

THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

LIFE IN VIETNAM

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SEPTEMBER 24, 1966

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TROPIC ACTION

By Sp4 Bill Becker

CU CHI. — Despite the smoke rising from Vietnam's scattered battle fronts, one major objective shines through for Republic of Vietnam and American forces alike — the task of releasing Vietnamese from forced and involuntary allegiance to communism in areas dominated by the Vietcong.

West-northwest of Saigon,

months of effort by the 25th Infantry «Tropic Lightning» Division are starting to pay off. A dynamic tactic called pacification, begun by the division shortly after its arrival in the province early this year, gradually is loosening the Vietcong grip.

An increasing number of Chieu Hoi (Vietcong returning to the Government of South

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Vietnam under the «Open Arms» policy) and captured Vietcong documents attest to the enemy's loss of strength. Vietnamese villagers are showing their true feelings as they cooperate increasingly with government and U. S. officials.

The pacification program carried on by the division's 2nd Brigade under the command of Colonel Thomas M. Tarpley is a three-point operation. The first phase, search and destroy in an area under the influence of the Vietcong, usually encounters initial civilian hostility and a minimum of intelligence information. Often threatened by the Vietcong, villagers are unwilling to jeopardize their lives by giving up information. Although the VC move out as the Americans move in, the Vietnamese fear the return of the guerrillas when U.S. forces leave the area.

Consequently, a 2nd Brigade unit digs into its assigned area to operate until the villagers get used to its presence and know that it will not abandon them to the Vietcong. Key personnel in the unit form Co-ordination and Planning Committees with local government officials. «In short,» said Colonel Tarpley, «we are there to meet the people, gain their confidence and to show them that we have come to help and to stay.

During the first phase, which usually lasts 30 days or more, results begin to show. District chiefs begin accompanying

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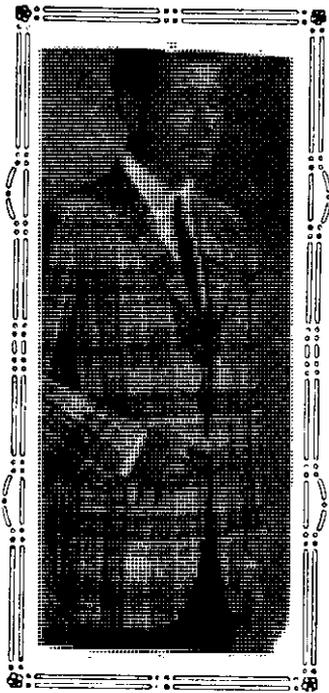
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units on operations and often get to villages that they had not visited since Vietcong moved into the area. Villagers slowly begin giving information, such as the location of booby - traps, tunnels and caches. Army of the Republic of Vietnam and Popular Forces find time to strengthen themselves and their encampments while Vietcong, discouraged by long periods of seperation from their families, living in tunnels and constant harassment, filter back into the «Open Arms» of the Vietnamese Government.

When the Vietnamese gain confidence in the capabilities, intentions and presence of the 25th Division unit, 2nd Brigade begins the second phase of pacification.

During the second stage, called Reaction and Civic Action, the unit operates from the division's base camp while the MEDCAPs, the Tropic Lightning Helping Hand Program and other civic action functions strengthen new ties between villagers and American forces. As civil acceptance increases, intelligence from the people improves and the 2nd Brigade units perform one-day heli-borne operations mixed intermittently with field trips lasting at least a week. ARVN troops start joining the operations and government officials increase their visits to hamlets and villages.

More and more Vietcong fortifications, equipment and

caches fall victim to the snow-balling cooperation and guerrillas returning to the area are often reported. Popular Forces finds itself manned by larger numbers and ARVN capabilities continue to expand.

As the second phase progresses, the third phase eventually falls into place — turning over the province and its districts to the government when it has gained enough support and strength to control and provide security for its people.

So far in Hau Nghia Province, the 25th Division has applied pacification with as much success as the theory promises. In Duc Hue and Duc Hoa Districts (located in the lower part of the province), the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry is well into the second phase. During the recently terminated Operation «Lahaina,» the battalion and ARVN units working in close coordination killed 53 Vietcong, captured 44, took 134 suspects into custody and siezed substantial numbers of weapons and documents. Two actions in the operation were perfect examples of the pacification program in progress.

In one action, a Vietcong informer disclosed the daily meeting place of a guerrilla terrorist platoon. Teaming immediately with ARVNs, the «Wolfhounds» were airlifted to the area and killed or captured 22 terrorists as the government election date approached.

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In the other action, the battalion paired with ARVNs again and, on the basis of a Chieu Hoi report, killed nine Vietcong and captured 22 at the guerrillas' Bao Trai District Headquarters. Dey Vietcong district officials were among the victims and, as one company commander said, «The day's action cut the head off a rattlesnake.»

Further north in the province, the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, is involved in phase one of the program at Trang Bang District. Substituting detective work for intelligence support from the people, the battalion discovered a way-station make up of an intricate

tunnel network along a main Vietcong supply artery.

Confident of support from the Division, ARVN units in the district are resuming their own sweeps. One popular forces commander took gifts to hospitalized «Wolfhounds» and designated his men «D-Troop, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry» for weeks until the battalion pinned the title on them officially during an honor ceremony.

The small successes that are being scored from the 25th Division's pacification program are among the first that Hau Nghia Province has known during its unstable history. In 1962, and 1963, with most of the area under Vietcong con-



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trol, the government concentrated its efforts on a strategic hamlet program. But by the end of 1963, the situation was still considered critical and even the military outposts were being threatened.

In October, 1964, the military situation improved as the 25th ARVN Division moved into the province. Before long, the Vietcong adjusted their military techniques and the situation slipped again. In the spring of 1965, the VC renewed their pressure throughout the province and gained steadily until the arrival of the 25th Division at Cu Chi, began last January.

With approximately 230,000 people and Vietcong supply routes to War Zones C and D and the Iron Triangle running inside its boundaries, the province holds both decisive political and tactical significance. The pacification program promises the government the most complete and lasting victory in the area.

«Pacification is a big job for both the South Vietnamese Government and the 25th Division,» said Colonel Tarpley, «but the success already resulting from our hard work proves pacification is worth the effort. Our goal is to protect the Vietnamese people in Hau Nghia Province so that they can pursue. Their activities without interference from the Vietcong, and so that they can choose a way of life rather than find themselves forced into one.»

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husbands were all working in paddy fields or trading at fairs and markets or studying for the literary competitions.

One day she told him to find a job :

«I can't live any longer with so idle a husband as yourself. My neighbors laugh at me and say I am married to a dunce, a lazybones, a good-for-nothing fellow who lives entirely at his wife's expense. Oh! I blushed and felt put to shame when I was told such things. So, find a job, man, do anything you like, but don't stay idle all the time.»

Cut to the quick by her reproving and mocking language he retorted bluntly :

«I don't care a rap about what they told you. What business of their's is it to mind my doing nothing? Go and tell them to hold their tongues and mind their own affairs.»

«But they are right, my dear. How can we live if some day my goods don't sell well and my business runs badly? How shameful if we would run into debt?

«But what do you want me to do now? I don't feel like any study and don't have any turn for literature and poetry. And I don't wish to become a mandarin, either.»

«Suppose I get a piece of land for you to work on?»

«No, I don't feel strong enough to handle a plough and drive a buffalo on your piece of land. Leave me alone and stop such nonsense.»

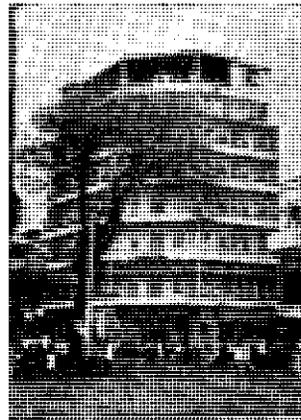
«Then, people are right to say that you are a good-for-

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nothing fellow.»

«True? And what are they about now?»

«Well, they rear cattle and poultry, they are farmers. They buy small ducks, hens and chickens to breed them and resell them in the market to make money.

«O.K. Give me some money. I'll get a flock of small ducks tomorrow darling.»

And the next day he went out with a good sum in his pocket to buy the small ducks. His wife was very happy and hopeful when she saw him take up this new occupation with alacrity and enthusiasm. He set out very early after a good breakfast and walked through many villages until noon but did not find any ducks ready for sale.

Suddenly he leapt forward with a great joy when he saw a flock of beautiful ducks swimming, bathing and diving eagerly to catch fish and shrimps in a river.

«How nice they are these gentle birds!» he exclaimed. I must prepare a great surprise for my wife and all the damned fellows who said I'm good-for-nothing. I will bring this flock home at once and keep them in my pond. They will have plenty of fish and shrimps there. And in three months they will grow up three times bigger and then I will take them to the market. What a good bargain! A sure-fire way to make money. I shall be second to none of the rich fellows of my village. And my



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little wife must be proud of me at that time when I have made my pile. But who is the owner of all these nice creatures? I've to talk to him first, anyhow,» he asked himself after musing a little while over his good bargain.

He looked all around the river bank but saw nobody except a band of little boys herding their buffaloes and playing in the shade of a big tree. «Ah! Good luck. Sure, the boys must know the happy owner of these little ducks,» he said and ran to ask them. At first the lads were quite astonished but one of them, the oldest and most malicious, stepped out and said that all those ducks belonged to them.

At once our man thought himself very lucky to deal with such a candid gang of buffalo boys and hurried to ask how much they would charge for the whole flock. After just a

few minutes of discussion and evaluation they arrived at a happy agreement upon the price and he paid on the nail.

How happy he was now to look at the nice little ducks of his own who were swimming to and fro and disputing their foods in the river. But the little buffalo boys also warned him to wait until they got far away to herd his ducks home, otherwise they would follow them and go to their villages. He believed them and stayed there to watch his flock with a great delight. He waited and waited patiently until all the boys disappeared and the sun was sinking in the west to approach his cherished nice ducks and chase them home. Alas! They got all frightened and flew up to the sky when they saw him raise his hands and wade knee-deep in the water to call them. In a few seconds they disappeared be-

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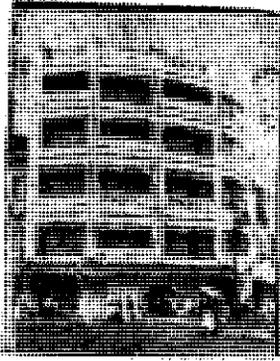
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hind a range of mountains while he continued to call them desperately from the bank of the river until the night closed in.

He went back home at last, empty-handed, hungry and thirsty by the time his wife was about to go to bed. She ran out to meet him and asked anxiously:

«Here you are. And where are your ducks?»

«Well I got a very nice flock just on the bank of the river at a very cheap price. I paid the boys who sold them to me and waited till sunset to herd them home. But, how odd it was! They all flew up to the sky when I called them and disappeared behind the mountains. I ran along the river bank, I whistled, I shouted till the night fell pitchdark but they didn't come back at all. I don't know why.»

«Oh! For goodness sake. I've been waiting for hours to listen to such a crazy story? You silly, stupid, harebrained fellow. Hold your tongue and your nonsense or I'll tear your shirt away. What a noodle you are. Tell me where is your money then?»

«Well I paid the boys who sold me the ducks?»

«And where are your ducks?» She cried and jumped up to grasp him by his shirt.

«But, I tell you all the truth, darling. They are all in the sky now.»

«In the sky? Oh, God! I see now. You bought the wild ducks you saw in the river? Ah! here is your pretty piece of work. How stupid you are,

poor dunce. Those ducks are wild, untamed and belong to nobody on earth. And these damned little scoundrels just played a nasty trick on you to rob you of your money. You believed the ducks belong to them? What a misfortune! You are going to ruin me and your family,» she groaned and sobbed bitterly then jumped to tear his clothes and beat him with her broomstick until he promised to bring her money back as quickly as he could. He waited till very late at night when his wife slept soundly to sneak out and creep into his neighbor's house. He hid under a bed and looked around the room hoping to steal some valuable things or some money within his reach. Suddenly the neighbor took his wife to bed

and they talked gaily before going to sleep. And the husband told his wife:

«I go up to the sky, my darling, up to the blue sky, you know?» and laughed loudly.

Upon these words our man remembered his ducks and jumped out from under the bed to ask eagerly:

«You have been in the sky? Have you seen my ducks there? My nice little ducks you know? They have just flown up there tonight. Tell me, I beg you, where they are now?»

Deeply shocked though a good deal frightened and ashamed the couple jumped down to beat him black and blue. Since that day he became the laughing stock of all the people of his village. And that is what we call a wild duck chase.

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LAD'S LUCKY LIGHTNING

By PFC John Dittmann

CU CHI. — Truong Van Ut, 11 years old, was playing in the Tan An Hoi rice mill about a year ago when he found a Vietcong grenade among the rice bags. He picked it up and it went off.

Truong Van Ut should have been killed, but he was lucky. He only lost his right hand, two inches above the wrist. He was carried to a Vietnamese medic who did the best he could

to patch up the stump and stop the infection.

The wound healed and for the next year Ut walked around with the stump of his right arm hidden inside his pocket, hoping no one would notice.

Then in January of this year, the 25th Infantry Division was deployed to Vietnam. They set up their headquarters less than a mile from Ut's home in Tan An Hoi.



CU CHI. — Truong Van Ut stands at the 25th Infantry Division Helping Hand Operations Center with soldiers of the «Tropic Lightning» Division who helped him get his new hand. They are, left to right, 2nd Lieutenant John K. Swensson, Ut, Master Sergeant Morris M. Jones and Major Glen W. Emery.
(Photo by Sp5 Ron Park, 125th Sig Bn)

Ut's mother opened a laundry for the soldiers and in a short time had a number of regular customers, among them the staff of the Division civil affairs section.

Ut worked around the laundry doing what he could with one hand, still keeping the end of his right arm in his pocket and still hoping no one would notice. But someone did notice.

Second Lieutenant John K. Swensson, 23, of Wichita, Kansas, was wicking up his laundry one day. He stopped to play with some children, as he often did, when he noticed Ut's stump. It had slipped out of his pocket for just a moment.

He did not say anything but when he returned to his office

where he conducts business as civic affairs officer for the 25th Division, he called Doctor Charles Brown, director of the Military Provincial Hospital Assistance Program.

Lieutenant Swensson had once taken a short course from Dr. Brown concerning the kinds of help available for amputees. After checking with Dr. Brown, Swensson called the Vietnamese Red Cross and made tentative arrangements for Ut and his mother to go to Saigon to see a doctor about getting Ut a hook.

Then it was up to Ut. Would he want to get a hook? Would he go to Saigon? Would he believe the Americans only wanted to help him? The

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answers were all yes, so on July 12, Ut and his mother boarded a helicopter at Cu Chi bound for Saigon.

In Saigon the young amputee and his mother were settled in the Saigon chapter of the Vietnamese Red Cross. It was a big day for Ut. In his 11 years he had never been very far from the little village of Tan An Hoi.

The ride through the streets of Saigon was an adventure in itself. Ut held tight to his mother as the Army taxi dashed between cars and trucks and pedi-cabs down the traffic-choked streets. Every building was a wonder and a structure like the Presidential Palace was just not to be believed.

At the Red Cross Center, Ut and his mother were checked in and given a space in a ward with other amputees waiting for new limbs. There were half a dozen other children there, all with missing limbs, waiting to see the doctors. The children from the Saigon area were quite at home and played as they had before, but the children from the little village, like Ut, were quiet and had a cer-

tain look somewhere between fear and amazement.

When the soldiers who brought him left, Ut began to cry just a little, but his mother wiped his tears and assured him they would be back. When they returned in the afternoon, they brought chewing gum and candy and he shared it with the other children and felt a little more at ease. When the soldiers left the second time, he did not cry but he did not want them to go.

The next morning Ut was taken to the National Institute of Rehabilitation for processing. It was a tedious job filling out all the forms but Ut stuck to it, answering the questions as best he could.

The National Institute for Rehabilitation came into being last February as the successor to the old Vietnamese Department of Defense Rehabilitation Center.

The joint Government of Vietnam, U.S. Agency for International Development, World Rehabilitation Fund project was established through a contract between the three and placed under the directorship

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It used to take as long as a year to get an artificial limb and then the service was restricted to the military and their dependents. With the new assembly line processes, the institute is able to fit over 400 limbs a month. In addition, they offer physical therapy and, when necessary, vocational training. For the most part, the patients adapt easily and go back to their old jobs.

After the hours of filling out forms, Ut moved on to the clinic where a staff of American and Vietnamese doctors examine the patients and prescribe the treatments. Since Ut's arm was completely healed, he was sent directly to the technicians.

In one corner of a long building, four men rushed around like cooks in a short order house. Artificial arms and legs stuck up over the plywood partition. This was the measuring and fitting room.

As the boy entered the building, a man in a blue lab coat caught him by the shoulder and ushered him into the partitioned room. Before Ut quite knew what was happening, his shirt had been removed and

two men with tapes were quickly measuring his arm and rattling off numbers to a third.

A few minutes later he was sitting on a high stool while the technicians made a plaster cast of his arm. The cast would be used to make a plaster model of his forearm and this in turn would be used as a base on which to form the artificial limb.

It would be a week before the new limb was ready so Ut and his mother were taken to Tan Son Nhut Air Base where they boarded another helicopter back to Cu Chi.

On the ride to Saigon, Ut had been scared. He had said he wanted to fly but once the chopper was in the air, he was

not at all sure he had made the right choice.

Now he was flying again but the knowledge that he had made it the first time and the fact that he was going home combined to ease the tension.

The next week was one of many emotions. Ut had a certain fear of Saigon. Everything moved so fast and was so very noisy, and it was so big. He had felt lost. He also had some doubt about his new hand. He wanted one very much, but what would it be like? So for the next week fears and doubts and hopes took turns running through Ut's mind.

By the following Friday, things had reached a feverish pitch. Ut's nine brothers and

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sisters had picked up the excitement from him and the whole house was in confusion by the time the jeep arrived to take his mother and him back to Saigon.

It was only an hour's ride to Saigon by convoy but to Ut it seemed like a week. Once in Saigon the traffic seemed worse than ever and another half hour passed before they reached the rehabilitation institute.

Now the moment had arrived. Ut was taken back to the fitting room and his shirt was removed in preparation for the new limb.

A technician covered the forearm with a cotton pad and then the plastic sleeve was slipped into place. The harness that crossed his back was measured and strapped in place

and then the cable to the hook was measured, cut and attached to the harness.

It was ready to go. One of the technicians held out a book. Ut stretched his arm and the hook opened. He relaxed and it closed on the book. Held firmly in the jaws of the hook, Ut lifted the book up then moved to a table and laid it down. He stretched his arm again and moved away. The pincher opened and the book slipped onto the table.

For several minutes Ut just stared at his new hand. He opened and closed the jaws many times and then he smiled. He picked up the book and laid it down again. Then he turned to his mother and they both stopped, trying hard to hold back the tears.

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The advertisement features a stylized sailboat with a black sail and a white hull, set against a background of horizontal lines. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a mix of serif and script fonts. A decorative border with stars is visible on the left side of the bottom section.

Ut is back home in Tan An Hoi now. He helps around the laundry and with the help of his hook there is very little he can't do. He can peel bananas, open packages, button his shirt and even write.

He doesn't keep his hand in his pocket anymore. It is in use now just as much as his left. The boy who was once timid, afraid and a little ashamed is now happy and outgoing and very proud of the handicap he has overcome.

And the 25th Infantry Division soldiers who took time out from fighting a war to help a little boy, what are they doing now? There is a little girl in a village down the road who has a curvature of the spine. She can do very little without a great deal of pain. Maybe there is a doctor somewhere in Vietnam... maybe those same «Tropic Lightning» soldiers will find him...

EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing article was written by Private First Class John Dittmann, 22, of Aurora, Illinois. He is presently serving as a combat correspondent with the 25th Infantry Division out of Cu Chi, Vietnam, 25 miles northwest of Saigon. Just six months ago, when the «Tropic Lightning» Division arrived in Vietnam, Cu Chi was commonly referred to as «Hell's Half Acre.» The village served as a sanctuary for the Vietcong. Vietnamese civilians in the area were completely dominated by the enemy. In the last six months, American soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division have named Ut is typical of the fought with «hand and heart» to bring a new way of life to thousands of villagers formerly under the reign of VC terror. The story of an 11-year-old boy humane achievements being recorded daily on the battlefields of Vietnam.

END

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CU CHI. — With the help of his hook there is very little Ut can't do. He peels bananas, opens packages, buttons his shirt, and has even learned to write.

(Photo by Sp5 Ron Park, 125th Sig Bn)

★ Before we sat down to our Thanks-giving dinner, my wife spoke of our many blessings. First on her list came our six healthy children. An hour later when we were at the table, all was pandemonium. Noticing that my wife's eyes were closed, I asked her what was the matter. «Nothing,» she said, «I am just praying for patience to endure my blessings.»

A.F. PROVIDES TELEPHONE CALLS FOR U.S. COMBAT WOUNDED

SAIGON. — U. S. wounded, hospitalized and still in the war zone are using Air Force communications to place telephone calls to their loved ones in the United States.

Col. Charles Y. Schultz, Jr., 46, a native of Alvarado, Tex., who is responsible for all Air Force communications in Southeast Asia, said, «After many years of communications service, it is the first time to my knowledge that this direct service has ever been provided for our combat wounded.» He commands the 1964th Communications Group.

Conceived early this year by Air Force M.Sgt. Ramiro R. Guerra and endorsed by the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), the idea

spread to other branches of the service throughout Vietnam which have Military Affiliate Radio Systems (MARS) stations.

Guerra, 41, of San Antonio, Tex., is non-commissioned officer in charge of radio operations in the 1876th Communications Squadron.

The first call was placed in February but due to lengthy coordination, difficulty in obtaining and installing equipment, this service became fully operational in the Saigon area about four weeks ago.

Lines have been installed at the Third Field Hospital in Saigon and at the casualty staging area at the Tan Son Nhut air base. A staging area is a temporary hospital facility where

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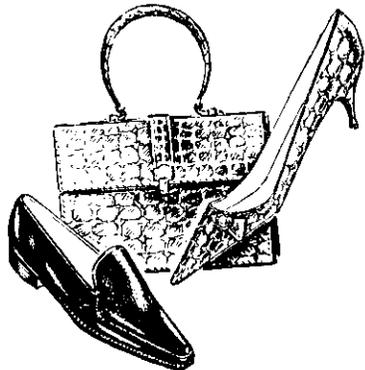
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VIET-NAM

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ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA



NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINE

patients await aerial evacuation to the U. S. for treatment and recovery.

John W. Baker, a 19-year old U. S. Army sergeant, was wounded in action last week when his unit, the 27th Infantry «Wolfhounds» of the 25th Division was on a search and destroy mission. The «Wolfhounds» were hit by enemy grenades and Baker suffered fragment wounds in both leg, arm and chest.

Shortly after admission to the field hospital, the nine-month Vietnam veteran called his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William N. Keene of Grand Ridge, Fla., easing much of their fear and anxiety.

«We've made more than 14,000 routine calls for service members in Vietnam this year, and now have expanded our service to include the wounded who could use it to even greater advantage as shown in the Baker case,» Guerra said.

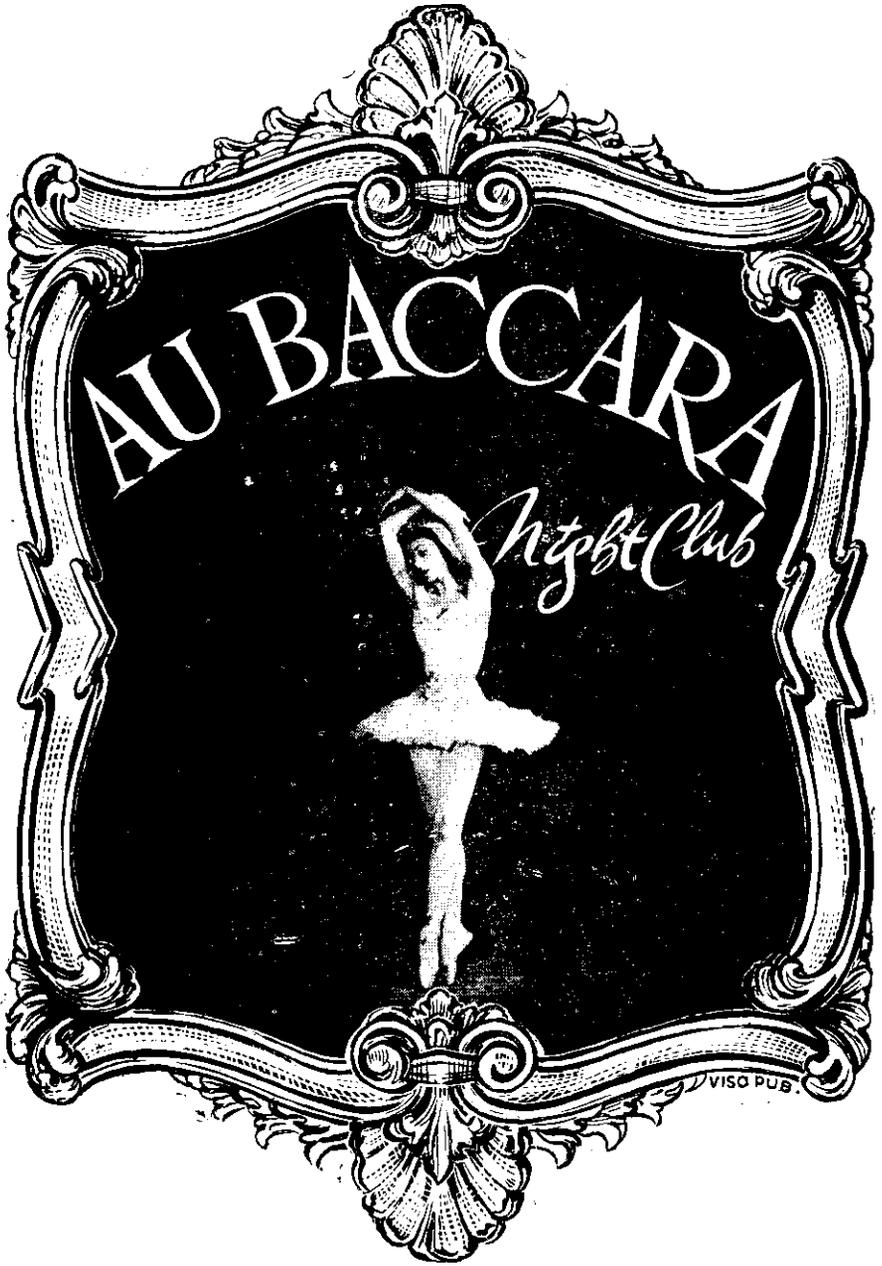
«By letting those back home hear them directly, the family quickly learns the details of the hospitalization, how the patient is improving and how long he expects to be confined,» concluded the sergeant.

«One call is often the best dose of medication in the world and it works magic in assisting the patient's recovery,» was the comment of 1st Lt. Marlene C. Lohmiller, a nurse at the field hospital.

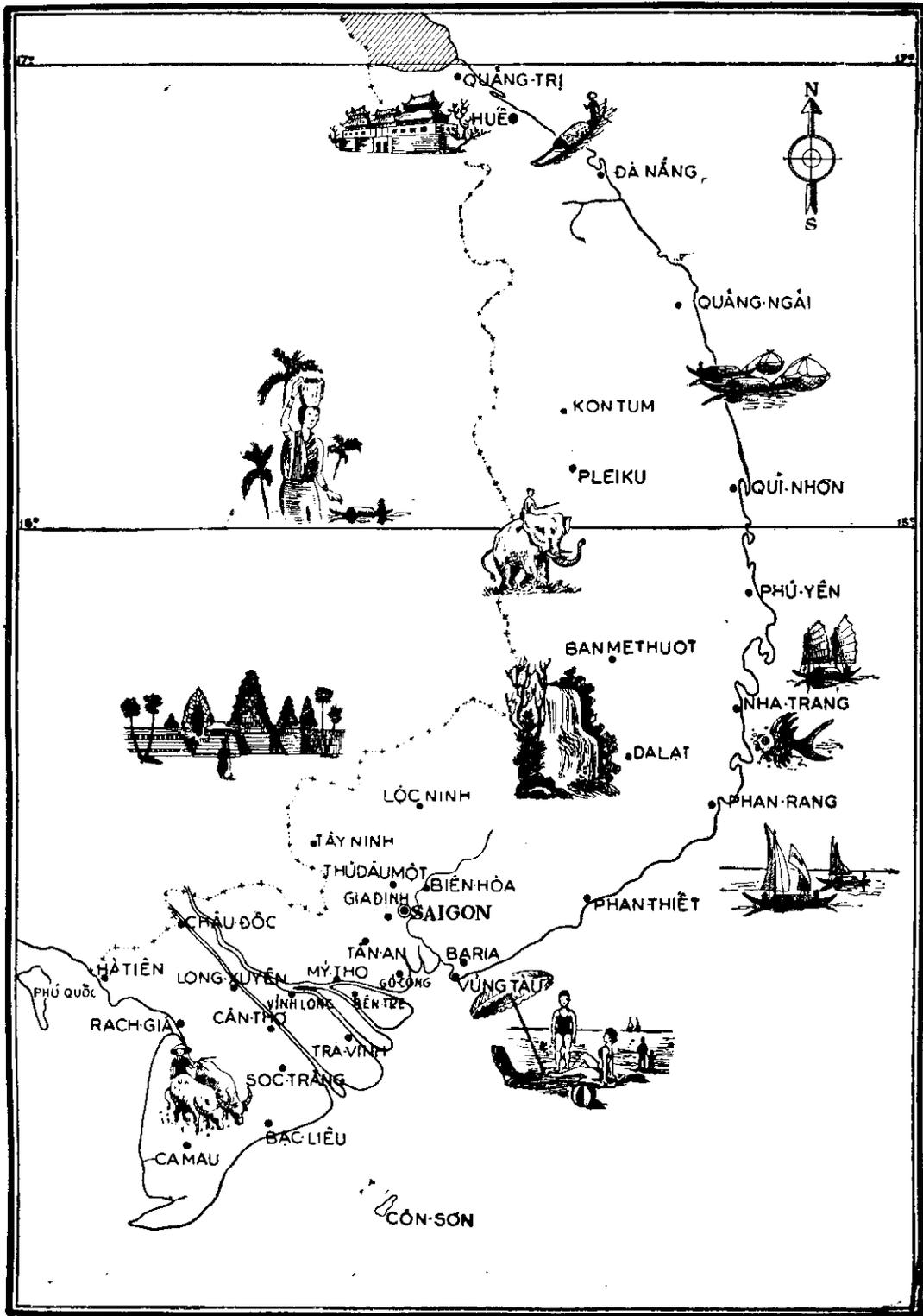
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MAP OF VIETNAM



Introducing

VIETNAM

Viet-Nam is situated in the South East corner of Asia, and occupies the Eastern coastal strip of what was previously known as the Indochinese peninsula. The Republic is bounded on the East by the South China Sea, the Gulf of Thailand on the Southwest, and to the West are the two former French Colonies of Laos and Cambodia.

The Free Republic of South Vietnam is separated from the Communist Peoples Democracy of North-Vietnam by the seventeenth parallel along which runs a demilitarized zone formed by the Geneva Armistice of 1954.

The Republic of South-Vietnam is freely accessible to the Western World, and encompasses an area of some 65,000 square miles. The total population is approximately twelve million, of which one million are refugees who fled from Communist North-Vietnam. In the metropolitan area of Saigon, the Capital, there are over two million people.

Viet-Nam has always been known as a beautiful and scenic land, and the people are famous for their courtesy and hospitality. Viet-Nam is a land endowed with some of the world's richest natural resources, and in times of peace the land can produce a great abundance of rice, rubber, coffee, tea, and other agricultural products. The population of Vietnam is a very

varied one, one sees besides the Vietnamese people themselves a great number of minorities such as the Thai, Mu'o'ng, Man and Mèo, in the high mountains of North-Vietnam. The Chàm, Moi, — now named «*Dông bào Thu'o'ng*», or Inhabitants of the High Lands, in the center of Vietnam, and there are Hindus, Moslems and Chinese in the South.

After many centuries of evolution in which the Vietnamese people developed their own culture and mode of life, Vietnam became subjected to French domination in 1862. Viet-Nam remained a French Colony for almost 100 years. Today in the capital city of Saigon the visitor can readily see the effects of French culture on the Vietnamese way of life. In no other Asian country can one find all that is best in two ways of life. Even though Viet-Nam still maintains its own national characteristics and traditions, it is easy to find absorbed into the daily life those French customs and habits that suit the Vietnamese people and the nation. The visitor is immediately enchanted with the gay atmosphere of the Capital's streets, the Continental cafes, excellent French restaurants serving fine wines, and of course the widespread use of the French language.

Vietnamese men now wear Western clothes, but we can still see in the country men with their long hair tied up, wearing the traditional « Ao Dài », generally black, reaching to their knees. Ordinarily they wear black pyjamas to work in the rice-fields.

Vietnamese women are generally small, and they still keep the traditional dress, or « Ao Dài » with its close fitting bodice, and long flowing slit-sided tunic, worn with the pantaloons (white or black only,) — which today are getting tighter in the leg.

Where to go, what to see...

SAIGON

Saigon, the sophisticated capital of the Free Republic of Vietnam, is in the center of a geographical diamond formed by Hongkong, Manila, Bangkok and Singapore. This cosmopolitan city of two million inhabitants *may be reached by jet service at practically no extra cost*

if one travels around the world or to any of the above cities.

The Saigon-Tan Son Nhut Airport, first opened to jet service in 1961, is among the world's busiest terminal.

Major point of arrival for U.S. military men entering the Republic of Vietnam, it serves



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Saigon Palace Building No. 8 Tu Do, Saigon. Tel: 25.837-25.838

thousands of passengers, civilians included, every day.

Commercial jets such as Air France, U.T.A., Pan American, land there regularly.

Other major important regional carriers are Cathay Pacific Airways, Thai International and Air Vietnam. In addition to this civilian traffic, there is a daily average of eight commercial jet airliners under contract to the Air Force's Military Airlift command (MAC), each of which carry as many as 165 american fighting men. The military passengers are met and assisted by representatives of their respective services, while the civilians are greeted by gracious hostesses dressed in the traditional « Ao Dai ».

Shopping in Saigon is fasci-

nating, particularly for ladies. Perhaps the best known article of local interest is the «Ao Dai» or Vietnamese dress. Ready-to-wear dresses can be purchased in most good dress-making or material shops or tailors. A made-to-measure dress can be obtained at a very reasonable price in 48 hours.

The main shopping areas in Saigon are the rue Tu Do (Catinat), and Le Loi, as well as the Nguyen Hue Boulevard and Le Thanh Ton Street, and of course the Saigon Central Market.

Articles of great interest and of traditional design are to be found in the Vietnam Handicraft Development Centre at 86, Rue Tu Do, and it is here that there is always available a brilliant display of the finest ornaments and articles of interest to be found in Viet Nam that are



SAIGON SHOPPING AREA

representative of the culture of the country. Treasures that are always in great demand, because of their renowned beauty and workmanship in Saigon, are the finely lacquered screens and paintings produced by skilled craftsmen, as well as silks of unique and beautiful designs, which are hand-painted in the traditions of the Vietnamese people. Pottery and finely worked ceramic articles can be found here in Saigon which are available nowhere else in Asia. In addition to all this, tortoise-shell jewellery, comprising ear-rings bracelets, etc, as well as ladies' purses and cigarette cases, can be found here which are unique to this part of South East Asia. Finally, nobody should leave this land without acquiring a

few examples of the Vietnamese hand-painted silk pictures which are available on the sidewalks of Saigon but which are better purchased in the handicraft and antique shops of Rue Tu Do.

Dazzling silks, brocades, and materials, at prices that are competitive with any shopping centre in the world, are available here in Saigon. Articles cunningly and intricately woven from rattan and bamboo; brassware, and bronzes, including antiques, both rare and unique; lacquers, paintings, ceramics, all these are to be found in Saigon, — and it is all this that makes Saigon a shopping centre that is little known, and rich in bargains.

(see page 40)

*SOMEWHERE THERE IS
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SHOPPING IN SAIGON...

(continued from page 37)

The restaurants of the capital can provide an amazing variety of dishes, ranging from the plain and simple, to the ornate and exotic. Here in Saigon and Cholon you can find everything from the hometown snack-bar or soda-fountain, to the palatial Chinese restaurant modeled on the past glories of the Chinese empire.

Saigon is indeed fortunate in the supply of fresh vegetables that are easily obtainable from the rich mountain resort, and garden area, of Dalat. There is also an abundance of fresh meat, fish, and sea food, in Saigon. The surrounding countryside is rich in fish and shrimps which abound in the rivers and canals of the area, whilest fresh sea-food is readily available from Vung Tau on the coast.

The restaurants themselves in the capital city serve an excellent variety of foods.

Favorites that are recommended are :

French :

Guillaume Tell, 32, Trinh Minh The, Khanh Hoi, Tel. 22.836, Mme Leccia.

Caruso, 125, Vo Di Nguy, Tel. 22.169, Mme Lucette.

La Cigale, 18, Dinh Tien Hoang, Tel. 21.431, Mr. Poli.

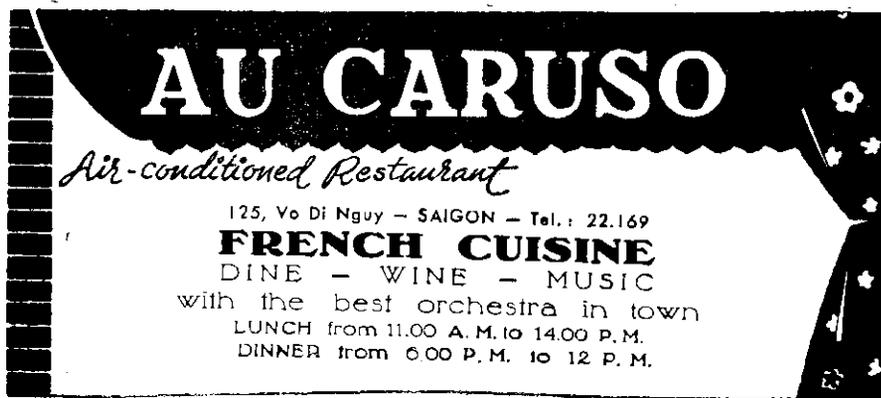
Kontiki, 20, Phan Thanh Gian.

Vietnamese :

Le Calypso, 67, Pasteur St.

Chinese :

Van Canh, 184, Calmette, Tel. 20.963. Near Saigon's central market, is modelled on a famous Tai Wan restaurant and gives first class value.



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Italian :

Pizzeria, 76-C, Le Thanh Ton, Saigon.

Spanish :

Paprika, 136 Bis, Building «A» Yen Do, Tel. Saigon 682.

Japanese :

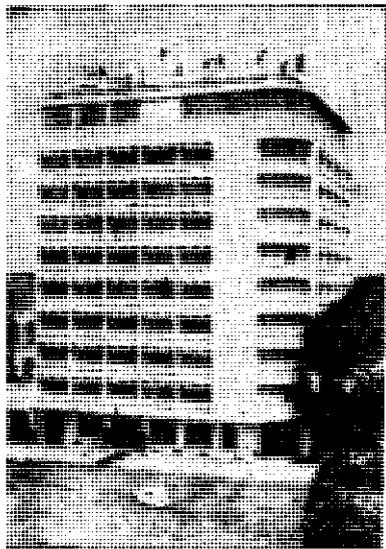
Fuji, 96, Hung Vuong, Cholon, Tel. 36.368.

Entertainment

Vietnamese theater :

a) The «Hat-Boi», or classical theater, is essentially tragic, and is always steeped in the great dramas of the history of China and Vietnam. The richly dressed actors have to limit themselves to a certain number of exacting rules and symbols,

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on 9th floor, the best in dining and service

"JEROME & JULIETTE" BAR
on 8th floor, the most Cosy and Intimate

Open from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M.

and their make-up is conventional.

b) The « Cai-Luong » which combines tragedy and comedy, is essentially of a more comic nature and provides a popular counterpart to the « Hat-Boi ».

HUNG-DAO theater :
130, Tran-Hung Dao, Saigon.

NGUYEN VAN HAO theater :
30, Tran Hung Dao, Saigon.

QUOC THANH theater :
271, Vo Tanh, Saigon.

Movies :

In Saigon there are numerous first class air-conditioned cinemas showing the latest American, European, Asian and Vietnamese films. Most of the films have French or English soundtracks, with Vietnamese subtitles. Vietnamese films are very popular and provide a modern expression of the classical Vietnamese theater.

EDEN Cinema :
183, Tu Do Street
(Eden Arcade), Tel: 23.376

REX Cinema :
147, Nguyen Hue
(REX Building), Tel: 20.772

DAI-NAM Cinema :
79-91, Tran Hung Dao
Saigon, Tel: SG-096

Night Clubs :

Night Clubs are frequented by well-to-do and the middle classes. They vary greatly and all provide something different. Travellers should really make the rounds to savor the different flavours, and atmospheres of each. The night clubs of Saigon and Cholon are justly world-famous, and it is impossible to list them all, or to list the attractions of them all. Suffice it to say that the names of the better known are contained in this Magazine, and the editors are actively engaged in visiting them all.

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CHOLON

Only three miles from the center of Saigon is the city of Cholon, a separate city, but forming part of the Metropolitan area of Saigon. One is hardly aware of the subtle changes as you ride along the main street, Tran Hung Dao, into Cholon. It is only when you reach the center of Cholon that you realize you are truly in the center of «chinatown». The residents of Cholon are primarily from Southern China, and the primary dialect used is Cantonese, although Mandarin, the official Chinese dialect, is usually un-

derstood, as are the Fukkien, Hokien and Hakka dialects.

Cantonese style cooking is famous throughout China, and excellent samples of this cooking can be found in Cholon's many restaurants. It is in Cholon also where one will find the better known nightclubs, which are excellent. Cholon is also a good example of the Chinese people's liking for neon signs. As you stroll along the street at night it will seem that each proprietor has tried to build a bigger and brighter Neon sign.

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SPECIAL IN-COUNTRY R & R CENTER

R & R CENTER VUNG TAU



HOLD TIGHT — A vacationer at Vung Tau Skims over the warm waters off the beach at this rest and relaxation center. Water skiing is only one of the many sports available for the military man seeking relaxation from the grimness of war.
(Photo by SSgt. B. W. Cook)

This recreational spot preserves a certain continental charm on its picturesque streets, in its restaurants, and on its beautiful beaches. While in Vung Tau, you are sure to be impressed by the natural beauty of Cape St Jacques and no doubt will want to return.

An R & R Center for US Forces, located near the center of Vung Tau, has been established for the use of enlisted personnel on a quota basis.

The R & R Center consists of a new, modern villa with a capability of accommodating 134 person-

nel. Billeting and maid services are provided free of charge. Facilities available at the center include a mess, small PX, library, free movies, chapel and recreation equipment. The beach area, which has been likened to the Riviera, offers swimming, fishing, boating and surfboarding. The R&R beach is reserved for US and Free World Forces personnel. Transportation to and from the beach is provided by the R&R Center.

Personnel utilizing the R & R Center must provide their own towels and swim wear. Swimming

suits are sold in the Center PX.

Cost of meals is nominal and mess hours have been established for the convenience of personnel

on R & R.

Curfew hours are in effect which have been established by the local command.



«Be sure and tell them about the bikinis. With Bikinis we're loaded!»

For out-of-country R & R leave in such delightful places as BANGKOK, HONGKONG, SINGAPORE, KUALA-LUMPUR, PENANG, TOKYO, TAIPEI, MANILA, and HONOLULU. Contact your Special Services Officer, or apply through your command channels.

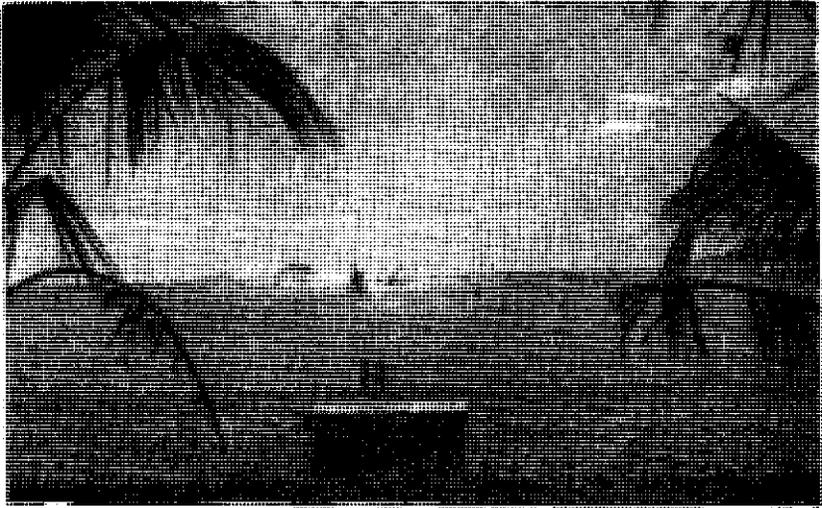
KIM'S Bar

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- Charming English speaking Hostesses
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- Warm Welcome

Manager: MISS KIM

NHA TRANG



Nha Trang is calling.

Any body wanting a change from the masses of bicycles and scooters, traffic jams and the hustle and bustle of the city of Saigon can lounge on sandy beaches comparable to the Riviera, at Nha Trang, the popular resort city less than 90 minutes by plane from Saigon. It's all yours to enjoy without using up precious time as it is within easy reach of Saigon.

Nha Trang possesses a broad beach of fine white sand which stretches for two-and-a-half miles along a calm and very blue sea, lined with coconut trees and backed by mountains, and is considered one of world's

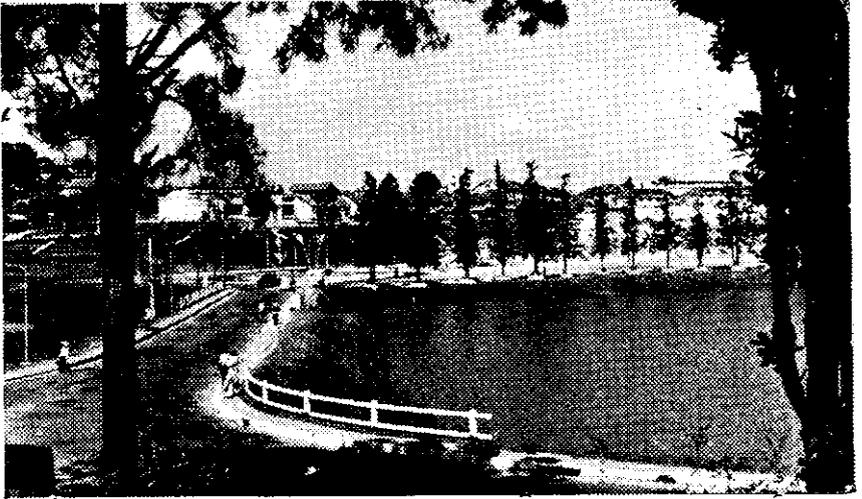
finest beaches. Visitors discover the clear water is ideal for swimming and little glass-bottomed boats give a lovely view of the tropical gardens of the sea floor. Or one may simply sit and watch the fishermen hauling in their nets.

In Nha Trang dinner must, of course, be sea-food lobsters, shrimp, clams, or just plain fresh white fish. A visit to the Oceanographic Institute is also a «must». An hour or so here is well spent browsing through the Institute to see the great variety of specimens of sea life imprisoned in miniature replicas of their natural habitat.

Regular flights... minimum cost... maximum pleasure.

Read and subscribe to LIFE IN VIETNAM

DALAT



DALAT — Xuân Hương Lake

On the high central plateau at an altitude of 5000 feet and 185 miles from Saigon is the mountain resort of Dalat. It can be reached by road or by

air.

In 1893 the famous French physician Doctor Yersin recognized the beneficial qualities of the altitude, climate, and moun-



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(1st floor) Open-Air

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RELAX WITH YOUR FRIENDS

tain air and founded the present day site of Dalat. Dalat has grown and become the mountain resort for the residents of Saigon, for in the hot season Dalat's climate provides a welcome and invigorating change for southern residents. The surrounding scenery with its wealth of waterfalls, lakes, rivers, forests, and beautiful rolling hills provides an ideal vacation ground. The area is rich in legend and folklore and it is not surprising that the surrounding woods and forest lakes have given rise to some of Vietnam's most romantic legends.

For the sports-minded Dalat's golf course, sports club, with tennis, water skiing, sailing, and fishing provide plenty of recreation. One also has a chance to visit Montagnard tribesmen in their resettlement villages that have been constructed to remove these mountain people from the menace of the Viet Cong terrorists.

The National Military Academy, a university, and an atomic research center are located at Dalat. One also has the opportunity to visit the Da Nhim hydroelectric project which is the source of Saigon's electric power.

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General Information

Passport and Visas :

Travellers in transit through Viet-Nam may stay up to 72 hours without a formal visa if their tickets show confirmed seats for a flight to their next point within this period. Holders of American pass-ports do not need a visa (entry or exit) if they stay in the country less than 7 days. In the case that an exit visa is required, visitors may apply for it from the Immigration Service 335-337, Vo-Tanh, Saigon. Tel. 24.952.

Health Record :

Must be kept up to date. All persons entering Viet-Nam are required to produce Cholera and Smallpox inoculation certificates. A yellow-fever inoculation certificate is needed if the travellers are arriving from an infected area. Regulations frequently change and the traveller must keep himself informed as to the latest requirements.

Customs Regulations :

Travellers may retain duty-free, such goods as tobacco, liquor, toilet articles and medicines provided these are for their personal use and do not exceed the following limitations :

— Tobacco : 500 cigarettes, or 100 cigars, or one pound of pipe tobacco

— 2 still cameras of different sizes

- 1 movie camera
- 1 portable tape-recorder
- 1 portable gramophone
- 1 transistor radio
- 1 typewriter.

Currency :

The monetary unit in Viet-Nam is the Piaster and it is worth about 73 Piasters per US dollar or 205 piasters per pound sterling. All travellers are required to declare all currency in their possession when filling in customs forms before arriving in Viet-Nam. When travellers leave VN their unspent piasters may be reconverted into foreign currency upon presentation of the certificate delivered to them when they sold their original foreign currency, to an authorized Bank.

Tipping :

As in many European restaurants and hotels, tips are often included at the end of a check or bill, under an item called «service». When the service is not included, a tip of 10% of the total is customary.

APPROXIMATE RATES

OF EXCHANGE :

VN\$

One US dollar	118,00
— Pound sterling	329,00
— French fr.	24.10

Bargaining :

Bargaining is an established practice in most of the smaller shops. However there is a definite and growing trend in the direction of one-price business. In the leading stores, a fixed price policy is set ; but in smaller shops bargaining often is expected.

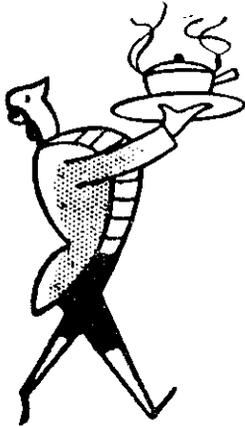
Climate :

The climate here is pleasant, with two main seasons, the rainy, and the dry season. The average temperature in Saigon is 75°F. low and 90°F. high with alternate rain and sunshine from May to October. From November through April, the climate in Saigon is much milder than that in Manila, Bangkok, Singapore or Djakarta,

with many a cool day whenever there is a depression in nearby areas.

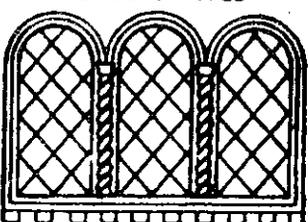
Transportation :

TAXIS are painted a distinctive light blue and cream in Saigon, and are all licenced. All carry meters which commence at VN\$ 2.50 at flag-fall. However the minimum legal fare payable is VN\$6, and thereafter the fare increases by about fifty cents for every hundred yards. Between the hours of ten PM and six AM all fares are increased by fifty percent, although this is not shown on the taxi-meter. For long rides outside town, (excluding Tan Son Nhut airport) the driver should



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be given the return fare back to town.

CYCLOS or pedicabs, or pousses, are three wheeled pedal operated Trishaws, which operate within the limits of Saigon. These afford a pleasant manner of touring the city; the fare should be established with the driver in advance.

CYCLO MAYS are three-wheeled motor driven vehicles, that resemble a motorcycle pushing an armchair. They are naturally faster than the cyclos, and emit vast quantities of dense blue

smoke from their two-stroke engines. Again the fare should be established by negotiation in advance.

BUSES are extremely cheap within the capital area, and are also available between Saigon and the provincial cities.

CAR HIRE, either with, or without a driver, is very reasonable, either in Saigon/Cholon, or to go to the countryside. Visitors should consult their travel agent, or The Caravelle hotel. A wide range of modern cars are available.



Pearl's Hotel

11-11 bis, Nguyen-van-Giai, Saigon, (Dakao)
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MODERN TRANQUIL HOTEL**

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★ *Running Hot-water*

What to Eat in *VIETNAM*

Visitors to Viet-Nam will of course find a great variety and excellence in the different culinary styles to be found in the foods served here.

This is not really the place to expound on the various dishes of foreign cuisine, for the traveller or tourist will already be familiar with the arts of other Oriental and Continental dishes, so we shall confine ourselves to a few remarks about the local indigenous Vietnamese dishes.

Basically the Vietnamese style of cooking is similar to the styles found in Southern China, although there are marked differences, and nobody would mistake one for the other who had tried both styles. The two differ in the styles of their soups, and in the serving of different forms of green vegetables, and vegetable leaves, with the dishes. The most distinguishing thing about a Vietnamese meal is the use of the famous «Nuoc Mam» sauce. This is a piquant and highly appetising sauce prepared from sun dried fish, and unfortunately it does have an odour which, in the not-so-well prepared varieties of the sauce, can be a little strong. It is especially appetising when lemon or red peppers are added.

Vietnamese meals are not especially hot in taste, although one does find dishes that are curried. Others are sometimes

too piquant for the European palate, but usually peppers and chilies are added by the individual to suit his or her taste. No matter what your preference, you are sure to find something new and enjoyable when you sample our National dishes.

A few selected specialities that are only to be found in Vietnam are listed below for the guidance of newcomers.

Cha Gio :

These are small two inch, to four-inch long rolls depending on the manner in which they are prepared. The contents are prepared by mixing crabmeat, pork, noodles and chopped vegetables together, rolling them in a thin rice paper wrapping, and deep frying the finished delicacy. Cha gio are a very popular Vietnamese dish and will prove to be something memorable.

Chao Tom :

This dish comprises individual sticks of sugar-cane, around which has been rolled a spiced shrimp paste, and which is then grilled. The flavour is delicious and haunting.

Bo Bay Mon :

Literally translated this means «Seven beef dishes», and this is just what it is. Each dish is prepared in a different manner,

and while some have vegetables added to them, others have the beef diced, sliced, minced, or made into a paté. Each one is eaten in a special manner, and they all have their own special, and traditional sauces.

Whilst there is not the infinite variety of dishes in the Vietnamese culinary art that one finds in the Chinese forms of cooking, it is possible to sample our cooking and feel that a lasting friendship with the style has been struck-up. One of the delight-full things about a Vietnamese meal is the freedom of choice, for the dishes are often placed on the table together, and the diner moves from one to the other, taking as much of each one as he wishes, in whatever order he wishes.

Com Tay Cam :

This is a special treat that consists of a basic rice dish cooked in a covered earthen pot, with a mixture of mushrooms, chicken, and pork, sliced

very fine. The whole dish is served with a ginger sauce, and this is truly a Mandarin's delight to taste.

Pho:

This is a soup in which are mixed an infinite variety of choice morsals, depending on the traditions of the cook. Basicly it resembles a consommé prepared with beef and noodles.

The bouillion, or broth, is very carefully prepared, and the main beef and noodle ingredients are added at the last minute; in this manner the particularly delicate and unusual flavour of the broth is kept separate from the flavour of the beef and other added ingredients. The result is a delicious blend of flavours that is absolutely unique. Pho should not be confused with the many varieties of «Soupe Chinoise» that are prepared from various bases, and are indeed similar to the Tonkinese Pho. These soups provide an excellent late night supper before the night-club reveler returns home.

<i>Keeley's</i>	BAR
<i>ex SUGAR CANE</i>	
<p>20, EDEN Arcade, near entrance to — EDEN Theater <i>Air conditioned</i> COLD BEER — CHARMING HOSTESSES RELAX WITH YOUR FRIENDS <i>Keeley Welcomes You</i></p>	

Useful Addresses

AIRLINES

Air Vietnam — Japan Airlines
— Royal Air Cambodge —

BOAC/QANTAS — Air India,
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AIR VIETNAM

MONDAY

Departures to		Arrivals from	
Hongkong (Caravelle)	12:30	Hongkong	19:00

TUESDAY

Phnompenh-Bangkok	12:00	Phnompenh-Bangkok	17:45
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WEDNESDAY

Vientiane	08:30	Vientiane	16:35
Singapore-Kualalumpur	09:00	Kualalumpur-Singapore	15-15

THURSDAY

Hongkong	10:30	Hongkong	19:00
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FRIDAY

Phnompenh-Bangkok	12:00	Bangkok-Phnompenh	17:45
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SATURDAY

Vientiane	08:30	Vientiane	16:35
Hongkong (Caravelle)	12:30		

SUNDAY

Kualalumpur-Singapore	14:00	Singapore-Kualalumpur	19:00
		Hongkong	13:00

AIR FRANCE

MONDAY

Europe-Calcutta	17:25	Manila-Tokyo	16:30
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WEDNESDAY

Hongkong-Tokyo	14:05	Bangkok-Europe	13:30
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T H U R S D A Y

Departures to		Arrivals from	
Bangkok-Europe	17:35	Hongkong-Tokyo	16:40

F R I D A Y

Manila-Tokyo	14:10	Europe-Calcutta	13:35
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S A T U R D A Y

Bangkok-Europe	17:25	Manila-Tokyo	16:30
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S U N D A Y

Manila-Tokyo	12:50	Bangkok-Europe	12:15
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W E D N E S D A Y

Djakarta	14:25	Europe	13:40
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T H U R S D A Y

Europe	12:40	Djakarta	11:55
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CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS

MONDAY (ELECTRA II)

Hongkong	11:45	Hongkong	11:10
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FRIDAY (ELECTRA II)

Hongkong	11:20	Hongkong	10:45
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SATURDAY (CONVAIR 880)

Hongkong	10:20	Hongkong	09:45
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PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS

M O N D A Y

Singapore-Djakarta	11:40	Manila-Guam-Honol.-USA	11:00
Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30	Europe (AR Bangkok)	10:00

T U E S D A Y

Manila-Guam-Honol.-USA	11:00	Singapore	10:10
Europe-Calc. (LV Bang.)	00:30	Europe-Calc. (AR Bang)	10:35

W E D N E S D A Y

Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30	Europe (AR Bangkok)	10:00
Guam-Honol.-USA	11:30	Guam-Honol.-USA	10:00

T H U R S D A Y

Hk-Tokyo-Honol.-USA	12:35	Manila-Guam-Honol.-USA	11:00
Singapore	11:40	Bangkok-Europe	11:45
Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30		

F R I D A Y

Departures to		Arrivals from	
Manila-Guam-Honol.-USA	11:00	Singapore	10:10
Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30	Europe (AR Bangkok)	10:00

S A T U R D A Y

Singapore	10:45	Guam-Honol.-USA	10:00
Europe-Calcutta	00:30	Europe-Calcut. (AR Bgk)	10:30

S U N D A Y

Guam-Honol.-USA	11:45	Singapore	10:55
Europe (LV Bangkok)	00:30	Europe (AR Bangkok)	10:00

ROYAL AIR CAMBODGE

M O N D A Y

Phnompenh-Siemreap	12:00	Phnompenh-Siemreap	10:45
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S A T U R D A Y

Phnompenh-Siemreap	13:30	Phnompenh-Siemreap	12:30
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ROYAL AIR LAO

T U E S D A Y

Vientiane	13:15	Vientiane	12:15
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F R I D A Y

Vientiane	13:15	Vientiane	12:15
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THAI INTERNATIONAL

W E D N E S D A Y

Bangkok	17:10	Bangkok	16:30
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S U N D A Y

Bangkok	15:20	Bangkok	14:40
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VIETNAM STORY

THE LOTUS-ITS LURE, LOVE

By Cdr. R.L. Mole

Amid the dirty waters of small streams and rivers as well as from the semi-stagnant pools of water throughout the tropical area of Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, etc.) can be seen the bright green floating leaves and the lovely colors of the LOTUS. Such is the flower to the environment wherein it grows, that long ago, Buddha used it as a symbol of his teachings. Growing out of the impure, the dirty, and the waste-products of a civilization, where sanitation is practiced quite differently than in America, the Lotus lifts high its stately and lovely blossom in such insullied and pure form,

it is an object lesson. Buddha taught that as the flower in spite of its environment achieves its mark, so men may loose the thralls of passion and desires and thereby find release in the spiritual serenity of Nirvana.

The LOTUS Flower thus became a religious symbol as well as a popular food and a sight that creates aesthetic pleasure. The Lotus bud is perhaps the single most popular offering of the Buddhist as he worships at his temple, or his home altar. It is quite often held in the folded hands of the listener within the temple as sermons are given or meditation is practiced. Often in the early

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morning hours as the Buddhist Bonze makes his way through the streets with the «merit-bowl» wherein the laity may earn merit by giving cooked rice, there will be a Lotus bud or two within his hand. Likewise, it has come to form a part of Asian architectural and sculptural motifs.

Sometimes the Lotus is compared to the feet, the heart or the living — giving attributes of the Buddhist female. Moreover it has a history that pre-dates Buddhism as its symbolism was also of Hindu heritage. For instance, Brahmin legend tells the story of how when Brahma, the god of the universe was creating this universe, he went to sleep on the job; as he slept, the Lotus bud appeared from his naval and as its petals opened, Vishnu emerged and finished the creation.

Buddha used its four stages to symbolize the four types of people and their distance from enlightenment; the four stages being (a) the Lotus bud being deeply submerged as it first starts its development; (b) the next is just as the bud is about to reach the surface of of the pond where it is located; (c) the third is after the bud has cleared the surface, but with still folded leaf and bud; while the fourth is when the bud stands tall and straight with its beauty undefiled by the mire in which it grows. Because of this symbolism, it is always proper to use it as a floral offering to priests when ceremonies are performed or as

means of earning merit. While the Lotus bud signifies in Buddhism that the worshipper is capable of reaching enlightenment because of the opportunities within his grasp, the unopened bud tends to last longer than other flowers, plus the fact that it will eventually bloom of itself when placed in water and left before the altar.

Incidentally, there are at least five varieties of the Lotus with the water lily being included, even if not always accepted as a true Lotus; but the Thai people refer to the two types as «string Lotus» and «stalk Lotus» with several types of «string Lotus» with flowers of purple, white to pale

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blue, and red. There are also at least five kinds of «stalk Lotus», with each having its own characteristics and charm when closely studied.

Apart from its religious symbolism and its aesthetic and at times almost ethereal beauty, the Lotus is also a food-plant. As food, it was known to Homer of Greek fame, as well as being widely used by the Chinese, Japanese and South-east Asians. Its seed may be

eaten either fresh or dried and used in sweet soups and deserts. The root may be used in salad, boiled in soup, or preserved in sugar and used as desert. From the root may also be extracted a fine starch used by the inhabitants of that area for certain special foods. Thus, while in many places it might be just a pest, the Lotus has been turned into food and given religious values while adding lovely colors in unexpected places.

MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER

TAN SON NHUT. — Lieutenant Charles Q. Williams, Medal of Honor winner, has arrived in Vietnam to begin a Special Forces recruiting program.

Lieutenant Williams, on temporary duty from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he is attached to the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Johnson at the White House on June 23, 1966. He received the award for his actions at Dong Xoai, Vietnam on June 9 and 10 of 1965.

When interviewed, Lieutenant Williams stated, «We want to get experienced and qualified people who are rotating back to the States to go into Special Forces.» Lieutenant Williams was asked where he would be doing his recruiting and he replied: «All over the country.»

The Special Forces Lieutenant was greeted at the airport by Lt. Col. Casilear Middleton, Liaison Officer to MACV and USARV from the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare.



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SEVENTH FLEET

The image of today's Navy is focusing more than ever on air power, according to Commander of the U. S. Seventh Fleet, Vice Admiral John J. Hyland.

During an interview on his guided missile cruiser-flagship USS OKLAHOMA CITY in the South China Sea, the 54-year-old three-star admiral called aircraft carriers «the capital ships of this era.»

«Half the strike missions over North Vietnam and nearly that percentage of the support missions in the south have been flown from our five carriers,» he said.

Three of the fleet's floating airfields operate in Vietnam waters at all times.

«Of course the other ships are doing their part. The carriers couldn't operate for such long periods without supply ships; the destroyers and rocket ships are doing a magnificent job with gunfire sup-

port. But the carrier-based pilots are accomplishing feats we never heard of before,» he said.

Hyland continued to tell how today's naval aviators are subjected to hostile fire more often and for longer periods than in any other war.

«These young pilots are returning after one cruise with more combat experience than most fliers got in all of World War II,» he said.

It isn't uncommon for a carrier-based pilot to pick up 125 combat missions during a seven-month cruise with Seventh Fleet. Hyland, a veteran of 30 years in naval aviation, said his 75 combat missions during nearly two years in the Pacific Campaign was about average for World War II.

The Navy's main mission in Vietnam, the admiral said, is «providing a tactical air force. Naturally our naval gunfire

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Getting a first hand look at amphibious operations Hyland last February heloed to the beaches near Quang Ngai with his amphibious warfare officer, Cmdr. George Davis to watch fleet Marines land for Operation Double Eagle.

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plays an important role in supporting friendly ground forces, but the bulk of our work is done by the carriers.

In providing air power the Navy pilots are running into new developments in air warfare. This is the first war in which missiles have been used widely. Modern jet aircraft are much faster and more sophisticated than those used in Korea.

«The surface to air missiles gave naturally us reason for sharp concern at first, but we have been able to learn to live with this additional hazard. However, it is something we must always take into account in planning our operations.»

Another threat to U. S. air superiority is the MIG aircraft. Hyland said the MIG encounters have been relatively light so far, but that this could change.

«I think the MIG threat is greater now than before. We

haven't really hit their airfields yet, but if we do, as the war continues, I'm sure we'll see more MIG encounters,» he said.

Still another North Vietnamese threat to Seventh Fleet is the PT boats. They brought the war to the north when they attacked U. S. destroyers two years ago and they still attempt attacks on the fleet's northern destroyers.

«Through close coordination between the destroyers and the carrier-based aircraft, we've beaten them off in each attack,» said Hyland. «The fact that we seldom see them in the open indicates they aren't aggressive, but still, knowing that they carry a torpedo at 30 knots gives us reason to stay alert,» he continued.

According to Hyland, the Navy has provided a large portion of brain power through test and development in providing the bulk of air power used in Vietnam.

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AROUND THE COUNTRY

Accelerated election eve harassment by communist insurgents sent Air Force AC-47 and Vietnam Air Force C-47 flareships to 23 locations in South Vietnam last night to light the skies for friendly forces.

More than 1,000 flares were used, and the AC-47 Dragonships fired more than 65,000 rounds of 7.62 mm mini-gun ammunition at enemy positions.

Flares were dropped at 10 positions in the III Corps provinces around Saigon, at nine locations in IV Corps' Mekong River Delta and at two points in I and II Corps. Some flares were over Tan Son Nhut air base and in the outskirts of Saigon. Twenty-three Air Force and nine VNAF flareship sorties were launched.

Most of the night incidents were enemy mortar, recoilless rifle or small force attacks on government outposts and friendly villages.

U. S. fighter-bomber pilots hit enemy strongholds in South

Vietnam with 330 sorties, destroying or damaging 360 enemy buildings, eight bunkers and several trenches, tunnels and fortified positions.

★

An Air Force AC-47 Dragonship responded to a call from Ha Thanh, a Special Forces camp under heavy enemy attack, at 3:20 a.m. September 11th. Circling the camp until 7 a.m., the ship, piloted by 1st Lt. George R. Dixon, 25, of Hamilton, Mass., dropped 46 flares and fired 10,500 rounds of 7.62 mm mini-gun ammo directly at enemy muzzle flashes.

«By the time we got there the enemy had the camp zeroed in. They were using 30-caliber automatic weapons, 57mm recoilless rifle fire, and mortar fire,» said Dixon. «It was the heaviest ground fire I've seen in the six months I've been here.

«At one time I could see tracers coming right at us. I hollered at the guys to hit

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the deck and rolled the plane on its side. They just missed our nose,» he continued.

«There was no forward air controller in the area, so I acted as one. I called in six Marine A-4 Skyhawks and directed them in on ground mortar flashes.

«I had one particular muzzle flash I couldn't seem to knock out, so I had a flare set to light after it hit the ground and dropped it as close as I could. An A-4 rolled in, dropped two 1,000-pound bombs, and leveled the trench area. The muzzle flashes stopped.

«The A-4s really plastered the area with 500-pound bombs and 20mm cannon fire. I saw one Skyhawk hit by 30-caliber ground fire, but he was still flying.»

Weather in the area was marginal overcast, with low-lying clouds in the valleys. The battle was still raging when the Dragon-ship left the area.

«We flew a similar mission at a camp north of Qui Nhon the night before,» continued Dixon. «I thought that one was exciting — but this one topped it!»

Flying as navigator was Capt. James P. Cavell, 25, of

Taylor, Mich., while T.Sgt. Virlyn C. Davenport served as the Dragon-ship's flight mechanic S.Sgt. Gary K. Heinz, 26, of Clearwater, Fla., and A1C Richard G. Fox of Plainview, Neb., manned the ship's mini-guns.

★

The «Emerald Knights» of the 308th Tactical Fighter Squadron flew their 5,000th combat sortie in Vietnam last week.

The 5,000th sortie came when Lt.Col. Alan E. Wockenfuss, 42, of Groton, S. D., squadron commander, and Capt. Russell S. Schultz, 35, of Bingham Canyon, Utah, attacked an enemy force 60 miles southwest of Bien Hoa.

During their 22 minutes over the target, the two F-100 Supersabres destroyed three buildings and damaged 15 others.

Since arriving at Bien Hoa air base from Homestead A.F. B., Fla., this past December, the Supersabre pilots are credited with destroying 4,415 enemy structures and damaging 5,380 others. During this period the squadron's planes destroyed 300 enemy sampans and damaged 227.

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