



XOV XWM TSHAJ TAWN/Caij Ntuj No *ໂພດທະນາຄອນຕຳຫຼວງ*
 KLEI MRÃO MRANG # 18 BẢO CẤP TỈNH HÌNH SỐ 18
 SITREP #18 *ລາຍງານສພາບກາມ*

SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/THONA, an association of those serving in a counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochinese Wars of 1954-1975. Full membership available to anyone serving in this capacity, in a military or civilian role, in what was perceived as an effort to halt militarist expansion on the Indochinese Peninsula. Associate membership also available. Contact Steve Herberth, Adjutant; P.O. Box 22791; Louisville, Kentucky; 40252-0791.

OFFICERS

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Adjutant

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XO Emeritus

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Quách Húynh Hà
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Tom Harvey
L.O., CUVA &
PSB Foundation

Advisory Council
Kok Ksor
Quách Húynh Hà

Humanitarian Proj.
-Open-

CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI VÀ MỪNG QUÝ VI VÀ BỮU QUYÊN GẤP PHÚC, LỘC, THỌ TRONG NĂM MỚI. A belated Tet greetings to all, with appropriate best wishes for the new Lunar New Year. 'Tis one of the unique benefits of this group's members to enjoy two holidays instead of one. In addition, Laotian and Cambodian Water Festivals are near. For all we've put up with, a few extra holidays are an appropriate benign payback.

This issue not as long as last one. Two cups of coffee instead of five. With red face, we begin with errata: Page 11 of last issue incorrectly indicated Đar Lac province had area of 10.5 Km²; should have read '10,500 Km²', approx 3,800 sq. mi. (61 mi. x 61 mi.). Decimal points do make a difference. P. 15: new member Thomas L. Brown listed twice.

J.C. has found another Counterpart. Dega have arrived in North Carolina. Refugees in various refugee camps still in a bind, with no relief in sight and no handles on the situation. Faceless blob of bureaucracy at work.

1993 reunion went well. Details in separate After Action Report.

Membership continues to grow. Reminder: please send in annual dues if not already sent. Keeps paperwork to a minimum and Steve won't be mumbling to himself.

'The end of the human race will be that it eventually dies of civilization.'

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



Letter on following page sent by former RVNAF personnel pictured above. In addition, a number of former counterparts have written from this refugee camp-Sungai Besi, Malaysia. Their situation parallels that of former counterparts in Hong Kong, Thai border camps, and other inhospitable locales. To repeat, the ol' fixeroo appears to be in. It would appear that one can only qualify for political refugee status by having planned to assassinate Ho Chi Minh himself, otherwise forget it. All members are requested to send letters to their elected officials to demand examination of current refugee qualification procedures. A number of Human Rights organizations have expressed contempt and anger at the cavalier manner in which refugee status is denied. These are our former comrades. They have no one else to turn to. Do something. Write somebody in D.C. Counterparts/THDNA elected officers have written letters, receiving little substantive response from anyone. Volume is needed. Many letters from many people.

Individual locator requests from Malaysia and Hong Kong have been forwarded to J.C., and are included in this issue's 'Locator Report'. If and when bona fides can be established via confirmation of a former counterpart, some of these veterans may be granted political refugee status. As an incidental benefit, your letter will irritate an otherwise smug, business-as-usual bureaucrat somewhere.

SITREP copies sent to Malaysian refugee camp, providing them with some hope, and an awareness that someone, somewhere, is aware of their plight. Members sending letters to elected officials, UN, etc., are encouraged to send copies to Tran Thanh Liem, whose address is listed on following letter.

Vietnamese Refugee Community
SUNGEI BESI CAMP
MALAYSIA

V.N VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Respectfully to The Leadership of :

- Veterans Association of The United States of America.
- " " France.
- " " Australia.
- " " South Korea.
- " " New Zealand.
- " " Philippine.
- " " Thailand.

(In care of COUNTERPARTS OF SOUTH EAST ASIA)

Dear Sirs:

First of all, we'd like to express our best greetings from the members of the Leadership of Veterans Association of The Republic of Vietnam in Sungei Besi Refugee Camp.

At the thought that you all have been on our side before, that we have fought to protect the freedom against the Communists, we're expecting your help. That's the reason of this open letter.

Presently, some of Ex-Military Servicemen, Civil Servants and US Agency Employees are not considered political refugees. For a certain political reason, couldn't return to their homeland, therefore they are living in a depression, feeling discouraged and waiting for an uncertain future.

Up to now, among those whose refugee status have been denied, there were :

- 21 Officer.
- 63 N.C.O.
- 97 E.M.
- 14 Popular Forces.
- 7 Cadres.
- 33 Civil servants
- 11 US Agency Employees.

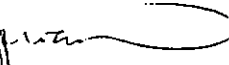
We have sent to "COUNTERPARTS/THDNA" a letter asking for help in this matter and the organization has raised the question to The US Parliament and Foreign Affairs Department, and asked that the above-mentioned Ex-Regime Men be considered political refugees, according to the criteria of C.P.A.

We long for your strong help and we should be grateful to you if you would join "COUNTERPARTS/THDNA" and raise this issue to the higher authorities so that the unfortunate Vietnamese Boat People could be saved.

We look forward to your kindness, and now we all are waiting for your action.

Awaiting for your reply, we remain.

Faithfully Yours,


NGUYEN VAN QUAN
 Chairman

Encl.

The roster of 246 members whose refugee status were denied.

P/S. Any communication, please contact with:

Mr. TRAN THANH LIEM (Secretary General)

MC.514091

ID.166650.

Sungei Besi Camp - MALAYSIA -

Additional photos and news from Sungei Besi....from top to bottom-QLVNCH veterans assn. leaders and youth club members...

Youth club members, whose activities are sponsored and led by QLVNCH assn....standing tall in formation.

Counterparts/THĐNA leadership has decided to contribute \$100.00 to youth club treasury, out of our general fund. There is no mechanism, clearly stated, which empowers your HQ to commit funds without member approval, yet it was felt necessary to act promptly without a time-consuming referendum. If 50% or more of COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA membership expresses written disapproval of this decision, those responsible for same will cover it out of own pockets.

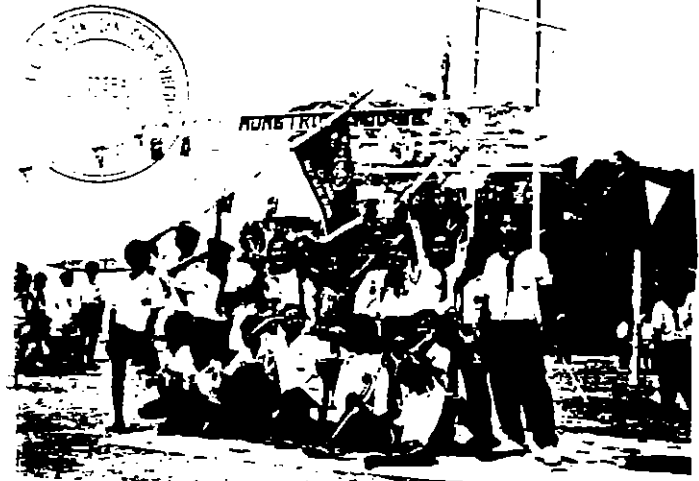
Same applies to \$100.00 donations to Việt Nam Assistance to the Handicapped(VNAH) program described in last issue, and \$100.00 to Highland Assistance Project.

All of these programs provide direct and immediate assistance to former counterparts, through credible agencies. Again, if 50% or more of members disagree with this arbitrary decision, the \$300 will be recovered via contributions of those suggesting such actions be taken. Member opinion welcome, and will be conveyed in following SITREPs.

The situation being what it is, periodic donations can be expected as time passes. We can't do everything(yet) but it is incumbent upon us to do what we can, when we can.

COUNTERPART QUOTE: 'I'd gone to Việt Nam for God, country and mom's apple pie. But by September I was fighting for the freedom of my Việt Nameese companions and friends.I felt more fulfilled than I ever had before. I was glad to be in Việt Nam and happy at my work, helping men I liked and respected fight for their country and their freedom.'

-Gen. Norman Scharzkoph in his book, IT DOESN'T TAKE A HERO





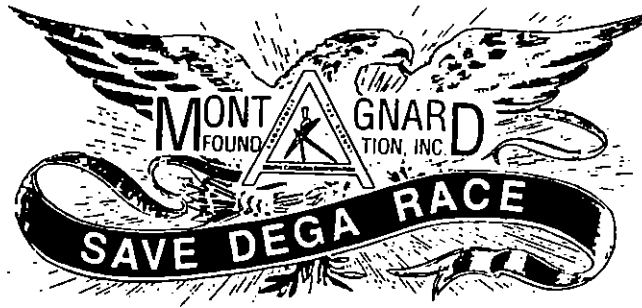
DEGA/MONTAGNARD FOUNDATION Photos above relayed by Mike Little, our Highland Assistance Project Liason Officer, showing Dega contingent just prior to their departure from Cambodian camps, and arrival in US. A full After Action Report has been prepared by member Roy Russell and will be included as attachment to SITREP. COUNTERPARTS/THONA CO Grant McClure was on hand to welcome the new arrivals in Greensboro, North Carolina, where members of the Special Forces Association have performed heroically in meeting the tremendous logistical demands of resettling 398 Dega. The arrival was not without tragedy. Y-Cong Nie died of heart failure just after reaching US shores, and Y-Soli Siu died at his birth. Our condolences to their families and friends.

All Dega were from central provinces-Darlac, Lâm Đồng, Quảng Đức, etc., in keeping with past patterns. Little information has been forthcoming regarding northern tribes (Bru, Hre, Sedang, Halang, Pacoh, etc.). Lacking political cohesion, population and leadership of central groups, northern cousins are more vulnerable to Hà Nội's 'mission civilatrice'. Members having information are encouraged to submit same.

Member Kok Ksor, President of the Montagnard Foundation asked that his open letter to Counterparts Members be included in SITREP, and so it shall be-see next page. Our best wishes to all new arrivals.

'It takes two to speak the truth -- one to speak, and another to listen.'

-Henry David Thoreau



P. O. BOX 17064
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29301
(803) 585-0780

January 5, 1993

To: Counterparts members

Dear friends:

On behalf of the Montagnard people I would like to extend my very deep appreciation and thanks to each and everyone of you who had committed himself in the process of helping to bring the group of 396 Montagnard refugees from Cambodia to the United States of America.

I want to thank especially to Mr. Grant A. McClure the commander of Counterparts who had worked so hard in making contact with the United Nations and State Department officials for permission to send a delegation to Cambodia to meet with the Montagnard refugees. Even though the delegation was not be able to go to Cambodia, I positively believe that the process of bringing the Montagnard refugees to the United States had speeded up because of his persistent efforts and your letters to the State Department. If it wouldn't have been for your help, the group of 396 Montagnards are not here today.

Again I want to thank you very much for your good work and may God richly bless you and protect you under His powerful wings.

Sincerely,

Kok Ksor
Kok Ksor
President

KOK KSOR
PRESIDENT

YTLUR EBAN
VICE PRESIDENT

RONG NAY
SECRETARY & TREASURER

Dega(cont.) In the course of events, we have also established contact and worked in conjunction with Mike Koessick, Secretary/Treasurer of the General Cooperative Montagnard Association(GCMA acronym should ring a bell), former US SF providing aid/help to Dega in US. Always a good idea to have worthwhile people and groups in the commo net.

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ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS At this writing, we still lack a Humanitarian Projects Officer. Anyone w/interest in position please contact CO Grant McClure: P.O. Box 1436; Waldorf, Maryland; 20604. And, with increasing size and meddling in world affairs comes the need for a PIO, i.e. public affairs officer. Anyone w/some experience also encouraged to contact Grant. This is an important position and one whose duties are beginning to exceed time available to existing HQ staff. Another looming responsibility in need of attention: ODP(Orderly Departure Program) and refugee camp information wrangler/project officer. A number of our members are working, often with great frustration, to get former counterparts out of VN to US, or sprung from refugee camps. We have no central source of info, no one to monitor progress(if any), offer suggestions, etc. Position would entail more of info-clearing house task than engaging formless blob of bureacracy, while helping members w/advice, suggestions. Think about it.

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At left-shoulder patch of TB 6 TQLC(6th Marine Bn.)

At right, patch of Adv Tm 17, Quảng Ngãi Prov.

Both photoplagiarized, w/permission, from Clem Kelly Jr.'s Việt Nam Insignia Newsletter, a vary informative bi-monthly, \$15.00 a year, payable to Clem at 501 W. 5th Ave.; Covington, Louisiana; 70433. Thx again to Clem for use of graphics.

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LOCATOR Bobby Jackson's letter, reprinted as sent, underscores value and importance of J.C. Fischer's assiduous efforts. Chances are Chinh and Bobby would never have met again were it not for this outfit and J.C.'s diligence. Here's excerpt from another grateful 'customer':

'..I had long desired to find the US Army advisor to the 37th ARVN Rangers at Khe Sanh, Walter Gunn. Shortly after contacting Mr. J.C. Fischer, he called back with Walter's phone number. We have since been in contact and I have been able to learn more about the 37th's contribution at Khe Sanh while I was charlain there during the Siege. Thank you all for making this possible through your organization. It is truly Miraculous that after 25 years, a quarter-century, Walter and I have reconnected. I am enclosing a donation to help your locator efforts.

Sincerely, Rev. Ray W. Stubbe

Many of you have been, these many years, endeavoring to move forward with your life, allowing occasional reflection on your past, particularly your role as an advisor. Sometimes you ponder your contribution, weighing its effect, its consequence. Your thoughts often include questions about the fate of your counterparts and friends who you advised and worked with. Likely you have as often wondered about and reasonably doubted the survivability of your comrades after the fall. Like you, I have set aside such thoughts after limited reflection.

Then, just a few short months ago, I was introduced to Counterparts by a business associate who gave me an address to contact. Subsequent to my inquiry to the organization, remarkable events have unfolded. With the encouragement of J.C. Fischer as well as the generous and unselfish assistance of Bill Laurie, I was rewarded with the opportunity to become reacquainted with one of my counterparts from 25 years ago. I was initially pleased to learn that he had survived, and when I discovered more details, I was astonished that he did so under utterly appalling circumstances.

In early 1967, I served as the assistant advisor to the 37th Ranger Battalion, 1st Ranger Group out of Quang Ngai and Danang. At that time, then 1LT Chinh Van Nguyen was a company commander. He and I spent many weeks together, participating in operations throughout the southern I Corps area. It was a heavily disputed region, especially prior to the arrival of contingents from the 1st Cavalry Division and other Army units. The Ranger units were constantly engaged in operations in these areas and the small US Advisory teams lived, worked and fought with their counterparts. The advisors were proud of these Rangers and their abilities in combat. As a company commander, Chinh Van Nguyen always displayed the fearless and skillful leadership essential in the most trying of circumstances. He was then an outstanding leader and is now an exceptional person.

What a rewarding experience to become reacquainted with Chinh! To share time with him in his home. To meet his family, who he was determined to have join him in America. (Nearly seven years of separation after his escape from Viet Nam preceded by more than 10 years of separation while he was held in North Vietnamese prisons.) Equally rewarding was the opportunity to share the reunion with my son, having him be a part of such a great experience.

If you have contemplated making a move to inquire about your former counterparts, other comrades or friends, I urge you to make time to do so. Set aside any reservations or hesitations that you may have. Believe me, you will benefit by the effort and you can endow others with your fortune.

Bobby Jackson, former CỐ VẤN, TĐ 37, BĐQ(37th Rgr Bn.)

Not content with these accomplishments, J.C. also found Mark Huss (CORDS, 1964-1973)(note: pre-1967 w/progenitive agencies) for Nguyễn Tai Lam. Details forthcoming in next SITREP.

Incoming locator requests:

Mike Cooper looking for:

Nguyễn Thanh Thụy
Le Ngọc Quỳnh
Bui Le Ngọc
Nguyễn Thị Kim Chi
Phạm Văn Trường
Trần Lê Kiên

All worked w/Mike at Koepler Compound, Saigon, and Tan Son Nhut.

Tran Bac looking for

Sgt. Wood, Vi Thanh(Chương
Thiện) Adv Tm

Truong Xuan Hung looking for

Capt. Rowlin(as spelled),
Long Dien Dist., Phước Tuy
Prov. Mobile Adv Tm(MAT),
1969.

In addition to his Locator work, J.C. has been compiling a growing list of all known CỎ VẮN's, while piecing together an organizational history of the CỎ VẮN effort, team by team, year by year, in the process attracting attention of Naval War College as well as Viet Nam Archive at Texas Tech. Commendable effort, and one for which we are all grateful. Final note: no further follow up from producers of 'Unsolved Mysteries', the TV show highlighting quests lost friends and such things. No problem.

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'The man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who reads them, inasmuch as he who knows nothing is nearer the truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors.'

-Thomas Jefferson

'People confuse what they read in the newspapers with news.'

-A.J. Liebling

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NEW MEMBERS

With gratitude for their interest and trust, a hearty welcome is extended to:

Bernard O. Williams
Temp. Equip. Recovery Tm.
407 352-9675

Jim Lee
1/10 Air Cav, 4th Inf Div
408 354-3397

Robert Estep
Adv Tms 33, 98
814 742-7914

Richard Krigbaum
Adv Tm 19
314 478-3331

James Mueller Jr.
1st ARVN Div
717 569-8180

Robert Van Derveer
MACV HQ
non-published

NEW MEMBERS(cont.)

Mark Rugenstein
USN Adv Grp
808 263-0264

Jim Montgomery
2nd Mobile Strike Force
Australian Army
813 251-8518

John Norton Jr.
Adv Tm 72, MAT 19
215 821-4909

'John Jones Advisor'
Requests non-publication,
bona files established

Peter Beal
Adv Tms 57 & 72
215 659-6237

Vernon Wheeler
Adv Tm 88
310 450-8090

Pham Quoc Thuan
SD 5, QLVNCH(5th ARVN Div)
503 256-5540

Michael Cooper
Adv Tm 62, MACV Tng Cmd
616 796-2303

Franklin Carpenter-Cushing
Adv Tm 25, RF/PF
603 239-8052

Roy C. Russell III
I FFV
808 224-4600

Philip Tompkins
Sr. C8 Ván, MAT I-1
919 848-1409

George Shepard Jr.
CORDS
414 723-5904

Calvin Emery
Sr C8 Ván, 1st Armor Bde
non-pub phone

Bobby Jackson
37th ARVN Rgr
202 462-8696

Elmer Giese
9th ARVN Div(SD 9, VNCH)
817 547-7652

Thomas McGill
Thai Border Patrol Police
815 433-4415

Chris Christian
2nd ARVN Div(SD 2, QLVNCH)
619 279-4567

Donald Souder
Adv Tms 65, 98; MAT 46
609 653-9495

David Berman
Tm 15
412 648-7311

Thomas Marion III
Kit Carson Scouts(USMC)
219 493-6846

Delbert Catron
USN, BSV-1 SOG
non-pub phone

Edward Glod
Adv Tm 80
401 658-0709

Thomas Pentecost
Tm 15, CORDS
904 837-5097

Robert J. Langdon
USMC, 1st A GLICO
505 262-4778

Corrections/Updates

Bill Vines w/ Adv Tm 75(seven five)
Carl Farren w/Adv Tm 70(seven zero)
Stu Beckley Charter Life Member

Address Changes/New Addresses:

Mike George
4107 Flintridge Dr.
Stonemountain Ga.
30083-1842
404 299-1842

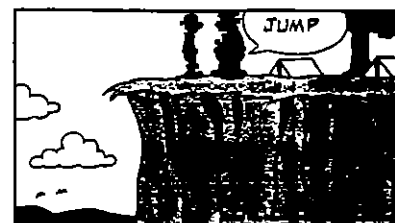
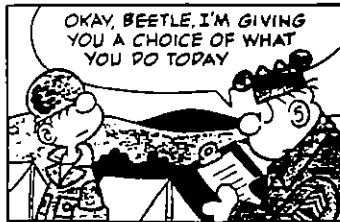
Michael Wall
86 E. Coldbrook Circle
The Woodlads, Texas 77381
No phone # provided

Address Changes(cont.)

Nguyen Tue Tri
5705 Brookglen Dr.
Houston, Texas 77017
713 946-1130

Mike Little
2919 Lake Colony Dr.
Missouri City, Texas 77459
713 499-6241

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COUNTERPARTS LIT Last SITREP mentioned Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt's TRAGIC MOUNTAINS, her prodigious effort to narrate role of Hmong people in war effort. Simply put: Get a copy. If not for yourself, then for your local college and/or high school library. MOUNTAINS may not find acceptance in the academic and/or 'intellectual' communities as it clearly depicts Hà Nội's depredations on the Plaine des Jarres in NW Laos, and concurrent manipulation of indigenous Pathet Lao, world press, and US leadership. Author also depicts close working relationship and bonds of friendship forged between Hmong and US counterparts. Readers will not be pleased to read of what happened to Hmong and Lao after 'Peace with Honor'. MOUNTAINS is a must-read for students of SE Asia war. Plaudits, all deserved, notwithstanding, one's blood-pressure will take a hard hit in read-of de facto duplicity as US policies(sic) left the Hmong out on a limb. Buy this book, read it, tell others to read it. Order from: Dr. Jane H. Merritt; P.O. Box 761; Southport, Connecticut; 06490. \$29.95, w/\$2.00 p/h(mail), or \$3.00 for UPS. Check payable to 'Jane H. Merritt'.



US advisor T. J. Thompson w/Mie, a six year old Hmong girl, and mother. Mie was casualty from NVA mortar. Thompson befriended Mie and her family during wound recovery.

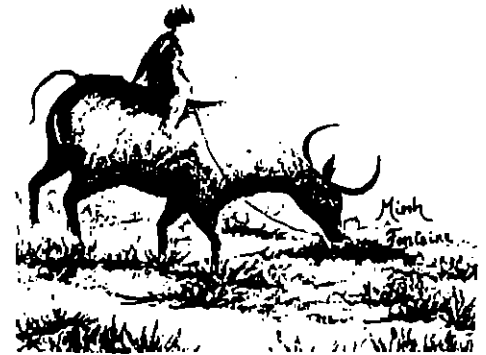
THE DAWN OF FREE, A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Phan Quang Dan, by Ray Fontaine. Quick now, who is Dr. Dan? Neither the news media nor cliché-historians could be bothered to write about this man, whose impeccable integrity, organizational drive and talents, and patriotism all contribut-

ed to his sterling performance as as Minister of Refugee Resettlement. Author Fontaine worked with Dr. Dan and knows well of his subject, an unyielding opponent of both communism and corruption, and a man dedicated to the well-being of VN people. Neither Dr. Dan, nor his family were 'sunshine patriots'. Dai Uy (Capt.) Phan Quang Tuan, Dan's second eldest son, could easily have avoided military service, with his Father's influence, had he so chosen. Capt. Tuan was KIA, his Skyraider shot down by NVA missiles, over Quang Tri Prov., 6 April, 1972, after he'd knocked out seven NVA tanks. Dr. Dan's efforts continue to this day as he actively campaigns for Human Rights in his native Viet Nam and throughout Indochina. 'Our side' was not without its sins; we were less than perfect in a number of respects. Nevertheless, US ignorance of Dr. Dan, and others like him, is inexcusable and reflects the 'National Inquirer' attitude prevailing: if it's not vile and perverted, don't tell me about it. This is another book which should be in high school and college libraries as it recounts the tenacity, dedication and abilities of an admirable man whose admirable efforts and character are, or should be, an inspiration to all. Order your copy, \$10.00, postpaid, from: Ray Fontaine, 234 Rancho Viejo Blvd.; Brownsville, Texas; 78521.

The Dawn of Free Vietnam

A Biographical Sketch
of
Doctor Phan Quang Dan

by
Ray Fontaine



Out of print...VILLAGE IN VIET NAM, by Gerald C. Hickey. Anthropological dissection of the complex structure, hierarchy and societal dynamics of a VN village, Khanh Hau, in Long An Prov. Little discussion of the war, or participants therein, yet nonetheless provides an ample and comprehensive description of the milieu in which many of our members were born and raised, and in which many guest-country counterparts served. The average tourist-doofus would see 'primitive' thatch huts and little more, oblivious to the intricate relationships and workings of a village society, the complexity of which rivals many computer programs. This age-old marvel is now under assault, and has been for the past 18 years, of policies designed to create a new socialist man (and woman). Maps and clear drawings of implements, construction details, etc. Superb effort by Hickey, as is always the case.



Village in Vietnam

Gerald Cannon Hickey



'No folly is more costly than the folly of intolerant idealism.'

-Churchill

'He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that.'

-John Stuart Mill

Current Periodicals Feb '93 National Geographic has 34 pp. article on Mekong River, tracing it from China headwaters, through Laos, Cambodia and into VN's Mekong Delta. Good photos throughout including aerial shot of 'bicycle spoke' canal convergence at Phung Hiệp, familiar to many who served in Phong Dinh-Ba Xuyên area. February '93 issue of 'Outside' magazine has informative article by Randy White, who narrates his recent 'Thousand Miles in Việt Nam' journey. Unlike far too many myopic travel writers, White ascertains underlying tensions in Viet Nam, and expresses evident concern for rampant pillaging of and profiteering from natural resources. He also sees through some of the canned propaganda. When shown a denuded hillside purportedly devastated by defoliants, Whites inquires how it was that chemicals left stumps. Decent piece of writing w/good photos, travel info, map.

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MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Bob Poulton, USDAO
 SSG Dillard Brock, USA
 Capt. Roy M. Williams, USA
 1Lt John K. Hutton Jr., USA
 Maj. Larry Thorne, USA/SF
 U Va Lee, Hmong w. 'Ravens'
 Lt. Yang Seng, Hmong Pilot
 Maj. John Carroll, USAF Raven
 Lt. Xiong Ly Tou, Hmong Pilot
 Trung Uy (1Lt) _____ Tan
 Trung Uy (1Lt) _____ Ngô

Trung Uy Ngô pictured at right from photos of Bobby Jackson. Ngô was KIA during Tet Mau Than Offensive, '68, while serving as platoon ldr w/37th ARVN Rgrs.



REMEMBER THEM

Correction: last SITREP named LCPL Michael A. Baronowski as USMC CAP Member in Memoriam. LCPL Baronowski's name was submitted in error as he did not serve with CAPs. With no disrespect intended, LCPL Baronowski's name is removed from the COUNTERPARTS/THENA Members in Memoriam list.

An inscription is still sought for our 'Moving Wall'. Members are invited and encouraged to submit same for consideration.

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POW/MIA ISSUES 10 chapter, 800 pp. Select POW/MIA Committee report now available. Initial request may result in receipt of 55 pp. 'Executive Summary' so specify desire for full report in correspondence. Two separate volumes, a five section Appendix, and annex of cited documents were also published. Members having reviewed full report are invited to submit a review/critique. Just as the dust began to settle after often acrimonious charges/counter charges flung about in the hearings, another bombshell hits the scene, with discovery of supposed official Hà Nội



internal document, dated 12 Sept 72 (as typed) suggesting 1,205 US POWs were held, as opposed to 368 Hà Nội claimed at that time. Document was found in Soviet Communist Party archives, and was authored by Ge. Tran Van Quang, then deputy chief of staff for Hà Nội military. Stephen Morris, Harvard researcher who found the document expressed his thoughts that this 'is the biggest hostage taking in the history of American foreign policy.'

Retired General John Vessey visits Hà Nội this week and will no doubt discuss this matter.

As expected, vehement denial issued by Hà Nội, similar to thoughts expressed at right in letter from Hà Nội's UN PR lady. Members wishing to respond to Miss Hong may reach her at address below her letter. In preceding and related matters... 16 sets of remains were US officials on 7 April 93, bringing total to 532. Following established procedure, remains will be examined in Central Identification Lab facilities, Hawaii, for verification. Several groups of private citizens have gone to VN, accepting Hà Nội's offer to 'look for yourself'. Patricia O'Grady w/husband John Parsels, former POW, left to VN in March, destined for VN/Lao border area in search of info regarding O'Grady's father, MIA since 1967. Larry Braden of Gilbert, Arizona left shortly thereafter on a similar private sector fact-finding mission. Another group, under the auspices of the 'Live POW Lobby of America', did not fare well, reporting harassment, travel denial, and various/sundry obstacles placed in their path. Press release available from: Michael Van Atta; P.O. Box 302; Chatham, New Jersey; 07928 (landline: 201 701-0238).

Negative sitrep on POW/MIA news from Laos.

Members need not be reminded of POWs seldom discussed in conventional news media: former counterparts subjected to discriminatory policies within their own countries. We've got a way to go before this matter is resolved, in all its many respects. In a related item, last SITREP stated 'Member X' may visit Sungei Besi Refugee (de facto POW) camp at member's own expense, later to provide report for COUNTERPARTS/THDNA. Trip is still pending. You'll be informed if/when it takes place.

Cambodia search efforts halted as US team takes fire from Khmer Rouge. No US casualties. LTC Charles Clayton, Tm Ldr, said 48-man recovery team will return to US, suspending operations until security is guaranteed. Incident took place in NE Cambodia.

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'The effectiveness of political and religious propaganda depends upon the methods employed, not upon the doctrines taught.'

-Aldous Huxley

We Have No POWs: So Let's Shake Hands

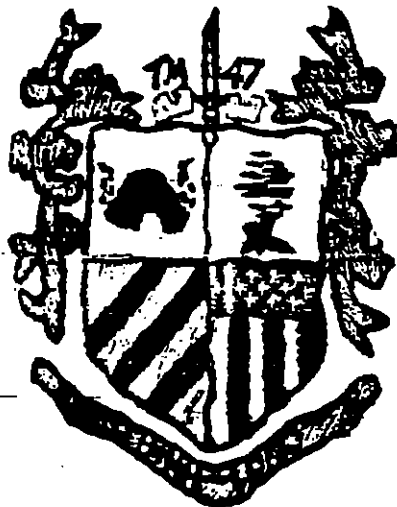
The World-Wide brief in your Nov. 20 issue referred to a [Senate investigation of a] "report" that one of Vietnam's representatives had tried to defect in order to provide information on U.S. MIAs. The ambassador in question returned home earlier this year because of a serious illness and of the ending of his term of service at the United Nations. I would like also to state categorically that, right after the Vietnam War, Vietnam turned over all Americans captured during the war, and there are neither U.S. POWs nor Americans living freely in Vietnam.

The members of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA during their trip to Vietnam expressed their appreciation of our efforts to resolve this humanitarian issue. Let's put irresponsible accusations behind us and move forward to a new beginning.

Vietnam is in the midst of an economic reform that promises to benefit both Vietnam and its trading partners. We believe that U.S. trade and investment with Vietnam would create jobs and economic opportunities for American workers and businesses.

12/29/92
 NGUYEN THI HONG
 Press Attache
 Republic of Vietnam
 Mission to the United Nations
 New York

20 Waterside Plaza
 New York, New York
 10010
 212 685-8001



Adv Tm 47, Binh Long



Adv Tm 41, Kontum



Adv Tm 80, An Xuyen

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CAMBODIAN UPDATE: All's bad that stays bad. UN contingent has not/cannot disarm Khmer Rouge, and Hà Nội-founded Hun Sen govt. in Phnom Penh refuses to disarm for this reason. Govt. forces attacked KR HQ; KR retaliate by blowing up bridges and railroads. UN Security Council formally endorses May elections without KR participation. ...Khmer Rouge still very nasty. Ethnic VN living in Cambodia have been killed w/worst known instance being massacre of 34 civilians and wounding of another 29. This parallels constant KR theme of ethnic hatred/expulsion of all VN and VN influence. Atks also rptd at Siem Riep, gateway to Angkor Wat, in which one tourist WIA, 3 Cambodians KIA. Khmer Rouge, in supreme breach of etiquette, kill three UN Peacekeepers (Bulgarian contingent) who had invited them to dinner. KR's ate their meal first, left, returned to do their deed. Swell bunch. \$2.8 billion VN effort (\$648.0 million US-funded) not making headway. 100,000th Cambodian refugee resettled from Thai camps back to Cambodia; remaining 250,000 planned to return on/before May '93 elections. Amnesty International (Publications Dept.; 322 8th Ave.; New York, NY; 10001) study available: 'Cambodia/Human Rights Developments, 1 Oct '91 to 31 Jan '92'. \$6.00, pp.

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LAOS UPDATE Pathet Lao spokesman offers incontrovertible proof that civilians are not among casualties in periodic outbreaks with resistance groups: 'Only rebels step on mines; villagers don't.' Simple as that. David Andrianoff, of Christian relief agency World Concern, was expelled from Laos for having 'subversive books, proselytizing and inciting revolution to bring back the former Lao Kingdom.' Andrianoff claims to have had religious books for his own use. Two Hmong-Americans expelled from Northern Thailand for allegedly organizing cross-border ops into Laos. 29 Lao families/109 people, return to Laos from Thailand, under UN auspices. Total returnee count as of late 1992: 1,866.



Hmong needlework
pattern, from
TRAGIC MOUNTAINS

25% of Laos export earnings come from transmission of electricity to Thailand, much of it produced at Nam Ngum dam, a USAID project completed in early 1970s. ... Hmong community in US requests letters be sent to Congressional Human Rights Caucus; Attn: Rep. John Porter & Tom Lantos; Ford HOB H-2-590; Washington, D.C.; 20515(land line 202 226-4040) protesting forced repatriation of Hmong refugees to Laos, without any meaningful guarantees of freedom from political oppression. Congressmen cited above plan to hold hearings on this subject, making up for complete absence of any coverage elsewhere. Thoughts may also be directed to Embassy of Laos; 2222 S St. NW; Washington, D.C.; 20008(202 332-6416). Correspondence copies to White House, US State Dept. won't hurt. Let 'em know that you know.

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Your tax dollars at work: Current US Dept of Agriculture regulations forbid sales of nectarines less than 2 3/8 inches in diameter, and peaches less than 2 7/16. A California grower in violation of regs was fined \$100.00/box of undersized fruit. Be alert! Take calipers to the grocery store. Report undersized nectarines/peaches to the Ag. Dept., helping to end this heinous scourge upon our country.

1991: 33,553 pages in regulation-defining pages of Federal Register, 38% above 1977's 24,192. Observant citizens will note proportional increase in economic wellbeing, domestic tranquility, educational attainment, and societal harmony since those dark days in 1977, and in earlier days when we grimly struggled eating nectarines less than 2 3/8 inches in diameter, much worse than walking to school.

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BEN MYERS

MEMBER PROFILE I arrived in RVN Feb '65 and was assigned to Adv Tm 1 Da Nang. While waiting interview w/Corp SA, I met Maj. Ray Battreall; he told me to forget the interview and go with his driver to 4th Cav HQ. Months later the Corps CSM told me I was supposed to be with a sub-sector. Ray had stolen me from another unit and I thank him for it. Just with the CSM hadn't screamed so much when he found me 2 months later.

My first month I learned alot about RVN Armor, which was not equipped like US Armor units. The 4th had an M-8 Armored Car Troop, an M-24 Tank Troop, and 3 M113 APC Troops. The M-8 and M-24 were straight out of history book photos. I was later assined to 2nd Troop in Tam Ky, staying with them until Dec 67.

I wondered what I had gotten myself into. Having served six years with one of the best US Tank Co.s in Germany, it was odd to serve with an armor unit which used APCs for tanks; no big guns. The troops spoke no English and I spoke no VN. I wanted out. They have no discipline, wore sandals, no formations, no saluting. Looked like a disorganized gang to me. Boy, did I have a lot to learn, and had to quit thinking of them as a US display unit. They were a combat trained unit, proven and tested. I was not there to teach them anything; they were teaching me how to stay alive. It only took a little time to find out they were very disciplined, well trained and organized, combat ready everyday and night. They got the job done with a lot less support then any US unit I ever heard of.

PROFILE(cont.)

I learned fast, and developed nothing but respect for their abilities. They did a much better job, with the equipment they had, than I believe an American unit would have done. A USMC Armor Bn CO visited us in Quảng Ngãi to see how our APCs were working out. When he left I felt sorry for Marines in his unit. All of our APCs had over 7,000 miles on them, and he believed they were new or had been overhauled. The next week his Maintenance Officer and NCO paid us a visit to pick up some pointers. That made this Advisor stand a lot taller.

The QLVNCH(ARVN) commanders cared very much for their troops; they had served with them a long time and knew them well. In addition, the commanders took on added responsibilities of maintaining welfare of their troops families.

Despite the lack of support(relative to US units), the Commanders and troops were very aggressive. If I have to go into combat today, I hope it would be with a unit as good as the VN unit I was with. It was an honor to have served with them.

In Dec 67 I was reassigned to I Corps Liason Office, Chợ Lớn. Good food, good quarters, bad job, spending most of my time waiting for something to do. Later reassigned to Bangkok R & R Center. What a deal that was!

I eventually returned to VN, looking forward to serving with a QLVNCH (ARVN) field unit, but bad luck struck and I ended up at HQ MACV, later to Đà Nẵng AFB as Ground Liason NCO. No more field time for me so I didn't extend again, arriving in US after 42 months in country. I retired in Oct 69, finishing with a Ft. Knox BTC.

I heard of Counterparts in 1989 and joined, finding all the members had experiences like mine. We believed in what we were doing and believe there were no better people to do it with than the Việt Nameese we had the honor of working with. Counterparts is not a group of 'professional veterans';- it is group of veterans with well-deserved pride.

-Ben Myers

Thx for time/effort in putting this down Ben, and for your efforts with 'Prodigy' computer bulletin board. Members should know that Ben has been of great assistance in J.C.'s locator efforts, while also feeding info to Tom Harvey, CUVA Liason Officer and member, to help CUVA track down lost members. This, in addition to spreading the word on COUNTERPARTS/THONA, and tracking down obscure addresses for agencies having personnel records, etc. Cảm ơn vạn bội Ben.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST No incoming stories to top John Bailey's 'Great Turkey Debacle' of last issue, so your editor will provide one... 'With four months of VN language school under my belt, I arrived in country with some grasp of the language, but was still less than precise with tonal inflections, any change of which can completely change the meaning of one's speech. It was soon apparent that there was a lot more to be learned, and that full command of VN had not been attained. As the first weeks passed, I became a regular customer of a few coffee and soup stands-quán nhỏ, and in particular one run by an aged VN woman whose son was an ARVN soldier. After a few weeks, I was a 'regular', and accordingly welcomed by ~~as an~~ ~~old~~ ~~Bà~~ ~~Bây~~ ~~as~~ well as other regulars, all of whom helped me in my often awkward pursuit of linguistic fluency in VN.

One day, a small boy from the area stopped to look at the 'Ngũđi Mỹ' and overheard my VN speech, or attempts thereat. He approached, struck up a conversation, and asked how old I was. Feeling confident with my growing vocabulary, and being a bit facetious, I responded by saying I was 'Mr. Old', a VN term for an elderly man. Immediately faces turned to me, aghast with shock; others turned away, their shaking convulsions revealing uncontrollable laughter. Bà Bãy leaned against a pole, laughing so hard that she began to cough and spit out her wad of betel nut chew. It was readily apparent that incorrect tonal inflection had changed the meaning of the word I'd thought I'd used, and changed it in an uproariously funny way. The laughter subsided in a few minutes, Bà Bãy said not to worry about it, but would not tell me what I'd said, which, as I was to find out shortly after, was 'I am Mr. Penis', rather than 'I am Mr. Old'. Cu means penis, and is NOT a clinical term; cu means old. After that I avoided 'cu', or made sure of applying any and all tonal inflections, and avoiding the flat toned inflection of 'Mr. Penis.' Tone marks do make a difference.

OK, with your editor having displayed yet another way in which a Lt. can make a fool of himself, it behooves all of you to search the nooks and crannies of your memories for memorable recollections, be they sad or humorous, unique to the Counterpart experience in SE Asia. Send 'em in.

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Misc. VA/Related Info.: The old SGLI Insurance Dividend myth resurfaces, this time circulating among active duty personnel. Simply put, there is NO dividend for anyone not paying premiums, and anyone paying premiums need not file application. Please spread the word as the misinformed create hassle and extra work at VA, for nothing. VA encourages anyone exposed to radiation during active duty to call toll-free help-line: 1-800-827-0365 for assistance on benefits, disability, etc. Thx to Paul Brubaker for sending this in.

Arlington National Cemetery is expected to be full by year 2020. Once the estate of Gen. Robert E. Lee, Arlington became a National Cemetery during the Civil War. 16,000 Union troops were buried there by War's end.

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Martha Raye's chances for Presidential Medal of Freedom have, for reasons clear to no sane person, diminished once again. Maggie's husband claims President Clinton has reneged on his promise to issue the medal. Various House and Senate resolutions bounce about, going nowhere. Our noble leaders(?) can protect us from under-sized peaches and nectarines, but cannot summon the wherewithal to deal with this matter. For some reason this comes as no surprise.

'When the state is most corrupt then laws are most multiplied.'

'Conscience is, in most men, an anticipation of the opinions of others.'

-Tacitus
-Henry Taylor



OK IV (IV Corps) Rgr.
Recon unit pocket patch,
from Clement Kelly's VN
Insignia Newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A FREE VIET NAM (ICFVN) hosted a D.C. symposium at the Cannon House (of Representatives) Caucus room last December, outlining objectives to reestablish democracy in VN and to develop sound economic, educational and societal programs and policies in a post-communist VN. Commander Grant McClure served as M.C. and moderator. Speakers: Nguyễn Minh Sang, Father Nguyễn Ngọc Chiêu, Thích Thiên-Dung Subalo, Dr. Stephen Young, Ambassador William Colby, David Kilgour and others. Participants came from Canada, England, Belgium. ICFVN also receives support from Saigon Mission Association (last allied/joint effort in VN, '73-'75, comprised of US and VN who worked in State Dept., USAID, Defense Attache, etc.). MG Homer Smith (AUS, Ret.), last Defense Attache in VN, also in attendance. Members are reminded that ICFVN advocates political, economic and intellectual freedoms within framework of democracy and political pluralism. It neither sponsors nor encourages a military solution to VN and SE Asia's problems. Those so inclined might thank Congressman Robert Dornan (Rep., Cal.) for arranging facilities. Further info from: Movement for Unification and Democracy; 1022 S. San Gabriel Blvd., Suite C; San Gabriel, Cal.; 91776.

Congratulations to Dr. Lê Trọng Nghĩa, speaker at our '92 reunion and ICFVN member, and Cô Nguyễn Phước Ngọc Chiêu, joined in marriage this past year. Hội đồng THONA chúc 'sau năm sinh con trai, cuối năm sinh con gái.' All best wishes for a long and happy life together.

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Cố Vấn in the news Norman Schwarzkopf now in VN w/CBS news crew to do a documentary on his two tours. Gen. Colin Powell to give commencement address at Harvard. Tobias Wolff's novel, THIS BOY'S LIFE coming out as movie; novel in works on VN tour as Cố Vấn in Mekong Delta. Dr. Peter Felker, Texas A & I U., specializes in prickly pear cactus research, citing use as food (both fruit and 'de-needled' 'paddles' are edible). Felker also advisor in Mekong Delta.

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Counterpart Quote: 'I always thought the Việt Nameese were courageous fighters. During the early part of the war only the VC and NVA fought that way because they had the organization, training, and spirit. Now many of the South Việt Nameese showed the same kind of courage, although the American public did not perceive that. Admiral (Tran Van) Chon, my counterpart, had quickly and skillfully taken command so that the South Việt Nameese waged the naval war pretty much on their own. ... One of the finest division commanders in the history of warfare was Gen. Ngo Quang Trưởng. ... Like us, the South Việt Nameese had their share of mediocre leaders, but on the whole they were turning into a good fighting force.'

-Admiral (ret.) Elmo Zumwalt Jr. former Commander, US Naval Forces, VN, and CNO, in his book, co-written with his late son and VN Veteran, Elmo II, MY FATHER, MY SON.

Đường đi khó không khó vì ngăn sông cách núi mà khó vì lòng người ngại núi e sông.'

'The path is not difficult because of the rivers and mountains, but because one loses heart before them.'

-Nguyễn Bá Học

Closing out..... Thx to Ray Blackman of Delta Raiders Assn. for passing on Counterparts/THDNA to another Delta Raider who served prior tour as a Cố Vấn. Reciprocate if you can-Ray's looking for anyone who was w/D Co., 2/501st; 101st, and also involved w/Ripcord Assn.(FSB Ripcord). POC: Rt. 1; Box 39-A; Valparaiso, Nebraska; 68065. Profuse thx to Brian Zawacki, editor of 'The Short Timer', newsletter of Chicago South Eastside Việt Nam Vet Assn. Brian attended our '93 reunion w/Member Max Lund, spoke w/Grant McClure, and gave us an excellent write-up in 'The Short Timer', mentioning discussion w/ Kok Ksor, Bernie Newsom, and Doc Bohn, whom he'd never met, even though they live only six blocks apart in Chicago. Brian's closing statements: 'Max and I had great time; the only complaint being the four days went too fast. A job well done to Adjutant Steve Herberth and his wife Jeanne for the excellent job they did.' Brian was kind enough to include full-page coverage of the Counterparts/THDNA info sheet, w/membership application on flip side in 'The Short Timer', as well as Ray Blackman's Delta Raider search request. This is a good outfit w/many active programs. Members encouraged to send note of thx: Brian Zawacki; Chicago Southeast Side Việt Nam Veterans; P.O. Box 17400; Chicago, Illinois; 60617. Everyone gains when Vet groups work together.

AMERICAL DIVISION REUNION

24-27 June, '93
Topeka, Kansas, at Holiday Inn West Holidome(1-800-822-0216). Americal Assn. at: P.O. Box 1381; Boston, Massachusetts; 02104.

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Testimonial: My wife left me for one of Madonna's hair dressers. My son joined the Radical Socialist Alliance and my daughter is now hostess for the Warthogs from Hell motorcycle gang. My house was devoured by nuclear mutant termites. And then I bought my Counterparts/THDNA coffee cup, \$10.00 pp. from Adj. Steve. Since then, my new girlfriend took her lottery and Playboy centerfold money to buy me an Aston Martin, a new Cessna, and said she will not go fishing with me unless I teach her how to clean fish. Get your cup now!

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All members invited and encouraged to submit any editorials/comments on anything that comes to mind.

Chào Tạm Biệt


AIRBORNE!

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