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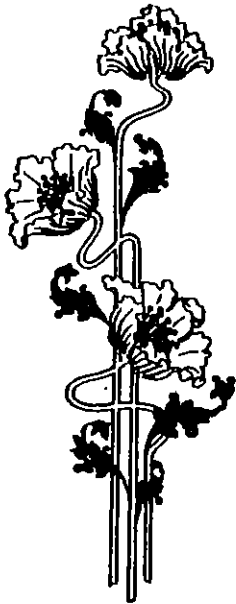


MỪNG XUÂN BÍNH TÝ

Kính chúc tất cả Hội Đồng Viên và
bầu quyền đồng hương một năm mới An Khang
và Thịnh Vượng.

May all members and their families enjoy
a healthy and prosperous New Year.

COUNTERPARTS/TƯỜNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á



#27
Mùa Xuân
Spring
1996
Năm Bính Tý



Looking northwesterly along Vàm Cỏ Đông River,
Đức Hòa District, Hậu Nghĩa Province. Núi Bà
Đen faintly visible on horizon.

XOV XWM TSHAM SITREP BẢO CÁO TÌNH HÌNH
ខ្មែរ រក្សា ធម៌ ខ្មែរ ស្រី ភ្នំ ពេញ KLEI MRĂW MRANG វិទ្យាសាស្ត្រ

OFFICERS

Commander
(ACTING)
Ed Abraham

Adjutant/
Historian
J.C. Fischer

XO
Charlie Thurmond

Membership
Ben Myers

Locator
Ben Myers
Laura Harris

Quách Húynh Hà
VN Locator/L.O.
VN Community

L.O./Highlands
Assistance Proj.
Mike Little

Editor
Bill Laurie

Advisory Council
Kok Kser
Quách Húynh Hà
Roy Russell
Grant McClure
(also D.C.
liaison)

PIO
Mike Roberts

The SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/TƯỜNG HỮU ĐÔNG 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.



COMMANDER'S CORNER/LỜI THĂM TƯ LỆNH

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới/Happy New Year to all. We're off to a good start, with an able and expanded staff, as well as early planning for our reunion, 3-5 July, in Santa Ana, for which more details are included herein.

Envelopes for dues are included in this issue. Please stay current, and advise Ben of any address and/or area code changes. We now have

cheaper non-profit postage, which does not have forwarding or return mail privileges of first class. Again: stay current with address and/or area code changes. Let Ben know immediately. Many thanks to those already mailing in 1996 dues, and to those keeping us current with new addresses.

Our new staff is coming together well, and all have sent in job descriptions and status reports, along with plans and ideas for the future. Be more active! Vote, and make your opinions known.

Finally, after staff discussion, it has been decided to make Col. Noboru Masuoka an Honorary Member. He has, at his own time and expense, secured the release of two former Counterparts from Viet Nam (Trung Tá/Maj. Bùi Quyên and Thiếu Tá/Maj. Nguyễn Quy An), in addition to arranging Nguyễn Chí Thiện's release from house arrest and travel to US for badly needed medical care. Col. Masuoka's dedication is inspirational, and deserving of Honorary Member status.

Commander/TL

Ed Abraham

It's appropriate to kick off this issue with yet another thank you to Member Bui Quang Lam (TD 52, B00/52nd Rgr Bn), who once again absorbed our printing and half-tone photo expenses at his print shop. Cảm ơn bạn Bui to Lam for his most appreciated contributions.

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Mới nhập ngũ/New Recruits.....

Maj. Gary E. Shumaker, USA Ret
1st MI Bn, Det C, 6/68-6/69
10020 Chestnut Wood Lane
Burke, Virginia 22015

William A. Nickles
G-2, SD 25; Tm 51 6/67-6/68
583 Amity Ridge Rd.
Amity, Pennsylvania 15311

Donald Rowe
Coastal Grp 35, '68-'69
11706 Brompton Ct.
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

*Paul E. ('Ed) Cate
STZ 24, Adv Tm 21
11601 Monticello Dr.
Knoxville, Tennessee 37922

Daniel W. Junevicius
FAC, SD 9, Adv Tm 27 '63
10510 Livingston Dr.
Northglenn, Colorado 80234

Edward J. Thompson
2nd Cav/A Co Thiết Giáp, '69
2523 E. Armour Ave.
Saint Francis, Wisconsin 53235

*Robert W. Sterling
Naval Tm-143
46 Fairway Dr.
Bluffton, S.C. 29910

*Harry C. Stewart
TD 35, 36/35th, 36th Rgr '67-'68
87 Westside Dr.
Phenix City, Alabama 36869

*-Life Member

Welcome to the team house gentlemen, once again.

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Công văn đến/The Letter box...

'Thank you for your great work, and for listing me as a new recruit, though could you please correct my date of service from '64-'65 to '63-'64. Thanks.'

Bob Hanafin, 18th AVN Co.

-Thx for the correction Bob. Done deal.

'I continue to enjoy receiving my SITREP and following activities of our members. Though I've yet to be reunited with my team members, I get vicarious pleasure in stories of successful connections after so many years. I'm now acting in the TV show 'Space: Above and Beyond',

playing the role of Commodore Ross, a naval officer in the year 2063. After my VN tour as a 1st Lt., it only took 26 years to get my first star! The show is about the nature of war, and its consequences, and simply happens to be set in the future. I'm grateful for the chance to share what I've learned with the producers, who are conscientious about 'getting it right'. I hope you'll watch it, and enjoy it, and let your local stations know your thoughts. We do try to depict an honest portrayal of our fighting men and women.

Enclosed is a check for Life Membership. Thanks for creating and maintaining an organization that acknowledges a resonant period in my life.

-Tucker Smallwood

-Thanks for upgrading your membership Tucker, for the nice letter, and congratulations on your success with 'Space: Above and Beyond', in addition to your work in Film ('Black Sheep', 'Bio-Dome'). Yes, it definitely was a resonant period in all all lives; glad we're living up to your expectations.

(Note: 'Space: Above and Beyond' on Internet: Space-feedback@fexnetwork.com. Members invited to view 'Space', and send in comments to local stations on Fox Network; it broadcasts on Sunday, 1800 hours(Mountain Time). Tucker's been a busy man this year, with entry at Sundance Film Festival, and CD-ROM on 'History of Black Music', all after a long haul paying his dues.)

'On behalf of the Lost Army Commandos we thank you for your ongoing support for their cause. We're still trying to get more information on Col. Ho, and will keep you posted on any new developments. Your efforts are always greatly appreciated by the commandos, who, as you're aware, are in their final battle for recognition. Keep in touch.

-John C. Mattes

(Mr. Mattes is the attorney working on behalf of VN commandos, serving under US govt. employ, who were abandoned once in NVN(no effort made to include them in prisoner release in 1973), and now seek backpay for their years in prison. More on this on following pages.).

'We're back in sunny California, and planning a visit to our Bahnar family, probably this April. Hope to see everyone at the reunion this year; so much has happened since our first reunion, in San Jose, back in 1989. New address: 18 Argente Dr.; Mission Viejo, California; 92692.

-Mike Little

-Have a good trip to the Highlands Mike, and thx for staying current w/new address.

'I disagree with the comments of Linda Bowles quoted in last SITREP; these who support normalization with Hanoi need not be construed as betraying fallen comrades, or the people of SE Asia. My opinion is shared by other VN Vets who, like me, have returned to VN after 1975, and been involved with helping VN people. Principled opposition to normalization should be respected, as should equally principled support, which was evidenced by a number of prominent VN Veterans to include Senators and Congressmen, a former POW, and Medal of Honor winner.

It is understandable that some will not or cannot associate with a former adversary, or that some day reconciliation can lead to

(Letters, cont.)

tribute to all the fallen. It isn't valid to insinuate that these in favor of normalization are betraying anyone, and have anything but honorable intentions as well as a continuing concern for the people of Việt Nam and SE Asia. Normalization is not necessarily the 'ultimate insult' to fallen heroes, and those supporting this decision should not be subjected to blanket condemnation from those who will not acknowledge, or who do not understand, the rationale behind such support.

-Mike Peterson

-There's no doubt that normalization with Hà Nội, especially considering absence of any significant Human Rights Concessions, angered many. There's also little doubt that many favored the move not only as a pragmatic decision, but also best for the people of VN and SE Asia. As usual, this association simply requests that all members adhere to the dictates of their conscience, and become well enough informed to present an arguable case for whatever position they advocate. Mike's position probably runs counter to those held by many individual members, yet he has the right to be heard, and to have his thoughts considered in a rational, considerate manner.

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Left: Member Harry Stewart and friends, Hãm Tân, Christmas '67. Right: Capt./Đại Úy Tong, XO TĐ 35 BĐQ(35th Rgr Bn) and Capt. Reitz, SA, 35th Rgr Bn. Courtesy of Harry Stewart.

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'The problem with the human race is that it has very low admission standards.'

-Aron

'Nothing is so firmly believed as what we least know.'

-Montaigne

'In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant.'

-de Gaulle

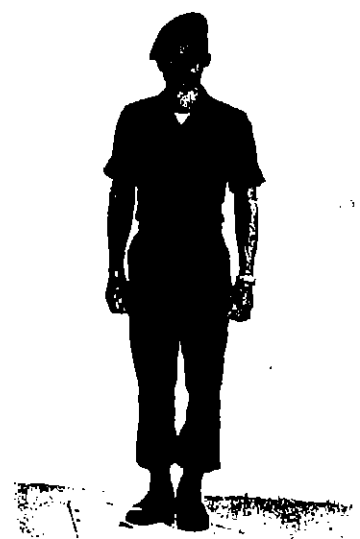
'If the world were a logical place, men would ride side-saddle.'

-Rita Mae Brown



THAILAND..typically overlooked in examinations of Hanoi's war in SE Asia, Thailand had a smoldering insurgency, on several fronts, during the war (and after), and many US advisers served there. Northeastern Thailand is dry and impoverished, and experienced the incendiary infancy of 'people's revolution' during the war years. The 'Voice of the People of Thailand', broadcasting from southern China, spewing forth the same rhetoric coming over Hanoi's airwaves into RVN. A large population of Viet Namese, supportive of Hanoi, lived in and around NKP, while the PRC (then Red China) was building their China Road, for unclear reasons, into north Laos. Small scale armed hostilities broke out in the latter 1960s, as indigenous Thai insurgents formed small units, entering the serious phase of phase I revolutionary warfare, while some Thai-based Hmong, ironically enough, heeded communist calls in the tri-border area of Thailand, Laos and Burma. US author Louis Lomax penned a book, **THAILAND: ANOTHER VIET NAM?**, in the early 1970s.

Fortunately, the worst never came to be, yet US and other guest-country advisers served with the Thai Special Forces, as well as the highly regarded BPP-the Border Patrol Police, in reality a mobile constabulary whose mission was to secure Thai borders and respond to insurgent threats. In addition, the Thai govt., responding to a perceived growing threat, formed CSOC, or Communist Suppression Operations Command, which was in turn led by Gen. Saiyud Kherdpol, a man respected for his intelligence, competence, and honesty. Though things looked ominous for a decade or more, Thai insurgents never broke beyond phase I guerrilla war, and failed to gain tactical momentum or significant area control.



As recently as the late 1980s, Thai 'VC' were responding to a 'Chiêu Hồi' program, and coming in from the woods. At right is photo of another counterpart of sorts, Thai Special Forces Sgt. Chai Charn Harnavee, who was captured by Pathet Lao forces, along with Ernest Brace, in 1965, and spent years in Hanoi prisons with Brace and other US personnel. Harnavee received several decorations from the USAF for his aid to fellow prisoners, and is the only foreign national soldier to have his portrait in the USAF HQ, Pentagon. Some of our members served tours with the Thai SF and *BPP. Your experiences and recollections most welcome, and solicited, for these pages. For more on Brace and Harnavee, read **A CODE TO KEEP**, by Ernest Brace (St. Martin's Press, 1988). *--also "SAF", "SIA", etc.

THONA Literature

MOBILE GUERRILLA FORCE, by James C. Donahue (Naval Institute Press). Donahue, author of **NO GREATER LOVE**, an excellent factual book recounting other experiences with the MGF, has written another good account, describing the first month-long operation into War Zone D, an area previously unpenetrated by significant allied elements. It's a good piece of work, not only serving as a tactical primer for efforts, but also underscoring the trust, confidence and friendship which developed between US advisers and the ethnic-Cambodian Strikers. MGF also stands on its head the assertion that NVA units were ever-elusive and could never be surprised, and clearly illustrates that US-SE Asian counterparts could, and did, get along just fine. Valuable addition to your library shelf. No price info available at present. Check w/local bookstore or call Naval Institute Press: 1-800233-8764

Văn Chương Tướng Hứa (cont.)



CODENAME MULE, *Fighting the Secret War in Laos for the CIA.* By James E. Parker, Jr. Pub: Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD 1995. ISBN 1-55750-668-X. Another in the Naval Institute's Special Warfare Series, and the second excellent book this year on the CIA's war in Laos. Unlike the comprehensive *Shadow War*, this book is the author's recounting of his recruitment, training and subsequent tour of duty with the CIA in Laos, one of the paramilitary officers managing the war against the Pathet Lao. Readers will appreciate this account, especially those with any knowledge of the circumstances, as the author writes as though sitting at the bar recounting his stories. His accounts are quite accurate and factual without being blown out of belief after the war. Those who are interested in what it was really like to serve as an Agency PM officer will find this volume most interesting, and all will find it a very enjoyable and accurate presentation. Recommended.

As reviewed in 'Chute and Dagger' (Parachutist and SF Insignia Collector Assn.), sent in by Paul Brubaker. Check w/local book store; call Naval Inst. at number cited above.



RANGER'S DIARY, by Life Member Harry Stewart, is a 74 pp. anecdotal narrative of his time with 35th and 36th Rgr Bns., to include TD 35 battles in Saigon during the Tet Offensive. 41 pp. of text, 30 of b/w photos (see p.5 this SITREP). Harry and his fellow CO Vnans had great respect for their BDO comrades, ate VN food all the time, to include python and lizards (jungle procurement), and cites inferior wps provided BDO before Tet '68, all of WW II vintage. Using time-honored cumshaw logistics, captured AKs were traded to US units for M-60s, illustrating procurement techniques vastly superior to those designed by McNamara. \$10.00, money orders only: J. Stewart (rpt: Juliet) Stewart; 87 Westside Dr.; Phenix City, Alabama; 36869.

General Interest: **HUNGER OF THE HEART**, photo essay by Larry Powell. Compilation of 'Wall' photos, of the people, gifts left behind, etc., receiving high praise from other photo-journalists and Prof. George Herring, VN scholar. Powell reportedly served as a CO Vn in VN. Publisher brochure does not indicate number of pages, whether photos are b/w, color, or both. Copy not seen. Member comment welcome. From: Islewest Publishing; 4242 Chavenelle Dr.; Dubuque, Iowa; 52002-2650 (phone orders: 1-800-557-9867). \$18.95, plus \$3.00 p/h.

PERIODICALS.....



Feb '96 issue of VN has article about Fred Zabitosky, and the actions, in Laos; for which he was awarded the CMH. On a clandestine Spike Team mission during Tet atks, Zabitosky's 12 man team (3 US, 9 Nungs) was inserted into Laos out of FOB 2/Kontum, to ascertain prospects for second wave of NVA atks. Stumbling on an NVA camp east of Attoupeu, the team was compromised and began a running battle for their lives. In subsequent series of engagements, and a helicopter crash, Zabitosky

broke his back and several ribs yet persevered and got surviving team members out. At his CMH award ceremony, Zabitosky said 'I wear the medal, but it was earned by Doug Glover (KIA on the mission), my indigenous team members and all SF enlisted men who served on special projects.'

We regret to report that Fred Zabitosky passed away 9 Jan of this year.

PERIODICALS(cont.)



Jan 96 issue of 'Smithsonian', written by ol' Mr. 'Mr.-Cut-and-Paste' himself, S. Karnow, article on econ/political situation, describes not-so-rosy dilemmas which could well VN's economic progress. Corruption, excessive bureaucracy, absence of modern infrastructure, all cloud the horizon, as does inertia on part of communist cadre who now take delight in adopting benefits of capitalism, insofar as it makes them rich. Karnow, in yet another monumental oversight, fails to mention that the primary impetus for Hanoi's 'Market-Leninism' reforms was cessation of Soviet funding, rather than simply a desire to 'be nice'. Brief discussion devoted to Human Rights violations; no mention made of environmental devastation wrought by avaricious cadre. Photos are decent, including one of three school girls walking along in their mesmerizing áo dâis. Article does

touch upon artificial world of visiting business folks, who live in groovy condos, and can join prestigious golf clubs for a mere \$25,000.00, while communist cadre get free membership.

Spring '95 issue of 'National Amvet' has Marc Yablanka article 'Unsung Heroes', describing contributions of scout dogs, and their handlers, in VN. Of the estimated 2,700 to 3,600 German Shepherds, "abradors, and bloodhounds serving in VN, less than 500 returned to the US. Disease, as much as combat, took a heavy toll. Many dog handlers went to extraordinary lengths to take their dogs home with them, and today many belong to the 900-member VN Dog Handler Assn.



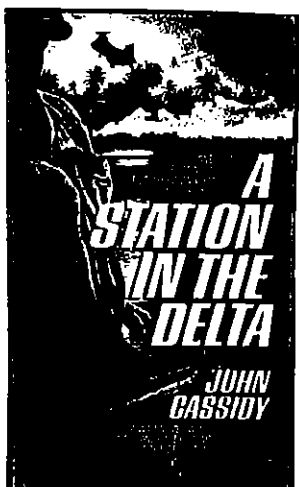
Photo at right: QLVNCH Dog training school at Thanh Tuy Ha. SFC Jesse Mendez, Cõ Văn, kneels behind dog handler(w/bush hat). SFC Mendez served three years as a Cõ Văn; effort underway to contact him.

OUT OF PRINT... IN THEIR DEFENSE, US Soldiers in the Việt Nam War, by Dr. Pham Kim Vinh, is not characterized by subtlety, as author forthrightly declares that US soldiers and Cõ Vâns were, in the main, good people doing a good job for a good reason, and should be lauded for helping his country. Dr. Vinh's well researched and documented 256 pp. work runs headlong into the news media, stating journalists were worth many divisions to Hanoi, and skillfully argues his case. No major publisher would touch this book, and it fell to Member Bùi Quảng Lâm who undertook its publishing. 'Lost' member Jerry Dellwo(keep-addresses-current reminder!) is pictured on the cover. Several copies of this title, donated by Bùi Quảng Lâm, will be raffled off at our reunion.



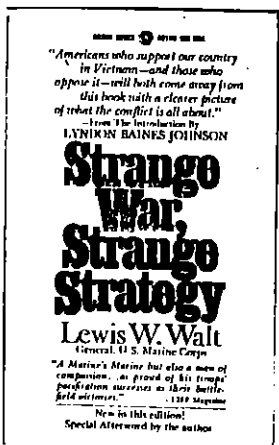
FYI: Roman coins were found at Oc Eo, once a seaport on the Gulf of Thailand, and now several miles inland from Rạch Gia, landlocked by centuries of siltation. Only viable theory is that coins were brought by sea-going traders.

Out of print(cont.) STATION IN THE DELTA, by John Cassiday, Ballentine



Books, 1979. Well-crafted novel of CIA agent's very personal war in the Mekong Delta. Book carries no bio-data on author, but reader, and especially those familiar with Mỹ Tho, soon concludes knows well of what he writes. Double agents, looming sense of impending cataclysm(in form of then-unnamed Têt Offensive), intrigues, etc., all woven into very realistic plot, believable characters, and an all too uncommon understanding of VN people. Definitely a hard-to-put-down effort, and one that does not let reader off the hook lightly. Cover art notwithstanding there is virtually nothing about US troops or units, and focus is entirely upon main character and his VN colleagues. In essence, a tactfully assembled 'message' book: We were the good guys, the other side was a mass of fanatical zealots(as expressed by high-ranking VC defector), and we were sold down the river by higherup buffoons and their policies. Author gives every indication of writing from the heart, and includes segment in which an imp-

ertinent 'journalist' gets his comeuppance. Search used book stores for this one. Oddly enough, book received rave reviews, 'message' notwithstanding.

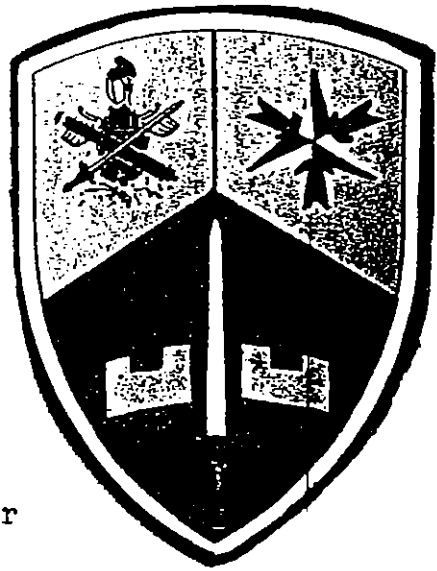


STRANGE WAR, STRANGE STRATEGY, by Gen. Lewis W. Walt, USMC, Award Books, 1970. Walt, commander of USMC forces in VN, arrived in 1965 and discovered two things: the situation was on the brink of doom, and neither he nor most Americans understood anything. Walt recognized his ignorance and decided to educate himself, adapting USMC in the process. This objective and even-keeled book explains Walt's learning process, and his own irrevocable conclusion that we were doing the right thing, though sometimes in the wrong way, and that most in the US were abysmally misinformed over the entire matter. Citing countless examples and historical references, Walt builds an articulate and compelling argument, paying tribute to US and RVN troops for their service and performance, and citing numerous specific examples to validate his assertions. STRANGE WAR is good, objective history, and clearly

illustrates how Hanoi's propaganda 'flanking' movement debilitated US will. One chilling example of VC terrorism cited: Village chief, opposed to VC, whose head was wrapped in a gas-soaked RVN flag, then set afire. Walt did not foresee eventual abandonment of RVN and, at time of book's writing, firmly believed we were en route to saving SE Asia from Hanoi's legions.



Left: Insignia KQVN Survival school(RVN AF). Right: Pocket hanger for US C6 Vans to RF/PF/DPQ/NQ. With permission of Clement Kelly's Việt Nam Insignia Collector Newsletter, a Fine bi-monthly. \$15.00/year, payable to Clem, not VNICN. 501 W. 5th Ave.; Covington, Louisiana; 70433. Thx again to Clem for permission to use his material.



'The wrong way always seems more reasonable.'
-George Moore, Irish author

LOST COMMANDOS UPDATE: US Govt. has still not 'fessed up and agreed, in court, that these men did serve under US Govt., employ, did spend decades in prison after their capture, were reported KIA leaving their families unpaid, and were completely ignored in 1973 POW release. Attorney John Mattes carries on with his fight to recognize these people, to have them receive their back pay, and to expedite emigration for those still in VN. Present task is to find anyone who trained these people at Saigon and Long Thành in the early 1960s, and to locate an individual known only as 'Col. Ho', who can personally verify these people and their US-funded exploits in NVN. COUNTERPARTS/THDNA has been providing Mr. Mattes with any and all info which may be of value, and once again asks members to search their memories and ask around. These teams were cut off from all aerial supply after the 1968 bombing halt, left to their fates. The Houston Press, in 4-10 Jan 86 issue, carried article on Nguyễn Minh Châu, a former commando who did make it to US. Châu said that even if not recruited by US, he would have fought the communists. His back pay, should Mattes succeed: a magnificent \$50,000.00, for his 19(rpt: 19) years in prison. 281 former commandos are in US; about 100 remain in VN, awaiting emigration paperwork. Anyone having any info relevant to this case should immediately call John Mattes(305 374-5590; FAX: 305 358-8565). Case is expected to go to trial soon. We hope to have some Commandos at our Santa Ana reunion.



Back From the Dead
A group of ex-commandos, written off as dead by the U.S. military, gathers regularly at the home of Ha Van Son, center front, to talk about their ordeal.

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DISPOSABLE ALLIES/BOAT PEOPLE Crunch is on. S-908 was passed in Dec., and would have paved the way for thorough re-screening, but may already have been vetoed, as is expected, by Clinton. Worse, HR 1564, which also was favorable to the Boat People, must go through the House again, and its opponents are planning to win this time. All the while, 20,000 refugees languish in Hong Kong, 5,100 in Thailand, 4,800 in Indonesia, 4,500 in Malaysia, and 2,600 in the Philippines. 5,600 refugees accepted voluntary repatriation from Hong Kong in 1994; 1,600 did so in 1995. Violence broke out in Malaysia's Sungei Besi Camp when refugees resisted a police inspection perceived as prelude to forced repatriation. 17 refugees were injured, 6 were wounded by gunshots, and one died. Subsequent behavior of Malaysian Police involved beatings, sexual harassment of female refugees, and theft of refugee money and valuables. Nice guys.

DISPOSABLE ALLIES(Cont.--regretably)... UN officials state that the process is fair and valid, and that actual political refugees can be permitted to leave for other countries. They're entirely correct. For a mere \$2,000.00 US, or more, anyone can be a political refugee. Women can easily qualify as a refugee, following an 'interview' in the back room. UN screeners are not Ph. D.s in history, sociology, or any other subject, but are 'contract hires' off the street, who no doubt are paid a paltry sum, and who no doubt seek to augment their earnings. This is documented fact. So...we may be back to square one, and may face a reinforced wall of bureaucratic indifference when HR 1564 comes up again, and when S-908 is vetoed, if it hasn't been already. Member Nick Rock, working closely with Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang's Boat People Rescue Committee, has assembled a mailing package of 18 letters, with address labels, that members can send out. All you provide is a signature, stamps, and envelopes. Write Nick for the package(Nick Rock; 1916 Pike Place, Suite 12616; Seattle, Washington; 98101-1056(206 489-8200; FAX & Message: 206 489-8316). If able, send along \$10.00 for his postage and printing expenses, along with gratitude for the job he and Dr. Thang are doing. Also, wish Nick's wife a speedy recovery from her knee surgery, necessitated by long term effects of VC mine which blew up a civilian bus. US doctors saved her leg then(You DID see this on TV didn't you?), but tissue damage, and a fall, took its toll last year. Our thanks and appreciation to Nick for the job he is doing.

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Phong cảnh Sóc Trăng/Sóc Trăng countryside

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Sự Nhớ Lại/Recollection...From Member Rod Hinsch...'It was 1967, and I was stationed at Mộc Hóa's SF advisory team, not far from the 'Elephant Foot' area in the Plain of Reeds/Đồng Tháp Mười. Our remote location and periodic VC/NVA atks ruled out frequent USO shows, or visits by big name entertainers, yet to our surprise we were informed Martha Raye and her troupe would be paying us a visit. I was assigned to be her bodyguard. When she arrived, and after greeting our officers, I introduced myself and informed her of my job. Col. Maggie replied 'Well, Sergeant, why don't we go have a drink and talk more about protecting my body?'. This was the kind of humor we all loved. She was a very sharp lady with great wit and humor.

Later that evening the show began in our palatial team house. Col. Maggie introduced her troupe members, and the fun began....until a rude interruption commenced in the form of a VC mortar atk. We quickly escorted Maggie and her people to bunkers, waiting out the brief

inconvenience which only produced a few light casualties. True to form, Col. Maggie jumped in, cleaning and bandaging wounds, including mine, a slash on the leg from collision with barb wire. I was both embarrassed and thrilled.

Maggie left the next day, giving me a photo which I have to this day. I saw her once again in VN, and then many years later at 'Col. Maggie's All Services Airborne Drop In', held in 1991 in Marina, California. I still remember walking through the door of the Marina Legion Post, seeing Maggie, and wondering if she would remember me after all these years. As I waited my turn in line, I noticed how frail she seemed in her wheel chair, and felt a wave of sadness. Then it was my turn to greet her. I showed her the photo she had given so long before, told her my name, and asked if she remembered Mộc Hóa. She took the photo, looked at it, then cocked her head up and asked 'Still in the bodyguard business Sergeant?'. I couldn't believe she remembered me, after all those years, amidst all the people she met. That was Maggie- her body was failing but her mind and wit were as sharp as ever. We had our photo taken together, and it now hangs next to the one she gave me almost three decades ago.

This is just one of the many, many Col. Maggie stories. She is remembered by many VN Vets as 'Col. Maggie, the Angel of the Boondocks'. Given her service in VN, her being wounded, and for every soldier who 'caught her act', coming away knowing yes, someone does really care, I would like to recommend her name be listed with our other Members in Memoriam.'

-Rod Hinsch

-No disagreement to that Rod. Consider it done, and thanks for taking the time to share your story.

Question: Did any others on Adv Tms receive visits from USO shows or the like? In outlying areas such as Mộc Hóa? Let us know.

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Milestones in ~~markin~~ personkind's rendezvous with his/her/its/their destiny:

At Stanford University, there is no graduation requirement in US History but Feminist Study courses are mandatory. In another course, the 'Psychology of Gender' students visited a pizza joint to monitor 'gender discrepancies in pizza consumption.' And.... in a course 'The History of Rights in the US', students examined the 1960s, to the exclusion of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

And... 'Turning 50 was the end of an era, an era in which a woman is still a sexual, a reproductive commodity. Turning 60 is more like a beginning. It used to take two years of wild passion before I became friends with a lover. Now, it's immediate. A part of my brain is free.

-Gloria Steinem

(?...her brain?...?)

And... Time-Warner is distributing a video game called Primal Rage, in which prehistoric creatures battle to the death by vomiting and urinating on each other. Instruction book: '...humiliates his opponent by producing a stream of acid urine that melts the flesh from his enemy's bones in thick, gray clouds.'

Sometimes the Bronze Age doesn't seem to have been all that bad.

VIETNAMESE RANGER MEMORIAL DEDICATION



Summary of
HBDQ/VNCH/ VN Rgr
Association Memorial
Dedication this past
November, in D.C.

Members Nguyễn Văn
Chinh, Harry Stewart,
Roy Lombardo, and
Bobby Jackson were
in attendance, and
by all reports a
memorable time was
had by each and every
one.

Also present were
surviving family
members of several of
our Members in Memoriam.

On the subject of
BDQ/Rgrs, special
thanks to Nguyễn
Hung and the VN
Rgr Society of So.
California for their
welcome Christmas and
invitation to Tết
festivities. We hope
to see you all at the
Santa Ana reunion.

See photo next page.

In 1960, to counter the threat presented by the Viet Cong, the Republic of Vietnam organized Ranger (*Biet Dong Quan*) units along the lines of the American Rangers of World War II fame. From that moment until the fall of Saigon in 1975, Vietnamese Rangers repeatedly demonstrated their valor and discipline. Operating independently, and often without air or artillery support, Ranger exploits became legendary. Some of their better known victories included the defense of Saigon during the 1968 Tet Offensive, the siege of Khe Sanh, fighting alongside the U.S. Marines, and the 1973 Easter Offense. Immediately following unit organization, and throughout the period of US involvement, more than one thousand American advisors provided tactical expertise and combat support. Called *Cố Vấn Mỹ*, these advisors fought and died alongside their Vietnamese Ranger counterparts in the swamps and jungles of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. As a result of their struggles in the defense of freedom, a firm bond of friendship and mutual respect developed.

This friendship was re-established as more than 125 Rangers and Advisors gathered in Washington, DC, for a three-day reunion, 10-12 November 1995. At the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, a color guard, made up of Vietnamese Ranger veterans from California and Texas presented both national and unit colors. A memorial wreath was laid in honor of the Ranger Advisors whose names are enshrined on "the wall." That evening, the Rangers gathered for a traditional Vietnamese dinner and an evening of fellowship and reminiscences with old friends.

The high point of the weekend took place on a cold and windy Sunday morning at Arlington National Cemetery, Rangers, family, and friends gathered to dedicate a living monument, consisting of an American magnolia tree and a polished bronze plate mounted in a granite base, in memory of their fallen comrades. The plaque reads: "In memory of all Vietnamese Rangers and their American Ranger Advisors 1960-1975. Their patriotism, valor, and fidelity in the defense of freedom must never be forgotten. *Biet Dong Quan Sat! (Rangers lead the way!)*"

The dedication ceremony included keynote presentations by General Robert Kingston, Former Senior Advisor to Ranger forces; Colonel Lewis L. Millett, Medal of Honor recipient and a member of the initial Ranger advisory team; and General Do Ke Giai, the last commander of Ranger Forces. General Giai, who spent more than 17 years in "Re-education" Camps following the fall of Saigon, was greeted with a standing ovation. He spoke emotionally of the stoic bravery of the Vietnamese Rangers. Prayers for the fallen were led by Father Rochus Vu Dinh Hoat, of Assumption Parish, Baltimore, MD, former Chief Chaplain of Ranger Forces.

Following the memorial dedication, participants attended brunch at the Fort Myer Noncommissioned Officers Club. The Club is located in Spates Hall, named in memory of Staff Sergeant William L. Spates who was killed 25 October 1965 while serving as advisor to the 23d Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.

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'The problem is more urgent than ever, for all of us--broadcasters, parents, public officials and teachers. We have abandoned our children to a wasteland of vacuous, often violent and openly consumerist TV programming that represents none of the values we claim to cherish, and that threatens our future.'

-Newton N. Minow and Craig L. Lamay in their book CHILDREN
TELEVISION, AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT(Hill & Wang, 1995).

At right: Gen. Đỗ Kế Giai, former Commander of Ranger Forces, delivers dedication speech for the Việt Nameese Ranger Advisor Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. Seated to his rear are (L-R) Rangers Roy Lombardo, Lewis L. Millett, and Father Rochus Vu Đình Hoat. A color guard of Việt Nameese Ranger veterans stand to their rear.



Note: Color guard members endured frigid temps during entire ceremony. Also, failed to mention Lew Millett's

attendance, as a member of both VN Rgr Assn., and COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA. Congratulations to VN Rgr Assn. and US Counterparts for putting together a worthwhile gathering to dedicate a worthy Memorial. Thx to Jim Waters of Rgr Assn. for press release and photo.

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POW/MIA Little new to report. No new discoveries, allegations, etc. Excavation teams still at work in VN, Laos, and work at Koh Tang Island continues. During McAmara's recent visit to VN, he was to have met w/Vo Van Kiet, Hanoi's Prime Minister, to discuss whatever people like that discuss. Kiet is reportedly to have been present when Capt. Rocky Versace, SF, and Member in Memoriam, was executed in his U-Minh Forest VC prison. Versace, captured with the late Col. Nick Rowe and other SF advisory team members from An Xuyên (Cà Mau) was not

a cooperative prisoner. Rowe (later executed in the Philippines by terrorists) described their capture and imprisonment in his book FIVE YEARS TO FREEDOM, indicating Versace told his VC captors to 'Go to Hell' in Việt Nameese, French and English. The Heat of Illinois POW/MIA Assn. publishes a newsletter carrying an abundance of POW/MIA info, reprinting articles from a multitude of sources. They try to send out 5-6 issues a year, for the modest fee of \$6.00/year: P.O. Box 1193; Pekin, Illinois; 61555 (Landline/FAX: 309 353-5564. Recent issue had 104 pp.

Anyone have current news on US POW/MIA museum? Construction should be near completion. Address: Andersonville Museum; Andersonville National Historic Site; Andersonville, Georgia; 31711. Museum is to commemorate all US POW/MIAs from all wars, and is located at site of infamous Confederate POW camp during the Civil War.

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DEGA/HIGHLANDS Negative Sitrep from Highland Assistance Project. HAP Liaison Officer Mike Little should have interesting update upon return from his planned Highlands trip in April. A while back, Member Max Lund, trying to visit old friends in Pleiku, was tailed by Công An/Security Police, and upon entering a village was immediately 'invited' to leave by snooping Công An. Not just the village, but the Highlands altogether. A driver took them back down QL 19 to Qui Nhơn. As is often the case, Hanoi cadre are extremely skittish about US types

who seek out old Dega friends, and apparently have nightmares about FULRO, CIA, etc. In any event, let's hope Mike's trip goes well.

In a related matter, we received information from Bob Donoghue, former SF, who worked with the Bru tribe and now runs an assistance project for these people. The Bru are among the Mon-Khmer language group, as distinct from the Malayo-Polynesian groups which include the Jarai, Rhade(Ede), Raglai, and others of the Central Highlands. The Bru, along with other Northern Highlanders, Katu, Pacoh, Jeh, Cua, Hre, etc., have smaller populations, and did not live near key, and well-publicized, terrain of Pleiku and Kontum, hence they are less well known. Nonetheless, as testified by Bob's dedication, they served with courage and are now subjected to the very same 'mission civilatrice' policies of Hanoi's unenlightened leaders. Bob's info sheet speaks for itself:

HISTORY

From 1962-1973 hundreds of Bru tribesmen worked for Special Forces along the Laotian border. Many of these men died or were wounded right alongside their American friends.

In 1975, many people fled their country of South Vietnam. For the most part, it was the high-ranking, well-educated, and the sophisticated who fled. Most of them and their families now enjoy a comfortable American life style, and did not have to pay the price of living under the central government.

The Bru tribe, our "little people", the guys who worked and risked death with us, are the "stay behinds". They did suffer and still do.

For 20 years we wondered "where were the Bru?". Our first excursion in 1992 was fraught with travel restrictions, restricted areas, and deplorable lines of communications. In 1994 and '95 we returned three more times. The stupendous journeys and jubilant reunions were mired with malnutrition, disease, and a continuous struggle to live.

This material sent to Mike Little and Kok Ksor as well as Assn. officers to see what can be done. Strength in numbers and all that. It is also important to let Hanoi's people know that someone is watching. Member Mike Peterson recently attended an Oregon conference at which Hanoi functionaries attempted to discuss conditions in VN. Mike asked direct questions about the Dega, political prisoners/Human rights violations, Hmong, etc. As Mike says 'I was given some nice little fluff for an answer, but at least the guy knew there was someone in America aware of what was going on.'. Rest assured these Hanoi spokesmen will report this to their superiors, who are always eager to gauge US opinion.

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MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

We typically begin this section by listing those who were KIA, but will alter format in honor of Stu Beckley, who passed away last November. Stu served multiple tours as an advisor, in VN, Laos and Thailand. He did this by choice, and to the detriment of his career trajectory.

Stu was among the founding core of COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU ĐÔNG NAM Á, and, as a testimonial to host-country Counterparts began writing a book to commemorate their media-ignored valor and service. Though not yet finished, Stu's wife, Pannee, and family are working to complete this effort. We at COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU ĐÔNG NAM Á express our most sincere condolences, along with the promise to help in any way we can.

These brave fighters, and their families, are now trying to survive under the central government which does little to support them. The Bru are engaged in a battle of fighting off malnutrition, disease, and trying to cope with the ever encroaching Vietnamese population.

Friends of the Bru tribesmen, with their generous donations are able to supply vitamins, clothing, water wells, medical, and educational support to several of their villages. **YOU CAN HELP!**

TRIP #5 Leaves on 10 April '96

100% OF ALL DONATIONS GO TO THE BRU

send your donation to:

**BOB DONOGHUE
100 WESTBANKS COURT
SPRINGFIELD, MA
01118-1867**

SOA 680-G, SFAD-4343

SAVE THE "BRU" MONTAGNARD TRIBE



Those who had the great fortune to meet or talk with Stu remember him as a man of great intellect, character, and wry wit, with the latter quality enabling him to sardonically expound upon the options available to one receiving incoming mortar rounds in the midst of a rice paddy.

Stu succumbed to the ravages of prostrate cancer, six months after his doctors said the end would come. He was driven to complete his book and, though in debilitating pain, would not give in. Note to the rest of us: in the words of Norman Schwarzkopf: get down, once a year, to your proctologist. We needed Stu. We need you. Do not ETS prematurely.

This being said, we are saddened to add another name to our roster of non-combat Members in Memoriam, and a founding member of our assn.

STUART A. BECKLEY

Members KIA :

MACV Advisory Team 98, with thanks to Warren Barshes for sending in list:

Capt. Frank Wallenbeck	SP4 James Rogers
1Lt Leonard O. Caamano	SFC Solomon H. Bryant
SP5 William F. Larson	SGT Gary M. Smith
SSGT James Cooney	

From Det. 303, Mobile Guerrilla Force:

Sgt. Sanh	Medic Luc
RTO Ly	Medic Kim
SFC Lowell T. Glossup	

(All cited in Jim Donohue's MOBILE GUERRILLA FORCE)

USA SF

SSGT Melvin G. Dye	SSGT Robert S. Griffith
SFC Douglas J. Glover	Nung Vo Danh (Name not known)
Nung Vo Danh	Nung Vo Danh

All above on Spike Team with Fred Zabitosky, cited on previous pages.

USA SF

SFC Dallas R. Pridemore	SSGT Stephen J. Geist
SFC Charles F. Bookout	

Post-Combat

Đại tá/Col. Nguyen Be	LTC Warren Parker
SGTMAJ Fred E. Davis Sr.	SGTMAJ Gerald 'Moose' Brannon
LTC William J. Sweet	Beryl M. Whitehead
Billy M. Smith	James M. Murphy
MSGT Roderick G. Patterson	LTC Francis L. Mahan
John D. Sanborn	MSGT Stephen C. Davidson
MSGT Carl A. Cuta	SGTMAJ Robert A. Garcia
SGTMAJ James P. Powers	MSGT Fred R. Williamson
SFC Walter F. Ruebel	LTC Hubert E. Morlang
SFC Philip J. McIntyre	LTC Gerald Kilburn
SGTMAJ William H. Nolte	Col. John T. Little
Kevin E. McGonigle	Michael E. Purcell
CSGTMAJ Robert G. Grisham	MSGT William B. Griffin
Chesley D. Osgood	SFC Fred W. Zabitosky

Thanks to member Tom Pentecost for sending information on LTC Warren Parker, former PSA in Quảng Nam, Bạc Liêu, and believed to be the same Warren Parker who served as USAID Prov Rep in Kiên Hòa, 1973-1975.

Members are asked and encouraged to send any and all material on Member in Memoriam to our Archivist, Mike McMunn, who compiles this info so as to provide an idea of who these individuals were, and go beyond a mere list of names. Book citations, photos, personal recollections are all assembled. Mike is continually adding to the archives, preparing both a list, and a volume on Members for whom more detailed info has become available. POC: Mike McMunn; 2310 Newberry St.; Williamsport, Pennsylvania; 17701. CORRECTION on Mike's e-mail address:

mike@pennet.net.

Do what you can. This CMH Citation, describing the actions of one of our Members in Memoriam, is representative of material in Mike's files:

***WILBANKS, HILLIARD A.**

Rank and organization: Captain, United States Air Force, 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron, Nha Trang AFB, RVN, *Place and date:* near Dalat, Republic of Vietnam, 24 February 1967. *Entered service at:* Atlanta, Ga. *Date and place of birth:* July 26, 1933, Cornelia, Ga. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. As a forward air controller near Dalat, Republic of Vietnam, on 24 February 1967, Captain Wilbanks was pilot of an unarmed, light aircraft flying visual reconnaissance ahead of a South Vietnam Army Ranger Battalion. His intensive search revealed a well-concealed and numerically superior hostile force poised to ambush the advancing Rangers. The Viet Cong, realizing that Captain Wilbank's discovery had compromised their position and ability to launch a surprise attack, immediately fired on the small aircraft with all available fire power. The enemy then began advancing against the exposed forward elements of the Ranger force which were pinned down by devastating fire. Captain Wilbanks recognized that close support aircraft could not arrive in time to enable the Rangers to withstand the advancing enemy, onslaught. With full knowledge of the limitations of his unarmed, unarmored, light reconnaissance aircraft, and the great danger imposed by the enemy's vast fire power, he unhesitatingly assumed a covering, close support role. Flying through a hail of withering fire at treetop level, Captain Wilbanks passed directly over the advancing enemy and inflicted many casualties by firing his rifle out of the side window of his aircraft. Despite increasingly intense antiaircraft fire, Captain Wilbanks continued to completely disregard his own safety and made repeated low passes over the enemy to divert their fire away from the Rangers. His daring tactics successfully interrupted the enemy advance, allowing the Rangers to withdraw to safety from their perilous position. During his final courageous attack to protect the withdrawing forces, Captain Wilbanks was mortally wounded and his bullet-riddled aircraft crashed between the opposing forces. Captain Wilbanks' magnificent action saved numerous friendly personnel from certain injury or death. His unparalleled concern for his fellowman and his extraordinary heroism were in the highest traditions of the military service, and have reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Eighteen US serving in an advisory capacity were awarded the CMH in VN; eleven were posthumous. Total CMH awards in VN: 239.

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'Here dead we lie, nor would we wish to live and shame the land from which we sprung.'

-Battlefield cemetery sign viewed by Gen. Lewis Walt in the South Pacific, and cited in STRANGE WAR, STRANGE STRATEGIES (p. 212.)



HMONG No change is less-than-admirable situation, as US US govt., along with UN bureaucrats, pushes for forced repatriation of Hmong refugees back to Laos. Current situation outlined in Feb 96 article in 'American Spectator' by Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt, including description of **Nhia Lee's** journey from US to Thailand to see his Father, whom he'd not seen in two decades. No problem. Just bribe a camp guard after permission initially refused, then have all of one hour to speak. Swell. His father, **Yee Lee**, was subsequently jailed, and then shipped back to Laos, in apparent abrogation of agreement by which Hmong are permitted to emigrate to reunite with family members. Article also cites little-known fact that Laos lost 20%(two-zero) of its population after 'the war ended' in 1975; 10% fled Pathet Lao retribution, while 10% were KIA in campaigns to wipe out 'reactionaries'. UN High Commissioner for refugees has insisted that the screening process is fair and above-board, never explaining how its two monitors in Thailand are able to prop-

erly review reported instances of bribery, maltreatment, etc. A number of US Representatives (Bill McCollum, R-Fla; Lee Hamilton, D-Ind; Ben Gilman, R-NY; Jim Leach, R-Iowa; Steve Gunderson, R-Wisc) have filed vociferous response to US State Dept. statements that all is well. Legislation to defund US contributions to the UNHCR (already totaling \$150.0 million) passed in the House, but Clinton has vowed to veto it.

Some background info....due to the efforts of Hmong and Royal Lao govt. troops, about 70,000 NVA troops were tied down in Laos, when they would otherwise have been committed to battlefields in the RVN. While the Hmong lost 10% of their population before 1975, they conducted daring rescues of US pilots shot down in Laos, taking heavy casualties in the process, as testified by Vang Kai in describing rescue of two US airmen in 1968: 'When the Americans were in trouble, we Hmong made a path in our blood to save them.'

There are 150,000 Hmong in the US now. 30,000 remain in Thailand. What's the problem? Again, write elected officials on this loathsome sell-out of worthy allies.

DR. **JANE** Hamilton-Merritt's TRAGIC MOUNTAINS is being reprinted. This is a thorough and monumental research effort, documenting Pathet Lao war of extermination of Hmong after 1975, and Hmong history of opposition to communism throughout the war. Well researched, well written, and w/numerous b/w photos. Copies can be obtained from Grant McClure; 2961 Jones Ct.; Waldorf, Maryland; 20602. \$29.95 plus \$3.00 p/h. Get one for yourself. Get one for a local library if they don't have it. Copy of above article available from editor (Bill Laurie; 1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201). Please send self-addressed stamped envelop (SASE).

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'If the road of life were entirely flat,
How could we distinguish heroic and talented men from
anyone else.'

-Phan Bội Châu



Caption: Sharing matters of life and death, Stafford and I on a troop landing craft.

From Lý Tông Bá's 25 NĂM KHÓI LỬA (25 Years of Warfare).

Then Maj. Stafford was Bá's close friend and advisor. Gen. Bá has located Stafford's surviving family, with son Bill providing materials for Bá's book.

Those able to read VN can order from Gen. Ba (\$15.00) Lý Tông Bá, P.O. Box 28968; Las Vegas; Nevada; 89126.

Đã từng sống chết bên nhau, Stafford và tôi trên chuyến tàu đổ bộ.

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LOCATOR Last issue had Ed Thompson's request for anyone who knew him from 2nd Civil Affairs Co. Tah-dah! Member Frank 'Doc' Turnbull did, and gave Ed a call, signing him up as a new member. They're both trying to track down others.

SITREP #23 ran notice looking for anyone who could vouch for the service of Trần Ngọc Khoe, thereby permitting him to come to US. Dale Libby, SF Assn. of New Mexico, received word from enough people, and Trần Ngọc 'Jimmy' Khoe is US-bound.

And...in letter to Ben Myers... 'I'm Bob Sterling, a recently signed up Lifetime member. Yes, I was at the junk base at the Mouth of the Quảng Ngãi River when it was overrun in '66. We di-di'd thru the concertina and into the river, then into the junks. I transferred to a PCF (Swift boat) that night and rode it back to Đà Nẵng. I never did meet the unit that relieved the base, and now find out it was your ARVN Cav Troop. Damn, isn't it strange how paths can cross after all these years. Looking forward to seeing you at the reunion.'

New requests:

James W.R. Adams	looking for	Đại úy/Capt. Cam Lu Tan, 18th Engr. Bn, SD 18(18th Div.), Xuân Lộc, Long Khánh Prov., 11-65-11-66
Lt. Robert G. Kay	" "	Navy Capt. Huynh Kim Gia 3rd Riverine zone, '68-'
Maj/Thiếu Tá Chao Khuc	" "	Maj. Blenda, Lt. McVogle. (as spelled)
Nguyễn Mây	" "	Capt. Frank Barnard, Cố Vấn, SD 5/5th Div, at Lai Khê, 1970.
Bob Hanafin	" "	'Pilots of medivac flight from no-name field in Central Highlands, haul

wounded/burned mixed group of ARVN/Montagnard and one US SF or speak advisor. Also seeking other personnel who would have knowledge of this flight or condition of the cargo space after a flight of this type. Bob is at 860 Merriam Ave., #266; Asheville, North Carolina: 28804.

Member Mike Martin sent in names of three US personnel who may be the 'Capt. Bill' sought by Lê Công Thành (cited in last SITREP). Follow up underway.

Juan L. Brito/Adv Tm 98 (Nhơn Trạch Dist., Biên Hòa) located CSM Howard V. Willis, and MSGT Lewis M. Mimms. Still searching for Maj. Paul Myers, arty Cõ Văn.

Anthony V. Orlando/Adv Tm 93 (Binh Dai Dist., Kien Hoa) found Col. Walter B. Todd. Still looking for Maj. McNamara.

We screwed up here: Andy Dinh had been looking for Marc Cisneros. We've found Cisneros (Tm 100, '67-'68), but have misplaced Andy Dinh's address. Both served in Capital Military District, with Tm and dates cited. We are now looking for Andy Dinh.

Other Locator info: Ben Myers will have his nation-wide computer phone book list at the reunion, and locator searches will be conducted there.

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William Shawcross in London Times:

'Those of us who opposed the American War (sic) in Indochina should be extremely humble in the face of the appalling aftermath: a form of genocide in Cambodia... Looking back on my own coverage, I think I concentrated too easily on the corruption and incompetence of the South Việt Nameese and their American allies, and was too ignorant of the inhuman Hânội regime....'

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Hânội's official estimate of VC/NVA casualties from 1954-1975: 1.1 million KIA, 600,000 MIA, 300,000 MIA. Numbers are somewhat higher than estimates of western historians.

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CAMBODIA At left, insignia of 1st Para Bde, former Forces Armées Nationales Khmère (FANK), courtesy of Clem Kelly. ...Cambodia has yet to calm down, despite \$2.6 billion spent by UN to establish peace. Govt. forces, w/air and armor support, attacked a Khmer Rouge stronghold near Pailin in Western Cambodia, and plan to next recapture Pailin, which the KR lost, and then recaptured, in 1994. Meanwhile, anti-Hânội VN, in and around Phnom Penh, are rumored to assembling armed groups to oust Hânội. Hânội raised issue w/US authorities, and were told that '(US) has good relations w/Cambodia and Việt Nam, and doesn't want to do anything to harm those relations.'. And..King Sihanouk's

brother has been placed under house arrest for an plot to kill Premier (ex-Eastern Zone Khmer Rouge) Hun Sen. In the meantime, Australian and French advisors are working with fledgling Khmer airborne troops, with Phnom Penh seeking to establish 5 234-man commando battalions. And...in what must rank as 'Great Moments in Diplomacy #72', Khmer Rouge radio vilified US SecState Warren Christopher during his recent visit, saying '....the vulture Christopher, chieftain of the villainous Western alliance, is making a swooping visit to Phnom Penh so as to lick the skin excretions of the communist Việt Nameese aggressors and race exterminators.'. Wow! Lick the skin excretions!!

Now that's diplomacy, the likes of which we haven't heard since the late Chen Peng, of the PRC, called the Soviets 'renegades and informers' and-better yet- 'freaks and monsters' back in 1966. No word as to Christopher's response, whether he said anything about their mothers, et. Meanwhile, the US State Dept. has provided a \$500,000.00 grant to Yale University to research the Khmer Rouge Holocaust. Director is Ben Kiern an Australian scholar who supported the Khmer Rouge until he found out, in 1979, that they were bad guys. The Cambodian Documentation Center Internet call sign: <http://www.pactok.net.au>. E-Mail: dccam@pactok.pcg.apc.org. While all this is going on, Malaysia's YTL Corp. is building two tourist hotels near Angkor Wat.

Finally, Hun Manet, son of Cambodia's Hun Sen, former Eastern Region/Han faction of Khmer Rouge, has been accepted to US Military Academy at West Point, under a foreign ambassador's nomination category. No word if any Hmong refugees or Boat People have been similarly honored.

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'Anyone can become angry...that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree and at the right time, and for the right reason and in the right way-that is not within everybody's power, and is not easy.'

-Aristotle, in NICOMACHEAN ETHICS, Bk 11, ch. 9

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Left: LTC Tôan, CO 4th Cav; Capt. Chuc, CO 1/4 Trp(M41 Tanks); 1Lt Ky, Sgdn S3; and Capt. Cua, CO 5/4 Trp. at lunch break south of Đa Năng, a short time before Capt. Cua led bold amphibious counter atk/assault on entrenched VC. Oct '65. Right: Maj. Seth Ward, SA 5th Cav; Maj. Trần Quang Khoi, CO 5th Cav; Capt. Steve Gaw, Cõ Văn, Armor School, Dec '65. Khoi became CO, Armor Bde, from 1970 Cambodian incursion until the end, and was seriously WIA at last stand in Xuân Lộc. Courtesy Ray Battreall

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REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

Place: Santa Ana California Dates: 3-5 July

Reunion planning underway. Our reunion will precede and adjoin ARVN Armor Assn. reunion at same facilities. Members encouraged to take advantage of both. Speakers, presentations, etc. planned. Hotel facilities to be determined shortly. Tentative schedule:

Wed 3 Jul 0930-on Arrive, open all day, meet other members, hospita room, ~~tell-lies-and-bullshi~~ exchange stories, etc

REUNIONS (cont.)

- Thur 4 Jul 0930-1100, Guest Speakers; 1130-1300 lunch; 1330-1700 Guest Speakers (Speakers sought: 'Lost Commandos', Highland Assistance Proj., Boat People Rescue Committee, trip reports from recent VN/Laos/Cambodia/Refugee Camp visits, etc.)
- Fri 5 Jul 0930-1100, business; 1130-1300 lunch; 1330-1700, business; 1830-1930, cocktails (cash bar); 1930-2130, banquet, w/guest speaker (to be selected)
- Sat 6 Jul DEROS breakfast, 0930-on (optional) remain on board at invite of ARVN Armor Assn./Hội Thiết Giáp QLVNCH.

Reunion ramrods Joe West and Hugh Mulvaney both hard at work on this, which should be our best ever. We'll need a volunteer to operate a telephone bulletin board for room and ride sharing for those who are driving and/or want to save piastres by bunking up. Easy to do: Just keep a list of who calls in (their nickel) and relay info. As it stands now, we have enough time to mail in room and/or ride sharing requests. Anyone wishing to volunteer: Joe West; 637 Grambling Ct.; Merced, California; 95348; and Hugh Mulvaney; 1419 Evergreen Ave.; Plainfield, New Jersey; 07060. Thx to Hugh for getting publicity notice in Retired Officer Assn. magazine. Do your best to make it; it'll be an event to remember.

Other reunions... SAIGON MISSION ASSN. (Last Joint agency to serve in VN, 1973-1975), 27-27 April, Orlando, Florida. \$23.00 to Stan Patrovsky NLT than 15 March (for dinner, tip, etc.). Hotel: 1-800-634-4774. Mention attendance at SMA reunion. SOCIETY OF VIET NAMESE AIRBORNE/RED HATS: 18-20 July, Fort Bragg. POCs: Fred Brander (615 645-3082), and Joel Anthony (910 425-7089). U.S.S. Belle Grove LSD-2 ASSN: July 96, in Springfield-Branson, Missouri. POC: Del Catron; 14732 Van Buren St.; Midway City, California; 92655. 173rd AIRBORNE BDE, 10-14 July; Anaheim, California. POC: Ramiro Lopez @ 818 969-4320 or write: REUNION HQ/173rd; P.O. Box 5482; El Monte, California; 91784. And.. USN HAL-3 SEAWOLVES, 3-6 July, '96, Washington, D.C. POC: Dan Calvert, P.O. Box 1145; Rancho Cordova, California; 95741 (916 635-8278). MOBILE RIVERINE ASSN.: 11-14 Jul; Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. Hotel reservations: 1-800-352-9866. Possible West Coast MOBILE RIVERINE ASSN. reunion/info: Ted Condriff @ 619 698-8241. 2nd SQUADRON/1st ARMORED CAV/BLACKHAWKS (attached to 4th Div, later 1st FF. Reunion and member search: Robert C. Sparks; 3221 W. Big Beaver Road, Ste 200; Troy, Michigan; 48084 (or call 810 643-7222).

HISTORICAL INTEGRITY DEPT. While media followed McNamara to Hanoi, they consequently and concurrently ignored an interview with former NVA biggie Bui Tin, reprinted in 3 Aug 95 Wall St. Journal. Mr. Tin had this to say: The US 'anti-war' movement was vital to Hanoi's victory...and..the war would have been lost if the HO Chi Minh Trail had been cut... and... RVN junior officers were good, competent, and courageous...and...the NLF/VC were not independent political movements.. and...Tet '68 losses were staggering, wiped ^{out} local guerrillas, and VC/NVA suffered badly in '69, '70..and..American commanders had their hands tied by political factors. Want a copy to send to Walter Cronkite? Send SASE (self-addressed stamped envelop) to SITREP Editor; 1462 W. University; Mesa, Az; 85201. VN SYMPOSIUM 18-20 April, Center for the Study of the Viet Nam Conflict, Lubbock, Texas, 79409-1013. This is NOT the typical rehash of conventional wisdom, attended by naive academics. Some good speakers on some good topics, including member John Del Vecchio, Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Stephen Young, Garnett 'Bill' Bell, Phoebe Spinrad, Elmo Zumwalt, etc.

29 panel discussions on such diverse topics as PTSD, POW/MIAs, VN War literature, Navy in VN, Teaching VN War, VN Film/Fiction, The War in the Villages, Media and VN Experience, Antiwar Movement, etc. This, in addition to luncheon and special speakers: Vang Pao, Douglas Pike, and so on. Info: Division of Continuing Education; Texas Tech University; Box 42191; Lubbock, Texas; 79409-2191. Symposium registration: \$60.00. Held at Holiday Inn Lubbock(806 797-3241). Special rate @ \$63.00/night, up to four per room. 18 April banquet: \$30.00; 20 April BBQ: \$15.00. Looks to be an interesting gathering. The Texas Tech Center for Study of Việt Nam Conflict receives our SITREP for archival material, and should produce more valid history than that hallucinated by the media. Speaking of which....Turner TV, on the heels of Oliver Stone, broadcast a movie about Nixon and Kissinger, and the Paris Peace(sic) negotiations. Oddly enough, they got one part right in depicting the Nixon/Kissinger 'sign it or else' ultimatum to President Thiệu, yet fell on their face showing clips of US combat units battling in the 1972 Easter Offensive, a time when virtually none were present or engaged. Arts and Entertainment channel broadcast a '20th Century' program reflecting on VN. Host: Mike Wallace. Guests: Stanley Karnow, Neil Sheehan, McNamara. All four engaged in a contest to see who could be the most smug, arrogant..and ignorant.

Direct quote from THE AMERICANS, A HISTORY, a high school history text currently in use by many schools: 'Since it was difficult to distinguish between enemy fighters and civilians, Americans used a tactic called the search and destroy mission. Helicopters would land troops in a village suspected of either supporting or being controlled by the Vietcon. The soldiers would go to a village before dawn, rouse the people from their beds, and move them out, kill the poultry and livestock, and then burn the village. As an American major explained, 'It became necessary to destroy the town to save it.' Unfortunately, most of the casualties in this kind of fighting were old men, women, and children. The men of fighting age were usually snipers who shot from a position hidden in the jungle.'

So there, that's what you did in VN. Same book indicates Laos and Cambodia were 'neutral countries'. That's what our younguns are learning.

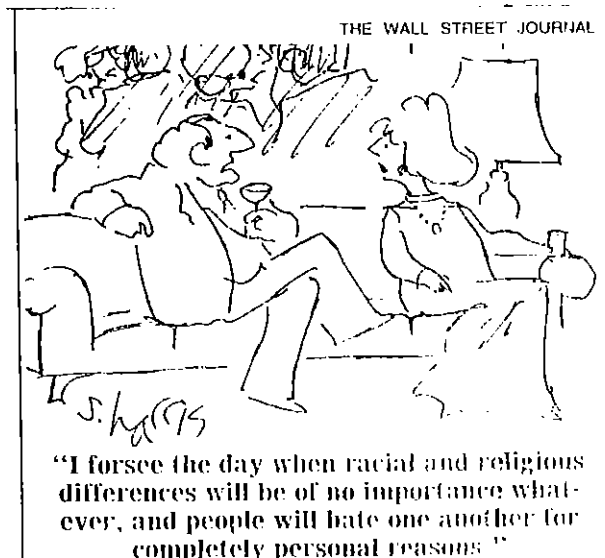
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Thx to indefatigable efforts of Ben Myers, we're now on Internet Homepage: <http://www.nieto.com/counterp/advisors.htm>. Our entry explains who we are and why. Thx Ben.

-0-

Hết rồi/all done. Please note Paul Brubaker's ad for replica patches on reverse of this page. Plan on being at reunion. Please remit dues, and keep Ben aware and up to date on any address and/or area code changes. Big help when you do. Write letters on behalf of our allies. When all that is done, enjoy the Spring, and CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI to all.

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