

3 U.S. Pilots Released by Hanoi



LT. (JG) DAVID MATHENY



CAPT. JOHN BLACK

VIENTIANE, Laos (UPI) — Three American pilots were released by North Vietnam Friday after about six months in captivity.

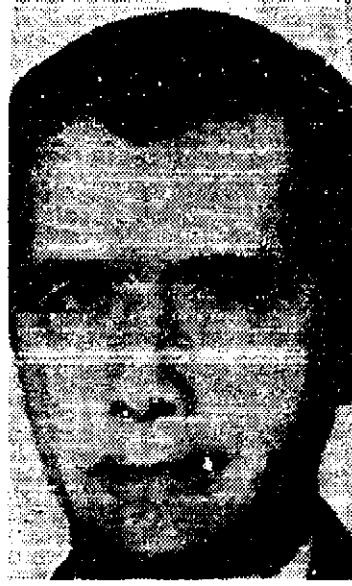
They arrived here Friday night aboard an International Control Commission aircraft and almost immediately boarded a U.S. military DC3 to fly to an airbase at Udorn, Thailand.

(In Washington the Pentagon said the men had arrived at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base and were undergoing physical examinations, AP reported.)

Maj. Norris M. Overly, senior among the three officers, speaking for the group, said, "Physically, after boarding a U.S. plane I am a little weary but mentally I feel totally unreal. I have the feeling I'm on the outside looking in at myself in a mirror."

Overly, 39 of Wheeling, W.Va., Capt. John David Black, 30, Johnson City, Tenn., and Lt. (jg) David T. Matheny, 24, of South Bend, Ind., touched down at 10:25

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MAJ. NORRIS OVERLY



AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

***** EDITION

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Trowbridge Quits

LBJ Raps Move To Oust Westy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Johnson announced Friday the resignation of Alexander B. Trowbridge as secretary of commerce and

named as his successor—C. R. Smith, chairman of the board of American Airlines.

This was the kick-off for a news conference ranging over major matters of the moment.

For one thing, Johnson said that General William C. Westmoreland has his complete con-

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fidence as commander in Vietnam and said there had been something of a conspiracy among other countries to undermine him.

"I do think it is in the nation's interest and your inter-

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

10 Killed In Taipei Jet Crash

TAIPEI (AP)—A Civil Air Transport jet from Hong Kong with 63 persons aboard crashed near Taipei Friday night, killing 10 as it tried to make an emergency landing in bad weather. CAT said 40 others were known to have survived.

The Boeing 727 with 52 passengers and a crew of 11 crashed, broke apart and burst into flames.

CAT said it was not known whether the fatalities included two reported killed on the ground. Police reported two Chinese were killed on the ground, one when the plane hit and leveled his home and the other was walking on a highway.

The plane crashed about 9 p.m. local time Friday.

A passenger manifest listed 39 Chinese, 13 aliens.

Muddying the Waters

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—Engineers preparing to build a flood control dam in the West Virginia hamlet of Pullman may have trouble finding the spot. The state contract describes the location this way: The north fork of the left fork of Slab Creek, which flows into the south fork of the Hughes River.



Soviet Bear Off Greenland

The Pentagon Friday identified this plane as a Soviet Bear long-range bomber and said it was the type spotted 70 miles off the North American

coastline last week. American jets intercepted two of the Russian planes. Story, page 24.

(AP Radiophoto)

TOKYO (S&S) — We're sorry, No Pacific Stars and Stripes was printed Friday because, for the first time in our 23-year history, we were snowed under and frozen out.

Happened this way: The worst snowfall to hit Tokyo in 17 years closed out incoming aircraft and heaped ice and snow on the runways at Tachikawa AB and Yokota AB where Stars and Stripes is flown out after being printed in Tokyo.

Nothing, including almost 15 tons of newspapers, got out Thursday night. And a plane that would have flown the papers from Tachikawa Friday was stuck in Taipei because the storm shut out flights to Tokyo.

We had to make a hard decision. No paper Friday.

We were back in business Saturday with all the news — including the news you, our readers and game subscribers, have missed.

AF, Navy Pitch Into Battle for Hue; 800th U.S. Plane Lost Over North

Casualties

WASHINGTON (S&S) — The Defense Department has announced the following casualties in connection with the conflict in Vietnam.

KILLED IN ACTION

Army
Sgt. Weden G. Humphrey, Camarillo, Calif.
Spec. 4 Gary J. Landon, Yreka, Calif.
Sfc. Gilbert L. Hamilton, Denver, Colo.
Pfc. Robert L. Dickson, Ridgway, Colo.
Spec. 4 William T. Jarvis, Savannah, Ga.
Pfc. James C. Curtin, Chicago, Ill.
Spec. 4 James P. Lanier, Indianapolis, Ind.
Spec. 5 Albert L. Betts, Baltimore, Md.
Cpl. Clifford D. Roy, Seabrook, Md.
Pfc. Alfred J. Lewis, Detroit, Mich.
Sgt. Clyde R. Menz, Akeley, Minn.
Pfc. M. L. Curry, Holly Springs, Miss.
Spec. 4 Steven L. Roney, Moberly, Mo.
Pfc. Richard E. Engle, Albion, N.Y.
Pfc. Wesley G. Thurston, Rochester, N.Y.
Pfc. Leroy Johnson, New York City.
1st. Dingus Banks Jr., Columbus, Ohio.
Spec. 4 Larry D. King, Tallahassee, Fla.
Spec. 4 Karl W. Post, Portland, Ore.
Sgt. Juan F. Vazquez, Round Bay, Pa.
Pfc. James C. Bodison, Round O, S. C.
Sgt. Hollis R. Hale, El Paso, Tex.
Cpl. Thomas W. Otte, Kankakee, Wis.

Navy

Lt. William R. Robson, Phoenix, Ariz.
SN Vernon P. Smith, Los Angeles, Calif.
HM Richard E. Stanton, Kansas City, Mo.
LTJG Robert W. Molinester, Lynbrook, N. Y.
HM3 Robert Komelmacher, New York City.

Marine Corps

Pfc. John H. Jones Jr., Phenix City, Ala.
LCpl. Hurley A. Smith, Dothan, Ala.
1Lt. Robert J. Moritz, Oceanside, Calif.
1Lt. William A. Thornton Jr., Santa Ana, Calif.
Pfc. Francis G. Henry, Rolling Hills, Calif.
Pfc. John W. Wyatt Jr., East Palo Alto, Calif.
Pfc. Anthony J. Spirito Jr., Farmington, Conn.
Pfc. Jackie L. Melton, Winter Haven, Fla.
Cpl. Edwin R. Wierzbak, Bridgeview, Ill.
LCpl. Willie J. Barnes, Chicago, Ill.
Pfc. William F. Witek, Chicago, Ill.
Pfc. Stanley Murdock, Chicago, Ill.
Pfc. Joseph C. Applegate, Monticello, Ind.
Pfc. William H. Leamon, Davenport, Iowa.
Capt. John J. Burke, Scituate, Mass.
Cpl. Langdon G. Burwell, Woods Hole, Mass.
Cpl. Norman O. Copeland, Hillsboro, Mo.
Pfc. Roy L. Jackson, Candor, N. C.
Pfc. Michael Y. Keeler, Gastonia, N. C.
Pfc. Clyde E. Carler Jr., Oklahoma City, Okla.
Maj. Leonard R. Demko, Pottsville, Pa.
Pfc. Robert G. Painter, Williamsport, Pa.
Pfc. Charles S. Jackson, Mason, Tenn.
2Lt. Jerry T. Bergen III, Austin, Tex.
Sgt. James D. Shelton, Wichita Falls, Tex.
Pfc. Charles R. Stevenson, Dallas, Tex.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Army
Cpl. John P. Esparza Jr., Inver Grove Heights, Minn.
Navy
GMG3 Thomas J. Craghead Jr., Covington, Va.
MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE
Army
Pfc. Ricky A. Myers, Napa, Calif.
Sp4 Anthony E. Elliott, Gainesville, Ga.
Spec. 4 James E. Wagner, Elgin, Minn.
Pfc. Kenneth H. Dressel, Watertown, Minn.
Spec. 4 Johnie R. Barber, Kansas City, Mo.
2Lt. Howard F. Coles Jr., Vestal, N.Y.
Cpl. Benjamin F. Pitts, Knoxville, Tenn.

MISSING IN ACTION

Army
Maj. James C. Payne.
Cpl. John P. Onderko.
Cpl. James M. Vrbk Jr.
1Lt. Kenneth H. Albritton.
1Lt. Richard W. Harper.
1Lt. Arthur R. Timboe.
1Lt. Timothy L. Worth.
2Lt. Ronald W. Wood.
WO William B. Duncan.
WO Horace G. Giddens Jr.
WO Gary W. Hanna.
WO William R. Lee.
Sfc. Howard E. Button.
Sfc. John E. Granon.
Sgt. Helmut G. Lakasus.
Sgt. Charles R. Mensch.
Sgt. Philip M. Germalin.
Sgt. Jehovah Graves.
Sgt. Michael L. Holaday.
Spec. 5 Kenneth J. Ainsworth.
Spec. 5 Allen C. Hardison.
Spec. 5 Henry W. Hartman.
Spec. 5 Kenneth J. Fallon.
Spec. 4 Harold E. Cushman Jr.
Spec. 4 Robert L. Conley.
Spec. 4 Charles L. Daniel.
Spec. 4 Richard F. Delgado.
Spec. 4 Frank Doezema Jr.
Spec. 4 George M. Hall.
Spec. 4 Marcello J. Lofaro.
Spec. 4 Dennis L. Magrie.
Spec. 4 Owen E. Mebus.
Spec. 4 Robert L. Piffman.
Spec. 4 Johnnie N. Sheares Jr.
Spec. 4 Walter J. Soular.
Spec. 4 Danny A. Weber.
Spec. 4 John A. Young.
Pfc. Gary A. Banglos.
Pfc. Roland M. Bowen.
Pfc. John T. Brown.
Pfc. Kenneth W. Coates.
Pfc. Ernest E. Freund Jr.
Pfc. Owen N. Garnet.
Pfc. Silas E. Gibson.
Pfc. James R. Holt.
Pfc. Marvin H. Jones Jr.
Pfc. Norton Z. King.
Pfc. Larry W. Norgaard.
Pfc. Damon L. Ritchie.
Pfc. Joseph G. Vogrinec.
Pfc. Billy L. Wright.
Pfc. Charles A. Yeomans.

Marine Corps

Cpl. Lawrence E. Heckman.
DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION
Marine Corps
Pfc. Thebert A. James, New Rochelle, N. Y.
MISSING NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION
Navy
LCdr. Robert F. Megillo.
LTJG Roy A. Huss.
LTJG Thomas P. Jones.
AMH2 Homer E. McKay.

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—The loss of a U.S. Air Force F-4 Phantom to communist gunners Thursday brought to 800 the number of American warplanes lost over North Vietnam during three years of air fighting.

The U.S. command said the jet was downed by communist ground fire in the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam. Its two-man crew is listed as missing.

Elsewhere, Navy A6 Intruders blasted the Kien An airfield six miles southwest of Haiphong. One pilot reported his bombs exploding across the southwest third of the runway.

Air Force pilots struck the Kep Mig field 38 miles north-east of Hanoi in poor weather.

Other Air Force pilots reported cutting roads in the Mu Gia pass area in 9 places.

Most of the day's targets were in the Panhandle area as the thick cloud cover that had parted over a large section of North Vietnam Wednesday rolled back in.

In the air war over the South, U.S. pilots flew 362 missions in support of Marines in the operation Scotland area around Khe Sanh in South Vietnam's embattled northwest corner.

Air Force B52's also flew 5 strikes in support of Operation Scotland Thursday afternoon and early Friday morning.



A Vietnamese boy winces while receiving an inoculation from a U.S. Marine in Hue. Marines gave shots to refugees after several cases of cholera were confirmed. (AP Radiophoto)

Compiled From AP and UPI

SAIGON—The battle for Hue's citadel raged through its 17th day Friday with heavy fighting and renewed air strikes and naval bombardment on the fortress' southern wall where communist troops are holding out in an apparent fight till death.

There were unverified reports from South Vietnamese officers that some communist troops were being chained to crew-served weapons such as heavy machine guns for fear they would run in the face of an allied assault.

A spokesman for the U.S. command in Saigon said U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese forces had killed 2,504 communist troops in the Hue area since Jan. 31 when the enemy seized virtually the entire city.

Associated Press Correspondent Lewis M. Simons reported from Hue that U.S. Marine bombers, Navy destroyers in the South China Sea and artillery again blasted the estimated 800 communist troops entrenched in the 15-foot high wall ringing the citadel.

Gunfire crackled between the enemy troops along the wall and U.S. and South Vietnamese troops on the southern bank of the Perfume River.

Other developments:

—A company of U.S. Marines patrolling south of the demilitarized zone base at Camp Carroll came under a withering barrage of communist mortar fire Thursday. A reaction force was sent to reinforce the Leathernecks. Casualties were listed at 12 killed and 107 wounded.

—Communist artillerymen unleashed barrages of rockets and mortars into U.S. airfields at Can Tho and Binh Thuy in the Mekong Delta and at Nha Trang on the central coast. Eleven U.S. troopers were wounded at Can Tho. Damage to all three was listed as light.

—Elements of the 25th Inf. Div. shielding northern Saigon reported killing 172 communists in scattered contacts in a 15-mile radius of the city. U.S. casualties were not reported.

—In delayed reports from Tuesday and Wednesday, the command said U.S. Army Cavalrymen and paratroopers had clashed three times with communist forces threatening the northernmost provincial capital at Quang Tri. A total of 17 communists were killed, with U.S. losses put at nine killed and 17 wounded.

Viet Civilian Toll

SAIGON (AP) — U.S. Officials said Friday 3,799 Vietnamese civilians were killed and 20,599 were wounded in the 16 days of fighting in the major cities and towns of South Vietnam since Jan. 31.

'Off Target' S. Viet Lawmaker B52 Raid Kills 42 Captured by Reds

SAIGON (UPI) — A 7th Air Force spokesman reported Thursday that 42 to 44 persons were killed and 57 wounded when bombs from a B52 Stratofortress raid near Saigon fell outside their target area.

He said it had not yet been established whether the victims were Viet Cong or friendly persons.

The raid was carried out Tuesday 10.5 miles from the heart of Saigon, closest so far to the capital. It was aimed at a Viet Cong staging area "adjacent to a rapid-access route to Tan Son Nhut and Saigon and one in which there had been heavy fighting the previous two days," the spokesman said.

"About 50 per cent of the bombs fell outside the designated target area but well within the one kilometer safety zone which surrounded the target area.

"The entire target area including the safety zone was declared free of friendly forces and civilians prior to the bombing", he said.

SAIGON (AP)—A member of the South Vietnamese House of Representatives was captured by the Viet Cong when they raided the village he was staying in during the Lunar New Year holiday, officials said Friday.

Y Wick Buon Ya, the only Montagnard member of the House of Representatives, was in a Montagnard village outside Ban Me Thuot when the village was overrun two weeks ago. The villagers reported later they saw the Viet Cong leading the representative off.

Ya, 44, also was a member of the constituent assembly that drafted South Vietnam's new constitution. He was elected to the House in September 1967.

No other members of the 135-member House and the 60-member Senate have been reported killed or captured in the nationwide Communist attacks during Tet.

Most legislators went home for Tet before the attacks and many were stranded in the provinces. The House has been meeting with about 80 members and the Senate has been meeting with about 50.

The Montagnards are mountain tribesmen living mainly in South Vietnam's Central Highlands.

U.S. Civilian Toll at 25

SAIGON (AP) — Twenty-five American civilians were killed in the recent Communist offensive against South Vietnam's cities and towns, the U.S. Consulate said Saturday.

Seven of these were employed by U.S. government agencies, the consulate said. The others were employees of private construction firms under contract to the U.S. government, American missionaries, and members of volunteer groups.

Names of the Americans killed are being announced in Washington, the consulate said. There was no estimate of the number of American civilians wounded.

Rusk Cites Heroism of Embassy Guards

ARLINGTON, Va. (UPI)—Secretary of State Dean Rusk paid tribute Friday to a 21-year-old Marine guard who was killed defending the U.S. Embassy in Saigon against last month's Viet Cong suicide raid.

Rusk also presented a citation for heroic service to the Marine

guards who protected the embassy during a Marine graduation ceremony in Henderson Hall.

"To our profound sorrow in their heroic defense of our embassy, one of our Marine security guards was killed and nine were wounded—of whom six have returned to duty.

"The Marine who gave his life was Cpl. James C. Marshall, 21,

of Monroeville, Ala.—killed by sniper fire while engaging the Viet Cong suicide attack. His sacrifice, and the bravery under fire of the entire detachment will be recorded in the history of the foreign service," Rusk said.

The citation for the Marine guards who defended the embassy read:

"In recognition of the effective defense of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon by the United States Marine guard during the early morning of Jan. 31, 1968; the vigilance, valor and cool-headed devotion to duty of these men prevented the Viet Cong from entering and destroying the chancery building.

"Presented with profound gratitude. Dean Rusk."

Lady Luck Taps Soldier

DAU TIENG, Vietnam (IO)—Recovering a lost wallet is usually a rare occurrence. The odds of finding a wallet in the jungle that had been lost two months ago and 20 miles away, however, are even more slim.

Just such an oddity happened to Pfc. John J. Foster from North Platte, Nebr. The soldier from C Co., 3rd Bn., 22nd Inf., 25th Inf. Div. had lost his billfold when wounded on a cordon and search operation south of Dau Tieng.

Two months later, as C Co. was sweeping through a Viet Cong base camp near Cu Chi, the wallet was discovered in a large bunker.

New Baby Named for Navy Boat

SA DEC, Vietnam (PAO)—A grateful South Vietnamese woman has named a newborn son after a U.S. Navy vessel stationed here because of the assistance its crew gave her when she gave birth to the child.

The son was born aboard a river patrol boat (PBR) commanded by Boatswain's Mate I.C. Steven P. Medrano of Baldwin Park, Calif., who said he and his crew discovered the expectant mother and three children in a sampan one night recently while on a routine combat patrol on the Mekong River.

The children were sent back to shore, but their mother was taken aboard the patrol craft for an emergency run to the hospital at Sa Dec. The baby was born, however, before the boat reached its destination.

Medrano and his crew and other men in River Patrol Section 513 visited the new mother the next day and presented her an assortment of clothing for the baby.

In return, she announced gratefully that her newest offspring had been named — Nguyen PBR Dinh.

Dewey's Cruiser In Dire Straits

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Cruiser Olympia, which braved Spanish shot and shell as Commodore George Dewey's flagship in the battle of Manila Bay, faces another crisis—this one financial.

The ship, a relic of that May, 1, 1898 encounter, is berthed here. Casper J. Knight Jr., president of the Cruiser Olympia Association, says the ship is in dire need of repairs, but there is no money for them. Knight said it would take \$250,000 to restore the ship.

Cows Prove a Poor VC Ally

DA NANG, Vietnam (ISO)—The Viet Cong recently recruited a large number of milk cows as assault troops.

As Marines of Combined Action Platoon Golf 7, near Da Nang, settled in for another night of Viet Cong harassment and sniper fire they heard strange noises around their perimeter.

Within seconds an M60 machinegun was loaded, an M79 grenade launcher sighted-in, and grenades and small arms readied for action. Then, silently, the Marines waited.

New Start for Refugees

A Shattered Viet Village Gets Help

LONG BINH, Vietnam (IO)—Help for refugees in the village of Ho Nai, 19 miles northeast of Saigon, began even before the firing stopped.

With the assistance of the 2nd Civil Affairs Co., II Field Force Vietnam, Col. William H. Pietsch, assistant chief of staff for Civil Affairs, continued his "Operation Friendship" for the predominantly Catholic village.

Operation Friendship had seen many improvements made in Ho Nai. Today most of those improvements are rubble and the villagers are scattered among churches, hospitals and other public buildings.

The village, a few miles north

of the sprawling headquarters of II Field Force Vietnam, lies directly across from the 199th Light Inf. Brigade camp. Because of its proximity to key military targets along the Saigon-Bien Hoa Highway, Ho Nai became the unwilling hideout of at least a battalion of the same enemy the villagers fled in 1954 when they came south from North Vietnam.

After a sneak attack on the greater Bien Hoa area, while the villagers were still celebrating the lunar New Year (Tet), Ho Nai was caught in the crossfire between attacking Viet Cong and defending U.S. troops. At least 20 per cent of the vil-

lage was totally destroyed, the rest heavily damaged.

The 2nd CA Company, commanded by Lt. Col. David E. Wade, took care of basic needs first. Water and nearly 20 tons of rice have been moved into the shattered community. The company also provided tents for temporary shelter for 10,000 refugees.

The Ho Nai Hospital is housing some 4,000 refugees. Another 3,000 are expected to seek shelter there.

The 61st Medical Det. of II Field Force Vietnam commanded by Lt. Col. Lawrence LaTure, is preparing to inoculate at least 5,000 refugees as a

precaution against cholera and typhoid.

Plans are also being made to allow villagers to return to their areas to salvage what is left and to begin rebuilding.

The villagers told U.S. authorities that when the VC moved into their homes shortly before the attack, they threatened to shoot anyone who tried to warn of their presence. Despite the threat, several townsfolk, including a 7-year old girl, tried to slip out and were killed.

Life continues at Ho Nai as the villagers prepare to start over again. Twelve babies have been born in the village since the battle.



At 12, Lo Manh Hung is a full-fledged professional photographer who works with his father. Here he takes pictures of ruins in Saigon's Cholon area after the fighting died down. (AP Radiophoto)

Pro as a Photographer

Boy, 12, in a Dangerous Job

SAIGON (AP) — One of the most unusual sights in a city overflowing with strange sights is the slight figure of a 12-year-old Vietnamese boy darting into the street battles, scrambling across the rubble, deliberately heading for trouble.

While other youngsters flee danger, he looks for it.

He is a professional photographer and he has a thick stack of published pictures to prove it.

He has been taking pictures more than two years, since his

locally well-known father, Lo Vinh, was injured covering street rioting and needed help in his work.

With the father, who is 58 years old, the pair form a team boasting Saigon's oldest and youngest working photographers. The father, a cameraman for 44 years, was born in North Vietnam, studied art and literature at a French university, but turned to his hobby of photography for income when times got tough.

For years he traveled, taking

pictures throughout Indochina, and didn't marry until he was 43. A few months later he and his bride fled the Communists in the north and came to Saigon.

They now have eight children. At 12, Lo Manh Hung is the oldest. The youngest is 18 months.

Lo Manh Hung and his father arise every day at 5 a.m. to be early on the job and usually don't finish until after 9 p.m.

"That's 365 days a year," the father sighs.

In less hectic times, the pair scoot about the city on a motorbike to cover official government affairs, weddings, airport arrivals, parties, fires, whatever may make news.

Lo Manh Hung helps with the film processing and printing, then turns messenger-salesman, peddling fresh prints to local newspapers and foreign news agencies.

Flyovers Rejected

SAIGON (AP) — Air France has been denied the right to overfly South Vietnam on its weekly Phnom Penh to Shanghai flights. A government spokesman said Wednesday the restriction was for security reasons.

AF Offers Instant-Pay In Saigon

SAIGON (OI) — Air Force personnel arriving at Tan Son Nhut Air Base no longer have to wait several days to receive their travel and regular pay allowances upon arrival from the United States.

The first "Instant Pay-On-Arrival-Service" in Southeast Asia recently went into operation here, and it enables new arrivals to collect all of their back pay and travel allowances within a short time.

"This means the individual arriving in the morning will have his pay in his pocket by that same morning," said Maj. Ralph Law, accounting and finance officer, who initiated the new system.

The "Instant Pay Service" computes a new arrival's pay while he is being processed through the Central Base Personnel Office.

Outgoing personnel are processed under the same system. They will obtain their pay records and advance pay or travel pay at CBPO, instead of the main finance office as done in the past.

The new pay system allows new arrivals to begin work sooner by cutting down on the processing time.

The service also allows finance people to provide better service to its regular customers. "For example," Law said, "we now provide a pay as you wait service for all temporary duty travel vouchers; a first for Vietnam."

Sabotage Goes Awry

CAM LO, Vietnam (ISO) — A sabotage attempt upon the strategic Cam Lo bridge was thwarted when Marine sentries spotted North Vietnamese sappers swimming from the scene.

Two enemy were killed and one captured by the Marines. According to the prisoner, a fourth NVA soldier escaped capture.

The attempt took place at 5 a.m. as the NVA had managed to plant three 60-pound charges of dynamite on the bridge pilings. The charges were set to be electrically detonated from some distance down-river.

