

Navy Aviators Fly a 'Ball of Flame' to Safety

ABOARD THE USS ENTERPRISE (Special)—Two Enterprise aviators flew their fiercely burning A6 Intruder over 100 miles to safety recently after being hit by antiaircraft fire on a mission over North Vietnam.

The two Attack Sq. 35 aviators, Lt. Bruce B. Bremner, 28, Iowa Falls, Iowa, the pilot, and Lt. John T. Fardy, 26, Melrose, Mass., a bombardier/navigator, stayed with their burning airplane almost 30 minutes but the spreading flames forced them to bail out only 1½ miles from the Enterprise. Both men were plucked from the Tonkin Gulf uninjured and in good spirits.

The two aviators were flying a night mission against a heavily defended target and were hit just after bomb release. "We took a direct hit by some kind of detonating shell and part of the instrument panel exploded in the cockpit with

a loud thud," Bremner said. "I continued to break toward the sea and started to climb. About this time I saw a bright light in the mirror and I turned to see what it was. The left wing had burst into flames.

"We were about ten miles inland so our first objective was to cross the beach and get back out over water. I also wanted to get as high as possible and perhaps starve the fire of oxygen and put it out.

"We got over the water okay and passed over a search and rescue destroyer all right so we decided to keep going. About this time we had another A6 join up with us and confirm that the wing was burning pretty badly."

"We kept climbing and leveled off at 35,000 feet but the fire kept burning. At that altitude it burned with a blue glow

and smaller flame, but it kept burning.

"We were 120 to 130 miles from the ship when we were hit and they (the ship) told us they had a ready deck and could take us aboard as soon as we got there.

"As we came down near the ship the flames got bigger. The lower I went the bigger the flames got. We passed over the ship about 8,000 feet and they verified that we were still burning badly."

Observers aboard the ship reported

the plane as just one large ball of flames.

"We went ahead trying to get in position to land, hoping to get the plane

aboard and save it," Bremner said.

"At 2,000 feet we slowed up and put the flaps down. By this time the wing was really burning with a big blaze. I couldn't see very well and it was beginning to look hopeless. It was so dark outside and so bright around the airplane

that it ruined my night vision. I couldn't see the ship or much of anything out of the cockpit.

"About this time the LSO (landing safety officer), who was watching us from the ship, advised us to eject and so did our wingman. As it began to get warmer in the cockpit I assumed the flame was getting too close to the fuselage and since an A-6 carries fuel in the fuselage we decided to eject.

"Lt. Fardy went out first. I had a little trouble getting the plane trimmed (stabilized) for me to eject and I finally wound up holding the stick between my knees and pulling the ejection handle.

"We were hardly in the water any time at all. I was only a mile and a half from the ship when I ejected and the helo came right over, picked me up and then Fardy. As far as the rescue goes, everything worked perfectly."

Hospital Opens at Chu Lai

By BOB CUTTS

S&S Correspondent

SAIGON — The second of three multi-purpose emergency hospitals, built through Army, Navy and civilian efforts has been opened in Chu Lai.

The 300-bed surgical hospital has six operating rooms, an X-ray lab, seven wards, two helipads, its own power and water plants and support facilities for all patients and staff. It will not only handle U.S. and Vietnamese wounded military men on a regular basis, but civilian war casualties as well.

The medical compound, to be taken over by the Army's 27th Surgical Hospital and opened for business as soon as remaining equipment shipments arrive and are installed, was dedicated June 11.

Brig. Gen. G.L. Collins, U.S. Army Vietnam surgeon general, said the new hospital compares with a modern station hospital in the U.S.

"The hospital will take its place in the development of a medical treatment system designed to provide the best possible care for combat soldiers and civilian war casualties in the Republic of Vietnam," Collins said.

The facility was built from scratch in 137 days by the RMK-BRJ construction company. Frank S. McGarvey, the firm's general manager, was on hand for the opening. Rear Adm. S.R. Smith, the Navy's officer in charge of construction in Vietnam, lauded RMK-BRJ.

War Waif 'Chisi' Is Now 1st Lt. White

By ANDREW HEADLAND JR.,
S&S Staff Correspondent

DA NANG, Vietnam — One day early in 1954 a white-haired Air Force sergeant walked into the press center in Seoul, Korea, on a routine writing assignment that changed the life of a 13-year-old Korean youngster.

The chance meeting resulted in the youth, known as "Chisi" by his American friends, being adopted by Sgt. Albert T. White Jr. and his wife, "Chisi," now Army 1st Lt. Link White, was taken by his new parents to Paramus, N.J., where he completed high school. He is assigned as information officer, Army Support Command, Da Nang.

Since enlisting in the Army in 1962, White has completed tours of duty as an enlisted man in West Germany and Korea, graduated from Officers Candidate

date School at Fort Benning, Ga., and served a year as Army information officer at Fort Buckner, Okinawa.

He has also picked up a year's college credits by attending night classes offered by the University of Maryland. He plans to obtain a degree, with majors in history and political science, from Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.

He enrolled as a seventh grader a week after arriving in Paramus in 1955 and because of language difficulties had the lowest grades in his class. But he was among the top four honor students when he graduated in 1960.

Singling out a few highlights from his experiences in East and West he recalled his father telling him he had outgrown the name "Chisi" and to select a new name he liked. One day he



Copter Troops Go Into Action

With their helicopter still in mid-air, troops of the 4th Inf. Div.'s 1st Bn., 22nd Inf., leap off and scramble up a hill as they make an assault during an operation near Dak To in the central highlands. (USA)

House Honors U.S. Veterans Of Once-Besieged Khe Sanh

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House paid tribute to veterans of the once-threatened South Vietnam outpost of Khe Sanh in a Flag Day ceremony of songs, march music and speeches.

Combat Marines were special guests of the House, along with members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the annual House observance saluting the flag.

The Marine Band and the Air

Force's "Singing Sergeants" provided the music.

In the main address, Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Tex., named by Speaker John W. McCormack to lead the ceremony, told the Khe Sanh veterans that the outpost, besieged by Communist troops earlier this year, has "taken its place in the history and traditions of our nation."

He added, "It has done so because of the magnificence of 6,000 heroic men who withstood savage attacks, daily bombardment and faced seemingly impossible odds."

In his speech, Brooks also took issue with critics of America as a whole following the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. While not mentioning the slaying, Brooks said, "There are those who say we are a sick country, a land where violence and hatred flourish."

He said those people "are wrong." He called the United States "a growing country, a changing country, a dynamic country."

Australian Wives Sent From Saigon

SAIGON (S&S)—The wives of Australian Embassy personnel are being withdrawn from Saigon because of the current series of Communist shelling and rocket attacks.

An embassy spokesman said six embassy wives were leaving for Penang and Malaysia. No Australian children of embassy families are in Saigon.

All members of the embassy staff are staying on the job in the South Vietnamese capital.