

The JACKSTAFF News

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U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon,

June 4, 1969

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SECNAV PRESENTS PRESIDENTIAL CITATION



Captain Arthur W. Price, (left), Commander U.S. Naval Forces Patrol Group, accepts the Presidential Unit Citation from Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee, during ceremonies at Binh Thuy, May 22. Captain Price accepted the award on behalf of the officers and men of the Navy's Delta River Patrol Group. (Official U.S. Navy Photographs by JOCS Ed Nelson, USN)

Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee presented the Presidential Unit Citation to the officers and men of the Navy's Delta River Patrol Group during ceremonies May 22 at Binh Thuy, South Vietnam. Captain Arthur W. Price, Commander, U.S. Navy River Patrol Group, accepted the award.

The unit was cited for: "Exceptionally meritorious and heroic service from January 31 to April 9, 1968 while... engaged in armed conflict with Viet Cong forces during the Tet (Lunar New Year) offensive and counter-offensive campaigns in the Mekong Delta region of the Republic of Vietnam."

The citation accompanying the award cited numerous heroic actions by the River Patrol Boat (PBR) crewmen in saving the Delta city of Chau Doc and the decisiveness PBR and Navy Seawolf Helicopter Gunship fire support in the defense of Ben Tre and Vinh Long.

The river patrol boats and Seawolf gunships are assigned to Operation Game Warden patrols in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone. Their mission is to interdict the movement of enemy troops and supplies along and across the major waterways of these areas. In the Rung Sat these units also provide security for merchant ships on the Long Tau River, the main shipping channel to Saigon.

There are more than 200 PBRs and over 20 Seawolves based throughout the Delta assigned to Operation Game Warden.



Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee addresses men of the Navy's Delta River Patrol Group prior to presenting them with the Presidential Unit Citation on May 22, at Binh Thuy. Captain Arthur W. Price, Commander U.S. Navy River Patrol Group, accepted the citation on behalf of his officers and men.

Six States Now Award Bonus For Active Military Service

Pennsylvania has become the sixth state of the Union to enact a Vietnam bonus law. The others are Illinois, Connecticut, Louisiana, Delaware and Massachusetts.

Pennsylvania's bonus law authorizes payment of \$25 per month for each month served in Vietnam with a maximum payment set at \$750.

Those eligible for the bonus must satisfy the requirements for the Vietnam Service Medal and must not have renounced their citizenship. They must also have shown Pennsylvania as their place of residence on their service records and must have been honorably separated from active duty.

To obtain payment, applicants must attach their original DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Record of Transfer or Discharge) to their bonus request form. The DD Form 214 will be returned as soon as possible. Those who have lost their DD Form 214 may obtain a certified true copy from the National Records center, GSA, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. 63132.

Although the bonus law is in effect in Pennsylvania, application forms are not yet available. The state expects to have a supply around 1 June and they

will be available from the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

Illinois provides a \$100 bonus for veterans who served on active duty after Jan 1961 and who received the Vietnam Service Medal.

The state also provides a \$1000 death benefit for the beneficiary of a serviceman who was killed in Vietnam or who died from Vietnam service-connected causes.

No death benefits will be paid, however, unless the deceased serviceman had resided in Illinois at least 12 months before he entered the service. The law imposes the same requirement on veterans who apply for the bonus.

Application for the bonus the Illinois Veterans Commission Vietnam Compensation Fund, 221 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

Louisiana provides a bonus of \$250 for its citizens who served on active duty in the Vietnam combat area between 1 Jul 1958 and a future date when

the Vietnam campaign ends.

A \$1000 death benefit will be paid to the survivor of a serviceman who was killed in Vietnam.

However, actual payment of this bonus is not authorized until the Vietnam campaign ends. Death benefit payments were authorized to begin on 1 Jul 1968.

Requests for information and applications should be sent to the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Vietnam Bonus Division 150 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, La. 70801.

Connecticut has a law which requires no Vietnam service to establish eligibility for the benefits it provides.

The law requires that an applicant be domiciled in Connecticut on 1 Oct 1967 and for at least a year before he entered the service.

Those who served on active duty for at least 90 days after 1 Jan 1964 are entitled to \$10 for each month of service up to a maximum of 30 months or \$300.

Con't on Page 2

Freedoms Foundation Offers Cash Awards

Servicemen and women have received recognition and cash awards over past years for writing letters-letters sent to the Freedoms Foundation written on subjects important to all Americans.

"My Hopes for America's Future" is the subject for the 1969 letter-writing contest. All members of the armed forces, both in active and reserve status, as well as senior ROTC cadets, are eligible. Here's all you do:

Letters must not exceed 500 words.

Print or type your full name, rank, service number, full military address, service or reserve component, and full home address. Notification of winners will be made in February, 1970.

Your entries should be sent to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481, postmarked by Nov. 1, 1969.

That's it. If you take the time to enter the contest you may be a winner. Freedoms Foundation is offering \$1,000

to the writer of the best letter among active duty members. Also, there are 50 awards of \$100 each and 50 awards of \$50 each for active duty personnel.

The top 10 winners, regardless of service, will be invited to Valley Forge to receive their awards at the annual Freedoms Foundation presentation ceremony on George Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, 1970, followed by a trip to Washington, D.C.

The best letter in the Reserve category will earn its writer a top award of \$1,000. There also will be up to 50 awards of \$100 each and up to 50 awards of \$50 each. The top winner in each reserve component also will be invited to the Valley Forge ceremony and to Washington, D.C.

Remember, you can only win if you take the time to write a letter. It can be a very important letter for you on a very important subject: "My Hopes for America's Future!" Why not do it today?

Editorial

THE LAW BELONGS TO YOU

Some people live a lifetime without ever feeling that they are in direct, personal contact with the law. They may never be arrested, never be sued or sue anyone. They may never be summoned as a juror or a witness.

If you hold such a view you are wrong. Every day of your life you are affected by laws, and protected by them. Here are just a few examples:

The electricity that lights your home and operates your appliances is subject to laws both as to rates and safety requirements.

The food you eat is subject to laws of marketing and quality.

The clothes you wear are required by law to be labeled to protect you against misrepresentation as to materials used.

Traffic laws protect you, and all citizens daily, as driver or pedestrian.

There are laws that assure you of a fair salary, in line with your position and needs.

Health and safety laws apply to all public facilities, including those for recreation and amusements.

Even as you sleep, you are protected by laws setting safety and fire protection standards.

And that isn't all, by any means.

The law is the basic route by which we accomplish social gains. Through legislative enactments, at all levels of government, the will of the people is expressed and progress toward a better society is consolidated. It always has been so, and it must continue to be if we are to retain the countless benefits of life in a lawful society.

In more ways than you realize, the law functions as your friend and protector -- not as something to be feared.

Only a Lawful Society Can Build a Better Society. (AFPS)

6 STATES AWARD BONUS

Con't from Page 1

Servicemen who are still on active duty must wait before filing until they have served for 30 months and are eligible for the entire \$300 bonus.

Honorably discharged Navy-men may file for whatever bonus their service entitles them under the Connecticut law and their application must be accompanied by their original Release from Active Duty (DD Form 214).

Forms on which to apply for the bonus in Connecticut may be obtained from most town clerks, veterans' organizations and the Vietnam BONUS Division, State Treasurer's Office, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, Conn. 06115. Completed applications should also be mailed to the latter address.

Delaware requires honorable service in Vietnam for at least 90 consecutive days between 5 Aug 1964 and the end of hostilities.

Navy-men who are still in the service are also eligible for the bonus provided they served within the time frame prescribed for Delaware veterans and for at least 90 consecutive days.

Navy-men who are still in the service are also eligible for the bonus provided they served within the time frame prescribed for Delaware veterans and for at least 90 consecutive days.

The law requires the applicant to have been a resident of Delaware for at least 12 months before he entered the service.

Beneficiaries of deceased eligible veterans qualify in the following order for death benefits: surviving husband or wife; surviving children (share and share alike); surviving parents (in equal shares) or person who stood in loco parentis.

Those eligible are authorized payment of \$15 for each month (or major fraction there-

of) service in the United States or the District of Columbia. The maximum amount payable is \$225.

Twenty dollars is paid to eligible applicants for each month of service outside the United States or the District of Columbia with a maximum amount of \$300 authorized. If the Veterans Administration determines a veteran has a 60 per cent or greater service-connected disability, he is entitled to a maximum of \$300 regardless of service length.

Three hundred dollars is also paid to beneficiaries of veterans who died during their service as a direct result or in the course of duty in Vietnam.

Applications should be sent to the Executive Director of the Veterans Payment Commission, 1224 King St., Wilmington, Del. 1980.

Massachusetts' Vietnam Bonus Law requires the applicants to have served at least six months after 1 Jul 1958 and to have been domiciled in the state for at least six months immediately before starting military service. Career men still in service must have had Massachusetts domicile at least six months before 1 Jul 1958, and may be required to furnish proof of continued residency.

Those who served outside the continental United States in the Vietnam area and those who are otherwise qualified are entitled to a \$300 bonus, while those who served in the United States or elsewhere in the world than in Vietnam are entitled to receive \$200.

There is a similar provision concerning death benefits paid to the survivors of a Massachusetts serviceman. The next of kin of a serviceman who dies while on active duty are eligible to receive \$300. On the other hand, the survivors of a serviceman who dies after he is released from active duty are entitled to \$200.

Navy Activates New Radio Station

Radio Station Sugar Grove, the newest link in the U.S. Navy's communication network, was activated with formal dedication ceremonies in Sugar Grove, W. Va., Saturday, May 10.

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) delivered the principal address at the dedication.

The guest list included Rep.

Harley O. Stagers (D-W. Va.); Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chief of Naval Operations; Rear Admiral J.C. Dempsey, Commandant, 5th Naval District; Rear Admiral Francis J. Fitzpatrick, Commander, Naval Communications Command; and Captain Maurice C. Hartle, commanding officer of the Naval Communications Station

Changes in the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program have simplified withdrawal procedures. New procedures permit disbursing officers to make prompt payments for emergency withdrawals and members returning from overseas may now have repayment checks sent to their homes, banks, or leave addresses.

BINH THUY, Vietnam — Situated in the heart of the Mekong Delta and seemingly afloat in the middle of many rivers, canals, and marshes that surround it, Binh Thuy AB, Vietnam, is referred to as the USS BINH THUY by newly assigned Navy pilots. With the addition of U.S. Navy light-attack squadron VAL-4, Binh Thuy AB is the only in Vietnam with Navy, U.S. Air Force and Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) operational flying units. The Navy pilots fly OV-10 aircraft in support of river patrol boat operations in the Mekong Delta.

PASCAGOULA — The Navy's new multi-purpose amphibious warfare ship (LHA) will be built in the world's most modern shipyard — a new \$130 million, mechanized facility at Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The new LHA is faster and more versatile than any amphibious warfare ship in the fleet. As large as ESSEX-class aircraft carrier, the LHA combines the features of an amphibious assault ship (LPH), the amphibious transport dock (LPD), the amphibious cargo ship (LKA), and the dock landing ship (LSD). The LHA can carry an entire Marine Battalion Landing Team with combat equipment.

BOISE — All Navy-men who served aboard the battleship IDAHO (BB-42) are invited to the 50th anniversary reunion at the Downtowner Motel, in Boise,

Idaho, from August 21 to 24. Idaho will be the first state to take an active part in a ship reunion. Contact: USS Idaho (BB-42) Assn., P.O. Box 11247, San Diego, Calif. 92111.

CHICAGO — The National Safety Council has come up with a real gem for Navy-men: "Don't wear jewelry on the job." Many fingers have been left behind when wearing rings on maintenance or construction jobs. Wristwatches can cause sparks on battery terminals and metallic jewelry can be caught in pulleys, gears and lathes.

NORTH ISLAND — The oldest living retired U.S. Naval officer lives in Coronado and he's 103 years young. Admiral Richard Harrison Jackson, when asked recently if he would like to make just one more cruise, chuckled and said: "No, I guess they can handle her alright."

FIRST FLEET — Navy ships, responding to a request for assistance from San Diego marine biologist, are listening for a noisy female whale. The "noise" is generated by radio and sonar beacons attached to the California gray whale. She is being tracked as part of a National Geographic study to learn more about the migratory patterns of gray whales.

USS SHANGRI-LA — When you're at sea on an aircraft carrier, flight operations usually start at the catapults, but sporting enthusiasts aboard this attack carrier launched "birds" from the other end.

Birds launched from the fantail? Well birds don't always have wings and a tail — not clay pigeons anyway. Trap shooting can turn up in the darndest places and that's what has happened here.

NORFOLK — An Airman by

any other name is still an Airman even if she is a Seaman. Confusing? By way of enlightenment, Airman Dawn E. Seaman (W) was named Sailor of the Month at the Naval Air Station here for March.

MOFFITT FIELD — You probably don't know it but there was a recent typhoon off the California coast called Rosa Rohrschach. Actually, it didn't exist. It was a "paper" storm created for a First Fleet training exercise. The idea is to avoid a storm situation before encountering it.

PENSACOLA — A new mobile van is providing clothing services to outlying areas here. In contrast to an old van, the new "small stores on wheels" has fluorescent lights, two air conditioning units, a heater and a lot more room.

GUAM — The 100th Polaris patrol in the Pacific Ocean by a fleet ballistic missile submarine was completed in early April when the USS STONEWALL JACKSON (SSBN634) returned to Apra Harbor following her 17th patrol. More than 600 patrols have been completed in the Atlantic and Pacific since the first one in January 1961.

NEWPORT — Lieutenant (ig) Claire Bryant became the first woman commissioned directly into the Judge Advocate General's Corps when she was graduated from OCS here April 4.

ATSUGI — Sun, song, Shirley Saunders and RCA Victor equal "Sunny Shirley". What it adds up to is that Atsugi's Shirley Saunders had recorded her first album, just released. Shirley is the talented wife of LCDR. Marvous Saunders (MC). He is one of the few Negro flight surgeons in the Navy and is assigned to VQ-1 here.

Navy, University of California Begin Research on Meningitis

A joint effort between the U.S. Navy Biological Laboratory and the University of California School of Public Health has begun for the study of meningitis.

A repository for cultures and sera taken from patients with meningitis has been set up at the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 1 at Berkeley, California. There, specimens will be identified and typed. Listings of the specimens will then be distributed to Navy medical activities and other interested investigators.

The repository will also produce and type anti-sera for Naval Bureau of Medicine Labs, preventive medicine units, and contractors. High quality sera produced to date have been used to supplement supplies of other military labs and contractors.

The program is sponsored by the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Research at Berkeley will continue toward developing the best means for shipping

specimens to insure maximum recovery of viable cells. Studies are also slated to find the best methods of preserving Neisseriae, a family of parasitic bacteria, for storage and lyophilization.

To develop broad-spectrum classification for Neisseriae isolates from scattered geographical areas, the repository will establish exchange procedures with the World Health Organization and the Communi-

cable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga.

One of the biggest blocks to research in meningitis in the past has been the lack of suitable isolates from healthy carriers and patients with the disease. Information acquired at the Naval repository is expected to aid researchers in future studies of meningitis epidemiology, pathogenicity, immunity, serology, and genetics.

The JACKSTAFF News

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DEADLINE

Material intended for publication must be received prior to Wednesday of each week.

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Swift Boats are a Com'in

The Nam Can Forest, at the southern tip of South Vietnam, is a wasteland of mud, muck, dense forest and Viet Cong. Until last fall the VC enjoyed relative peace and security in the remote area and used it as a storage area and base camp. But last October, the enemy's tranquility was shattered by the roar of 50-caliber machine gun fire from U.S. Navy Swift boats (PCF's). The Swifts, operating as a part of Operation Sea Lords, began continuous raids into the maze of rivers, canals and Streams of the Nam Can Forest in an effort to interdict enemy movement throughout the area. More than 7,000 enemy bunkers, watercraft and structures have been destroyed or damaged and 126 enemy

soldiers killed, but enemy resistance has been heavy. The PCF's meet frequent ambushes and the enemy has built barricades across the rivers to halt the boats. To counter these efforts, Navy Underwater Demolition teams are used to destroy the barricades as Navy "Seawolf" helicopter gunships and OV-10 "Black Pony" aircraft provide air cover. Vietnamese troops have also been used as reaction forces against ambushes and to sweep inland in search of base camps and weapons caches.

USN Photos
By PHC Arthur Hill



A U.S. Navy Seawolf helicopter flies cover for Swift boats entering the Bo De River on the Ca Mau Peninsula in South Vietnam.



With Vietnamese Marine embarked, there's not much room left on this Swift boat.



Turning off the Duong Keo River the Swifts enter a small tributary enroute to their landing zone.



With Vietnamese Marines embarked, the Swifts "pepper" enemy positions as they head for landing points.



Two Swift boats tow a third damaged by enemy fire during the incursion as gunners watch for enemy ambush positions.

Navy Sponsored Savings Bond

Kick-Off a Whooping Success

WASHINGTON — The Navy-sponsored Defense Department 1969 Savings Bond rally last week blasted off spectacularly from its launching pad at the Inner Court of the Pentagon.

Last year's total Federal employee Savings Bond purchases, according to figures released by the Treasury Department, amounted to over a billion dollars. Defense accounted for more than half of that amount, with members of the military buying bonds worth more than \$3.4 million and civilians of the department almost equaling the military bond investments for the same period.

With that record to surpass, the Navy Department recruited news-and-show business personalities to help drum up interest and participation in the bond campaign within the Defense Department.

Luminaries the likes of Frank Blair of the NBC "Today" Show, actor Roger Smith and his wife, Hollywood star Ann-Margret, contributed their time, talent and prestige to dramatize the bond kick-off.

Blair is a lieutenant in the naval reserve, and was a fighter pilot in World War II. Smith, who played "Mr. Roberts" on television, was a Link trainer instructor for naval aviators when he was called to active duty in Hawaii. Ann-Margret's military loyalty, however, differs somewhat from Blair's and them all — Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard. "I now have been over to Vietnam twice and if there is anything that I can do for the armed forces, I want to because, as the men over there know, I happen to love each and every one of them....," Miss Ann-Margret said.

With the celebrities on the platform were Navy Secretary John H. Chafee, the rally host; Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird; Treasury Secretary Da-

vid M. Kennedy; Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor; Elmer L. Rustad, the National Savings Bond director; and other top officials on the new Defense management team.

The attendance of Ann-Margret and her husband, and the featured entertainment under Frank Blair's ceremonial mastership, attracted a crowd that surpassed previous Pentagon rallies.

Although it was quite enough for the crowd to just view the galaxy of stars on the platform, the guests did not just sit to be ogled at. Instead, they individually went out of their own special ways to say something about the military and the bond campaign they were honoring and supporting.

For an opener, Frank Blair intoned: "Our bond rally gets off to an exciting start as we present the famous U.S. Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps under the direction of Master Sergeant Gary L. Losey." The U.S. Navy Dance Band and its choral ensemble, the Barber Shop Quartet, also performed.

Then Blair introduced the guests one by one, and each made individual speeches in support of the campaign.

Secretary Chafee: We in the Navy Department consider it an honor and an opportunity to host this year's kick-off program which launches the payroll savings drive in the Department of Defense. And in thinking it over this morning, I listed some of the reasons that I thought it was important to buy Savings Bonds.

First, because they play a real part in the nation's economic soundness. And I think we all agree that a sound eco-

nomy is very important to this country of ours.

And second Savings Bonds are as safe an investment as anybody could possibly make because behind each of these Savings Bonds stands the word of the United States Government. And that's as good a guarantee as you could possibly have.

And third and terribly important, by buying Savings Bonds on the payroll deduction plan, we are saving. Now, no one has ever pretended that saving is easy. Somebody suggested that it would be the hardest of all virtues. I don't know. I haven't investigated the matter or.... well, I had better stop there.

"....Now, Mr. Kennedy, in writing this speech today, I found it so persuasive that I convinced myself and I rushed out and I signed up for the payroll savings plan this morning.

Secretary Laird: As I look at our special guest (Ann-Margret today, I am reminded of Bob Hope's many trips to Vietnam and to other areas entertaining our service personnel. I now know why he doesn't mind spending Christmas away from home. And I was always led to believe that our friend Bob Hope was making a sacrifice.

I have a special responsibility to this program today and that is to introduce our very famous personality. Each year it has been the custom in the Department of Defense to appoint an honorary chairman of the payroll savings campaign. The qualifications of this task are rather special. They are rather specific also. They call for a person who demonstrates by action and by expression a close interest both in the bonds program and also in the Department of Defense and the many programs which each of the services have.

The qualifications are beautifully combined and I chose the would beautifully most advisedly. And they are combined in the person of our lovely star, Miss Ann-Margret.

Secretary Kennedy: The President and our Commander-in-Chief has made it perfectly clear to all of us that a sound dollar is vital to the American free enterprise system. Still quoting the President on the dollar, Mr. Kennedy said: 'It is one of the pillars of our prosperity and national strength in these critical and uncertain times. The defense of the dollar ranks among the highest of national priority.'



Ann-Margret arrives at the Pentagon. Behind are her Public Relations man; CDR William Tarbos, Official Escort and Savings Bond Project Officer; and an unidentified Treasury Department aide.

To the President's remarks, let me say something I cannot say too often. This administration is firmly committed to ending inflation. You here in the Department of Defense know of the patience, the hard work and ingenuity necessary to provide for the military security of our nation and I know from the financial aspects of our problem that it too will require this kind of patience, this concern, and this hard work.

....The widespread payroll participation by you and by your fellow employees, in fact, by all Americans everywhere in every walk of life is ample testimony to the continuing worth of U.S. Savings Bonds in personal as well as Federal financing planning.

It has been a personal pleasure today for me to be with you. Let us move forward together to defend the dollar, to defeat the forces of inflation, and help achieve a greater personal and national security through the Federal Payroll Savings Program. Thank you very much.

Frank Blair:...and our distinguished guests Ann-Margret and Roger Smith. And I would like to say before proceeding that tomorrow (May 8) is their

second wedding anniversary.

Roger Smith: It is an interesting place to spend one's honeymoon, isn't it? I think I would like to clear up what I was explaining to my wife last night. When I was in the Navy, I signed up 50% of my salary to go into payroll savings on the bond plan. And because of that money that I saved, I was able to finance my trip to Hollywood (from Hawaii). And it was in Hollywood where I met my lovely wife Ann-Margret. Secretary Laird:

We do appreciate your willingness to serve as honorary chairman of our campaign. And I have a special presentation that I would like to make at this time and read it to you.

In recognition of her selfless devotion, of her time and talents to the entertainment and inspiration of members of the armed forces particularly those serving in foreign lands, Miss Ann-Margret is hereby appointed honorary chairman of the 1969 Department of Defense Savings Bond and Freedom Share Campaign given under my hand and seal on the Seventh Day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Nine....s/ Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of Defense.



Flanked by defense secretary Melvin R. Laird (left) and treasury secretary David M. Kennedy and Navy secretary John H. Chafee, Ann-Margret proceeds to the Pentagon's inner court for the hour-long savings bond rally.



Ann-Margret accepts from Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird her certificate of appointment as chairman, honoris causa, of the 1969 Defense Department Savings Bond and Freedom Share Campaign.

FLAG DAY-JUNE 14



June 14 is Flag Day. Much has been written about the history of the American flag and most of us are already familiar with its evolution.

John Paul Jones, the father of the American Navy, was a key figure in the history of our flag. It was Jones who hoisted the first American flag over an American man of war. The ship was the *Alfred* and the date was Dec. 3, 1775. The flag was similar to our stars and stripes with some interesting differences. It has 13 red and white stripes, but instead of the familiar white stars on blue, there were the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew. The colonies had not yet declared their independence and the crosses were possibly a last reminder of the mother country.

Not only did John Paul Jones hoist that first flag on an American ship, he was a party to some other naval flag firsts as well. He was the first officer to fly the

Stats and Stripes on the open seas aboard the *RANGER* on July 4, 1777. This ship received and acknowledge the salute of a foreign vessel for the first time on Feb. 14, 1778.

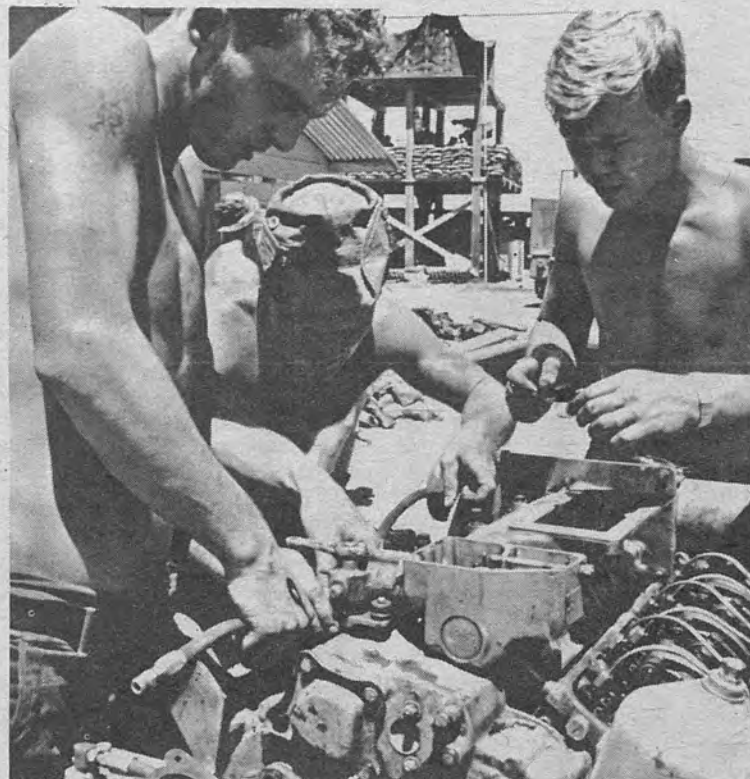
In addition, Jones' ship was the first vessel to fly the flag during a naval battle. (Quiberon Bay off the coast of France.) His resulting victory of April 24, 1778, enabled him to be the first man to hoist the flag over a captured enemy vessel.

The U.S. Navy, and its most famous hero, played an important part in showing the fledgling nation's flag to other countries, and most important, letting these nations know we would defend it to the death if necessary. As the years went by, the number of stars increased, as did the respect shown Old Glory around the world. Today the American flag stands as the symbol of freedom loving people.

SPOTLIGHT

Go Dau Ha

Photos By Mike Newman

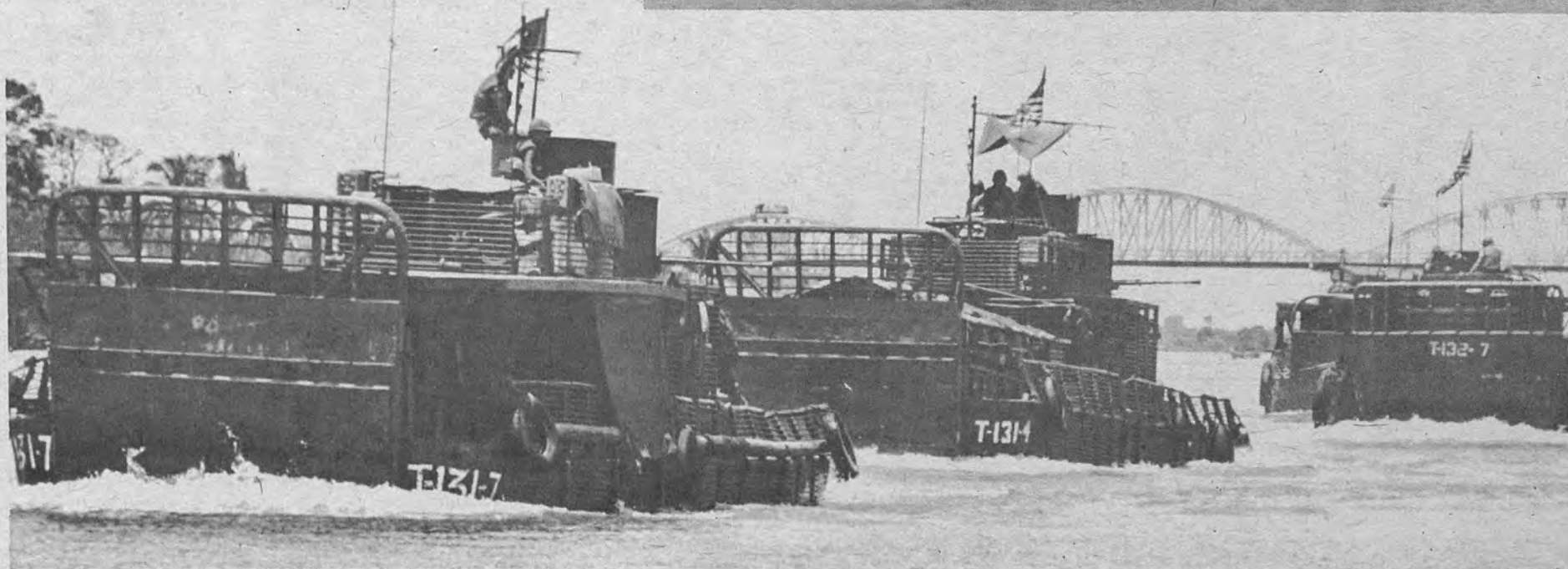


ENGINE OVERHAUL....EN3 D. J. Sheehan, EN1 L.R. Johnson and ENFN R.M. Wagner (above) replace cracked engine liner on the pier at Go Dau Ha. The Advanced Tactical Support Base supports PBR's of Riv Div 592 as well as ATC's and South Vietnamese and U.S. Army forces.

LRRP EXTRACTION....PBR from River Division 592 (above) noses into the beach to extract an Army Long Range Recon Patrol. The Army and Navy work jointly on operations along the Vam Co Dong River daily.

UNIFORM WHISKEY....PBR (right) underway in the northern waters of the Vam Co Dong River sweeps the bank in search of enemy positions and crossing points.

TANGO BOATS....Below Armoured Troop Carriers form up at Advanced Tactical Support Base Go Dau Ha to make a sweep of the river to the north.



USS Colleton Faces a 'Stiff' Problem

WITH THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE IN THE MEKONG DELTA—How do you get rid of a "broken-down" helicopter that's sitting on your flight deck and shutting it down to all incoming traffic?

That's the problem the USS COLLETON (APB-36) was faced with recently when a "Huey" (HU-1E) made an emergency landing on board due to mechanical difficulties.

Operating on the narrow rivers of the Mekong Delta as the acting flagship for the Com-

mander River Assault Flotilla One, the Colleton's flight crew had an unusually busy schedule, receiving and launching as many as 2 dozen flights in a day. In fact, she recently logged her 5,000th helo landing since her arrival in Vietnam less than one year ago.

A timely solution was arrived at, however, with the benefit of some friendly assistance from the 9th Infantry Division, the U.S. Army component of the joint Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force. (After all, it

was an Army helo!)

Skilled crewmen secured the downed chopper's rotor blades and fastened a hoist rig to the helo. Moments later a huge Army "Chinook" (H-46), the workhorse of the "whirlybirds," hovered noisily over the Colleton's flight deck. A heavy lift cable was dropped, secured to the downed helo, and the copter was lifted up, up, and away.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief for a moment, and then the rapid pace of operations resumed once again.



An Army UH-1E is hoisted off the flight deck of the USS Colleton by a Chinook (H-46). The "Huey" was forced to make an emergency landing aboard the Colleton due to mechanical difficulties. The Colleton is operating with River Assault Flotilla One units throughout the Mekong Delta. RIV/FLOT ONE is the naval component of the joint Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force, which prowls the many miles of Delta waterways seeking out the Viet Cong. (Official Navy Photo by PHAN Pyeatt)



CWO2 Thomas Auman (second from right), pilot of the 5,000th helicopter to set down on the USS Colleton (APB-36), receives a congratulatory cake from the ship's skipper, Lieutenant Commander G.D. Wehner. On hand for the recent milestone landing were Captain T.F. Booker (right), Chief Staff Officer of River Assault Flotilla One, Commander W.C. Deal, flotilla Operations Officer, and CWO2 Thomas Morris (seated in helo), the chopper's co-pilot. The 9th Aviation Battalion helo, assigned as the command craft for an Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force operation that day, returned from the area of operation to the force's flagship resulting in the 5,000th landing. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 Ken Stephens)

Cam Ranh Bay Now Handles Major 'Swift Boat' Overhauls

In the waning months of 1968 the Naval Support Activity Saigon was tasked to develop an in-country facility capable of doing major overhauls on PCF "swift" boats. The urgency of the situation produced a call to NSA's "fire brigade"—the SEABEES of U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 302—to construct such a facility at Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay.

As developed, the plans called for 40x96 prefabricated Butler building to be placed atop twelve 10 foot high concrete "wing wall" columns. The PCF boats were to be hoisted out of the water by crane, transported by lowboy to the repair building where the boat would be placed upon a mobile skid and rolled into the shop. Flexibility allowed for the future addition of a marine railway, maintenance of large craft and installation of an overhead engine tram.

Construction began with the excavation for the footings on a drizzly November morning. No sooner had the EO's finished this chore than the Builders arrived with the prefabricated forms for the footings. Meanwhile a large Steelworker crew worked 912 hours cutting and welding 7-1/2 tons of steel rebar to go into the wing walls. Once the columns were formed and ready to pour, the job hit its first major snag—the RMK-BRJ batch plant had another top priority job at the Vietnamese Naval Training Center and all their concrete was already allocated. However friendly relations with Air Force "Red Horse" Squadron

555 of Cam Ranh Bay paid off big dividends as the Air Bees volunteered the services of their batch plant and ready-mix fleet to their counterpart Navy constructionmen of 302. The column pour began as scheduled.

Construction of the columns was just going into its seventh pour when tragedy struck the jobsite. The mobile crane being used to hoist the concrete bucket overturned, injuring several men, one critically. Still in a state of shock, the remainder of the crew grimly set their jaws and finished the day's work. After a one week delay, while the crane was inspected and repaired, all columns were finally poured and cured.

Erection of the 40 x 96 Butler building presented no great problems—at first! Soon difficulties in hoisting the pur-lins and the sheet metal the additional 10 feet threatened to cause a work stoppage. However, CBMU-302 Detail Golf at Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay borrowed a Hi Ranger truck from NAF to keep the PCF work moving along. The seasonal monsoons threw their "monkey wrench" into the work schedule daily, forcing work to be done only whenever the steel could be found reasonably dry and safe. Work on the exterior finally came to a grinding halt when an extra gable frame for strengthening the open end of the building failed to arrive from Saigon.

With the Butler finished as much as possible with the materials available, the crew vigorously attacked the problem of the railway layout. The puzzle of how the PCF's would be

moved into the building was a stumbling block until one observant SEABEE found a cache of railroad tracks at the Cam Ranh Army Supply Depot and put his head together with the Unit Machinery Repairman, who suggested using top rollers from a dozer track for wheels. With the aid of the Steelworkers' welding skill and some material scrounged from the ship repair yard, SEABEE ingenuity blossomed the idea into a functional reality.

Meanwhile more slowdowns were developing at the jobsite. The Air Force supply of concrete temporarily dried up, forcing the builders to pour the rail footings by hand with a "half-yard" mixer. Then, when a shortage of stainless steel welding rod threatened to halt the placement of rails on their anchored base plates, RMK loaned an ample supply to 302. In effort to conserve lumber, the concrete deck was poured using the rails as construction joints. Material thus save was used to frame the lower 10 feet of the walls to be covered by crimped sheet metal. And wonderfully, missing gable frame arrived on site in time to complete the building!

Finally, on 11 March 1969, after countless hours of frustration over absent material, tropical torrents, and hobbling set-backs, 302's SEABEES watched with confidence as the first PCF was rolled into position inside their latest creation. When asked to comment about the significance of the event a grinning CBMU-302 BEE replied, "Where do they want the next one?"



BINH THUY, SOUTH VIETNAM — Studying his notes carefully, Captain A.W. Price, Jr., Commander River Patrol Force/River Patrol Flotilla 5, flies in a helo to his subordinate commands throughout the Delta and III Corps area to obtain recent information on operations and brief his commanders on prospective maneuvers. Capt. Price regularly flies to his scattered commands to keep abreast of operations first hand; commanding his position effectively. (U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 S.P. Langley)

From the Desk of the Master Chief of the Navy

My objective in presenting this article is to promote my opinion on matters which affect all enlisted personnel. It may at times reflect on established policy, both official and unofficial, and certain procedures which I have encountered in my travels, which I feel may have an adverse influence on career retention and morale.

The Navy has established many programs to induce our first-termers to reenlist. These are good programs. Unfortunately not enough incentives exist for the second and subsequent reenlistee. I maintain that a need exists for duty choice incentive for these individuals.

Too often I've heard that the "Navy just didn't care" whether these people stayed in. Many times I have received letters that state "I would reenlist if I could get duty at _____."

These letters have to be answered that the request would be considered, with no guarantee, or "sorry, you're not eligible".

In fairness to all concerned, a program of this sort is under consideration. However, this is not the gist of this article. What I am hitting at is lack of apparent concern by leading petty officers, division officers, division officers, personnel in administrative services, and so forth.

Too often, especially in the administrative services, the individual is given to feel that he has been done a big favor just getting the attention that the administrator has taken the time to give him. This not only applied to personnel officers, supply and disbursing offices, but in many cases to hospitals and other services.

In many cases, this "I'm doing you a favor" attitude is projected also toward dependents.

What we should first understand is, I believe, that we are not "doing a favor" for anyone by doing our job. We have the duty to be courteous, attentive and to do our utmost to help the individual with his request; be it a question, assistance with an official letter request, or whatever.

On this same line, I wrote

a recent article for NAVNEWS concerning the duty of a petty officer to help his men with their problems. These problems all go hand in hand. You must be concerned. You can't ignore your shipmate's problem. It won't go away - he will.

This article should not be construed to mean that we don't have conscientious and concerned petty officers or administrative officials. We do, but there are just enough "bad apples" to give the Navy a bad image. I maintain that each of us has the responsibility to do everything in our power to help our shipmates out.

I don't infer breaking or bending rules, but each of us owes the Navy enough to at least listen and be concerned, even if it is no in our power to do anything about it.

I am convinced that the attitude, "you can go or stay, it's up to you," is losing the Navy career petty officers every day. While I don't feel that the individual should have the appearance of "twisting the Navy's arm," neither do I feel that the individual should be made to feel that "nobody cares." Unfortunately, I see the latter every day, and I receive much correspondence to that effect.

With an official program which reflects this concern, more personalized attention to our shipmates problems, and more positive attitude towards each and every individual's problem, this "don't care" image should fade away. This is one way we can all help to retain our potential career petty officers.

I have heard of cases where an individual has indicated a willingness to reenlist for a certain program, but through negligence, laziness or some other poor reason, the individual's request was never typed up for submission. After a few weeks, the individual became tired of waiting for some type of action, withdrew his request and changed his mind. We lose many good career oriented personnel because of this very thing.

DELTA WEDDING

Margaret (Maggie) Frankot has done it again! The last time we heard from Maggie she was trapped in her bedroom for 45 minutes with a VC assassination team in her kitchen. This time it's Maggie that has someone trapped, namely Navy Lieutenant William H. O'Brien - for life.

During the 1968 communist Tet Offensive, Maggie, a nurse at the Chau Doc Provincial Hospital, was rescued from the VC by Staff Sergeant Drew D. Dix. He was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle to save Chau Doc City.

This time Maggie captured the hearts of the people by her marriage to Lt. O'Brien of COMRIVRON 55 situated in Chau Doc.

Their wedding took place May 4th in the Catholic church of Chau Doc.

At the wedding reception, Advisory Team 64 played host to one of the most cosmopolitan groups ever seen in Chau Doc. American ranks and insignias appeared that had never been seen before in the Chau Doc area.

Thanks to the efforts of the local tailors of this small Mekong Delta town, some American civilians, who had previously worn only pullover shirts, were able to come in coats and ties. Many of the leading officials of the province, who normally wear military clothing, were seen in civilian clothes for the first time.

The food at the reception followed the mood of Maggie's wedding. Vietnamese-American food that was prepared by Staff Sergeant James H. High and his Vietnamese staff.

Only when it came time for Maggie to bid farewell to the Vietnamese staff at the hospital and messhall did she cry. Her farewell was in Vietnamese.

Last year, at the onset of the Tet Offensive on January 31st, in the very early hours of the morning, Maggie was in her house in Chau Doc when she received a call informing her of heavy VC activity in her area. Earlier at about 3:00 a.m., two VC battalions had entered the city and controlled



Navy Lieutenant William H. O'Brien and Nurse Margaret (Maggie) Frankot depart the Catholic Church in the Mekong Delta city of Chau Doc, where they were married in early May.

its major portions, destroying and killing at will.

Maggie locked herself, with a carbine, in one of the back rooms of her house. Just before daylight she heard the VC running around the house, shooting and attempting to enter through the door.

Suddenly an explosion blew out part of the kitchen wall, allowing them to enter. Once in they began firing from a bedroom in the front part of the house.

She could also hear them going through the different rooms, shooting and breaking things as they went along. Several times they tried the door to the room she locked herself in, but finding it lock apparently assumed no one was in there.

After about 45 minutes, she heard vehicles driving up and someone calling her name. This was SSgt. Dix, accompanied by several SEALs, who had earlier learned her situation and had set out to free her.

Unlocking her bedroom door Maggie saw six VC in her living room. Not knowing what to do she closed the door again, waited a few seconds, and then opened it and ran to the front door, passing a few excited VC on the way. She managed to unlock

the front door, but couldn't slide it open.

Dix, now at the front door, pushed it open enough to grab her and pulled her out. By this time fire in the front yard had increased and all crawled to the front gate. Once in the jeeps they headed back to safety.

It will be a long time, if ever, before the freckle face nurse with the big brown eyes will be forgotten by the members of CORDS and MACV Advisory Team 64. Her Scout jeep with the cloth tape covering the bullet holes, remnants of last year's Tet Offensive, remind all of the sick and injured that Maggie helped heal. The members of CORDS painted on the jeep, in big bright red letters, the words "Maggie's Trailer" as a lasting tribute to the freckle face nurse who captured the heart of Chau Doc.

Although a honeymoon trip involved no elaborate plans, both Maggie and Lt. O'Brien were looking forward to returning to the states in mid-May. Both were scheduled to complete their tours in Vietnam at the same time.

Maggie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Frankot of 1031 Seminole Ave in St. Paul, Minn.

New Lightweight Gun Tested

The final evaluation of a new, compact, rapid-fire shipboard gun is currently being conducted on a Navy ordnance ship off the coast of California.

The new weapon, the 5-inch 54 caliber Mark 45 is the first completely new major shipboard gun system produced in 18 years. The new gun weighs only one third as much as the current five inch weapon, and needs a gun crew of only 6 men rather than 16 as currently required.

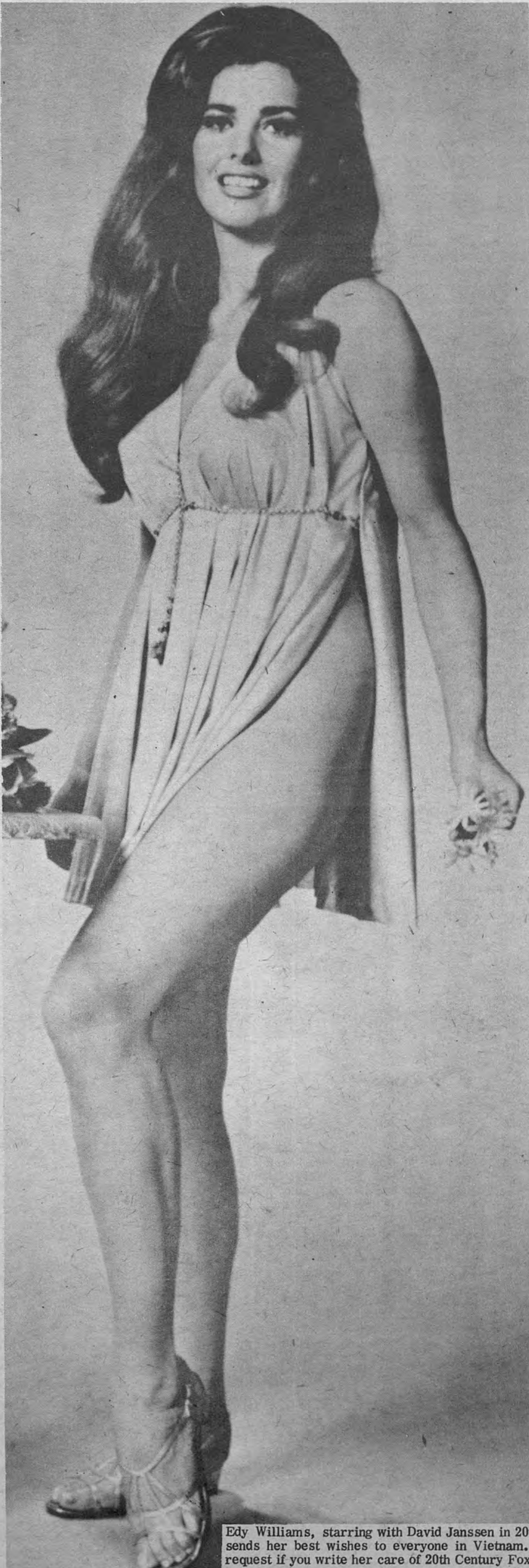
A unique feature is that the gun crew need not enter the gun mount; the weapon is load-

ed, controlled and fired from remote positions below deck. To facilitate servicing and isolating trouble spots promptly, a series of lights at the remote control panel provide a continuous display of the status of the gun's various components.

This new armament has been designed to accommodate all existing types of 5-inch 54 caliber ammunition as well as the long range rocket assisted projectiles the Navy has just developed. Delivery of the gun to ships of the fleet will begin next year or early in 1971.



Vietnamese Navy men stand at attention aboard one of two coast guard patrol boats presented to the Vietnamese Navy during ceremonies May 16, 1969, in Saigon. Commodore Tran Van Chon, Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations accepted the patrol boats on behalf of the Vietnamese Navy from Captain Ralph W. Niesz, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam. The 82-foot patrol boats brought to 101 the number of craft transferred to be Vietnamese Navy since June, 1968, when the U.S. Navy turned over eight river patrol boats and six shallow water minesweepers. This is the first time the U.S. Coast Guard has turned over craft to the Vietnamese. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph)



Edy Williams, starring with David Janssen in 20th Century Fox's new motion picture "Where It's At", sends her best wishes to everyone in Vietnam. Incidentally, Edy likes mail and will send a photo on request if you write her care of 20th Century Fox, Box 900, Beverly Hills, California 90219.



On the Bench

by Bob Johnson

In taking over this column from our talented Scribe, JO1 Dick Morris, I would like to extend our thanks to him for his fine work during the past year. Morris has been assigned to Staff duty at the First Naval District Headquarters, Boston, Massachusetts. This column will endeavor to bring you the latest up to date information in discussing the key players and questions of controversy in the World of Sports.

"The Prince is Majestic"

Since when do you pay a quarter of a million for a race horse, win the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, and a third of a million enroute, and not enter your steed in the Belmont Stakes? Isn't the goal of every prizefighter the World Championship...the ball player the World Series...and the football player the Super Bowl? Then why wouldn't you run a horse with the talent of Majestic Prince in the third jewel of the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Horse Racing? Johnny Longden would no more send his healthy horse to California prematurely and pass up a chance at immortality—the Triple Crown as a jockey (Count Fleet in '43) and as a trainer with Majestic Prince—than the man in the moon! If he did, the two dollar bettors at Santa

Anita would tear up the street in Arcadia named after jockey Johnny, the leading winner of all time. The only thing that Longden wants is some sympathy and an "out" if his horse loses. Longden worries, as any trainer should, that the Prince could get hurt and be forced to retire from racing—at considerable financial loss. Sure, injuries do occur, but since when is a half a million in winnings, and another four million in stud syndications, a loss? The thing that the horse has in his favor is time. The wait from the Derby to the Preakness was two weeks, while the rest for the Belmont is three. If the Prince loses then Longden would be the first to say "I told you so." True as it maybe, that winners of the Derby and

Preakness on successive fortnights have an exceptionally rough go in extending their efforts to the mile and one half grind of the Belmont, this race is tailor made for the Prince. He was sired by the great horse Raise a Native, currently the leading sire in the United States, and his grandsire was the fabulous Native Dancer. The Dancer won not only the Preakness and the Belmont, but a half a million in assorted loot by crossing the wire first in nine of his ten starts as a three year old. He'll like the added distance to go with his stretch running threat. If his racing luck holds true, he should win after a tough stretch run with Arts and Letters, and bring the Triple Crown to California. The Prince is not mortal lock, but he is Majestic.

"Redbirds or Bluebirds"

If you've heard the rumor that the St. Louis Cardinals are off to a slow start, believe it? If you've heard the rumor that the Cardinals will rally in July and August to win the division, forget it? The only rally St. Louis will see this season is the Indy 500. If they lose the pennant it will only be because they are never satisfied. They think you need an All-Star team to win a championship. Look down the roster of the National team of your choice and you'll see all the former Cardinals. They are trade crazy. Trading off Orlando Cepeda to At-

lanta for Joe Torre will go down as an all-time joke. And let's not forget Bobby Tolan, the Cardinals promising fielding sensation that never got a chance to get to the plate. He's now the property of Cincinnati and enjoying the best year of his career. The Redbirds shunned him because he was all glove, not-hit. If you never get into the lineup, how can you ever be expected to hit the ball? They left Roger Maris in the lineup past his prime and the only thing he did all year was complain of injuries. If Tolan

had that year under his belt, you can rest assured he'd be in the starting lineup, and St. Louis would be in contention. The only thing wrong with Bobby Tolan was Bing Devine's opinion of him. The Cardinals will be lucky to finish in the first half of their division. They may even be able to pull a Boston in reverse and go from first to last. As for their 5-2 pre-season chances of retaining the championship, I'd rather bet on hard eight. If they see a second world series, it will be on an instant replay. Forget the rally, they traded that off in the winter.

"The Boston Lip"

It used to be that it was tough to be a good loser. Nowadays it must be tough to be a good winner. When Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics blasted Wilt Chamberlain for allegedly "copping out" in the final five minutes of the last period of their championship game he should have used his head rather than his mouth. He's some player-coach....All brain, no brain. What could he possibly gain by insulting Wilt in front of the sports world. The championship was over, the checks were in the mail. He should forget

reading the pre-game plan and pick up Emily Post. Tact like that is one sale in the dime stores. Russell said that "any injury short of a broken leg or broke (sic) back, isn't good enough." I suppose you don't need knees to play the game anymore. With a statement like big Bill's, he must think you can play the game one-handed. Los Angeles likes to have its players in something besides a cast all their life. Ten years from now, who remembers the championship. And who said that Wilt kept himself

out of the game. Is Russell the coach of both teams? Maybe he'd like to have the vacated Laker coaching position if he thinks he can win the championship with a gimpy knee!....It is certainly a rather strange coincidence that coach Butch Van Breda Kolff quit the Lakers while the stories on their personality clash were breaking. I'm sure Jack Kent Cooke isn't worried. He's got the right idea. The Laker's are in far better shape for next season plus a healthy Wilt, a half a million in merchandise, and mius Van Breda Kolff, a \$40,000 liability.

Boxing Finalist

SAN DIEGO — Three Navy fighters won runner-up titles at the National AAU Boxing Championships. The championship fights were held in San Diego April 17-19 at the International Sports Arena. The Navy fighters were Al Robinson, Steve Ewell and James Elder.

Each sailor won two preliminary fights and one semi-final fight before being defeated in the final round.

Al Robinson, lightweight division, is stationed at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif. In 1968, he won an Olympic Silver Medal for boxing and the Golden Gloves championships in San Francisco and Seattle. Recently he won his weight division at the All Navy Boxing tournament held at the Naval Training Center, San Diego. Steve Ewell, attached to the Navy Supply Center in Oakland, Calif., fought in the welterweight division. Ewell's record was 15 wins (7 KO's), including the All Navy Championship for

1969, which he won at NTC last month.

Heavyweight James Elder was 11th Naval District Champ in 1968 and 1969. He was also All Navy champ after knocking out his opponent at the Naval Training Center. Elder lost to Ernie Shaver in the final round of the AAU Championship fights.

Other sailors participating in the AAU fights were Joe Kally and Billy Daniels from the USS Ranger and Jesse Reid from the Alameda Naval Air Station. Daniels and Reid were in the Olympic trials last year.

TV Guide for June 4 - June 10

afvn channel 11
THE AMERICAN FORCES VIETNAM NETWORK

WEDNESDAY (4 June)

1345 Sign On News
1400 Movie-Carry On Cruising
1530 American Sportsmen
1630 Star Trek-RB
1730 The Monkees
1800 Red Skelton
1900 Evening News
2000 Frank Sinatra Special
2100 Mission Impossible
2200 Late News
2215 Sports



2000 Wednesday

THURSDAY (5 June)

1345 Sign On News
1400 Carol Burnett-RB
1500 Dean Martin-RB
1600 Mission Impossible-RB
1800 Hollywood Palace
1900 Evening News
2000 Jonathan Winters
2100 The Big Valley
2200 Late News
2215 Boxing

FRIDAY (6 June)

1345 Sign On News
1400 Jonathan Winters-RB
1500 The Big Valley-RB
1600 Rowan & Martin-RB
1700 The Big Picture
1730 Information Feature
1800 Don Rickles
1830 The Detectives
1900 Evening News
2000 Glen Campbell Hour
2100 Wild Wild West
2200 Late News
2215 The Tonight Show

SATURDAY (7 June)

1245 Sign On News
1300 Jerry Lewis-RB
1400 Wild Wild West-RB
1555 Glen Campbell-RB
1700 Lawrence Welk
1800 Beverly Hillbillies
1830 Nashville Vietnam
1900 Evening News
1930 Get Smart
2000 High Chaparral
2100 Sports
2300 Movie-The Big Wheel

SUNDAY (8 June)

1145 Religious Hour
1245 Early News
1300 Pro Bowlers Tour
1430 21st Century
1500 Since Wars Began
1530 To Be Announced
1630 Australia Special
1730 In Town Tonight
1800 The Rogues
1900 Evening News
2000 Ed Sullivan
2100 Bonanza
2200 Late News
2225 Mark Twain Tonight

MONDAY (9 June)

1345 Sign On News
1400 Ed Sullivan-RB
1500 Bonanza-RB
1600 Wrestling
1700 G.E. College Bowl
1730 Gentle Ben
1800 Jackie Gleason
1900 Evening News
2000 Kraft Music Hall
2100 Gunsmoke
2220 Late News
2215 Joey Bishop

TUESDAY (10 June)

1345 Sign On News
1400 Sports
1600 Gunsmoke-RB
1700 Richard Diamond
1730 Honey West
1800 Jerry Lewis
1900 Evening News
2000 Carol Burnett
2100 Star Trek
2200 Late News
2215 Bob Hope Special
2300 Perry Mason

Meet the crew

Yeomen First Class Larry J. Mead hails from the State of California and is currently assigned to Naval Support Activity Saigon's Legal Office. Prior to enlisting in the Navy, Mead attended Huntington Park High School in Huntington Park, California, graduating in 1962. Also before his enlistment he was employed by a printing firm located in Huntington Park.

On April 9, 1963, Mead enlisted in the Navy and received his Recruit Training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, California. Following his recruit training Mead served aboard the USS OAK HILL LSD-7, from July 63 to June 65. The Oak Hill was assigned to the U.S. Pacific Fleet and while aboard Mead made numerous West Pacific cruises.

Upon completion of his tour aboard the OAK HILL, Mead was assigned shore duty at the U.S. Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado, California, where he was assigned to the base legal office. During his tour at Coronado, he moved up the California coast a few miles to Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, where he attended Naval Justice School. Upon his graduation from Justice School he re-



ceived orders to the Republic of Vietnam. The Huntington Park bluejacket winged his way to the Republic of Vietnam, reporting to Naval Support Activity, Saigon on August 19, 1968.

Since his arrival in Vietnam, Mead has travelled the Mekong Delta on various legal assignments which consisted of assisting in court martials as court reporter and investigation and administrative processing.

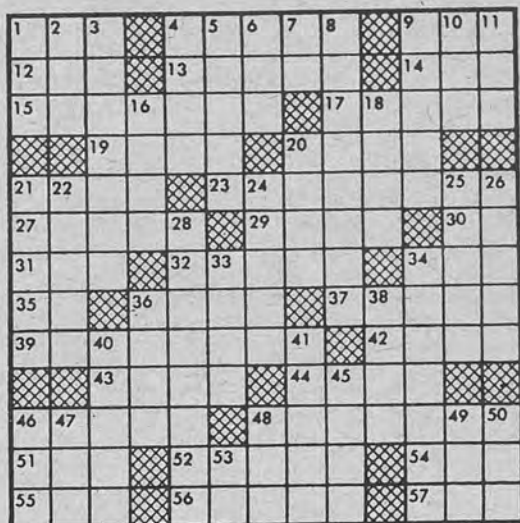
Upon his release from the Navy, Mead has plans to continue his education with his sights set on a Juris Doctorate Degree in law.



FUN & FEATURES



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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For Use In Authorized Service Newspapers Only.

ACROSS

- 1-Peer Gynt's mother
- 4-Honor
- 9-Mature
- 12-Yellow ocher
- 13-Spear
- 14-Army officer (abbr.)
- 15-Be in attendance
- 17-Bivalve mollusks
- 19-Flesh
- 20-Preposition
- 21-At what time?
- 23-Guiding
- 27-Searches for
- 29-Peruse
- 30-Faroe Islands whirlwind
- 31-Skill
- 32-Conducts
- 34-Hail!
- 35-Army officer (abbr.)
- 36-Hindu garment
- 37-Makes comfortable
- 39-Eluding
- 42-Small island
- 43-Finishes
- 44-Girl's name
- 46-Himalayan animal
- 48-Stop flow of blood from
- 51-In music, high
- 52-Precipitous
- 54-Chinese pagoda
- 55-Dance step
- 56-Draft animal



DOWN

- 1-Snake
- 2-Title of respect
- 3-Ingredient
- 4-Appellation of Athena
- 5-Needs
- 6-Emmet
- 7-Roman Catholic (abbr.)
- 8-Lower in volume
- 9-Trumpeter bird
- 10-Precious stone
- 11-Abstract being
- 16-Dispatched
- 18-Nobleman
- 20-Give food to
- 21-Large ocean mammal
- 22-Harms
- 24-Instruct
- 25-Story
- 26-Web-footed
- 57-Secret agent

birds

- 28-Characterized by careless haste
- 33-Goddess of discord
- 34-Agrees
- 36-Pulverized rock
- 38-Japanese aborigine
- 40-Coins
- 41-Openings in fence
- 45-Back of neck
- 46-Soft food
- 47-A state (abbr.)
- 48-Weight or India
- 49-Headgear
- 50-Grass mowed and cured for fodder
- 53-Preposition



THE WIZARD OF ID

by Brant parker and Johnny hart



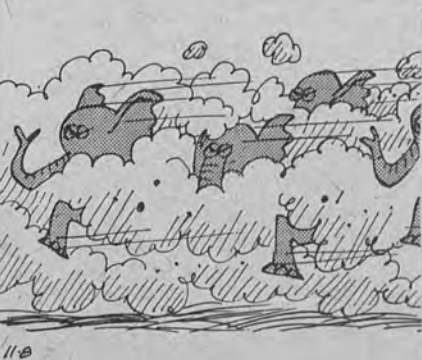
THE WIZARD OF ID

by Brant parker and Johnny hart



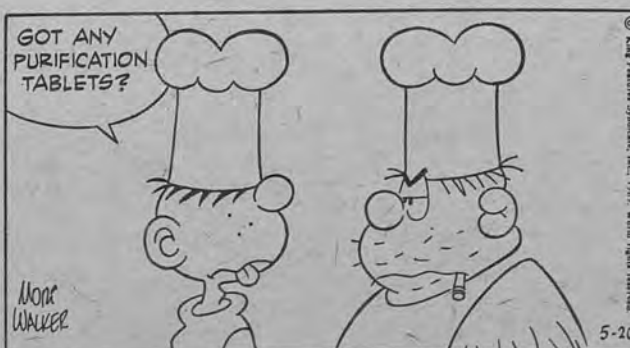
B. C.

by Johnny hart



B.C.

by johnny hart



Combat Sailor Named 'Lucky'

By JOI Bill Bearden

A young combat sailor from Battle Creek, Michigan, is considered "very lucky to be alive" by the men he serves with in the Mobile Riverine Force in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

Second Class Boatswain's Mate Adrian G. Eisenlord, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude B. Eisenlord of 59 Piper Ave., in Battle Creek, lost his balance Tuesday (May 6) just before midnight and fell into the swift, choppy currents of the My Tho River. He was standing on the stern of his boat, T-152-6.

It was 5:30 the next morning before his crewmembers noticed his absence and reported him missing.

Eisenlord's boat, a seven-man, 56-foot armored troop carrier, is assigned to River Division 152, a unit of River Assault Flotilla one, the Navy half of the unique Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force the sweeps the Delta in search of Viet Cong guerillas.

Normally, the division of 25 heavily armed and armored assault craft would be winding their way through the intricate network of Delta tributaries, providing close logistic and gunfire support for Army elements of the MRF.

This month, however, Riv Div 152 boats are assigned BID (Base Internal Defense), providing security for the Mobile Riverine Base, a gathering of shallow draft Navy ships which acts as a base of operations for riverine units.

"I was standing on the fantail when my boat made a sharp right turn," Eisenlord said. "It threw me off balance and the next thing I knew I was falling into the water."

The 1965 Battle Creek Central High graduate explained that he yelled for help he was falling but apparently no one could hear over the noise of the engines.

"When I surfaced I could

see the minesweep chain coming right at me. All I could think of was to get out of its way — and fast," he said.

The chains Eisenlord mentioned have been installed on all the mini-boats as a defensive measure against Viet Cong swimmers planting explosive charges on the MRB ships' hull or anchor chain. The chains are dragged behind the boats to cut any wires that might lead from an explosive device to a VC waiting on the river bank.

Concussion grenades are also dropped from the BID boats patrolling around the MRB at varying intervals throughout the night and day. They do no damage to the ships and boats, but are fatal to any underwater swimmers nearby.

Swimming frantically for his life, fighting overpowering currents and at the same time trying not to splash and make too much noise for fear that he'd be mistaken for a VC swimmer and shot by his own men, or attract guerillas on the river bank and be captured, Eisenlord slowly made his way through the moonless night towards the muddy river bank, some 700 yards away. He termed the six lone hours that followed as the "most frightening experience of my life."

"Before I knew it the water had carried me about 30 yards from my boat. It kept hitting me in the face. When I tried to get my breath I only swallowed river water...lots of water."

"I started to panic," the 23-year-old sailor said. "The water was so strong and choppy and I was fighting it instead of floating with the current."

"I was getting so tired my muscles were aching. I tried floating, but couldn't, so I started doing a slow side stroke and just let the current carry me," He added. "It was going

away from the ships, towards the shore, but that was better than tiring out and drowning."

The medium-built, soft-spoken Eisenlord explained that he felt concussion grenades exploding but luckily he was far enough away and only a few yards from the bank.

"It was all I could do to crawl out of the water. I just laid there, exhausted," he said. "I remember something biting me on the right arm and that's when I realized where I was."

Not knowing what awaited him in the darkness, Eisenlord stumbled around at the water's edge trying to get his bearings and decide his next move. He could see the MRB off in the distance but he knew he couldn't yell for fear of attracting VC hidden along the bank and he had no way of signalling.

"I was getting cold and the insects were gnawing at my face and arms. The tide was out so I started walking along in the soft mud, but I was sinking too much," he continued.

"I waded back out into the water. It was warmer there and the insects didn't bother me as much."

He noticed a light about 1500 yards away near the shore and quietly moved in the darkness to investigate.

"A light was coming from a small sampan anchored to the shore. A young man and woman were fishing with nets," Eisenlord explained. "I sat quietly a few yards away just watching. After about 20 minutes I decided to take my chances and ask them to take me back to the MRB."

He related that the couple was startled when they first saw him. He couldn't speak Vietnamese and they couldn't speak English, but through hand signs and pointing they understood that he wanted them to take him somewhere. The man slowly drew in his fishing nets and the grateful sailor climbed into the sampan.

"We started off in the opposite direction of the MRB. I thought maybe they were taking me to the Navy pier at My Tho, but about 15 minutes later he turned the sampan into a small pier and tied up. The two of them got out of the sampan and motioned for me to get out, too," he said.

Eisenlord described the place as a small village in the middle of a group of thick trees. There was a large hooch in the middle with a big stone building nearby and a couple of smaller hooches in back.

As they entered a large, dark hooch with about 12 persons asleep around the room, Eisenlord said that he began wondering if he had done the right thing.

"The young man started pulling at my wet clothes. I didn't understand what he was trying to tell me until he handed me

a set of dry greens to put on," Eisenlord said. "Then he offered me a package of Salems and a book of matches."

An elderly woman offered him a cup of hot tea.

In the meantime the girl from the sampan had gone to another hooch and gotten a 20-year-old girl who spoke English.

While Eisenlord changed his clothes a woman in the hooch prepared him a bowl of rice and some cray fish. As he ate his food he talked with the girl, explaining that he must get back to the MRB. They finally

MSTS Salutes Merchant Marines

To remind Americans of the important role the merchant marine plays in our national life, the Congress in 1933 designated the anniversary of the first transatlantic voyage by a steamship, the SS SAVANNAH, on May 22, 1819, as National Maritime Day. It was celebrated throughout the free ports of the world on May 22 this year. All American flag vessels were dressing ship, the traditional way of saying we're celebrating."

MSTS is 20 years old this year and for the past two decades has depended heavily on the merchant marine. MSTS afloat personnel, known as Civil Service Marine Personnel, number over 9,000. Most of the men now on board MSTS ships are merchant seamen who have found an opportunity to accept employment with MSTS. Union membership is permitted under Executive Order 10988 and the unions watch MSTS operations very carefully to assure that the standards of wages and work

understood and agreed to take him.

"I thanked the family for their kindness and then we left," the sparkly, black-eyed sailor said.

Not wanting to go to the MRB, the young man took him to the Navy pier at My Tho. They arrived at 6 a.m., just as the sun was coming up. A sailor on pier watch called the MRB and soon a boat arrived.

Back at the MRB, Eisenlord was given a complete medical check up. The findings: an overdose of river water.

His father, Mr. Claude Eisenlord, is a machinist with the Post Cereal Company.

Eisenlord returned to the village the following day and presented the family with a check donated by the riverine sailors. He also related that the flotilla doctors and dentists are planning to visit the village for a MedCap/DentCap, a continuing goodwill program where the poor and needy, who otherwise could not afford medical care, are treated free.

He's considered lucky to be alive, to have survived the swift river currents, but even luckier to have met a friendly couple willing to help and American and not turn him in for the reward offered by the Viet Cong guerillas.

Since the incident, Eisenlord has acquired a new and very appropriate nickname — "Lucky".

are at least equal to minimum union requirements. The wage scale, by law, must be equal to that paid to merchant seamen in commercial employment.

MSTS has proven its capability to expand by use of the American Merchant Marine during the Korean conflict, Suez, Lebanon, and now Vietnam. During the first six months of FY 1969, 15.2-million measurement tons of dry cargo were shipped by MSTS and 13.7-million long tons of bulk petroleum moved world wide over the shipping lanes. The ships and the manpower to move these tonnages came not only from government employees in government-owned ships, but American berth-line operators, both subsidized and unsubsidized.

The importance of the merchant marine to MSTS — and to the well-being of the nation — is illustrated by MSTS' FY 1968 payments to commercial shipping interests. Eighty seven percent — \$ 1.1-billion — of MSTS' expenses resulted from movement of military cargo on commercial ships. At the present time, MSTS has under charter 143 ships of the general cargo variety and 47 American flag tankers. Charters run anywhere from a single voyage up to several years, with options to renew.

While providing logistical support for U.S. Armed Forces, MSTS has actively supported other U.S. programs. Ships provided by MSTS, with Civil Service Marine Personnel manning them serve as missile tracking stations and have been a part of the Gemini and Apollo programs.

In his proclamation issued in the observance of the importance and service of the American Merchant Marine to our National welfare, President Nixon said:

"The American Merchant Marine must protect the nation's economic strength throughout the world in peacetime and give mobility to our national defense in times of emergency...."

Through its 28 offices and area and sub area commands throughout the world, MSTS and the American merchant marine have found cause to celebrate on the 22nd of May and further cause for continued cooperation in providing this nation with a strong and profitable merchant fleet which is vital to America's economic welfare and defense capability.



Standing near the minesweep chain on the stern of his armored troop carrier, BM2 Eisenlord looks respectfully out over the My Tho River, remembering his fight for life only hours earlier. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph)

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