

GI Can Celebrate: He's 22, Alive

BONG SON, Vietnam (IO)— In a soft voice, Spec. 4 Perrie V. Benallie tells how he and his buddies from the 1st Air Cav. Div.'s 1st Bn., 12th Cav., were advancing through palm groves and hedges into a fortified village where a patrol had been fired on earlier. Enemy sniper fire began to crack around them as they moved in.

Fragments from an enemy rifle grenade tore into Benallie's right leg. "It didn't hurt much so I just kept on going," he said. His platoon was moving toward a hedgerow when enemy automatic weapons opened up. As Benallie tried to get in position to return fire and hopefully cover a withdrawal, a machine

gun bullet creased his right temple. "It just stung," he said, gesturing toward his handaged head. Driven back by the heavy fire, the company regrouped. They were able to reach two other wounded men in a ditch 20 feet behind Benallie, but they couldn't cross the open area to where he lay. "I couldn't signal to them," he said,

"or the enemy would have opened up again." A third assault, this time supported by armored personnel carriers from the Cav.'s 1st Bn., 50th Mechanized Inf., also was unable to reach Benallie. One of the vehicles was disabled by an enemy recoilless rifle as it rumbled to within 15 (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

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LBJ Signs Bills

\$1.8 BIL. SET FOR POVERTY

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (AP)—President Johnson has signed the last of the 453 bills sent him by the 90th Congress, including one with a trimmed down \$1.773 billion anti-poverty appropriation.

This bill totals \$1.842 billion. Besides the \$1.773 for the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), there is an additional \$57.4 million for the Appalachian regional development program and \$16.9 million for the Interior Department's saline water program and several other items.

Johnson signed the poverty appropriation along with various other measures, including expanded Social Security benefits and federal aid to education, just before a midnight deadline Tuesday. He also named Wednesday Yale economics Prof. Merton J. Peck, 42, to fill the vacancy on the Council of Economic Advisers created by appointment of its chairman, Gardner Ackley, as U.S. ambassador to Italy. The man named to move up to replace Ackley, Arthur M. Okun, also is a Yale economics professor. Press secretary George Christian said the President's signing of eight more bills completed the action on legislation sent to him when first session of the 90th Congress adjourned Dec. 15.

Of the 453 bills Johnson signed, 204 were private bills, 249 public bills. There was one pocket veto and two regular vetoes—one of a federal employees' insurance bill whose provisions Johnson thought too costly. There was no comment from the Texas White House on developments in Southeast Asia, including reports that Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia has offered to allow the United States to give hot pursuit to (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Gold Rush Fades in London

LONDON (UPI) — The price of gold plummeted on the London bullion market Wednesday under the weight of President Johnson's defend-the-dollar measures. The metal nosedived by 2-1/4 cents the ounce to \$35.17-3/4 the fine ounce, its lowest price level since early last April. It was the largest single-day's plunge in months. Sheer lack of buying orders drove the price down. The price of gold is set daily at the "fixing" session when the five firms which operate

Related Story, Page 4
the closely controlled London gold market under the eye of the Bank of England meet to match their buying and selling orders. The drive by gold hoarders and gamblers against the dollar to get a higher world price for gold appeared to have lost all its impetus Wednesday.

U.S. Transfers \$450 Mil. in Gold

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department said Wednesday it has transferred another \$450 million in gold from the nation's money stocks to help cover the recent rash of speculative gold buying in Europe. This raised to \$925 million the amount of gold transferred during December from the money stocks to the Exchange Stabilization Fund from which sales of gold are made to foreign buyers.

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Arsenal Blast Kills 1

DENVER, Colo. (AP)— One person was killed and eight others, including two women, were injured Wednesday in an explosion on a munitions assembly line at the top-secret Rocky Mountain Arsenal. One of the injured women and one man were reported in critical condition at Fitzsimons General Hospital. Four others were listed as in serious condition and two suffered minor injuries. Names of the victims were not released immediately. A public information officer said no toxic material was involved in the explosion. Lethal nerve gas has been among materials manufactured at the arsenal, located northeast of Denver. Production was halted on the assembly line. Army officials said a board of officers was appointed to investigate the accident. A deep well drilled at the arsenal has figured in speculation over the causes of earthquakes jarring Denver in the last five years.



(AP Radio-photo)

All Dressed Up and Somewhere to Go
Vice President Hubert Humphrey (left) and Mrs. Humphrey wear formal attire at the inauguration of Liberian President Tubman. Humphrey later left for Ghana. Story on Page 5.

He Taxes Imagination

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Frank Finley is as dedicated as any World Series fan when it comes to being first in line. But the competition's not so fierce. Finley, a retired secretary and business manager for a suburban school district, showed up 45 minutes before the district Internal Revenue Service office opened Tuesday to make sure he was the first to file his 1967 income tax form. He had no competition.

Bride Stowed in Hope Chest

LONDON (UPI) — New Zealander Anne Markie spent her three-week honeymoon in a chest of drawers. "It was very dark in the chest and I hardly ever got out of it," said 19-year-old Anne. "But it was all worth it, now that we are here."

Her English seaman husband, Terrance Markie, 22, hid her in the chest in his cabin aboard the 10,900-ton freighter Corinthic because he could not afford the 330 pound (\$792) air fare to bring her to England from Auckland. Markie had to pay out 34

pounds (\$82) instead Tuesday when the Corinthic docked in London and the pair were fined in court on charges that Mrs. Markie unlawfully stowed away and her husband aided her. The five-foot, six-inch tall bride lived for three weeks in a (Continued on Back Page, Col. 3)

Heavy Fighting Erupts at Close of Truce

SAIGON (AP) — Communist forces Wednesday launched a series of coordinated attacks in the northern provinces of South Vietnam, including a rocket assault on Da Nang AB that destroyed three planes and damaged 23.

Heavy fighting following the end of the New Year's truce dotted South Vietnam, but it was in the five northern provinces of the First Corps area that the toll was heaviest.

These actions were reported:

1) Six coordinated hit-and-run assaults raked outposts within a 15-mile radius of Da Nang. South Vietnamese losses were reported light.

2) A combined Marine-South Vietnamese civic action platoon near Hoi An was overrun and all but wiped out. The Marine squad attached to the platoon lost seven dead plus its Navy corpsman. Four more Marines were wounded. The losses of the South Vietnamese militia unit were from 10 to 20 dead but were not officially disclosed.

3) Communist gunners unloaded a barrage of 122mm rockets—the same Soviet designed type used on the Da Nang base—on a bivouac of the 1st Air Cav. Div. in the Que Son Valley southwest of the base. They followed with a ground assault and first reports said the fight was continuing with 11 Americans killed and 70 wounded.

4) Still sketchy battle reports said three other combined South Vietnamese-Marine platoons in the First Corps area were attacked less severely.

The aircraft destroyed at Da Nang included one Phantom jet and two light artillery spotter planes. Severe damage was done to a twin-engine C47 and two more spotter planes. The other damaged aircraft were lightly hit and some were back in action almost immediately.

The 11-minute barrage caused relatively few casualties. The rockets wounded only four men and caused lesser injuries to 19 others.

It was the sixth rocket attack on the base and the defenders were prepared. A twin-engine AC47 "Spooky" mounted with quick firing mini-guns was on combat patrol overhead when the firing started.

It pounced on the Communist rocketeers four miles away in what is called "Happy Valley."

Although the two 10,000 foot runways were cratered by a few rounds Wednesday they were quickly back in operation.

Near the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon, Communist mortar-men raked a bivouac of the U.S. 25th Inf. Div. with heavy fire Wednesday morning but showed no taste for renewed ground assault. The previous day 374 Viet Cong troops died in an assault which cost the Americans 23 dead and 153 wounded. Only one trooper was wounded in the latest mortar barrage.



A trooper of the 25th Inf. Div. looks over wrecked armored personnel carriers after a battle near the Cambodian border. U.S.

troops killed 374 Viet Cong in the battle while losing 23 dead and 153 wounded. (AP Radiophoto)

Sihanouk Raps Aids On Pursuit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk has criticized unnamed French advisors working in his cabinet for demanding that Cambodia fight back if American troops enter the country in pursuit of Vietnamese Communists.

In a Jan. 1 broadcast in Cambodia monitored here, Sihanouk reaffirmed his policy of permitting U.S. forces to pursue North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units who use Cambodia as a sanctuary.

Accusing the advisors of being pro-Chinese and more interested in the Communist party than in the welfare of Cambodia, Sihanouk declared:

"They come only in pursuit of the Viet Cong without touching us Cambodians. In that case the Viet Cong would be committing aggression against our territory just the same as the Americans . . ."

Sihanouk said the French advisors in Phnom Penh say that if the Americans infiltrate and the Cambodians do not attack, then Americans can install themselves on Cambodian territory.

"I say no," the prince declared.

Thieu Hits Red 'Offer'

QUANG NGAI, Vietnam (UPI) — President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam Wednesday dismissed as "nothing new" and "not serious" North Vietnam's latest conditions for negotiations.

Hanoi Radio broadcast a statement Monday by North Vietnam Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh, saying his nation "will talk" when the United States has "unconditionally stopped its bombing and all other war acts" against the North.

Thieu told newsmen he had dismissed Trinh's conditions, which for the first time contained the clause "will talk" instead of the usual "could talk" in previous statements.

"There is nothing new in them," Thieu said. "I have studied them very carefully and I don't think they are news."

Thant Reiterates Bombing Views

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) — Secretary-General U Thant said Wednesday the statement last weekend by North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh reinforces Thant's often-stated view that a halt to the U.S. bombing of the North will lead to peace talks.

Thant made his views known through a spokesman, who cited a statement authorized by Thant last Dec. 22.

Vietnam Casualties

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

KILLED IN ACTION

- Army**
 Pfc. Larry P. Black, Cordova, Ala.
 SP4 Michael M. Senger, Colton, Calif.
 Maj. Robert R. Jackemeyer, Columbus, Ga.
 SSG. Houston Grant Jr., Dahlgren, Ga.
 SP4 Stanley R. Hutchison, Charleston, Ill.
 Pfc. Martin P. Schwartz, Chicago, Ill.
 SP4 Rodger D. Hoste, Franklin, Ind.
 Pfc. Edward L. Polson, Eubank, Ky.
 Pfc. Earl E. Tyree, Fitchburg, Mass.
 SP4 Robert A. Honselman, Mount Clemens, Mich.
 2Lt. David W. Milde, Rochester, Minn.
 Pfc. Thomas L. Nelson, Minneapolis, Minn.
 1Lt. Peter B. Bushey, Yonkers, N.Y.
 2Lt. John L. Wulfert, New Windsor, N.Y.
 Pfc. Obediah Grimsley, Ayden, N.C.
 SSG. Ronald S. Allen III, Muskogee, Okla.
 SP4 William C. Jones, Henryetta, Okla.
 Pfc. Thomas D. Robinson, Miami, Okla.
 1Lt. David R. Myers, Washington, Pa.
 SSG. Stanley W. Driza, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Pfc. Merline C. Hollenbach, Andreas, Pa.
 Pfc. Lewis W. Sigel, Lykens, Pa.
 SGT. Hugh G. Willard, Orangeburg, S.C.
 SGT. Raymond C. Eubanks Jr., Beersheba Springs, Tenn.
 2Lt. Harry W. Horton Jr., Texas City, Tex.
 SP4 Robert W. Cooper, Colorado City, Tex.
 SP4 Kenyon G. Wellman, Richardson, Tex.
 Pfc. Angel Vega, Woodsboro, Tex.
 Col. Michael J. Feagan, Fairfax, Va.
 Pfc. Joseph L. Seekford, Front Royal, Va.
 1Lt. Charles C. Peterson, Snohomish, Wash.
 SSG. Donald L. Smith, Montfort, Wis.
 SP4 Bernard P. Meinen Jr., Chippewa Falls, Wis.
 Pfc. Rafael A. Valpais-Morales, Ponce, P.R.

Navy

- HM3 Richard H. Mc Ham, Sunland, Calif.
 EN2 Carl R. Goodfellow, Waterproof, La.
 RMSN Frederick P. Webb, Prineville, Ore.
Marine Corps
 Pfc. James H. Brown, Birmingham, Ala.
 Pfc. Larry E. Gonzalez, Altmore, Ala.
 LCol. Walter L. Armstrong, Tucson, Ariz.
 Cpl. Charles F. Sorrow Jr., Santa Barbara, Calif.
 LCol. Michael E. Suniga, Ojai, Calif.
 LCol. Daniel A. Verdugo, Whittier, Calif.
 Pfc. Jose M. Mendoza, Compton, Calif.

- LCol. Ralph D. Bobian, Denver, Colo.
 Cpl. Larry E. Smedley, Albany, N.Y.
 SGT. Gregory Mc Cray, Indianapolis, Ind.
 LCpl. Carroll G. Keehner, Volga, Iowa.
 Pfc. Richard J. Payne, Quasqueton, Iowa.
 Pfc. Rudolph J. Billiot, Thriot, La.
 Pfc. Mitchell J. Duncan, New Orleans, La.
 Pfc. Robert L. Walls, New Orleans, La.
 Col. James M. Mc Lean, Inkster, Mich.
 LCol. Arthur P. Copeland, Livonia, Mich.
 LCol. Gary L. Weaver, Clio, Mich.
 LCol. Donnie D. Presley, South Canton, Miss.
 LCol. Steven W. Mueller, Omaha, Neb.
 Col. Thomas R. Matty, Denbo, Pa.
 Pfc. Thomas E. Griner, Williamsport, Pa.
 Pfc. William T. Kennedy, Memphis, Tenn.
 LCol. Clarence W. Obie III, Staunton, Va.
 LCol. Terrence D. Beck, Rothschild, Wis.

Air Force

- Captain Robert L. Long, Plymouth, Ind.
DIED OF WOUNDS
Army

- Sgt. David Middlekauff, El Cerrito, Calif.
 Pfc. Ronald A. Parsons, York, Maine.
Marine Corps

- Pfc. Terry Roberts, Davenport, Iowa.
 LCol. George C. Sigalas, Pascagoula, Miss.

- Pfc. Glenn L. Mc Master, Bolivar, Pa.
MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE
Army

- Pfc. Larry K. Williams, Torrance, Calif.
 Pvt. Eugene Maniga, Sarasota, Fla.
 Pfc. William R. Furlong Jr., Baltimore, Md.
 SFC Thomas R. Kisner, Prospect, Pa.

- MISSING TO CAPTURED**
Air Force
 Major Robert R. Craner.
 Captain Guy D. Gruters.

- MISSING IN ACTION**
Army
 SSG. Lee D. Scurlock Jr.
Navy
 LCdr. James M. Hickerson.

- DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION**
Army
 Pfc. Ted W. Burroughs Jr., Detroit, Mich.
 Pfc. Richard J. Janski, Minneapolis, Minn.
 1Lt. James L. Burns, Billings, Mont.
 MSG. Fred D. Lambert, Vanceboro, N.C.
 Pfc. Lane A. Tilson, Brevard, N.C.
 SP4 Charles L. Housley, Decherd, Tenn.
 Pfc. William E. Bridges Jr., Lenior City, Tenn.

- SSG. James N. Clemons, Killeen, Tex.
Navy
 SN Dudley C. Hughes Jr., Kings Mountain, N.C.

- Marine Corps**
 Cpl. Glenn H. Simmons, Aloha, Ore.
MISSING TO DEAD—NON HOSTILE
Army

- SP4 Robert D. Kline, Whittier, Calif.
 SGM Herbert Roberts Jr., Cornwall on the Hudson, N.Y.
 LTC Glen D. Belnap, Carlisle, Pa.
 WO John F. Holz, Harrisburg, Pa.
 Pfc. Jimmy L. Woolfolk, Richardson, Tex.
 CWO Larry A. Harke, Tacoma, Wash.

- CORRECTIONS**
 SP4 Samuel M. Davis, USA, Change Status from missing to dead—non hostile to missing to dead—hostile.
 SP4 Thomas P. Ctecura, USA, Change Status from missing to dead—non hostile to missing to dead—hostile.
 SP4 Clyde M. Lee, USA, Change Status from missing to dead—non hostile to missing to dead—hostile.
 1Lt. William T. Allen, USA, Change Status from died not as a result of hostile action to killed in action.
 SP5 Wolfgang T. O. Mohl, USA, Change Status from missing to dead—non hostile to missing to dead—hostile.

Chapman Says Truce Is a Disadvantage

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The new Marine Corps commandant, Gen. Leonard F. Chapman, suggested Wednesday that the Communists may have taken advantage of the New Year's cease-fire to move rockets into position to shell a U.S. base in South Vietnam.

"There are obvious military disadvantages to a truce," he commented.

Chapman told a news conference that he is "wondering" at the fact that Communists were able to use the Soviet-built rockets to attack the Da Nang AB as soon as the truce expired.

On other topics, Chapman told newsmen:

—President Johnson's new son-in-law, Capt. Charles S. Robb, "will get the same treatment as any other Marine of his rank" when he goes to Vietnam in the spring. Chapman indicated Robb may be given the command of a rifle company, which would be about 200 men.

—Retired Gen. David M. Shoup, former Marine commandant, did not speak for the Marine Corps in saying the Vietnam war is not in the national interest.

—Marine Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman did not consult with him before canceling appointments in Vietnam with Michigan Gov. George Romney. Chapman refused to say whether he thought Cushman made a wise decision.

Say ROKs Killed 6,708 Reds in '67

SAIGON (AP) — Korean troops mounted 72 battalion-size or larger operations and 60,527 small sized, company and under, operations during 1967, Korean Army headquarters reported.

Headquarters said the Korean troops had killed 6,708 Communist troops, captured 1,542 suspects and seized 4,536 weapons during the year.

Headquarters noted that since South Korea's involvement in the Vietnam war in 1965, its units had launched 150 major operations and 100,154 small-size operations. Since 1965, headquarters said, Korean

troops have killed 12,342 enemy, captured 3,029 Communist suspects and seized 1,308 dead and 3,300 wounded.

In the civil action field, Korean headquarters said its 50,000 troops in Vietnam had "conducted intensified and extensive civic actions . . . to gain the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people in the common struggle to repel Communist aggression."

Headquarters said that during 1967 Korean troops had constructed or repaired 32 classrooms, 30 clinics, 24 temples, 200 houses, 52 bridges and 70 miles of road.

Biggest Rice Cache Found

SAIGON (UPI) — A company of American soldiers have uncovered three Viet Cong caches containing a total of 231 tons of rice—enough to feed two Communist battalions for a year.

The 25th Inf. Div. men came upon the first cache of 135 tons 68 miles north-northwest of Saigon, then followed up by stumbling onto separate caches of 80 and 16 tons in the same area.

The U.S. Command said the total was enough to feed 904 men 1.4 pounds of rice a day each for a year.

A spokesman said it was the most Viet Cong rice he could remember being uncovered at one time.

Military to Get More Pay Hikes In Next 2 Years

By MARC HUET
S&S Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON—The nation's 5.9 million military and federal civilian employees received a small pay raise this year with prospects built into the pay bill for another boost next year and still another in 1969.

How much the civilian raises will be can be estimated, but how much they may be for the military is anyone's guess, according to candid Pentagon officials.

This year civilians got a 4.5 percent boost and the military received a comparable raise in base pay of 5.6 per cent.

In the pay bill Congress also included provisions to bring the civilian pay in line with increases that have been going on for some time in the civilian labor market so another round of increases next year and the following year of 4.4 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively can be expected. This comes to a three-year total of about 16 per cent.

Civilians may well receive these raises and following the reasoning that prevailed in Congress this year to give the servicemen the same help civilians get, men and women in uniform could then assume another increase of about 15 per cent or 16 per cent is in the offing.

While admitting the logic of this line of reasoning officials are quick to point out that this is not likely to happen because of the just-concluded Hubbell study of military compensation and career development.

Details of the study by Rear Adm. Lester E. Hubbell and a team of Army, Navy and Air Force officers, are now under review by top Defense officials before being translated into proposals for congressional approval next year. This legislation, aimed at putting servicemen on a salary system, is expected to have a significant effect on military pay in the future.

Outcome of the study and government plans for the future are expected to be made public in the next few weeks and possibly about the time the second session of Congress begins in mid-January.

Since one of the study's aims was for a new pay formula to induce men with the skills needed in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to remain in the service some people can expect to receive much more than they would hope to get through a flat across-the-board percentage raise.

Others, on the other hand, will probably receive a smaller increase.

How much these amounts will be is not known since future pay proposals are closely guarded Pentagon secrets.



Airborne Rescue for Wounded Soldier

Reinforcements leap from a helicopter as other men of the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf., carry a wounded comrade for medical evacuation

during a 25th Inf. Div. operation about 40 miles north of Saigon. (USA Photo by Spec. 4 Joe Carey)

War College OKs 1st WAC Student

WASHINGTON (S&S) — Lt. Col. Frances V. Chaffin, senior U.S. advisor for the Vietnamese Women's Armed Forces Corps, has been selected as the first woman to attend the top-level Army War College at Carlisle, Pa.

Lt. Col. Chaffin is presently at home on R&R in Arizona after completing a one-year tour in Vietnam. She is due to return to Saigon this month. The WAC officer will report to the college in August.

Army Engineers Teaching Skills to Viet Counterparts

DONG TAM, Vietnam (IO)—A Vietnamese engineer battalion is learning U.S. Army engineer tactics and procedures through training furnished by an engineer unit supporting the 9th Inf. Div.

C Co., 86th Engineer Bn., recently completed a program of instructing cadre from the Vietnamese 303rd Engineer Bn. in

such skills as demolitions and mine detection.

"The ARVNs live and eat with us in our company area," explained 1st Lt. Joseph G. Huber Jr., 28, of Pine Hill, N.J., C Co. executive officer. "They go out every day with six of our men, learning how to compute and set demolitions, recognize and place booby traps,

and detect and neutralize enemy mines."

During the mine detection drills, engineers from both battalions swept the road between Dong Tam and My Tho, monitoring electronic mine sweepers and probing with bayonets. S. Sgt. Lugine Brown, 28, of Cuero, Tex., a squad leader in the third platoon, supervised the training.

"Their formal engineer training is very close to ours, so we don't have much trouble with difference in methods," Brown said. "Our main difficulty is the language barrier. The Vietnamese officers speak some English, but most of our instruction is by demonstration rather than classroom lectures."

Lt. Thomas D. Grubb, 23, of Birdsboro, Pa., project officer, said the Vietnamese engineers would put their skills to work near Tan An and other towns, rather than take over the My Tho road from 9th Div. engineer units.

Soldiers Doctor Up Wounded Ox

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO) — A dust-off was out of the question — the patient weighed 800 pounds. They could have put him out of his misery — and faced the reaction of the half-angry, half-curious crowd of Vietnamese.

So the men of B Co., 1st Bn., 27th Inf. did the only thing possible: they called for a doctor. While the soldiers eyed the farmers and the farmers eyed the wounded ox, Capt. Clark A. Gwin and an assistant

hopped aboard a helicopter for their first "house call" in Vietnam.

Moments before, a soldier had wounded the animal when it charged him during a search and destroy mission on the 2nd Brigade, 25th Inf. Div.'s Operation Saratoga.

Gwin, the division veterinarian, arrived to find the animal bound, the wound in its left rear leg already cleansed by a medic.

Working with his assistant,

Spec. 4 Wayne R. Gromely, the veterinarian sutured a severed tendon and bandaged the animal's leg.

"The people looked like they were worried about the animal," the doctor said. "So I had the interpreter tell them how to change the bandage and not to work the animal for a week."

"They seemed very grateful," Gwin added. "This is a first for me, but I'll probably start making more house calls."

Pleiku Unit Wins Information Prize

PLEIKU, Vietnam (OI)—The 1st Air Commando Sq. at Pleiku AB has won permanent possession of the Prime Bull Award, a trophy given monthly to the unit with the best information program.

The bronze trophy was presented to Lt. Col. James R. Hildreth, 40, commander of the 1st ACS, by Col. R. J. Hullar, 633rd Combat Support Group commander.

Red China N-Test May Have Been a Dud

WASHINGTON (AP) — Red China's most recent nuclear test blast "could have been a dud," a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Commission said Wednesday.

"They might have been planning a larger explosion than they got," he said in reply to questions.

The AEC said that lithium-6—an ingredient of hydrogen bombs—was used in the Chinese

test, but it did not say whether it believed that substance contributed to the explosion itself.

The commission reported that preliminary analyses of the radioactive debris from the recent test indicated that the ingredients used in the test were uranium-235, uranium-238—ingredients of conventional atomic bombs—and lithium-6.

Asked whether the presence of lithium-6 indicated that the

explosion involved a small thermonuclear—hydrogen-bomb-type—device, a spokesman said:

"We are continuing our analysis, but can't elaborate at this time. But lithium-6 is a thermonuclear material."

In at least one of Red China's past tests, the AEC said that a thermonuclear material was one of the ingredients. But the commission indicated then it believed that particular material

did not contribute to the explosion as such—but rather, was used for research on hydrogen-type explosions.

The commission's formal announcement also said the device used in the explosion did not contain plutonium. The latter is still another possible ingredient of atomic bombs.

"The (explosive) yield was in the low-yield range, and, as we previously announced, the deto-

nation occurred in the vicinity of Lop Nor, the site of previous Chinese tests," the announcement said.

The AEC, in its first report of the test more than a week ago, said it estimated the explosive yield as about 20 kilotons—that is equivalent to the blast of 20,000 tons of T.N.T. The latter was the yield of the first bomb dropped on Hiroshima in World War II.

Air Force Pilots Bag 2 MIGs As Bombing of North Resumes

SAIGON (AP)—The air war over North Vietnam resumed in full fury with U.S. Air Force pilots reporting they shot down two Communist MIG17 interceptors.

Headquarters reported that despite heavy weather Tuesday, Air Force and carrier-based

Navy jets destroyed or damaged some 80 North Vietnamese rail cars and even heavier strikes were launched Wednesday when the weather unexpectedly improved.

The latest MIG kills were scored Wednesday by Air Force Phantom pilots flying cover for

F105 Thunderchief pilots going in low to hit rail and road targets near Hanoi.

Headquarters in Saigon said the pilot's claims were not yet "officially confirmed" but this was expected—bringing to 103 the number of MIGs shot down by American pilots (against 36 losses).

It was the first air battle since Dec. 17.

Although headquarters announced the loss of a sophisticated Navy F8 Crusader to "unknown causes" on Tuesday, no losses were mentioned in Wednesday's raids which went into the Hanoi area.

The pilot of the Navy craft was rescued by helicopter when he parachuted to safety. The plane was the 774th U.S. jet lost over North Vietnam.

GI Is 22—and Alive

(Continued From Page 1)

fect of the wounded soldier. Darkness was approaching fast now.

Taking his rifle, Benallie began crawling back to the ditch where his two buddies had been rescued earlier. Two North Vietnamese soldiers stepped from behind a hut barely 20 feet away. "I emptied a magazine at them," Benallie said. He thinks he killed both of them.

Reaching the ditch, he found a pistol belt and grenade left behind. He threw the grenade and used the explosion as cover.

Crawling down a trail looking for a place to hide, he spotted a small hole. As he came close to it, "another one stuck his head out and looked at me. I swung my rifle as hard as I could at his head. I hit him twice."

Benallie took off again, this time on the run.

"Finally I saw a grave," he said, a mound of packed earth enclosed by a stone wall. The inside was partially overgrown with bushes. Benallie curled up next to the wall for cover.

Enemy fire was still coming from the village. A rifle grenade landed near his shelter, peppering the wall with shrapnel. The enemy fire was finally silenced by U.S. artillery. By this time three infantry and two APC companies were positioned around the village. Most of the

NVA regiment was trapped.

Big guns from nearby U.S. fire bases poured hundreds of rounds into the enemy positions during the night. Shrapnel fell inside Benallie's stone wall, but it was spent and did no damage. Benallie was lying cold, wounded and alone. "All I could do was pray," he said.

When the artillery barrage stopped momentarily, the enemy fire would resume. "They still knew I was out there somewhere," Benallie said.

The artillery and small arms fire died down by morning. Then Benallie heard the drone of U.S. spotter planes overhead. "I stood and held up my helmet and waved but they didn't see me," he said. The planes were there to mark targets for Air Force fighter-bombers. Soon 750-pound bombs were pounding the area, their explosions shaking the ground.

The battle began again a short time later. Benallie could hear APCs coming toward him, backed by the infantry. "One was coming real close, but I didn't think they would see me so I rolled over and waved and shouted, 'Over here! Over here!'"

Benallie doesn't know who found him. He was taken to a secure area where a medical evacuation helicopter picked him up.

It wasn't a bad present for Benallie—on his 22nd birthday.

Stowaway—

(Continued From Page 1)

space four feet high, three wide and five long with the inner part of the drawers removed. Her husband smuggled her food.

But her relatives in New Zealand had reported her missing and the ship was searched at the authorities' request. Her hiding place was discovered three days before Christmas.

A spokesman for the ship's owners said, "We cannot recover the fare as such because the Corinthic is a cargo ship and does not carry passengers."

Teachers on Strike

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — The Waterbury Teachers Association struck the city's public schools Wednesday in the first teachers' strike in Connecticut in 20 years. Schools were closed on the order of the Board of Education.

mentary and secondary schools.

States will have more of a say in how the money is spent.

One change educators wanted would let Congress appropriate money a year ahead of the time it would be spent, so that schools would be able to make plans in advance on how to use the funds.

A major program of assisting local school districts in establishing supplemental education centers and developing new teaching methods will shift from Washington to state control. Under the old law, the federal Office of Education would have passed the money out to local school districts.

Foreign aid:

Congress economized on this and voted \$2.29 billion for the 12 months ending next June 30—the smallest amount in the history of the 20-year-old program. Johnson asked for \$3.25 billion.



Dr. Christian Barnard (right) gets a congratulatory handshake as he leaves Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa, after completing his second heart transplant. (AP Radiophoto)

Heart Patient Talks To Hopeful Doctors

CAPE TOWN (UPI) — Heart transplant patient Philip Blaiberg spoke to his doctors Wednesday for the first time since Tuesday's operation, bolstering the hospital's optimism about his condition.

"I am thirsty . . . Please give my regards to my wife," said the 58-year-old retired dentist.

The words of history's third heart transplant patient were quoted in a medical bulletin issued by the 16-man team of doctors which performed the five-hour operation at Groote Schuur Hospital.

In view of the general air of optimism about Blaiberg, some surprise was caused by a television interview in which Barnard said he did not plan any further heart transplant operations for some time.

Meanwhile, a controversy arose about a claim to certain news rights in his case.

The National Broadcasting Co. of New York said it had paid \$50,000 for exclusive rights to take pictures of Blaiberg and his wife before, during and after the operation.

NBC made this disclosure in going to court to restrain a freelance photographer who, it said, had posed as a medical student during the operation.

NBC's affidavit to the South African Supreme Court identified the photographer as Don

McKenzie, and said he was ejected from the operating theater.

The American company said its contract was with Blaiberg, signed last Friday, four days before a dying donor was found suitable for the transfer of a heart.

World Weather

USAF Weather Central
TOKYO AREA
Thursday night: Mostly fair; Low 20
Friday: Mostly fair; High 47

TEMPERATURES			
Jan. 3			
	H	L	H L
Tokyo	59	30	Guam 83 77
Chitose	54	32	Saigon 88 54
Itazuke	51	44	Bangkok 89 66
Seoul	32	24	Hong Kong 66 54
Haha	64	55	K. Lumpur 85 69
Taipei	63	52	Melbourne 70 56
Manila	88	70	Singapore 84 69
			Sydney 80 63
	H	L	H L
Albany	68	15	Miami 79 60
Alouque	47	12	Milwaukee 19 12
Anarillo	44	24	Moscow 30 21
Atlanta	38	35	N. Orleans 56 50
Birmingham	50	40	NYC 72 09
Boston	18	02	N. Platte -1 -6
Chicago	22	16	Oka. City 38 36
Cincinnati	27	04	Omaha 05 -2
Cleveland	25	03	Paris 41 32
Denver	03	9	Phoenix 61 32
Des Moines	10	05	Pittsburgh 24 -4
Detroit	20	09	Port., O. 39 32
Duluth	01	-9	Rapid City 01 -16
Fairbanks	25	16	Reno 34 11
Fort Worth	53	42	Richmond 33 17
Honolulu	77	73	St. Louis 26 19
Houston	57	45	St. Paul 0 -19
Indianapolis	28	11	Salt Lake 32 28
Jacksville	54	40	S. Antonio 54 36
Kansas City	21	12	San Diego 58 53
Las Vegas	49	28	San Fran. 50 42
London	45	36	Seattle 38 29
L.A.	57	51	Shreveport 44 36
Louisville	33	17	Tucson 64 33
Memphis	29	31	Wash. 25 08

Johnson Signs Last of Bills

(Continued From Page 1)

Vietnamese Communists on Cambodian territory.

He signed two keystones of his Great Society legislative program—the bill expanding Social Security benefits and another on federal aid to education late Tuesday night.

This is what Congress provided in these bills and in the foreign aid appropriation bill:

Social Security:

Congress voted that monthly benefit checks for retired people would be \$11 to \$18.50 bigger starting in March—and that taxes supporting the program would go up as much as \$52.80 this year.

The extra tax bite would hit most of the nation's working people. Their employers would pay matching increases.

In a full year of operation, the bill called for pumping more than \$3.6 billion into the incomes of beneficiaries.

Each person's check would be at least 13 per cent bigger. The minimum retirement pay would go up from \$44 to \$55 a month and the maximum from \$142 to \$160.56, with the amounts increasing by 50 per cent upon the retired worker's wife reaching age 65.

Congress approved no increase in the 4.4 per cent Social Security tax rate but it voted to apply that rate to the first \$7,850 of a worker's income, instead of the present limit of \$6,600.

Education:

Congress voted the largest amount of money ever authorized by one measure—\$9.3 billion for the 1969-70 fiscal year—under legislation continuing until the middle of 1970 the two year-old program of aid to ele-