

F. A. -
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LIEUTENANT TRAN ANH THO.....

Field Trip Reports

Contents: A. Places and organizations visited.
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A. Places Visited

1. Kalamazoo -- The first Police Headquarters I visited is the Kalamazoo, Michigan City Police Headquarters.

The next day of my arrival I came to report to Chief James M. Slavin who met me very friendly. After a few questions about Vietnam situations and my studies at M.S.U., he introduced me to Mr. Dykehouse, his detective officer and a schedule had been set up for the next day.

Tuesday, June 2nd, I visited the Detective Division and the Criminal Index files. After that Mr. Dykehouse took me in his car to meet the Family Service Center settled at 814 West Kalamazoo Avenue. The Executive Secretary, Mr. John W. Reid, received me in his office where we exchanged conversation. I have heard several times about the F.S.C. throughout the courses at M.S.U., but I had no idea about it. Mr. Reid explained to me the functioning and the purposes of the organization. Three of the women secretaries were at the meeting: Mrs. Silvia Ther, Mrs. Gertrude Kampo, and Mrs. Grace Rinsema. The discussion was very interesting and useful.

In the afternoon I visited the Safety Council where I learned how to educate the public and prevent auto accidents.

Then I came back to the Headquarters and met with Mr. Arthur Theodore, Chief of the Laboratory. Explanations and demonstrations were made.

On June 3rd Lieutenant John Nutt, Chief of the Traffic Division had provided me a car for a visit to the Sutherland Paper Company. After lunch we went to the Upjohn Company. In the evening I was at the court session held in the Police Headquarters building.

On June 4th Sergeant P. Jenkins took me in his car and we went to Paw Paw town to attend a Lie Detector Test. In that Post Five of the State Police, I learned how to operate and interpret this machine with the explanations of Sergeant Berk.

A reporter of the News Paladium came to interview me about the Vietnam situation policy and about Civil Guard. I gave him satisfaction about the last question on Vietnam Civil Guard. As to other questions, I am not afford to answer every one of his questions, being a simple participant, in one hand and I had left the Vietnam only 10 months ago in the other hand.

The last day morning I spent to visit the town and see how is the American way of living in the small town.

I left this small and nice town in the afternoon and carried with me a very good souvineer from the Kalamazoo City Police, especially from the detective officer Mr. Dykehouse and Jenkins whose help for me had been very friendly.

2. Other Cities -- After Kalamazoo, I visited the Police Headquarters of:
Michigan State Police
New York, New York
Chicago, Illinois
Saint Louis, Missouri
Jefferson City, Missouri
Phoenix, Arizona

When this report was written I was in Los Angeles.

B. Remarks

At those Headquarters I had almost the same agencies to visit except some modifications of organization and a few characteristics:

The transmission division in the State Highway Patrol in Jefferson City; its planes, its investigation squad whose documents revealed that it is a good one; the juvenile section in Phoenix City Police and the auto theft squad in St. Louis, Missouri.

I am glad to mention here the sincere amiability of Superintendent Hugh H. Waggoner, Major Kenneth K. Johnson of the State Highway Patrol of Missouri, and Chief Charles Thomas, chief of Phoenix City Police; Capt. Van Warren, his assistant and Lt. Bower, Chief of juvenile section; and finally the useful and careful explanation of Lt. Walter H. Down of the Detective Division of St. Louis City Police.

At St. Louis I visited the Budweiser Beer Plant by police car; in Jefferson City Superintendent Hugh H. Waggoner had provided me a plane and we flew over the city and the Lake of the Ozark. At night a police car took me to the rodeo, 60 miles apart from the city.

At Phoenix City Chief Charles Thomas had the Capt. Warren, his assistant, drive me to the Grand Canyon, about 250 miles from the city. I also visited the Heard Museum in Phoenix City where the Navajo's old arts are exhibited.

I just arrived in Los Angeles and have not reported to the Police Headquarters yet, but I recalled the first visit I had when I first entered the U.S. and I believe that it must be a good one.

C. Conclusions

Throughout my field trip I have learned as well as I did during my courses at M.S.U. by the fact that my theoretic studies are confirmed now.

In Jefferson City Police Headquarters I got a complete training bulletin whose author is Chief Charles Thomas. This contains a lot of practical theories and handbook for police officers. In this headquarters a great part of my time had been devoted to the juvenile section and I hope I will have the opportunity to put in practice in the Civil Guard of Vietnam. The Highway Patrol should be handled by Vietnam Military Police officers and the Civil Guard should cooperate.

Except Chief of Police of New York, Chicago and St. Louis, who must be very busy to meet me, the other chiefs or superintendents have welcomed me and then they have had a captain or a major to take care of me. So I have had a very good time and my field trip has been very instructional.

Besides, I noticed that American police officers are very friendly as well among themselves as toward people. In Phoenix City I saw a kid about five years of age talking with the captain, Chief assistant as he did with his own father. That must be the cause which makes them liked by their citizens and provides the efficiency of their job.

Their kindness, their amiability, their patience and in 109 degrees of heat, with their faces covered with dust, made me think of something perfect and "over human." Although Kalamazoo, St. Louis, Jefferson City and Phoenix City are not the big ones, their policemen made me feel that they have the best police jobs, and they are the best to visit. The big cities such as New York, Chicago, etc. are good to visit in vacation time, but should not be visited for training trips. The police officers are too busy to get visitors details, and it is the details I need.

D. Guide for Next Participants' trip

I am glad to mention here some of my own experiences for you asked me to do it. It is sure to you to decide.