



## VIET NAM

The Plain of Reeds in South Viet Nam - is a battlefield tonight. The biggest battle of the guerrilla war, erupting - when American helicopters dropped more than a thousand paratroopers behind the enemy. The picture we get tonight - is of ferocious fighting at close quarters. The men of both sides, poking cautiously - through dense tropical undergrowth. Opening up with sub-machine guns - at the slightest movement. An inferno of individual gun duels - in the Plain of Reeds.

Among the casualties today - seven Americans. An Army Captain and two Sergeants, killed - when their helicopters were shot down by guerrilla ground fire. Four helicopter crewmen - wounded.

INTRODUCTION TO TAPE AUSTRALIA IV (Peter Severin)

I suppose you all know that Lowell Thomas is back home - after his trip to the South Pole. But Lowell travels so fast that his reports on tape are still arriving from below the Equator. They're always interesting - so let's listen to this one.

AUSTRALIA #4

(PETER SEVERIN)

Hello Everybody :

I suppose we all know how fast this world of ours is changing. Here's a small item to illustrate it.

Four years ago, this month, I led an expedition into the Great Australian Desert: a region difficult even for camels brought here from Central Asia. We had a mechanized caravan, with light weight four-wheel drive cars in the lead, followed by big six-wheel drive GM trucks, with our food and beer. One of them with a specially built deep freeze unit in which we kept our drinking water, some food - chickens and meats, and, most important, our film. This deep freeze was welded onto the GM truck so it could take the pounding it

got in crossing unchartered desert and unexplored mountains - the Peterman ranges, where roam the Emu, the Wallaby and Kangaroo, the dingo and a few naked aborigines who still live in the Stone Age.

It was an expensive deep freeze, but when the expedition returned to Alice Springs, we didn't need it any more. In fact, we turned it over to a cattle man and his wife who live in "the back of the Beyond", on the edge of "the Never Never Land", two hundred miles southwest of Alice. You may remember Peter Severin in our High Adventure film. You may or may not recall that when I asked him how far it was to his nearest neighbor, he replied: "Fifty miles"; that they usually called on each other once a year. That if it was any nearer and they saw each other any oftener, they'd both think the country was getting over-crowded!

Now guess what has happened. We let Peter and his wife have that big deep freeze for a song - five hundred dollars, when and if he ever had any money. There had been a drought and his cattle had died like flies. Our using his spot on the edge of the unknown as a base had been a God-send. Then, as a result of our film, and Nevil Shute's novel and film "A Town Called Alice", and promotion on the part of the Government, buses began bringing tourists for a look at Alice Springs, Ayres Rock, a stunning natural wonder only sixty miles from Peter's cattle station. He put up a sign reading : "Ice-cold drinks available just sixty miles up the track at Curtain Springs".

This past season, sixteen thousand tourists visited Alice Springs and Ayres Rock, and Peter Severin and his gaunt, hard working little wife, got

as many as three hundred and fifty a day. You get dehydrated in a hurry in that country right at the center of Australia. So they probably sold a thousand drinks to that one group. Anyhow, they paid for our deep freeze without any strain.

Doug and Dick, if you ever visit the Australian Never Never Land, drop in at Curtain Springs, where ice-cold drinks are "now available" from a deep freeze left behind by an L.T. CBS High Adventure expedition to the back of the Beyond.

So long.

FOLLOW L.T.

Well, Lowell, I'll remember your advice - if I ever  
come trudging across the Outback Down Under. Sounds as if it's  
easier to get a cold drink in the Australian Bush - than at  
Coney Island in July.



## EXPLOSIONS

Of those two explosions - in Terre Haute, Indiana, and Riverside, California - the former was the more disastrous. Apparently, a boiler exploded - in the meat packing plant. The toll - eighteen dead, dozens injured.

The explosion at Riverside, California - ruined a top-secret ordnance project. The toll, this time - seventeen injured, two seriously.

## COMMUNISM

Fidel Castro had a high old time in Havana today, presiding at his regime's fourth anniversary -- calling President Kennedy a pirate and parading his military might but he laid to rest any lingering doubts about the reality of the Sino-Soviet split. The bearded dictator, admitting that it has him worried - because he wants the support of both Khrushchev and Mao Tse-tung. And - they don't seem able to get along.

An interesting commentary on the New Year's greetings - that Khrushchev and Mao exchanged.

## WEATHER

England and New England - are having the same kind of weather, tonight. The Mother Country in the grip of - its worst winter in almost a century. London, paralyzed by snow, ice - and that deadly fog floating up the Thames from the Channel. The toll of dead over the holiday - more than one hundred and sixty. And the RAF is dropping food supplies - to hundreds of marooned villages.

On this side of the Atlantic - New England has snow drifts twenty feet deep. Hardest hit - Maine. Rescue parties are out tonight, in search of those who were trapped by the snowfall - drivers, hunters, fishermen, and others.

That's the news for tonight.