

Human Waves Beaten Back

Allies Kill 419 in 2 Big Battles

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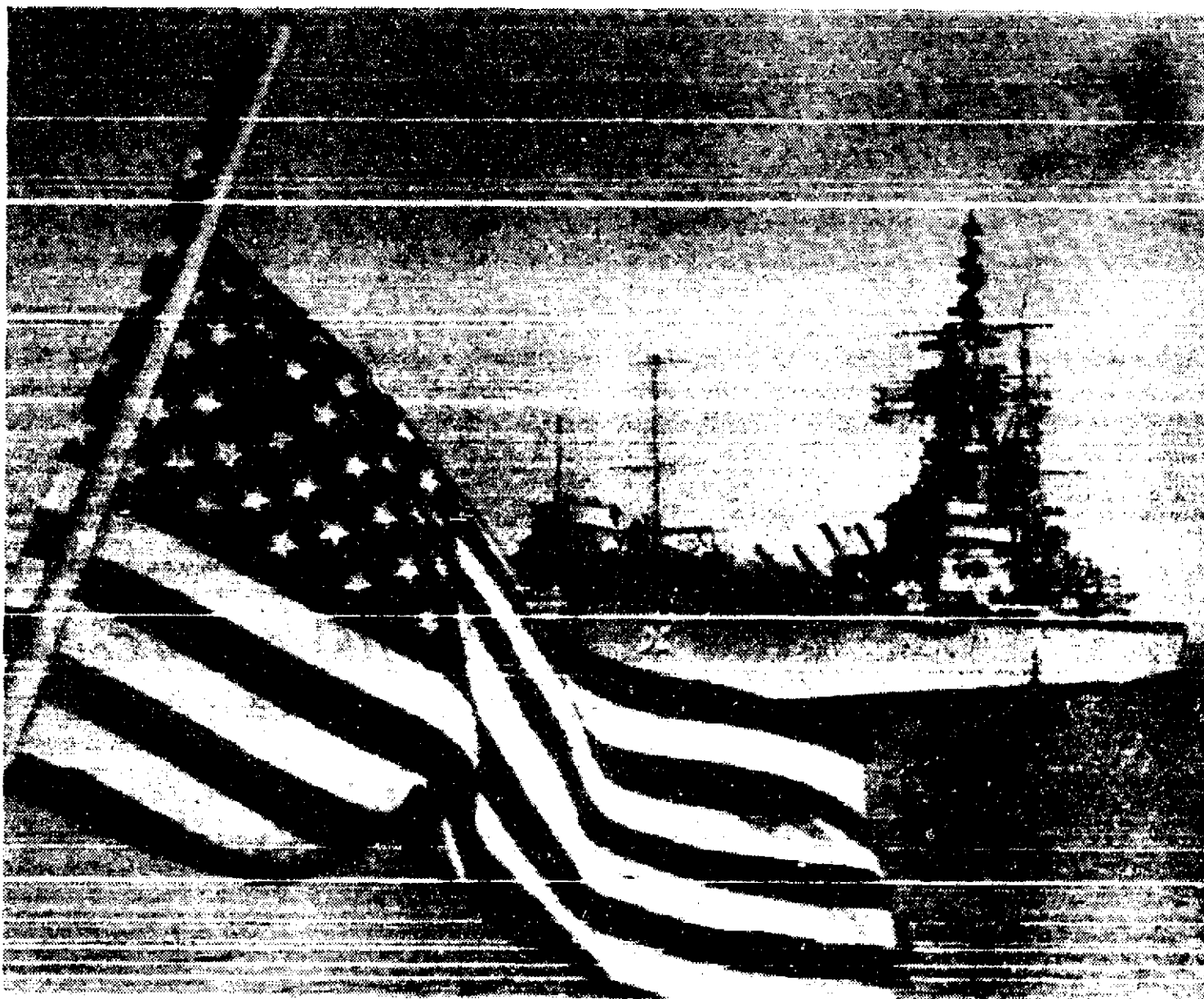
SAIGON—U.S. and South Vietnamese forces killed at least 419 enemy soldiers as Communists launched massive human-wave attacks against two widely separated allied positions, the U.S. Command reported Tuesday.

The attacks, both within a 24-hour period, were two of the largest the Communists have thrown against allied forces since the Tet offensive.

South Vietnamese Popular Forces troops and infantrymen of the U.S. 25th Inf. Div. killed 284 Reds after hundreds of Communists attacked two Popular Force outposts around the village of Trang Bang, 28 miles northwest of Saigon early Monday morning. The fighting lasted into the early morning hours Tuesday.

In the other battle, a multi-battalion force of North Vietnamese troops, supported by flame throwers, attempted to overrun a U.S. fire support base 250 miles north of Saigon. The Reds lost 135 men as the attack was beaten back.

The U.S. Command also reported moderate damage caused during an early morning shelling Tuesday of the Marine base at Phu Bai. Communist gunners sent an estimated 55 rounds of mixed rockets and mortars crashing down on the sprawling (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)



Vietnam War Awakens a Monster Battleship

The American flag waves from a tugboat as the battleship New Jersey heads into the Delaware River at Philadelphia after 10

years in mothballs. The 45,000-ton ship is opening three days of sea trials. The huge warship will join the U.S. 7th Fleet in action off the coast of Vietnam late this summer. (AP Radiophoto)

Hughes Buys Vegas Hotels

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI)—Industrialist Howard Hughes said Monday he would purchase the Silver Slipper and the Stardust Hotels on the Las Vegas "strip," making him the biggest gambler in Nevada.

His gambling license applications at both resorts must still be approved by the state. If successful, Hughes will have moved into the number-one gambling position in Nevada in less than a year.

The mystery billionaire issued a public statement following a meeting of the Nevada Gambling Policy Board Monday after it approved a 10-item check list setting forth the (Continued on Back Page, Col. 5)

LBJ Travel Tax Plan Shelved; Committee Favors Substitute

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Johnson's plan to tax Americans traveling overseas was tentatively scrapped Tuesday by the House Ways & Means Committee.

The panel was said to have reached all but final agreement on a "bare bones" substitute measure which would impose a 5 per cent tax on overseas airline tickets and reduce duty-free exemptions on foreign purchases.

The full committee was

expected to approve the revised measure Wednesday.

Committee sources said the panel could not agree on a spending tax affecting Americans traveling outside the Western Hemisphere.

The bill, sources said, would be limited to a 5 per cent permanent tax on overseas airline flights similar to the 5 per cent levy on domestic airlines. The panel also considered a 5 per cent tax on steamship lines but later rejected it.

The present \$100 duty free exemption allowed tourists on gifts brought back from overseas would be dropped to \$10 until October 1969, sources said, at which time it would be raised back to \$50.

Chairman Wilbur D. Mills, D-Ark., was said to have told the tax writers the substitute proposal was about all that could win complete committee favor.

Johnson proposed a tax for all spending over \$7 a day outside the Western hemisphere.

Abrams In D.C., Sees LBJ

WASHINGTON (AP)—Army Gen. Creighton W. Abrams slipped quietly into Washington and lost no time conferring with President Johnson Tuesday morning. Details of their talks were secret.

Officially, the Pentagon said the 53-year-old Abrams, now top deputy to Gen. William C. Westmoreland, is here to report on strengthening the South Vietnamese forces. But more probably he was talking about the possibility of his succeeding Westmoreland.

Westmoreland will leave the Vietnam command to become Army chief of staff in early July. Abrams arrived here unannounced Monday night, three days after Johnson announced (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

The Barber Uses Too Much Tonic

MOSS POINT, Miss. (UPI)—When Oscar Evans got out of a barber's chair Monday the haircut was so bad he thought there should be a law against it.

There was. Evans complained to police detective Laverne Campbell about it, and the officer booked barber Horace Pope on a charge of public drunkenness. Evans has one consolation—he didn't get a shave.

Red '68 Toll in I Corps: 30,000

Cushman Cites Enemy Losses, Present Dangers

DA NANG, Vietnam (UPI)—The commander of South Vietnam's northern I Corps said Tuesday about 30,000 Communists had been killed there so far this year.

But, added Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Cushman, the Communists still have the capability to strike again along the Demilitarized Zone and in population areas such as Hue, Quang Tri and Da Nang.

"He (the enemy) could have several regiments move into any area within a night's march," Cushman said. "To this extent, he could make another surge.

"I don't know what he'll choose to do, but he certainly

is capable of doing so."

Cushman commands South Vietnam's northernmost five provinces. His Marines man the Demilitarized Zone posts at Con Thien, Khe Sanh, Gio Linh, Camp Carroll and Dong Ha.

He told a news conference the North Vietnamese may have moved tanks into the northern provinces.

"Reports that they are around Quang Tri or any other place are possible," he said. "Wherever they can get them to by road, they may go there."

The three-star commander said fighting in his corps had been light for the past few weeks except for around Khe

Sanh, and only 15 men had been killed at Khe Sanh in that period.

"Khe Sanh," he said, "certainly is more nerve-wracking and we can't fight out against it. And therefore, it makes a different situation psychologically."

The Communists' shelling of Khe Sanh tapered off Monday, with only 50 incoming rocket, mortar and artillery rounds that inflicted light damage and casualties.

The Leathernecks at the base have begun patrolling outside the Khe Sanh perimeter for the first time since the Communist encirclement was completed late in January.

Cushman, asked why the Communists were continuing to infiltrate men and supplies into South Vietnam, answered, "They are trying to win this war and take over the country."

Cushman said heavy losses were being inflicted upon the Communists during their attempts to infiltrate.

"They probably have to start at least double the tonnage (of supplies) and probably one and one-half times the troop replacements down the road in order to get what they want to get here," Cushman said.

"Apparently they are so intent on seizing this country, they're willing to expend their manpower to do it."

Thieu Fires 4 Chiefs

SAIGON (AP)—Four province chiefs were replaced Tuesday by South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu, bringing to 12 the number of new province chiefs named in the last two weeks.

Informed sources said the four were removed because they were ineffective. On March 11, Thieu fired six of South Vietnam's 44 province chiefs for corruption and incompetence, and named others to replace a province chief who had died in a plane crash and another who had been injured in an ambush.

The four provinces involved in Tuesday's moves are in the Mekong Delta, south of Saigon, where Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang recently took over as corps commander.

An announcement from the President's Office said the provinces are Go Cong, Kien Hoa, Vinh Binh and Phong Dinh.

The firing of the province chiefs follows by a few weeks the replacement of two of the nation's four corps commanders.

Thieu is expected to announce shortly a new administrative setup in the corps areas, with the appointment of six civilian delegates to oversee the civilian activities of the province chiefs and report to the president on matters of inefficiency and corruption.

Terrorists Kill 209 Civilians

SAIGON (AP)—Viet Cong terrorists killed 209 civilians, wounded 364 and abducted 634 in the last two weeks, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Included among the civilians killed during the March 9-23 period were 14 pacification workers, eight national police, six hamlet chiefs, four hamlet officials and one Viet Cong defector.

The officials said that although statistics are incomplete, civilian casualties during the month of February totaled 7,424 killed and 15,434 wounded. It was not known how many were victims of Viet Cong terrorists or were killed in the fighting resulting from the Communist Lunar New Year offensive which began Jan. 30.

VC Women Attack U.S. Armored Unit

TRANG BANG, Vietnam (AP) — At least six women were reported among an assault wave of Viet Cong who charged an American armored column rushing to reinforce this key district town 28 miles northwest of Saigon, military officers said Tuesday.

Capt. Gordon Lam, 25, of Honolulu, said he saw three women armed with Communist Chinese assault rifles charging his platoon of armored person-

nel carriers from his right flank. Three of the women were cut down by the carriers' .50-caliber machine guns, he said.

Lam said the women were in the first wave of about 20 to 30 Viet Cong troops who charged in broad daylight Monday.

"We kept shooting them from the tracks (the personnel carriers) with our .50s," Lam said. "They just stopped coming after we had cut down the first assault wave. The rest pulled back and I started to throw mortar fire into their positions. Then I pulled back toward a bridge and made my final assault from the west to the east. When it was over, I counted 46 enemy bodies."

First Lt. Daniel A. Bartolomei, 24, of Puerto Rico, a platoon leader, said, "I saw the group that was charging the armored personnel carriers. When I saw them I thought they were ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) troops. They opened up on us and they then charged us.

"In the first group were five to six women," Bartolomei said. "I could see their long hair. They were dressed in black pajamas."

Bartolomei said he saw the charging enemy troops fall "as we kept shooting."

"I counted 14 of them, mixed with the women, killed after the assault," he added.

U.S. officers here said the attack on Trang Bang failed because a battalion of the 23rd Inf. (Mechanized), U.S. 25th Inf. Div. had been deployed near the town before the Viet Cong started their assault.



All They Have . . . in a Basket

Three Montagnard children with their only belongings in a wicker basket take a rest in Da Lat. Their parents disappeared during the Communist Tet attack on the city. The children came to Da Lat in hopes of finding them. Da Lat is 140 miles northwest of Saigon. (AP Radiophoto)

Spray Area For Plague

SAIGON (AP) — U.S. Health officials said Tuesday several cases of bubonic plague had been reported in Tay Ninh Province and other areas of South Vietnam, but that the incidence was "not unusual" for this time of year.

The officials said health teams had been inoculating civilians and dusting with DDT to lower the flea population, which spreads bubonic plague from rats to humans.

The officials said one insecure area of Tay Ninh Province had developed a number of cases of plague because the teams had been unable to get in to inoculate and dust. Teams entered the area three weeks ago and solved the problem.

Ky's Plane Hits Truck

SAIGON (AP) — A four-engine DC6 carrying Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and his official party collided with a U.S. Air Force pickup truck Monday night while taxiing into the terminal area at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport.

No one was injured. One of the propellers of the plane and the rear section of the truck were damaged.

Ky's pilot probably avoided a more serious accident when he swerved sharply to avoid the truck. The pilot slammed on the plane's brakes and stopped the engines.

Ky was returning from an all-day trip to Da Nang.

Army of Rats Plagues Khe Sanh Marines

KHE SANH, Vietnam (AP)—The 5,500 Marines at this U.S. combat base are fighting a losing battle with a foe as persistent as the North Vietnamese battalions surrounding them—rats.

Thousands of rats have moved into the sandbagged base where underground tunnels and plenty of food provide them with a rodent's paradise.

One of the Marines' chief weapons for beating back the invasion is peanut butter fortified with zinc phosphide, a poison. For some reason, the rats

show a marked preference for peanut butter over cheese. And since one out of three C rations contains peanut butter, there is plenty around. Several thousand traps and globs of poisoned peanut butter are spread over Khe Sanh.

A major problem at the base is that North Vietnamese shell fire makes sanitation duty hazardous. Once the Marines carefully dumped all their trash and garbage into a ravine 500 yards outside their base. Plows covered up the piles of trash as they accumulated.

Now with 5,500 Marines opening nine C ration cans a day and snipers shooting at the dump, the Marines' trash details have contented themselves with getting most of the empty cans and trash out to the dump where it lies uncovered, the home of uncounted rats and flies.

The refuse is piling up inside the barbed wire as well, much to the dismay of James E. Dupuy, a Navy corpsman who as a preventive medicine technician commands the antirat attack.

Numerous men have been bitten by rats and the bite is worth

a trip out of Khe Sanh. But the trip involves 14 days of painful shots to prevent rabies.

Many men joke about sleeping with their toes out of their blanket and a daub of peanut butter on each toe.

The threat of plague is low, although the disease sometimes sweeps through wide areas of Vietnam. The Marines all have shots to protect them.

Most Marines have learned that the "rats will leave you alone if you leave them alone," as one said. "We're all in this together," another joked.

Supply Advisers Keep Regional Forces Firing

XUAN LOC, Vietnam (IO)—Seven American soldiers are fighting a war on waste in the heart of III Corps Tactical Zone's Long Khanh Province. These hand-picked specialists from the 11th Armored Cav. Regt. make up the two-month-old Logistical and Administrative Advisory Team (LAAT).

The Blackhorse troubleshooters, working side by side with Vietnamese counterparts, are assuring the province's Regional (RF) and Popular (PF) Forces a steady flow of personnel, supplies and salaries to maintain top readiness and performance. When a problem crops up, the team attempts to guide the units in submitting requests and reports through the proper channels for the speediest handling of their work.

The LAAT headquarters is the Administrative and Direct Support Logistics Co., or A&L Co., just south of Xuan Loc, the Long Khanh Provincial capital. At this home base they check and chart incoming personnel and logistics reports for discrepancies and outgoing supplies for deficits.

When a LAAT adviser discovers a problem, he tells his Vietnamese counterpart about it. Together they work out a way to remedy the situation.

"One of the main functions of LAAT is to carry the influence of the A&L Co. to the field," says 28-year-old Maj. Roger T. MacLeod, team leader and deputy province adviser for administration and logistics. So contact teams of Vietnamese and LAAT advisers from the A&L Co. visit the RF companies and

PF platoons throughout the province.

On these trips they check for missing and needed equipment, adjust A&L rosters and reports that are not up to date, repair as many deadlined articles as possible and arrange paperwork and shipment for equipment that must go back to the A&L Co. for repair.

Some of the field units have difficulty picking up new or repaired equipment or parts from the A&L Company. When this happens, the LAAT advisers try to get helicopters to fly the supplies out to the field units.

In addition to keeping track of the province's administration and logistics, the team also shares the defense of the Xuan Loc MACV compound and helps the A&L Co. to upgrade their own defenses.

Working in conjunction with Capt. Harvey Binns, who has been the MACV adviser to A&L Co. since November, the LAAT advisers have helped the soldiers get barrier and building materials and ammunition for the company.

The LAAT volunteers were selected from the 11th Cav. according to their specialties. First Lt. Jerry Thompson covers the personnel and finance fields; S. Sgt. Carlos F. Algarin, supply; S. Sgt. Robert Brinson, communications; S. Sgt. John Foggin, maintenance; Sgt. Tommy McConnell, small arms; and Spec. 5 Charles Busby, medicine.

Except for MacLeod, who has spent over two years in Vietnam and speaks the language, team members are working directly with the Vietnamese for the first time. Because of this, the LAAT men depend heavily on their Vietnamese counterparts to get their ideas into action.

Since Long Khanh Province was not deeply scarred by the Viet Cong Tet offensive, the LAAT advisers enjoy the advantage of working ahead rather than rebuilding. This, plus their personal enthusiasm, has enabled them to make noticeable progress in just two months.

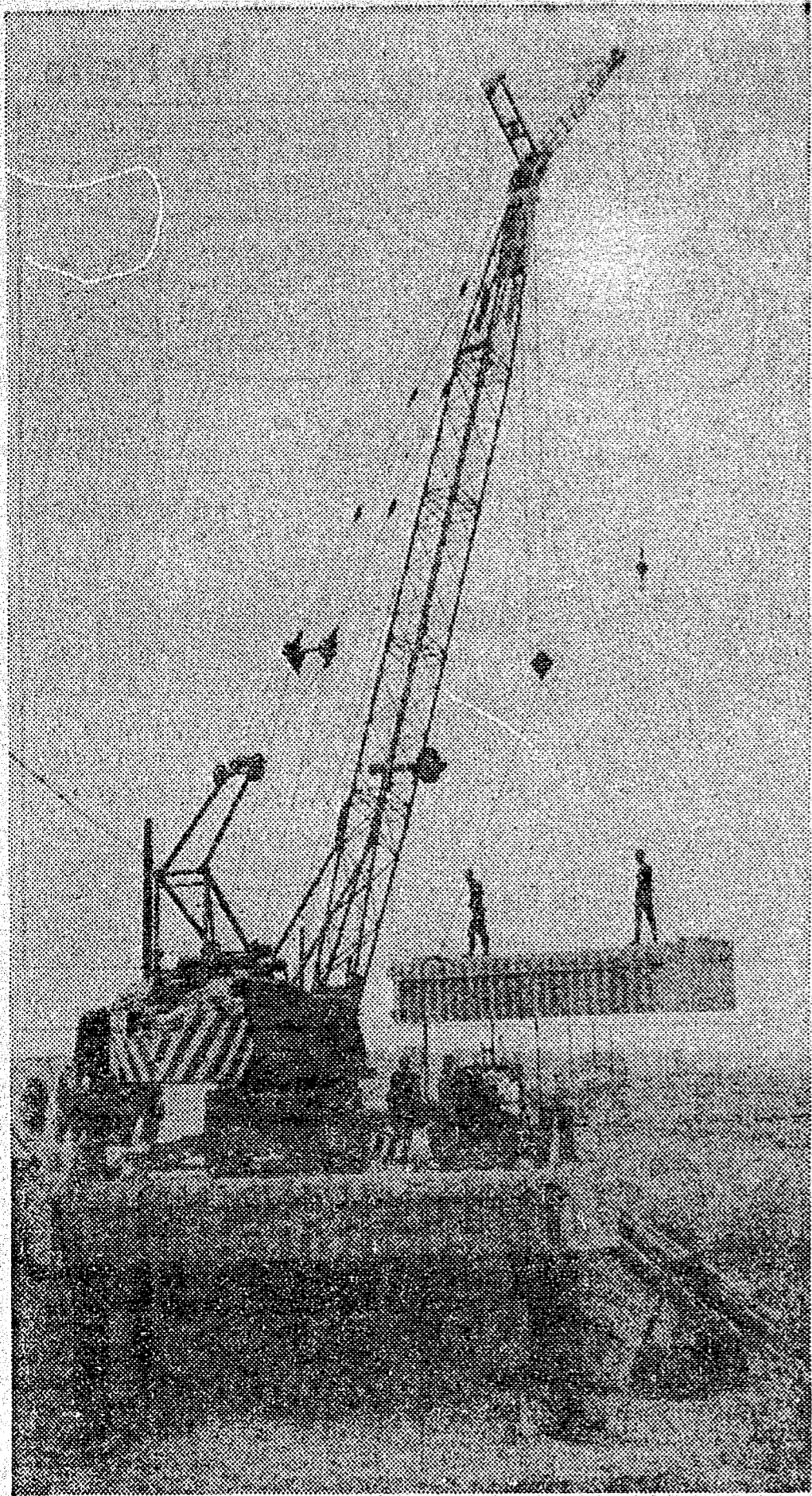
Fighter Wing Cited Again

SOUTHEAST ASIA (OI) — A second red-white-blue streamer of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) was recently added to the flagstaff of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing by Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., commander of the 13th Air Force.

The award was presented to the 388th TFW for "distinguishing itself by military operations involving conflict with opposing foreign forces from July 1, 1966, to June 30, 1967." It was the second award of the AFOUA to the 388th TFW for Southeast Asia combat operations since it was activated April 8, 1966.

During the award period, the 388th TFW flew more than 22,500 combat sorties, totaling more than 54,000 combat hours while its ground support maintenance and supply personnel set unprecedented low marks for the number of aircraft aborts and NORS (Not Operationally Ready-Supply) rates.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Thursday, March 28, 1968



Seabees of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Bn. 53 hoist a pontoon section into position on Route 1 just south of Da Nang. The bridge is the first of its type to be constructed in Vietnam. (USN)

Seabees Construct New Kind of Bridge

CAMP ADENIR, Vietnam (PAO) — Work has begun on one of the world's newest type of bridges on Route 1, just south of Da Nang.

An Ammi Pontoon Bridge is being constructed by Seabees of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Bn. 53 to replace the French structure destroyed by Viet Cong earlier this year.

The original concepts for this bridge system were conceived and developed by Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Washington. A prototype was tested at CBC Davisville, R.I., by NMCB-53 during the summer of 1967.

Because of NMCB-53's prior experience with the prototype, the Vietnam project was assigned to NMCB-53 by the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade. The project officer made many suggestions after working with the prototype that were incorporated into the model now being built in Vietnam.

The Ammi Pontoon Bridge consists of pontoon sections, hollow steel pipe pilings and steel decking sections. The pontoon sections have "spudwells" or sleeves for the pilings.

In construction of the bridge, the pontoon sections are held in position above the river. The pilings are driven through the spudwells to anchor the pontoon firmly in place.

The pontoon elevation is adjusted to the height above the

water and secured, either by welding or by tying off with chain. The deck beams are then added, and that section of the bridge is complete.

An alternate construction sequence entails floating the pontoon into position, driving piles through spudwells and raising pontoons to desired elevations. This sequence is used where current conditions permit.

In this manner, the bridge can be "walked" across an entire river in a minimum amount of time. In addition to its time saving aspects, the bridge is also capable of holding 60 ton loads and is extremely hard for enemy forces to destroy.

Solves Copter Dust Problem

PHU LOI, Vietnam (IO) — An Army pilot of the 213th Assault Support Helicopter Co., 1st Aviation Brigade, invented the "Dust Suppressant Apparatus," which is intended to control dust from the helicopter's rotor-wash.

Helicopter pilots have been aware for some time of the problem of landing in dusty areas, which causes extreme visibility disadvantage just when it is needed most. The 11th Combat Aviation Bn's. safety officer asked CWO Herman Lenhardt, of Lawton, Okla., the

maintenance officer of the 213th, to look into the problem.

After much investigation, building in his spare time, and ground testing, Lenhardt was ready to test his rig, which consists of a half inch pipe, rubber hosing, two fuel bladders, and two 100 gallon-per-minute pumps. The pumps spray peneprime which is an oil-tar mixture.

The test flight and landing was conducted on an extremely dusty road between Phu Loi and Di An. The test proved very

clearing for routine landings just a few miles apart.

"When I touched down I was immediately surrounded by a large group of people. I put on a big grin and said 'hello.' They were very friendly and even helped me spread my chute out to attract the rescue helicopter," Muskat related.

Less than 15-minutes after their landing the two were picked up by a "Jolly Green Giant" rescue helicopter and the next day were back at their home base uninjured and ready for additional combat flights.

Little Church Built by GIs

QUI NHON, Vietnam (IO) — The men of the Qui Nhon Support Command's 563rd Supply and Service Bn. have built a "country church" in the fertile Cha Rang Valley near Qui Nhon.

The chapel was formally dedicated in a service that was attended by Col. William O'Connell, commanding officer of the Qui Nhon Support Command, and Col. William R. Bigler, commander of the 58th Field Depot.

The little church is fitted with colorful stained glass windows and is painted a soft white. A tall steeple further identifies the chapel as a place where, in the words of Chaplain (Capt.) Huey A. Bridgeman's dedication prayer, "... men can find the strength from God to continue their vital mission."

effective, and additional tests were scheduled.

Further testing was conducted at one of the "Big Red One's" dustiest fire support bases, "Thunder Four." Upon completion of these effective tests, the rig was ready for a combat mission — a troop movement.

Lenhardt and his crew flew to the LZ an hour before the troop-carrying Chinooks were to arrive. Within the hour, they had sprayed four landing zones and the choppers were able to land with a minimum of dust and very good visibility.

Fliers Hail Rescuers After Jungle Bailout

SOUTHEAST ASIA (OI) — "Life Support" means exactly that for a pair of Air Force F105 Thunderchief fliers of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing who bailed out after their plane was hit by enemy fire.

Maj. Michael S. Muskat, 34, Amherst, Mass., and Capt. Kyle Stouder, 30, Huntington, Ind., had nothing but praise for 388th TFW Life Support personnel and Air Force survival equipment.

"The outstanding job done by our Life Support personnel and the quality of Air Force survival equipment was amply demonstrated by the perfect functioning of all systems," commented Muskat.

Muskat and Stouder, who have flown 52 combat missions together in the two-seat F105, were hit while attacking a military storage and bivouac area located on a mountain ridge.

"We heard a loud 'bang' up front and the cockpit immediately filled with smoke from a fire in the nose section," Muskat continued.

He was able to put the fire out and got the aircraft back over friendly territory and prepared to let down for an emergency landing.

However, on final approach he discovered that the landing gear had been damaged and would not extend.

Deciding to eject rather than risk a tricky wheels-up landing, the two selected an unpopulated wooded area and "punched out" from medium altitude. Both steered their parachutes into a

Tear Gas Used on Delvalle

Guardsmen Bar Panama Assembly

PANAMA CITY (UPI)—National Guardsmen used tear gas and crossed rifles Tuesday to block a rump session of the Panamanian National Assembly convoked by Max Delvalle, one of Panama's two rival presidents.

The guard has backed impeached President Marco A. Robles in his power struggle with the opposition-dominated National Assembly which Sunday voted Robles' ouster and installed Delvalle in his place.

Abrams—

(Continued From Page 1)
the switch in Westmoreland's job.

A Pentagon spokesman was asked what other subjects in addition to strengthening South Vietnam forces would come up during Abrams' talks with Johnson, Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford, members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and others.

The spokesman replied, "I don't know of anything else. You can draw your own conclusions on that."

At the White House after it was disclosed that Abrams had already talked to Johnson, Press Secretary George Christian refused to give any details.

The Defense Department statement said that Abrams' visit will be for only one or two days.

"One of his major duties in Vietnam has been his association with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam," the statement said.

"On his Washington visit he will report to authorities here on the recently announced increases in the planned strength of the ARVN and on plans for the additional modernization of ARVN equipment."

The South Vietnamese government has announced it will increase its forces by about 135,000 men. The total now stands at about 600,000.

Abrams met with Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sources said.

Abrams was vice chief of staff of the Army when he was tapped last April 6 to go to Vietnam as Westmoreland's chief deputy.

Take Me to Your Sanitation Chief

NEWARK, N.Y. (AP) — A round, flat object spun out of the sky and caused \$500 damage to Donald Scott's automobile.

Flying saucer? No, flying manhole cover.

The cover was hit by a village snow plow. Like a giant tiddlywink, it took off and smashed through the rear window of Scott's car.

U.S. Flag Comes Down on Iwo

TOKYO (AP)—The Stars and Stripes no longer flies over Mount Suribachi on the famous island battlefield of Iwo Jima in the Pacific.

For years Suribachi, where Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal in 1945 made one of the most memorable photographs to come out of World War II, was one of the few places in the world where Old Glory flew 24 hours a day instead of being lowered at sunset.

24 Pacific Stars & Stripes
Thursday, March 28, 1968

Guardsmen followed Robles' orders to prevent use of the legislative palace "as a center of subversive activities" when they blocked the assembly session.

They fired a cloud of tear gas into the faces of Delvalle and a crowd of deputies when they sought to enter the building despite the guardsmen's crossed rifles.

Guardsmen also used tear gas to break up street rallies of Delvalle supporters in the Maranon residential section. Throwing an occasional tear gas grenade and firing into the air, they shoved demonstrators back. The demonstrators, numbering several thousand, threw rocks at the guardsmen and shouted insults.

The guard has taken the position that only the Panamanian Supreme Court, now in recess until April 1, can legalize Robles' ouster.

The 5,000-man national guard is Panama's only military force.

11th Body Found

ROSSLARE HARBOR, Ireland (UPI)—Searchers in the Irish Sea found the 11th body from the crash of an Aer Lingus propjet that went down Sunday with 61 persons aboard.

Allies Kill 419 in 2 Big Battles

(Continued From Page 1)
base. U.S. casualties were said to be light.

The U.S. Command said the bloody 26-hour battle northwest of Saigon was triggered at 3:30 a.m. Monday when large Communist units launched coordinated attacks against two small Vietnamese Popular Forces outposts around the small village of Trang Bang which sits near the intersections of highways 1 and 10 that run to the Cambodian border less than 10 miles away.

The Communists succeeded in overrunning one of the outposts five miles east of Trang Bang, but the other outpost, 1/2 mile outside of the village, held out until 6:30 a.m. when a company from the U.S. 25th Inf. Div. was able to reinforce.

At 11 a.m., other units from the 1st Brigade of the 25th, moving toward the battle area, tangled with an estimated 200-300 Reds on the outskirts of the village.

Another reaction force of tanks from the 25th and troops from the 34th Vietnamese Ranger Bn. ran into heavy enemy resistance as they neared the area.

The fighting raged throughout the day and into the night. At 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, all allied units reported the fighting had stopped. The U.S. Command said that during the day Tuesday the reaction forces continued to search for the fleeing enemy.

Though the fighting was reported at an end, the U.S. Command said it was not known if the fallen outpost had been retaken.

The Command said 10 U.S. soldiers were killed and 71 wounded in the fighting. Government casualties were termed light.

At 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, two or three North Vietnamese battalions attacked a U.S. fire support base defended by three companies of U.S. infantrymen from the 4th Inf. Div., about 19 miles west of Kontum City in Kontum Province.

The North Vietnamese charged the perimeter under cover of 60mm mortars with flame throwers, grenades, small arms, automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

Early in the attack an unknown number of Reds were reported to have broken through the western perimeter.

The bloody close-in fighting continued until 7:10 a.m. when the U.S. defenders drove the Communists out of the base with a heroic counterattack.

At 8:30 other units from the 1st Brigade, 4th Inf. Div. were sent into the battle area, and for a solid hour, between 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., U.S. Air Force planes and division artillery pounded the suspected enemy escape route.

The human-wave attack cost the Communists 135 killed. U.S. casualties were 19 killed and 51 wounded.

U.S. reaction forces were searching for the North Vietnamese force Tuesday.

Vietnamese forces on Operation Truong Cong Dinh reported killing 58 enemy soldiers in three battles in the Mekong Delta Monday.



Tear gas cloud rises behind Panama's second president Max Delvalle as National Guardsmen, loyal to President Marco Robles, refuse him entrance to the legislative palace in Panama City. (AP Radiophoto)

General Beach Retiring

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Johnson announced Tuesday that Gen. Dwight E. Beach, Army commander-in-chief in the Pacific, will retire Aug. 1.

Johnson also announced the retirements of four Army lieutenant generals.

Beach, a four-star general, has served in his present post since Sept. 1966.

Lt. Gen. William W. Dick, Jr., commanding general, Allied Land Forces, Southeastern Europe, and Lt. Gen. Robert Hackett, commanding general, U.S. Army Air Defense Command, are retiring July 1.

Lt. Gen. Lawrence J. Lincoln, commanding general, 4th U.S. Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will retire Aug. 1.

Lt. Gen. Edgar C. Doleman, deputy commander-in-chief in the Pacific, will retire Oct. 1.

Hughes—

(Continued From Page 1)
criteria for issuance of multiple gambling licenses in Nevada.

"Since I feel that I can meet the criteria, I have instructed my representatives to close the transactions for the purchase of the Silver Slipper and the Stardust immediately, and to file the necessary applications with the Gaming Control Board and the Gaming Commission," said the brief Hughes announcement.

The industrialist already owns the Desert Inn, Sands, Castaways and Frontier Hotels. The purchase of the Gay-Nineties styled Silver Slipper and the 1,500-room Stardust hotels would give Hughes control of one-mile of the glittering and gaudy "strip."

Since Hughes came to Nevada in November of 1966, and set up headquarters at the Desert Inn Hotel, his purchases in southern Nevada have soared to well over the \$125 million mark. Presumably the sales price of the Stardust would be near \$40 million.

The Gaming Control Board meets here Wednesday and the Gaming Commission meets Thursday. Conceivably, the two Hughes gambling licenses could be acted upon this week.

The policy board gave Hughes representatives no public hint as to whether two more Hughes gambling applications would be acceptable.

Weather

Asian Weather Control
TOKYO AREA

Wednesday Night: Cloudy, drizzle; Low: 42
Thursday: Partly cloudy; High: 58

TEMPERATURES

March 26, 1968			
M. L.		M. L.	
Burkina	77 66	Suzhou	77 77
Chitose	34 25	Soul	57 37
Hazuki	57 32	Taipei	59 52
Manila	94 75	Tokyo	45 20
Naha	61 59		
M. L.		M. L.	
Albany	44 23	Memphis	62 37
Albuquerque	71 38	Miami	73 55
Amarillo	75 40	Milwaukee	45 39
Atlanta	64 33	Moscow	50 36
Birmingham	67 30	N. Orleans	62 30
Bismarck	60 31	NYC	53 30
Boston	56 41	N. Platte	67 26
Boulder	48 30	Okla. City	72 43
Chicago	66 39	Omaha	74 40
Cincinnati	62 28	Portland	57 35
Cleveland	53 27	Philly.	52 30
Denver	66 34	Phoenix	77 47
Des Moines	73 47	Pittsburgh	55 24
Detroit	45 25	Port., O.	52 33
Fairbanks	37 4	Reyno City	64 36
Fort Worth	64 38	Reno	61 21
Hong Kong	58 53	Richmond	61 27
Honolulu	83 70	Singapore	87 75
Houston	68 55	St. Louis	74 40
Indopolis	61 31	St. Paul	46 45
Jakarta	77 74	San Francisco	47 24
Jokohama	75 74	San Jose	75 42
Kansas City	73 48	San Diego	70 55
K. Lumpur	72 66	San Fran.	59 54
Las Vegas	82 50	Seattle	52 45
London	55 42	Shreveport	72 41
L.A.	73 57	Sydney	80 68
Louisville	55 30	Tucson	76 48
Melbourne	75 40	Wash.	59 34