

Senate OKs Trimmed Defense Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate voted a \$660 million cut in the \$22 billion defense procurement bill Friday and then passed the measure on a vote of 54 to 3.

Those voting "no" were Sens. Ernest Gruening, D-Alaska, Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., and Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, D-Mont.

The vote sent the bill to the house.

On the question of cutting the amount to be authorized, the Senate's vote was 45 to 13.

It adopted an amendment by Sen. John J. Williams, R-Del., to apply a three per cent cut to the total in the bill in line with efforts to cut federal spending in general by \$6 billion.

Earlier, it rejected a 10 per cent cut by a vote of 44 to 12 after being told by Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., "We have had terrific losses in Vietnam" of helicopters, aircraft and other supplies.

Earlier, the Senate amended the legislation to encourage award of defense contracts to firms which hire and train hard-core unemployment.

The amendment, by Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., was adopted 30 to 23.

Javits said his amendment would provide that insofar as practicable, the secretary of defense should take into account a potential contractor's willingness "to employ a substantial" (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Tornado Kills 11 in Arkansas

GREENWOOD, Ark. (AP)—A tornado cut a 400-foot swath through the heart of this western Arkansas town Friday, killing at least 11 persons and injuring possibly 200.

Duncan Moore, assistant administrator of a hospital at nearby Fort Smith, said the hospital had received the bodies of 11 persons.

Moore said the hospital had received 27 other injured persons, many of them in critical condition.

Capt. Damon Wilson of the state police said he had no idea how many persons were injured because the injured were still being removed from the debris.

"This is a critical situation," Moore said.

State police at Fort Smith said the tornado struck at 3:23 p.m. in this town of 1,558, about 20 miles south of Fort Smith.

Police ordered every available ambulance from Fort Smith and nearby Oklahoma communities into the Greenwood area to take the injured to hospitals.

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Hanoi Insists on Poland Or Cambodia for Talks



Pat Begins Viet Duty

Airman I.C. Patrick Nugent, President Johnson's son-in-law, prepares to fuse a 750-pound bomb at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. He is assigned to the 412th Munitions Maintenance Sq. Story, Page 6. (AP Radlophoto)

TOKYO (AP)—North Vietnam, accusing the United States Friday of putting forth "extremely absurd and insolent conditions," has rejected the latest proposal on possible sites for peace talks on Vietnam.

In an official Foreign Ministry statement, Hanoi said the U.S. was stalling and "completely not serious" in proposing 10 new sites. It described the proposal as a "tortuous maneuver" to delay contacts between the two nations.

It insisted preliminary talks be held in either Warsaw or Phnom Penh.

Hanoi's official Vietnam News Agency (VNA), in a broadcast monitored in Tokyo early Saturday, said the statement, issued by a North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman Friday, was tantamount to rejection of a proposal made by Secretary of State Dean Rusk Thursday.

VNA quoted the spokesman as saying "within three weeks only, the United States, which at first did not set any conditions with regard to the choice of a site for talks, have come to pile up extremely absurd and insolent conditions."

"Moreover," the spokesman added, "the 10 places advanced by Mr. Dean Rusk fail to meet even the conditions posed by it."

The spokesman added: "The United States demands the choice of a site where the two parties have representations, but in the places advanced by Mr. Dean Rusk there are only U.S. embassies."

"The United States demands the choice of a neutral country, but many of the countries proposed by Mr. Dean Rusk are not neutral. Some are support-bases for the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam."

He added, "The U.S. government's tortuous maneuvers calculated to create additional difficulties and delay the preliminary contacts between the D.R.V.N. (North Vietnam) and (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

Telephone Cables Cut In 3 States

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Phone lines and cables were reported slashed in three states Friday as the first nationwide telephone strike in 21 years entered its second day. Union officials said their members were not responsible for the cut lines.

Joseph A. Beirne, president of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), said "We know none of our union members are engaged in acts of sabotage."

"CWA doesn't condone acts like that," Beirne said. "It is not only wrong, but no such act ever ended a strike by as much as a minute earlier."

Phone cables were reported (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

Boy Has Lost His Marbles

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The neighborhood children wouldn't believe Luis Roberto Costa, 17, could make things disappear.

So he did, and Thursday he was resting comfortably in a hospital with 38 marbles in his stomach.

His only complaint: He isn't getting enough to eat while undergoing treatment.

New Lead in Search for King's Slayer

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The FBI Friday identified Eric Starvo Galt, sought in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, as James Earl Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

A warrant was issued Wednesday for a man identified as

Galt in the April 4 sniper slaying of King in Memphis, Tenn.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said a systematic search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the case against the prints of more than 53,000 persons led to the determination "that Galt

and Ray are identical."

But the announcement raised some perplexing questions. On Wednesday, when Hoover identified Galt as the man sought for conspiracy in the slaying, he said that Galt had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965.

Friday's FBI announcement said Ray, 40, was in prison between 1960 and April 23, 1967, when he escaped. He had been serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Hoover did not mention the discrepancies between his state- (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)

Heaviest Raids of Year

U.S. Bombers Hammer Panhandle

SAIGON (AP)—Despite President Johnson's curtailed bombing of North Vietnam, U.S. warplanes hammered the country's southern panhandle with the heaviest raids this year and the most missions in nearly four months, military spokesmen announced Friday.

With clearing weather, U.S. bombers flew 145 missions Thursday, a record for this year surpassing the 144 of Jan. 6. It also was the highest number of missions since Dec. 26 when 150 were flown.

Johnson ordered all U.S. bombing strikes halted in the heartland of North Vietnam above the 20th Parallel 20 days ago. Since then, despite lingering northeast monsoon cloud covers, U.S. bombers have shifted the thrust of their attacks to the southern panhandle, tripling the number of missions against enemy supply routes and convoy targets there.

The deepest reported penetration Thursday was a raid by Navy A4 Skyhawks from the Carrier Enterprise on a railroad bridge one mile below the 19th Parallel.

The U.S. Command said a limited damage assessment showed the raiders Thursday destroyed or damaged 14 bridges, 13 trucks and 16 boats, barges or sampans; cut bridges and roads in many places; and touched off several secondary explosions and fires, indicating the planes hit fuel or ammunition dumps.

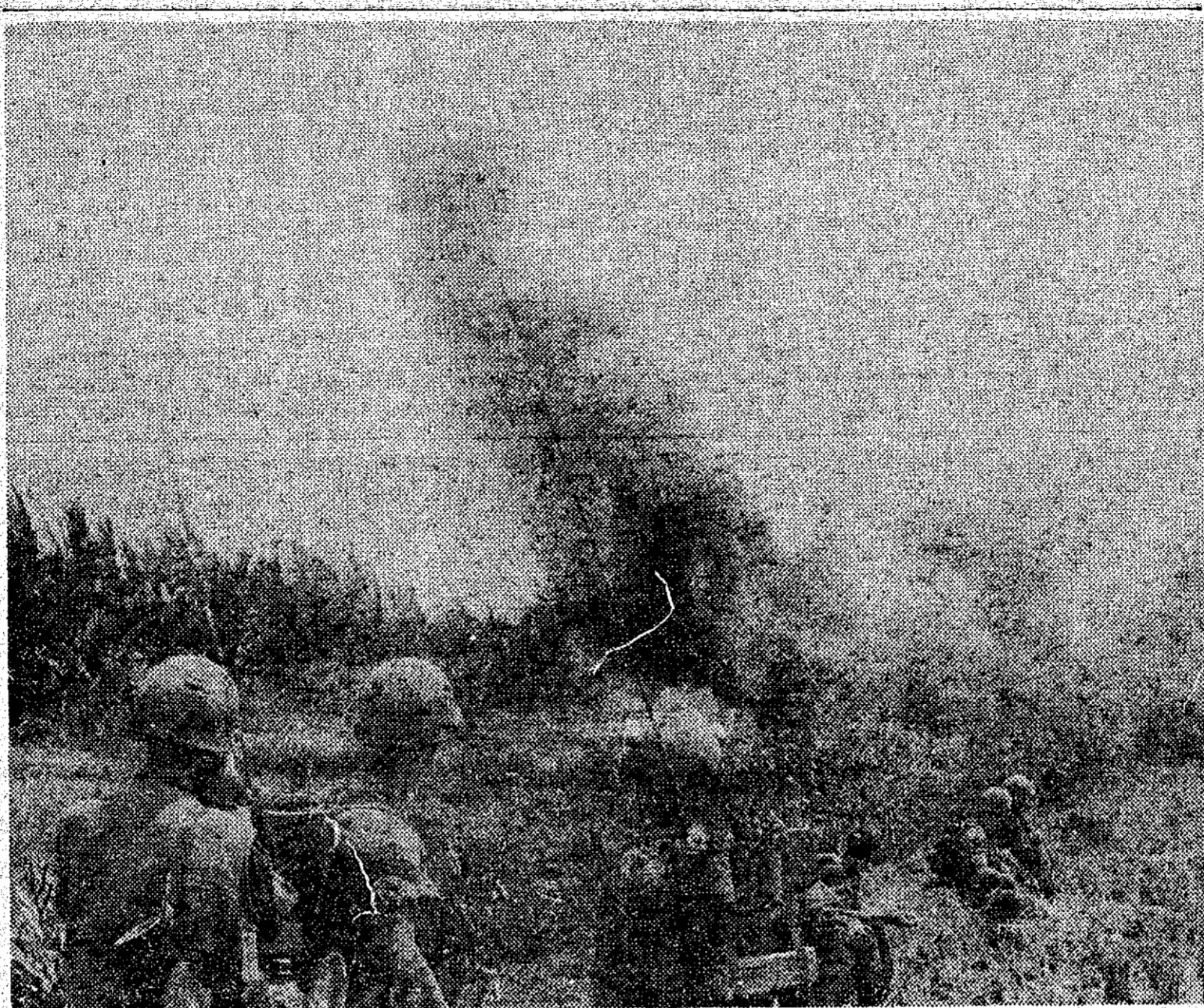
The pilots report anti-aircraft fire was light to moderate.

Over South Vietnam, Air Force B52 bombers made six more raids late Thursday and Friday on the North Vietnamese buildup in the A Shau Valley west of Hue. The eight-engine stratofortresses dropped an estimated 1,000 tons of bombs on troop concentrations, bunkers, truck parks and gun positions in the stronghold where U.S. officers think the North Vietnamese may be readying another big push against Hue.

In the last three days, the big bombers have flown 24 missions against the valley.

Mine Blast Kills 4

SAIGON (AP)—A civilian bus traveling from Hue to Quang Tri City struck a mine Thursday, setting off an explosion that killed four South Vietnamese civilians and wounded 19 other persons, Vietnamese authorities reported.



One Less VC Bunker

Members of C. Co., 3rd Bn., 39th Inf., 9th Inf. Delta and are destroyed whenever found to prevent further use by Communist guerrillas in the Viet Cong bunker. The bunkers dot the Mekong area. (USA)

GIs Are Determined To Be Herd From

DONG TAM, Vietnam (AP)—They call it the "Civic Affairs Ranch."

They're talking about a two-acre ranch along South Vietnam's Mekong River, near the Dong Tam camp of the U.S. 9th Inf. Div.

The ranch also includes a school, a thriving sewing room and a dispensary.

The camp is run by Capt. Frank Smith and four enlisted men, all Purple Heart infantry veterans.

Some, like 23-year-old S. Sgt. Robert Rowan, have extended their 12-month Vietnam tours to stay with the project.

The son of a Jackson, Miss. poultry farmer, Rowan wants to finish a demonstration project to boost local egg production.

Smith is a soft-spoken farm boy from Abilene, Tex. He also is a civic affairs specialist and holds a degree in educational

psychology from the University of Texas.

Smith took over the ranch eight months ago after a month in the hospital recovering from wounds received in a mine blast.

Smith asked his wife in Abilene to send him seeds of almost every kind and also began promoting livestock for the camp.

He now has a noisy flock of ducks, chickens, turkeys, rabbits, goats, pigs and a magnificent boar named "Big Jim."

People come from 30 miles or more to see the vegetable plots, examine the livestock or to get medical treatment.

The success of the project is measured by the price the Viet Cong are offering for the death of Smith and the four enlisted men.

The price on Smith's head is \$255, which he says is about the top price in his area. And he says it with pride.

Marine Corps Reassigns 2

S&S Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—The reassignments of two general officers and the retirement of a third were announced Thursday by the Marine Corps.

Brig. Gen. James A. Feeley Jr., former deputy J-3, commander-in-chief, Europe, has become assistant wing commander of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at the El Toro, Calif., AS.

Brig. Gen. Foster C. Lahue, assistant division commander, 1st Marine Div. in Vietnam, is slated for duty next month as assistant division commander, 2nd Marine Div. at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Brig. Gen. William A. Stiles, commanding general, Landing Force Training Command, Atlantic, will retire May 1 after 29 years of service.

As previously announced, Lahue will be succeeded by Brig. Gen. George D. Webster, who is now commanding the Landing Force Training Command, Pacific, at Coronado, Calif.

Replacements for Feeley and Stiles have not been announced.

Nugent Loading Bombs at Cam Ranh Bay

CAM RANH BAY, Vietnam (AP) — Airman 1.C. Patrick J. Nugent spent 12 hours Friday under a broiling sun loading 750-pound bombs for \$11.45.

That's the going wage for an apprentice weapons mechanic with two stripes at this huge U.S. base, even if the apprentice is President Johnson's son-in-law.

Nugent, 21, arrived in South Vietnam Saturday, spent two days being processed and went to work with the 412th Munitions Maintenance Squadron.

6 Pacific Stars & Stripes Sunday, April 21, 1968

He has already received a letter from his wife, Luci, in Austin, Tex., but he said she didn't offer him any advice on how to get along on his new job.

"We pretty well know what each other is thinking," he explained.

Nugent was sweating Friday in the 87-degree heat with his trainer, Sgt. Alvin Plomel of Dunbar, Wis., and Airman 1.C. Gregory Myers of Indianapolis, Ind.

They used hydraulic winches to place in racks 750-pound bombs that would be delivered by Air Force F4 Phantoms to

enemy targets in South and North Vietnam.

While racking the bombs in clusters of three, the men inserted nose and tail fuses and the arming wires. Then the bombs were hauled to the ramps, where other crews would load them aboard the fighter-bombers.

Nugent and the others work 12-hour shifts six days a week, but the shift will soon be cut to 10½ hours and they'll welcome the change.

Nugent, a tall and husky blond, is not complaining, though. He asked to be sent to

Vietnam, and he said he's happy to be here.

Asked why he volunteered for Vietnam, he replied: "I felt it was something I had to do, to do my part ... It's one of those things inside you. I have a little boy and a wife. I try to do my share so they can be free and happy, and other generations, too."

He said the other airmen he works with have not treated him as a celebrity.

"Everybody's been great," said Pat, "cooperative and congenial. I've been pleased to meet everyone I could, and I believe they've accepted me."

Copters Collide, 26 Die

SAIGON (AP) — Two U.S. Army helicopters collided in flight Friday, killing 18 South Vietnamese irregulars and eight U.S. Troops, the U.S. Command announced.

The spokesman said the collision occurred shortly before noon 59 miles southwest of the coastal city of Qui Nhon while the helicopters were on a combat operation.

They said there were no survivors. Qui Nhon is 270 miles northeast of Saigon.

Both helicopters crashed after the collision and were completely destroyed, the spokesman said.

Vietnamese Civilian Irregulars (CIDG) serve under Vietnamese Army and U.S. Special Forces Advisers.

Casualties

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

KILLED IN ACTION

- Army
- Pfc. James C. Cochran, Hardy, Ark.
 - Pfc. Jorge A. Castro, Gardena, Calif.
 - Pfc. Peter A. Mendoza, Union City, Calif.
 - Pfc. David F. Wagner, Adelanto, Calif.
 - Pfc. John A. Hoggaff, Denver, Colo.
 - Pfc. Robert W. Ellsworth, Pueblo, Colo.
 - Cpt. Gary W. Arnold, Winter Park, Fla.
 - SP5 Joseph J. Steimbach, Jacksonville, Fla.
 - Sgt. Grady Thacker, Chamblee, Ga.
 - Pfc. Alan P. Butkus, Chicago, Ill.
 - Pfc. George D. Stone, Shawnee Mission, Kan.
 - Sgt. Hubert E. Waford, Chelbyville, Ky.
 - Cpl. Alan J. Heltich, Louisville, Ky.
 - Pfc. Dennis J. Yelmar, Clare, La.
 - SP4 Robert G. Harris, Roxbury, Mass.
 - Cpl. Robert J. Sowinski, South Hadley, Mass.
 - Pfc. Carl L. Carlson, Swatara, Minn.
 - Sgt. Richard A. Renfro, Kansas City, Mo.
 - Sgt. James J. Greb, Kansas City, Mo.
 - SP4 Robert F. Williams, South St. Louis, Mo.
 - 2Lt. Patrick F. Van Duijnhoven, Blooming Grove, N.Y.
 - SSg. Rodney H. Koehne, Fayetteville, N.C.
 - Pfc. Allen D. Hanlan, Cleveland, Ohio.
 - Pfc. Wayne A. Rhodes, Guyman, Okla.
 - Pfc. Gary R. Holland, Muskogee, Okla.
 - SP4 Donald C. Smith, Halboro, Pa.
 - SP4 Eugene Walton, Memphis, Tenn.
 - Pfc. James A. Pettitt, Louisville, Tenn.
 - SP4 Atanacio Gomez Jr., Brownsville, Tex.
 - SP4 Luis B. Campos, Bay City, Tex.
 - Pfc. Donald J. Boaz, Gainesville, Tex.
 - Pfc. Agapito Gonzales Jr., Dallas, Tex.
 - Pfc. George E. Winfield, Terrell, Tex.
 - SSg. Ernest E. Lesure, Chester, Va.
 - Pfc. Gerald C. Mull, Vienna, Va.
 - Pfc. Dennis W. Reed, Milwaukee, Wis.

Navy

HN Leonard G. Chesley Jr., North Uxbridge, Mass.

Marine Corps

- Pfc. William E. Probst, Cumberland, Md.
- Pfc. Patrick M. R. Bierlein, Webster, N.Y.
- Pfc. Barry D. Lord, Findlay, Ohio.
- Pvt. Ray T. Comfort, Sunbury, Pa.
- Pfc. Arthur L. Mills, Rapid City, S.D.
- LCpl. Marvin L. Votaw, Beeville, Tex.
- Cpl. Patrick G. McGarvey, Spokane, Wash.

DIED OF WOUNDS

- Pfc. Stephen J. Westphal, Ixonia, Wis.

MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE

Army

- Pfc. Lawrence W. Eller, Ferguson, N.C.
- WO Joe M. Moran, Columbia, Tex.

MISSING IN ACTION

Marine Corps

- Pfc. Edward L. Krausman
- Air Force
- Major Henry E. Mac Conn
 - Major James H. Metz
 - Major Walter M. Stischer
 - Captain Dennis L. Graham

MISSING TO CAPTURED

Marine Corps

- LI. Edison W. Miller

DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

Army

- SP4 Richard F. Rennolet, Aberdeen, S.D.
- Marine Corps
- LCpl. Jack A. Sanders Jr., Tampa, Fla.
 - Cpl. Paul J. Allen, Rochester, Minn.
 - Capt. Eugene R. Gannon, Astoria, N.Y.

MISSING TO DEAD—NON HOSTILE

Army

- Pfc. Douglas F. Loudonback, Ashland, Ky.

MISSING NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

Army

- Sfc. Crecencio Cardoso
- Sfc. Samuel J. Padgett



When a Fellow Needs a Friend

Buddies assist squad leader Sgt. James Simone of Lakewood, Ohio, as he struggles to escape from one of the many quicksand-like marshes near Song Be while on a search and destroy mission with paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Div.'s C Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn.), 187th Inf. (USA)

Casualty 'Died' 5 Times

Medic's River Fight Saves Life

By SPEC. 4 CHARLES BAILEY

HUE, Vietnam (IO) — Medic! Medic! A blast of automatic weapons fire or an exploding mortar round can instantly change a paratrooper into a casualty and a line-doggy's "Doc" with his aid kit, skill and courage into a hero.

During a fire fight north of here recently, Spec. 4 Frank Gentile, Greenwich Village, N.Y., a medic with the 2nd Bn. (Abn.), 501st Inf., became such a hero.

Gentile, owner of two Silver Stars, swam 120 feet across a river to a wounded soldier while a fire fight raged from bank to bank. He held his aid kit and deflated air mattress above his head.

"When I got to the other side,

I had to pull myself onto the bank," Gentile said. "I didn't think I could do it. I was so tired."

But he made it, and in a low-crouching run he reached the wounded paratrooper.

Gentile dressed his wounds and inflated the air mattress. He dragged the soldier's limp body to the river and lowered the mattress into the water.

"After I put the fellow on top of it, I began swimming downstream pushing him ahead of me," the 20-year-old medic said.

"While I was in the water, he stopped breathing five times. Each time I pulled myself up onto the mattress and gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation or massaged his heart until he resumed breathing."

Gentile swam 400 yards down the swiftly-moving river to es-

cape the fire fight and find a safe area where a medevac helicopter could land.

The wiry little medic succeeded in pushing the raft out of danger. In seconds the chopper landed and was airborne again with the wounded man on board.

Checking on the soldier's condition, Gentile later found his work was not in vain. The paratrooper was going to live.

AF Team Helps Village

UBON RTAFB, Thailand (OI) — A small group of Air Force airmen is attempting to make life more livable for Thai villagers.

These men, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing explosive ordnance disposal specialists, are using their knowledge of explosives to dig wells.

Copter Rope Slips

Medic-Tarzan Has a Close Call

PHUOC VINH, Vietnam (IO) — A medic from the 101st Airborne Div.'s 3rd Brigade put his life on the line recently in a "Tarzan act" to save wounded paratroopers.

This is what happened:

C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn.), 506th Inf., called for more medics after its three were wounded during fighting with a North Vietnam Army unit.

"I had to get out there," said medic S. Sgt. Harold Miller, of Kannapolis, N.C.

The battle was taking place under a thick jungle canopy with trees up to 90 feet. It was impossible for medevac helicopters to land.

Hovering above the battlefield, Miller asked to be lowered 150 feet by rope from the chopper.

Lt. Terry VanMeter, Sturgis, Mich., also aboard the copter, looked on as Miller was slowly lowered toward the jungle floor. "I saw the rope slip and Miller plummet downward still clinging to the rope," VanMeter said.

He and 1st Sgt. Henry Cadena, Clarksville, Tenn., struggled to grab the unwinding rope and control Miller's too-rapid descent.

"I was finally able to wedge a knot in the rope between my hand and an M60 machine-gun mount," Cadena said. "We had rope burns all over our hands and arms, but we stopped Mil-

ler from having a real bad fall. I looked down and saw him suspended only 10 feet above the ground."

Miller slowly descended the last 10 feet in the same amount of time it took him to drop the first 140.

Later, Miller directed several "dust-offs" where the wounded were hoisted 150 feet up to hovering helicopters.

NCO Kept Busy by Pen Pals

DONG HA, Vietnam. (ISO) — A Marine gunnery sergeant at Dong Ha has written more letters in three months than the average Leatherneck does during a full year's tour.

Gunnery Sgt. Ralph J. Guillet, operations chief of the 3rd Marine Div.'s Fire Support Information Center, has penned 274 personal letters since his arrival in Vietnam.

Guillette, of Burlington, Vt., says the majority of the correspondence is in reply to letters from people he befriended while serving on the Marine Inspector-Instructor staff at Santa Monica, Calif.

"While on I&I duty I frequently traveled to various clubs and organizations giving talks about the Marine civic action program in South Vietnam," he said. "Now these same people that I once talked to at various get-togethers are writing me about numerous subjects that they are unsure about."

He explained that he receives mail from former business associates, friends, relatives, college students and even a few grammar school children.

"One of the most amusing letters was from a small girl who simply asked me 'How much snow do you have in Vietnam?'"

Some of the most common questions concern Vietnamese people, their clothes and food, and general questions about the weather.

"I enjoy writing letters very much," continued Guillette, "I feel every letter I answer is helping clear up an uncertainty of the war for someone back home. A lot of the letters I have received have been enlightening in that I know now Americans are firmly behind us."

Guillette figures he has written about 206,000 words in his letter campaign.

"I intend to continue writing as long as anyone in the States has a question he feels is worth writing about."

Brothers' Best Laid Plans Fail

CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO) — Sometimes brotherly love backfires as Army S.Sgt. Cleve Watson of Sikeston, Mo., discovered.

"What are you doing here?" he roared at his younger brother Floyd, a Marine, when the two met in Da Nang.

"I volunteered to keep you from being sent," came the answer. Each had volunteered last summer to keep the other from having to serve again in Vietnam—but kept the secret from the other. So secret in fact that neither knew the other was in the war zone until a sister-in-law casually mentioned it in a letter to Cleve.

"It's pretty funny now," laughs Cleve, a signalman with Americal Div.'s 198th Inf. Brigade. "But I was furious at Floyd for awhile. He was kind of mad at me, too."

Each had served a previous tour in the war zone only a year ago.

Filipinos Work On Saigon Road

SAIGON (AP) — Engineers of the Philippine Civil Action Group have begun reconstruction work on National Highway 22, leading from their base in Tay Ninh province to Saigon.

The work started after groundbreaking ceremonies attended by Brig. Gen. Gaudencio V. Tobias, Philcag commander, and South Vietnamese officials. The project, which will cover 35 miles of highway, is a combined undertaking of Philcag, Vietnamese and U.S. Government agencies.

Reds Make the Most of a Couple of Sticks

LAI KHE, Vietnam (IO) — The latest innovation in enemy weapons systems is not from Moscow, but straight out of Ripley's "Believe It or Not"—a 122-mm rocket launching platform consisting of just two ordinary sticks.

The 1st Inf. Div.'s 1st Bn., 18th Inf., found the device in an area dubbed the "rocket belt," five miles northwest of the division's Lai Khe basecamp.

The unusual platform consisted of two wooden sticks about one inch in diameter and three feet long, bound together with wire six inches from the end, forming a make-shift tripod upon which to rest the rocket. The power source for the weapon was eight flashlight batteries wired together.

According to a 1st Inf. Div. intelligence spokesman, "This is the first time we have found the

Viet Cong employing such a launching platform."

C Co. was on patrol when a scout dog handled by Sgt. Miguel Saldana of the 35th Scout Dog platoon caught scent of an enemy. Suddenly, the pointman, Pfc. Tommy Mercer, Apopka, Fla., came under fire from an automatic weapon. Saldana and two others, Spec. 4 Rusty Little, Rutland, Ohio, and Spec. 4 Ken Gardellis of New York City,

were also pinned down by the enemy fire.

"Mercer got up and charged the Viet Cong by himself," said Saldana later. Mercer's action resulted in one Viet Cong dead and a Silver Star for valor. The action led to the discovery of the platform.

GIs Clash Twice With Reds, Kill 114 North of Saigon

By **SPEC. 5 RAY BELFORD**
S&S Staff Correspondent

SAIGON—U.S. forces reported killing 114 Communists in two battles north of Saigon Thursday. In one of the actions the Americans reported the enemy hurled tear gas grenades into their positions.

In one battle, 30 miles northwest of Saigon, 57 enemy were killed during three hours of heavy fighting by cavalrymen from the U.S. 1st Inf. Div. Another 57 Reds were killed by infantrymen from the 199th Light Inf. Brigade, supported

by helicopter gunships, air strikes and artillery fire, 31 miles northeast of the capital.

Ground fighting throughout the rest of the country was generally light and scattered.

In the 1st Inf. Div. action, a cavalry troop drove a large Communist force from bunkers and trenches in a base camp 11 miles east of Ben Cat during a savage three-hour battle which saw the Communists hurl tear gas grenades at the attacking U.S. troops.

The Communists also fired

rocket-propelled grenades at the U.S. armored vehicles.

The "Big Red One" cavalrymen poured heavy tank fire into the base camp as they continued their advance and the enemy broke and ran in late afternoon.

The U.S. forces moved into the base camp and found 41 enemy dead. As they worked their way through the camp searching for small arms and ammunition, they killed another 16 enemy soldiers with grenades and tank fire as they blew up the numerous spider-holes and bunkers in the base complex.

Three U.S. cavalrymen were killed and three wounded in the fighting.

At about 11:30 a.m. the same day, a company from the U.S. 199th Light Inf. Brigade ran up against an enemy force 12 miles northeast of Long Binh.

The battle continued throughout the day and into the night. Three more infantry companies were sent in to reinforce while U.S. helicopter gunships, jet dive-bombers, artillery fire and mini-gun-firing AC47 Dragonships worked over the Communist positions.

The enemy finally slipped away at 9:30 p.m. leaving 57 of their dead behind. U.S. casualties in the fighting were listed as eight killed and 18 wounded.

4 Reach North Pole After 44-Day Trek

CHICAGO (AP)—A team of amateur explorers reached the North Pole Friday to become the first party to accomplish the feat by surface travel since the 1909 Peary Expedition, a public relations firm reported.

The Selz Organization of Chicago, employed by the expedition, reported the American-Canadian team arrived at the pole after a 474-mile, 44-day trek across the polar ice cap.

A Selz spokesman said Ralph Plaisted, the St. Paul, Minn., insurance man who led the expedition, reported by radio he and three other members of the six-man expedition reached the pole after a final lap of 10 miles Friday.

Plaisted identified those with him at the pole as Walter H. Pederson, 40, a mechanical engineer; Gerald R. Pitzel, 34, an instructor at the University of Minnesota; and Jean Luc Bombardier, 29, Montreal, Quebec, a technician.

The other members of the party, Donald E. Powellek, 40, an electronics engineer, and Dr. Arthur C. Aufderheide, 43, a pathologist, were somewhere behind the others, Plaisted reported.

The successful trip across the top of the world was made in gasoline-powered vehicles hauling sleds. It was the first time that mechanized equipment was used to reach the pole by surface travel.

Periodic air drops of supplies

enabled the expedition to overcome 60-degree below zero temperatures, gale winds that kept them huddled in tents for seven days, 40-foot high pressure ridges and open water.

Powellek and Aufderheide planned to join the party at an advance camp before they walked the last miles to the pole, but their airplane was grounded by blowing snow.

Phones—

(Continued From Page 1) severed in New Jersey, Indiana and Ohio as more than 200,000 Bell Telephone System and Western Electric Co. workers continued to strike for higher wages. They walked out at midday Thursday.

To most telephone users, there was little outward evidence that a strike was on. Automated dial telephone operations were not hampered.

Calls that require a telephone operator's assistance — collect, credit card, person-to-person — were more seriously affected, although management personnel tried to handle these duties.

Union officials claimed "nearly a 100 per cent" turnout on picket lines across the nation.

One union member was arrested in Atlantic City, N.J., after allegedly moving a ladder from a pole where a supervisor was repairing a line.

The CWA called the strike in nine states and the District of Columbia, where wage reopener clauses in local contracts had expired. But the union asked its members to quit work in sympathy in other areas involving about 40 states.

Beirne predicted the telephone company's automated equipment would eventually break down and there would be no one left to repair it.

Banks Hike Interest Rates

NEW YORK (UPI)—Commercial banks across the nation Friday raised their prime interest rates from 6 to 6 1/2 per cent in a move expected eventually to affect loans to small businesses, mortgages and perhaps even personal loans.

Under prodding by the Federal Reserve Board, the big commercial banks boosted their interest rates after the Fed's discount rate was lifted Thursday for the second time in less than five weeks.

The reserve board lifted its discount rate—that charged on money loaned member commercial banks—from 5 to 5 1/2 per cent, highest since the 1929 Wall Street crash period. In turn, the commercial banks raised the interest charged top grade business borrowers—the so-called prime rate.

Large corporate borrowers were affected immediately, and the trend is expected to filter down from the boost in prime rates through a welter of other types of bank loans directly affecting John Q. Public.

Hanoi Rejects Latest U.S. Bid

(Continued From Page 1) the U.S.A. have exposed the American peace swindle."

Earlier, the North Vietnamese charged the U.S. raised a new obstacle to preliminary peace talks by insisting on the presence of its Vietnam war allies, particularly South Vietnam.

The official Hanoi newspaper, Nhan Dan, called this "another condition" for the holding of these first, limited encounters between the principal antagonists of the war.

After calling the South Viet-

namese government "a clique of traitors" condemned by history, it said "this brazen move" is new evidence of U.S. lack of good will.

Rusk on Thursday proposed 15 alternate sites for peace contacts and said it is "time for a serious and responsible answer from Hanoi."

The sites proposed by Rusk are in 10 countries. Six were Asian countries—Ceylon, Japan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal and Malaysia—and four European countries—Italy, Belgium, Finland and Austria.



JAMES EARL RAY
(Also Eric Starvo Galt)

FBI Knows Galt

(Continued From Page 1) ment Wednesday and his latest announcement. FBI officials handed the announcement to reporters but would answer no questions.

As Galt, Ray has been the object of a cross-country search which extended into Mexico. He is accused of conspiracy and murder in the assassination of King.

The civil rights leader, who won the 1964 Nobel peace prize, was shot to death from ambush as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis motel. His assassination was followed by rioting and disorders in dozens of U.S. cities.

The FBI, in a warrant issued earlier this week, charged Galt and an "alleged brother" with conspiracy in King's slaying. Memphis officials have sworn out a murder warrant for Galt.

The FBI released two front and side view photos of Ray apparently taken at the Missouri prison, where he had been an inmate since 1960. It said the photograph had been taken in 1960.

The photograph was identified as that of James Earl Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton,

W.C. Herron and James O'Conner.

John Willard was the name used by the man who checked into a Memphis rooming house from which the shot that killed King apparently was fired.

Hoover said Ray had a known arrest record dating back to 1949. Prior to his 1960 conviction in St. Louis, Ray was convicted of burglary in Los Angeles, 1949; armed robbery in Chicago in 1952; and forging United States postal money orders in Missouri in 1955.

The FBI said that in September 1966, while serving his sentence at the Missouri state penitentiary, Ray was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at Fulton.

The FBI said Ray was an enlisted man in the Army from February 1946 to December 1948, when he was given a general discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

"Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous," the FBI said.

Weather

Asian Weather Central
TOKYO AREA
Saturday Night: Partly Cloudy; Low: Near 40
Sunday: Mostly Fair; High: 69
TEMPERATURES

April 19				
	H	L	H	
Bangkok	95	72	Naha	75
Chitose	54	37	Saigon	88
Guam	84	74	Seoul	66
Honolulu	61	37	Taipei	74
Manila	88	73	Tokyo	61
	H	L	H	
Albuquerque	71	45	London	61
Amarillo	49	40	L.A.	69
Atlanta	82	59	Louisville	76
Birmingham	84	59	Melbourne	70
Bismarck	53	21	Memphis	84
Boise	60	21	Miami	79
Boston	53	41	Milwaukee	53
Chicago	53	47	Moscow	52
Cincinnati	78	54	N. Orleans	80
Cleveland	61	55	NYC	75
Denver	36	25	Oklahoma City	73
Des Moines	61	44	Omaha	53
Detroit	63	53	Paris	68
Duluth	47	34	Prague	76
Fairbanks	30	21	Phoenix	63
Hong Kong	83	70	Pittsburgh	74
Honolulu	85	70	Portland, O.	48
Houston	79	71	Singapore	89
Indianapolis	64	49	St. Louis	71
Jackville	88	61	St. Paul	60
Jakarta	91	75	Salt Lake	53
Kansas City	71	51	Seattle	49
K. Lumpur	92	71	Sydney	72
Little Rock	84	63	Wash.	77

Senate—

(Continued From Page 1) number of unemployed or low-income persons."

It would express the intent of Congress that, other things being equal, the military procurement program should have "a maximum impact on reducing hard-core unemployment."

Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., led an unsuccessful fight Thursday to eliminate the so-called thin ABM defense system.

"I cannot in good conscience vote for a program that will launch us into a spiraling missile escalation which has no end and no purpose either," he said.

Nelson lost 41 to 17 in his effort to trim the \$342 million provided in the bill for procurement of the ABM system, designed to provide protection from potential attacks in the early 1970s from Communist China.