

20

Peace On Earth
Goodwill To Men

20
MOAK HRUE NOEL

Senang Hari Natal



สุขสบายครุขหวัง

Chúc mừng Lễ Giáng Sinh
Và hưởng nam mới vui vẻ



SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/THDNA, an association of those serving in a counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochina Wars of 1954-1975. Full membership available to anyone serving in this capacity, in a military or civilian role, in what was perceived as an effort to halt militarist expansion on the Indochinese Peninsula. Associate membership available. Membership inquiries: Ben Myers, 6105 Rainbow Circle, Lake Worth, Florida, 33463-3606. All other administrative matters: Steve Herberth, Adjutant, P.O. Box 22791, Louisville, Kentucky; 40252-0791.

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XO

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Historian

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Tom Harvey
L.O., CUVA,
PSB Foundation

Advisory Council
Kok Ksor
Quach Huynh Ha
Roy Russell

Humanitarian Proj.
-open-

SITREP # 20 សំបុត្រប្រចាំឆ្នាំ ខែ មករា ឆ្នាំ ១៩៧៦
KLEI MRÃO MRANG BAÓ CÁO TỈNH HÌNH ហោរាស័រ

Belated Holiday greetings to all. Tardy SITREP notwithstanding, your association is moving along. Good news to start off the New Year: Maj. Nguyễn Quý An, as of 15 Jan, is in the US. Thanks to tireless efforts and tenacity of Col. Noboru Masuoka, USAF, Ret., Maj. An was finally permitted to enter US, after inexcusable sloth from US Dept. of State, and Immigration folks. Maj. An's saving 4 US lives, and Distinguished Flying Cross for this exploit, carried little weight w/diplomatic paper shufflers. As it now stands, An is here as a 'Humanitarian Parolee', which means a one year stay. Efforts underway to secure Maj. An's permanent residence. Many thx to all members who wrote letters in An's behalf, and to Ray Battreall who advised that Paul Boyd has replaced David Pierce in Bangkok, as Counselor of Refugee and Migration Matters. Those wishing to write Maj. An, as well as thank Col. Masuoka for his admirable never-take-no-for-an-answer persistence: Col. Noboro Masuoka; P.O. Box 174 Moffett Field, California; 94035. Maj. An can be reached c/o Col. Masuoka. A final note to warm cockles of heart: Col. Masuoka arranged for USAF transport, and Maj. An was



rightfully accorded VIP treatment, in pleasant contrast to the cavalier attitude exhibited by our bureaucrats, none of whom have ever saved 4 lives in a hot LZ, or crash zone to be more specific. A hearty welcome to Thiếu Tá Nguyễn Quy An and his daughter.

Beyond this welcome development, there is little change in status of refugee camp inmates, or any apparent acceleration in ODP processing. The Special Forces Association has been able to 'extract' known individuals from Hong Kong camps, but only when specific inquiries have been made by former US counterparts, sometimes visiting the camps. In sum, unless someone is positively ID-ed by a friend determined to get him out, emigration to US is unlikely, regardless of justifiable reasons for political asylum. Glacial pace notwithstanding, some are still coming over, one of whom, Tom Harvey's former PF counterpart, Ma Phu, pictured to the right, should be here in a few months. Tom was able to visit Ma Phu during past visits to VN, following Phu's nine years sojourn in the infamous 'reeducation' facilities. Nghĩa Quân (PF) were not often 'enrolled' for such lengthy terms, but Ol' Ma Phu was known to be very unprogressive. Will keep you posted on Ma Phu's status. Michael Mark, editor at 'Military' relayed thoughts of his friend, Do Duc Tien, former QLVNCH Trung Tá (LTC), who feels that QLVNCH personnel may be too old to adjust to US life, and that they may be better served by having US companies employ them, and their children, once diplomatic relations are established. It's an idea with merit, though it is hoped US companies demonstrate more loyalty than US State Dept. One theme runs central through any scenario: all parties making decisions must be well aware that former comrades are not forgotten.



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Tran Van Ca's Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH) has begun the arduous and commendable task of addressing the needs of an estimated 140,000 war amputees in VN. A permanent clinic has been set up in Can Tho, and another is planned near Saigon. VNAH has provided over 4,000 artificial limbs, and 325 wheelchairs to war invalids, many of them QLVNCH personnel who've had little medical care. COUNTERPARTS/THDNA was invited to VNAH's early December dinner, though scheduling conflicts prevented THDNA representation. We thank Ca for his invitation, and even more for the noble effort he has undertaken. Members are encouraged to donate: VNAH; P.O. Box 6554; McLean, Virginia; 22106. Your association has made a previous donation; it will not be the last.

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Clement V. Kelly, publisher of the Viet Nam Insignia Collector Newsletter (VICN) reports of efforts to publish a 600 pp. book, w/full text, drawings, and 70 colored plates, of QLVNCH insignia, uniforms, medals, flags, etc. Unfortunately, there may not be enough interest to justify a reprint of a unique historical document, in which case the book will be sold to a collector. Anyone having an interest is invited to write Clem: 501 W. 5th Ave.; Covington, Louisiana; 70433. In addition, members will find Clem's newsletter to be of great historical interest, as he provides ample commentary and background for patches/insignia featured in each issue. Current edition has section of VNCH Hải Quân (Navy)

insignia, and clearly describes the counterfeits sold to gullible or uninformed collectors. Good quarterly, \$15.00/year. Checks payable to Clem, for whom thanks are extended for his permitting periodic photoplagiarizing of VICN material.

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LOCATOR Ben Myers coming on as Co-Locator, doubling up with J.C. Fischer in what is becoming a monumental task. As many members are aware, J.C. is also compiling as comprehensive a history of advisory elements as can be found, and has, at his own expense, acquired a computer to facilitate matters. Direct contact made w/Jeffrey J. Clarke, Chief Historian, Center for Military History, and former Co Van(Adv Tm 90), which should prove very helpful in furthering present work. We've hit dry spell in Locator finds, though the cooks are sampling their wares: Ben found one of his former Adv Tm members, Jack Frost, who in turn sent along photocopy of 26 March 1966 edition of 'The Observer', a Saigon weekly, with front page article of QLVNCH Thiet Giap (ARVN Armor) 4th Cav exploits, replete w/quotes from Ben and Jack. Citing improved armor/inf tactics and coordination, Ben stated 'We're advising ourselves right out of a job.' Full page photocopy also has sports summary, including info on then-upcoming heavyweight title fight between 'Cassius Clay' and George Chuvalo. Time does fly.

And, as explained in photo caption, J.C. himself, through sheer good fortune, encountered a former correspondent in what must have been shock to both. J.C., along COUNTERPARTS/THDNA members Dave Marion, C.F. Hastings Jr., Sam Pfeister and Jim Ellis, in conjunction w/Federation of Viet Nameese Veterans Associations and prospective member Mike Roberts, all funded a MACV Memorial Wreath for display at Ft. Hood's 'Traveling Wall' exhibit and ceremony. Member Bobby Jackson, was also on hand, far removed from his D.C. basecamp. Good show on part of all involved, and fitting tribute to those enshrined on the Wall.

Two last minute finds: Ben Myers found Col. Cecil Field for Charlie Thurmond, as well as the helicopter pilot who medevaced Charlie.

New Locator requests:

Bill Donagar looking for

JUSMAGTHAI Proj. 404 folks:
Art McWilliams, Coral Moore,
Menzie, Larry

Cau Hoang " "

Capt. C. Royal, Polwar

Herald Photo by Jerome Ferguson

FOUND ALIVE — Patricia L. Carey of Copperas Cove and J.C. Fischer of Temple examining a letter Fischer wrote to Carey 27 years ago while he was in Vietnam. Thinking he had been killed in action, Carey visited the Vietnam Traveling Wall Saturday with the intent of leaving the letter next to Fischer's name. Both were shocked when the man she handed the letter to was the letter's writer.



Dinh La Looking For

SĐ 18(18th ARVN) Div Adv Tm members:

(Note: La is in VN, and wrote Pentagon, which in turn forwarded letter to us. Word must be getting around.)

Majs. Humphrey, Campter and Tag(as spelled in letter), Capt. Ronnie R. Larson, and MSGT DeCosta

Member Tran Ngoc Hue needs letters from anyone who remembers Đai Uy Tran Viet My, who's been denied ODP status for emigration, despite having spent more than three years in the labor camps. Capt. My was in SĐ 1(ARVN 1st Div.), and served under Hue. Anyone can write:

Mr. David Pierce
ODP Office
Box 58
US Embassy
APO San Francisco
96346-0001

regarding status of: Tran Viet My
VN # H020-338
IV # 299-602

Finally, thx to: Ben Myers for running a monthly notice in 'Military', 'Military' Editor Michael Marks for offering to run another locator column for us(monthly, \$14.00/year from: Military; 2122 28th St.; Sacramento, California; 95818-1999.....they'll also send free sample issue to you or any friends), and to Ray Blackman at Delta Raiders Assn.(D Co, 2/501st/101st Abn) for reuniting Bill Laurie w/Bob Acklen, who'd lost track of each other before going to VN. Bob flew choppers in VN, and knew of Maj. Nguyen Quy An's 'King Bees'. Upon hearing of Maj. An's(now resolved) plight, he requested more info to pass along to 101st(Aviation) Board of Directors, of which he is a member. This locator business has fascinating ramifications.



Kien Giang Prov
PRUs



Đà Lạt Military
Academy



Adv Tm 73
Chương Thiện Prov

'The instruction given the youth of a country allows of a knowledge of what that country will someday be.' -Gustave Le Bon

'Useless laws weaken the necessary laws.' -Montesquieu

'If you've never been lost, you've never been far from home.'

-Gene Hill

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome....

Henry Garcia
MACV III Corps

Joseph R. Mitchell Jr.
USMC PRU CỐ VẤN, Quang Nam

Jack Jarnigan
SF

Anthony Orlando
Adv Tm 93

Richard W. Williamson
Sr Advisor, 38th Arty Bn

Jonathan Sweet
Tm 87

Jon H. Frost
4th/7th ARVN Cav

James Cozler
Naval Advisor, CG 44

Ward Dean
Sr Advisor 62nd Rgr Bn(TD 62 BDQ)

George E. Dooley
SF(LLDB)

David W. Lind
Adv Tm 162, Airborne(ND)

Carl Richardson
Adv Tm 43(Hau Nghia)

Roy S. Lombard Jr.
Sr Advisor, 41st Rgr Bn(TD 41 BDQ)

Richard Mantoux
HQ MAAG, Tms 16, 44, 96

John T. Pfeff
Asst Bn CỐ VẤN, Tm 89

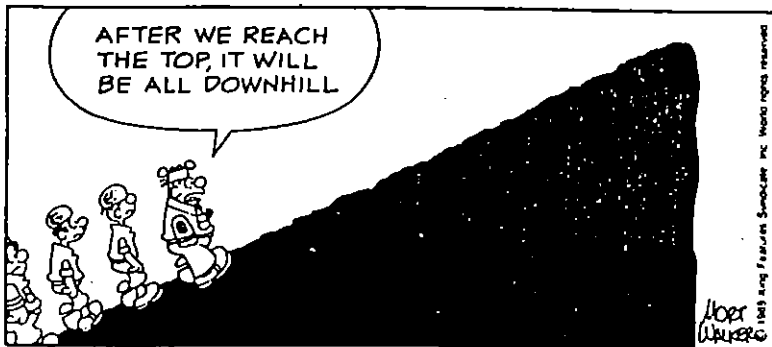
James T. Simmons
Ordnance CỐ VẤN, MR I

Hope you'll all be at the '94 reunion, when we all look forward to chewing the fat, telling old stories, and rekindling the friendships motivating everyone to join this outfit.

Please note: paperwork overload has necessitated deputizing of Ben Myers to handle membership inquiries and applications. All membership correspondence henceforth goes to:

Ben Myers 6105 Rainbow Circle Lake Worth, Florida 33463-3606,
for processing and forwarding to Adj. Steve in Louisville. Growing membership has its price. Now we have a bureaucracy!

BETLE BAILEY



1994 REUNION J.C. Fischer, masochistic glutton for punishment, has taken the reins and has planning underway. Dates: 27 July-1 Aug, 1994. Place: Killeen, Texas, midway between Fort Worth/Dallas and San Antonio. Hotel lined, activities/speakers scheduled, and being scheduled. One speaker will be Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt, author of TRAGIC MOUNTAINS, and long time friend of Hmong. We may have a lot of 'new business', if, as is rumored, diplomatic relations are normalized w/Hà Nội, revolving around establishing in-country contacts, expanding humanitarian efforts, and-possibly-planning an association-sponsored/coordinated visit. For your planning

purposes, a telephone bulletin board will be set up allowing members to cut costs by sharing transportation and bunking up in Plaza Inn, designated reunion assembly point. J. C. has already put much work into this. Your suggestions welcome and solicited: J.C. Fischer 100 Red Oak Circle; Temple, Texas; 76502-3505. Gonna be a good one. Your presence will make it all the better. Prodigious thx to J.C. for undertaking task as reunion ramrod.

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

USMC CAPs

LCpl William A. Beckwith
LTC F. Russ Hittinger
PFC Raymond E. Musick
PFC Bill Alan Webb
PFC Phillip A. D'Amico
PFC Isreal Gibbs
PFC J.C. Whiting, Jr.
Cpl Joseph E. Smith
PFC Victor Boockke

LTC Richard S. Schott
US Army



HMC Patrick D. Moriarity
PFC Jonas Benford
PFC Pedro A. Vera
PFC Robert G. Harvey
Cpl John F. Diggs
HM3 Robert Carman
Sgt Carl Hamby Presnall
PFC Michael William Orash
PFC Howard Bower

SMAJ Richard A. Schaff
US Army

Memorial Statue at QLVNCH National Cemetery, Bien Hoa, VNCH

Continuing list of prison camp Members in Memoriam...

Th/tá Nguyễn Văn Hoà
QT(Dist. Chief) Đà Nẵng

Tr/tá Nguyễn Quang Hưng
CTCT(Pdwar College)

Th/tá Hồng
Phi Công(F5 Pilot)

Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn Hiệp
Phi Công(Pilot)

Tr/tá Bạch Văn Hiến
KQ(AF), Tân Sơn Nhất

Th/tá Tạ Thành Gia
Truyền Tin(Signal)

Th/tá Nguyễn Chánh Hàm
Không rõ đơn vị(Unk unit)

Th/tá Nguyễn Văn Khóa
Phi Công,A37(Pilot)

Trần Văn Kính
QT, Huế(Precinct Chief)

Tr/tá Huỳnh Văn Kiên
Không rõ đơn vị(Unk unit)

Th/tá Nguyễn Hiến
BĐQ/QK 4(Rgr, MR IV)

Th/tá Mai Văn Giáo
Đơn vị không rõ(Unk unit)

Tr/tá Lê Văn Giáo
BB(Inf)

Tr/tá Hà Hữu Hội
CHT/Nhập Ngũ(Recruitment Cmd)

Tr/tá Lâm Thành Gia
CSQG(National Police)

Th/tá Lê Văn Hồ
Không rõ đơn vị(Unk unit)

Tr/tá Hiến
Pháo Binh(Arty)

Tr/tá Khoa
Đơn vị không rõ(Unk unit)

Tr/tá Kế
Không rõ đơn vị(Unk unit)

Th/tá Phạm Văn Kiên
CSQG(National Police)

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM, cont.

Tr/tá Kiệt
Không rõ đơn vị (Unk unit)

Th/tá Nguyễn Văn Khôi
Truyền Tin (Signal)

Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn Lạc
ANQĐ (Military Security)

Tr/tá Lê Phước Mai
Công Binh (Engineers)

Đ/tá Lê Minh Luân
KQ (AF)

Đ/tá Phạm Ngọc Lợi
Quân Huấn, BTTM (Training Cmd.)

Th/tá Ho Minh
Toa an QS (AG), Đà Nẵng

Th/tá Phan Ngọc Lương
VBQG, SĐ 1 (Đà Lạt Military Academy, 1st Div)

Th/ta Nguyễn Văn Muối
CSQG (National Police)

Nguyễn Văn Lạc
XDNT (Rural Devel. Cadre)

Tr/tá Trần Ngọc Nhuận
Vĩnh Long (Vĩnh Long Prov.)

Tr/tá Nguyễn Khắc Kỳ
ANQĐ, Tây Ninh (Military Security)

Th/tá Nguyễn Văn Lương
Quân Y (Medical Corps)

Th/tá Bùi Văn Lang
CSQG (National Police)

Th/tá Nguyễn Văn Mãn
TĐT, TĐ 7 SĐ 5 (5th Div, Bn C0)

Đ/tá Huỳnh Ngọc Lang
ANQĐ (MSS, Mobilization)

Tr/tá Nguyễn Trần Louis
P2/TTM (Chiêu Hồi Intel Liason)

Th/tá Nguyễn Luy
P2/BTL/QĐ 1 (Intel, QĐ 1)

Th/tá Tôn Thất Luân
VBQG (National Military Academy)

Th/tá Lê Văn Miêng
CSQG (National Police)

Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn Năm
CSQG (National Police)

Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn Nghĩa
SĐ 2/KQ (Squadron C0, 2nd Air Div.)

To be continued next issue. Th/tá: Major; Tr/tá: LTC; Đ/tá: Col.

All individuals cited above died in prison camps. Causes of death include execution, illness, mine explosions (prisoners forced to clear mine fields, in direct violation of Hague and Geneva Conventions, not to mention basic principles of civilized humanity). Names compiled by Association of Former Political Prisoners of Viet Nam, and in turn submitted by member Bùi Quang Lam.

'No one is really dead unless they are forgotten.'

-American Indian Saying

Our own 'moving wall' needs an appropriate inscription. Member suggestions desired.

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Member John Del Vecchio was asked to address the Connecticut Chapter of the Political Prisoners Association, delivering an inspiring and thoughtful speech which many members may enjoy reading. Please send \$2.00 for printing and postage to Editor (Bill Laurie, 1462 W. University Mesa, Arizona 85201. Cash is fine. Thanks to John for letting his audience know that not all US are abysmally ignorant of what took place in VN, why, and at whose expense.

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'Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength.'

-Eric Hoffer

Đi hành quân...37th
Rgr Bn moving out,
courtesy of member
Bobby Jackson.

Members invited to
send in photos. Best
to send photo of photo,
to avoid loss of irre-
placeable item in mail.
Easy to do w/35mm camera,
or local photog can do
for minimal expense.
All photos returned.



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Previous issue cited
impending VN visit of

Commander Grant McClure, under auspices of International Committee for a Free Viet Nam(ICFVN). Didn't come off, and perhaps a good thing that it didn't. Grant's visa application was snarled up, and ICFVN conference on economic development was roused by security elements in Saigon. In-country members of the Movement to Build Democracy have been arrested and detained, as have two naturalized US citizens, Trần Quang Liem(California), and Nguyễn Tân Tri(Texas). Grant had previously met with Mr. Tri in US. No clear reason given for arrest/detention, though prisoners no doubt being viewed as 'enemies of the people'(which people?). Usual stuff. Tri and Liem join another naturalized US citizen, Ly Tong, whose hijacking of airliner and subsequent leaflet drop over Saigon earned him 20 years in prison. Letters have been sent to President Clinton, Sec. State Christopher, Rep. Robert Dornan, and Rep. Tom Lantos, of Congressional Human Rights Caucus. Tri and Liem did nothing wrong. They were to have attended a conference, in Saigon, w/tacit if not express approval from govt. officials. Dirty pool, nothing more, nothing less. Let fly with missives of protest to US govt, asking it secure release of US citizens jailed for no reason, while expressing formal protest for arrests of Nguyễn Dinh Huy, Pham Tuong, Hoang van Khai, and Bui Kim Dinh. Next question: why hasn't this been in US newspapers?

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COUNTERPARTS LITERATURE New titles... A PERSONAL WAR IN VIET NAM, by Robert Flynn, traces author's experiences w/USMC CAPs in southern Quảng Nam Prov., vic. LZ BALDY. Flynn returned in 1989, revisiting the villages where he'd lived and fought. Review copy unavailable. Our cousin assn., CUVA, has copies available. Write Tom Harvey, CUVA/COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Liason Officer for price/ordering info:

P.O. Box 128; Millboro, Virginia; 24460. Another USMC/CAP book due early March: OUR WAR WAS DIFFERENT, by Al Hemingway, an oral history compendium assembled/edited by Viet Nam Magazine author and VN Vet, Al Hemingway. Published by Naval Institute Press: 2062 Generals Highway; Annapolis, Maryland; 21401. Again, no review copy available; anyone reading any books cited quite welcome to submit a review. And..a 'return to VN' video, filmed in 1989 by 9 CAP vets in their old home ville, is available, for \$27.50, pp.,

from Jim Duguid; P.O. Box 7090; Santa Cruz, California; 95061. Jim was instrumental in founding CUVA, and has long been a guiding force.

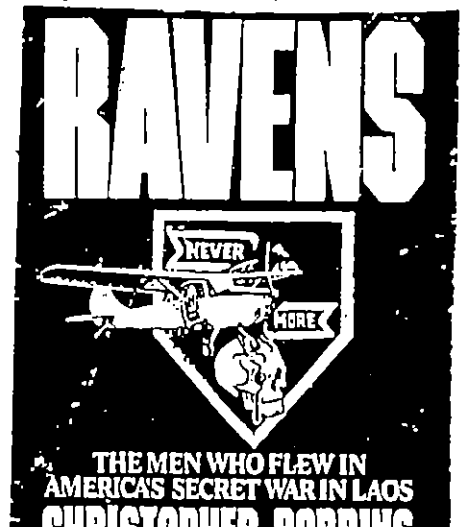
LEADING THE WAY, by Al Santoli (Ballentine Books, \$23.00) is another oral history of how VN veterans 'rebuilt' US military from its demoralized post-VN conditions. Santoli, VN Vet (25th Div.), interviews 56 active duty personnel, who remained in the service to see action in Panama, El Salvador, and Desert Storm. Several served as Cõ Vãs in VN, recounting their experiences and lessons learned. Another relates harrowing experiences with Military Equipment Delivery Team, Cambodia, 1974, and frustration w/visiting US Congressional delegation who see and do nothing. Accounts of VN/SE Asia experience are small part of entire book, yet integral to author's objective of showing how intelligent and dedicated men and women resolved to put a battered US military back together. Two of the more intriguing accounts are provided by Lt. Gen. (USMC) Walter Boomer, USMC/TQLC Adv Unit, and LTC Andre Gembara, Cõ Vãn w/525 & 500 MI Grps. Boomer was on DMZ during '72 Nguyễn Huệ Offensive, w/QLVNCH 4th Marine Bn as it was pounded by NVA arty, rockets and mortars, then subjected to 'waves of ground forces', which were repulsed by RVN Marines. Gembara worked w/Military Security Service (MSS), or ANQB, as well as the Special Collection Detachment of VN Navy, from '72-'74 (post 'cease fire'); he was greatly disturbed by impoverished QLVNCH, as well as failure to respond to credible reports of US POWs held in Mekong Delta camp. All in all, a worthy book about worthy people.

UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, by member Curt Rich, remains in manuscript form, in search of publisher. All-talk-no-show 'literary agents' of no help, but then again US publishers and a US public addicted to self-flagellation and degradation may not want to read of normal, non-Rambo heroes doing their best in trying times.

Out of Print THE RAVENS, by Christopher Robbins, author of AIR AMERICA. Factual narrative of 'sheep-dipped' USAF personnel who fought the 'secret war' in Laos, as a distinctly unconventional lot known as the 'Ravens'. Wearing civilian clothes, and developing unconcealed affinity for their Laotian and Hmong comrades, Ravens engaged in every imaginable aspect of the war in Laos, from defending remote 'Lima' sites, to bringing food and medical supplies to remote villages. Neglected stepchildren of feeble policy, the Ravens revelled in their contrary ways, and were fueled by intense personal motivation and commitment. Closing chapter on dismay, contempt, and ennui experienced on return to US, Laotian/Hmong allies abandoned, is well done, and strikes familiar chord. It's a good read.

Leading the Way

How Vietnam Veterans Rebuilt the U.S. Military: An Oral History



And....a blast from the past, THE UGLY AMERICAN, by William Lederer and Eugene Burdick, published circa 1960, and shown here as translated edition available in VN when we were there. Most people do not know that 'ugly American' refers not to US as a whole, but to those poltroons and myopic, often career-motivated, policy types who care not a whit for those they purport to help. Lederer and Burdick contrast these ineffectual dingdongs with those guest-country and host-country counterparts who do care, who do haul their freight, and who do get the job done, and who are the 'good guys'. This 'message' novel, describing the turmoil in a mythical SE Asian country of 'Sarkhan' pits 'good guys' against two sets of bad guys: a skillful and extremely well organized force of 'revolutionaries', and a fumbling, bumbling, often self-serving US policy 'apparatus' incapable of managing anything larger than a garage sale. Why does this sound familiar? In our 'if it ain't new it ain't relevant' society, we tend to forget some books have a timeless message.

UGLY touches themes found Tacitus's 1st Century AGRICOLA, Caesar's CONQUEST OF GAUL, as well as accounts of renewed Apache wars, in 19th century US, after the astute Gen. Crook was replaced by less competent hands. Copies can be found in used book stores. Anyone having extra copy invited to send same to Warren Christopher, current Secretary of State. (Cover art of VN copy is a political commentary in itself-look closely at the faces.)



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Counterpart Quotes... Nguyễn Quy An, upon receiving heroes welcome at Travis AFB, for saving 4 US lives in Laos: 'Whatever I did is my duty. I think everyone would do the same as I did.'

Col. Robert R. Stratiff(USA, Ret), on behalf of Maj. An: 'He is a gallant soldier who unhesitatingly risked his life to save the lives of myself and three of my flight crew. There is absolutely no doubt that he saved the lives of four US soldiers that day.'

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IT'S-ABOUT-TIME-DEPT. Martha Raye was finally awarded the Medal of Freedom, after an inexcusable and inexplicable delay on part of those officials who could have expeditiously, by mere fiat, bestowed this long deserved honor. Maggie was cited, in the presentation speech, for the 'courage, kindness and patriotism she showed in her many tours during WW II, the Korean Conflict, and the Việt Nam Conflict, earning the nickname 'Col. Maggie'. Regretably, due to illness and amputation of her lower left leg, Martha Raye was unable to attend the award ceremonies. A tip of the hat and thx to Noonie Fortin and Belle Pellegrino, and Tri-County Council of VN Vets, who circulated innumerable petitions and employed other means to assault deplorable inertia denying this long-delayed thank you to a wonderful woman and American.

'An oyster heals its wounds with a pearl.'

-Anonymous

Historical Integrity Dept.: Quote from recent TV show: 'US forces sustained up to 60% of their casualties from mines and booby traps.'

US Army Medical Data, compiled Jan 65-June 70, percentage of KIAs and WIAs:

	WW II	Korea	VN
Small Arms(KIA/WIA)	32/20	33/27	51/16
Fragments(Arty, etc.)	53/62	59/61	36/65
Booby Traps/Mines	3/4	4/4	11/15
Punji Stakes	---	---	-/2
Other	12/14	4/8	2/2

The astute reader will note that above data does not include all services, and does not encompass actions throughout the entire war. The intelligent reader is also quite aware that the above data has absolutely no ameliorating effect in undoing damage done by mines or booby traps, nor would it be of any consolation to anyone in the midst of a mine field, nor does it refute the fact that some units did have heavy mine/booby trap casualties, creating terror amongst even those who survived, either intact or with traumatic amputation. War, like nature, cares not a whit for the individual however, and traditional weaponry was just a decisive in VN as elsewhere.

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POW/MIA Matters...accusations, counter-accusations, innuendo, rumor, fact and myth all swirl about in the continuing controversy, as honest people, charlatans, and others seek their respective objectives....summarizing some developments: Sen. Bob Smith(NH) at odds w/colleagues John Kerry and John McCain, contending US negligent in following all leads/examining all intel data...Stephen J. Morris, discoverer of the '1205' document in Moscow, issues strident rebuke to critics in 'National Interest'(Fall 93), a political quarterly..... George Carver, former CIA

Special Assistant on VN Affairs, cites convincing evidence, admittedly circumstantial, that up to 300 POWs were left in VN/SE Asia...purported photos of Capt. Donald Gene Carr, Special Forces, MIA since 6 July 71, found to be complete fraud. Carr's remarried wife, Mrs. Carol Collins, travels to Bangkok w/LTC(USAF, Ret) Jack Bailey, source of Carr 'photo', and returns to US saying Bailey is a scam artist, and that 'marrow has been sucked from my bones.'(Reader's Digest, Dec 93). Bailey, who collected an estimated \$3.2 million for planned POW rescues and Boat People rescue/aid, under investigation. In-country search opn results in find of downed C-130, in Lai Chau, near VN/China border, w/11 US KIAsupposedly reliable research intern tells employer, a familiar and well known 'opinion think tank' of 'new data' on three POWs who never returned. All three confirmed to have died, in SVN NVA camps, by fellow surviving prisoners.... Washington Times runs 9 Nov article on 16 US female prisoners 'still MIA'. Problem: of 16, only 10 were US. 10 were released, and 4 wrote books of their ordeal. 4 died in captivity, 1 escaped on her own, and the 16th never existed. None are MIA. ...Public opinion poll: 85% of US polled do not believe Hà Nội is being fully cooperative on resolving POW/MIA matters.....Hà Nội awards exclusive contract to Colliers Internation, of Boston, for negotiating future commercial real estate deals. Colliers CEO, Stuart Forbes, is Sen. John Kerry's cousin.Largest search effort kicked off early January, w/8 teams of US excavators(84 people)

POW/MIA(cont.) scouring the countryside and digging through crash sites... Admiral Charles R. Larson, CINPAC, visits Hà Nội, and states he has seen 'cooperation increase significantly in the last two years.', avoiding comment on what occurred prior to that. 2,238 now listed as MIA(though many are officially presumed KIA): 1,647 in VN, 505 in Laos, 78 in Cambodia, and 8 in China.

National Viet Nam Veterans Coalition(NVVC), having 75 member organizations(of which COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA is one), w/estimated individual members in these associations, formally expresses opposition to normalized relations w/Hà Nội at present, in anticipation of early February Presidential decree to lift embargo. In keeping with our own approach, COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA members are encouraged to express dictates of their own conscience, based on hard information and incisive, logical thought:

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
202 456-1111
202 456-2461(Fax)

David Gergen, Chief Counsel
The White House
Washington, D.C., 20500
202 456-1414
202 456-6424(Fax)

Thomas F. McLarty
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
202 456-1414
202 456-2461(Fax)

Anthony Lake
National Security Advisor.
Old Executive Building
Washington, D.C. 20500
202 456-2255
202 456-2883(Fax)

Do not simmer and fulminate in futile solitude, write/call.

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'Memory is what makes us what we are. History is the memory of a nation-and that memory is being erased in schools and colleges across the country. Worse, fantasies are being recorded over the facts in that memory.whoever controls the past controls the future.'

-Thomas Sowell

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HIGHLANDS ASSISTANCE PROJECT HAP Liason Officer Mike makes another VN trip in March, bringing more medical supplies, books, etc., and examine progress of educational programs. Info and/or donations: Mike Little; 2919 Lake Colony Dr.; Missouri City, Texas; 77459. While you're at it, thank Mike for his outstanding job as our HAP L.O., and keeping us all posted on Kay Reibold's organizational missions to VN. Mike and member Roy Russell sent information on the works of French artist, Jean Despujols, whose works were featured in April 1951 (yes, 1-9-5-1, as typed) National Geographic. Despujols roamed VN and SE Asia, in the late 1930s, commissioned by the Societe des Artistes Coloniaux to record people and customs, on canvas, before the modern world(sic) made too much of a disruptive impact. Despujols was equal to the task, capturing the allure and mystique of VN, Laos and Cambodia in hundreds of oils and watercolors.



300th CIDG Co.
Courtesy, Clem
Kelly/Viet Nam
Insignia Collector
Newsletter

Long story made short: his collection, in its entirety, is at Meadows Museum of Art, Centenary College, Shreveport, Louisiana, and some reproduction articles available for purchase. Inquiry on specific prices, postage/handling not yet answered; verbal via telcon: 15" x 20" print of two sampans or junks, not clear) @ \$12.50 & \$2.00 post. Video @ \$10.00. Also available : frameable poster of two Rhade girls, postcards, and color brochure. Musuem catalog \$2.00. From: Meadows Museum of Art; attn: Ms. LaVerne Cook; Centenary College; Shreveport, Louisiana; 71134-1188. Landline: 318 869-5169. When ordering, mention Mike, Roy and COUNTERPARTS/THDNA. Anyone ordering, or visiting museum, invited to submit comments.



Despuljols Portrayal of Degan Woman

New book SHATTERED WORLD, by renowned and experienced scholar, Gerald Cannon Hickey, examines adaption and survival of VN's Dega during and 'after' the war, finding 'peace' does not bring tranquility. Author examines economic, social, religious and political fabric of Dega society, and how it was affected by war, and is being threatened by Hanoi's forced acculturation programs (cultural genocide was the buzzword back in the 1960s, when it was cool to be indignant). Hickey's prior works (VILLAGE IN VIET NAM, SONS OF THE FOREST, KINGDOM IN THE MORNING MIST, etc.) are without equal; SHATTERED no doubt follows suit. Order from: (Hardbound @ \$34.95, Paper @ \$14.95; \$2.50 p/h for either) University of Pennsylvania Press; P.O. Box 4836; Hampden Station, Baltimore, Maryland; 21211. Chargecard order: 1-800-445-9880. Thx to Roy Russell for sending publicity flyer.

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--In January 1968, less than 2% of QLVNCH forces had been issued M-16s. WW II weaponry predominated, much of it inferior to AK-47s, SKSs carried by growing numbers of VC, and all NVA.

Czarist Russian ships laid over in Cam Ranh Bay before going to their defeat against Japanese naval forces in the Battle of Tsushima, off Japan's coast, in 1905.

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TIDBIT FROM THE PAST... Continuing w/Don Souder's experiences: 'We had a 5 man team in Đức Thành Dist., Sa Đéc Prov. in 1969, along w/three dogs, one a puppy, and two grown dogs who'd attack anything that moved. Early one morning, an elderly woman came to the compound, dragging a dead pig, allegedly a victim of our dogs. She asked for 5000 dong solacium payment, but Anh, our interpreter said it'd be fair to give her 2500, as she was going to eat the pig anyway. The old woman wouldn't accept, and came back day after day to complain. One day Anh was gone, and I had to talk with her. She'd never heard a US speak VN, and we went back and forth. I insisted our dogs did not kill the pig; she said they did.

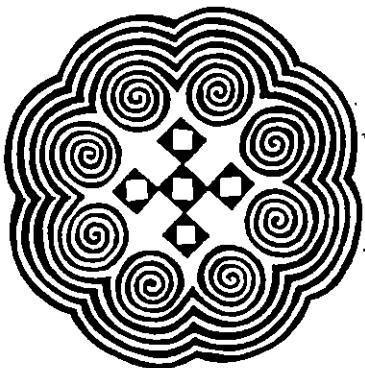


No one would budge, and it seemed there'd never be an end to it. So, I finally told her I'd ask the dogs, and called our puppy over. She looked at me like I was nuts. I got on hands and knees, and barked at the puppy. He barked back. We repeated the interchange. After a minute, I got up and told her that the dogs swore they did not do it. She looked at me, saying nothing, and then said she'd accept the 2500 dong. When Anh returned I told him about it, and he said the woman probably figured if a US could speak VN, he could probably speak dog language as well. We laughed about that one for weeks.'

Don also writes: ' I spent 5½ years in VN, mostly in III and IV Corps, but also getting into Cambodia in 1970, and Khe Sanh in 1971 for Lam Son 719, as a dustoff medic. I married a VN girl whose father was an ARVN MSGT. I have some home movies of Bear Cat, Biên Hòa, Long An and Sa Đéc. Someday I hope to be able to show them to members of our organization.'

-Thx for the story and background Don. 1994 reunion would be good time to see the movies, and those any others may have.

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Hmong needlework pattern, from TRAGIC MOUNTAINS

HMONG situation unchanged, which means not good. 305 Hmong recently forced out of Phanat Nikhon Refugee Camp in preparation for forced repatriation to Laos, where there are no guarantees of their safety. Powers that be are oblivious to Hmong tales of persecution. Congressmen Toby Roth, Tom Lantos, Benjamin Gilman, Robert Dornan, Bill McCollum, Dana Rohrabacher, Patricia Schroeder, Dencan Hunter, Randy Cunningham, and Martin Olav Sabo send joint letter of concern to SecState Warren Christopher, following similar letter sent by COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Commander Grant McClure, who also sent letter to President Clinton, and has been working with Congressman's Dornan's office in directing attention to this matter. It will probably be uphill fight. Example of difficulties encountered:

US refusal to grant visa to Cha Teng Thao, now in Thai camp. Mr. Thao has ample documentation of his service, including a letter from MG Vang Pao, former Commander of RLG 2nd Military Region (NE Laos), and signed affidavits of over 50 Lao and Hmong now in US. Attorney Bruce Burns, himself a VN Vet, has asked COUNTERPARTS/THDNA to help find any of CHA TENG THAO's former US counterparts. Info forwarded to our Locator, as well as Air Commando Association, which has many members w/Laotian tours of duty. Extensive documentation of Hmong plight provided by 160 pp. study from Hmong-Lao Human Rights Council (516 S. Jackson St.; Santa Ana, California; 92704/714 839-1032). Document contains brief history of Hmong role in SE Asian wars, cites examples of oppression policy implemented after 1975, and list of 398 families (1,657 people), all in refugee camps, who have relatives in US they'd like to join. Study is free, though a donation is requested and appropriate. Authors Tou Yer Moua and True W. Moua have put considerable effort and expense into this project. Their cost, per copy, is probably about \$5.00-\$6.00, for printing and postage. Noble effort from Hmong-Lao Human Rights Council.

HMONG(cont.) U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES(1025 Vermont Ave., NW; Washington, D.C.; 20005/phone: 202 347-3507) report available: 'Hmong in Thailand, Resettlement or Repatriation'. Review copy not yet received. Cost unknown(if any). Write/ask. Be informed, and spread the word; CBS/ABC/NBC will not..

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MEMBER PROFILE Steve and Maureen Orr... Steve and I met in Hawaii, in 1967, when both of us were enrolled in USAID training for VN duty. I was an RN from Altoona, Pennsylvania, intent on offering my nursing skills to the people of Viet Nam, teaching VN nurses. Steve had prior Air Force and Peace Corps(Panama) tours, and was now a Foreign Service Officer, also VN-bound. We came to know each other while in our respective pre-VN training(VN language/history/culture, and political/military orientation), began dating, and were engaged before leaving for VN.

Steve left for VN in Oct 67, assigned to II Corps Refugee Operations Office/CORDS, in Nha Trang. Once in-country, he made sure my orders were for Nha Trang. He had Corps-wide responsibility for all refugee operations, and was just getting settled in when he was seriously wounded in a VC terrorist bombing at Nha Trang's Le Fregate restaurant. I heard the news and left for VN, arriving in Nha Trang five days after the incident. Steve had shrapnel in his lung, but would not need surgery for another six months. I began my nursing duties at Khanh Hoa Province Hospital, while taking care of Steve after he was released, three weeks later.

I immensely enjoyed my work as a Nurse Advisor, and came to know my trainees and counterparts very well; some of us are still in contact with each other. Problems were monumental. Inadequate facilities and supplies, logistics, and internal politics, yet I loved the people and the job we were doing. We only had four beds in the ICU, where I taught advanced nursing skills. When the opportunity arose, I also worked with Special Forces Medical Advisory Teams in Montagnard villages.

Steve, meanwhile, was back at the job, assisting w/all aspects of refugee operations, and working w/his counterparts throughout the 13 provinces in II Corps. He did everything from escorting visiting US Senators, to making Air America weapon/ammo resupply runs to USAID elements under fire. Other duties: investigation of refugee deaths, refunding banks destroyed by VC, delivering food and building supplies, and investigating theft of same.

Marriage plans were foiled by USAID policies forbidding presence of a spouse in-country. If we married one of us would have to leave, yet neither of us wanted to. We had come to work with and for the VN people, and with the war's becoming more intense, marriage became a secondary priority. Policy notwithstanding, Steve began talking w/a local Catholic priest with whom Steve had worked on refugee matters.

The Tet Offensive put a stop to everything, and ended up placing Steve, four other CORDS people, and me in a crossfire between NVA, in a building adjoining ours, and VN/US/ROK troops intent upon driving them out, which they finally did. After the dust had settled, we both went back to work

On 5 March 68, LTC Wendell Phillips, called Steve into the II Corps' Commanding General's weekly meeting, where Steve was awarded the Purple Heart. We hadn't even realized he was eligible.

Steve was medivaced in April 68, bound for surgery in George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C.; I cleared post and went with him. Following his recover, we received an invitation from the State Department for formal presentation of State Department Việt Nam Service Medals, which came just after our marriage on 25 May 68. We celebrated our 25th anniversary last year, and sons Sean Christopher and Brendan are in medical and culinary school respectively.

We both enjoy our membership in COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA.'

-Steve and Maureen Orr

-We enjoy your being members, and thx for your interesting and unique experience writeup.



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CUVA Our cousins over at Combined Action Platoon Veterans Association had their '93 reunion in San Antonio, and is continuing a project to collect English language books for students at Đà Nẵng's Le Quy Don high school, visited by Tom Harvey in early '93. Anyone having books invited to contact CUVA/COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA Liason Officer Tom: P.O. Box 128; Millboro, Virginia 24460(703 939-4593). Good project, try to lend support. Books can be acquired at minimal cost in used book stores/thrift stores/yard sales, and mailed inexpensively at book rate. Tom also organizing a CAP tour to VN in April or May. May be room for non-CAP people. Also from Tom: Le Quy Don high school students would like to correspond with US students. They are fluent in English, and 15-16 years old. Possible project for member offspring and their schools. Contact Tom for more info.



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Other VN Vet groups Mobile Riverine Force Association(MRFA) to hold its 1995 reunion 22-25 July, Louisville, Kentucky. MRFA has kindly offered to spread word on Counterparts/THĐNA reunion, and we're happy to return the favor. Thx to Albert Moore, MRFA President, and Joe Rosner, PIO; and congratulations to all MRFA members for growth experienced. Info: Joe Rosner(414 653-0876): GAMEWARDENS OF VN, Brown Water Navy, reunion: 4-7 Aug 94/Las Vegas. Info: Steve or Pat Wilson(619 575-9523, or write: 543 5th St.; Imperial Beach, California; 91932-1204. GAMEWARDENS has just completed their

video retrospective, 'River Patrol: The Gamewardens of VN' (\$29.95 plus \$5.00 p/h) from: Gamewardens; P.O. Box 26403; San Diego, California; 92196-0403. 'Gamewardens' were charged with operations and interdiction on inland waterways of the Mekong Delta; 'Market Time' referred to off shore operations. Again, mutual assistance pact at work here-help Gamewardens, passing the word to any who served in the Brown Water Navy, a number of whom were also C8 Vans.....

SEAWOLF Assn (P.O. Box 22558; Minneapolis, Minnesota; 55422-0558/landline: 612 535-2233) reunion 27-29 May, Pensacola. 'Seawolves' were USN Huey gunships operating in the Delta, in support of riverine operations (Navy guys flying hueys, and Army guys on riverboats?...??-yes, it was a war with many different twists). Ben Myers has been working w/SEAWOLFS Dan Smiley and Dennis Caldwell in joint locator and publicity efforts, and THX are extended for nice mention in the 'Wolfgram'.

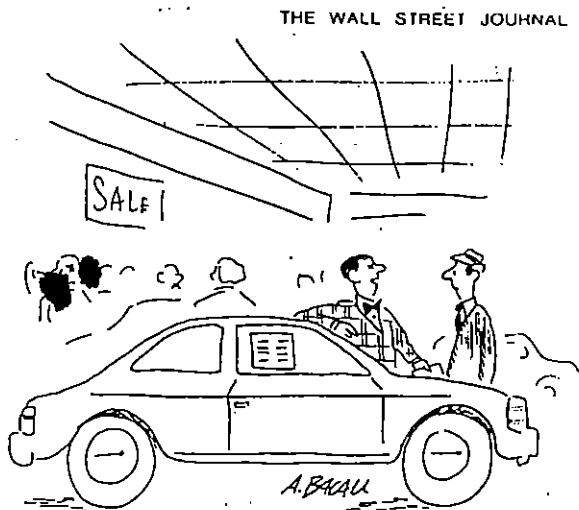
INTERNATIONAL BIRD DOG ASSOCIATION (L-19s, Ols, FACs) info: 3939 C-8 San Pedro NE; Albuquerque, New Mexico; 87110.

SAIGON MISSION ASSOCIATION reunion: 22-24 April, Las Vegas. Info: Melvin Kessler/PIO; 526 Cheshire Ave. NW; Ft. Walton Beach, Florida; 32548.

519th MI Bn reunion planned, no schedule set yet. Info: Tom Finn; 46 Merton Rd.; Newport, Rhode Island; 02840-3632 (401 847-3002). 519th (and 525th MI Bde) members also served in the joint Intel centers, as counterparts). Recent newsletter advises that visitors to Saigon can stop by Nguyen Quang Ngoc's coffee shop (195 Pham Ngu Lao, Saigon). Ngoc was w/CDEC (Combined Document Exploitation Center). Stop by and have a nice cool glass of ca-phe da.

519 MI Bn. Assn. member Keith Mishne soon leaving for English Language Instructor position at U. of Ha Noi. And... Chicago's South Eastside VN Vet assn (w/ COUNTERPARTS/THDNA members Max Lund and Brian Zawacki) remain very active, and recently sponsored two running teams in a Chicago marathon. Runners wore POW/MIA logo on their shirts, and were headed up by COUNTERPARTS/THDNA member Jim Barker, an accomplished marathon runner. If you're ever in the Chicago area, get together with these guys.

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"The car is manufactured in Japan, but all the advertising is produced right here in the U.S.A."

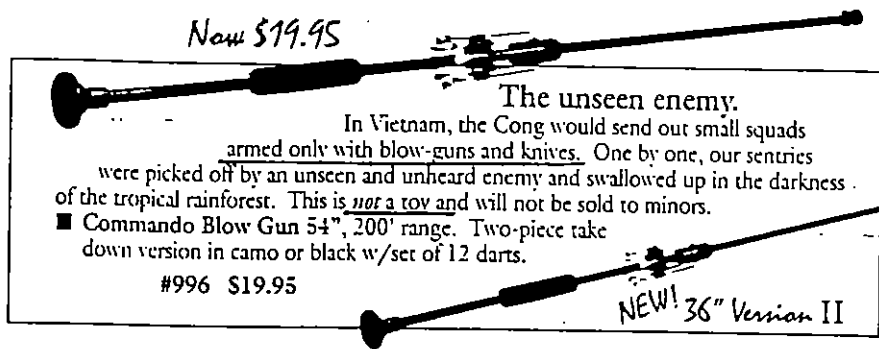


'People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.'

-Soren Kierkegaard

'Oh, -c'monnnnnn-gimme-a break' Dept.: Ad to right appear in recent knife/oddy catalog. Remember that dreaded 'pfffttttt' in the night? People must have fun believing this stuff. Probably the same ones who think(?) 'professional' wrestling is real. And..

Now \$19.95



The unseen enemy.
In Vietnam, the Cong would send out small squads armed only with blow-guns and knives. One by one, our sentries were picked off by an unseen and unheard enemy and swallowed up in the darkness of the tropical rainforest. This is not a toy and will not be sold to minors.

■ Commando Blow Gun 54", 200' range. Two-piece take down version in camo or black w/set of 12 darts.

#996 \$19.95

NEW! 36" Version II

.....recent AP article on retirement of aircraft carrier USS Forrestal repeatedly referred to a 'Vietcong fireboming' which devastated the ship. That's interesting. The Forrestal was approx 60 KM offshore when a fire broke out on the flight deck, spreading as ordnance/fuel ignited. Tragedy, and 134 fatalities, resulted, yet as worthy an adversary as the 'Vietcong' may have been, giving them credit for this incident is stretching it(maybe a gigantic blowgun, w/steam piston and long range incendiary darts?..).

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In December, 1973, 2 regts of QLVNCH 9th Div, and two attached Rgr regts, in a four week operation, completely destroyed the NVA 1st Div, which was dug in and had the high ground in Châu Đốc's '7 Mountains' or Thất Sơn area. Survivors were assigned to other units and entire division was disbanded(what was left of it). This is the only case, during the entire war, in which a division eliminated, completely, as a military entity. The event was never mentioned in US press, who would otherwise have clustered like flies on garbage had QLVNCH been defeated.

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QLVNCH ND
ARVN Air-
borne Patch

Editors at The Retired Officer Association magazine have-at this writing-expressed definite interest in printing member Ken Jacobsen's article on COUNTERPARTS/THDNA, and have sent Commander Grant McClure on last minute scramble for photos. Member Tran Ngoc Hue comes to rescue w/some pictures from his personal archives. No word yet on publication date. TROA magazine recently carried story on Dega, and last year's relocation of Dega contingent from NE Cambodia. If article runs, publicity will produce more inquiries, search requests, etc, increasing need for Public Information Officer(PIO). Archivist for Members In Memoriam files also needed. HQ staff getting a bit overwhelmed. Give it some thought.

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Courtesy
of Clem
Kelly/VICN

Please note flyer on reverse, as carried in Air Commando Association newsletter, on behalf of one of their members. Yes, odds slim any of us will see or encounter young Miss Wood, but stranger things have happened. Our hopes and prayers for Sarah Anne's safe return.

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Late SITREP entirely fault of your Editor; no one else. Steps taken to correct situation: have quit the job which was consuming my life, in more ways than one, and have 'realigned career trajectory', or something like that. Next edition is in the works as you read this. Stay well...Van sử như v

REWARD

OVER \$40,000 FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO HER RETURN



MISSING SARA ANNE WOOD

DOB: 3/4/81 AGE: 12 300 HACADAM ROAD FRANKFORT, NY

DESCRIPTION:

WHITE FEMALE, 5 FEET TALL, 96LBS., BLUE EYES, DARK BROWN CURLY HAIR (SHOULDER LENGTH).

LAST SEEN ON 8/18/93:

At 2:30 PM, Leaving Norwich Corners Church, Roberts Road, Town of Frankfort, Herkimer County on her bicycle.

SARA WAS WEARING:

A Pink T-Shirt with the words "GUESS WHO" -(embroidered on the front in the same Pink color), Turquoise Blue shorts and Brown sandals

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CALL NEW YORK
STATE POLICE: (315) 736-0121
1-800-68-4 SARA(7272)