



Troops Corner, Hit Reds

SAIGON (UPI) — U.S. paratroopers surrounded two abandoned hamlets Thursday and trapped about 300 North Vietnamese soldiers inside while American support forces blasted the villages with artillery, napalm and bombs.

U.S. 101st Airborne Div. troops closed in on the villages early Thursday and blocked all exits before the bombardment began. By nightfall, both hamlets were turned into a mass of flames.

The villages, in the Bo River region about three miles northwest of Hue, are in the heart of a rice belt where harvest is about to begin. The North Vietnamese took over when civilians were evacuated following the battle of Hue.

UPI correspondent Ray Wilkinson reported from a command post that the Airborne troops met heavy resistance while setting up blocking positions.

The Americans appeared to
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 3)

Phone Co. Walkout

WASHINGTON (UPI) — More than 200,000 American Telephone & Telegraph Co. workers in 42 states went on strike for higher wages Thursday in a walkout likely to hamper but not stop telephone service.

The strike was called by the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, at 3 p. m. EST with the expiration of wage reopener clauses in Bell System contracts in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Ohio, Iowa, Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Washington state and the nationwide plants of the Western Electric Co., an AT&T subsidiary.

Workers in other states struck in sympathy, Joseph A. Beirne, the union president, said.

"The voice with the smile will be gone for a while," he said at a news conference. Then he joined a picket line outside a Washington telephone office.

Beirne said negotiations with
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

Er . . . Have a Cigar

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — No question about it, Charles Hitchcock has had quite a day. His new bride charged him with bigamy—and his first wife gave birth to a baby.

U.S. PRODS REDS, ADDS 10 SITES



PRESIDENT JOHNSON ESCORTS FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER TO BREAKFAST

LBJ Reaffirms Aid to ROK

AUSTIN, Tex. (UPI) — President Johnson flew back home to Texas Thursday after pledging continued U.S. military support to South Korea.

The President, after his meeting with South Korean President Chung Hee Park, also affirmed U.S. intentions to continue consulting with South Korea on attempts to bring peace in Vietnam.

Johnson met former President Eisenhower at March AFB, Calif., and briefed him on Vietnam peace moves as they breakfasted aboard the presidential plane.

Johnson, in a joint communique released after the day-long meeting with Park, reaffirmed America's pledge of military aid to South Korea

under existing treaties.

On the question of Vietnam, Johnson said, "The United States government would continue to consult fully with the Republic of Korea and other allies concerning negotiating developments and positions to be taken on the allied side at each stage."

The two presidents also

reaffirmed their nations' position on the military aid to Vietnam—the same position stated in the seven-nation foreign ministers' meeting of April 1967. That position states that a settlement in Vietnam must respect the wishes of the Vietnamese people and that the Republic of Vietnam should be
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Hall of Heroes to Open in Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Vikings had their mythical Valhalla, baseball has its Hall of Fame—and soon the Pentagon will open its \$36,000 Hall of Heroes.

Completed after seven months' work, the hall will pay

tribute to men living and dead who have won the Nation's Medal of Honor. The Defense Department plans a dedication ceremony May 14.

The Hall of Heroes will be a 50-foot-long, 18-foot-deep walk-through exhibit nestled at the

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk Thursday prodded North Vietnam for "a serious and responsive answer" to the U.S. offer of peace talks and proposed 10 new locations in addition to the five previously offered as the site for peace contracts.

In a news conference that displayed growing U.S. impatience, Rusk said the 15-day-old limitation of bombing of North Vietnam "was meant to inspire discussions about ending this war—not to provide an excuse for propaganda warfare while the battle waged on."

No time limit was put on the bombing restriction but he said that the world was waiting with growing concern for a reply from Hanoi.

The newly announced countries included Ceylon, Japan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal or Malaysia in Asia.

Rusk said if the other side wants a European setting for the talks the United States would be ready to meet in Italy, Belgium, Finland or Austria.

Notably missing was France, U.N. Secretary-General U Thant, acting as a third party, had been reported proposing Paris as a site.

(Earlier, Pakistan, France and Hungary offered their countries as the site for preliminary peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam, UPI reported. But the North Vietnamese demanded the U.S. accept either Phnom Penh or Warsaw as the meeting place.)

The United States had previously proposed four countries in Asia—India, Burma, Laos and Indonesia—as well as Geneva.

Rusk said the United States believes any one of the 15 suggested locations would offer an
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

end of one of the sprawling Pentagon's major corridors.

Its walls will be studded with more than 3,200 small bronze plaques, each bearing the name of a Medal of Honor winner, dating back to the Civil War and including Vietnam heroes.

Pacification Back On Track After Tet Push: Komer

By SPEC. 5 RAY BELFORD
S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Ambassador Robert Komer, U.S. pacification chief in South Vietnam, said Thursday that despite setbacks during the Communist Tet offensive, "Pacification is generally back on the track and moving again."

Komer told a group of correspondents at a press conference that data gathered at the end

of March "further confirms that the Tet offensive setbacks were less than previously feared."

The American pacification chief said only 255 hamlets out of 9,024 throughout South Vietnam were lost to the VC as a result of the Communist onslaught during Tet. Most of these hamlets, the ambassador said, were in areas considered contested at the end of January.

He said 67.2 per cent of the population was living in relatively secure areas at the end of January. Komer said the figure dropped to 59.8 per cent at the end of February, and had risen to 61 per cent at the end of March.

Komer said that 87 per cent of South Vietnam's 629 Revolutionary Development (RD) teams were back in hamlets at the end of March and that 46 of 51 ARVN battalions, assigned to direct support of RD, have returned to RD campaign areas. He said at one time about two-thirds of the force was withdrawn to defend cities.

Komer also stated that most of the nation's key roads and waterways are back in operation and "as security improves, traffic on them is rising."

The ambassador said the picture was not all rosy.

"The psychological shock has not yet worn off, particularly in the Delta . . . The climate of good security takes time to restore."

He also pointed out that traffic has not yet returned to normal on all roads and waterways despite their open status, particularly in the Delta below Can Tho. As a result, rice shipments from the Delta are running about 50 per cent of last year's rate.

Despite the setbacks, plans are being made to step up the pace of pacification by training more RD cadre, training regional and popular forces soldiers for pacification work while making them better able to defend themselves with newer weapons.

Saigon Curfew Eased

SAIGON (AP)—Saigon's strict curfew, in force since the Communist Lunar New Year Offensive, has been reduced by one hour, police officials announced Thursday. The new curfew will run from 9 p.m., instead of from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

U.S. Deaths For Week Rise to 363

SAIGON (AP)—The number of Americans killed in the Vietnam War climbed to 363 last week, the U.S. Command reported Thursday. It was the highest number of dead in five weeks.

An increase also was reported in the number of enemy killed, while South Vietnamese casualties dropped from the previous week.

An increase of 5,000 was reported in the number of U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam, raising the total to 522,000 as of midnight April 13.

No official explanation was given for the increase in the number of American battle deaths in a week when fighting generally was described in communiqués as light and scattered.

U.S. officers said, however, tens of thousands of men were in the field in widespread operations and that the toll of many sporadic actions could mean increased casualties. A week earlier, the number of Americans killed was 279.

The total number of Americans wounded dropped to 2,694 as compared with 3,190 the previous week.

Of the 2,694 wounded, 1,352 were hospitalized, spokesmen said, while 1,342 did not require hospitalization.

South Vietnamese headquarters reported 293 government soldiers were killed last week, a sharp decline from the 407 in the previous week.

Both the U.S. and South Vietnamese Commands reported that the total number of enemy killed by Allied forces last week was 3,071.

Buddhists Call Off Saigon Sitdown Strike

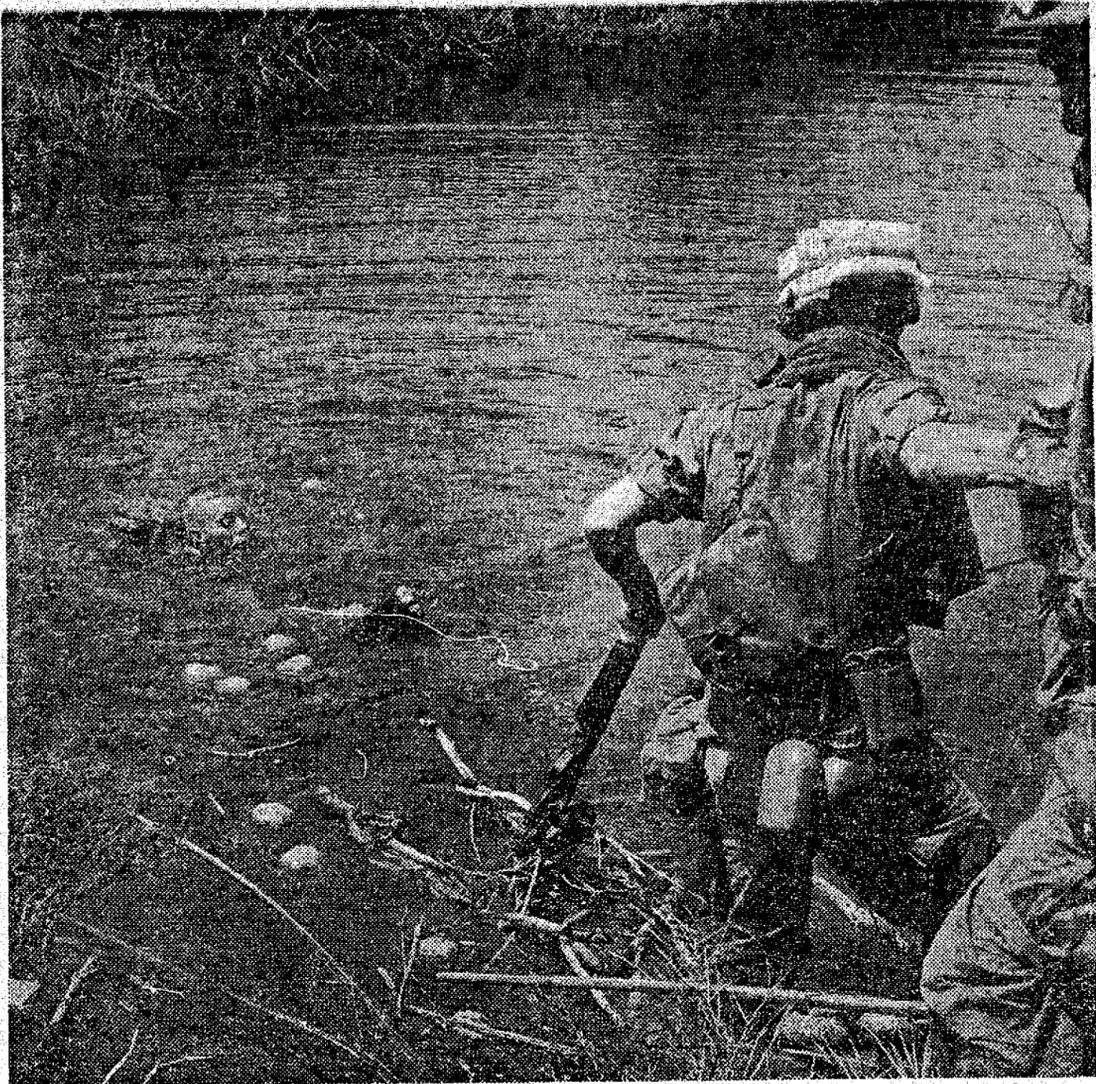
SAIGON (UPI)—A group of Buddhist monks were talked out of staging a sitdown and hunger strike in front of the Vietnamese Presidential Palace Thursday.

The group of 21 monks arrived at the palace in two trucks and asked to see President Nguyen Van Thieu to demand the release of a monk arrested a month ago for illegal possession of arms and ammu-

nition. The monks said they would stage a hunger strike in the park facing the palace unless the matter was settled.

An assistant to Thieu came out and persuaded the monks that the president would try to settle the matter "within a few days." The monks left.

The monks were not associated with the military branch of the Buddhist Church headed by Thich Tri Quang. Tri Quang is being held by police in "protective custody."



Underwater Weapons Find

Soldiers of the 9th Inf. Div. retrieve weapons from an enemy cache uncovered in the BoBo Canal in Long An Province. It was one of the largest found in the Mekong Delta. (USA)

Casualties in Vietnam

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

KILLED IN ACTION

Army
SSg. Joe E. Griffith, Coffee Springs, Ala.
SP4 Patrick H. Cook Jr., Phenix City, Ala.
Pfc. Pedro Valenzuela, Guadalupe, Ariz.
SP4 John M. Bell, Marro Bay, Calif.
SP4 Charles C. Thompson, Bellflower, Calif.
Cpl. Donald G. Lee, Marro Bay, Calif.
Pfc. Robert L. Barker Jr., Esparto, Calif.
SP4 Juan P. Valdez, Avondale, Colo.
Pfc. Floyd W. Pettie III, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Pfc. Daniel A. Rocha, Denver, Colo.
SP4 Nolan R. Ray, Dover, Del.
Pvt. Wayne C. Jester, Milford, Del.
Sgt. Charlie Rainey, Winter Garden, Fla.
Cpl. Arthur W. Hunt III, Jacksonville, Fla.

Pfc. Claude Roberts, Delray Beach, Fla.
SSg. William Powell, Columbus, Ga.
Pfc. Jones E. Tomlinson, Watauga, Hawaii.

SP4 Quillard F. Lyons, Chicago, Ill.
SP4 Robert W. Madson, Allon, Ill.
Cpl. Jonathan Neal, Chicago, Ill.
Pfc. James A. Palenik Jr., Chicago, Ill.
Pfc. Jesse L. Willoughby, Dundee, Ill.
SP5 Steve Klarik, East Chicago, Ind.
Pfc. Jerry D. Clark, New Albany, Ind.
Pfc. George E. McDonald Jr., Harbor Springs, Mich.

Pfc. Patrick C. Coughlin, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
Sgt. Roland E. Moore, Battle Lake, Minn.
Pfc. Darrel B. Helmke, Cokato, Minn.
SSg. Robert S. Clark Jr., Columbus, Miss.
Cpl. George W. Moore, Columbus, Miss.
Pfc. Rockford G. Everett, Columbus, Miss.

SP4 Glenn U. Andreotta, Overland, Mo.
1Lt. Ronald J. Wojtkiewicz, Omaha, Neb.
Sgt. Daniel L. Ackerman, Carson City, Nev.

Pfc. David A. Strupp, Sparta, N.J.
Pfc. Russell H. Cornish, Maplewood, N.J.
WO John P. Supple, New York, N.Y.
Pfc. Arthur J. Weinper, Roslyn, N.Y.
1Lt. Robert C. Peda, Fayetteville, N.C.
SSg. Jon F. Van Duyen, Fort Bragg, N.C.
SSg. James D. Dillon, Fort Bragg, N.C.
SP4 Robert L. Mellon Jr., Rocky Mount, N.C.

Pfc. Jimmy R. Spach, Rural Hall, N.C.
Pfc. Douglas G. Thompson, Marietta, N.C.

Cpl. Gary D. Lakken, Williston, N.D.
Cpl. Ricky G. Intow, Wilmington, Ohio.
Pfc. Thomas M. McVay, Bethany, Okla.
SP4 Dwayne C. McClure, Portland, Ore.
Sgt. John A. Oselus, Cumbola, Pa.
SP4 Aion R. Gault, McKees Rocks, Pa.
Pfc. Warren M. Beaumont, Langhorne, Pa.
Pvt. Gregory H. Watkins, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sgt. Wallace J. Dietz, Charleston, S.C.
Pfc. James A. Dill, Easley, S.C.
Sgt. Ronnie F. Brannon, Athens, Tenn.
Pfc. John E. Cunningham Jr., Memphis, Tenn.

SGM Donald E. Colhaon, Houston, Tex.
Sgt. Alan P. Jones, Bebington, England.
Entry in Service: San Antonio, Tex.

SP5 Peter E. Powell, Richardson, Tex.
SP4 Gary D. Fortner, Corpus Christi, Tex.
SP4 Tommy D. Walker, Irving, Tex.
SP4 Jack W. Osborn, Plainview, Tex.
Cpl. Reynaldo N. Orozco, Sinton, Tex.
Cpl. Donny G. Tidwell, Diana, Tex.
Cpl. George Deverall, Arlington, Va.
SSg. Edward L. Goodman, Chesapeake, Va.

SP4 George L. Wilson, Portsmouth, Va.
Pfc. Larry D. Hatcher, Martinsville, Va.
Sic. John Okemah, South Tacoma, Wash.
1Lt. Randolph M. Harrison, Nitro, W.Va.

Sgt. Douglas W. McCarty, Huntersville, W.Va.
SP4 Thomas F. Dazey Jr., Neenah, Wis.
SP4 Douglas R. Welther, Milwaukee, Wis.
SP4 Guillermo A. Ruiz-Bernard, Bayaman, Puerto Rico.
SP4 William J. De Lisa, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Navy

HN Roger M. Nelson, Sioux Falls, S.D.
HN Allen E. Gresham, Newport News, Va.

Marine Corps

Pfc. George M. Weitzel, Mesa, Ariz.
Pfc. Sherrick C. Britton, Daly City, Calif.
LCpl. Lawrence J. Vargas, Denver, Colo.
LCpl. James R. Wells, Garden City, Ga.
Cpl. Herman A. Lohman Jr., Twin Falls, Idaho.

Pfc. John M. Miller, Peru, Ind.
LCpl. Charles C. Miller, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Pfc. James D. Richardson, New Orleans, La.
Pfc. Edward J. Downey Jr., Willimansett, Mass.

LCpl. Robert J. Kline, Bay City, Mich.
LCpl. Brian V. Lindberg, Dunnell, Minn.
LCpl. Gordon D. Walensky, Saint Louis Park, Minn.

LCpl. Lionel R. Crase, Missoula, Mont.
Pfc. Gilbert L. Zerbst, St. Ignatius, Mont.
Cpl. Robert H. Wood, East Brunswick, N.J.

Pvt. Robert J. Marcantoni, Phillipsburg, N.J.
Sgt. Louis M. Lane, Fillmore, N.Y.

LCpl. Gilbert Wiley, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Pfc. Timothy J. Nightengale, Buffalo, N.Y.
Pfc. Leonard Street Jr., Oklahoma City, Okla.

Cpl. Tilo R. Oesterreich, Philadelphia, Pa.
Pfc. Melvin L. Dalby, Reynoldsville, Pa.
Pfc. Clifton Moses, Whitwell, Tenn.

2Lt. Donald J. Matacho, Smithville, Tex.
SSg. Billy L. Jackson, San Antonio, Tex.
LCpl. Theodore D. Van Staveren, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Pfc. Gregory J. Williams, Kaysville, Utah.
Pfc. David M. Tomlinson, Emporia, Va.
LCpl. John F. Francavilla, Renton, Wash.
LCpl. Robert D. Marco, Yakima, Wash.

Pfc. Clayton A. Craft, Elkview, W.Va.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Army
2Lt. Edward L. Harris, Bronx, N.Y.
Pfc. Herbert H. Cato III, Mayesville, S.C.

Marine Corps

Cpl. Dennis R. Wallin, Trion, Ga.
Sgt. Timothy Henderson, Tulsa, Okla.

MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE

Army
SP4 Mike R. Raspberry, El Dorado, Ark.
SP5 Terry L. Baxter, Los Angeles, Calif.
Pfc. Robert O. Girard, Overland Park, Kan.

Sgt. John F. Plunkard, Frederick, Md.
Pfc. George H. Gilliam, Baltimore, Md.
SP4 Anthony Simoes, Hyde Park, Mass.
Pfc. Walter E. Joyce Jr., Somerville, Mass.

SP4 Clifford L. Faulk, Norway, Mich.
Sgt. James A. Harrington Jr., Locust Valley, N.Y.

SP4 Luther T. Wilder, Spring Hope, N.C.
Pfc. Donald B. Paysour, Dallas, N.C.
SP4 Robert R. Perrins, Wilkes Barre, Pa.
Cpl. Kevin G. Cannon, Pittsburgh, Pa.

WO Ronald G. Phears, Silsbee, Tex.
Sgt. Ronald E. Johns, Corpus Christi, Tex.

Air Force

Capt. John C. Hardy, Fair Oaks, Calif.

MISSING IN ACTION

Army
1Lt. Fred H. McMurray Jr.
Sgt. Charles W. Moody
SSg. Richard J. Call
Sgt. Harry F. Carver

Sgt. Robert L. Samuelson
SP4 Charles K. Wooden
SP4 Jan E. Babowski Jr.
Pfc. Ronald D. Sparks
Pfc. Lawrence W. Eller
Pfc. Bennie F. Humphries
Pfc. Ronald E. Wilson
Pfc. Lawrence A. Swanguorim

DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

Army
Pfc. Richard G. Bambrick, Jersey City, N.J.
Sic. Aubrey A. Bryan, Fayetteville, N.C.
Sic. Charles E. Wilcox Jr., Hope Mills, N.C.

Pfc. Carl McFadden Jr., Sumter, S.C.

Marine Corps

Pvt. Chip R. Harrison, Phoenix, Ariz.
LCpl. Roy L. Ferry III, Oakville, Conn.
Cpl. Stanley Zalewski Jr., Calumet City, Ill.

Cpl. Richard L. Murray, West Branch, Iowa.
Pfc. Martin J. Reidy, Independence, Iowa.
Pfc. Michael P. Umel, Bangor, Maine.
Cpl. Robert W. Belcher, Winthrop, Mass.
Cpl. George A. Pruitt, Lebanon, Mo.
Pfc. Charles R. Finley, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Pfc. Richard E. Erwin, Dallas, Tex.
LCpl. George F. Vise, Seattle, Wash.

MISSING NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

Army
WO Robert N. Wright

Marine Corps

Sgt. Cleveland Evans Jr.

CORRECTION

Cpl. Raymond O. Kincannon, USA, Change status from died not as a result of hostile action to killed in action.

Sgt. Kendall R. Kruse, USA, Change status from killed in action to died not as a result of hostile action.

WO Donald E. Kenton, USA, Change status from missing to dead—non hostile to missing to dead—hostile.

SP4 Gary L. Engebretson, USA, Change status from missing to dead—non hostile to missing to dead—hostile.

Cpl. Joseph C. Doyle, USA, Change status from died not as a result of hostile action to killed in action.

Chopped Up Ranger Unit Puts VC Down

By BOB CUTTS
S&S Correspondent

BAC LIEU, Vietnam — It was an ambush, cleverly engineered, and they walked straight into it. Now they had to fight their way out or die.

WO Dang Van Xieu was on the platoon radio, frantic. He had been nearly cut off on the left flank when the Viet Cong sprung the attack, and he had to decide whether he should join up with the main body of the company or try to outflank the enemy positions. Where was the company commander?

The radio was silent. Xieu did not yet know that he was the company commander. Every other officer had been killed or critically wounded in the first three savage minutes of the attack.

Two Co., 42nd Ranger Bn., literally didn't know what hit it. One minute it had been a sunny, quiet morning's walk

through rice paddies toward the tiny Rach Mach Day Canal, where headquarters suspected light enemy activity. The next minute it was an exploding, firestorm of death.

The VC battalion was in a tree line, armed to the teeth — machine guns, BARs, B40 rockets, AK47s, 60mm mortars. They were throwing everything they had into Two Co., trying to wipe it out in one stroke.

They were doing just that — 13 Rangers out of 70 were killed in the first three minutes. Among them were all platoon leaders and radio men, except Xieu.

Cpl. I. C. Nguyen To was stunned. He was the company radio operator, and was pinned down when the ambush broke. He couldn't tell who was hit. He heard the battalion operator, forward, calling for help. Then his voice trailed away into silence. Like his commander,

the operator had been hit and died at his radio. This left To and Cpl. Le Thich, platoon command radioman, alone.

Thich couldn't contact anyone — all the platoon radio operators were dead. He gave up, threw his radio away and found a rifle.

To crawled around, looking for the company commander. He found him, 10 feet away, dying. To tried to contact Three Co., operating to the south across a wide canal. He had no map and couldn't tell where he was. He threw a smoke grenade and asked Three Co. to trace it. Three could not see it but said it would get there as fast as possible.

Three Co. commander, 1st Lt. Nguyen Duc Thang, called in supporting artillery from Bac Lieu, 6 miles south, but he wasn't close enough to direct it accurately. The shells splattered uselessly far from Two Co.'s po-

sition. Two's forward artillery observer was dead.

Meanwhile, Xieu was getting his platoon organized. He set up his one heavy machine gun on a paddy dike to return fire, and watched as its two-man crew was killed by a stream of bullets before they could even start shooting. Two other soldiers dragged their bodies away and got the gun going.

Xieu crawled on elbows and knees, positioning his men as best he could. To the young ones who looked scared, he put on his toughest face and threatened to shoot them if they tried to run. He hoped they couldn't see his own fear.

He had taken three wounded, but the company medic was dead, and he couldn't get across the open space to reach two of them, anyway. As he crawled between his men and popping mortar rounds, he paused to fire bursts from his M16. Once he made the mistake of exposing himself to get a clear shot — a bullet burned across the inside of his elbow, scorching a hole in his uniform but not breaking the skin. Xieu got out of the way.

The Viet Cong were circling Two Co. now. A VC radio operator had called Three Co., disguising himself as a Two Co. Ranger, trying to guide the relief force away. But the Ranger radioman knew the voices of his Two Co. counterparts — he wasn't buying it.

Suddenly, 40 Viet Cong launched a frontal attack at Xieu's platoon — the machine gun was hurting them. At that crucial moment, the gun happened to be out of action. There was no one able to stop the charge except two PFCs trapped up front — Nguyen Van Khiem and Cao Dinh, the company's "black sheep."

Khiem and Dinh had just rejoined the company the night before — after spending time in the Bac Lieu guardhouse for an incident in a local bar. Both sported beautiful hangovers.

But their headaches didn't affect their shooting — six Viet Cong went down in seconds. The human-wave charge broke. The perimeter was unbroken.

Three Co., meanwhile, had found five sampans and was heading north across the major canal that separated it from Two Co. It was only minutes away — but now it started to draw fire itself from rear-guard Viet Cong units.

By this time the VC had completely encircled Two Co. Unable to break out, Two was now completely snared.

Minutes after the frontal charge was broken, another 30-

man VC wave swept toward the company from the rear. The fighting was hand-to-hand, but finally the Rangers drove the VC back. Fifteen of them stayed at the perimeter, their torn bodies backstopping wild bullets of friend and foe, like human sandbags.

Then fate dealt a joker — as his men charged into the Rangers' guns, the VC commander, Capt. Ly Van Song, took a slug between the eyes.

The loss of command threw the VC into total confusion. By all their calculations, the Ranger company should have collapsed under the terrific pounding. But it was still holding.

Three Co. was now cutting its way toward the VC flank. With artillery from Bac Lieu blasting a path, Thang was driving his company northward, toward the thinly-stretched left "arm" of the Viet Cong.

Then they were charging into the treeline with fixed bayonets, surprising the Viet Cong from their own rear. The VC tried to withdraw northward, but ran straight into Two Co.'s perimeter.

But the rest of the Red battalion, from the original ambush position, was getting away. Thang called for Bac Lieu artillery — and got it.

Deadly frag rounds, set at tree-top burst, caught the fleeing VC running. More than 50 Viet Cong were killed — and the fight was over.

NCO Honored For Viet Work

CAM RANH BAY, Vietnam (OI) — SM. Sgt. Otto A. Riesterer, 41, East Stroudsburg, Pa., NCOIC of the 485th Ground Electronics and Engineering Installation Sq. (GEEIA), Cam Ranh Bay AB, has been selected as the Pacific GEEIA Region Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Riesterer, who has been in Vietnam for nine months, is the NCOIC of the Outside Wiring Section.

He and his crews of specialists and engineers have strung communication lines and wired facilities from the tip of the Mekong Delta to the northern provinces of Da Nang and Hue.

Riesterer and his men have often been exposed to hostile fire while on duty, and several times they had to return to a recently completed job to repair it or reinstall all the facilities because of Viet Cong attacks.

Marines Find New Foe, Treat Him Like Old One

CA LU, Vietnam (ISO) — A Marine platoon sergeant in Operation Pegasus east of Khe Sanh killed an unusual enemy — a python.

As Leathernecks of the 1st Marine Regt. moved along Route 9, providing security for Marine engineers clearing and repairing the road, they apparently disturbed the 15-foot reptile in his home under an abandoned bridge.

"We had set in for the night," explained Sgt. C. V. Thompson, 24, a platoon sergeant from Norfolk, Va., "when we heard movement and unusual noises on our perimeter.

"It was weird," Thompson

said. "We could hear something, but we couldn't see anything."

The Marines threw hand grenades and fired several M79 rounds, but the movement continued. Finally, Thompson moved cautiously under the bridge.

"At first I couldn't believe it," Thompson said. "This big, long thing was slithering around. I was fascinated, then scared and finally mad because I realized I had been worrying about a snake."

Thompson drew his .45 and fired three times into the snake's head, killing it.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Saturday, April 20, 1968

Computer Hijack Foiled

SAIGON (AP)—A Vietnamese driver tried to steal a truck loaded with more than \$600,000 worth of small U.S. Army computers, but Saigon police foiled him, U.S. officials said.

The driver escaped, but the police recovered the 16 computers — valued at \$38,600 each. They are used in the aiming of artillery batteries. Military officials said the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese could not have used the stolen equipment because their artillery in South Vietnam and their training is not advanced enough.

The robbery attempt was made when the driver picked up the loaded truck at a motor pool but did not pick up the usual military police escort. An alarm was put out, and police spotted the truck in Saigon later in the morning. The driver fled, and \$200 worth of spare parts is missing, officials said.

Engineers Get Thai Plaque

KORAT, Thailand (IO) — Work done five years ago by an Army engineer unit in a small Thai village has not been forgotten, and recently that unit was honored, although it is no longer based in Thailand.

A jewel-encrusted plaque was accepted by Col. H.R. Harr, U.S. Army Support, Thailand engineer, on behalf of the 593rd Engineer Co. in ceremonies at the Maharakam Trade School Annual Fair in Khon Kaen.

In appreciation of community development projects done as a token of Thai-American friendship, the plaque was presented to Harr by Maharakam Province Gov. Vieng Sakornsin and Kanok Ronayoot, Khon Kaen education officer.

The 593rd Engineers, formerly a part of 44th Engineer Group, built a modern 800-student schoolhouse for primary grades 10 miles from Khon Kaen. Named Friendship School, it serves eight villages in Maharakam Province.

The company also built roads, dams, water reservoirs and gave medical treatment to villagers while in this country. The unit is now stationed at Ft. Sill, Okla.



Watch From Overhead

An OB6 "Cayuse" of the 7th Sq., 17th Air Cav., keeps watch overhead as a ground trooper from the same unit escorts a detained Montagnard after sweeping a suspected enemy-held village in the Central Highlands near Pleiku. (USA)

Galt's Brother Reported Assisting FBI

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UPI)—FBI sources indicated Thursday that information from an alleged conspirator in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King may lead them to Eric Starvo Galt, the accused killer.

Meanwhile, the state of Tennessee issued a warrant in Memphis Thursday for Galt charging him with first-degree murder in the slaying of King.

An FBI spokesman in Washington said "the FBI has no one

in custody in connection with Dr. King's slaying," but another source indicated the FBI was either in communication with or questioning the "alleged brother" of Eric Galt. The brother has not been charged.

After Galt bought a rifle from a sporting goods store here March 29, sources said, he took it to the "alleged brother" who was quoted as saying the .243 Remington rifle was "not the gun we need." Galt returned to the sporting goods store and swapped the first rifle for a .30-

06 Remington pump action rifle on March 30, sources close to the investigation said.

The FBI apparently had reason to believe that Galt, who speaks with a rural accent and has several aliases, might have returned to Birmingham after the assassination April 4.

A check of 22 rooming houses in Birmingham Thursday found 10 managers who said FBI agents had questioned them in search of Galt early this week.

Thousands of wanted posters

were distributed throughout the nation Thursday describing Galt as "extremely dangerous," listing his aliases as John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer, and carrying the FBI's special emergency phone number in Washington, NA-87117, for persons to call with information.

The FBI says Galt, 36, is between 5 feet 8 and 5 feet 11, weighing 160 to 170 pounds, and that he took dancing lessons when in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham last September and October, and in Long

Beach, Calif., from December to February.

He left Los Angeles Dec. 15, the FBI said, drove to New Orleans and contacted either an engineering or contracting firm. Then he returned to Los Angeles Dec. 21 and while there graduated March 2 from a bartenders' school.

Galt's Mustang was found abandoned near a public housing project in Atlanta the Thursday after the assassination.

LBJ Reassures ROK

(Continued From Page 1) a full participant in any settlement negotiations.

More important to Park, the foreign ministers' position stated that any allied nations fighting in the war also should participate in any settlement negotiations.

Park came to the meeting with the expressed desire to win reassurance from Johnson that the United States would not sell out its Asian allies for peace in Vietnam.

On the subject of aggression against South Korea, the

communique said: "The two presidents agreed that further aggressive actions of the North Korean communists would constitute a most grave threat to peace.

"In that event, their two governments would immediately determine the action to be taken to meet this threat under the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea."

Park expressed his sympathy to the families of the 82 crewmen of the Pueblo and said he sincerely hoped they would soon regain their freedom. There was no further mention of the Pueblo either in the communique or by officials attending the meeting.

After the President's talk with Eisenhower, he was asked if he thought there should be a summit meeting with Asian allies if substantive talks are arranged with Hanoi.

The President said, "It is very important that we maintain close contact.

"In the days ahead, we will be meeting with the various ones (allies) periodically."

Rusk—

(Continued From Page 1) atmosphere conducive to serious negotiations.

Rusk called Hanoi, Peking and Moscow unacceptable settings for negotiations. He said, "We would not recommend sites such as Washington, Seoul, or Canberra."

Then he said that negotiations must take place in a setting that is fair to both sides—in terms of communications, in terms of access by the world press, and in the atmosphere surrounding the talks.

Rusk said U.S. roving Ambassador Averell Harriman, who has been designated as the White House peace envoy, and Cyrus Vance, the presidential troubleshooter, could get to the Asian sites in Ceylon, Japan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal or Malaysia.

He said the United States is inclined to believe Asia is the proper region for discussions of peace in that area.

Phones—

(Continued From Page 1) Western Electric Co. officials in New York City were continuing. Western Electric contracts usually set the pattern for all CWA member employees of AT&T.

Supervisory and management personnel were prepared to work 12-hour shifts to keep the Bell System's 83.7 million telephones working. The strike was expected to have little or no immediate effect on dial telephone calls in most localities.

But Beirne said delays could be expected in calls requiring the services of an operator, such as person-to-person long distance calls, information calls and credit card calls.

The walkout was called to back up the union's demand for a 10 per cent wage boost, premium pay for holidays, double-time instead of time and one-half for overtime, and increased night differential pay. It was the first cross-country telephone strike since 1947. That one lasted 47 days.

AT&T, mindful of its dependence on government approval for its rate schedule as well as government pressure to hold down inflationary wage boosts, offered increases averaging 5.6 per cent. This was the maximum recommended by the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

Beirne, 57, a pioneer labor organizer in the telephone field, was banking on a breakdown in automated telephone equipment to lead to widespread telephone disruptions and pressure on the company for a settlement.



Three of the five attaches accused by the USSR of spying stand outside the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. They are (from left) Lt. Col. Gerhard L. Jacobsen, Lt. Cmdr. Ralph N. Channel, and Lt. Col. Hugo W. Matson. The other two are on trips outside Moscow. (AP Radiophoto)

Cornered— Russia Protests Attache 'Spying'

(Continued From Page 1) be suffering only light casualties, Wilkinson said, and were preparing to move into the villages.

The battle was part of an operation known as Carentan II in which 101st and 82nd Airborne Div. units are attempting to rout Communist forces threatening the area around Hue.

In other developments: —For the second consecutive day, U.S. B52 bombers flew a record 10 missions into the A Shau Valley to bombard troop concentrations, weapons fortifications and supply routes which the Communists have controlled for 25 months. Many of the supplies being passed through the valley are moving northeastward to the Hue area.

—Allied forces sweeping the Mckong Delta about 43 miles southwest of Saigon reported killing 94 Viet Cong in day-long fighting Wednesday. Elements of the U.S. 9th Inf. Div. accounted for 78 killed when they ran into a company of Viet Cong fighting from fortified positions.

The Americans suffered four killed and 15 wounded. Nearby Vietnamese government troops reported killing 16 more while suffering five dead and nine wounded.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Soviet Union has formally protested to the United States against five U.S. military attaches in Moscow accused of spying but it has not yet called for their expulsion, State Department officials said Wednesday.

The Soviet protest came in a diplomatic note responding to an American note charging the Russians had violated the diplomatic immunity of the five military men. The five, plus a Canadian military attache, were accused by the Soviet government newspaper, Izvestia, of spying earlier this month on a Russian army camp and shipyard.

U.S. military attaches in the Soviet Union work under the constant threat of involvement in a staged incident and the possibility of expulsion.

However, when Soviet authorities in the past have charged American service personnel with espionage or other "illegal activities" they have not always resorted to expelling the officers involved.

For example, in April, 1964, the Soviet defense ministry

charged four U.S. service attaches with taking "illegal photographs" on a trip across the Soviet Union and subsequently restricted them to stay in the Moscow area for 90 days. The United States almost immediately retaliated by confining Soviet military attaches to the Washington area for a similar period.

Baby, That Was Close

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (AP)—A woman said she saw a baby on the outside ledge of a second-story window Wednesday night and "All I could do was pray."

The 17-month-old boy fell from the narrow perch to a concrete porch, landing on his head, then rolled over screaming.

The mother, Ramona Lee, took the baby, Kerry, to a hospital. An examination showed only small scratches on the top of his head.

"All I can say is, babies are amazingly resilient," said Dr. Fenton Sanger.

Weather

Asian Weather Central TOKYO AREA

Friday Night: Cloudy, Rain; Low: 40
Saturday: Cloudy, Rain; High: 50

TEMPERATURES April 18

	H	L		H	L
Bangkok	94	73	Naha	79	66
Chitose	52	34	Saigon	95	75
Guam	80	76	Seoul	68	37
Honolulu	59	50	Taipei	68	63
Manila	93	75	Tokyo	54	48
	H	L		H	L
Albany	71	27	Louisville	67	51
Albuquerque	73	41	Melbourne	69	62
Anchorage	75	47	Memphis	74	67
Atlanta	75	48	Miami	86	65
Birmingham	81	60	Midwaukee	51	45
Bismarck	47	32	Moscow	43	28
Boise	58	29	N. Orleans	78	55
Boston	53	44	N.Y.C.	69	48
Chicago	60	50	N. Platte	40	34
Cincinnati	58	33	Oklahoma City	82	59
Cleveland	70	41	Omaha	59	51
Denver	41	32	Paris	73	50
Des Moines	70	46	Phila.	68	47
Detroit	63	41	Phoenix	77	52
Duluth	63	54	Pittsburgh	72	41
Fairbanks	38	24	Portland, O.	57	32
Fort Worth	47	29	Rapid City	41	33
Fort Worth	83	69	Singapore	83	76
Hong Kong	81	70	St. Louis	80	58
Honolulu	83	68	St. Paul	65	52
Houston	79	70	Salt Lake	44	29
Indianapolis	58	53	S. Antonio	78	70
Jackville	79	59	San Diego	64	55
Jakarta	95	74	San Fran.	64	50
Kansas City	77	55	Seattle	55	34
K. Lumpur	93	71	Shreveport	83	67
Las Vegas	61	50	Sydney	75	65
London	63	50	Tucson	75	50
L.A.	65	53	Wash.	72	42