

## Strayed Near Hainan

# Red Chinese Down U.S. Plane

WASHINGTON (AP)—An unarmed propeller-driven U.S. Navy plane was shot down by Chinese Communist MIG aircraft after it "inadvertently strayed into air space" off Red China's Hainan Island, the Defense Department announced Wednesday.

The Pentagon said the incident occurred Tuesday night when two unarmed Navy A1 Skyraiders "experienced navigational difficulties" while on a ferry plane trip from Cubi Point in the Philippines to the aircraft carrier Coral Sea in the Gulf of Tonkin.

"One of the planes was shot down by Communist MIG aircraft," the announcement said. It placed the spot about five miles off the east coast of Hainan Island.

The second A1 left the scene and landed at Da Nang in South Vietnam, the Pentagon said.

"The pilot reports he last saw the other plane in a vertical dive and smoking," the statement said.

Asst. Secretary of Defense Phil G. Goulding said the pilot who reached Da Nang reported one Chinese MIG was involved, but Goulding said he did not know whether there were more.

The Pentagon's chief spokesman said he did not know if the second plane which made its escape had been damaged or whether the pilot of that plane had been injured.

Meanwhile, a Peking radio broadcast heard in Tokyo said Communist Chinese forces had shot down one U.S. Navy plane and damaged another over Hainan Island.

The broadcast said the United States "carried out war provocations" by flying two A1H Navy planes over Hainan Island off south China on the morning of Feb. 14.

"Navy pilots of the People's Liberation Army immediately dealt a heavy blow and shot down one of them and damaged the other," the radio said.

A preliminary report in Washington said that the pilot who made it to Da Nang had seen a parachute descending from the plane that was shot down.

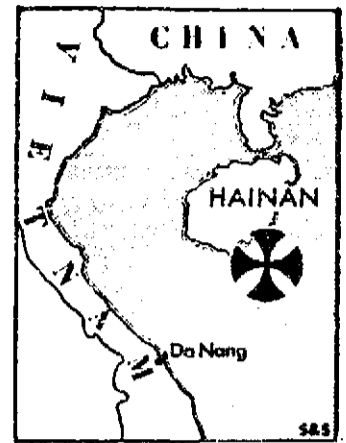
Communist China claims its territorial waters extend 12 miles offshore.

This was the ninth incident involving Chinese Communist forces and American aircraft since September, 1965, according to Pentagon records.

The most recent one occurred on Aug. 21 when two Navy A6A Intruder bombers were chased into Red China and probably shot down by North Vietnamese or Communist Chinese aircraft following a raid against North Vietnam.

Goulding refused repeatedly to say anything about the downed pilot.

"I am not going to answer any questions about the status" (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)



## 8 Nuns, 200 Girls Rescued

SAIGON (AP) — When the phone went dead, Army Capt. Robin Miller rushed out and rounded up three men and a helicopter for a rescue mission that ended only when eight Roman Catholic nuns and nearly 200 Vietnamese girls were safe at the Vinh Long airstrip.

As his helicopter left with the last load, Viet Cong guerrillas were swarming through the playground of the Center of Professional Guidance for Girls, a school conducted by sisters of the Good Shepherd order.

"The helicopter boys should each be given a halo and a pair of wings," said Sister Mary Hayden, the school director from New Ross, County (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

## Hoffa Gets A Valentine

LEWISBURG, Pa. (UPI) — An airplane towing a "Birthday Greetings Jimmy Hoffa" banner circled the federal prison here Wednesday as the imprisoned teamsters boss marked his 55th birthday.

Pilot Harley Mansfield said teamster union members in Massachusetts paid for his one-hour flight with the greeting.

The union headquarters in Washington, D.C., disclaimed any knowledge of the flight.

The 125-foot long banner with red letters had a huge heart on the end of it as an additional Valentine's Day greeting for Hoffa, who began serving an eight-year sentence last March 7 for his conviction in 1964 of jury tampering.



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## Fear Girl Seized by Strangler

GAFFNEY, S.C. (UPI) — A 15-year-old girl, waiting for a school bus was kidnapped and forced screaming into the trunk of a car Tuesday, raising fears that an at-large strangler had struck again.

The kidnap victim, Opel Diane Buckson, was pushed into a dark blue sedan while her sister, Gracie, looked on in horror, police said.

The kidnaping took place in the same area where the nude bodies of two women were found last week.

Two airplanes were used in a fruitless search for the kidnap car and roadblocks were set up.

Sheriff Julian B. Wright said Gracie Buckson told him she had just started for the school bus stop when she heard her sister scream.

Wright said Gracie told him she saw a man with brown hair, wearing slacks and a jacket, push Opel into the trunk of his car, screaming and kicking, and then speed away.

One of her sister's shoes and two schoolbooks were found on the highway at the bus stop.

Gracie described the kidnaper as 25 to 35 years old, and about five feet, 10 inches tall.

Officers feared he might be the same man who telephoned managing editor Bill Gibbons of the Gaffney Ledger last Wednesday and revealed the locations of the bodies of two local females who disappeared recently.

Both the victims, a 20-year-old housewife who vanished while walking a poodle at night on a Gaffney street, and a 14-year-old junior highschool dropout (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

## Got the Message

CASA GRANDE, Arizona (UPI)—Arizona's Indians scheduled a rain dance for the Arizona all-Indian powwow here, then canceled it because of a downpour.



## All Aboard for Vietnam

Marines from Camp Pendleton board plane at El Toro Marine Air Station, Calif., Wednesday which will fly them to South Vietnam. About 3,500 combat-ready Marines were to be carried on C-141 jet transports as part of buildup announced Tuesday by the Pentagon. (AP Radlophoto)

## Political Asylum for British TV Cat?

LONDON (UPI) — Is Arthur the cat, star of television cat food commercials, penned up inside the Soviet embassy in London?

The question arose when actor Toney Manning said his pet had vanished and he thought the Russians had granted it political asylum.

The Russians denied it. Arthur is the subject of litigation between Manning and the pet food makers.

A judge issued a temporary injunction barring Manning from taking Arthur out of the country or harming him.

Manning tells it this way: He took Arthur into his home

in 1964 when the cat was a stray facing destruction. He looked after Arthur until some one suggested the cat be taken to a theatrical agent. Then came stardom.

Arthur wound up living in a kennel until Manning got an order for his custody last week. Manning said he returned

Arthur to London, stopped a diplomat emerging from the Russian embassy Saturday night, and entrusted Arthur to him.

"I asked him if he would give political asylum to a cat. At first he laughed, but when I explained the situation to him, he agreed he would look after the" (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)

# 2 MIGs Downed In Dogfights North of Hanoi

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—Two Communist MIG-17s were shot down over North Vietnam Wednesday by two Air Force F4 Phantoms in dogfights northwest of Hanoi.

The MIGs were reported destroyed by air to air missiles and 20mm cannon fire.

The Air Force said the new MIG killers are Col. David O. Williams Jr., 43, of Clovis, N.M., and 1st Lt.

James P. Feighny, 25, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., who flew one of the F4s, and Maj. Rex D. Howerton, 33, of Phoenix, Ariz., and 1st Lt. Ted L. Boight II, 25, of Nelsonville, Ohio, who were the pilots of the other Phantom.

The two MIGs were the 109th and 110th to be downed in battles with U.S. planes in the Vietnam war. Forty U.S. planes have been lost to MIGs.

Poor weather over North Vietnam continued to hamper U.S. air strikes, limiting U.S. pilots to 67 missions north of the DMZ during the day.

Navy pilots bombed the Kien An airfield six miles southwest of Haiphong and cut the runway at Bai Thuong airfield, 22 miles northwest of Thanh Hoa.

U.S. officials said the Bai Thuong airfield has never been operational, but periodical strikes are flown against this target to insure that it stays out of commission.

## Civilian Casualties At 20,000

SAIGON (AP)—Nearly 20,000 civilians were killed or wounded during the fighting in South Vietnam's major population centers after the Communists launched their Tet offensive, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

The officials said that 3,750 were killed and 16,000 were wounded from Jan. 29, when the attacks were launched, to Feb. 9, an arbitrary cutoff date although fighting has continued around many of the cities and inside Saigon and Hue.

In Saigon, 4,279 persons were treated in the municipal hospitals. The hospitals reported only about 250 persons died, a figure which appears low when compared with the killed-wounded ratio for the rest of the country.

The nationwide figures are still considered incomplete, especially those from Hue where fierce fighting continues.

## Village Mortared, Burned

SAIGON (AP) — Marauding Viet Cong guerrillas mortared the Mekong delta town of Rach Gia late Tuesday and then put the torch to 283 civilian houses, a government military spokesman reported Wednesday.

He added that another 46 homes burned down from the barrage of 20 mortar shells fired into the coastal town 125 miles southwest of Saigon. Two civilians were killed and ten were wounded in the shelling, he added.

Just four miles southwest of Saigon, a strike force of Vietnamese Rangers caught up with a band of guerrillas Tuesday afternoon near the village of Binh Chanh and killed 58. They also seized five prisoners and 19 rifles.

The Rangers lost 12 killed and 18 wounded. They were sent on a sweep to counter guerrillas who have been raiding police stations in Saigon's southernmost 7th and 8th districts.

## Strike Hits AID Office

VIENTIANE (UPI)—About 1,000 Laotian employees at the U.S. Aid Mission here went on strike Wednesday, in a dispute over the salaries of employees hired by the U.S. Mission in Laos.

It was the first time the embassy here has ever been struck in a labor dispute.

At the end of a bargaining session, leaders of the Laos Employees Association rejected a final U.S. offer of an \$8 monthly increase for the lowest paid workers.

The strikers formed a picket line in front of the U.S. Aid compound northeast of downtown Vientiane but did not try to stop American employees from going to work.

# Saigon Pays Tribute to MPs Killed at Outset of Battle

SAIGON (UPI) — "Accept these sacrifices," the priest intoned.

On a table covered with white cloth in front of the altar, 27 olive drab helmets made two neat rows.

The priest's words were the ritual words of the Mass of Requiem.

Each of the helmets represented a military policeman killed in the opening hours of the battle of Saigon. On each helmet was the Latin motto of the U.S.

Army Military Police — "lex et ordo," law and order.

Behind the altar and the organ and the lecterns for the three chaplains were six military policemen in green fatigue uniforms. Each held the standard of an MP company that took part in the battle of Saigon.

The small, white, prefabricated chapel on the edge of Tan Son Nhut AB was jammed to capacity for the 45-minute service. U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker was there.

Col. Kyang Sang Hee, provost marshal for Korean forces was there. He arrived in a sedan



## Clearing the Way for an Advance in Hue

Four Marines crouch behind a recoilless rifle mounted on a mechanical "mule" after firing to clear the way across a bridge in the battle with Communist forces in Hue, Vietnam.

(UPI Radiophoto)

# Marine Jets Pound Citadel To Soften Up Red Defenders

SAIGON (AP)—U.S. Marine jet fighter-bombers pummeled a section of the old, imperial Citadel in Hue with rockets, napalm and tear gas Wednesday in attempts to cut a path for Marine ground forces trying to root out remnants of a North Vietnamese regiment.

Just before the Marine jets entered the 15-day battle for Hue for the first time, the Marine ground troops pulled back "a short distance" to allow the bombers to come in, a U.S. military spokesman in Saigon said. He said, however, the ground troops remained inside the Citadel itself ready to assault once the bombers had finished softening up the North Vietnamese positions.

The U.S. 7th Air Force announced it is investigating reports that bombs dropped during a B52 strike near Saigon Tuesday afternoon fell outside the target area and caused some casualties. If proven true, it would mark the first reported bombing error by the B52s in nearly three years of raids in Vietnam.

Associated Press photographer Al Chang reported from Hue, that U.S. Marine jet fighter-bombers streaked into the city to bomb, strafe and rocket a section of the Citadel.

The battle for the Citadel entered its third week Wednesday with remnants of the North Vietnamese regiment stubbornly

holding on to their positions.

The jets made pass after pass attempting to blast a hole through an outer wall of the fortress so that Marines could drive through and assault the North Vietnamese troops holding the inner Citadel.

But the North Vietnamese troops continued to lay down heavy barrages of fire from the battlements of the walls they held on Marine positions only a few hundred yards away.

While it marked the first time

that American jet fighter-bombers had entered the battle for the Citadel, South Vietnamese air force Skyraiders had bombed and strafed the Communist positions Monday after several days of low-hanging clouds and 500-foot ceilings began to lift.

The air strikes were directed only against the wall of the Citadel. The interior area containing 19th Century monuments and the old emperors' throne room is still evidently off limits because of its historic value.

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PHU LOI—South Vietnamese troops of the 5th Inf. Div. killed 91 Viet Cong and captured 13 in a fierce five-hour battle ten miles northeast of Saigon Tuesday.

The government troops launched a surround and destroy operation shortly after dawn and clashed with a battalion of black pajama-clad Viet Cong before noon.

Units of the 1st Cav. Regt. caught the Viet Cong in the open as they crossed rolling hills where there was little vegetation.

Supported by infantrymen from the 7th and 9th Regts., the 5th ARVN Div. forces pursued

the enemy as they sought to escape along a 15-foot deep ditch.

U.S. and Vietnamese Air Force planes blasted the area, and Cobra helicopter gunships were called in to support the government troops.

Contact was broken when the Reds fled into nearby populated areas. Contact in the area was reported as sporadic during the day Wednesday.

Government casualties were reported to be light.

Sporadic ground fighting was reported throughout South Vietnam Tuesday but the intensity of the fighting was the lightest since the Communist Tet offensive began Jan. 31.

# Thais Aid Injured Sailor

BANGKOK (IO) — A U.S. sailor was air evacuated from a submarine in the Gulf of Siam by the Royal Thai Navy Air Sq. at Utapao Royal Thai Airfield.

Engineman 3.C. Robert M. Hinton was serving aboard the USS Bugara when he was injured in a severe fall. After initial treatment, it was recommended that he be evacuated and the Royal Thai Navy Air Sq. answered the distress call.

An HU16 amphibian aircraft was dispatched and landed near the submarine, located across the Gulf near the island of Ko Samui. A small boat transferred the injured man to the plane and he was returned to Utapao and the 11th USAF Dispensary for treatment. He was reported in satisfactory condition.

The Bugara was conducting antisubmarine operations with the Royal Thai Navy Fleet when the accident occurred.

# 'Well Done' Award to AF Major

SOUTHEAST ASIA (OI)—The day began normally enough for Air Force Maj. James D. Gormley, 36, Rapid City, S.D., a member of a flight of F-105 Thunderchiefs on their way to a target in North Vietnam.

However, events did not continue "normal" and Gormley's actions that day earned him the 13th Air Force "Well Done" award.

Shortly after takeoff Gormley's Thunderchief became inoperative. He disengaged part of the stabilizer system to regain control of the aircraft. The F105's ultrahigh frequency radio was out of commission and Gormley decided to head home.

Despite these problems, Gormley maneuvered his aircraft back to base and made a successful emergency landing at his home base.

The "Well Done" award, presented by Col. John C. Giraud, 355th Tactical Fighter Wing commander, said, "Maj. Gormley's professional response to an in-flight emergency, his keen knowledge of the aircraft and its systems and his outstanding airmanship resulted in the recovery of a valuable tactical aircraft."

# Appeal Brings Vaccine

KUALA LUMPUR (AP)—Malaysia plans to send about 250,000 doses of cholera and typhoid vaccine to South Vietnam in response to its appeal for aid in the form of food, medicine and clothing from friendly nations.

# What He Didn't Know Didn't Hurt Him

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES, Vietnam (IO) — Fortunately for a platoon sergeant of a Co., 4th Bn., 12th Inf., of the 199th Light Inf. Brigade, the contents of a mound of dirt he had been sitting on had to be command — instead of pressure — detonated.

Platoon Sgt. Alan W. Campbell sat on the leaf-covered pile

# Coast Guard Buoy Tenders

# 'Old Lamplighters' Along Viet Coast

VUNG TAU, Vietnam (PAO) — A scene common to the harbors and coastline of the United States is being reenacted along the shores of South Vietnam, as U.S. Coast Guard buoy tenders establish and maintain a system of navigational buoys at the entrance to many of this country's seaports.

The most recent to bring the long experience and specialized equipment of the Coast Guard in buoy work to Vietnam was the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Basswood.

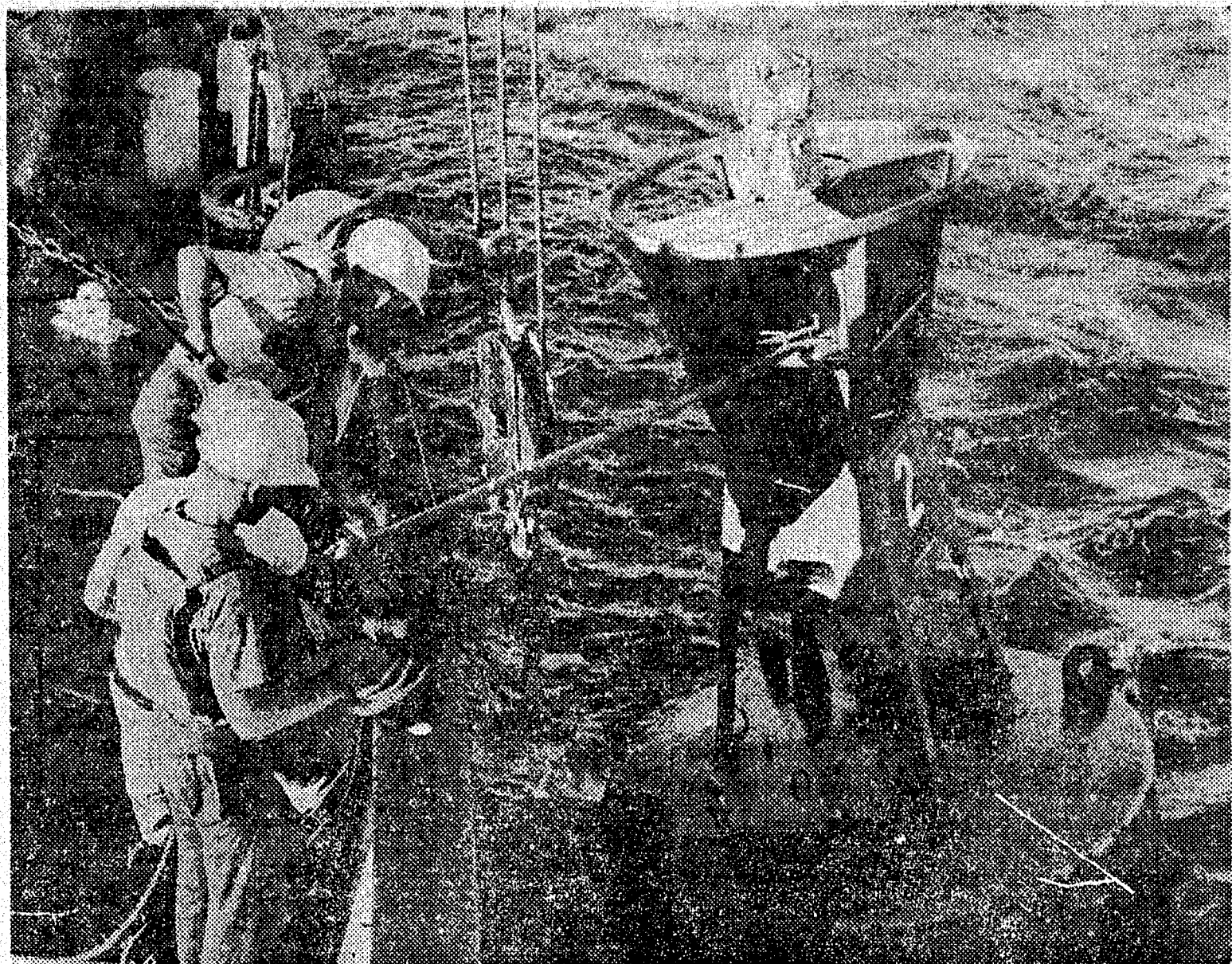
The cutter, operating out of Guam, completed her 30-day tour with her busiest day working 10 buoys in the harbor of the central coastal city of Vung Tau. The operation involved bringing the buoys aboard, cleaning and repairing electrical equipment, replacing power packs and replanting the buoys, which ranged in weight from 700 pounds to lighted five-ton sea aids.

"It's not as easy as it looks," says one of the cutter's boat-swain's mates.

Buoy work at best is hazardous, especially when the buoy is out of the water but not yet secured on deck. At this point a heavy roll of the ship or a sudden pull on the mooring chain due to currents can cause the buoy to swing wildly over the deck. Although the buoys presently used in Vietnam are not as large or as heavy as many which the tenders handle in other areas, it is still a challenging operation.

"Besides bad weather another dangerous feature of working in these areas of Vietnam is interference by other vessels traveling in the vicinity," says the commanding officer, Robert O. Slade.

"All through our tour here we were plagued with this prob-



Coast Guardmen tug a large buoy toward their cutter off the coast of South Vietnam. After winching the buoy aboard, repairs are made and it is placed back in the water. (USCG)

lem. It's not that they get in the way on purpose, but I think that this operation is basically new to this area and they just don't know the problems we face."

The process of making Vietnam safer for merchant and military vessels is new and still not complete. The Coast Guard has sent three cutters to Vietnam at intervals of six months for 30-day tours to establish new aids and reservice already established aids dotting the Vietnamese coastline. With some 70 merchant ships arriving monthly and hundreds of military

craft plying the coastal waters daily, the buoys play an important factor in the upkeep of the war effort.

There are many problems working this far from home without nearby Coast Guard base or buoy depots with their ready supply of buoys, moorings, batteries, flashers and parts. However, the Basswood is no stranger to this type of operation, having operated in the Pacific for many years.

The Vietnamese Directorate of Navigation has one buoy tender and maintains a naviga-

tion aids system which was adequate for pre-war shipping. However, the rapid development of port facilities and U.S. bases in areas where previously there was little shipping created a requirement which they could not meet by themselves.

The U.S. Coast Guard is providing advisory assistance to the directorate so that South Vietnam will eventually be able to maintain the entire system.

In the meantime, the Basswood and other 180-foot buoy tenders are becoming a familiar sight in Vietnam.

# Memorial To Heroes

WASHINGTON (S&S)—Workers are putting the finishing touches on a small section of the Pentagon that has been set aside as a permanent memorial to the nation's bravest fighting men.

It will be known as the Hall of Heroes in honor of the 3,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, who have been awarded the Medal of Honor since the Civil War. Dedication is expected some time in March.

The memorial centers around three large replicas of the medals awarded by the Army, Navy and Air Force. Surrounding the medals will be 3,000 bronze plaques bearing the names of those who have won the nation's highest decoration for heroism.

# Signalmen Assist Orphans With 'Operation Concern'

DA NANG, Vietnam (IO) — Men of the 37th Signal Bn. here have shown their concern for the people of Vietnam by launching a program appropriately called "Operation Concern."

The battalion, part of the 21st Signal Group, 1st Signal Brigade, donates money to help with the upkeep of the children of the China Beach Orphanage.

"Right now we have 13 men who donate \$10 a month. Each man supports one child," said Chaplain (Capt.) John O'Connor. "Many others donate on a one-time basis to help these orphans."

About half the children in the orphanage lost their parents during the war, said the chap-

lain, and about 100 still do not have a regular source of support.

The money given by the men goes to buy clothes, food and other necessities. A school operated by the fathers of the China Beach Orphanage receives supplies purchased with money donated by the battalion.

"The men are free to choose any child they wish to support," said the chaplain.

"For example, one man stationed in a company in Chu Lai (about 50 miles south of this northern coastal city) told me he wanted to support 'a bad little boy.'"

"Apparently this man had been 'a bad little boy' himself in New York, and had received

help from the Police Athletic League. He said he wanted to repay that help."

"Operation Concern hasn't been running long," said Chaplain O'Connor, who came to Vietnam in October. "But already we have the support program; we give English lessons once a week; we make regular visits, and we had a pageant Christmas Eve in which both the men and the orphans sang carols."

One of the chaplain's main projects since he came to Da Nang has been building a chapel for the headquarters compound here. That work is almost finished.

# Fires 50,000th Round

BINH PHUOC, Vietnam (IO) — Sgt. E. McKestry, 21, of Oxford Junction, Iowa, who fired the first round for Baty, B, 2nd Bn., 4th Arty, Feb. 1, 1967, recently unleashed the unit's 50,000th round in Vietnam. The section chief "was very surprised and honored" to record the milestone before he returned to the States for reassignment.

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6 Pacific Stars & Stripes  
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officer. The officer nodded.

The chaplains' words were drowned out by throbbing helicopters, landing jets and heavy trucks passing by. The steady chatter of the MP radio filtered through the walls from the waiting jeeps.

When it became too loud, a stocky first sergeant nodded at a young MP and indicated the door with a tilt of his head. The MP slipped out and the radio volume was turned down.

The printed programs listed the men being honored.

The oldest was born in 1917 but the majority were "war

babies," born in 1946 and 1947.

Pfc. William Sebast of Albany, N.Y. celebrated his 22nd birthday a week before the battle of Saigon started.

Pfc. Warren E. Kenerly of Griffin, Ga., would have been 22 a week later.

They came from many states and Puerto Rico, but all had one thing in common—the line that read "Died Jan. 31, 1968." At the beginning of the list there was a quotation from the Bible:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."