

Divisions began sweeping the outskirts of the city. Within the city and at its edges ARVN soldiers also made successful sweeps, adding to the daily total of Communists killed in the struggle for the safety of Saigon and its citizens.

At home, Americans watched in horror as another leader, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was struck down. The senator was killed shortly after learning of his victory in the California presidential primary election. The senator from New York was killed four years and seven months to the day after his brother, President John F. Kennedy, was assassinated in Dallas.

In another mass surrender to Government forces, 110 Viet Cong turned themselves over to Vietnamese forces Tuesday morning, June 18. The VC were the remnants of two regiments battered by Government forces for a week. The original 400-man force was reduced to 200, including 80 wounded, after a battle with South Vietnamese forces. Their commander was killed, and their deputy commander, a VC captain, surrendered to GVN forces Monday.

The worst single disaster to strike the Saigon administration during the war occurred Sunday, June 2, when a malfunctioning rocket hit a temporary Government command post in Cholon, killing six high-ranking Vietnamese officials and wounding four others. The mayor of Saigon was among those wounded.

Fresh Communist forces moved into the Saigon area as the month wore on. At least seven separate regiments were identified as being around the refugee-filled capital city as June ended. Forces from the 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions, plus ARVN Rangers and Marines swept the area surrounding Saigon for a week killing several hundred enemy soldiers. Many of the enemy dead were identified as North Vietnamese Army regulars.

" BOMBS AWAY ! "

America's B-52 bombers wound up three years in the war in Vietnam in late June without a single combat loss, while at

the same time dealing the enemy many severe blows. They proved their worth again and again. They were credited with preventing a major attack against Khe Sanh and with spoiling enemy efforts to launch a major counter-offensive in the Central Highlands. Now that 11 of Hanoi's divisions are committed to fighting in the South, the Stratofortresses have a much simpler task than they first did. Larger troop concentrations require lengthy, and thus visible, supply lines which are extremely vulnerable to the 30 tons of bombs each of the mammoth bombers can carry. A North Vietnamese document captured in the North said that one regiment had been hit six times by the B-52s from the time the enemy had left their base in North Vietnam.

The evacuation of Khe Sanh began June 28 because of "...significant changes in the military situation in Vietnam since early this year." The evacuation was decided upon because of "an increase in friendly strength, mobility and firepower..." in the area.

Operation Nevada Eagle in the 101st Airborne's area of operation continued with fierce firefights during the last of the month. Screaming Eagles paratroopers and Popular Forces units have been scouring the area around Hue in a continuing effort to eliminate the enemy forces still located in the area. In addition to the several hundred enemy killed in the I Corps operation, several large supply caches were uncovered.

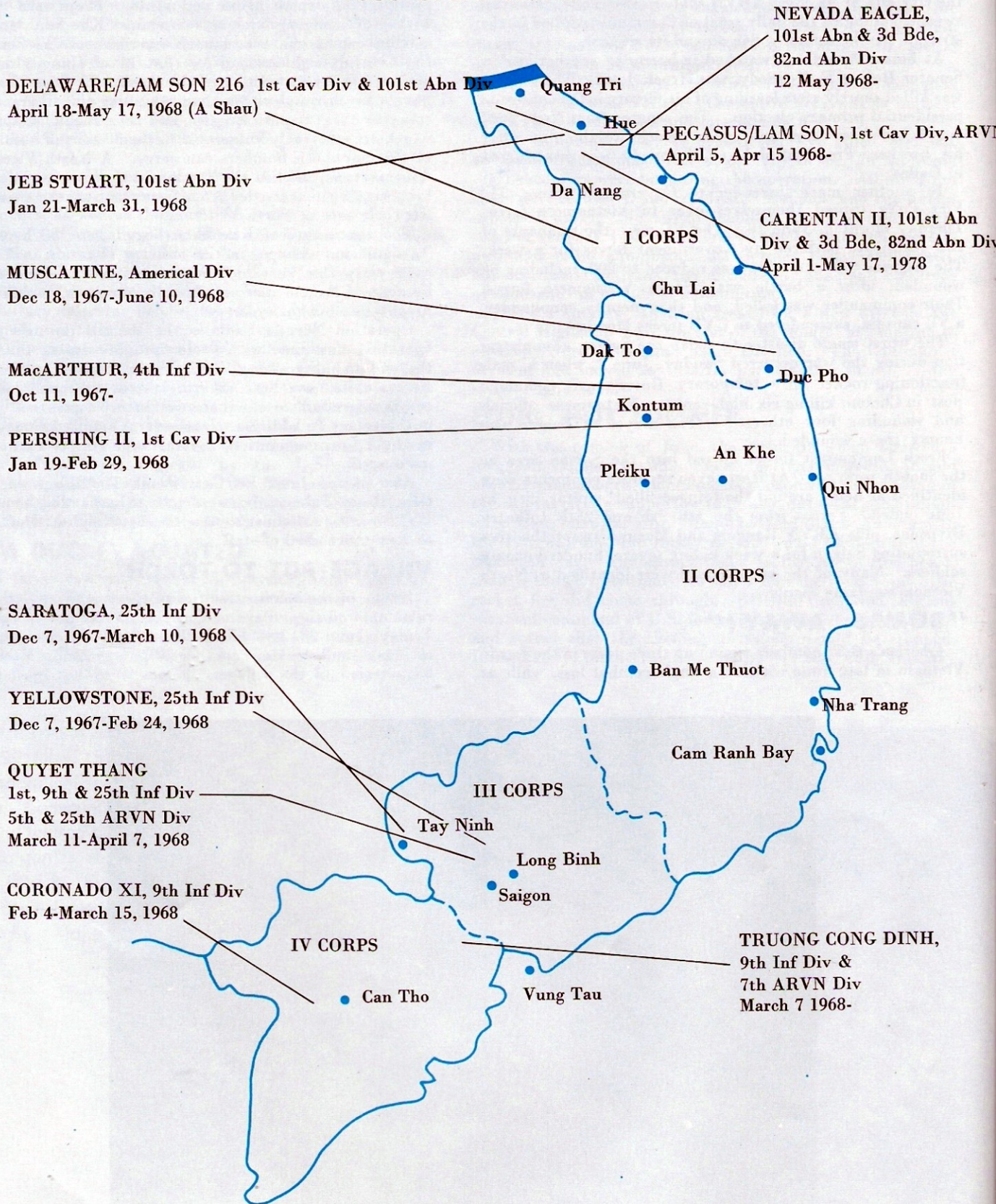
Also in mid-June, Lt. Gen. Frank T. Mildren succeeded Gen. Bruce Palmer, Jr., as deputy commanding general of USARV. Gen. Palmer succeeded Gen. Ralph E. Haines, Jr., as Army vice chief of staff.

VILLAGE PUT TO TORCH

In one of the worst atrocities of the war, Viet Cong guerrillas entered the village of Son Tra shortly before midnight Friday, June 28, and killed 88 persons—73 of them being civilians—and leaving another 103 wounded. More than 85 per cent of the villagers' homes were destroyed by the



1968 OPERATIONS





Son Tra was almost totally destroyed by Viet Cong guerrillas, who put the village to the torch on June 28. Photos by Sp5 Michael A. Faherty.

1968 CASUALTIES *

terrorists, leaving 4,000 people homeless. Most of the dead were killed by the flames. They died in their homes as they slept. Those that reached bunkers were burned to death as they huddled inside. The terrorists were Viet Cong who had been operating throughout northern Quang Tri Province for several months.

Culminating eight months of sweat and toil, in which five American engineers lost their lives to enemy fire, the Phu Cuong Bridge over the Saigon River was opened June 29. The bridge represents the last link in the Saigon by-pass, which will permit supplies from Long Binh to reach basecamps of the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions without traveling through the crowded streets of the capital city. The largest bridge ever built by Army engineers in Vietnam, the 1,002-foot concrete and steel span shortens the route to the infantry basecamps by 11½ miles! The bridge and approaching roadway 25 miles north of Saigon were constructed by the men of the 20th Engineer Brigade.

June closed with a note of optimism in the peace talks in Paris. Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford said that the "current negotiations may move out of the public propaganda stage toward private negotiations." The U.S.'s negotiator, Cyrus R. Vance, told North Vietnam that the U.S. "was prepared to cease bombardment of North Vietnamese territory," but was unable to do so because Hanoi had intensified its war efforts while the U.S. had been trying to de-escalate. And for the first time, Hanoi offered to discuss a Vietnam peace based on the 1954 agreements of the Geneva Conventions. But Hanoi's offer was tied to another demand for a total halt in the bombing of the North. "We think there is a proper basis for peace in Southeast Asia that conforms to the legitimate interests of all the countries of that area and that we and others should move steadily toward it," Vance rebutted at the session on June 26.

The Vietnamese have paid heavily in their long struggle against the Communist insurgents. Despite the cost, they maintain their determination to be free. We are assisting them in all their efforts—military, economic, and political—wherever we can: In the field, with the rural people, and at the military and governmental headquarters level. Success will depend ultimately upon the effectiveness of our joint efforts.

ENEMY KILLED

152,387

HOI CHANHS

9,272

VIETNAMESE ABDUCTED

6,672

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES**

1,180,491

CIVILIANS ASSASSINATED

4,234

TERRORIST INCIDENTS

7,387

ARVN CASUALTIES

Killed	Wounded
18,230	43,081

FWMAF KILLED

804

U. S. MILITARY CASUALTIES

Killed	Wounded
Army—6,607	Army—49,202
U. S.—10,503	U. S.—78,493

*From 1 Jan-30 Sept 1968

**Total number of South Vietnamese refugees on 30 Sept 1968



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96375



Your tour in Vietnam is now behind you. It has been a year of hard fighting--certainly a period in which the American soldier has performed in the best traditions of the US Army. You may leave this land of Vietnam--the jungles, mountains, and coastal plains--with that inner satisfaction of knowing you have served the cause of free men everywhere. The Republic of Vietnam and, indeed, our own nation, are greatly in your debt for your efforts.

Now you are going home to rejoin your family and friends. They are proud of you and are anxiously awaiting your return. With you goes a world of knowledge and impressions based on the experiences you have had in Vietnam. Your friends, neighbors, and the people with whom you will work will look to you as an authority on what is happening in the Republic of Vietnam. This magazine, a history of this country and the year you spent here, may help you to tell your story.

You are commended for the fine job you have completed in Vietnam. Warmest wishes for success in your future endeavors.

Frank T. Mildren

FRANK T. MILDREN
Lieutenant General, US Army
Deputy Commanding General



Cam Ranh Bay

Front Cover ; Emerging from the darkness of night into the light of a new day ; Lifting a country from the grasp of Communist aggression and instilling instead a hope of peace and freedom ; this is the goal being pursued by the USARV soldier from the Highlands to the Delta.

The title, TOUR 365, signifies the normal tour of one year, 365 days.

Back Cover : A pretty girl with a smile greets servicemen who have completed their tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam and are now homeward bound.



