

VIETNAM

Mon, Mar, 25-68.

In the northernmost Province of South Vietnam - a deadly game of cat-and-mouse today. With a force of U.S. air cavalrymen - on a search and destroy mission through a heavily-wooded ravine. When suddenly there came a cry: "Tanks! Tanks! They've got tanks!"

46 1/2
Though badly surprised - the Americans fighting back with all the firepower they could bring to bear, in the ~~at~~ end -- finally freeing themselves from the trap after a four-hour battle. With U S casualties - called ~~to~~ "moderate."

All this - barely twenty miles from Hue.

~~March~~ This ~~is~~ the deepest penetration yet - for enemy tanks.

WASHINGTON

For President Johnson - a surprise appearance today; before a Washington meeting of some of his staunchest supporters - in the A F L - C I O Building and Construction Trades. The President promising to do "what must be done" - to build a better America; "both at home" - said he - and also "where our brave men stand in battle." The tradesmen responding -- with thunderous applause.

As for those who attack present U S policy - foreign and domestic - the President saying: "I sometimes wonder why we American^S - enjoy punishing ourselves with self-criticism." He added: "I'm not saying we've never had it so good - but that's the truth, isn't it?" And back came the reply -- "Give 'em hell, Lyndon."

SAN FERNANDO

*Just the reverse - out West in California --
where Senator Robert Kennedy -- today bitterly denounced
U.S. policy in Vietnam -- telling a group of students
at San Fernando State College - it's ~~the~~ time now to
"recognize past error" and change course -- before
it's too late.*

FOND DU LAC

More on the war - from Fond du Lac,

Wisconsin. Where Senator McCarthy ^{was} predicted ^{ing} ~~that~~
that U S troops will remain in Vietnam - for "a long,
long time" regardless -- said he - of any settlement
or negotiated peace - that might end the fighting.

PRAGUE

Behind the Iron Curtain - in Czechoslovakia - another kind of political campaign is fast building tonight. For the first time in nearly thirty years - the Czechs free to speculate on the choice of their new leader. Uncensored at last - the nation's press taking advantage of the opportunity - to proclaim a rebirth of Czech democracy. One ~~union~~ newspaper saying: "We need no longer be afraid of telling the truth -- and voicing our thoughts."

Be that as it may - the choice of a new President falls tomorrow to the Czech National Assembly.

and Its members ~~are~~ still Communists all. For what it's worth - Warsaw Pact nations are also conducting military maneuvers near the Czech border. This perhaps a reminder of to the Czechs - not to get too frisky.

MADRID
PINKHAM NOTCH

More than a mile up -- a daring rescue today; on the face of treacherous Mount Washington -- high over Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire. Two eighteen-year-old students from the University of New Hampshire -- plucked from a sheer ice ledge where they were trapped late Sunday. A four-man team of expert climbers braving hundred mile-an-hour winds and sub-zero cold -- to bring them back safely.

Rescue-party member Ed Nestor of Princeton, New Jersey, using his own body to shield one of the student's -- on his final trip down the mountain. A protective bag he had taken along to prevent exposure -- literally "torn to shreds"

by the wind -- said he. The upper part of Mt. Washington has been the scene of more tragedies and near tragedies than any mountain in the USA that I know of. A mt. known for its high winds.

MADRID

The normal quiet of swank Serry Street in Madrid, Spain - shattered today by the sound of an explosion; then - another. The first blast - at a rear basement window of the U S Embassy. The second - a block away; in a public room at "Casa Americana" - the U S Information Agency cultural center in Madrid.

As to who did it - and why - an ~~in~~ investigation is now underway. Luckily - no one seriously hurt, ^{with} ~~though~~ Damage limited to a few shattered windows ~~by~~ some scorched paint.

PANAMA CITY

Panama City -- violence flared twice today in Panama's current political crisis. Panamanian National Guardsmen -- who still support impeached President Robles -- using tear gas to break up a mass meeting at anti-Robles headquarters. After arresting nearly two hundred -- the guardsmen returning later in the day to disperse small groups of demonstrators. This -- according to opposition Presidential candidate Anulfo Arias -- tantamount to a "military coup d'etat."

SAIGON

5012
From Saigon -- again -- news ~~today~~ of a visiting
V.I.P.; which means -- in this case -- ^{a somewhat} ~~a very~~ intriguing
Person. None other than Monsier Daniel -- New York
hairdresser to Lynda Bird Johnson Robb; who is just
completing a weeks' tour -- of snipping and coiffing in
Vietnam.

Daniel's intinerary -- including ~~a~~ six major bases.
At every stop -- some thirty-to-forty Wacs, Waves and
nurses -- waiting with towels wrapped around their freshly
shampooed heads. ^{Daniel} ~~Monstou~~ giving each ~~of them~~ -- a quick-
clip and set; sometimes -- "just like Lynda's."

Daniel himself observing that his friends thought
he was "nuts" -- coming to Vietnam. He added though: "It's
been well worth it -- I've never had such a reception." ^{would}
^{you, Warren, call}
Monsieur Daniel -- our newest secret weapon in Vietnam.

BRISTOL

Charley Brown gets engaged, the story today --
from Bristol, England.

It's not "the" Charley Brown of course -- but
rather a ninety-seven year old Briton of the same name.
A widower ^{of} many years - Bristol's Charley Brown
planning to wed a one-time childhood sweetheart of the
"Gay Nineties." The future Mrs. Brown - reunited
with her long-lost boy friend at the local Old Folks
home.

~~Next question~~ Why - at ninety-seven --
would a marital xxxxx retread finally want to get
married again? Answer - from Charley Brown: ^{Just bored!} "I
got tired of the single life" -- said he.