

The Vietnamese-American team (left to right): Ensign Le Cuy Dang, VNN, Lieutenant Taylor Field, USN, and Lieutenant (jg) Phu, VNN, observe maritime activity while on patrol with the Coastal Force along the littoral of South Vietnam.

#24
Mùa Hè/Summer
1995



XOV XWM TSHAJ TAWN *វៀតណាម* KLEI MRÃO MRANG
SITREP BẢO CÁO TINH HINH *វៀតណាម*

OFFICERS

-open-
Commander

J.C. Fischer
Adjutant
(Acting)

Charlie Thurmond
XO

J.C. Fischer
Locator/
Historian

Ben Myers
Membership/
Locator

Quách Huỳnh Hà
Locator/L.O.
Việt Nameese
Community

Mike Little
L.O., Highlands
Assistance Proj.

Bill Laurie
Editor

Advisory Council
Kok Ksor
Quách Huỳnh Hà
Roy Russel
Grant McClure/
D.C. Liaison

Mike Roberts
PIO

The SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/TƯỜNG HỮU ĐỒNG NAM Á, an association of those serving in any counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochina Wars of 1954-1975, or beyond. 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 in SE Asia. Associate memberships also available. Membership inquiries and correspondence: Ben Myers; P.O. Box 6019; Lake Worth, Florida; 33466-6019.

Greetings to all. This month we celebrate Ngày Quân Lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa/Republic of Việt Nam Armed Forces Day, on 19 June. Most gatherings will occur on Sunday, 18 June. VN Veterans groups usually have a gathering; check in your AO.

There has been no new information on the abduction of Tom Hargrove. Periodic negotiations have taken place, and from all indications Tom remains unharmed. Say a prayer for him and his family.

Thanks yous to Bùi Quang Lâm, who once again has absorbed our photocopying expenses, as well as providing half-tones for better photographic reproduction. Lam's print shop does high quality, top-of-the-line printing suitable for any large corporate account: books, catalogs, brochures, etc. If anyone can send business his way, we can begin to thank Lam for his dedication and generosity. Cảm ơn vạn bội Lâm ơi!

Thank you also extended to Paul Brubaker for sending in numerous publications and info, from which SITREP info is gleaned. Most appreciated Paul.

Thanks also to Don Steiner, who sent him some articles on PFs/Nghĩa Quân which will be reprinted in future SITREP... and to Larry Howes for his letter, and a poem which will

~~also be printed in a future issue. And....warming the cockles of our hearts, as they line our treasury with financial donations, our thanks to Warren Barshes, Tom Regnier, Joe Strong, Bob Gilbert, Paul Donner, Ed Abraham, Ed Canby, Ed Warneld, and Mike Wall. These contributions are of great help, especially in funding our Locator efforts. Sincere and humble thank yous to all.~~

REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

Date: 2-6 August Location: Holiday Inn-Eisenhower Metro in Alexandria Virginia. Make reservations by 15 July: 1-703-960-3400, or call toll free Holiday Inn number: 1-800-HOLIDAY, asking for Rita Brouwer-Ancher, and identifying yourself as member of COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU ĐÔNG NAM A. Room rate: \$75.00/night, IF we have 75 parties in attendance. If not, rate will be recalculated upon departure. Hotel is 15 minutes from National Airport, and 5 minutes from Metro Rail System. Address: 2460 Eisenhower Avenue; Alexandria, Virginia; 22314. For more info: Grant McClure @ 301 870-5877.

Thanks to Grant for undertaking this task, right on the heels of his organizing the 30 April Memorial Event at the Wall(briefly described on following pages).

As will be attested by all former reunion attendees, these events are unique and well worth your presence. Where else can you hear tales of a turkey's release in John Paul Vann's office, or the team house that fell from the sky, and presumably still lies, somewhere, in the U-Minh Forest? Comraderie, memories, fascinating people, the likes of which cannot be found elsewhere. In addition, we have some business to conduct: we need some help Ladies and Gentlemen. We need to elect some officers, and need candidates for these positions. Your meagerly staffed HQ is overloaded, and struggling to stay current with things. Open positions include: Commander, Adjutant, and Reunion Ramrod for 1996. We'll be able to do much better when properly staffed and commanded, so be ready to nominate someone, or yourself. In a brief 8 years, we've gone from a core of 8(or 11?), to just under 500 members; admin machinery has not proportionately increased its capabilities. Dwell on this; act accordingly.

Attendance prospects are good, given large number of membership within a day's driving distance. In addition, Ben Myers is sending out letters to approximately 300 other known former counterparts in the general D.C. area. Be there to enjoy this company, engage in great discussion, participate in the raffle, hear engaging speakers, etc. A late June/early July mini-SITREP will be sent out with particulars, speaker list, raffle items/tickets, etc. Call in reservations now.

'I cannot stand to hear people complain that they are bored. People who are bored are boring people. Today, people want to watch and not act. They do not want to be part of life. They are constantly waiting to be entertained-and by the time they are ready to act, life has passed them by.'

-Richard Lagerfeld

'Television enables you to be entertained at home by people you wouldn't have in your home.'

-David Frost

Scene depicted here has been repeated in other refugee camps in Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Under directions of the 1989 Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA); all refugees are to be cleared out by end of 1995. Problem is, the 'screening' process, intended to sort out economic from political refugees, is flawed at best, and outright bovine fecal matter at worst. UN screening interviewers know little of VN, Laos, and have been demanding bribes, either monetary and/or sexual, for approval as a true political



Vietnamese at a detention camp in the Philippines climbed to the roofs of their barracks, threatened suicide and slashed themselves yesterday in an effort to forestall their forced return to Vietnam.

refugee. This has been amply verified by human rights organizations, as well as former UN refugee workers. Recently, Congressman Christopher Smith (R-NJ), facing intense State Dept. opposition, engineered a bill, H.R. 1561, through the House (266 to 156) which provides some hope that legitimate political refugees will be allowed to emigrate to the US. Many of these people have a long history of anti-communist efforts; some were subjected to repressive policies simply because their grandparents were active anti-communists. Congressional opposition was devious and slimey. Congress Doug Bereuter circulated a letter saying the bill would permit emigration of 'economic migrants, most from NVN', which, simply put, is a lie. US State Dept. is apoplectic about the bill, and uses shameless casuistry to assert that the bill will 'endanger' refugees. This is the same State Department which opened a liaison office in Hà Nội, despite fact that two naturalized US citizens, Nguyễn Tân Tri (Texas) and Trần Quang Liem (California), remain in prison for simply having attended an economic development conference, approved by Hà Nội, in Sài Gòn.

Battle now moves to the Senate, and letters are needed to counter stiff opposition from commercial interests and US State Dept. Write your elected officials, both in the House and Senate, stating your opinions on H.R. 1561, with particular attention paid to section 2104. Contrary to specious assertions, this does not issue a carte blanche invitation to any/all 'economic refugees', but simply calls for an honest screening system. Senators Hatfield, Gramm, Helms, Dole, Brown, Robb and Warner appear to be 'friendlies'.

Your assn. was directly involved with efforts supporting H.R. 1561, assisting Dr. Nguyễn Đình Thang and his tireless Boat People S.O.S. Committee. Grant McClure handled things in D.C. area, while Mike McMunn and Ben Myers prowled around in cyberspace, via Internet and Prodigy, respectively. Nick Rock, Region Coordinator of Veterans of the Viet Nam War, and national president Jim Charles, played key roles in rapidly disseminating necessary information, and coordinating the letter writing offensive. MG Homer Smith (ret.) of Saigon Mission Association battled on the front lines as well. Success notwithstanding ('Success is always temporary' -Winston Churchill) with H.R. 1561, the

battle is not over, and won't be until the Senate passes corresponding legislation, in the face of increased State Dept. opposition. Letters must be written, and written now. In addition, Dr. Thang's committee can always use piastres for their mounting expenses:

Boat People SOS Committee
P.O. Box 2652
Merrifield, Virginia 22116.

Do something.

Additional thanks to member John Sweet for his efforts in Nebraska, home state of aforementioned Representative Bereuter.

Item: While this has been going on, US has permitted between 6000-7000 Iraqi POWs to enter US. The Joint Volunteer Agency, in charge of 'screening' these individuals, has withheld information on criminal background of some applicants.

Item: US Govt. spends \$160.0 million to build housing for Soviet officers displaced from previous duty stations in the Baltic nations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Priorities????

'You-haven't-heard-all-of-it' Dept.: 'The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has raised concerns with the United States about its detention practices and has called on the U.S. to avoid detaining refugees and asylum seekers (in reference to illegal Chinese immigrants smuggled in over the high seas).'

-Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Spring 1995 report.

So there, get your act in line America.

-0-



In 1959 the US govt. initiated OPLAN 34A operations, running covert intel and sabotage teams into NVN, sending in teams of young VN volunteers, many of whom were NVN natives, familiar with areas into which they were inserted. This was strictly a US operation and team members were recruited and paid by US. In 1968, LBJ ordered a bombing halt over NVN, and ended all aerial resupply to these teams (9 at the time, with 45 individuals), and leaving them to rot. All were either killed or captured, with latter sentenced to as many as 30 years in the concentration camps. US sources told their families they'd been killed, and that was supposed to be that. It wasn't. 281 survivors of these teams, some of whom have made it to the US, are now asking for their back pay, a whopping \$2,000.00 (two thousand)/year, while those still in VN are asking for permission to come to the US. American Immigration and Naturalization authorities turned them all down. Mr. David F. Lambertson, current US Ambassador to Thailand and former US Foreign Service Officer in VN (1965-1968) stepped in, asking INS to reconsider, indicating that these people were (are?) 'US contract employees' and that, prior to their capture, they were paid with appropriated US Govt. funds. Miami attorney John Mattes, former investigative counsel

for the Senate POW Committee, has filed suit on behalf of these people, requesting backpay for the 281 surviving team members. In various wire service reports, Mt. Mattes is quoted as saying ' We left them. then we swept it under the rug. Everybody hoped they would die off. ...While it is a tragedy that we left these POWs behind, it's a national scandal that we would deny their existence and to rewrite history to eliminate them.' Well spoken. As of this writing, the US govt. has not responded to Mr. Mattes' suit. Letters are needed, expressing belief that former team members should not be abandoned, again. If in support of Mr. Mattes' efforts, compose letter to this effect and mail to: John Mattes; 1401 Brickell Ave., Suite 800; Miami, Florida; 33131.

We hope to have a detailed update at the reunion.

-0-

In the letterbox....

"Thanks for latest SITREP, and I must commend your organization and Mike McMunn for all the work that went into compiling the Members in Memoriam Roster. As I went through it a few names that I recognized jumped out at me. I kind of sat in my chair reminiscing about a night when Col.(then LTC) Danny Baldwin and I got drunk at the base of a mountain southeast of Xuân Lộc (we did that now and then). We expected to meet some major resistance the next day as we moved our troops up the mountain, but it turned out to be quiet. God, I had a hangover. Take care, and... 'I'll see you on the high ground.' Old Dan Baldwin used to say that all the time, even when we were operating in the Rung Sat."

Respectfully
Mike Mark
Editor, MILITARY

(Note: Mike has graciously offered to send some complementary copies of MILITARY to our reunion. Cảm ơn nhiều Mike, for this and for previous support and Locator notices.)

"Using the list Ben Myers sent me, I sent out approximately 130 letters, hoping to find someone who was in my Father's advisory detachment when he died. Within days the phone rang at all hours of the day and night, most often from complete strangers offering the only thing they had: they were not the person I was seeking, and the best of luck in my search. There were Việt Nam vets who only wanted to express a solidarity with my perseverance; for them Việt Nam has become a noble expression of the truth of their lives. Eventually I found two men who were present when my Father died. I have communicated with both by phone and in letter of a period of several months. It was not an easy task for myself, or for them, but it was done. There is little doubt of their genuine grief and compassion. The accumulated burden of what the war became hinted at a loneliness they understood in a powerful way, the wresting away of interpretation by larger cultural forces. Thank you for the compassion of your words, and for your efforts and commitment in older deeds. It is thirty odd years on, but it is never too late, I hope, to say thank you for the advice."

Mike Logan

(Mike is an Associate Member, son of Member In Memoriam Major Donald G. Logan)

"In 1988 my wife Eyvonne asked me who I'd want to see most before I died. I told her I'd like to see my Đại úy friend, Đặng Phương Thành, of the 7th ARVN Division. I last saw him in 1968, and eventually lost contact when I returned to the US. Eyvonne and I then put ads in all the West coast VN newspapers, and also had a circular passed around in VN by a visiting American. It took about six months before I started receiving letters. Some were from friends of Thành, while others were from phonies who just wanted to get out of VN. It took two more years before I located his family, and then found out that Thành, who eventually became a Đại tá, and also from some of Thành's friends. As it turned out Thành died in the concentration camps in NVN, after having been tortured following an unsuccessful escape attempt. I was greatly saddened with this news, but my wife wouldn't let me give up, so we worked for six more years and finally were able to bring Thành's family here with us. I had always wanted to bring Thành to the US because he always wanted to see it. I don't have him here but his youngest son is a perfect copy of Thành, so I feel I accomplished what he wanted.

Thành was a Đà Lạt graduate and was rapidly promoted, eventually assuming command of the 12th Regt./7th Div., in 1969. He was a good man. I taught him a few things, but he taught me more.

I forgot when the reunion will be, but I will be there. It will be my first."

Ed Abraham

Thx for the heartwarming story Ed, and example of perseverance and dedication exemplified by you and Eyvonne. You can take some good photos at the reunion to show Thành's family, letting them know he is not forgotten.

"I am writing to provide you with details of the VN/US Ranger and Advisor Memorial to be dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery on 12 November 1995. Hope you can provide some publicity in the next SITREP. Thanks in advance for your effort and support."

Roy S. Lombardo, Jr.

-No problem Roy. Flyer was in last SITREP, and will be with this one for benefit of new members, and reminder to others. Good work on a worthwhile project.

-0-

MOVING WALL(S) SCHEDULES(w/thx to Ben Myers for sending in)

Wall 'A'	Wall 'B'
06/11 - 06/17 Soldotna, AK	06/14 - 06/20 Defiance, OH
06/22 - 06/28 Juneau, AK	06/23 - 06/29 Rochester, PA
07/09 - 07/15 Missoula, MT	07/02 - 07/08 Alpena, MI
07/17 - 07/23 Great Falls, MT	07/12 - 07/18 Waterloo, NY
07/25 - 07/31 Helena, MT	07/20 - 07/26 Binghamton, NY
08/02 - 08/08 Bozeman, MT	07/30 - 08/05 Milton, PA
08/13 - 08/19 Buffalo, NY	08/10 - 08/16 Crystal Falls, MI
08/23 - 08/29 Meredith, NH	06/19 - 08/25 Green Bay, WI
09/01 - 09/07 Pembroke, MA	08/28 - 09/03 Milwaukee, WI
09/10 - 09/16 Springfield, MA	09/07 - 09/13 Fort Dodge, IA
09/19 - 09/25 West Haven, CT	09/15 - 09/21 Open Date
09/28 - 10/04 York, PA	09/24 - 09/30 Decorah, IA
10/07 - 10/13 Carmel, NY	10/04 - 10/10 Bartlesville, OK
10/19 - 10/25 Union, NJ	10/13 - 10/19 Emporia, KS
10/30 - 11/05 Succasunna, NJ	10/21 - 10/27 Wichita Falls, TX
11/08 - 11/14 Open Date	11/01 - 11/07 Winnemucca, NV
	11/10 - 11/18 Buena Park, CA
	11/20 - 11/26 Hawthorne, CA

Nhà Bè tankfarm,
 then serving
 Japanese tenant,
 receiving air
 strike from US
 carrier aircraft,
 circa 1945.
 Printed in Jan
 '95 issue of
 'The Officer'.



Nhabe oil storage, in then-French Indo-China, attacked by planes of the USS Wasp (CV 18) and smoke billows from oil storage tanks in the

COURTESY CAPT. HAROLD JACK SPARKS, AUS (RET.)

Another WW II
 little known
 fact: 4 May
 1995 marks the
 50th anniversary
 of a Japanese
 incendiary bal-
 loon bomb landing
 near Gearhart Mtn.,
 Oregon; killing Mrs. Elsie Mitchell and five children who were on a picnic.

LOCATOR

From Roy Russell: 'Ben, General Lewis E. Wagner was a match for Nguyễn Luc. They've already been in touch by phone. Mr. Luc was EXTREMELY pleased--and so was I. "Thanks" isn't enough for the work you do, but you've got mine!

Jimmy Evans calls to report contact with his old SA Col. Lee Hamon, whose name was in last SITREP.

Jack Frost reconnected with now-new member Bruce Burger, both former Cố Vãn w/1/7th Thiết Giáp(Armor).

Thiếu Tá/Maj. Kim Ban locates Maj. Edward C. Brady.

Kok Ksor linked up w/old comrade Dennis Potts.

J.C. and Ben working on more leads for existing Locator requests. Your dues make all this possible. We don't have an exact count of how many people we helped reunite with a buddy, but it's probably approaching 50, if not a shade more. Both Ben and J.C. deserve our utmost gratitude. Locator work is a frustrating ordeal in all too many cases, demanding all the tenacity and perseverance an individual can summon. Thank you Gentlemen/Cám ơn vạn bội.

LOCATOR REQUESTS

Minh Phan looking for

Judson B. Baggett, and
 Garry Shoemaker, both SF
 at Biên Hòa

Huỳnh Văn Thành " "

Major Adam Klys, Tm B-42 S3
 Châu Đốc, 1966-1967

Charles Luce looking for

Former members of MAAG/MACV
Tm 22, Central Highlands

Mike Billington * "

Capt. Bob Gaudet, Robert Moss
SSGT Grady Cox and others who
served with Adv Tm 99, attached
to 46th ARVN Regt, Cần Giuộc,
1968-1969.

Jim Wilson " "

Sgt. Stanfill, Maj. Fanning,
SSGT Rivera, HM2 Farrang, all
of Adv Tm 63, Kế Sách, outside
of Sóc Trăng, 1968.

Truong Chau " "

Maj. Bruce Kinner, 1963,
Đà Nẵng

Bob Amon " "

Lts. Darbro, Weherell,
Parker; Sgts. Pierce, Benevento
Logan, Boyd, Griffith; medics
Perdue, Spaulding and Van Atta;
Interpreter Binh. All w/MAT
88, Kiên Giang Prov.

From Mike Martin....

WO2 Arthur Robinson, of the
Australian Army Training Team
(AATTVN) is looking for a
Đại úy Qui, with whom Robinson
served at Duc Mỹ, Adv Tm 40,
Ranger Training Center. Đại úy
Qui was, in Robinson's words,
'A true Officer and gentleman
in any man's army.'

Art will be traveling to the
States sometime this year.

Large copy of accompanying photo
has been sent to J.C. and Phúc văn
'Mike' ĐỒ, with hopes ĐỒ can run
it in his paper, 'Lửa Việt'.

Please note that the negative had
been 'flopped', somewhere along
the line, for this photo, hence
image is reversed. With luck this
will still be sufficient to ID
Đại úy Qui, locate him, and get
him reunited w/WO2 Robinson.
It'd be all the better to have
them both at August reunion.



Headstone in Maryland cemetery: 'Here lies an atheist-all dressed
up and nowhere to go.'

'Democracy is like blowing your nose. You may not do it
well, but you ought to do it yourself.'

COUNTERPARTS: LITERATURE

OUR WAR should be an interesting read, and may get the USMC CAPs the recognition they deserve. Despite the unique and at times fantastic aspects of the entire CAP experience, and despite coverage in other previous works such as THE BETRAYAL, THE VILLAGE, A PERSONAL WAR, and FIELDS OF INNOCENCE, along with Mike Peterson's THE COMBINED ACTION PLATOONS, the CAPs remain little known or recognized by the general public. This looks to be a good read. Member reviews welcome and solicited. To order, call Naval Institute Press: 1-800-233-8764.



OUR WAR WAS DIFFERENT
Marine Combined Action Platoons
in Vietnam

by Al Hemingway

- Presents the first oral history of the Marine Corps' pacification program
- Explores a unique and rarely examined side of the Vietnam War
- Uses a wide range of interviews to illustrate all facets of the program
- Contains new information, including a discussion of the Battle for Khe Sanh village

Despite General Westmoreland's "search and destroy" imperative, U.S. Marines in Vietnam innovated a pacification program in addition to their classic combat role. This unique Combined Action Program (CAP), which began in 1965 with four CAPs and grew to 114 platoons by the end of 1969, called for the men to live, eat, work, and fight alongside their Vietnamese counterparts in an effort to protect villages from communist

guerrillas. The key to the success of the program was developing a bond between the Americans and the Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF), a potential ally that was often belittled and neglected. The Marines' goal was not only to instill the PFs with pride, but to provide discipline and proper training so they could serve as viable and cohesive reinforcements.

The author makes clear that each Marine faced distinct problems, whether assigned to the fixed positions of the early days or the mobile CAPs employed at the war's end. Yet in less than four years, he reports that ninety-three villages were deemed safe by their CAP platoons and ready to undertake their own protective measures. Equally impressive were the findings of a pacification study that showed that no CAP hamlet returned to Viet Cong control during U.S. involvement.

The oral history format of this book exposes the reader to diverse accounts, focusing on those CAP Marines who served in the northernmost I Corps section of Vietnam. Their engrossing, firsthand stories serve as an object lesson on the viability of pacification, and they pose an interesting question: As low-intensity conflicts increase worldwide, could Combined Action Programs be part of the solution?

256 pages. 36 photographs. Glossary. Bibliography. 6 x 9 inches. ISBN 1-55750-355-9. (Publication date: March) List Price: \$25.00

Article, 'CAPs in Việt Nam', by Al Hemingway, in Feb 95 issue of VFW magazine, yielding some interesting data: 73% of CAP patrols were at night, and 60% of Marines volunteered to extend in VN to stay with a CAP, despite fact that fatality rate was 30%, with attendant 80-85% chance of being WIA. Photocopy of article available; send \$1.00 to your editor: Bill Laurie; 1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201.

ANGELS IN RED HATS, by member Mike Martin now available, after printer encountered several delays. Those having seen Mike's BLACK TIGERS (RVN Rangers/BDQ) can attest to high quality of this book, with heavy stock glossy paper, color photographs, and bonded leather cover, and same can be expected, and is promised, for ANGELS. Book is plugged by Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey: 'The battle record of the Việt Nameese Airborne Division and the associated US Army Advisors is a tale of bravery, self-sacrifice, the generosity, the courate of these little paratroopers we can never forget. This book is their only monument.' Available from: Harmony House Publishers; P.O. Box 90; Prospect, Kentucky; 40059. \$39.50 plus \$3.50 shipping/handling. Be advised books like these usually soar in value after their limited press run. Don't delay if you plan to get a copy. Our thanks to Mike for yet another commendable publishing effort.

-0-

'The superior man understands what is right; the inferior man understands what will sell.'

'It is better to have a lion at the head of an army of sheep than a sheep at the head of an army of lions.'

-Không tử/Confucius



OUT OF PRINT TARGETS, by Donald E. McQuinn, published 1980. Excellent novel of US officer in combined US/VN counter-intel operation, euphemistically known as 'Records Research', and their mission to penetrate and neutralize VC operations. Complicated enough, but things get even more sticky when a Peter Arnett-type wise ass reporter enters the scene, and webbs of intrigue extend into a gang of AWOL drug dealing GIs. Author served in VN. Unlike many, he learned a lot. About the war, about VN, and about the US. McQuinn's VN characters are intelligent, thoughtful people; the romantic subplot is vastly superior to the swill found in many novels, and his main character is unswerving and unrepentant. Plot, dialogue, etc. all excellent. Check in used book stores; well worth the effort.



Periodicals... June 95 issue of VIET NAM magazine devoted almost entirely to Laos, with articles about a POW rescue at Mahaxay, Gen. Vang Pao, a brother's continuing search for his MIA sibling in Laos, and an account of the Pathet Lao python-like constriction of life once a 'peace' agreement had been reached. Viet Nam is alone in the field, and well worth \$16.95 subscription price(Call 1-800-435-9610). Several of our members have had articles printed in VN; others would do well to give it a shot. Write for 'author guidelines', sending SASE to: VIET NAM; 741 Miller Dr. SE; Suite D-2; Leesburg, Virginia; 22075. Or call: 703-771-9400.



April 95 issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC has 29 pp. article 'The New Saigon', by Tracy Dahlby. Decent piece of writing describing developments in boom town Saigon, underscoring toxic byproduct of too-rapid economic development, with resigned awareness that there's to be no stopping it. Decent photography, though the beauty of Viet Nam is not to be found in Saigon. Author fails to note retrospective contradiction in the times: had US pushed this much economic development on VN, to include clear-cutting forests for golf courses, and constructing luxury hotels which few common people could afford, a vast hue and cry would have issued forth from the 1960s-1970s anti-war crowd. But now it's OK. Why? Why not then? Why no blistering articles about increase in drugs and other societal diseases? As things go, article could have been worse, or better. Should appear in thrift stores and garage sales in a few months, if you don't already subscribe.

Hội Đồng Viên Mới/New members....

Maj. James R. Kidder, USAF, Ret.
 ALO 10th Div, III Corps
 655 Seville Court
 Satellite Beach, Florida 32937

Enrique V. Pujals
 Adv Tm 66, Long Định, Định Tường
 P.O. Box 193428
 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00919

Samuel H. Muoio
 Adv Tm 22, 3/47th Regt, 22nd Div
 707 W. Cotton Ave
 New Albany, Indiana 47150

*Wilbur C. Bishof
 Adv Tm 25, '68
 123 Memorial Parkway
 Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

New Members(cont.)...

James A. Demchak
Adv Tm 88/MAT-IV-21
6605 Emerald Lake Dr.
Troy, Michigan 48098

Robert G. Canducci
JUSMAG-THAI, '68-69
7862 N. Barton Ave.
Fresno, California 93720

James R. Wilson
Adv Tm 63, '68
Rte 2 Box 175 HC
Seminole, Oklahoma 74868

Bruce L. Burger
Adv Tm 1/7th Cav, '66-'67
4136 Roundbottom Rd
Cincinnati, Ohio 45244

1st Sgt. Jack J. Kelley, USA, Ret.
Adv Tm 33
18040 Prado Lane
Salinas, California 93908

Col. Lewis L. Millett, USA, Ret.
BĐQ, '60-'61; Laos, '71-'73
CMOH Recipient
P.O. Box 1752
Idyllwild, California 92549

James N. Tull
103 Homestead Village, #13
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
*Life Member

Press Attache, USEMB, Saigon, '55-'5
Dep. Director, USAID, Laos, '60-'62
PSA, Châu Đốc Prov, '67-'69

Welcome on board gentlemen. We're honored to have you as members, and encourage your active participation, making this a meaningful extension of your prior service.

-0-



The McNamara book....caricature to the left featured in Người Việt, a daily newspaper out of Westminster, California. In event it doesn't photocopy clearly, drawing shows RSM shedding crocodile tears, with Việt Nam being crunched in his toothy snout. Without wanting to launch an editorial diatribe, it is safe to say that many believe McNamara's book simply proves he still doesn't know what he was dealing with then, and has only been sublimated by conventional wisdom (by definition: believed by most, yet still untrue/invalid). Two brief points here, regarding RSM's assertion that modern weapons are ineffectual against 'nationalism'. First, it WAS modern weapons that won the war, and an abundance of them. NVA

artillery was a pivotal factor, and superior to US artillery. No armed forces, as ill-supplied as QLVNCH, could have withstood the NVA blitzkrieg of '75. Modern weapons and machinery, be they in the form of SA-7 missiles, 130mm arty, or Molotova trucks, were decisive factors. Secondly..Nationalism? So what? There were an abundance of true nationalists in the Republic of Việt Nam; many of them now dead. And.. Hitler was a nationalist. Same w/Genghis Khan, Attila the Hun and the Ku Klux Klan, the Imperial Army of Japan. Robert misses a key question: what KIND of nationalism are we dealing with? As JFK once said, 'You can't depend on your judgment when your imagination is out of focus.'. Final items:

Robert S. McNamara to the CIA's Desmond Morris: 'You know, it's hard to make sense of this war.'. (in THE MAN WHO KEPT THE SECRETS, by Thomas Powers, p. 229).

Well, it's even more hard if you won't talk with people like Col. Nguyễn Be, Ngô Quảng Trường, Nguyễn Khoa Nam; or any Advisory Team

and their counterparts; or with a USMC CAP and their villager friends; or if you'd sit down, just once, and drink some nước mát quê hương with a rice farmer, and talk things over. But no, that simply wasn't 'scientific' enough. Ending brief venture into editorial slamming:

'This is not a book to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force.'

-Dorothy Parker, reviewing another book

'If you believe everything you read, it is better not to read.'

-Japanese proverb

'The right to be heard does not include the right to be taken seriously.'

-Humbert Humphrey

'The covers of this book are too far apart.'

-Ambrose Bierce, reviewing another book

Member reviews/opinions of RSM book welcome, pro or con.

-0-

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Đại Tá Đặng Phương Thành
TrĐ 12/SĐ 7

SGT Joseph Eugene Jackson
USMC, CAP

SSGT Murrel D. Thomas
USA, SF, Tm A-301

Capt. John Meigs Graham
USA, Adv Tm 60

SMAF George R. Brown
USA, SF

SGT Ronald James Chapman
USMC, CAP 2-7-4

LCPL Charley Andrew Wilborn
USMC, CACO 2-7

LCPL William Dean Laraway
USMC, CAP H 3rd CAG

SFC Jay Martin Byerly
USA, MACV

1st Sgt Louis Emil Janca
USA

SSGT Charles Gregroy Huston
USA

SSGT Earl Fredrick Brown
USA, SF

SFC Alan Lee Boyer
USA, SF

PFC David Bruce Fogg
USMC, CAP 2-7-4

1Lt Dennis Edward Vacenovsky
USMC, CACO 2-7

CPL Charles E. Brown
USMC, CAP Hotel-8

HM3 Dewey Ray Burns Jr.
USMC, CAP 1-3-9

Post-VN Taps..

Col. Daniel L. Baldwin III
SA, 4th Rgr Grp

Col. Arthur E. Taylor Jr.
Adv Tm 162, SA 1st Bde

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM(Cont.)

CSM(Ret.) Morris Stembridge
TD 6.Lu Doan 3, '67-'71/Tm:162

SGM(Ret.) William T. Trussell
1st Bde/Tm 162

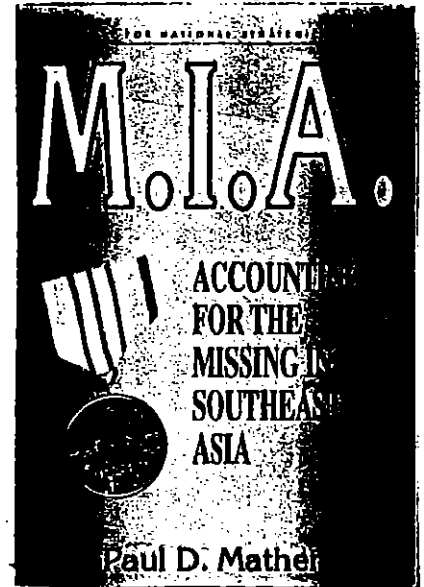
We'll remember you. See you on the high ground.

-0-



POW/MIA New POW/MIA stamp unveiled this past Memorial Day, and now available at local post office. Artistic tone is one of remorse and remembrance, rather than expression of determination to revolve unsettled issues and answer lingering questions. A limited edition poster can be had by calling 1-800-STAMP; cost: \$7.95 plus \$3.20 postage. Meanwhile, the search continues in VN. In early May Hà Nội turned over 200 pp. of maps, witness reports, and analyses. Winston Lord, Asst. SecState called 'significant new information.'. A month later, just as

U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson passes through, Hà Nội came up with another 100 pp. of maps/documents, prompting Mr. Richardson to state 'I don't think this was timed for my visit.'. If you say so. Several days later, POW activist, former Representative Billy Hendon chained himself to the US compound in Hà Nội, claiming US investigators will not check his info on alleged holding of live Americans. The detachment commander remained in his compound; Mr. Hendon unchained himself 10 hours later. During the same week, six sets of remains were sent to Hawaii for identification attempts. POW/MIA book, M.I.A., Accounting for the Missing in Southeast Asia, by Paul Mather, examines POW/MIA investigation process from 1973 to 1988, when then-Col. Mather was assigned to the JPRC and subsequent agencies. This was a period during which Hà Nội was most uncooperative, as evidence by the murder of Capt. Richard Rees, leading an unarmed search mission in Dec '73. Author is well versed in SE Asian intrigues, familiar with the many POW/MIA scam operations, and has written a most interesting, if not at times infuriating, book.



Available from US Govt. Printing Office; Supt. of Documents; Mail Stop SSOP; Washington, D.C. 20402-9328. Cost: Not cited on book. Dunno, and don't know why a price can't be printed on the cover.

As of April 95, the tally on MIA is: AF 790, USMC 277; Army 666; Navy 432; civilian 40; Coast Guard 1. By country: VN 1621; Laos 500; Cambodia 77; China 8.

The SF Assn. will be requesting highest priority for recovery of remains of Capt. William 'Ike' Eisenbraun, who died in same camp holding Bobby Garwood, who has since reported gravesite location to DIA. COUNTERPARTS THDNÁ will follow up on this; Eisenbraun is a Member in Memoriam.

Label from one of the robust 'medicinal' whiskeys in VN, circa 1974. This brand was perhaps a cut above the delectable 'Rượu Ông Già', or 'Old Man whiskey, yet may not have had the bouquet offered by rượu đế. Then again, one could savor the finesse and body of Rượu Bim Bip, the restorative powers of which are world renowned amongst the cognoscenti.

VINH-TON-TAM

Đặc Biệt Loại 38°
 永存心藥房
 富歸川誇誼風大補酒

Wink-lin-lam Dươc Phòng
Sông Chua
Đặc Biệt Loại 38°

Chức năng của phong lá trắng mọc
trên thân cây này rất độc, quả để thì
lưu lâu hơn, đời bà kinh lấy thuốc
dầu trong mình nóng, khi lấy thuốc
không ra nước trắng lấy ngay
lưu lâu hơn, đời bà kinh lấy thuốc
đi thì này thì loại này lấy đi thì
lưu lâu hơn, đời bà kinh lấy thuốc
đi thì này thì loại này lấy đi thì
lưu lâu hơn, đời bà kinh lấy thuốc
đi thì này thì loại này lấy đi thì

VINH-TON-TAM
 ĐẶC BIỆT
 SAIGON HANG HOI
 CHỢ CÙ
 SAIGON

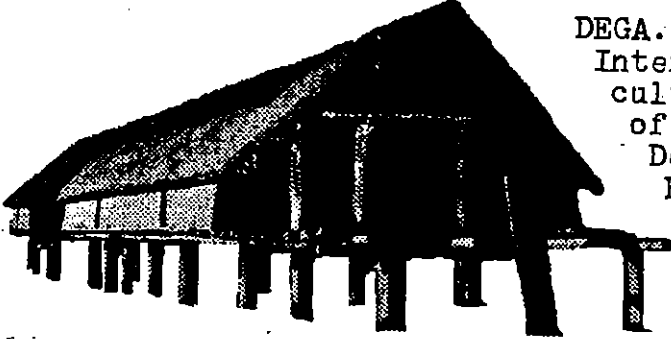
神效
 補血
 壯氣
 健脾
 開胃
 消食
 化痰
 止咳
 平喘
 祛風
 除濕
 活血
 通絡
 舒筋
 活絡
 益氣
 養血
 強身
 壯體
 延年
 益壽
 男女
 老幼
 皆宜

Dapora à Saigon sous 77267/C - Enregistré ga'intellectuel sous 77 1160.
Mosambicville le... Commenca...

Of course, a little rượu nếp than is always a welcome tonic, augmenting mental powers, as well as the money pouches of those vendors selling their homemade brands, in unlabeled bottles.

And what better way to top off a week than partaking of the delights of that wonderful Ngũ Giã Bì, knowing full well that it would incinerate any amoebas and microbes wreaking havoc with one's innards? *Cạn ly đi! Một trăm phần trăm!* Bottoms up!

-O-



DEGA..Member Kok Ksor will address Amnesty International, addressing the matter of cultural extinction, and very real threat of same now confronting the Dega people. Dega clergyman Lam A Lu remains in Hong Kong detention camp, faced with forced repatriation. Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang's Boat People SOS Committee going to bat on his behalf. Member Max Lund has returned from his VN trip, during which he attempted to track down some old friends outside of Pleiku. Police not happy with this, requesting Max exit the Highlands immediately. Trip report should be on hand for next issue. Member Mike Little experienced no such problems during his 1994 trip, and was able to find some of his Bahnar friends. Reporter Ken McLaughlin accompanied Mike, and wrote it up in 16 Oct 94 issue of 'Texas', weekly supplement to Houston Chronicle. Finally, SF Assn. member Robert J. Donoghue has ventured to Khe Sanh area, finding members of Bru tribe in sorrowful conditions. He is now running an assistance program to bring fundamental medical care and supplies. Info has been passed on to Kok Ksor, Mike Little, Max Lund and Roy Russell.

-O-

Our 30 April Memorial Ceremonies at the Wall were well attended, especially in view of the dismal rain which fell throughout the day. Speakers included Grant McClure, MG Homer Smith (ret.), and William Colby. Representatives of Việt Nameese, Cambodian, Hmong and Dega communities were in attendance, and event received tasteful writeup in Stars and Stripes, in contrast to lack of any other coverage from the media in general, which limited itself to cliché schmoozing on '20 Years After' topics. Max Lund on hand to shoot photos, which we hope to carry in next issue.

-O-

'Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important.'

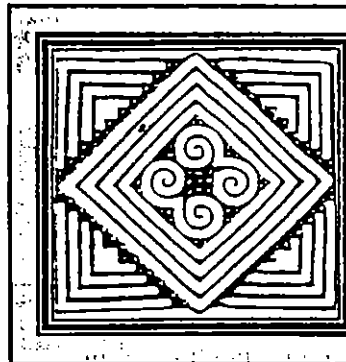
-T.S. Elliot



QLVNCH shoulder patches. At left, 219th Helicopter Squadron, of 83rd Special Operations Group, AKA the 'King Bees'. This outfit often flew missions w/SOG elements. Maj Nguyễn Quy An, DFC recipient as rescuer of 4 US shot down in Laos, was member of the 219th. At right, QLVNCH TQLC/RVN Marine 1st Bn. Thanks to Clem Kelly Jr., and his Việt Nam Insignia Collector Newsletter for permission to steal these reproductions from his newsletter, a bi-monthly well worth the \$15.00 subscription price, providing abundance of historical info in addition to depiction of various insignia. Clem also dedicates one page to the multitude of fake patches now flooding the market, for which excessive prices are paid. Subscriptions: Clement V. Kelly, Jr.; 501 W. 5th Ave.; Covington, Louisiana; 70433. Make checks payable to Clem, not VICN.

-0-

Three day conference on HMONG, to be held 22-24 June in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Three sessions: 'Life in Highland Laos' on Thursday, 22 June; 'The Secret War', on 23 June, w/Hmong and US speakers, and CIA film, 'Journey from Padong; and 'Refugees and Resettlement, on 24 June, again w/Hmong & US speakers. Probably too late for many to attend, but accompanying material, a 100 pp. book, HMONG IN AMERICA, JOURNEY FROM A SECRET WAR, available by mail for \$12.95, plus \$2.40 p/h. Wisconsin residents include 5% sales tax, from: Chippewa Valley Museum; P.O. Box 1204; Eau Claire, Wisconsin; 54702. More info: Chippewa Valley Museum @ 715 834-7871.



History Conference June 22-24, 1995

HMONG IN AMERICA Refugees from a Secret War

Sponsored by the Chippewa Valley Museum
Held at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Presented in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Arts & Sciences Outreach, UW-Extension, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, in cooperation with the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association.

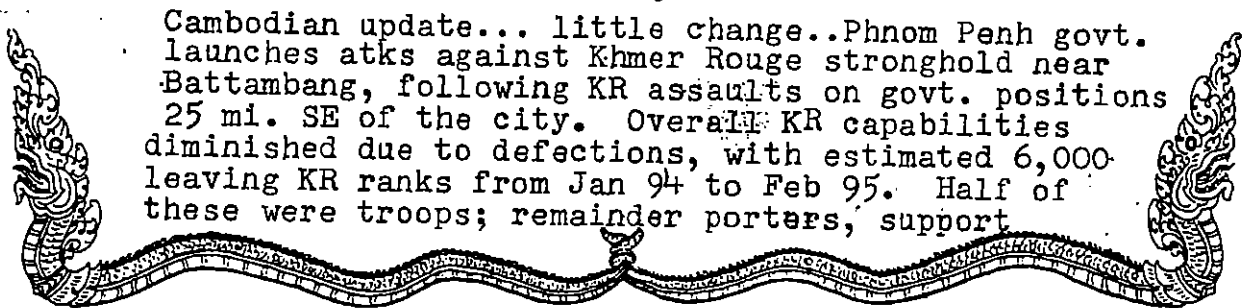
Legislation discussed on p. 3 of this SITREP applies to Hmong refugees as well, a large number of whom now sit in Thai refugee camps, quite reluctant to return to Laos in absence of enforceable guarantees for their well-being and freedom from persecution. Once again, letters are needed. The Hmong are little known by US public, yet they fought valiantly against NVA and Pathet Lao, and rescued US pilots shot down over HỒ CHÍ MINH Trail. There is little political gain to be made

by supporting Hmong refugees, unless a constituency makes itself visible and known. Get a letter off now.

-0-

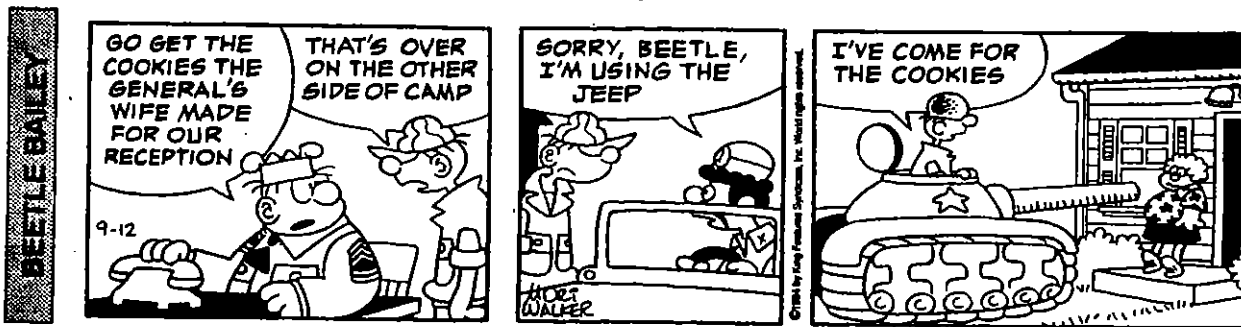
'Why-didn't-we-think-of-that'? dept.: Students getting dumber? SAT scores plummeting? Public education going to Hell in a handbasket? No problem! As of 1 April 1995, SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores will be--make sure you write down this verb for future use--'recentered'. This means students taking the test will receive as much as 75 freebie points on the verbal portion of the exam, and 20 points on the math portion. A student who might otherwise have received 730 points on his/her SAT will now receive 800, the very same he/she would have received if they'd answered every question correctly under the old system. With this stroke of the pen, we need no longer worry about declining test scores, and/or the fact that students are, or were, becoming, well, uh..dumber. So, next time you bounce a check, have a disagreement with the IRS, or in an equivalent disadvantageous situation, simply ask things be 'recentered'.

-0-



personel, etc. Beyond that, country remains plagued by corruption, malnutrition, and ineffectual government. Due primarily to Khmer Rouge logging, and sales to Thai interests, Cambodia's forest cover has diminished from 73% in 1970 to 40% today, and entire forest cover may be gone in ten years, if present rate of logging continues. Phnom Penh govt., looking for badly needed quick bucks, signs contract with Malaysian firm to harvest two million acres of timber.Poll taken by Khmer Journalist Association indicates 36% of surveyed Cambodian prefer that no one succeed Prince, make that King, Norodom Sihanouk, rather than have his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh assume throne.

-0-



-0-

Odd medical problems? If and when stubborn medical problems occur, defying treatment, one is well advised to inform the attending B c S  that one has spent time in SE Asia, and that perhaps a tropical medicine specialist should be consulted. There a number of illnesses, arising from parasitical infestation, which can lay dormant for years, and

make themselves known when other trauma occurs, and/or with the aging process. Fortunately most of these ailments are not common, yet they can occur, as evidenced by late development of Strongyloidosis in CBI veterans of WW II. Documented instances of Melioidosis occurred in VN, and some medical authorities had predicted further complications for individuals in whom the infestation lay dormant. Paragonomiasis-lung fluke infestation- is another one. Medical personnel unsuitably trained in tropical medicine can easily misdiagnose symptoms, sometimes slight in dormant cases. Medical data suggests occurrence is rare, yet does not rule out someone's having it, somewhere. Source: A MANUAL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE, Swartzwelder, Hunter and Frye; MEDICAL SUPPORT OF THE U.S. ARMY IN VIET NAM, 1965-1970, MG Spurgeon Neel; and discussion with the late Col. Hugh Randall, USAF Flight Surgeon, Việt Nam Veteran

-0-

EDITORIAL

A Matter of Pronouns

Hey, yeah you...psst..yeah you, the journalist. C'mon over here. No, your fly isn't open, and no, you haven't slopped spaghetti on your shirt. It's just that your, well, ignorance is showing. Big time. One of these days even more people will laugh at you, or perhaps even hold you in contempt. What's that? You don't understand you say? Well, that's par for the course. You might be spared this if you'd quit using the same old cliches and old wife's tales about Việt Nam, if you'd just let bad enough alone, but you haven't, so let's sit down and get some things straight.

To begin with, you are going to be 'you' in this discourse, and we, both host-country and guest country counterparts, and anyone else who has an ounce of sense about Việt Nam, and Hà Nội's war there, are going to be 'we'. Got that? We'd have thought that you might have gained some insight into Việt Nam, Laos and Cambodia; afterall, you've had over 30 years to do it, but the same old history by gossip was clearly evident in your '20 years after' coverage, on TV and in print. Let's begin with one of the more popular ones: 'Việt Nam, the country we never knew.'. Speak for yourself. We host country people obviously knew our country, but you would never listen to us. You would never even cover our operations. You never saw us grow from a military of just over 200,000 to almost a million, difficult for any country, in peace or war. We guest-country folks may not have qualified for a anthropology degree in SE Asia, but we damn well tried to learn, and kept on trying...and still are. No Mr. and Ms. Journalist, you never did understand Việt Nam, and still don't. Again, speak for yourself.

It's ironic that you didn't see fit to spend more time with us, we host and guest country counterparts. You might have learned something, and God, and Buddha both know you would have had an abundance of the 'human interest' stories you seem to lap up. You would have learned of difficulties overcome, battles fought, comrades mourned, and friendships forged in what can arguable be called the most complex war and associated turmoil anyone could imagine. You would have seen guest-country counterparts, sometimes at the expense of future career advancement, give their all, oftentimes in emulation of their host-country counterpart, who had pledged his life to oppose a malignant and mutant 'nationalism' which he knew would, as it had done, create unspeakable misery, suffering and death. It seemed like that might appeal to you, 'human interest' and all that. After all, most of your movies applaud someone who stands his ground, when self-preservation

dictates otherwise. You missed the boat on this one. Big time. You never could grasp how we guest-country folks came to view the war as 'our' war, against 'our' villages, 'our' companies and battalions. Of 'our' does not denote ownership, possession or control but refers to the personal attachment and identification with cause, and admiration for some of the finest people one could ever hope to encounter.

Oh, you say, but there was the corruption, the malfeasance. We never denied that, and yes, it was bad, very bad. Why it was so bad that it resembled the fumbling efforts of an infant nation which had to rely on the help of foreign advisors such as Lafayette, Kosciuszko, von Stueben and Pulaski. It was so bad that it resembled the bumbling irregulars who broke and ran while under Washington's command. And corruption! Lotsa that. Why it was so bad it resembled the Civil War era, when northern civilians could legally buy their way out of the army. It was almost as bad as Medicare and HUD scams are today, that's how bad it was. Of course, in earlier times, such problems were viewed as obstacles to overcome, not reasons for quitting.

You missed however the fact that we host-country people neither benefited from, nor had anything but contempt for the corruption, yet few of us were in a position to do much about it; we didn't have the leverage the US ambassador had, and simply had to live with it. We host-country counterparts often received scorn from our own people, for they did not share our friendship with the many guest-country advisors. Sure, sometimes they didn't know a lot, and many's the time we advised them, but they were there, they cared, they placed life at risk. They died. There was little in the way of financial gain or career enhancement. They, as we, did what we felt was right.

You talk about a war that 'could never be won', as if our adversaries were empowered with some mystical powers, and a vibrant 'nationalism' that rendered them impervious to defeat. Well, the same can be said for former members of the Wehrmacht and Japan's Imperial Army. Hitler was a 'nationalist'. He too galvanized his country to fight its enemies. No, there was much, much more than that. First off, had the Republic of Việt Nam been a peninsula, it would have been a different war, and one that could have ended sooner, and in an entirely different manner. Then too, had there ever been a strategy worthy of the name, we who fought the brunt of the battle would have been less handicapped. And yes, even sociology can be attributed as a primary cause. The north had a thoroughly organized and controlled society, far more doctrinaire and regimented than those of us in the Republic of Việt Nam, who still dwelled in a traditional agrarian society, with minimal governmental infrastructure or traditions of national control and organization. It's one reason why Mussolini crushed the Ethiopians, and why your native Americans were crushed by the wave of civilization, such as it was. No, it was not unwinnable, at least in many of our AOs, where we did win our own local wars, admittedly in sometimes awkward and clumsy fashion, but winning them nonetheless. You might ask the over 200,000 Việt Cộng Hoi Chanh who defected to our government, often lending their skills against forces they hated and despised as liars and 'pimps' who prostituted true nationalism. Then again, no one knows where any of those Hoi Chanh are.

In fact, your ignorance of history will not allow you to answer this question: name any armed forces, of any country, which improved as much as QLVNCH, and under similar adverse circumstances. Neither host-nor guest-country counterparts were able to benefit from true national leadership. We had to do it ourself. Oh yes, locally recruited VC forces were pommeling regular QLVNCH units in 1965.

Yes, the country was almost lost in that year. For a multitude of reasons, RVN forces could not, and sometimes would not, deal with the growing threat. Once you had that down Mr. and Ms. Journalist, you stayed with it, and still fondle the cliché with delight. Where were you when the provincial militia, the often-maligned RF/Địa Phương Quân, crushed three NVA regts in Hậu Nghĩa in 1972? Were you with a 17 year old PF who knocked an NVA tank at An Lộc in 1972? Did you stand next to QLVNCH TQLC/RVN Marine Sgt. Huỳnh Văn Lữ, on the Bến Hải Bridge, when he alone stood down an NVA armor column, popping off two LAWs and disabling the lead tank? Were you there in 1973, when a task force of two regts from the 9th Div, and an attached Rgr group, utterly destroyed the entire NVA 1st Div, in Châu Đốc's Thất Sơn/7 Mountains?

Come to think of it, we didn't see you anywhere. Where were you?

To be honest, we had essentially given up on all of you, viewing you as, well, ignorant, oftentimes pretensions, sometimes malicious dilettantes. We, unlike your super star Peter Arnett, weren't mainly intrigued with 'the girls' (oh yes he did say that!). We, unlike your hall-of-famer all-star Walter Cronkite, know that the NVA did not 'fade away from Quảng Trị' (suggesting they had the tactical initiative) in 1972. Au contraire mon dilettante, the NVA were driven out, street by bloody street, house by bloody house. You should have been there, to see the QLVNCH TQLC and ND (Marines and Airborne) take it back by sheer force of will. But, for some reason, you were never interested in us. You could have had a great story. Where else you find people who fought not only a capable, if barbaric, adversary, but fought in the absence of any national leadership, both guest and host country? Fact is, the entire rest of the world was at best indifferent to our fate, and at worst was avidly advocating our defeat, in strident support of our enemies. Ever heard of a war like that? Ever wonder why we kept at it? Ever wonder why Sgt. Lữ stood on the Bến Hải Bridge?

Ever wonder if you would? or could?

But, you are lucky we suppose. The layers of encrusted mythology, of history by rumor and gossip, are so well encrusted it will probably be another generation before historians pick through the pieces and conclude that our side was better, in every respect, from human rights to tactical proficiency, than our unfortunate brainwashed rabid ideologues from the north. You will be long gone, and not be around to have your reputation trashed and pummeled. If you were around, you might issue an embarrassed apology, saying you 'didn't know', you 'weren't aware' of these things.

We were. Then. Now.

If, perchance, you tremble at the thought of being viewed as an ignorant dolt, you might well be advised to delete some buzz words and catch phrases from your word processor list of mandatory-Việt-Nam-story writing jargon. Start by omitting any reference to the 'end of the war' in 1975 (or 1973 if you've been extremely provincial). Someday someone might ask you why more people died after the war 'ended', and you'll look quite foolish. So, Mr. and Ms. Journalist, be on your way. Write some more stories about the war 'you' never understood, but please think about writing about the war 'they' (meaning 'we') well understood. Only fair. You made a lot more money off the war than we did. Your career was enhanced. You didn't have to spend time, maybe even die, in a concentration camp like some of your RVN, Laotian, and Cambodian counterparts, and certainly you did have some. Didn't you?

So, Mr. and Mrs. journalist, you think about it, and you go off and leave us alone, as you've always done. It's not that we don't want you around, but we do have our standards in addition to the fact that when you are around us, and you start to talk about what 'you' know about Việt Nam, its people, its culture, its guest-country counterparts and friends- comrades in arms and all that, we....well... we feel like we're in the company of 13 year old male adolescents talking and cackling about sex. We hate to say it, and take no undue delight in our restrained contempt, but in the words of Bob Dylan:

'We wish you could stand in our shoes, so you'd know what a drag it is to know you'.

Have a nice day. Oh, and by the way, the next time you do a video backdrop as lead in to another Việt Nam story, portraying Buddhist monks and temples, before a 'story' on the McNamara book, tell your video archivists to dig out something else other than the film clips of Tibet you used last time. No wonder Việt Nam, Laos and Cambodia are the 'countries you never understood' What's that you say...no one in the video audience knows? It's the same continent anyhow? It doesn't really matter?

Never mind. Go zip up your fly and wipe the spaghetti off your shirt.

-0-

OUT OF SEQUENCE LOCATOR REQUEST

Don Steiner looking for

Đại Úy Đặng Xuan Tien, former
CỔ LỘ 61/61st Mobile Grp, Kiến
Văn Dist., Kiến Phong Prov.

and

Maj/Thiếu Tá Nguyễn Văn Chức,
formerly Quan trưởng/Dist. Chief,
Kiến Văn Dist., Kiến Phong Prov.

Don also called to ask if there has been any new info on Tom Hargrove, whom Don met on several occasions in Chương Thiện. Again, nothing new, and it's been almost 10 months. There is nothing we can do in the way of writing letters or anything else beyond a prayer.

-0-

Retired California banker William Andrew Burkett, 81, has pledged \$1,000,000.00 to build a National Veterans' Cemetery on 600 acres of land, currently administered by US Interior Department, near Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Burkett is a veteran of WW II. Interior Dept. response: '...will give it a good look to see whether it is feasible.'

-0-

The former Ladd Army Air Field, Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, was the departure point for 7,926 aircraft sent to USSR, to aid in their war effort, between Sept '42 and Sept '45.

Item: '...the Japanese were defeated by the Soviet Army;....'

-Trương Chinh, 'land reformer' and 'nationalist',
as quoted in PRIMER FOR REVOLT

-0-

'The vulgar has disappeared from modern cultural judgements-not because it has been transcended, but because it has triumphed. The vulgar has become the norm.'

-James B. Twitchell in CARNIVAL CULTURE, The Frashing of Taste
in America (Columbia University Press)

Other reunions...

QLVNCH BÐQ/Viet Nam Rangers
Orange County, California
Contact: Mr. Nguyen Phuong Hung
818 442-7746 Dates: 22-23 Jul

QLVNCH Nhảy Dù/RVN Airborne
Houston, Texas
24-25 Nov 95
Dr. Tinh van Tran 713 481-4506

Thx to Mike Martin for sending info...

OV-1 Mohawk Assn. 29 Sept-1 Oct Clarion Airport Hotel; Tucson, Arizona.
POC: Joe DiMaggio; Northrop-Grumman Corp.; Mail Stop A0525;
Bethpage, NY; 11714. 516 575-7238 or 516 756-0741.

Dusters/Quad-.50s/Searchlights...6-7 July, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. POC:
John Huelsenbeck; 10657 East 300 North; Avilla, Indiana; 46710.
219 347-2898.

BÐQ Memorial Ceremony: See reverse, attend if you're able. Promises
to be a worthwhile event.

-0-

Update: Last SITREP mentioned Tom Crowley's search for anyone who served w/the late Lương Đình Chi. He needs to verify Chi's service in order to bring Chi's family out. Two of our members knew Chi, wrote Tom, who'd spent some time w/Chi in a hospital after both were wounded around Nov '66. Tom reports some progress being made w/USEMB Bangkok, but new ruling says his unmarried children cannot accompany their mother. Tom says 'I am going to fight on and do what I can. Can you possibly help bring pressure on the State Dept. to reverse this inane decision?'. We can try. Those writing Tom the first time need contact him again(Apt. 7B; Tower II; Regent on the Park; 9A Kennedy Road; Hong Kong) and coordinate application of pressure, without which Chi's family will not come to US, where they will no longer be viewed as subhuman traitors and criminals.

Also, as mentioned last SITREP, SF Assn. needs more people to verify Trần Ngọc Khoe's experience and background. Their request generated three responses, though this may not be sufficient for tightening ODP guidelines. We have had no known response to member Bob Topp's search for others who served w/Mong Van Vien, especially 1966-1967 at camp A/430/Don Phuc and Cán Thủ Mike Force, and 1970-1973, det. B-40(43), Long Hai. Bob is at: Rt. 1, Box 212; Roseland, Virginia; 22967(804 277-8535).

-0-

Reminders...Please keep Ben Myers posted of any address changes, as well as telephone area code changes(recently instituted), an effort warmly received by Ben, and helping us stay current w/our roster. A new, up-to-date roster is in the works, and will be provided to all members, some of whom have floated idea of establishing local chapters. Your help and compliance w/this request most appreciated. REUNION..try to be there. Apologies extended for short fuse on this, but, as mentioned, your skeletal staff is greatly overextended, and in need of nominations for new officers, as well as 1996 Reunion Ramrod. Mike McMunn has done an outstanding job of taking over the Members in Memoriam Archivist position, helping to spread the workload. We'll need a few others with similar skills, motivation, and energy, and we'll get this ship running like it should be.

All for now/hết rồi. Xin vui lòng tham gia cuộc sum họp/show up at the Reunion. Cuộc này có giá trị quý lắm/it will be well worth it.

BTL/THÐNÁ

HQ/COUNTERPARTS

ATTENTION RANGERS!

The valiant struggles of the Vietnamese Army Rangers (Biet Dong Quan) and the contributions of their intrepid U.S. Ranger Advisors will be memorialized in Arlington National Cemetery. To commemorate their contributions and sacrifices, a tree will be planted and a memorial plaque installed in honor of these comrades-in-arms.

A dedication ceremony will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at 10:00 am, November 12, 1995, the day following Veteran's Day. All former Ranger Advisors and Vietnamese Rangers are encouraged to participate in the dedication. Other interested persons are cordially invited to attend the ceremony.

A small group of former Vietnamese Ranger Advisors have joined together to arrange and manage this undertaking. Your contribution, in memory of the Ranger Advisors and Vietnamese Rangers who died in service, will help offset the expenses of the tree and memorial plaque. Please send your donation to:

VIETNAMESE RANGER ADVISOR MEMORIAL FUND
c/o Ranger Roy Lombardo
6824 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, MD 21207-4427

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call Rangers Jim Waters (301/365-8207), Roy Lombardo (410/298-3516) or Bobby Jackson (202/861-2882).

"RANGERS LEAD THE WAY"

"BIET-ĐỘNG QUÂN SÁT!"