

The 1st Annual Paddy Poll

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SAIGON — As the U.S. military so often does things, so the people of Vietnam evaluate them — by the numbers.

It's a sliding scale of reference. The best things are "Number One," the worst "Number 10." In Vietnam there is little in between.

With interest running at a new high in the polls — jazz, movie and political — it has been deemed high time for the publication of a consensus of opinion of our GIs, Marines, Seabees, airmen and sailors in and around Vietnam on their life in general.

From the hills and marshes, the chow halls and restaurants, highways and runways, cities and hamlets, the results of the First Annual Paddy Poll are in.

Number One is:

- A dry pair of socks.
- A dry pair of sheets.

- A dry anything.
 - A superhighway.
 - A letter from your girl.
 - A letter from anybody.
 - A Saigon bar hostess who doesn't like tea.
 - Finding john paper in the john.
 - A hamburger.
 - A USO show with 20 chorus girls.
 - Pre-filled sandbags.
 - Change from a taxi driver.
 - Finding spaghetti in your C-rations and having a fork.
 - A dud landing next to your foxhole.
 - Being next in line.
 - A port call.
 - R&R.
 - A real smile from a Vietnamese.
 - Almost anything that isn't "Number 10."
- And Number 10 is:
- Hitting the dirt in a rice paddy.
 - A drive in the country.
 - A drive in the city.

- A fly in your Kool-Aid.
- Mud.
- Mest visiting officials who have come over to "see for themselves how our boys are doing."
- News that your old neighborhood hippie is 4F.
- Mud.
- Losing your shot record.
- Hondas — all 10 billion of them.
- Getting your restaurant steak cooked in "nuoc mam" sauce.
- A USO show with no girls.
- Mosquitoes that get hooked on your insect repellent.
- The bill in a Saigon bar.
- A 50-cent Coke.
- Mud.
- Incoming.
- A soaked pack of smokes.
- Not being able to get the item you want in the PX and then seeing it for sale a block away on a black market stand.
- MPC nickels.
- Waiting.