

SAIGON

Thurs. Mar. 29-'73

In Vietnam - the end - its over - finished.

That is,

The U S withdrawing today & the last of a fighting force

that once numbered more than half a million men. *Coming*

home from
~~thereby ending~~ the longest war in U S history -

twelve years - two months and twenty nine days.

General Frederick Weyand - the last in a series of Vietnam commanders - personally heading the final withdrawal. "Our mission here" - said he - "was to prevent an all-out attempt by an aggressor - to impose its will through raw military force. And he added: "That mission has been accomplished.

General Weyand further telling his men - "you can hold your heads high - and having been a part of this selfless effort and the peace with honor that has been achieved."

HANOI FOLLOW SAIGON

The U S departure from Saigon - followed by just a couple of hours the final P O W release in Hanoi. The last man captured - also the last man out; Lt. Commander Alfred Agnew, - ^{for whom} ~~who is no relation to the Vice President.~~ For some reason, ^{there was a} ~~though,~~ a brief ~~but~~ agonizing delay - before he was finally ~~was~~ permitted to join his comrades-in-arms.

As he bounded up the ramp of his freedom flight -
Commander Agnew shouting: "Let's hit it!"

Later on - as Clark Air Force base in the Philippines - all sixty-seven men received a wildly enthusiastic welcome. Air Force Colonel James O'Neill telling the crowd: "P O W's never have a nice day - but, we get one great day. Each of ~~us~~ us thanks you," he continued - "all of you - for this unforgettable day."

ANDREWS FOLLOW HANOI

Here at home - with the war at an end - the last prisoners homeward bound - now it can be told. The Pentagon authorizing returned POW's to tell for the first time - of the horrors they endured in Communist prison camps. Four of the freed men - Air Force pilots all - promptly calling a press conference at Andrews Air Force Base. Colonel Norman Gaddis of Dandridge, Tennessee - when he was first captured, the highest ranking U.S. officer in enemy hands; as such - suspected of having vital war information; and thus he was tortured four times said he - during his first forty-eight hours in captivity. After the last of these sessions - discovering he had lost the use of his arms and legs. "It took me eight months to recover from that" - said he.

Colonel Fred Cherry - a black - telling of attempts to break his spirit by stressing his race. He also said he was forced to spend ninety-two days - trussed up in irons and ropes; during which time he was beaten - about five

times a day; in the process, suffering a fractured rib and apunctured lung. This in addition to a broken shoulder - which he suffered on ejection from his fighter plane; an injury - which still hasn't healed.

Colonel Robinson Risner telling of having his hands tied and drawn backward - till he was bent almost double. The force applied was so great - said he it popped shoulder blades out of joint.

At other times said he - "they would force your head down until your toes were in your throat and leave you that way until you acquiesced to whatever they wanted." Colonel Risner also telling of bars that were put in POW's mouths - to force their jaws apart; and ankle clamps that could be drawn tighter and tighter said he until they bit into every nerve, "letting the pain crawl slowly up to your throat."

The fourth man - Colonel John Dramesi told of an escape attempt along with a fellow prisoner - Edwin Atterberry of Dallas, Texas. They were both caught and

ANDREWS FOLLOW HANOI - 2

- with Atterberry in the end, simply disappearing. Colonel Dramesi saying of his friend: "I believe he is dead, tortured to death." By the way, these torture sessions are said to have continued routinely until October of Sixty-Nine. The Communists only began to ease up - we are told - when the U.S. began to publicize the plight of the POW's. Ross Perot, of Dallas, also put great pressure on the Communists by all his strenuous attempts to get help to our people in prison. Bob Hope and others did likewise. But the Perot effort attracted worldwide attention.

WHITE HOUSE

From The White House ^{*came*} an announcement today
that President Nixon will make a nationwide radio
and TV address -- at nine tonight, Eastern time.
Press Secretary Ron Ziegler saying the President's
speech will center on "foreign policy; also, domestic
matters - including the economy." ^{*You will*} ~~and you can~~
hear it here -- on many of these CBS stations.

MITCHELL

Former Attorney General John Mitchell flatly denied today that he ever authorized or even condoned Watergate. Mitchell adding that published reports to the contrary have been "slanderous and false" - based on hear-say."

Meanwhile, before a special Senate Panel, James McCord convicted in the Watergate affair was presumed to be telling all prior to sentencing set for tomorrow.

CARUTHERSVILLE

Springtime or no - much snow today - in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. More than a foot at Lander, Wyoming - and way south at Flagstaff, Arizona.

In the mid-west and on South - showers and thunder showers. The rain swollen Mississippi cresting today at Caruthersville, Missouri at a depth of more than forty-two feet. That's ten feet above flood stage - with more than three hundred and fifty thousand acres of rich farm and pasture land already under water.

SENATE

Plans for a tribute long overdue - were finally set in motion today. Senator ██████ Hatfield of Oregon, a Republican and Senator Cranston of California - a Democrat - jointly sponsoring a new bill. A bid to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of President Herbert Hoover. The date - August tenth, Nineteen Seventy-Four.

5

PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh - the top officers of the United Steel Workers of America approved overwhelmingly today - a new "experimental agreement; one that ~~soon~~ would end nationwide steel strikes - and hopefully stabilize the U S Steel industry. The American ^{as we all know, have been under} producers, - ~~as you know under~~ ~~immense~~ increasing attack from foreign competition.

GYMNASTS

Wearing ten gallon hats they picked up in Houston - clutching stuffed dogs they were given in Chicago Olga Korbet and company were homeward bound today. The Russian girl ~~and~~ gymnasts - departing from Kennedy airport in New York. Before they left ~~though a final summation from~~ ^{their} team captain Ludmilla Turischeva, ~~who~~ said their U S tour - had been almost too good to be true. Ludmilla adding; "the American people are a lot like Russians - friendly, open hearted and easily charmed."

NORTH MIAMI

Niles Trammell was a man who did much to revolutionize network radio, so much so that he became a legend.

Following service in World War One he first joined R.C.A. on the West Coast; quickly going up and up to the top at NBC Along the way he launched the most popular entertainers of all time, Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll, "Amos and Andy;" also Fibber McGee and Molly, Lum and Abner, and Ma Perkins. He signed up Eddie Cantor, Ed Wynn, Al Jolson, Phil Baker, and drew into broadcasting some of the nation's biggest advertisers. For long long years a close friend of mine.

Niles Trammell - one of the golden lights of the "Golden Age of Radio." He was seventy-eight.

ST. PAUL

At the College of St. Thomas - in St. Paul - a "return to the Thirties," celebration; complete with a live gold fish eating contest. An old Egyptian passtime.

Anyway, the winner - a young student by the name of Joe Kustritz - downing one hundred and thirteen goldfish - in the space of ten minutes. When it was all over saying he felt - great". - Later adding: Bill, "I probably could have eaten more but they ran out of goldfish."

RIO FOLLOW STAMPS

Speaking of stamps - this next from Rio de Janeiro. The government of Brazil which has been in existence more than one hundred and fifty years - issuing ~~one~~ today its first postage stamp with glue on the back. Whatever the problem, ~~still~~ they did finally get it licked and s-l-u-t-m.