

Medal Of Honor Awarded Defender Of Special Forces Camp By President Johnson

Saigon (USA)— The fourth Medal of Honor awarded in the Vietnamese war was presented to Lt. Charles Q. Williams for his actions in the defense of a Special Forces camp at Dong Xoi, June 9 and 10.

Lieutenant Williams received the United States' highest military award June 23 from President Johnson at a White House ceremony.

Williams was serving as executive officer of a Special Forces Detachment when an estimated VC reinforced regiment struck the camp and threatened to overrun it and the adjacent District Headquarters.

He woke personnel, organized them, determined the source of the enemy's main effort, and led the troops to their defensive positions.

He found no radio operational with which to talk to his commanding officer in another compound.

He tried to reach the other compound but was halted in his effort by a combination of shrapnel

in his right leg and the increase of the VC gun fire. Ignoring his wound, he returned to the District Headquarters and directed the defense against the first assault.

As the insurgents attempted to scale the walls and as some of the Vietnamese defenders began to retreat, he dashed through a barrage of gun fire, succeeded in rallying these defenders, and led them back to their positions.

Although wounded in the left thigh and leg during this gallant action, he returned to his position and, told that communication was established and that his commanding officer was seriously wounded, Lieutenant Williams took charge of actions in both compounds.

In an attempt to reach the communications bunker, he

sustained wounds in the stomach and right arm from grenade fragments.

As the defensive positions on the walls had been held for hours and casualties were mounting, he ordered the consolidation of the American personnel from both compounds to establish a defense in the district building. After radio contact was made with a friendly air controller, he disregarded his wounds and directed the defense of the district building, using descending flares as reference points to adjust air strikes.

Taking a 3.5-inch rocket launcher and a volunteer to load it, he worked his way across open terrain,

(Cont'd on P-9, Col. 4)



HONORED — Lt. Charles Q. Williams has been awarded the fourth Medal of Honor for action during the Vietnamese war. The award was presented by President Johnson at a White House ceremony honoring Williams for heroic action during the defense of the Dong Xoi Special Forces camp. (USA Photo)

Corpsman Treats Wounded, Doubles As Interrogator

Chu Lai (USMC) — "We've got a prisoner! Get Doc 'Ski' up here!" Leather-necks of the 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, were taking a break from the afternoon heat when the cry echoed down the narrow jungle trail.

HM3 Louis L. Piatetsky, a Navy corpsman attached to the unit's Company E, had heard this call many times before. Usually it meant giving medical treatment to a

wounded marine or Vietnamese.

This time it was different. A Viet Cong had been taken prisoner and an interrogator was needed. It was time for Piatetsky to assume his secondary role — unofficial interpreter and interrogator.

Piatetsky, who learned the language on Okinawa, spoke softly but firmly with the prisoner. In minutes he had learned the man's name, age and other incidentals.

Since his assignment to the marine unit early this year, Piatetsky has been used a number of times in questioning prisoners and possible Viet Cong suspects.

"I think my greatest help to the company," says Piatetsky, "is when we pass through a village on sweeps. I question the villagers to find where the VC hide, where there is drinking water and if any mines or booby traps are in the area."

When not performing his duties for the marines, Piatetsky can usually be found in a Vietnamese village administering to the medical needs of the people.

In many villages he is known as "Bac-ci Lou," which means Doctor Lou. He has struck up a friendship with

a Vietnamese corpsman who helps further his knowledge of Vietnamese. Whenever he can, Piatetsky uses the language and tries to learn new words and phrases.

He also helps interested marines learn Vietnamese.

Top-Flight Idea: Airmail To RVN For Five Cents

WASHINGTON (ANF)— The nickel ice cream cone and the five-cent subway ride may be gone forever, but that lowly coin is now associated with an even greater bargain.

A special five-cent airmail service to Vietnam has been inaugurated by the Army and Air Force Postal Service in cooperation with the U.S. Post Office Department.

Needing only a regular five-cent stamp, letters bearing the address of a serviceman in Vietnam will be airmailed to San Francisco, transferred to the military mail system, and then flown to Saigon.

All addresses must have a five-digit APO number.

First In Vietnam

THE OBSERVER

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'Benchmark 69' Battle Added To Unit Annals

Di An (USA) — A mine rocked the lead tank in the column. The monster shuddered but continued. A second blast split the air and with that the entire jungle seemed to explode.

Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, on its way to reinforce division units in War Zone C, suddenly found itself alone and in the middle of a savage firefight that they would long remember simply as "Benchmark 69." It was to rage at point blank range for four hours.

SSgt. Charles E. Norris, blown out of his tank into a ditch, reached for an automatic rifle. Its Viet Cong owner was not ready to give up possession, however. Norris' scorched hands and arms weren't strong enough to hold the rifle, but he needed it. He struggled with the VC for the weapon, and the Viet Cong, shocked by the sergeant's determination, ran into the jungle frantically clutching it.

SFC Eugene F. Blair, a platoon sergeant, was never

that fond of tanks. The 17-year infantry veteran was on his first tank ride and was coordinating his platoon's fire when one of his armored per-

Medal For Service In Nine New Areas

Washington (AFNB) —

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have designated nine active military operations or conflicts which have occurred since July 1958 in which United States units have or are now participating. They are Berlin, Lebanon, Quemoy and Matsu, Taiwan Straits, Congo, Laos, Vietnam, Dominican Republic and Cuba. Personnel who have been or are engaged in these operations are entitled to wear the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

sonnel carriers broke down. He moved his tank back to assist the isolated APC. He didn't know how to load a tank gun, but learned fast.

He didn't throw one empty shell casing far enough, though, and it wedged in the turret ring, locking the tank cannon in one direction. Disregarding intense enemy fire, Blair climbed out of the tank, removed the casing and dove back inside.

Ammunition began to dwindle. Air strikes were brought in from several hundred yards away to 50, then a scant 10 meters. Flight after flight bore down to strafe the VC force.

Then it grew quiet. But there was still much to be done. There were snipers to flush and a crippled APC to repair. Two figures darted

(Cont'd on p-5, col. 1)

EDITORIAL

Independence Day; Birth Of A Concept

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Today, as he assists the Vietnamese people in the struggle to maintain their independence and freedom, the American soldier can, perhaps more than any other group of Americans, understand the significance of those words, set down by our forefathers nearly 200 years ago.

The signing of the Declaration of Independence on



July 4, 1776, marked not only the birth of a nation, but the birth of a concept—the concept that all men are created equal, and that each individual has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This blueprint for democracy that the Founding Fathers drew up is a legacy for people everywhere, not for Americans alone.

The patriots of the Revolutionary War proved that liberty is attainable. But it is not enough to attain liberty. It must be protected, nourished and maintained without compromise if it is to be kept for posterity.

This basic truth has been the cornerstone of American policy from the very beginning of the Republic. It is because of this fundamental belief that Americans have shouldered arms in defense of freedom in two world wars and Korea. It is for this reason that American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are standing firm in Vietnam today to check communist aggression.

As Americans everywhere celebrate their Day of Independence, we should renew the pledge made so eloquently by our forefathers... "And for support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Honor."

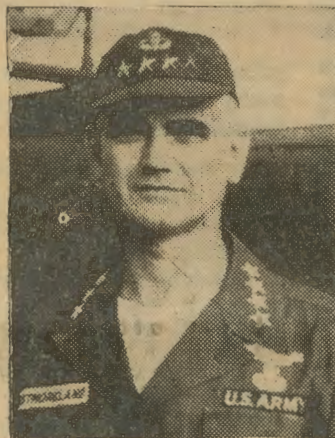
Leave Not Chargeable If New Law Passed

Washington (AFNB) — Under the present law military leave granted is chargeable to the individual's leave account, including all travel time.

The 30-day leave proposal for individuals in hostile fire areas would be

non-chargeable and would be exclusive of travel time if the individual extends his required tour by at least six months. The proposed legislation would also pertain to individuals presently in Vietnam.

Independence Day Message



Gen. W. C. Westmoreland

friends who have fought so long in Vietnam.

When this fight has been won and when the Vietnamese people are free to build a strong and prosperous country in an atmosphere of law and order, we will leave for all to enjoy the peace that has been earned by our arms and our blood. We are proud of the great men who founded our nation. They would be proud of the Americans who are fighting in Vietnam today for the same ideals.

On the Fourth of July in 1776 Americans told the world what freedom meant to them. They declared that every man had a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They accepted the proposition that freedom to enjoy these rights carries with it the responsibility to oppose anyone who would try to deny them by the use of subversion or force.

Now, one hundred and ninety years later, we are fighting in Vietnam — to preserve the freedom without which men cannot hope to achieve the goals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We dream of peace, but peace without freedom is slavery. So we put aside peace, temporarily, to help our

Conversation On Vietnam

The questions and answers for this article are extracted from a pamphlet published by the United States Information Service. (The editor)

QUESTION

The strongest power in Southeast Asia is Communist China. Realistically, why not collaborate with Peiping to restore and assure the peace of the region?

ANSWER

It is Peiping that insists most vociferously that the war continue regardless of the cost to the Vietnamese people, and maintains pressure on the Hanoi regime to follow a belligerent course so clearly against North Vietnam's interest.

Communist China aspires to hegemony over Southeast Asia—especially over the fertile southland of Vietnam. That is why the communist leaders in Peiping and Hanoi persist in interfering in the affairs of their neighbors, instead of letting their neighbors alone.

Encouraged and abetted by Peiping, Hanoi attempts to mask its aggression as what communists call a "war of national liberation." In fact, the war of subjugation which the Viet Cong are waging within South Vietnam is directed, politically and militarily, from Hanoi—the capital of North Vietnam, and the prime source of coercive, sanguinary interference in South Vietnamese affairs today.

Photo Contest For U.S. Troops

The U.S. soldier who goes into battle carrying his combat gear and his camera slung over his shoulder will have an opportunity of seeing the photographs he takes — those with "the smell of war" — in print.

The Army Times is sponsoring a photography contest, open to all troops of the U.S. forces in Vietnam. Cash prizes will be awarded on a periodic basis to first, second and third place winners selected by a special panel of judges.

Photos should be on glossy-finish paper, and may be 8x10, 5x7 or 4x5 inches. They must have complete captions.

PEN PALS

These girls would like to exchange letters with U. S. Servicemen in Vietnam.

Registered Nurse, 23:
Miss Joann Alrendt
7067 SW Vermont Court
Portland, Oregon 97223

Medical Secretary, 24:
Miss Maxine M. Almont
7067 SW Vermont Court
Portland, Oregon 97223

Chinese girl, 18, on Taiwan
ADDRESS: Miss Lydia Ju
15, Lane 65, Lung Chiang St.
Taipei, Taiwan

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SORTING CLOTHING — Surrounded by Vietnamese villagers, Lt. Peter D. Bernstein sorts a pile of clothes he received from the U.S. for the people living in a village about 20 miles southwest of Saigon. (USAF Photo)

Air Force Pilot Fights Dual Battle Against VC

Saigon (USAF) — Air Force Lt. Peter D. Bernstein, a forward air controller, is fighting two battles to win the war against the Viet Cong.

As a FAC, he flies a Bird Dog spotter plane to locate enemy targets and direct strikes against them. He has flown 650 combat missions, earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses and been wounded twice in battle.

In his other battle against the VC, Lieutenant Bernstein visits a Vietnamese village near his "home base" at Tan An, about 20 miles southwest of Saigon, to deliver gifts to children and old people who live there. There are no young men in the village. They are all in either the Vietnamese Army or VC guerrilla units.

On his first visit to the village, he saw hundreds of hungry refugee children dressed in the few clothes they were able to keep when fleeing from their homes. He soon returned to the village taking clothing and food for the refugees.

He also wrote a letter to his home in Youngstown, Ohio, asking his family and friends to send gifts for the Vietnamese villagers.

The Associated Press learned of his work and wrote a story which appeared in U.S. newspapers. Immediately, gifts started arriving from the U.S.

Bernstein returned to the village recently to

distribute boxes of clothing sent to him. While he and a Vietnamese social worker handed out the gifts, Air Force fighter-bomber pilots bombed and strafed VC positions a few miles away, and small arms fire crackled about two miles north of the village.

In the "Plain of Reeds" — acres of rice paddies and swamps around the village — pilots and ground troops were fighting elements of the Viet Cong 506th Battalion which the lieutenant tracks almost every day.

After passing out the gifts, Lieutenant Bernstein returned to the little landing strip in Tan An to fly an afternoon mission over the Delta country.

25th Inf. Div. NCO 'Al Hirt' Of Cu Chi

Cu Chi (USA) Sgt. James A. Cox, has been dubbed the Al Hirt of Cu Chi by the men of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry.

When Cox puts his lips to the mouthpiece of his bugle to sound reveille 800 men jump from their beds and are standing in formation before the end of the call.

Cox has other numbers in his repertoire. He plays chow call, assembly, taps, and on the flip side, a little Dixieland jazz.

When Cox isn't swinging with the bugle, he is section chief of the ground surveillance platoon of the 25th Infantry Division unit.

Exercise Your Voting Rights

Saigon — All eligible persons are encouraged to register and vote in the primary elections which are being held in 28 states during the next four months.

Qualification requirements vary with most of the states and personnel are advised to consult DA Pamphlet 360-503, copies of which are available in staff sections and at advisory detachments.

Post card applications for absentee ballots are available at unit level.

The states and date of primary elections are:

STATE	DATE
Virginia	12 July
Idaho	2 Aug.
Kansas	2 Aug.
Michigan	2 Aug.
Missouri	2 Aug.
Alaska	9 Aug.
Arkansas	9 Aug.
Utah	9 Aug.
Louisiana	13 Aug.
Montana	16 Aug.
Wyoming	16 Aug.
Delaware	20 Aug.
Wisconsin	3 Sept.
Iowa	6 Sept.
Nevada	6 Sept.
North Dakota	6 Sept.
Arizona	13 Sept.
Colorado	13 Sept.
Maryland	13 Sept.
Minnesota	13 Sept.
New Hampshire	13 Sept.
Rhode Island	13 Sept.
Vermont	13 Sept.
Virgin Islands	13 Sept.
Georgia	14 Sept.
Massachusetts	20 Sept.
Washington	20 Sept.
Hawaii	3 Oct.

Questions & Answers

The War In Vietnam

Each week the Observer will print questions and answers from recent reports of the JUSPAO Field Representatives. The answers are based primarily on American and Vietnamese policy. (Editor)

QUESTION: Why doesn't the Vietnamese government do something to control inflation, and enforce the ban on hiking prices?

ANSWER: The present inflation in Vietnam is essentially a classic type of inflation caused by the pressure of demand against supply. It is a subject with complex ramifications. Instead of discussing theoretical economics with the Vietnamese, perhaps it is more profitable to point out the fact that the Viet Cong contribute much to inflation, because they deliberately constrict and prevent the movement of goods to the nation's markets. The VC not only force the costly war upon the Vietnamese government and people, but also deliberately wage economic warfare for the purpose of disrupting the national economy, thus imposing inflation upon the people.

The Vietnamese government, with U.S. support, is doing something to reduce inflationary pressures: it is supplying the market and the people with increasing quantities of goods, thereby alleviating the shortages which cause prices to rise. However, it is impossible to eliminate completely the effects of the VC attack on the economy until the VC are forced to abandon their desperation struggle.

Speaking of national problems facing Vietnam today, Prime Minister Ky elaborated the following point:

"We are making progress. In some areas progress is slow, in some areas it is barely visible. In others, it is encouraging. We are faced with a battle against the increase in the cost of living, with shortages of certain basic goods, with a faltering in the rate of increase in productivity, and the strains upon our distribution system. Our economic problems are many and are intricate. They sometimes create despair and often frustration. But they can and will be solved."

According to the local Saigon press, prices of cement, pork, rice, sugar, condensed milk, clothing, and other items are falling, because of government measures to bring prices of basic commodities down to a reasonable level. The Vietnamese government is aware of the problem of inflation and is earnestly attempting to improve the situation. At a press conference March 7, Economic Minister Au Truong Thanh announced that a multi-phased plan has been conceived to cope with inflation and hiking prices. He also disclosed that he'll channel "illegal profits" of blackmarketeers and manipulators to alleviating the hardships suffered by the common people.

Head Injury Only Part Of 'Red One' NCO's Problem

Di An (USA) — "It felt like a hammer hit me in the back of the head," exclaimed Sgt. James H. Hayes, a squad leader in the 1st Infantry Division.

Hayes was describing a wound he received when his unit was providing support for a patrol during Operation El Paso.

Three platoons were sent out to support a company which had spotted several enemy and were receiving sporadic sniper fire.

The support element moved out through a hilly rubber plantation.

Nearing the top of a hill, they spotted about 25 Viet Cong and opened fire.

The VC returned the fire. The ensuing firefight lasted about an hour.

Artillery fire was called in and the three platoons pushed over the top of the hill.

They moved down into the valley and started up another

hill. "We were almost up the hill before we really got hit," Hayes recalled. "They were set up one side and directly in front of us."

The enemy was using .50 caliber machine guns and automatic weapons along with their small arms.

"I stood up in the trench and started firing," said Hayes, "and suddenly I got hit in the back of the head. It knocked me to the ground."

He felt the back of his head and then looked at his hand. There was blood everywhere.

A .50 caliber slug had hit the back of his helmet and then gone out the side just grazing the top of his head.

Artillery fire was called for

and the VC ran.

A "dust off" helicopter was called in for the wounded.

Before it arrived, a medic had stopped the bleeding.

When the Air Force helicopter arrived there was no place to land so it lowered a rope ladder for the wounded.

As the ladder was dropped, it hit a tree and broke off a limb. The limb came down and hit Hayes on the head, opening the wound.

A bee came down with the branch and stung Hayes on the nose.

Hayes said he felt this was adding insult to injury, but after all he had been through on that day, he was lucky to be alive.

Log's 'Back-Breaking' Job Aids Combat Forces 'Punch'

Cam Ranh Bay (USA)—The work of depot soldiers in Vietnam has been described as "back-breaking, monotonous and downright dull at times," but it is providing combat forces the needed punch in fighting communist insurgents in this battle-torn land.

"It may not be the most interesting job in the world," said Sp4 Luther R. Ellison of the 657th Quartermaster Company, "but we know the men in the field are counting on us to hold-up our end. So you better believe we're not going to relax."

Actually there is little time for relaxing.

The men at the 1st Logistical Command's ports and depots generally work a 12-hour work day, seven days a week, leaving precious little time for routine-breaking recreation.

After work there's chow and a cold shower (if you get to the shower point before the water runs out) and a movie or a couple of beers or soft drinks, if available. Almost as soon as heads hit the mattress it seems it's reveille again.

"If you like work, there's no place in the world like a depot," commented Pvt. Gary R. Nusberger, a packing clerk. "When I came to Vietnam, I was mentally prepared to die, if need be. I felt I had 'lucked out' winding up in the depot... until I

started to work."

Unloading cargoes from ships is far from glamorous. Heat conditions in the holds

Patient Shortage For Cav. 'Doctor'

An Khe (USA)—Sp6 David V. Edens of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, who is "Doctor" to the villages of Song Tan and Tan Lai, is running out of patients.

Several months ago Edens treated as many as 300 to 400 patients a week. Through constant supervision of sanitary facilities and the dispensing of medical care the number has dipped below the 100 mark.

One infant was discovered to have tuberculosis and Edens began the necessary daily treatments. The baby is now on the road to recovery.

Edens, who took advanced medical courses at the Army hospital in Fort Bragg, N.C. has treated everything from gunshot wounds to scarlet fever and once delivered a baby. He has also taught basic medical skills to several village nurses.

of vessels calling on Vietnam's ports are in hell-like proportions. The temperature usually hovers around 130 degrees, and a man has been known to sweat off five pounds on a 12-hour shift when the heat really bears down.

After the supplies are moved out of the ships and away from dockside, they are broken down, sorted and prepared for shipment to requesting units at the depots warehouses.

Many of the men receive their training for their work while on the job, but they learn quickly and well. PFC John Mears, a winch operator, says his job is "sorta tricky—one goof with the winch and a couple of tons can come crashing down on the guys in the hold. They trust me up here to know my job and do it right."

The men in the holds aren't the only ones who are counting on Mears to know his job.

"There are about 200,000 American and Free World soldiers depending on these men," Maj. Gen. Charles W. Eifler, of the 1st Log Command, emphasized. "A simple mistake at this level can hurt a lot of people at either end of the supply pipeline and nullify the efforts of hundreds of people."

"It takes more than planning to get supplies to the fields," the Log commander added. "Without the men sweating it out in the holds of ships and putting up with a certain amount of monotony of tending the stocks in the warehouses, we might as well all go home. We just couldn't do the job."



SIGNAL SENTRY—Signalman PFC Michael Hall is the master of "Sarge" one of the German shepherd dogs that patrol the communications site on Long Binh Mountain overlooking the resort city of Dalat.

Rock-Tossing Enemy Plague Leathernecks

Hue/Phu Bai (USMC)—Members of a Combined Action Company—marines and Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF)—have a problem. Somebody, presumably the Viet Cong, has been throwing rocks at them.

One night recently, a marine and a member of the Popular Forces were on watch in their bunker. There was no moon and the night was, as the marine described it "pitch black."

The marine, PFC Fred McMillan, had just relieved another Leatherneck on watch.

"I hadn't even entered the bunker yet," he said, "when I heard a thump. The PF started to scream and yell. At first I thought it was a grenade so I hit the ground."

McMillan heard the Vietnamese soldier muttering in his own language. When

he asked what happened, the PF showed the marine a good sized bump on his head and a rock.

McMillan and the PF sat quietly in the bunker straining their eyes for any movement. After about 15 minutes of silence, they heard what sounded like someone running.

McMillan challenged the "rock thrower" and when he didn't stop, the marine fired two warning shots over the intruder's head.

"He or they haven't been back yet, but if they do come back, we'll be ready for them," said McMillan, and he pointed to a pile of rocks stacked inside the bunker.



DIEGO DOLL—This little Vietnamese child, not quite sure what it's all about, clutches a stuffed toy dog made and donated by Girl Scout Troop 328 in San Diego, California. (USMC Photo by Cpl. L.L. Atherton)

Motorized Junk Commandeered As Ferry By 'Red One' Troops

Di An (USA)—When infantrymen are on a combat operation they have little time for play. When they are Americans, however, they take advantage of any situation that might give itself to a little amusement.

The "no-play-during-combat" rule was broken by the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry during Operation Lexington in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The men of the 1st Infantry Division unit found an 18-foot motorized junk moored on a river in the mangrove swamps and decided to use it.

The men of Company A were ferried across the river, a squad at a time. This was a change for the infantrymen who were accustomed to wading or swimming such

an obstacle.

After the crossing, SSgt. Anthony Young and his squad were detailed to take the boat—dubbed "Alpha's Yacht"—downriver to the company's field headquarters. The motor quit and the men couldn't restart it.

Undaunted, Young had his "crew" cut bamboo poles, and the "man-powered" craft was soon underway.

As the junk was poled down the river, someone sug-

gested singing a song, but the sound of rifle fire squelched the idea.

When they reached their destination, all agreed that "sailing" was fun, but they decided that they would leave any future endeavor to the professionals.

They tied the junk to a tree downriver from the command post to decoy the VC into an ambush. No contact was made and the craft was destroyed.



NAVAL GUNS FLASH — Seventh Fleet destroyer USS Rogers teaches "Charlie" the meaning of her motto "on target" as in just five days, the San Diego based ship destroyed 107 VC structures and damaged 93 more, expending only 550 five-inch rounds. (USN Photo)

Battalion Operation Surprises VC Force

Di An (USA) — A night tactical march requires perfect coordination, control and discipline. The individual soldier all the way up the chain of command plays an important part in its success.

The 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Infantry Division proved this when the entire battalion completed an eight-mile march under cover of darkness to surround the village of Phuoc Hoa near the Song Be River.

The Viet Cong were reported to be using the tiny hamlet as a sanctuary by night and leaving at the first light of day.

For the infantrymen it was

a simple operation, but like all night operations it required precision. Noise and light discipline coupled with the requirement of control met its challenge. There was always a possibility of an ambush.

The battle-clad troopers reached Phuoc Hoa after a three-hour trek. Each unit took up pre-planned positions and waited. The only sound was the shrill of birds in the distance.

At the crack of dawn, a small force of Vietnamese National Police entered the village. Three Viet Cong suspects were captured as they attempted to break through the ring formed by infantrymen.

A gunship patrolling the Song Be River sank two sampans as the VC attempted to escape.

It was a small "catch", but the operation itself showed the precision and skill of the infantrymen in moving at night. It also taught the Viet Cong that darkness does not always offer sanctuary from the skill of the Infantry.

DOD CASUALTY FIGURES reveal 3,662 U.S. service personnel in RVN lost their lives from hostile actions between Jan. 1, 1961-June 4, 1966, 20,241 were wounded or injured. Nonhostile actions claimed lives of 815.

▲ Benchmark

(Cont'd from P-1, Col. 3)

into the road ahead, hastily setting up a tripod. Two more followed and mounted a 57mm recoilless rifle on it. Sergeant Blair and his crew zeroed the 90mm tank gun to the VC position and blew it to pieces.

Capt. Ralph M. Sturgis, troop commander, took three hits in his command vehicle. Sgt. Thomas N. Saporito pulled the driver from the vehicle, and while others treated him, jockeyed the track among several positions to prevent it from becoming a target for VC mortars. Between moves, he fired his grenade launcher from his driver's seat.

PFC Joseph D. DeRossi became a track commander on the spot when a direct hit killed two NCOs and three other men on his track. He and PFC Edward L. Guilliams evacuated the wounded and continued to fight by themselves.

Lt. Ronald A. Copes, executive officer, belied his normally pleasant disposition by hurling a thrown TNT charge back at the enemy. He then opened up with automatic rifles, firing them frontier-style and passing empty weapons to his observer to reload.

The VC had attacked his reinforcing column with intense mortar and recoilless rifle fire from prepared positions, but Lieutenant Copes' elements suppressed the fire, removed the disabled vehicles blocking their path, and rejoined the rest of the troop.

At a cost of 206 VC dead, Alpha Troop eventually continued with its original mission. To the men of that unit, "Benchmark 69" would go down in their regimental annals along with Normandy, Utah Beach, and a few other big ones.

Enemy Soldier Surrenders 'Thought He Would Be Shot'

Pleiku, (USA) — Two sergeants of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry recently received a surprise while on Operation Paul Revere conducted by the 25th Infantry Division.

The two sergeants, James A. Meisner and John C. Alton were part of a reinforced squad patrol setting up a night ambush.

They had just reached the perimeter and were getting the patrol set up when they saw a North Vietnamese Army soldier sitting in a hammock.

They motioned for him to get out of the hammock and

put up his hands.

"When we motioned for him to raise his hands, you'll never guess what he did. He waved back at us," Alton injected, laughing.

"His face didn't show fright, but his knees were knocking like nobody's business," Meisner said. "It looked as if his legs were doing the Watusi, but his body wouldn't cooperate."

The enemy soldier had four hand grenades with him, but no other weapons. He offered no resistance when the men searched him.

"After blindfolding him

we sent him back to the perimeter with two other men in our patrol. He was turned over to the perimeter guards there," Meisner pointed out.

During interrogation it was discovered that the NVA soldier had been lost from his unit and had not eaten for four days.

He told the interrogators that he wanted to give himself up but was afraid to approach the perimeter because he thought he would be shot.

Log Command Reaches 100% In Bond Drive

Saigon (USA) — The 700-man headquarters of the 1st Logistical Command reported reaching 100 per cent in personnel purchase of U.S. savings bonds in response to a command-directed "war on inflation."

Officials at headquarters of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, credited the Log headquarters with being the first major command post in-country to hit total participation, according to reports received to date.

Log commander Maj. Gen. Charles W. Eifler, who has personally stockpiled savings bonds for more than 20 years, asked his 30,000-man command to deduct part of their pay each month for bond purchases to "help yourselves and help Vietnam" in fighting national inflation.

A major bond-sales drive is being continued in subordinate commands of the Log throughout Vietnam aimed at a minimum of 90 per cent in troop participation.



WEeping AND WAILING — Vietnamese women, some crying, some stunned, huddle with American soldiers behind a bank outside their destroyed homes. The Americans, elements of the 101st Airborne and the 1st Cavalry Division, were on a sweep and destroy mission near the Dong Tre Special Forces Camp 230 miles northeast of Saigon. (UPI Photo by Dana Stone)

Attack By ARVN Units

'Greatest Single

Hue — A "long day's night" ended in disaster for two battalions of Viet Cong when Vietnamese Army soldiers and marines caught the enemy in a death trap 30 miles

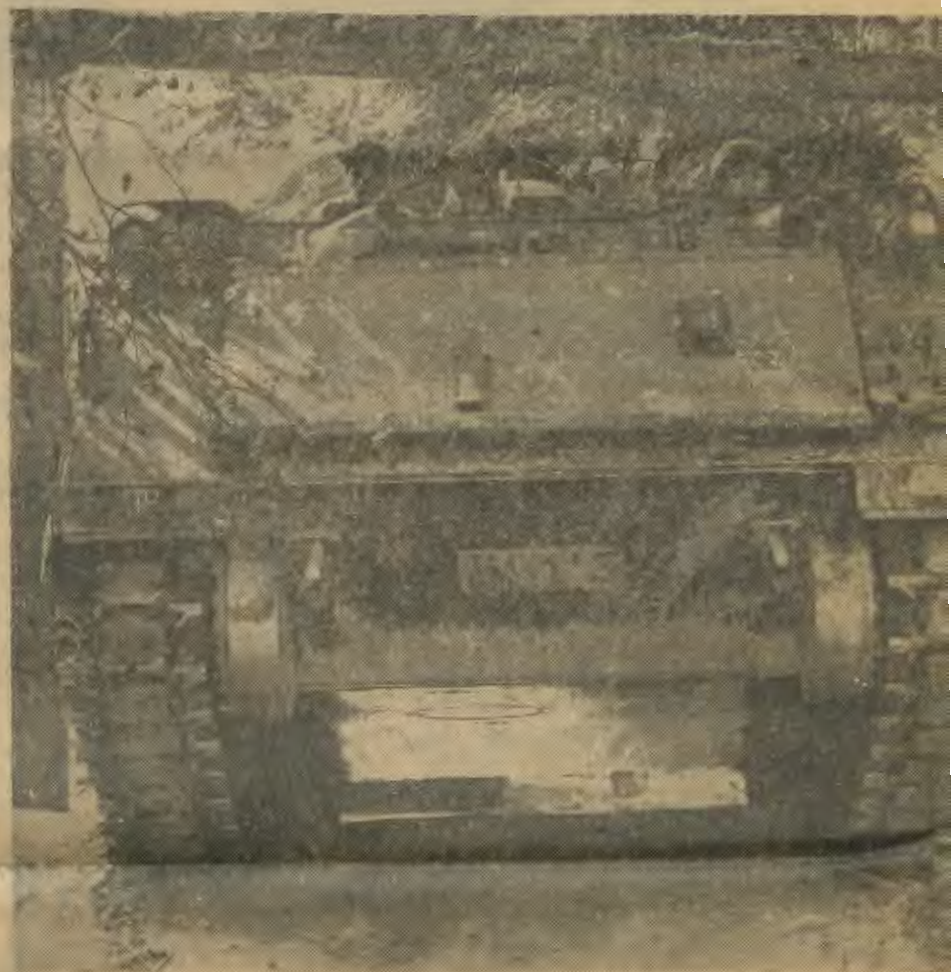
north of the imperial city of Hue.

Circling Bird Dog liaison planes dropped nearly 1,000 flares, turning the night into day during the all-out attack on the 808th

and 814th Viet Cong battalions held the hamlet of Phung. The Viet Cong Infantry Division was destroyed by armored carriers, from



SSgt Eugene Ashe, U.S. Army advisor, confirms enemy dead



An armored personnel carrier returns with the scars of battle



'Dustoff' helicopter from supporting U.S. Marine Corps unit waits for the medevacs



Old man's face reflects constant

e Victory'

Viet Cong bat-
tled up in the
hu Lieu.

namese 1st
sion, support-
red personnel
om the ARVN

**7th Cavalry Regiment, ini-
tiated the assault on the
north side of the objec-
tive while the marines
applied the squeeze from
the south.**

A second squadron of
APCs from the 7th Caval-
ry battled the Viet Cong
in squad echelon strength.
The enemy was using
antitank rockets, automa-
tic weapons, mortars and
antiaircraft artillery guns.

**Four U. S. marine gun-
ships split automatic wea-
pon fire at the enemy
during the night battle.**

Col. Joffre H. Boston,
senior advisor to the
ARVN 1st Inf. Div., con-
firmed that "in killing
upward of 200 Viet Cong,
capturing 38 more, and
seizing more than 75
weapons, friendly forces
recorded the greatest
single military victory in
this area since the first
of the year."

**Story & Photos
by Sp4 H. B. Bryan,
USA
Staff Writer**



An ARVN soldier comforts a woman left homeless by the tragedy of war



Vietnamese Army victors, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Lam, I Corps commander, inspect fettered Viet Cong prisoners

VC's Hesitation Costs His Life

Hue/Phu Bai (USMC)—The Viet Cong sniper and the marine looked at each other. The sniper raised his rifle—for the last time.

The marine, PFC Lynn Owen, was one of five Leathernecks who had been pinned down by enemy sniper fire coming from a position near a river bank.

They advanced and saturated the area with rifle fire and grenades.

"We thought that if we sprayed the area with fire, they would keep their heads down long enough for us to move in," said one marine. "Then a grenade landed at our feet."

Owen dove into the river and the other Leathernecks hit the ground. When the grenade exploded, he came up for air.

At the same time, the grenade-throwing sniper emerged from his hole.

He was on a rock directly above Owen, who was still in water up to his chest.

"He just looked at me," Owen recalled. "I guess he was too shocked to do anything else. But he waited too long. When he raised his rifle, I already had fired and he tumbled off the rock, dead."

Voted 'Grenade Player' Of Year

Dak To (USA)—The prowess of a former high school volleyball player saved the lives of a patrol when a grenade thrown at the troopers was batted away and exploded harmlessly 10 feet away.

PFC Joe Redmond is a machine gunner with Company B, 2nd Battalion 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He was getting very close to his rotation date when out of the thick jungle came a cry "grenade."

Redmond was less than three feet from the "little bomb" as the patrol hit the dirt.

"All I could think of was knocking it away from us," Joe said. So with the fastest move in "grenade volleyball" history, Redmond dived at the airborne grenade and with two hands slapped it down a small ravine bordering the path he was on.

No one in the patrol was hurt and PFC Joe Redmond has been voted "Grenade Volleyball Player" of the year in his company.



EVERYONE'S FRIEND—All the residents of a small village near Pleiku know SSgt. William F. Jackson, an advisor to the Vietnamese 22nd Ranger Battalion. Through his efforts these children have school supplies and will soon have a cinder block school house to replace the wood and scrap metal building they now use. (USA Photo)

'Red One' Ambush Patrol 'Rides Home In Style'

Di An (USA)— "Tomorrow morning we'll hope to ride home in style," SFC Franklin Young told members of the 266th Chemical Platoon of the 1st Infantry Division Support Command, as the men prepared for an all-night ambush.

He then went into a huddle with Lt. Robert Small the platoon leader. Together they finalized a plan that had started as a whimsical thought four days before, when they erected a huge sign on a main road about 1,500 yards north of the base camp.

The patrol moved out before dusk, circled wide of its destination and approached the pre-planned ambush side through a jungle thicket.

Suddenly they heard a vehicle approaching from the north.

"Is that it?" PFC Larry Copeland whispered.

"Just follow the plan," Young cautioned.

The noise was louder as the vehicle came into view. It was a large, slow-moving Lambretta. The men grasped their weapons firmly and crouched lower into their positions.

The Lambretta pulled into a small clearing on the opposite side of the road and stopped. Four men dressed in black pajamas, pith helmets and carrying tools emerged and went up to the sign. They studied it carefully and one of the group began chattering in Vietnamese. He pointed toward the ground in various places behind the sign.

On a pre-arranged signal from Lieutenant Small the patrol responded with a single, coordinated movement. The officer held a flashlight on the faces of four astonished captives.

"Looks like we have ourselves some VC," he said.

"And a vehicle," Young added. "I told you guys we would ride back in style."

At day break the Lambretta filled with the patrol members and their captives started moving toward Di An.

"We going to leave that here?" Copeland yelled as he pointed at the sign.

"Why not—maybe we'll have a whole fleet of taxis for the base camp before we rotate."

Printed in English and Vietnamese, the sign read:

"Attention All Convoy Personnel 1st Infantry Division. Underground Ammunition Storage Area. No Smoking next 50 meters."



Sgt. Shouts 'Ole'; Buffalo Speaks VN

Di An (USA)—SSgt. Filbert Lujan Jr., Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 1st Division has a distant relative who is a bull-fighter. However, it didn't help him during a fight with two water buffalo recently on Operation Lam Son II.

Sergeant Lujan was setting next to a tree enjoying a brief rest when a Vietnamese youth came by herding several huge water buffalo. Lujan eyed them curiously as they passed. Apparently someone or something spooked the animals because two of them whirled and charged toward the sergeant.

Sergeant Lujan quickly vacated his resting place and made a hasty exit but to no avail. The two buffalo caught the fleet-footed sergeant and tossed him high in the air. While in an ungainly descent he was once again tossed by the excited animals. Landing on his back the luckless man tried to get up only to have the two beasts run over him. Again he tried to get up and again he was trampled. Finally, members of his unit came to his rescue by distracting the animals, firing their weapons.

Sergeant Lujan was last seen shouting "Ole".

1st Air Cav. Gunners Dubbed 'Cloud Climbers'

An Khe (USA)—The flying artillerymen of the 1st Air Cavalry Division have been given a new name in Vietnam.

The time-honored "red-legs" moniker has given way to "eagles," "mountain men," or—in most cases—"cloud climbers."

The airborne division's artillery units have virtually abandoned the flat valley floors for positions in mountain tops in the central highlands where most of the recent combat has taken place.

The cleared, flat valleys afford good fields of fire for the guns, but there is also the threat of enemy fire from the hills.

Those same hills would be almost inaccessible for most artillery units, but to the helicopter-borne Cavalry units, these positions present no problem.

There are some disadvantages. Often the positions are blanketed by the clouds or the targets are obscured by low-hanging haze. And, the only resupply method for ammunition is by air.

There are advantages. The gun positions are easily defended, and the infantrymen, who would otherwise be detailed for defense, can be released for other tasks. The helicopters—the lifeline of the gun positions—are in little danger of being fired on

when they go into and out of the area.

And, most important in this tropical climate, being in the high country—the temperature is much more livable.

The "mountain men"—or "cloud-climbers"—have one psychological advantage. As one veteran put it, "Imagine how galling it must be to the Viet Cong to see, indelibly-painted on the highest peaks, the huge yellow and black patch of the 1st Air Cavalry Division."

THERE ARE 98 national cemeteries in the United States. DOD administers to 85 containing more than a million graves. Department of Interior administers to 13 others. Overseas, Battle Monuments Commission administers to eight containing 31,000 WW I dead with 93,000 WW II dead.

PERHAPS BEST KNOWN is Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Some 137,000 Americans are buried there, including veterans of Washington's Army of the Revolution, Union and Confederate veterans, and 229 bodies recovered from the battleship Maine, blown up in Havana harbor in 1898.

Air Force Advisors Raffle Motorcycle, Build Ready Room

By Sp4 D. R. Brown, Staff Writer USA

Da Nang—Eight months ago the 516th Fighter Squadron of the 41st Vietnamese Fighter Wing was suffering from a lack of facilities.

Realizing that this factor was effecting the morale of the unit, the squadron's senior advisor, Maj. Lester R. Hewitt and his three assistants initiated a program to help the pilots improve their facilities.

Proceeds from a raffle of a motorcycle and a gift of \$400 from the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M, Major Hewitt's alma mater, were used to build and furnish an air-conditioned operations building and pilot ready room.

The improvement in facilities has had a telling effect, the unit's morale is at a new high and flying time for the squadron has doubled.

The advisors are responsible for the training program of the squadron, checking out the new pilots in the A-1 "Skyraider" aircraft the squadron flies, instructing them in bombing and strafing, and conducting leadership classes.

"The pilots really want to learn and respond well to the training," said Major Hewitt.

The squadron advisors try to advise the unit's members in everything they do, aiming at influencing sound actions, according to Major Hewitt.

The squadron flies daily missions into North Vietnam and within the I Corps area.

Occasionally the advisors

will fly with them.

"On these missions," said Major Hewitt, "The Viet-

namese commanders do the leading; this way they develop themselves."

'Wild West' Atmosphere Instills Pride In Unit

Di An (USA)—A group of Texans in the 1st Aviation Battalion, have "the most unusual ranch" in the 1st Infantry Division unit.

The men from the "Lone Star" state in the company seized an opportunity to build morale and "esprit de corps" by promoting the western atmosphere. Now everyone else has joined in.

A walk around the "Longhorn Bar-B Ranch" with Maj. William L. Hindman, the commanding officer, from Paris, Texas (the Marshal), reveals the trading post (supply tent). The Alamo, Maverick and Long Branch are all living quarters.

A visit to the "Corral" (flight line), where the Longhorn helicopters bed down at night, show that these titles are not all just fun and games.

This is also the home of Capt. Jim C. (Doc) Touchet, the unit maintenance officer from Bedford, Texas, and his assistant, CWO Cleve L. Heck of Centrahoma, Oklahoma, (near Texas).

Standing out in any gathering is Maj. Gary (The Jolly Green Giant) Larson of Holdrege, Nebraska, (near Texas) who stands over 19 hands high. He is the security of-

ficer and is responsible for protecting the "Ranch" from the "rustlers", the Viet Cong.

Maj. Ron (Shorthorn) Baker, the assistant operations officer is from Portland, Oregon (near Texas).

He earned his name by being too short to reach the shower valve. He walks softly and carries a big stick. As he files through the valley of the shadow of death he fears no evil, because as he puts it, "I am the meanest man in this valley."

Another readily apparent emblem of the Longhorns are their red and blue bandanas which have become part of the flight uniforms of the air crews.

The ten-gallon hats and cowboy boots have of necessity given way to steel helmets and jungle boots. Where once the Longhorns roamed the ranges in the United States they now roam the lush green jungles of Vietnam where the enemy may be lurking anywhere.

It is possible that all of this may sound silly to many people but it isn't. It is a way a group of mature men located far from home have chosen to keep up their morale and build unit pride.

Hungarian Playmates Reunited In Vietnam

Tuy Hoa (USA)—The three American paratroopers in the mess tent looked at each other in disbelief. They had not seen each other since their homes were destroyed by a revolution in Budapest, Hungary 10 years ago.

Sp5 William Zsigmond, PFC Steve Bata and Sp4 Peter Feketa were playmates then. When the revolution erupted in 1956 the 10-year old boys parted and left the country with their families.

Baka's father was one of the organizers of the resistance and before young Steve left his home his body bore the scars of war.

When Zsigmond entered the mess tent he heard excited voices conversing in his native tongue. He looked around, saw Feketa and Baka and the gap of 10 years was closed.

All three men are in the

same unit, the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, but are in different companies.

Zsigmond, recalling the meeting said, "We just stood staring at each other when we realized who we were. Then we got a case of beer because we couldn't find any wine."

Now that they have been reunited, the three men have vowed to keep in contact. Baka lives in Maryland, Zsigmond in Pennsylvania and Feketa in New Jersey, but they are planning another reunion when they return to the United States.

NCO's Rifle Hit By Sniper's Round

Cu Chi (USA)—"Somebody up there must really like me."

The remark was made by Sgt. Robert D. Smith, a fire team leader with a 25th Infantry Division unit on a search-and-destroy mission in the Trang Bang area north of here.

Smith had stepped into a clearing after searching a farm house when an enemy sniper opened fire from the tree line.

The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry trooper hit the ground, and then started to return the fire. As he aimed his M-16 rifle, Smith noticed a hole in the hand guard of the weapon.

One of the sniper's rounds had gone through the hand guard, missing Smith's hand by inches.



Liza Medford, Hotel Tropicana, Las Vegas...need we say more?

▲ Medal Of Honor Awarded

(Cont'd from P-1 Col. 3)

fired on a Viet Cong machine gun 150 meters away, and although the sight was faulty, he succeeded in hitting the machine gun.

While he and the loader were trying to reach District Headquarters they were wounded. With a fourth wound, this time in the right arm and leg, and realizing he was unable to carry his wounded comrade back to the building, he pulled him to a covered position and made his way back to the district building where he sent help to evacuate the injured soldier.

As morning turned to afternoon and the Viet Cong pressed their effort with direct recoilless rifle

fire into the building, he ordered the evacuation of the seriously wounded to the safety of the communications bunker.

Despite enemy gun fire, he directed the rapid evacuation of all personnel.

Throughout the long battle, he was undaunted by the vicious Viet Cong assault and inspired the defenders in destroying the determined enemy. Williams' conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

- Vietnam News Wrap-Up -

Hanoi, Haiphong Area Hit

U.S. warplanes from the Air Force and Navy hit vital enemy oil storage areas in North Vietnam June 29 in the closest they had ever been to the capital city of Hanoi and the key port city of Haiphong.

One storage area was only two miles from Haiphong and the other was three miles from Hanoi. The raids left huge mushroom-shaped clouds towering to 35,000 feet above the targets. Each of the clouds covered an area of 50 square miles.

Pilots reported the anti-aircraft artillery fire near Hanoi "covered the target like a blanket" but there was no report of aircraft lost.

Enemy Trawler Nabbed

Operation Market Time vessels held 17 enemy junks and detained 247 persons during the week ending June 25. In Operation Game Warden, river patrol craft held five junks and detained 44 persons for questioning. A quantity of mail for enemy forces in the Rung Sat Special Zone was recovered from a sampan which was swamped when its occupants attempted to flee from river patrol boats.

More than 1,000 weapons and close to 80 tons of ammunition and other battle supplies were taken from a steel-hull trawler which was forced aground near the mouth of the Co Chien River 80 miles southwest of Saigon.

In the air, Air Force pilots battered a 75-truck convoy southwest of Dong Hoi in the North and flew more than 300 strike missions against other road and river traffic, gun emplacements and staging areas.

More than 1,200 close air support sorties were flown by Air Force pilots over the Republic and pilots were credited with killing a possible 214 enemy and destroying or damaging more than 2,400 enemy buildings fortifications.

Carrier-based Navy aircraft concentrated their strikes in the North against transportation routes and facilities in the panhandle area near the cities of Thanh Hoa and Vinh.

Over the Republic, Navy planes flew 680 strike sorties. Forward air controllers reported nearly 500 buildings destroyed or damaged and a possible 45 Viet Cong killed.

Nathan Hale 'Most Active' Operation

Operation Nathan Hale, with elements of the 101st Airborne Division, the 1st Air Cavalry Division and Vietnamese Army units engaged against enemy forces, was termed the "most active" of all ground operations during the week ending June 25 by a military spokesman.

Heavy contact resulted in 430 enemy dead and 128 weapons seized, in the operation which started June 19 in Phu Yen Province.

Operation Hawthorne terminated June 20 and final results showed 531 enemy killed and 109 weapons seized in the combined 101st Abn. Div.-1st Air Cav. Div. operation.

Combat Losses Increase

Combat losses, both to friendly forces and the enemy, were above the June average as figures released June 25 showed that U.S. forces lost 131 killed in action and the enemy death toll was up to 1,125.

Small unit actions seeing contact with the enemy hit a record high of 203 while the battalion size or larger operations—a total of 19 for the week ending June 25—were slightly below the monthly average.

Enemy weapon losses during the period were the highest for a one-week period as a total of 2,685, including 256 crew-served weapons, were seized in ground and sea operations.



- World News Summary -

Target Date Set For Space Flights

The United States hopes to launch its first nuclear rocket from Cape Kennedy in 1975, and manned trips to the planets are expected in the 1980s.

Technical and budgetary problems that plagued the project appear to have been overcome and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is pushing to develop a nuclear rocket as a upper stage for the Saturn 5.

Nuclear reactors also are being built for space ships intended to survive for several years away from the earth.

Recent ground tests have proved the feasibility of a nuclear rocket and the goal of the program is to have an engine ready for whatever mission might evolve, according to Harold B. Finger, manager for the NASA-Atomic Energy Commission Space Nuclear Propulsion Office.

Supersonic Transport Dummy Unveiled

A plywood dummy of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's proposed supersonic transport has been unveiled at Burbank, Calif. The transport is designed to carry 266 people around the world in 23 hours at a speed of 1,800 miles per hour.

Lockheed said the craft, made largely of titanium, and due for its first flight by 1970, will be nearly 400 miles per hour faster than a foreign-made plane, the Concorde, which is scheduled to enter airline service two or three years ahead of its U.S. competition.

At today's prices, Lockheed estimates that the plane, 273 feet long and about 100 feet longer than present transports, would sell for \$35 million. It could take off and land at present jet-transport airports.

Saudi Arabia Monarch Snubbed in New York

Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York cancelled a dinner and reception for visiting King Faisal of Saudi Arabia after the monarch said the Jews who aid Israel are his enemies. He made the statement in Washington after he had completed a state visit to the White House.

A clarification of the ruler's remarks—made to Arab reporters—said that Faisal is "not against the religion of the Jews but against the Zionists and the Jews who help the Zionists."

Anas Yassin, Saudi ambassador to the U.S., who issued the clarification, stressed that the original remarks were not directed against the Jews as a religious or ethnic group.

Goldwater Stumps For Reagan

Republican gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan was caught in a political crossfire between Democratic Gov. Edmund Brown and Barry Goldwater, the defeated 1964 GOP presidential candidate.

Goldwater assailed Brown and spoke in support of Reagan in a speech at a meeting of Republican women in Anaheim, Calif. He charged that Brown "acts more like Nero of Rome than governor of California... He is content to watch his state burn in the fire of its many problems while he fiddles."

Brown, on the other hand, dubbed Goldwater the "quarterback Republicans have brought in to complete Reagan's image that he is free of right wing ties."

Russia Snaps Full Photo Of Earth

What scientists say are the first full-disk photographs of earth, taken by a Soviet satellite 25,000 miles in space, have been received from the USSR by an astronomy magazine in St. Louis, Mo.

The pictures have been authenticated by U.S. government officials and by a lunar and planetary laboratory in Arizona, according to Donald Zanher, publisher of the Review of Popular Astronomy, a technical publication with a circulation of 10,000.

Girl Survives Jump From Bridge

A 20-year-old New York girl, said to be distraught after a fight with her boy friend, apparently jumped from the 248-foot George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River and lived.

She was identified as Roslyn Hirsch. She was listed as in critical condition at Bellevue Hospital with possible fractured vertebrae and internal injuries.

Week's Sports Highlights

Marine MSgt. Bob Kinsman served as sports director, Far East Network for four years and is currently working at the radio station, Saigon. A former professional ball player, widely known in Marine Corps sport circles, Bob will bring his sports information to **The Observer** weekly (Ed. note)

MSgt. Bob Kinsman

Where in the world has the baseball season gone? Take a long look neighbor. In just exactly four days the twenty ball clubs take a one-day break for the All Star Game. It's mid-season... the campaign is at the halfway mark.

It's also time for sports writers to glimpse the standings in the two leagues for an indication on how the clubs will finish come September.

As we go to press, the San Francisco Giants lead the loop by four full games in the National League, with the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Los Angeles Dodgers making it a seat squirmer all the way. No one is conceding the gonfalon to the Giants at this point!!

Remember last year's sprint by the Pirates after the half-way break? They played the best percentage ball in the major leagues and could come up with a repeat performance this year. We don't think they will, but would hate to have the wheat crop riding on the possibility. The Forb's Field Faithful are hungry for a pennant... so is the ball club.

The great Sandy Koufax bids fair to win thirty games this year for the punchless Dodgers, to become the first pitcher to turn the trick since the immortal "Di'z" Dean came through in 1934. If he does... and Don Drysdale snaps a horrendous losing streak... Walt Alston's team could be occupied in

October.

Going out on the well worn limb, this column strings along with the San Francisco Giants and the greatest player... In our opinion... ever to lace on a pair of shoes under the big top. We refer of course to Wonderous Willie Mays... the Candlestick Park Giant.

And we like the pitching of Juan Marichal and Gaylord Perry as well as the Koufax-Drysdale duo. This, complex with the power hitting of Mays, McCovey, Jim Ray Hart and Co., looks a lot better to us than the bats held by the banjo-hitting Dodgers. You don't steal first base.

Look for a down-to-the-wire campaign... all the way to the final week of play.

In the American League the first three clubs are also involved in a real pier-sixer. Baltimore leads by three games over the Detroit Tigers and the Cleveland Indians. The Robinson boys are banging the ball at a terrific clip for the Orioles and their pitching has been sensational. Can they hold up? We think so, and look for the first pennant to fly from the stadium in Baltimore, when the last pitch of the season is in the record books. Of course injuries to either of these two standouts could knock this observation into a cocked hat. But on paper... the Orioles have the horses.

Oh yes. The oddsmakers have made the Yankees a 100-1 shot... to finish.

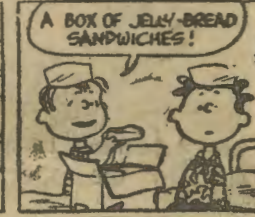
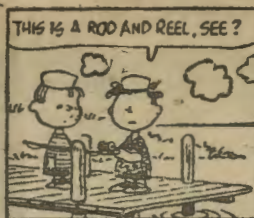
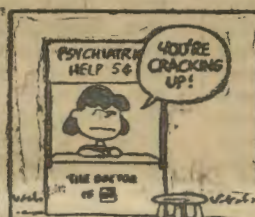
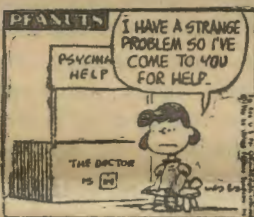
BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



PEANUTS

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



SCHEDULE

AFR, Vietnam

TELEVISION

MONDAY

2000 Where The Action Is
2030 Information Feature
2100 News
2105 Combat
2200 Dean Martin
2300 Sign Off

TUESDAY

2000 Golf Special
2100 News
2105 Rawhide
2200 Red Skelton
2300 Sign Off

WEDNESDAY

2000 Voyage To the Bottom of the Sea
2100 News
2105 I've Got A Secret
2130 The Tonight Show
2300 Sign Off

THURSDAY

2000 G.E. College Bowl
2030 My Favorite Martian
2100 News
2105 Perry Mason
2200 Jimmy Dean
2300 Sign Off

FRIDAY

2000 To Tell The Truth
2030 Information Feature
2100 News
2105 Gun Smoke
2200 Danny Kaye
2300 Sign Off

SATURDAY

2000 Ben Casey
2100 News
2105 Lawrence Welk
2200 Hollywood Palace
2300 Sign Off

SUNDAY

2000 Weekly Newsreel
2030 Beverly Hillsbillies
2100 News

2105 Bonanza
2200 Ed Sullivan
2300 Sign Off

Form Of Distinction Reappears In Vietnam

Di An (USA) — In every war, on every continent where men have met and fought, certain groups have been set apart. Some have distinguished themselves in battle and were awarded eagle feathers, or horse-tail banners, or distinctive insignia.

Others were given the privilege of wearing physical trademarks, shaven heads, or bushy beards—as a mark of their prowess in the art of war.

Washington (AFNB)—

A bill designed for a more up-to-date savings program for overseas service personnel would eliminate defects in the current Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Savings Deposit Program. The present program has fallen into virtual disuse. Less than four percent of Army enlisted strength, the major depositors, use the program for regular savings.

ORIGINALLY SERVICE-MEN'S SAVINGS were popular because four percent simple interest rate was attractive at that time. Other savings accounts paid a lesser rate and were not readily available at military installations. This is no longer true. Savings accounts today pay a higher interest rate and are compounded at frequent intervals, with interest beginning on the first deposit.

In World War II, a certain airborne unit chose to wear modified Mohawk haircuts—further fulfilling man's natural and vain desire to be "different."

In Vietnam, as in the Korean war or on the distant Arctic shores of Greenland, a common form of masculine distinction and self-expression has reappeared.

In many elite infantry units, you may witness that peculiarly masculine growth of facial foliage—the mustache.

All sorts of fuzzy lip ornaments may be seen. Among the more common forms are the British Military Brush, which is rather scruffy but not too hairy, and resembles a worn-out toothbrush; the Buffalo Bill or the dark hair-line of the gigolo type.

Then there is the Hitler, a hairy postage stamp centered below the nose; and last and obviously the least, in the Sweet Sixteen—seven small bits of fuzz on one side and nine similar fragments on the other side of a young soldier's upper lip.

Call them what you like—but the girls back home would call them ticklish.

Honesty Earns Bike For Seabees' 'Mascot'

Hue/Phu Bai (USN) — A 13-year-old Vietnamese boy has been given a new bicycle by the men of the Navy unit which has adopted him as its unofficial mascot.

The youngster, identified as Thiu, was one of a group of children who gathered daily outside the gate at the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seven's compound, after the unit's arrival here two months ago.

Thiu volunteered to run errands for the Seabees, getting items from the local villages. He expanded his activities to picking up and delivering laundry for the men in "Sierra Company," and the Seabees appreciated his efforts.

To show their appreciation, the men chipped in and bought a bicycle for their "mascot."

When the bicycle was purchased, the men received permission to bring the youngster into the compound, and he was shown the bike.

Thiu rode around the area and, after the "test run," declared that it was a "number one" bicycle.

The 13-year-old youngster is the "man of the family"

as two older brothers are in the Vietnamese Army and he takes care of his father—a disabled veteran—and his mother and sister.

It is a responsible job but the men in the Seabee unit feel he will manage as he has had the responsibility for some time now.

Thiu's New Bike



NUMBER ONE BIKE — Thiu, a 13-year-old Vietnamese lad smiles gratefully at Dewey Kemp, SWI, after being presented with a "number one bike" by the Security Division of MCB-7. Members of the division look on.



ENROUTE TO BATTLE — An Air Force C-130 Hercules, loaded with 101st Airborne soldiers and field equipment, flies toward Nhon Co, a base camp 100 miles northeast of Saigon. Air Force C-130 crews flew 174 sorties from Phan Thiet to Nhon Co while hauling 2,000 soldiers and 3,200,000 pounds of equipment to support a search and destroy operation. (USAF Photo)

Several servicemen from the field have been mailing the below mail box to THE OBSERVER thinking we will mail a copy of THE OBSERVER home for them. The mail box is in the paper to make it more convenient for you to fold THE OBSERVER, staple or tape it and mail. We are bound by current regulations against mailing THE OBSERVER to the general public. We're sorry, we wish that we could provide you with this service, (THE EDITOR)

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