laws, secured without proper legal consultation, may very well turn out to be the hard way to get things done.

Some of these "divorces" turn out to be no divorce at all!

Under no circumstances would such a divorce be valid without either your appearance (or that of your spouse) in the court of the country or state where the divorce is being sought.

So, unless you can put your wife (or husband) in a postal bag—forget it.

In some instances, a "quickie" divorce from an "easy" divorce state, when you or your spouse appear there personally, can be valid. But to ascertain whether your case falls in this category, a conference with competent legal counsel is in order. He will explore the legal aspects of your marital problem and advise you of the proper course to follow.

See your legal assistance officer before being short-circuited by a shortcut, mail-order divorce.

Washington Memos

DESPITE HEAVY LOSSES, Viet Cong are continuing to infiltrate men and equipment into South Vietnam. Secretary McNamara made this disclosure, adding, "They have increased the number of their attacks, they have broadened the scope of their attacks, they have increased the level of conflict." The Secretary said he thinks these actions "represent a clear intention on the part of Hanoi to escalate the level of their conflict."

IT IS BELIEVED that the North Vietnamese now have nine regiments of their regular Army in South Vietnam, and have been infiltrating additional men at the rate of about 1,500 a month during the rainy season. Level of infiltration will approach 4,500 men monthly during the forthcoming dry season. These figures compare with about 800 infiltrators a month last year.

FIFTY-FIVE ARMY colonels have been approved by the President for appointment to grade of temporary brigadier general. Nominations for Senate confirmation will be submitted in January 1966.

SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS in 1966 will jump from 35/8 to 4.2 percent with maximum annual individual cost limited to \$277.20 yearly. Current annual \$4,800 ceiling will increase to \$6,600. Under present ceilings, maximum amount withheld is \$174. New rates will constitute an increase of \$103.20 for persons making \$6,600 or more. Officials credited adjustment to "built-in provisions calling for progressive rate and ceiling increases."

THE POLICY BOARD of the Secretary of the Navy has met for preliminary hearings and recommendations of the Secretary's task force on military personnel retention. The task force has been studying 12 retention problem areas since early January. Final task force report is expected in February 1966.

TWO MORE TRANSPORTS of the Navy's Military Sea Transportation Service, USNS General Alexander M. Patch, will return to trans-Atlantic service from the Pacific in December, according to Rear Admiral R. T. Whitaker, Commander, MSTC Atlantic Area.

HELICOPTER PILOTS in Vietnam are now able to make their own smoke screens to conceal aerial assaults and landings by using a newly developed adaptation kit for standard smoke grenades fired from the XM-3 rocket launcher below helicopter's downwash. A full load of 288 grenades can lay a thousand-meter-long smoke screen.

Army Buildup In RVN

Our soldiers have taken in stride the demands of expansion. Since no Reserve call-ups or extensions of service tours were to occur, the Army initially is spreading its available skills across the strength increase because the bulk of these people will come into the active force as second lieutenants and recruits. We have been able to draw upon existing units for experienced people to fill new units until our expanding training centers increase their output of skilled soldiers. As the training centers increase their capacity, the overall picture of our Drill Sergeant program continues to be most encouraging.

The Army has met the requirements of expansion despite personnel turnover, which averages over the year roughly two-thirds of our strength. Last year, the Army lost and gained over 600,000 people, and two-thirds of the new ones had to be trained for four or more months depending on skill requirements.

Understandably, some personal hardship had developed with the organization of new units and with classified plans for deployment. As an indication, permanent moves of our soldiers and families last summer were 25 per cent higher than in the same period last year. Yet the reaction from our soldiers and their families has been quiet dedication to duty, even though some additional personal expense and anxiety have occurred.

Gen. Harold K. Johnson
Army Chief Of Staff

AFRS Schedule

(News on the hour and at 0630 and 0730 daily)

MONDAY—THROUGH—FRIDAY

0008	Be Still and Know	1830	Bandstand USA
0010	Night Train	1905	Jim Ameche
0505	Country Corner	2000	To 2200 Monday Only
0605	Dawnbaster		Pro Football or Basketball
0635	Devotions	2005	Tues.—Footlights and Sound Tracks
0705	Devotions		Wed.—Jazzbook, Vol. II
0830	Ira Cook		Thur.—George Shearing
0905	Destination Noon		Fri.—Folk Music of the World
1205	Johanny Magnus	2105	Australian News
1315	Focus	2110	Night Beat
1320	Siesta Time	2200	News Thirty
1405	Monitor	2230	Night Beat
1505	Country Corner	2330	Tonight Show
1605	Swinging Sixties		

SATURDAY

0008	Be Still and Know	1320	Swing Serenade
0010	Spotlight on Jazz	1405	C&W Waxworks
0105	Night Train	1605	Swinging Sixties
0505	Big Band	1805	Shindig
0530	American Popular Music	1830	Bandstand USA
0605	Dawnbaster	1905	Sammy Davis Jr.
0905	Destination Noon	2005	Grand Ole Opry
1205	Swing Serenade	2105	Australian News
1315	Focus	2110	Night Beat

SUNDAY

0008	Be Still and Know	0830	Protestant Hour
0010	Spotlight on Jazz	0905	Destination Noon
0105	Night Train	1205	Silver Platter
0505	Sounds of The 60's	1230	Folk Music of the World
0530	Catholic Hour	1315	Panorama
0605	Navy Hour	1600	College Football
0635	Moods in Melody	1835	Meet the Press
0705	Army Hour	1905	Small World
0735	Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir	2005	Till Midnight
0805	Navy Swings	2105	Australian News/Sports
0820	Myron J. Bennett	2115	Till Midnight

THE OBSERVER

(CIRCULATION: 60,000)

THE OBSERVER, an authorized publication with a weekly circulation of 60,000 copies, is published by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Hq, USMACV, for U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam and is printed in Saigon by Vietnamese personnel.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or of any of the departments. This paper uses the facilities of Forces Press Service and news services of the Service departments to augment local news. Mailing THE OBSERVER, Hq MACV, APO 96243, U.S. Forces.

C. G. Gen. W. C. Westmoreland
Off. Col. B. W. Legare

STAFF

EDITOR MSgt. Glenn E. Catt,
EDITOR JO1 J. V. Dorman, USN
NEWS AND SPORTS EDITOR Sp5 Lee Antonello,
CORRESPONDENT MSgt. C. R. Brown Jr., USA



ELECTRICAL HAPPINESS! — 1st Infantry Division soldiers and Vietnamese youngsters enjoy watching an electric train during Company C, 101st Maintenance Battalion's Christmas party sponsored by the unit for the local Vietnamese villagers in the Ben Cat area.

'Did We Get The Devils?' 'I Don't Know Sir, But I Hear Them Scream'

Saigon — "Ribbon stuffer 3, this is 30, 'fire mission',... two Viet Cong companies moving towards us; fuse, variable time, I will adjust..." and with a note of urgency he added, "please hurry."

Lt. Don Korman phoned in these instructions for the 320th Artillery to zero in the 105mm howitzers on slippery Viet Cong who were stealthily crawling toward the encampment of the 327th Infantry,

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

The paratroopers of the "Above the Rest" battalion, had moved all day through Viet Cong territory 30 miles northeast of Saigon, encountering and destroying a large enemy force camped in a rubber plantation. At 2:30 a.m. Corporal Newton, the Artillery Forward Observer of the 101st Tiger Force reported that the Viet Cong were moving back to reclaim their position.

However, the men manning the big guns of the 320th Artillery, converted Lt. Korman's target information into settings of elevation and direction to orient the howitzers toward the enemy. Finally the artillery men aimed the guns and slammed projectiles into breaches which would deliver the infantrymen's payload to success.

The men up front dug in under the rubber trees and heard the ominous yet reassuring "whcosh" as the artillery shells flew overhead on the way to greet the unsuspecting enemy. The radio transmitting mechanism in the nose of the shells caused the shells to explode sixty feet in the air to provide the best shrapnel effect. Thirty-six shells traveled to the target and the quiet night erupted with deadly flashing airbursts.

Then in the dark of night, Corporal Newton returned a

query from the main camp "Did we get the devils?" and his reply, "I don't know sir, I didn't see them go down but I can hear them screaming and moaning."

Big Red One's 'Operation Small One' A Success, No Thanks To The Viet Cong

Phuoc Vinh (USA-10) — Through American resourcefulness and a U.S. Army doctor, the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery is the proud father, by proxy, of a six pound five ounce Vietnamese baby boy.

It began when the 27th Artillery's Battalion Surgeon, Capt. (Doctor) Leonard B. Welner first learned that a Vietnamese mother would probably have a complicated birth delivery problem. Doctor Welner knew that special obstetrical forceps were required if the mother and child were to survive. He then requested a helicopter, and within thirty minutes a Bell H-13, flown by a 27th's helicopter pilot, Maj. Frederick O. McManus, arrived to fly Captain Welner to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in search of the instrument. They were found by a supply officer at the 3rd Field Hospital and immediately flown back over War Zone D to the battalion helipad. This was

Leatherneck Receives Medal For Risking Life, Saving Baby

Da Nang (USMC-10) — It's not every day that a man is awarded a Navy Commendation Medal for climbing over a base fence and making a run for it.

PFC William H. Thompson II was, but he went over the hill (AWOL) to save the life of a child last December, before being transferred to Vietnam.

"I'd just gotten off work," he recalled after getting the medal at Marine Air Base Squadron (MABS)-11 here. "I saw an apartment house outside the base that was on fire."

In order to get to the house rapidly, Thompson climbed the fence surrounding the Naval Air Station, Atsugi, Japan, and ran 100 yards, plunging into the ground floor apartments.

"The smoke was so thick I had to back out. While I was clearing my eyes and trying to get some breath, a buddy tossed a gas mask. I put it on and went back in."

Thompson found a three-year-old child screaming in the flames.

"I picked the little one up and started for the door. There was a crash and I guessed the roof was starting to fall so I ran over to a window and tossed the child out. I was right behind."

As the young Marine again picked up the infant, who had landed in thick, soft grass, the entire building collapsed.

Army Sergeant Saves Farmer Bitten By Snake

Qui Nhon (USA-10) — The quick action of a sergeant in the U.S. Army's 1st Logistical Command may have saved the life of a young Vietnamese farmer who had been bitten by a poisonous snake.

The sergeant, Elbert W. Wimberly was walking on the outskirts of Cong Chanh, a small hamlet nine miles from here, when several Vietnamese drew his attention to a farmer, 20-year-old Ngay Nam Sanh, who was sitting in the paddy holding his leg.

Wimberly carried the farmer on his shoulders to a nearby highway, flagged down a jeep and rushed the young farmer to the U.S. Army's 85th medical evacuation hospital in Qui Nhon.

The sergeant, a member of the 27th Transportation Battalion, returned to the hospital later to discover his patient was doing well and was given a big hand shake and a thank you by his new friend.

Fatigue-Clad Santas Bring Christmas To Vietnamese Children

Qui Nhon (USA-10) — Fatigue-clad Santas with Army duffle bags full of toys were seen throughout Binh Dinh province in central Vietnam by some 160,000 Vietnamese children.

All U.S. Army elements of the 1st Logistical Command in the Qui Nhon area pooled donations, gift contributions plus toys from "Operation Christmas Star," attempting to provide each child in the province with a toy for Christmas.

The project, "Toys for Tots Christmas Program," was headed by Maj. William P. Mayo, the acting inspector general of the U.S. Army Support Command, Qui Nhon.

Acting as Santa's helpers were 1st Logistical Command troopers and members of the U.S. Army Special Forces teams in the area.

According to Major Mayo, more than \$2,000 was collected for the project.

the first step of "Operation Small One."

Now, as darkness and the threat of Viet Cong action swept over the village of Phuoc Vinh, everyone waited for the mother to start delivery. At about 8 p.m. the Viet Cong decided to blast the U.S. perimeter with three "Claymore" type mines and a few dozen rounds of carbine fire. But the expectant mother continued to bide her time.

The VC were a bit surprised by the American response of rifle, machine gun and M-79 grenade fire, and tried to approach the village by the back way. Four VC's were observed entering an unfinished house, and a nine-man patrol, led by Capt. Donald R. Marshall, was sent in to flush them out. And the baby still cooperated by

not arriving while the patrol was out.

All through the rest of the night, the Viet Cong were not to be seen or heard anymore, nor was there any sight or sound of the baby. Then, at 7:30 the next morning, Capt. (Doctor) Ronald L. Strebel delivered a six pound five ounce boy.

Doctor Strebel reported that the mother and child were doing fine. He said that the baby could not have been delivered without the assistance of the forceps, nor without the 27th keeping the VC out of the area. He thanked the artillerymen for their assistance.

And now in War Zone D, "Operation Small One" is recorded as a success and the 27th Artillery has a new baby, as well as their 175mm "babies", to fret and care for.



SCROLL — Members of the Army's 1st Logistical Command scan the impressive 60-foot scroll from students at the University of North Carolina, containing thousands of signatures expressing approval of the U.S. troop commitment in Vietnam. In the foreground, PFC Robert A. Dennis and MSgt. Ernest J. Kales begin reading, as PFC Wayne Baker, checks the middle portion and Sp4 Dante M. Sciamanna 60-feet away atop a sandbag bunker starts at the bottom. (U.S. Army Photo)

Hanoi Hanna's Propaganda Broadcast Backfires, Entertaining To The 101st

Phan Rang (USA-IO) — "This is Radio Hanoi. I have a flash for the boys of the 'Screaming Eagles.' Attention: 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division," announced Hanoi Hanna. "I am coming to dinner at the Brigade Mess Hall Christmas Eve. And guess who I'm having for dinner!"

With these words Hanoi Hanna spoke over Radio Hanoi, and began her act. Dispensing advice on how to win the war by losing it, she spoke to her most "adherent fans"—the American servicemen.

Hanna stands in the infamous tradition of Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose. Exclaiming to the listening world of the many American "invaders" the Viet Cong have killed—annihilated—massacred—six infantry divisions since October by Hanna's count—plus some odds and ends. That is about 90,000 men, not including the odds or the ends!

Hanna's news is so outlandish and preposterous it is a great moral support to American troops.

Each evening about 6 p.m. Hanna comes on and broadcasts in English. At An Ninh (where the Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division fought on 17 and 18 September) she was heard to

say that 500 of the 101st's paratroopers had been annihilated in the action. Funny thing is, only 204 men participated.

A spokesman for the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

gave the following statement: "Hanoi Hanna is cordially invited to come to Christmas Eve dinner at the Brigade Mess Hall. A warm reception will most certainly be accorded her."

World War Two Canteen Cup Still Used After 20 Years

Cam Ranh Bay (USA-IO) — How many swallows of water has one canteen cup held since the name Tacket, 3473981, was chiselled below the date: 9-8-45?

The only sure measure is that Air Force 1st Lt. John DeLuca, a 43d Tactical Fighter Squadron pilot, will take the next swallow from the time-worn cup issued to him 20 years after the original owner had taken the first drink and added a dateline to his flask.

Lieutenant DeLuca recalled his first observation of the

inscription on the cup while eating lunch: "I knew it was a crusty old thing when I first got it, but I didn't know it was an antique!"

Tacket, the first owner of the canteen cup may have served on the last battle fronts of World War II with only an M1 rifle to defend the cause.

(Cont'd on P-12, Col. 1)

Vietnamese New Year, TET, Symbolizes The Coming New Year, End Of The Old

Saigon — Shortly after the last strands of Auld Lang Syne are hummed by the Western world, festivities will begin anew as Vietnamese TET, New Year, rolls around.

TET symbolizes the coming of the new year and the ending of the old, and in this respect compares with our New Year's Day. TET, however, lasts seven days instead of one. It does not fall on a precise day of the Gregorian calendar every year as our New Year's Day does, but starts on the first day of the lunar calendar, this year Jan. 21, 1966.

To develop a real understanding of the customs of TET, one must understand the spirit-world legends which give rise to many of these customs. TET is a mixture of religion and paganism, with variations practiced from village to village throughout

Vietnam.

Legend has it that before TET begins, the good spirits report to the Heavely Emperor of Jade and give him an account of the past year. This, of course, means that all the good spirits are absent from their jobs as protectors of the family.

At the same time, the evil spirits, who have been living in Hell throughout the year, are released on the last day of the old year. Their period of release lasts until the seventh day of the new year, when they have to return to their old abode. Many of the customs of TET arise from the necessity to find some means of protection from the evil spirits during the time

the good spirits are making their annual report.

A symbol of protection is the apricot tree, the branches, of which, strike fear in the hearts of evil spirits. The beginning of this custom is lost in the dim past but it is said that two good spirits, Tra and Uat Luy, were instrumental in bringing it about.

Tra and Uat Luy lived just east of Soc Son mountain and protected all the surrounding neighborhood. They vigorously expelled demons and soon evil spirits dreaded the sight of this pair. Nearby was a very old apricot tree which was quite large and its shade covered much of the ground. Tra and Uat Luy chose this as their home and soon the evil spirits knew that when they saw the apricot tree they were in the territory of powerful good spirits and were filled with fear.

As Americans, we are, of course, guests of the Vietnamese people and have the obligation to conduct ourselves properly during TET. Much of the enjoyment received from this holiday will depend on your understanding of the traditions and meaning of TET.

Respect for the beliefs of other peoples is fundamental to the American way of life. How better can you illustrate this by observing and respecting the TET holiday and joining in the celebration with the proper spirit? For to the Vietnamese, your actions during TET forecast your actions for the rest of the year.



WORLD WAR TWO CUP — Air Force 1st Lt. John DeLuca, a 43rd Tactical Fighter Squadron pilot, poses with a World War II canteen cup beside his supersonic F-4C Phantom. The canteen cup, with a 1945 date and a man's name inscribed on it, was issued to Lieutenant DeLuca along with his other combat gear.

Vietnam Situation Through Vietnamese Eyes

The following article, written by P.J. Honey, appeared in Hong Kong's South China Morning Post in November 1965.

Mr. Honey, eminent British scholar on Vietnamese affairs has written extensively on Vietnam during the last five years.

This is his story, "Vietnam Through Vietnamese Eyes:"

In the heat of political debate about Vietnam, the Vietnamese people have been largely overlooked and their aspirations ignored. During the past summer I spoke to large numbers of South Vietnamese people drawn from all social classes and representing every shade of of political and religious opinion. The following is a glimpse of the situation in South Vietnam as the Vietnamese themselves view it.

Morale Slump

At the beginning of 1965 the Viet Cong insurgents, strongly reinforced with men and materials from North Vietnam, had inflicted serious defeats upon the South Vietnamese armed forces and their American allies. The United States had failed to react in a determined manner, while press commentators in many countries were busily speculating about the possibility of an American withdrawal under cover of some face-saving agreement which would leave the communists free to take over the country.

All these factors combined to produce a dramatic slump in South Vietnamese morale and, in early February, people were seriously discussing the possibility of a Viet Cong victory. For the bulk of South Vietnam's population, living in unprotected country villages, to have relatives on the winning side offered the best chance of future survival, so many peasants urged their children to join the ranks of the Viet Cong.

Bombing raids against North Vietnam, which commenced in mid-February, offered the first tangible earnest of American determination to stand fast and do whatever was necessary to defend South Vietnam. Further earnest followed in the ensuing months, with the dispatch of greatly increased num-

bers of United States troops, the creation of American military enclaves along the coast, direct participation by American personnel in the fighting, and so on.

South Vietnamese reaction to these changed circumstances was rapid. The coastal enclaves were judged to be so strong militarily that the Viet Cong could never hope to take them, and the conclusion was drawn that a purely military victory was now beyond the insurgents' reach. As a result of the larger American commitment, the tide of battle turned against the Viet Cong and the unwilling volunteers, who had joined the movement only for the sake of their families' safety, began to flood back into their villages.

The growing confidence and better morale soon led to a greater flow of military intelligence to the South Vietnamese army, which in turn increased the effectiveness of anti-insurgency operations.

Since May, the Viet Cong has ceased to be the attacker and become the attacked, forced to move continually so as to avoid bombing or mopping-up operations and to withdraw its rear bases deeper into the jungles or mountains. The threat of major Viet Cong attacks while monsoon clouds made air support difficult, if not impossible, failed to materialise, and the monsoon is now nearing its end.

Military Initiative

The military initiative at present rests with the Government forces which, with the beginning of the dry weather, may be expected to clear and hold ever larger areas of countryside. Once a campaign of that kind gains momentum, the Viet Cong will find it more difficult to maintain itself in South Vietnam.

Throughout more than nine years of office, the Ngo Dinh Diem regime permitted no organized political opposition and imprisoned many of its opponents with the result that, when it was overthrown in November 1963, South Vietnam was left a political vacuum. Army generals assumed power, but their personal rivalries and ambitions led to a series of coups d'etat.

Catholic - Buddhist religious rivalries, created by

the circumstances of Diem's collapse, reduced an already confused situation to near chaos. In the background, however, the older nationalist parties, such as the Vietnam Quoc Dan Dang and the Dai Viet, were reorganizing, and new political groups were being formed among the younger elements.

Eventually power was placed in the hands of a civilian government headed by Premier Phan Huy Quat which incorporated representatives of both older and younger political groups. This restored a measure of political stability, but events proved that religious passions had not yet abated sufficiently to allow it to govern as it wished, so, in June, Dr Quat invited the army to take over the government. Since the South Vietnamese army incorporates members of all religions and all political tendencies, it cannot be suspected of favoring one group against the interests of the others and is the only body capable of running the state so long as serious religious divisions persist.

Lessons Learned

The generals responsible for earlier political upsets had by then been removed from the army and those who remained had learned the lessons of the army's previous failure. The generals now act as a group and a committee of the senior ones, known as the Directory, holds supreme power in South Vietnam. This body, whose decisions are reached through a majority vote, has the authority to appoint or dismiss government ministers, including the Prime Minister.

The government itself, led by General Nguyen Cao Ky, is a mixture of generals and civilians, but its outstanding feature is its youth, the average age being about 40. Behind it and the Directory is a larger group of advisers, many with impressive academic or professional qualifications, which carries out research, works out policy, and plans the future development of the country.

Its far-reaching programmes of political, social, and economic change, most of which are still incomplete,

have caught the imagination of the South Vietnamese—particularly the youth—to a degree which would have seemed impossible six months ago. People have already begun to speak of a peaceful revolution.

Problems Remain

The coup d'etat, violence, and street demonstrations of 1964 contrast sharply with the peace and stability brought by General Ky's government, and the majority of South Vietnamese readily express their gratitude for this. The new stability, together with confidence in the successful outcome of the war against the Viet Cong, has generated an air of optimism about the future such as I have never before experienced in Vietnam.

Serious problems still abound—Viet Cong insurgents, the disarray of local administration, war damage, the supply of food through frequently sabotaged communications, to name but a few—but there exists an atmosphere of confident optimism which will greatly facilitate their solution.

Originally formed from the 80,000 South Vietnamese who migrated to Communist North Vietnam in 1954, the Viet Cong was created in Hanoi and has since been controlled, supplied, and largely manned from North Vietnam. Recent defectors from its ranks disclosed to me their experiences and the reasons why they had abandoned the Viet Cong.

Contrary to what they had been led to expect, they had won no wide acceptance among the South Vietnamese people and had secured co-operation from them only by a constant use of threats and force in addition to persuasion. Nevertheless, considerable progress was made and, in spite of American support for the government, the prospects of eventual victory were regarded as good. This was entirely due to the technical skill and experience of the military and political cadres, who exercise strict discipline and demand implicit obedience.

Power in the movement rests entirely in the hands of

the Communist Party members, almost all infiltrated from the North, who receive regular direction from Hanoi by means of radio. This has always been resented by Southern members even though the nominal leaders of the movement hail from the South, but at least they felt they were on the winning side.

Resentment

During 1964 Viet Cong numbers grew rapidly, fed by reinforcements from the North. This meant that demands on the meager resources of the villagers for food and money necessarily rose to excessive proportions. They were paid out of fear, but increased the unpopularity of the Viet Cong.

This has been a very bad year for the Viet Cong. Air attacks have increased in numbers and intensity, while the commitment of vastly greater American forces has swung the military balance against the insurgents. It became impossible for them to remain long in one place, for intelligence leaked out and ground or air attacks followed.

As South Vietnamese opinion became convinced the Viet Cong could no longer win, resentment among the people grew more marked and more open. Supplies had to be taken at gunpoint and young men recruited by force. Villages refused the Viet Cong admission because their presence there would attract bombing and, on occasions when an entry was forced against local protests, the civil population often abandoned the village.

Under these conditions more and more Southerners defected, some returning via the government's Chieu Hoi organization, but the majority returning to their villages unrecorded in any statistics. More and more Northerners have come south to strengthen the insurgency, but their presence has alienated Southerners, who are leaving the Viet Cong in increasing numbers. The morale of the insurgents is sinking, while the whole character of the Viet Cong is becoming progressively more Northern, and alien to South Vietnam.

Editorial Review Of The

Tan Son Nhut Bombing



My Canh Casualties

AP Photo By H. Faas



Saigon — The Year of the Snake — 1965 — has been a most significant year in the history of Vietnam, a year that will go down as the turning point of the Vietnamese people's war against the communists — and will perhaps signify the turning point of the Free World nations' struggle against the cancerous spread of communist aggression.

Ushered in with a bold stroke of terrorism by communist guerrillas who exploded a bomb in the Brinks hotel in Saigon Christmas Eve of 1964, the Year of the Snake marked the introduction of Strategic Air Command's giant B-52 bombers into the war, a massive build-up of American air and ground forces to route the enemy and a tumult of interest and support by the American people in the struggle taking place here.

Continuing terrorist activities throughout 1965, the Viet Cong managed to bomb the American Embassy, the Tan Son Nhut air terminal, the My Canh floating restaurant and the Metropole hotel enlisted quarters. Such unwarranted terrorism against civilian and military, however tragic, has served to place the Vietnamese people and the American people on an

even more the battle communism.

Vietnamese Australian a have engaged the jungle delta lowland sea and on have drawn him during

The National Front's Ho the major r to the ene Vietnam, h cantly bloc ground tea troops, inclu nameless regi the insurgen been searche troved, by d loving fight

Bombing installation nam dur greatly strength of the south facilities h troved by Navy jets tions lin bridges have been

The ene have been al ed and bu ground for 1965 has b enemy and is becoming Yes the v

Qui Nhon Billet Struck



U. S. Marines Storm



Year Of The Snake—1965

re united front in
le against com-

ese, American,
a and Korean troops
aged the enemy in
e highlands, in the
lands and on the
on the rivers and
dramatically defeated
ng 1965.

National Liberation
Ho Chi Minh trail,
r route of supplies
enemy from North
has been signifi-
locked by air and
teams. It's ground
cluding North Viet-
regulars along with
gent guerrillas, have
rched out and des-
y dedicated, freedom
ghtingmen.

ng of strategic
ions in North Viet-
uring 1965 has
ly deterred the
of the enemy in
uth. Vital power
s have been des-
by Air Force and
jets. Communica-
lines, highways,
and railroads
een severed.

enemy's installations
n almost daily bomb-
burned by air and
forces. The war in
s been carried to the
and his gradual defeat
ning a reality.

ne war has been car-

ried to the enemy, but not
only on the battlefield. Poli-
tically, economically and mo-
rally the enemy is being
defeated by a rising tide of
nationalism developing among
the far-flung inhabitants of
Vietnam.

The little people, daily til-
ling their living from the
land, have traditionally been
coerced into supporting guer-
rilla warfare. In the past they
have been taxed rice and mo-
ney in return for "protection"
by the Viet Cong. But the
spread of allied troops
throughout the country has
relieved the farmers of their
burden of the leeching en-
emy. And realizing the full
intent of the constituted gov-
ernment to protect and sup-
port them, the people have
allied more strongly with the
national interest.

A staunch enemy of com-
munism, the Republic of Viet-
nam has proven to be a strong
ally in the defense of the
Free World against the forces
dedicated to overthrow
freedom. The Vietnamese
people have suffered tremen-
dous losses during their long
struggle, but the Year of the
Snake, 1965, has proven to
be an invigorating and en-
couraging year for the people
of this war-torn country.

Air Strikes North



Dependents Evacuate RVN



Year Of The Snake Welcomed

m Ashore At Da Nang



The Year Of The Snake — 1965

(Cont'd from P-1 Col. 5)

the spread of communist aggression.

A two-battalion force of U. S. Marines plus supporting units, 3,500 strong, landed at Da Nang Feb. 8 to relieve Vietnamese troops of the responsibility of security duties at the strategic air base.

MARCH

At 10:50 a.m. a bomb-laden terrorist car parked in front of the American Embassy in downtown Saigon, Mar. 30, and a few moments later the explosion ripped out the front wall of the Embassy, killing 16 persons and wounding 144. Many of the wounded were in a restaurant across the street from the Embassy. The blast ripped a hole eight feet wide and two feet deep in the center of the asphalt street.

APRIL

Four U. S. Navy F-4 Phantom jets tangled with enemy MIG aircraft over the Gulf of Tonkin just prior to a massive bombing mission on Communist North facilities Friday, April 9. One MIG jet was described as disappearing into the clouds in flames. The encounter marked the third time in a week American planes had been approached by the Soviet-built fighters.

Two separate landings at Da Nang during the week of April 11, brought an increase of 4,500 U. S. Marines into Vietnam.

MAY

Elements of the mighty U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Brigade began arriving in Vietnam the first week of May, and moved into perimeter defense positions around the strategic Bien Hoa Airbase 30 miles north of Saigon.

JUNE

The hustle and bustle of arrivals and departures at the busy Tan Son Nhut Airbase civilian passenger terminal was suddenly interrupted by the tremendous explosion of a Viet Cong terrorist bomb on the morning of June 16. The inhumane act injured 46 persons, 34 of which were American servicemen.

Early Friday morning, June 18, a massive bombing attack on Viet Cong strongholds in the dense jungles of War Zone "D" was carried out by 27 Strategic Air Command B-52 bombers. The attack was designed to break up a

suspected surprise attack by Viet Cong forces on one or more villages or district towns. It marked the first use of the giant stratofortress bombers in Vietnam. They dropped 750-pound and 1000-pound bombs on the enemy stronghold at the apex of their round-trip flight from Guam.

Forty-two persons were killed and 81 wounded Friday evening, June 25, when two Claymore mines exploded outside the My Canh floating restaurant in the Saigon river, hurling pellets into the crowd of late evening diners. Survivors of the first blast began fleeing out the front entrance of the restaurant and a second mine detonated in their faces.

The U.S. Marine Corps airstrip at Chu Lai opened for business June 1 at its seaside location 50 miles south of Da Nang. The airstrip was designed to relieve part of the heavy operations load on the Da Nang Airfield.

JULY

Nine hundred soldiers of the historic "Fighting First" Infantry Division arrived at the Bien Hoa Air Base Wednesday, July 14, where they joined the 173rd Airborne and a Royal Australian Regiment in defending the Bien Hoa complex. The previous Monday other landing teams of the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade landed at Cam Ranh Bay, 180 miles northeast of Saigon, to boost defenses planned for a key port facility there. The brigade, near 4,000 strong, boosted over-all strength to some 72,700 troops.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff arrived in Saigon Friday, July 16, for top level briefings by U.S. and Vietnamese officials and to consider whether an increase in U.S. troops was needed in Vietnam. Vietnamese officials reportedly requested the Defense Secretary to increase U.S. commitment and Military Assistance Command officers agreed with the Vietnamese Government's request for more combat troops. The Secretary visited troops throughout Vietnam and the Seventh Fleet during his visit.

A ship load of 3,700 "Screaming Eagles," members of the Army's famous 101st Airborne Division, First Brigade, landed at Cam Ranh Bay Thursday, July 29, where they were met by two former commanders — U.S. Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor and COMUSMACV Gen. W.C. Westmoreland. Debarking from the troop ship ELTINGE, the airborne troopers deployed in the Cam Ranh Bay area and took up defensive positions projecting the vital site of a projected multi-million dollar port facility.

AUGUST

On August 19, after a vicious fire-fight that began the day before, the Viet Cong overran the district headquarters and special forces camp at Dak Sur, 280 miles northeast of Saigon. The attacking force was estimated at communist battalion strength. All U.S. personnel escaped.

Gen. W.C. Westmoreland cut a ribbon Wednesday, Sept. 1, officially opening the new in-country R and R center at seaside Vung Tau. The new center is especially designed to give personnel normally living under hardship or austere conditions a quiet, peaceful place to relax.

President Johnson signed the 1965 Military Pay Raise Bill Aug. 21, explaining, "It is the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines — not the weapons, ships or planes — who are the real bulwark of our military might." The bill raised the pay for all members of the armed forces beginning Sept. 1. President Johnson also authorized the fighting men in Vietnam free postage, effective Sept. 1.

SEPTEMBER

The 1st Airmobile Cavalry Division off-loaded at Qui Nhon, Sept. 12, and began setting up its headquarters and base camp at An Khe, 225 miles north of Saigon. Almost 16,000 strong, the unit introduced in Vietnam the latest concept in combat methods, that of an airmobile division.

OCTOBER

U. S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara approved, Oct. 6, the awarding of a bronze medal for U. S. servicemen who have served in Vietnam or the waters and air around it since July 3. Servicemen who served in the Vietnam area before July

3, may choose the new the new theater medal instead of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal previously authorized.

The 1965 World Series was broadcast to nearly all U. S. forces in Vietnam in October with the help of a U.S. Navy aircraft. The airship, named Blue Eagle, was a Super Constellation, loaded with 25,000 pounds of radio equipment. It relayed AFRS broadcasts to nearly 100,000 troops of the 7th Fleet, 1st Air Cav Division and personnel in Nha Trang and Cam Ranh Bay.

For eight interminable, horror-filled days the ten-man special forces team at Plei Me and two companies of Montagnards held off a superior force of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army regulars. The engagement began Oct. 19, and reaction forces, including elements of the 1st Air Cav rushed to the besieged camp's defense. The ensuing battle left more than 1,000 dead insurgents strewn on the battlefield. Follow-up actions in the Ia Drang valley, near the Cambodian border, resulted in routing and killing more than 1,800 VC by the 1st Air Cav and Vietnamese forces with heavy air support. Gen. Westmoreland said, "When the dust of the battle settled, the American troops were present to clear the battlefield of killed and wounded, both friendly and enemy. The enemy had fled the scene."

NOVEMBER

President Johnson proclaimed Nov. 28 as a "day of dedication and prayer" honoring the men and women of the Republic of Vietnam, the United States and all other countries who are risking their lives to bring about a just peace in Vietnam. He emphasized that the United States "remains ready without condition for the international discussions that can lead to lasting peace."

The attack aircraft carrier USS Enterprise and the guided missile frigate USS Bainbridge joined the forces of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, Nov. 26, marking the first time nuclear-powered surface ships have been deployed to the Western Pacific.

DECEMBER

In another of their periodic "liberation" efforts, the Viet Cong, Dec. 4, set off a huge explosion near the Metropole BEQ in Saigon killing eight persons and wounding another 137. A heavy toll of casualties resulted among Vietnamese civilian bystanders.

U.S. Air Force F-105 Thunderchief jets roared across the 17th Parallel Wednesday, Dec. 15, and bombed the industrial complex around the port city of Hai Phong knocking out the Uong Bi thermal power plant. It marked the first time air strikes have hit the industrial complex which is considered an important source of supplies for the Viet Cong. The power plant supplied 15 per cent of the power needs for North Vietnam, including power for industries both in Hai Phong and Hanoi.

35 Tons Of Turkey 'Gobbled' By U.S. Troops At Christmas

Saigon (USA-10) — U.S. Army personnel in central south Vietnam consumed over 35 tons of turkey in Christmas dinners, thirteen and one-half ounces of the Yuletide birds per individual.

The Army's 1st Logistical Command supplied a total of 270 tons of turkey, potatoes, dressing, cranberry sauce, peas and buns to troops in II, III and IV Corps areas before the traditional meal, topping off their feast with either fruitcake, pumpkin or mince-meat pie.

A special full-color menu containing a Christmas message from the U.S. commander in Vietnam, Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, was distributed as a souvenir to each U.S. serviceman with his Christmas dinner.

Most of the Christmas foodstuffs were sent from

Saigon to cold storage areas at Qui Nhon and Cam Ranh Bay in refrigerated Navy ships.

From the seaports, Air Force cargo planes flew the turkeys inland to Phuc Vinh, Ban Me Thuot, Ben Cat and Pleiku. Army trucks and trains carried the tasty cargoes to Bien Hoa, Vung Tau, Vinh Long, Soc Trang, Phan Rang, Di An, Long Binh and Nha Trang.

From these points, distribution was made to individual units.

Doctors Work With Lepers In War Zone D

Tan Son Nhut, (USAF-IO)—Leprosy, to most Americans, is a story-book disease, but to a group of U.S. Army and Air Force medical officers, the leper presents a day to day struggle in the jungles of War Zone "D".

Doctors treat over 300 patients at St. Joseph's Leprosarium about 30 miles north of Saigon.

Since the leper colony was founded in 1959, Father Leonard Berset, a Swiss priest of the Vincetian Order, has run the facility with the help of Sister Marie Antoinette, chief nurse, and eight Catholic nuns.

The Army doctors who donate their time and skills on daily battles against the crippling disease are Captains Bassell Alexander, a dentist, and Joe F. Altamonte.

The Air Force doctors are Captains Calvin C. Chapman, a flight surgeon, Hans Polte, a dentist, and Clyde Sullivan.



TREATMENT—Air Force Captains (Doctors) Clyde Sullivan (left) and Calvin C. Chapman treat a leprosy patient at St. Joseph's Leprosarium with the assistance of a Vietnamese nurse.

Base Of Choice

Washington (AFNS)—The Air Force February assignment forecast shows 45.9 percent of Vietnam veterans going to their first bases of choice, 28.2 percent to their second choice and 20 percent to their first state. The first-choice rate is 6 percent below the January forecast.

Physicals Waived For Airmen In Southeastern Asia

Washington (AFNS)—Routine periodic medical examinations for men serving in Southeast Asia have been waived until their return to the United States.

Officials said such waivers have been issued before without experiencing any harmful effects.

Air Force directives require annual physicals for flying, air traffic control and certain other categories of personnel. Non-flying officers are examined every three years between their 21st and 40th birthday and every two years afterwards. Non-flying airmen receive physicals within six months of their 28th, 34th and 40th birthdays and every three years thereafter.

Under the waiver, these examinations for men serving in Southeast Asia can be put off until they get to their first duty station in the United States, except that not more than two years may elapse between examinations for flying personnel.

Legal Assistant Officer Suggests Men File Income Tax By April 15

Saigon—When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Executive Order declaring Vietnam and adjacent waters a "combat zone" several tax relief provisions went into effect for members of the Armed Forces serving in Vietnam.

The Executive Order provides that Federal income tax will not be withheld from income received for active service while in a combat zone or if a member was hospitalized as a result of wounds, disease, or injury while serving in a combat zone.

No pay of enlisted personnel and warrant officers, W-1 through W-4, serving in Vietnam, is taxable income. Commissioned officers, however, are limited to a monthly exclusion of \$200 from their pay for income tax purposes.

If a serviceman serves any portion of a month in a combat zone, he receives the tax benefit for the entire month. In the instance of a man leaving Vietnam on the first day of any given month, he still receives the benefit for the remainder of the month.

Income for active service in a combat zone is defined as all taxable pay and allowances, such as reenlistment bonuses, lump-sum payments for accrued leave and payments of non-appropriated funds to enlisted personnel for off-duty employment.

Commissioned officers, however, are still subject to the \$200 tax-free maximum regardless of the type or amount

received for the month.

No Federal income tax will be withheld from a serviceman's pay unless otherwise requested by the individual. A commissioned officer may find an added burden at tax time if he has not requested withholding tax on the portion of his salary which is not tax exempt.

The serviceman in Vietnam is not required to file his tax return by the due date of April 15. The due date is automatically postponed without penalty or interest while he serves in Vietnam or if he should be continuously hospitalized outside the United States from injuries caused while serving in a combat zone. Such individuals have 180 days from the date they return to the United States to file their tax return and pay taxes due.

The Legal Assistant Officer urges men to file their returns by April 15 if at all possible. This will avoid confusion, keep records in order, and may prevent the filing of two tax returns and paying taxes within a span of only several months.

All necessary forms for the proper filing of income tax returns will be available

in the Legal Assistance Offices.

Your Legal Assistance Officer will answer questions to insure proper filing of returns.

Air Division Commander Expresses Appreciation For American Support

Tan Son Nhut (USAF-IO)—Commenting on thousands of letters, Christmas cards and tons of Christmas gifts sent to servicemen in Vietnam, Lt. Gen. Joseph H. Moore, commanding general of the Air Force's 2d Air Div. said, "The spontaneous support for the fighting forces here represents tangible evidence of the American public's deep concern for their welfare and sincere appreciation of their efforts."

Under such projects as "Christmas Star", thousands of packages have been airlifted to the Republic of Vietnam by Air Force National Guard units. The packages were gifts, mailed by people from all over the United States.

All of the gifts were not for servicemen. Thousands of packages were sent by Americans in support of the many orphanages, old peoples homes, hospitals and veterans groups in the Republic of

Martha Raye Makes Hit With Eagles

Central Vietnam (USA-IO)—"I want to thank you, gentlemen, for making me very proud to be an American woman," was the only serious statement comedian Martha Raye said when she brought her own brand of "special forces" to Vietnam.

Martha arrived at the base camp of the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division ready for action. Only, the paratroopers who call themselves the "Screaming Eagles" had prepared themselves for Martha's show-biz type performance, and Martha came prepared for a paratroopers' type war in her combat boots and battle fatigues.

Throughout the show Miss Raye jested about life and its conditions in Vietnam for the, then, "Laughing Eagles," who will probably bring a little of Martha's special force with them into their next combat assignment.

In appreciation for her kindness and talent, Lt. Col. Melvin Garten, commander of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Inf., presented Martha with the coveted jump wings of an honorary "Screaming Eagle."

Vietnam, maintained and sponsored by individual U.S. military units in Vietnam.

You Don't Have To Be 'Back Home On The Farm'

Phuoc Vinh (USA-IO)—If it's rice you want, you can find it just about any place in Vietnam—but the 1st Battalion of the 28th Infantry believes their cornfield may be the only one in the country.

Sgt. Lonnie Brizending and PFC Daniel Quick cleared an area in the jungle near here and planted corn and other vegetables such as radishes and carrots. Between search-and-destroy missions after the Viet Cong, they have been pulling weeds and cultivating their garden.

Although the corn is not yet ready to harvest, the battalion is looking forward to sweet corn this month.

- Vietnam News Wrap-Up -

USARV Deputy Commander Appointed

Lt. Gen. Jean E. Engler, head of the U.S. Supply and Maintenance Command in Washington, has been assigned duties as Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army, Vietnam (USARV).

The West Point graduate is the former Commanding Officer, U.S. Army, Japan.

The U.S. Army's 1st Logistical Command receives a new commander today, Brig. Gen. Charles W. Eifler, former Deputy Commanding General, Land Combat Systems, Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Elements Of 25th Infantry Division Arrive

Elements of the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Wednesday, Dec. 29, landed at Pleiku in II Corps.

During the next several days, the remainder of the brigade will land in the Republic. It is anticipated that the brigade will operate initially in the II Corps area.

Communists Break Christmas Truce

A Christmas truce was to prevail for the holidays as COMUSMACV, Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, directed U.S. troops in the Republic of Vietnam not to fire at or on the enemy except in self-defense during a 30-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Dec. 24, to midnight Dec. 25.

However, the communists disregarded the truce, initiating a total of 84 significant incidents during a 36-hour period ending at 6:00 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 26.

One of the most significant incidents occurred when the enemy attacked an Army cantonment area at the south end of the Nha Trang airfield Sunday morning.

The communists harassed the area with rockets, fragmentary grenades and satchel charges, then cutting through the inner defense wire ran about the area throwing grenades and satchel charges. U.S. casualties were light while three vehicles, several buildings and a few tents were damaged.

Communists Lose 1,109 During Week

Communist ranks were dwindled by 1,109 persons during a week-long reporting period which ended Christmas Day. Nine hundred and thirty-seven of that number were killed in action while friendly forces suffered 248 dead, 21 of which were Americans.

The total communists captured amounted to 137 while another 35 rallied to the cause of the Republic, bringing with them 17 weapons.

Planes Pound Reds In South; North Spared

USAF and VNAF planes continued to rain death and destruction on communist facilities in the Republic, flying a total of 340 combat sorties during a 24-hour period ending 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29.

Forward air controllers sighted 468 enemy structures destroyed, 415 damaged, nine sampans sunk and four secondary explosions.

Intelligence reports indicated that a secret communist meeting was being held in Kien Giang province, 140 miles southwest of Saigon. The area was hit by a USAF AC-47, firing more than 20,000 rounds from its rapid-fire Miniguns.

Wednesday, Dec. 29, was the fifth consecutive day no USAF or VNAF aircraft crossed the 17th parallel to bomb military targets in the communist North.

Joint "Operation SMASH" Terminates

The eight-day "Operation SMASH" which saw elements of the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade and Royal Australian units cover three provinces ended Dec. 23.

The units operated in Bien Hoa, Phuoc Tuy and Long Khanh provinces killing 74 communists and destroying six enemy base camps which contained supplies and foodstuffs.

Two communists were captured and 97 suspects were detained while friendly casualties were light.

- World News Summary -

Humphreys On Far East Tour

United States Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey began a tour of the Far East Monday, Dec. 27, making the first major, extended diplomatic mission for the President.

His tour will run from Tokyo to Manila, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea, returning to the U.S. Jan. 2.

The Vice President, accompanied by his wife and several Washington officials, will attend the inauguration of president-elect Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines.

Blizzards, Floods Pound West, Midwest

From northern California into eastern Oregon and Washington, blizzards raged Monday, Dec. 27, with gale-force winds raking the coast.

Gusts of wind up to 120 m.p.h. tore away the wind gauge at Cape Disappointment located at the mouth of the Columbia River.

On Christmas Day, an estimated 100,000 persons in the Chicago area were without electric power due to flooding as 60 m.p.h. winds shattered windows along Chicago's Lake Shore Drive.

In Arizona, 82 families were left homeless on Christmas from overflowing rivers swollen by heavy rains and record snow runoff.

Air Force Slates New Reenlistment Bonus Program

The United States Air Force will begin, after the first of the year, a new Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB) program with the Army and Navy to follow suit.

The program is designed to encourage servicemen with special skills to remain in service after their first enlistment.

The variable rates will run from one to four meaning that men with the most critical skills will receive four times their regular reenlistment bonus, plus the regular bonus.

A variable of two means twice the regular bonus, plus the regular bonus.

Payments will be made in installments over the four-year reenlistment with the regular bonus being paid in a lump sum upon reenlistment.

Titan-3 Rocket Misfires

A flawless six-hour flight by the Titan-3 rocket was marred Tuesday, Dec. 21, as it misfired and sprayed a bundle of satellites into the wrong orbits.

The rocket, hurled into orbit as a flying launch platform, was to eject four satellites into orbit at 30 second intervals. Three satellites were sprung into the same orbit.

This was the second instance in three tries where the Titan-3 failed. The first occurred Oct. 15 when the rocket broke apart in flight.

Titan-3 is the most powerful rocket now in use by the United States, being developed to give the U.S. manned and unmanned military space capability.

A Merry \$10,000 Christmas

"I want to get rid of the money. I do it every year," said 60-year-old Joseph Bonavita as he began handing out \$10,000 in cash Christmas Day in New York City.

He said he made his money from investments, "I make money and I like to give it away."

Bonavita was followed wherever he went by men, women and policemen.

Two Die Crashing Berlin Wall

Communist East Germany threatened to take renewed "security measures" along the Berlin wall in the wake of a holiday tragedy when two men were shot to death attempting to escape to the West.

A third man was wounded and a woman was captured as the foursome tried to crash through the wall in an automobile Sunday, Dec. 26.

East German officials gave no hint as to what the new measures might be.

SUPPORT OUR FIGHTING MEN



IN VIET NAM



Disabled American Veterans Support U.S. Policy In RVN

New York—The National Headquarters of the Disabled American Veterans announced today that the National Commander of the DAV, Claude L. Callegary, arrived in Saigon recently for a first-hand look at the conflict.

On arrival in Saigon, Callegary announced DAV's support of the efforts of Congressman Olin Teague (D., Tex.) who recently said he plans to request Congress to authorize limited benefits and a Vietnam GI Bill of Rights. Callegary announced that the DAV plans to have its Congressional representa-

tives press for even broader benefits in the Bill to encompass, said Callegary, "all of the major benefits given by law to all of our veterans in all of our wars, including the benefits of educations, home loans, re-training and veteran preference in Government employment."

Callegary said earlier the combat war soldier in Vietnam, "looks to home and wonders if anyone cares. Today that soldier needs loyal, moral support. Tomorrow he will need a more tangible form of support of the Second World War and Korea, as these men are fighting a war no less than the

others, for the freedom of the entire world."

DAV believes it is every American's responsibility to show our fighting men in Vietnam that someone does indeed care. To foster this belief, the DAV national organization plans to mail

millions of automobile bumper stickers, as well as letter seals reading, "Support Our Fighting Men In Vietnam". This material is being mailed to give millions of Americans the opportunity to express their loyal support.

▲ Air Commandos

(Cont'd from P-1, Col. 4)

in bad weather, they fly C-47s, a workhorse of the Air Force since 1938.

"On one out of three of our missions, we get groundfire," says Maj. Ray Behrens, squadron operations officer. We haven't had an airplane shot down yet, but two have needed major repairs after being hit."

The first unit of its kind, the 5th Air Commando Squadron was organized last summer and the crews were trained at Forbes AFB, Kan. During their training, the crew members learned new flying tactics designed to deliver leaflets and tape recorded messages.

While the Air Commandos were training, an Army Special Warfare Detachment was developed at Fort Bragg, N.C. Now, the two units work hand-in-hand to discourage the Viet Cong insurgents.

The Special Warfare Detachment develops material for the leaflets and tapes, and the Air Commandos deliver the messages.

It's A Fact

A U.S. Savings Bond owned by a resident of Iowa was swept up by a tornado and deposited on a farm in Illinois. The finder located the owner by the name and address on the face of the bond and promptly returned it.

Ladies' Showers Off Limits To Eagle-Eyed Helicopter Pilots

Bien Hoa (USA-IO)—This story is censored for all helicopter pilots flying in the Republic of Vietnam.

▲ Suicidal Duck

(Cont'd from P-4, Col. 4)

arrived, we went into a high orbit over the spot where the pilot was down—right near the anti-aircraft concentration."

Captain Riederich said, "We circled for quite a while but couldn't see him. Then one of the escort pilots saw a flare and directed us to it. When I got there the pilot fired his second flare right at me. I talked to him and he led me to his position."

"He was tangled in a tree covered with heavy vines," continues Captain Riederich. "We hovered for five minutes as he worked himself up through the trees on our helicopter hoist cable."

"After he was in the aircraft, I heard gunfire from the rear," says the captain. "I dove down a valley at top speed and got out of there. I didn't wait around to confirm any suspicions!"

The Kamin-built helicopter was not hit by ground fire, and Captain Riederich returned safely to his base with the rescued pilot.

Captain Riederich, a member of the Air Rescue Service, flies with a unit of the 38th Air Rescue Squadron.

It seems that the nurses—girls—from the 93rd Evacuation Hospital arrived at the base of the 2d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, at Bien Hoa with uniforms, experience, and good will, but no showers.

Although the men of Company B, 1st Engineering Battalion weren't exactly prepared for the woman's touch in their battle ready company, they displayed the gallantry of the American soldier by relinquishing the use of their private air-conditioned shower to the nurses. Company B's benevolence was in the interest of the health, welfare and cleanliness of the newly arrived females of course.

An "Off Limits" sign was posted, the dressing area for the shower was boarded up and the entrance-way closed off—good boys.

Now for all helicopter pilots who ignored the lead sentence; the engineers failed to construct a duplicate to Houston's Astrodome and helicopter flights have been detoured around the ceilingless shower; however, the status of being "missing in action" is very ambiguous especially for America's well-informed helicopter force.

Paratrooper Married By Proxy Celebrates By Pulling KP Duty

Bien Hoa (USA-IO)—How did you spend your wedding night?

"Washing pots and pans on KP," said PFC Joseph Boyle an MP assigned to the 173d Airborne Brigade here. His new wife is the former Patricia Zedensky, of Philadelphia. They were married by proxy in Vietnam and Philadelphia.

After a prompt reply of "YES" to his proposal by mail, Boyle sought the advice of Catholic Chaplain (Captain) James M. Kennedy. Kennedy explained that Patricia would have to enlist the aid of a lawyer who could supply the limited power of attorney necessary for the marriage.

The application for a marriage license and the limited power of attorney were mailed to Boyle, who signed and had them notarized, and speedily

returned them to his bride to be. On the wedding day, Patricia and the lawyer went to a Justice of the Peace. The wedding vows were taken. Joe and Pat were married and the nervous bridegroom washed pots and pans halfway around the world.

PFC Boyle has slightly more than five months left to serve in Vietnam, before he can return to kiss his bride.

PEANUTS

By Cartoonist-Of-The-Year Charles M. Schulz



