

# Barrages Hit Allied Bases

# NEW RED ASSAULT

## PACIFIC STAR STRIPES

AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE  
U.S. ARMED FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

10¢

Vol. 24, No. 48 ★★★★★ EDITION

1月22日 (1968年2月19日) 星期一 (811)  
(021034年4月21日 319500703-1)

Monday, Feb. 19, 1968

## Troops Get LBJ Sendoff

POPE AFB, N.C. (AP) — President Johnson told Vietnam-bound men of the 82nd Airborne Div. Saturday that duties of freedom may become more difficult and dangerous before this planet knows a secure life.

Johnson made a sudden, secret flight from Washington to visit paratroopers of the 82nd waiting to board a transport plane for Asia.

Johnson trooped the line and greeted men in green fatigue uniforms, many of them already battle-hardened in Vietnam. And then he moved over to a giant C141 Starlifter plane and watched 93 of the them board it to reinforce the Allied troops in Vietnam.

The President mentioned what he called a second wave of terror striking at cities and bases in Vietnam and he said the answer must be clear—an unswerving determination to resist as other attacks have been resisted. (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

## Hero's Mother Accepts Medal

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A foreign-born draftee killed while cleaning out a nest of Viet Cong snipers to save his platoon was honored posthumously Friday with the nation's highest award for valor.

Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor presented the Medal of Honor, won by Pfc. Lewis Albanese of Seattle, Wash., to his mother, Mrs. Giannina Albanese, in ceremonies at the Pentagon. The slain soldier's father, Ralph G. Albanese, and his 16-year-old sister, Rosita, were also present.

Pfc. Albanese was born in Venice, Italy, but emigrated to the U.S. as a youngster. He was a graduate of Franklin High School in Seattle. He was drafted in 1965 and sent to Vietnam in August, 1966, with the 1st Cav. Div. He was 20 at the time of his death.

Describing his heroism near (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)



PRESIDENT JOHNSON SHAKES HANDS WITH DEPARTING 82ND AIRBORNE TROOPS.

## Downed U.S. Pilot's Beeper Heard 8 Hours After Crash

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Defense Department said Friday electronic "beeper" signals were heard from a U.S. pilot eight hours after his plane was shot down by a Red Chinese MIG Tuesday.

But by the time naval destroyers reached the search area, near the Red Chinese coastal island of Hainan, no further signals were heard from the pilot, Lt. (j.g.) Joseph P. Dunn, the Pentagon said. The search was called off Thursday.

The department issued a statement on the incident apparently in response to a Copley News Service story which said Washington officials refused to give U.S. 7th Fleet permission to pick up Dunn because his plane went down too close to Red China.

The statement did not mention the Copley story but went into some detail about the attempts to reach Dunn.

Dunn was piloting an unarmed A1 divebomber from the

Philippines to a U.S. carrier in the Tonkin Gulf when his plane strayed to within five miles of Hainan Island, the Pentagon said.

A pilot who was flying on the same mission in another plane escaped and flew back to Da Nang Air Force Base in South Vietnam, the Pentagon said. The second pilot reported hearing "a good beeper" from Dunn's plane.

But the battery operated (Continued on Back Page, Col. 5)

SAIGON (UPI)—Communist forces launched coordinated rocket and mortar attacks against Allied bases throughout three-quarters of South Vietnam early Sunday. It appeared to be another cycle in the Communists' general offensive.

The Reds hit Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airbase with powerful rockets. Fires erupted on the flight line. The base chapel was hit and burning.

Mortar rounds landed near the "Pentagon East" headquarters of Gen. William C. Westmoreland and the Joint General Staff, the top Vietnamese military headquarters.

Some of the airplanes at Tan Son Nhut, Saigon's international airport, were hit and spokesmen reported at least 39 persons were injured. The Communists struck

The battle for Hue continues, page 6. Pictures, page 12.

with a light ground attack at one gate of the base.

U.S. officials also reported shooting near the Free World Forces compound, headquarters for Australian, New Zealand, Thai, Korean and Filipino forces fighting in Vietnam, in Saigon's Cholon district.

Helicopter gunships and twin-engine Dragonships sent tracers (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

## 12 Perish In Tavern Holocaust

MOBERLY, Mo. (UPI) — A heavily-tattooed ex-convict, incensed because he was banned from a tavern, Saturday was charged with turning it into an inferno with a gasoline can and a match Friday, killing 12 persons.

The man, William E. Coleman, handcuffed and staring at the floor, heard the reading of 12 charges of first-degree murder accusing him in the holocaust that enveloped the neighborhood tavern in a matter of seconds.

Magistrate William M. Stringer, who barred the courtroom of all picture-taking, saying it (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

## A Family Affair

NORDHORN, Germany (UPI) — Police launched a hunt for a car thief when a 47-year-old clerk phoned them and said "a young, fair-haired man, aged about 22," had just driven away his car. Several hours later they received an embarrassed call from the same man. "Sorry," he said, "It was my wife."



A U.S. Marine uses a break in the fighting in Hue to refill his ammo clips. Below him, a tank stands amid the ruins of a housing area. Marines and South Vietnamese troops are fighting to clear Red forces from the city. More pictures, Page 12. (AP)

## Allies Inch Ahead in Hue, Reach Citadel's Inner Wall

HUE, Vietnam (AP)—A Communist force of about 500 men entrenched in the old walled Citadel of Hue was beaten back 200 yards Saturday under savage pounding from artillery and ground assaults by American Marines and South Vietnamese soldiers.

A spokesman said the North Vietnamese battalion still holding out in the Citadel was evidently determined to fight to the last man.

The American and South Vietnamese forces were pushing the Communists back along a mile and one half front toward the southeast wall of the Citadel, bordering the Perfume River which bisects Hue.

The American Marines were fighting a house-to-house battle on the left flank of the allied line.

South Vietnamese soldiers and Marines were in the center and on the right. The South Vietnamese were responsible for assaulting the inner Citadel, site of Vietnam's imperial throne and many other historical monuments.

The Vietnamese forces reached the wall of the inner Citadel but were unable to enter the imperial area.

Heavy clouds again settled over Hue Saturday, precluding air support. The ceiling was only 500 feet.

U.S. Marines continued to make repeated contact with

North Vietnamese forces around the southern edge of the city.

Communist mortarmen Saturday sunk a U.S. Navy landing craft in the Perfume River and damaged five other Navy craft.

One Marine was known killed aboard the sunk craft and at least 12 marines were wounded aboard it and other landing craft docked at a loading ramp on the north side of the city.

The Navy had been moving men, equipment and supplies across the river to U.S. forces.

Meanwhile, Communist jets at U.S. troops, artillery shelling of government military headquarters and the sighting of three tanks menacing another Marine stronghold at Con Thien raised

## ICC to Probe Laos Charge

VIENTIANE, Laos (UPI) — The International Control Commission announced Saturday that it will investigate Laotian charges that North Vietnamese troops are attacking Saravane, 350 miles southeast of here.

The ICC, in a brief press release, said it has decided to visit the Saravane area as soon as possible.

It is expected an advance party of two officers will go to Pakse to make arrangements for the visit.

the possibility of a simultaneous drive by the North Vietnamese all across the demilitarized zone.

About thirty miles northeast of Khe Sanh, three North Vietnamese tanks were sighted in the northern half of the DMZ Friday afternoon north of the Ben Hai River by Marine observers at a forward outpost near Con Thien.

Just to the west of Gio Linh Friday, U.S. Marines clashed with Communist troops in an eight-hour fight that left four Leathernecks dead and eight wounded. There was no report on enemy casualties. Communist gunners meanwhile hammered South Vietnamese government sector headquarters in Gio Linh and nearby Cam Lo with nearly 100 rounds of 105-millimeter howitzer artillery, 140-millimeter rockets and mortars.

Fourteen miles below the eastern half of the DMZ, north of Quang Tri City, helicopter-borne infantrymen from the U.S. 1st Air Cav. Div. killed 34 Communist troops in a day of fierce fighting. Four air cavalrymen were killed and seven wounded.

In a delayed report, U.S. headquarters said that paratroopers from the U.S. 101st Airborne Div. and air cavalrymen killed 67 Communist Troops in two separate fights Thursday south of Quang Tri City and northeast of Hue. U.S. casualties were three killed and 14 wounded.

## Shell Kills Doctor, Patient

SAIGON (AP) — A Viet Cong mortar shell scored a direct hit on the operating room of a U.S. Army field hospital at Tay Ninh Friday night and killed the Army doctor and the patient on whom he was working — an American serviceman wounded a short time earlier in the same enemy shelling.

A U.S. spokesman said a mortar and rocket attack hit the headquarters camp of the 1st Brigade, 25th Inf. Div. at Tay Ninh, 40 miles northwest of Saigon. Several servicemen were wounded, the spokesman said.

Two hospital attendants also were wounded.

## Plague Reported In 3 Viet Cities

SAIGON (AP) — Some cases of bubonic plague have been reported in three cities where fighting occurred during the Communist lunar new year offensive, U.S. officials said Saturday.

They said the cases were usual for this time of year and that government health officials were taking normal precautions.

The exact number of cases was not known, but the reports came from Tay Ninh, 70 miles northwest of Saigon, Can Tho, 80 miles southwest and Ben Tre, 45 miles southwest.

## 3 Freed U.S. Pilots Whisked Homeward

CLARK AB, Philippines (AP) — Three U.S. fliers freed by Hanoi took off for the United States Saturday afternoon from this big American air base in the Philippines to complete their journey home after some five months of Communist captivity.

One of the three, Air Force Lt. Col. Morris M. Overly, 38, of Wheeling, W. Va., told newsmen before departing, "All we can say is we're all feeling well and in good health."

They were cleared for departure after a medical checkup at Clark's modern base hospital

showed them to be in "good physical condition," an Air Force spokesman said.

In Washington the Pentagon said the pilots were due to reach Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington around midnight and would go on to hospitals near their homes.

A military spokesman said the fliers would not make any statements upon their U.S. arrival.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, commander of the U.S. 13th Air Force based at Clark, told newsmen the three had a hearty steak dinner during their two-hour 40-minute stopover here.

They flew in at 12:30 p.m. and declined to meet the press, they

issued only a brief statement saying "we are certainly glad to have been released and to be returning to the States."

Overly consented to make his brief remark upon departure, but all three turned down a radio correspondent's request that they say something for broadcast to their families. Overly said they had spoken with their families by phone Friday but did not say from where the calls were made.

The other two are Air Force Capt. Jon D. Black, 25, of Johnson City, Tenn., and Navy Lt. (j.g.) David P. Matheny, 24, of South Bend, Ind.

Overly was shot down over North Vietnam last Sept. 11, while Black was downed last Oct. 27, and Matheny, Oct. 5.

The three had been released by the North Vietnamese into the custody of two members of an American peace movement, Jesuit father Daniel Berrigan and Prof. Howard Zinn of Boston University. These two, however, did not accompany the fliers on the flight to Clark, and Air Force officials said they did not know the present whereabouts of the peace delegates.

The fliers were first taken to Vientiane, capital of Laos, then reportedly to Udorn in Northern Thailand, site of an airbase.

## Casualties

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

### KILLED IN ACTION

**Army**  
 Cpl. Tennyson A. Thomas, Bessemer, Ala.  
 WO Tommy G. Sandefur, La Grange, Ga.  
 SP4 Joseph Santos, Sacramento, Calif.  
 Cpl. Willis G. Cardin, San Lorenzo, Calif.  
 Pfc. James D. Van Hook, Long Beach, Calif.  
 Pfc. Timothy J. Dineen, Vallejo, Calif.  
 Pvt. Larry E. Witter, Petaluma, Calif.  
 SP4 Leon F. Huber, Tampa, Fla.  
 Pfc. Gene L. Keahl, Ewa Beach, Hawaii.  
 1Lt. Gerald F. Peitzmann, Chicago, Ill.  
 SP4 Conrad E. Ross, Richmond, Ind.  
 Pfc. Mark J. Allstott, French Lick, Ind.  
 SSgt. Michael W. Webster, Manhattan, Kan.  
 Pfc. Russell D. Bryant Jr., Fort Polk, La.  
 Sg. Jack A. Beard, Boonsboro, Md.  
 1Lt. Rodney A. Allano, Malden, Mass.  
 SP5 Richard Connolly, Nabbasset, Mass.  
 SP4 William A. Sawyer, Rochester, Mich.  
 Cpl. Edward J. Bova, Wayne, Mich.  
 Cpl. Ronald W. Bryant, Detroit, Mich.  
 SP4 Leon Hamner, Porterville, Miss.  
 2Lt. Harold A. Kram Jr., Clayton, Mo.  
 SP4 Larry V. Claspill, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Pfc. Zack O. Rowland, Busby, Mont.  
 SP4 Timothy C. Ochs, Dayton, N.J.  
 2Lt. Kenneth E. Golden, Fort Bragg, N.C.  
 SP4 David M. Mabery, Asheville, N.C.  
 Pfc. John H. Jackson, Kent, Ohio.  
 1Lt. John J. Mc Hugh, Lansdale, Pa.  
 SP4 Lawrence G. Grassi, Bradford, Pa.  
 Pfc. James F. Porter, Warrington, Pa.  
 Pfc. Gilberto Ortega, San Antonio, Texas.  
 SP4 Glenn D. Taylor, Redmond, Wash.  
 SP4 Leon Reid, Everett, Wash.  
 Pfc. Gary L. Campen, Washougal, Wash.  
 1Lt. Lynn H. Smith, Caduagh, Wisc.  
 Pfc. James M. Vielbaum, Slinger, Wisc.

### Navy

HM3 Donald A. Kirkham, Brookfield, Wisc.

### Marine Corps

SSgt. Alvin P. Mason, Carlsbad, Calif.  
 Pfc. Ralph L. Thompson, Wilmington, Del.  
 Pfc. William S. Gordon, Washington, D.C.  
 1Lt. Donald D. Perkins Jr., Winnetka, Ill.  
 Sg. Howard G. Vaughn, Chicago, Ill.  
 LCol. Wayne A. Washburn, Pearl & Heights, Ill.  
 Pfc. Alfred L. Mc Nabb, Chicago, Ill.  
 Pfc. Saul Zayas, Detroit, Mich.  
 LCol. Robert N. Hutter Jr., Neighbors, Mo.  
 Cpl. Thomas A. Meade, Orange, N.J.  
 LCol. Billy W. Wilson, Trenton, Texas.  
 Pvt. William D. Sellers, Cody, Wyo.

### Air Force

Maj. Robert G. Lapham, Dana Point, Calif.

### DIED OF WOUNDS

**Marine Corps**  
 Cpl. Vernon C. Randolph, Maline, Ill.  
 Pfc. Richard A. Featherstone, Hillside, N.J.

### MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE

**Army**  
 SP4 Owen E. Mebus, Lynwood, Calif.  
 SP4 Ralph E. White, Compton, Calif.  
 2Lt. Davis J. Boardman, Miami Beach, Fla.  
 Pfc. Robert A. Gates, North Palm Beach, Fla.  
 CWO Robert C. Blegal, Chicago, Ill.  
 Col. William M. Sebest, Albany, N.Y.  
 SP4 Richard W. Perdue, New Salem, Pa.  
 SSgt. Archie Burnette Jr., Aberdeen, Wash.

### MISSING IN ACTION

**Army**  
 Maj. Henry G. Howcott  
 Cpl. Robert G. Keats  
 Cpl. James E. Reed  
 1Lt. Gerald B. Greendyke  
 1Lt. Hugh R. Mc Kibbin Jr.  
 SFC John L. Church  
 Sg. Charles T. Parker  
 SSgt. Guy R. Hively  
 SSgt. Bernard S. Ryan  
 SSgt. Steven W. Ziegler  
 Sg. Roy T. O'Keefe  
 Sg. Kenneth L. Rogers  
 Sg. Kenneth J. Williams  
 SP4 Charles L. Adkins  
 SP4 Quentin W. Blinder  
 SP4 Irvin Brown  
 SP4 Phillip C. Gullien  
 SP4 Peter H. Helsenbuttel  
 SP4 Willard V. Johnson  
 SP4 Gilbert R. Lish  
 SP4 Danny R. Northcutt  
 SP4 Edward Mc Corvey Jr.  
 SP4 Thomas M. Ross  
 Pfc. Roger D. Alberts  
 Pfc. Gerald R. Anderson  
 Pfc. Charles J. Bauer Jr.  
 Pfc. Rene Z. Hernandez  
 Pfc. Fred W. Jansonius  
 Pfc. Raymond E. Kramer  
 Pfc. Thomas M. Martich  
 Pfc. Alfredo Medina Jr.  
 Pfc. Selmer E. Salvesson  
 Pfc. Paul A. Stender  
 Pfc. James D. Youngham  
 Pvt. Arthur F. Elliot

### DIED NOT AS RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

**Marine Corps**  
 LCol. Mark M. Langston, Portland, Ore.

### MISSING NOT AS RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

**Army**  
 Cpl. Donald D. Burnham

### CORRECTION

2Lt. Jerry T. Bergen, USMC, Change to read; 2Lt. James T. Bergen III, Austin, Texas.  
 SSgt. William A. Berry, USAF, Change status from died not as a result of hostile action to killed in action.  
 SSgt. William A. Berry, USAF, Change status from missing to dead-non hostile to missing to dead-hostile.

## Thai Troops for Viet

BANGKOK (UPI) — Gen. Prapas Charusatien, deputy premier, minister of the interior and commander of the Thai Army, said an additional 10,000-plus Thai soldiers will soon go to South Vietnam to help the allies fight the Communists.

# Big Airlift Ends at Song Be

SONG BE, Vietnam (OI) — In one of the largest airlifts of the Vietnam war, Air Force tactical transports moved 6,905 tons of troops, equipment, and cargo in 12 days from various bases to Song Be during the first phase of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Div.'s Operation San Angelo.

Additional tons of cargo were airlifted to resupply units already at Song Be, 75 miles north-northeast of Saigon. The airlift is complete but regular resupply missions to support the ground forces will continue.

The buildup in men and equipment was the prelude to the 101st Airborne's operation to secure the Song Be area.

During the move, the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles" was airlifted from Bao Loc, 55 miles northwest of Song Be. At the same time, other airborne troops were flown in from Phan Rang, Phan Thiet and Bien Hoa. Equipment and supplies were also brought in from these three locations, plus Phuoc Vinh, Phu Loi, Cam Ranh Bay AB, and Vung Tau.

Among the equipment and supplies airlifted were fuel, ammunition, food, howitzers, jeeps, trucks, trailers and other heavy equipment.

C-130 Hercules, C-123 Providers and C-7A Caribou tactical airlift aircrews of the 834th Air Division flew 596 sorties in support of San Angelo and another 44 sorties on regular resupply missions to Song Be. The bulk of the move was done by C-130 aircrews.

The man responsible for the over-all Air Force portion of the airlift, Col. Malcolm P. Hooker, called Army and Air Force cooperation outstanding.

Air Force teams helped Army personnel prepare loads and weigh equipment the day before the move.

## 50,000 Sorties For Phantom Jets

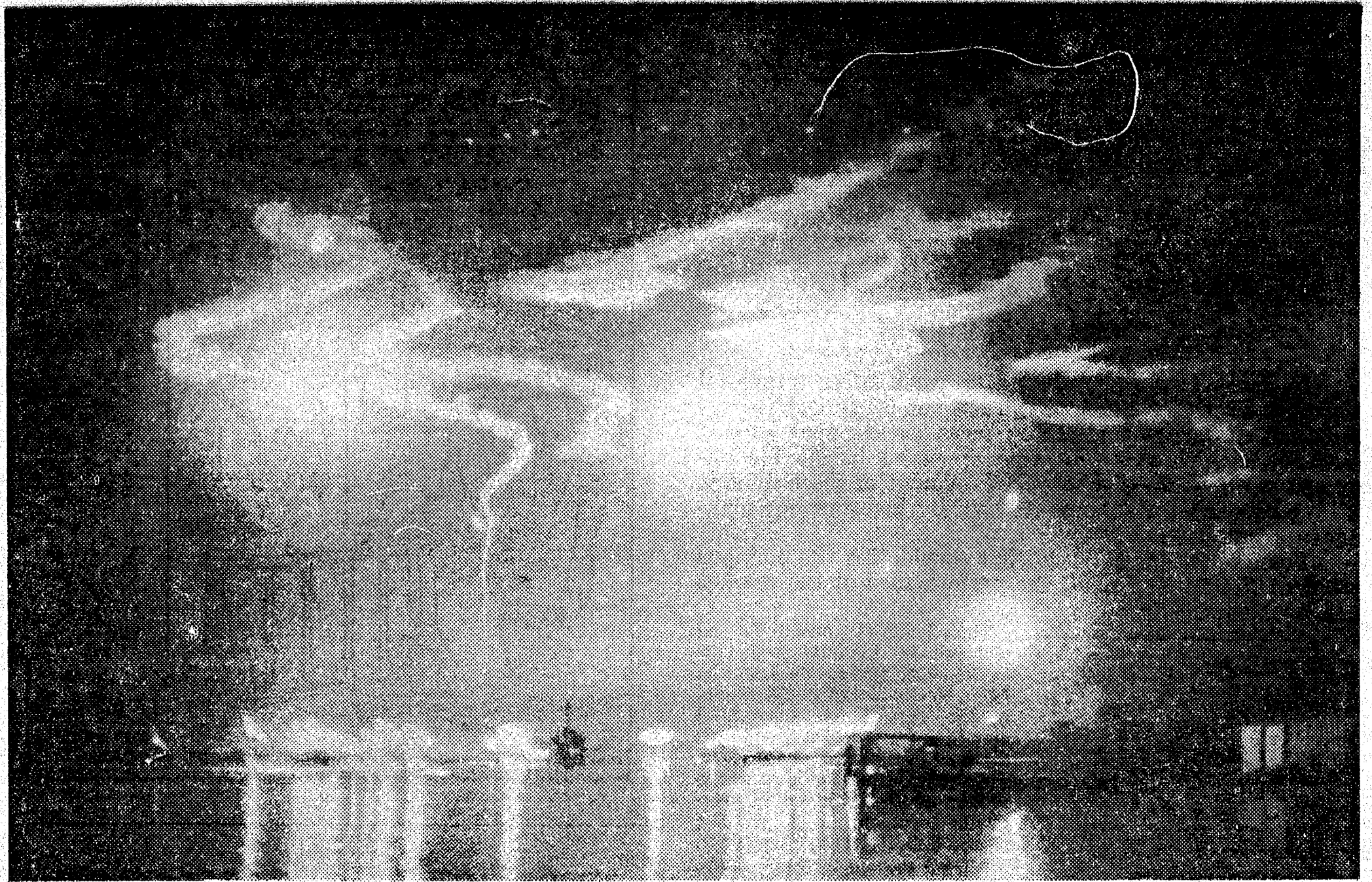
CAM RANH BAY, Vietnam (OI) — In less than 26 months, Air Force crews of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, flying the F4 Phantom fighter-bomber, have flown 50,000 combat sorties. The 12th TFW averaged 1,920 combat sorties a month.

The 12th, commanded by Col. W.E. Davis, is the largest tactical fighter wing in Vietnam and has been flying combat strikes since early November, 1965.

## AF Colonel Sets Mark Of 1,000 Combat Hours

TUY HOA, Vietnam (OI) — Flying three different aircraft in three different wars to compile over 1,000 hours in combat is the achievement of Lt. Col. Hubert N. Skidmore, 44, of Hendersonville, Tenn., commander of the 308th Tactical Fighter Sq. here.

Skidmore passed the 1,000-hour mark flying his F100 Supersabre on a close air support mission near Khe Sanh in Quang Tri Province near the DMZ recently.



## Making the Job Harder for Red Infiltrators

Flares leave smoke trails in the sky over Da Nang as the river reflects the light designed to expose infiltrators.

(USMC)

## 'Help' Cry Impels GI To Rescue

KHE SANH, Vietnam (ISO) — A cry for help brought a Marine mortarman to brave an enemy barrage to aid a wounded comrade on Hill 861.

"Three of four enemy mortar rounds had struck the hill, so I took off running and jumped into our gun pit," said Pfc. Philip R. Ballard. "Just as I got under cover, I heard somebody scream 'Help me!'"

Ballard dashed out into the enemy barrage, looking for the wounded Marine.

He found him lying nearby and told him he would carry him to a nearby trench.

"I managed to pick him up all right, but he was heavy," Ballard said. "As I started taking a few steps, all hell broke loose from the NVA mortars."

"I said to myself 'There isn't anyone else around' — then I picked up a head of steam, ran over and jumped with him into the trench."

A corpsman arrived to treat the Marine's wounds. He was medevaced from the hill and later reported in good condition.

Ballard is an assistant gunner with a 81mm mortar section, attached to elements of the 26th Marines.

## Non-Infantrymen Bear Arms To Fight VC Near Da Nang

DA NANG, Vietnam (ISO) — Supply clerks, forklift drivers, bakers and mechanics doubled as infantrymen during the Tet terrorist period while Force Logistic Command reactionary forces killed 30 enemy northwest of Da Nang.

Reactionary units from 1st and 3rd Military Police, Maintenance and Headquarters & Service Bns., conducted patrols, search and destroy missions and sweeps against concentrated enemy action which began Jan. 30.

After the Da Nang air base was hit by enemy rockets, Lt. Col. T.R. Hill, commanding officer of the 1st MP Bn. in charge of Camp Books defense, alerted the reactionary units.

The 3rd reaction platoon of Maint. Bn. was trucked to the north end of the air strip as a blocking force to seal off escape routes if the attack came from the north.

The second platoon shortly after dawn moved east of the field towards Combined Action Platoon Echo 3. After setting-up outside the CAP unit they came under scattered small arms fire.

The 1st MP reactionary unit had been dispatched at 5:30. At 6:30, heavy contact was made 800 meters south of the Da Nang river bridge. The Viet Cong were in a small village and tree line less than 200 meters away. In the following three hours two MP's were killed and

six wounded. Enemy losses were 30 dead and an undetermined number wounded.

Both corpsmen and the battalion sergeant major were injured while carrying wounded Marines to safety. Contact was broken when the MPs began laying down a heavy base of fire and a Huey gunship opened up.

The MPs were relocated during the morning on the road from gate four to the Cam Le bridge. There they joined units from Maint. Bn's reserve unit and D Co., 3rd MP Bn.

Second Lt. Terry Johnson, a platoon commander said, "the squad leaders took control of the men, directed fire and saw to the evacuation of the wounded — it was their fight."

On Jan. 31 the Viet Cong moved into Nam-O village north of FLC. Viet Nam case Army Rangers were assigned to clear the village with FLC's unit as blocking force.

That night the H&S Bn. platoon guarded the refugee camp which held Nam-O villagers who fled as the VC moved into the village.

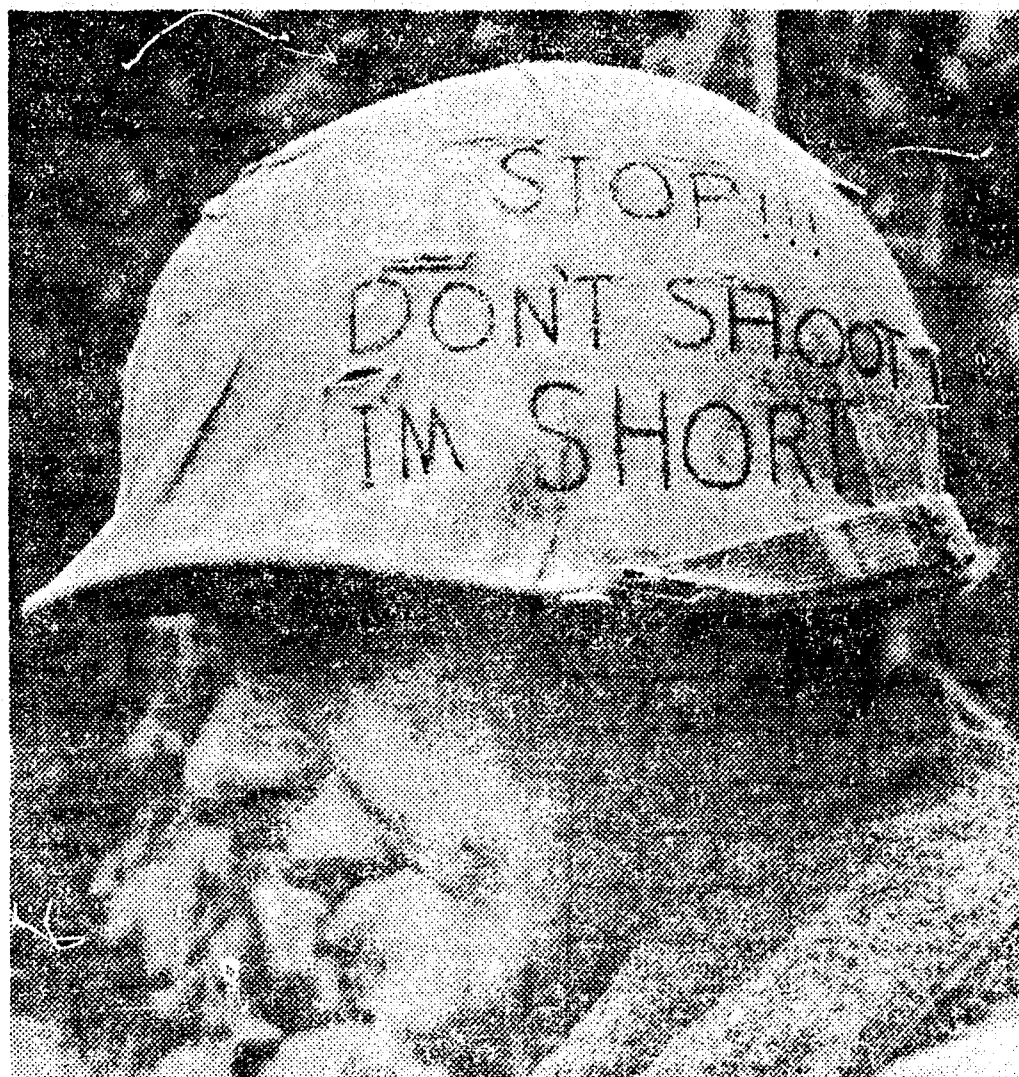
On Feb. 2 and 3, they swept the areas south and west of the compound. The VC, after reportedly suffering heavy casualties, withdrew from Nam-O.

## 11,918 Viets Get U.S. Medical Aid

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO) — American medical and civic action personnel treated 11,918 Vietnamese in medical civic action programs throughout Hau Nghia Province last month.

Maj. Robert H. Stecker, civil affairs officer for the 2nd Brigade, 25th Inf. Div., said the total marked an increase of 1,400 patients over December 1967.

Pacific Stars & Stripes Monday, Feb. 19, 1968



## But Can They Read English?

A radio operator with M Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marine Regt. hopelessly broadcasts his tour's status during a sweep south of Da Nang. (USMC)

# Reds Unleash Barrages at Allied Bases

(Continued From Page 1)

streaking through the pre-dawn sky near Tan Son Nhut.

Explosions ripped through two ammunition dumps at Long Binh, the headquarters area for the U.S. Army in South Vietnam, and nearby Bien Hoa AB 15 miles north of Saigon also came in for heavy bombardments.

(AP said there was a report of a ground assault following shelling at Tay Ninh, 50 miles northwest of Saigon near the Cambodian border. No other details were available. Tay Ninh had been one of the few major cities not hit during the lunar new year offensive.)

Scattered attacks were reported throughout a 450-mile stretch of South Vietnam. The attacks appeared as widespread but not as severe as the kick-off of the lunar new year offensive Jan. 29 which sent an estimated 60,000 Communists into virtually every population center in the country and convulsed the nation for two weeks.

Most of the attacks were made with mortars and rockets but several towns and military positions in the delta were hit with rifle and machine gun fire.

The first sketchy reports said at least 20 cities or major military positions were hit.

Here is a rundown according to early reports.

**Mekong Delta:** The provincial capitals of Ben Tre, Kien Hoa, Soc Trang, Rach Gia, My Tho and Can Tho were mortared. Nha Be, the U.S. Navy base and big supply depot where American merchant ships frequently call also was hit.

**III Corps Area** including Saigon: Ammunition explosions at U.S. Long Binh headquarters area and damage to Bien Hoa AB. Attacks against U.S. 23rd Inf. Div. positions near Co Chi. The provincial capitals and district towns of Lai Khe, Phu Loi, Ben Cat, Cat Lai, Thu Duc, Binh Loc, Long Phan mortared.

**Central Highlands:** Mortars slammed into the Kontum airfield, several positions in Quang Duc Province and near the mountain resort of Dalat. Heavy attacks on Gia Nghia, capital of mountainous Quang Duc Province and a series of positions stretching toward the Cambodian border and fighting near Phan Thiet, capital of coastal Binh Thuan Province.



U.S. Marines fighting in the Citadel in Hue come under sniper fire. A platoon leader and his radio operator press into the rubble for cover as another Marine opens fire on the North Vietnamese sniper. (S&S Radiophoto by Spec. 4 John Olson)

## LBJ Hails Troops— Medal—

(Continued From Page 1)

Johnson said that in Vietnam "American security as well as Vietnam's freedom is now facing a dangerous challenge."

"I know," he said, "that you will serve the cause of freedom just as your forefathers served it."

Speaking from a platform looking out across the men mustered before him, with a strong wind flapping their battle flags, the President said:

"We, all Americans, are proud of you and I come here to speak to you on behalf of all Americans and tell you are the finest, because you are the Airborne."

The troops answered with a roar: "All the way."

Johnson decided Saturday morning to fly to North Carolina

and then on to the West Coast to visit elements of the 10,500-man pool of reinforcements now flowing to Vietnam.

He expected to stop at Marine installations in California.

Here at Pope AFB, linked to Fort Bragg, which is the home of the 82nd Airborne and the Green Beret Special Forces, Johnson was escorted among the ranks of massed men by the 82nd's commander, Maj. Gen. Richard R. Seltz.

The general introduced officers and men alike. The President shook hands with many, patted soldiers on the shoulders, and was told when he met the gun commander of B Co. that:

"They call them the devils in baggy pants, sir."

(Continued From Page 1)

Thu Muu on Dec. 1, 1966, the Army said:

"Disregarding danger to himself, he advanced 100 meters along a ditch and killed six snipers with automatic weapons."

"When his ammunition was exhausted, he engaged and killed two more enemy soldiers in fierce hand-to-hand combat. In this fight, which saved the lives of many members of his platoon who otherwise would have fallen to sniper fire from the ditch, he was mortally wounded."

Albanese was the 28th member of the military services to be accorded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam. Fifteen of the awards have been posthumous.

## Fate of Pilot Still Unknown

HONG KONG (UPI)—Communist sources here have given no indication of the fate of the pilot of an American Navy plane shot down last Wednesday by Red Chinese warplanes near Hainan Island.

However, a report in the official organ of the Red Chinese armed forces said the American plane "immediately exploded" when one of the Chinese planes scored a "direct hit."

The American plane was an unarmed, propeller-driven A1 Skyraider, according to U.S. Navy officials. It was piloted by Lt. Joseph Dunn, 27.

## Pilot—

(Continued From Page 1) rescue device was heard only once during search operations, for 20 minutes late Tuesday afternoon, about eight hours after Dunn's plane went down.

By this time, the statement said, the aircraft carriers Coral Sea and Kearsarge and several destroyers were heading toward the scene of the crash but were still 10 hours away from the point where they could have launched helicopters to pick him up.

The Copley News Service version of the story, written by L. Edgar Prina of its Washington bureau, said the 7th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. William F. Bringle, notified the Pentagon Tuesday night that he was ordering an aircraft carrier and two destroyers to pick up the pilot.

Prina said the order was blocked "presumably by officials at high levels of government" and U.S. helicopters and other aircraft were ordered not to approach closer than 12 miles off Hainan Island.

## The Non-Candidates

CAUSEY, N.M. (AP) — The filing deadline for the March 5 election of municipal officers has passed and no one threw a hat in the ring. Village Clerk Mollie Parnell said an election will be held anyway to give voters a chance to write in names.

## Ex-Con Held In Fire Deaths

(Continued From Page 1) could prejudice the case, set Coleman's arraignment for Feb. 26.

Police brought the 37-year-old Coleman, whom they described as the town troublemaker, from the safety of an unnamed jail where he was held in secrecy overnight to the county courthouse.

Eight men and four women perished in the hotel tavern blaze.

Coleman, his dark brown hair badly mussed and clad in a brown jacket and wash pants, arrived shortly after a coroner's jury ruled the 12 victims "died by accident due to the act of man."

He spoke in a low tone when he told the judge he had no attorney and no money to employ one. He was informed of his rights.

Coleman was remanded to the city jail without bond until Wednesday, when he was to report his progress in obtaining an attorney.

Sheriff Amos Magruder said Coleman would be kept in the Moberly jail until the county jail at nearby Huntsville could be strengthened.

"He's (Coleman) tore that jail

up so much in the past I have to fix it up before I can put him in it," Magruder said. Coleman has a record of eight jail escapes.

Fire Chief Leroy Willis, 47, said Coleman "did it as a grudge" because he had been banned from the tavern.

Most of the bodies, six at one funeral home and six at another, were burned beyond recognition in the explosion and fire.

Willis said "there was an instant fire all over the place. Those poor people didn't have a chance."

Their bodies were found piled, like haphazardly stacked cord wood, against the door of a storage room at the rear of the building, a door that opened in instead of out and against which they apparently hurled themselves in panic.

Coleman had been barred, because of his long criminal record, from the tavern on the ground floor of the ancient Randolph Hotel, a paint-chipped, three-story brick structure located in a low-rent district. Four persons seated near the front of the tavern escaped through the front door.



William Coleman sits in Moberly police station after being charged. (AP Radiophoto)

## World Weather

USAF Weather Central

TOKYO AREA

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy; Low 20's

Monday: Mostly cloudy; High 45

TEMPERATURES

Feb. 17

	H	L		H	L
Bangkok	84	75	Naha	59	52
Chitose	25	0	Saipu	86	73
Osaka	88	75	Seoul	41	25
Hakuba	46	30	Taipei	59	50
Manila	85	65	Tokyo	44	36
Albany	27	07	Louisville	67	41
Albuquerque	52	26	Melbourne	95	65
Anaheim	45	27	Memphis	43	26
Atlanta	54	27	Miami	72	57
Birmingham	52	31	Milwaukee	42	12
Bismarck	13	-3	Minneapolis	19	14
Boise	45	29	Mooscow	36	20
Boston	—	13	NYC	36	20
Chicago	22	-7	N. Platte	42	14
Cincinnati	45	21	Okla. City	46	23
Cleveland	34	12	Omaha	40	17
Denver	42	20	Port. O.	40	30
Des Moines	43	18	Phila.	41	24
Detroit	40	19	Phoenix	68	46
Duluth	18	-9	Pittsburgh	37	13
Fairbanks	0	-16	Portland	52	29
Farro	17	-1	Rapid City	27	18
Fort Worth	53	31	Reno	51	27
Hong Kong	57	31	Richmond	51	18
Honolulu	78	68	Singapore	67	55
Houston	56	40	St. Louis	53	20
Ind. polis	45	19	St. Paul	22	0
Jackville	67	41	Salt Lake	40	24
Jakarta	85	70	S. Antonio	48	38
Kansas City	54	25	San Diego	68	55
K. Lumpur	88	74	Sun Fran.	57	54
Los Vegas	42	43	Seattle	54	34
London	43	32	Shreveport	40	37
L.A.	71	54	Sydney	80	65
			Wash.	49	27

24 Pacific Stars & Stripes  
Monday, Feb. 19, 1968