

U.S.N.S. GENERAL WEIGEL TRIDENT

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BOMBS WILL NOT FALL DURING HOLIDAY TRUCE

The American bombing of North Vietnam will be suspended during the Christmas and New Year truces for four days, the State Department announced today. Bombing raids will be halted to coincide with two 24 hour truces at Christmas and the New Year with a 48 hour truce during the Vietnamese Tet Holiday in late January and early February.

The State Department said the bombing pause would apply automatically if truces announced in Saigon today are observed in the ground fighting.

The last bombing pause was in February during the last Tet Holiday.

FLASH

THE NORTH VIETNAMESE NEWS AGENCY REPORTED TODAY THAT AMERICAN BOMBERS HIT HANOI AND KILLED OR WOUNDED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND BURNED DOWN SCORES OF DWELLINGS. STORIES PRINTED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE USUALLY DENIED BY U.S. OFFICIALS IN SAIGON.

Observers said it was highly unlikely the brief truces and bombing halts arranged for this year would be extended unless hanoi provided serious indications of interest in negotiations.

American military leaders have told the administration that they are strongly opposed to longer truces which, they again claim, give the Communists an opportunity to re-equip their troops.

The Viet Cong this week announced they would observe three day truces at Christmas and the New Year and seven days during the Tet holiday.



RUSSELL LONG SLIPS WELFARE BILL THROUGH SENATE

In a surprise move on the floor of the Senate, Senator Russell Long of Louisiana caught liberal senators napping and had the controversial Social Security bill passed without discussion.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield objected saying that he had been detained by visitors and could not reach the floor in time for the vote. He called for an immediate reconsideration vote on the bill.

Since it takes unanimous consent to allow a vote of reconsideration, Senator Long has been placed in a position where he can name his own terms.

Long said that he would allow Senator Robert Kennedy and other liberal opponents of the welfare bill to present their opinions only on the condition that they did not hold up an early vote. Final vote on reconsideration will come today.

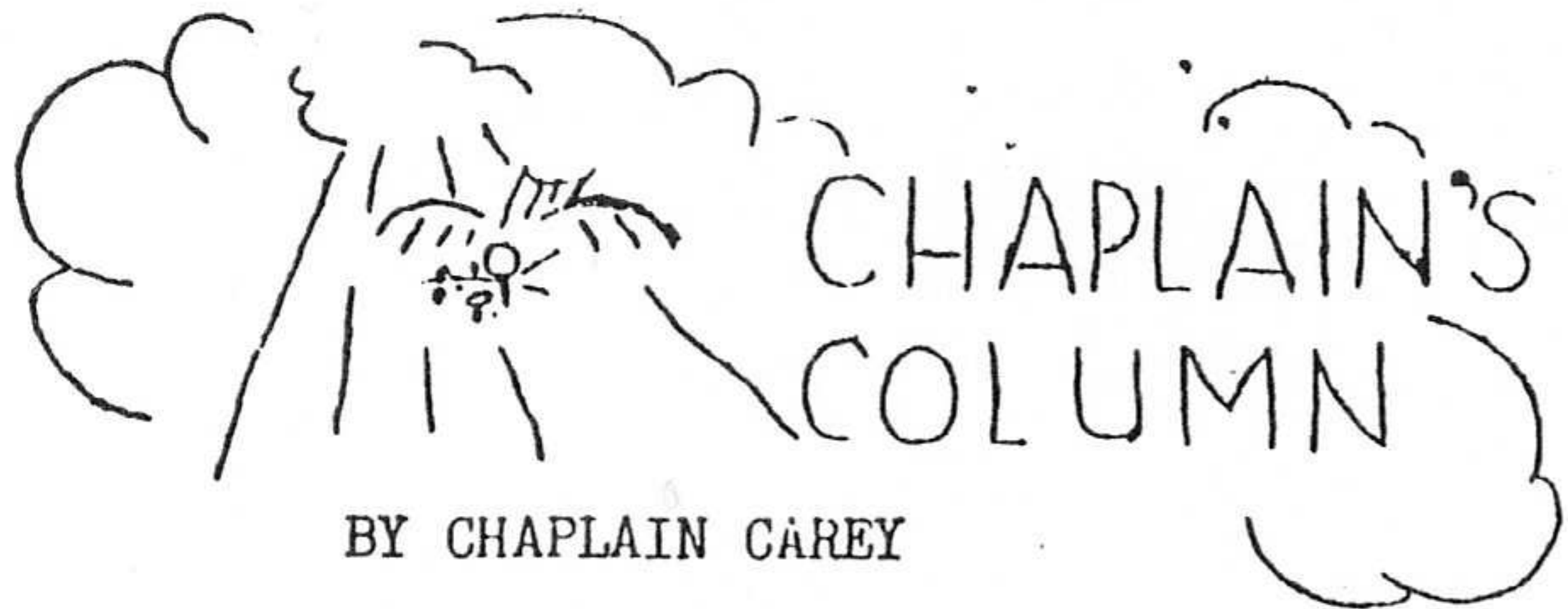
GOOD ADVICE: TAKE TEA AND SEE

That commercial jingle, "Take Tea and See" could very well have a more portentous meaning than might be thought. University of California researcher last week announced that tea can greatly reduce the influence of hardening of the arteries.

Dr. Wei Yung, the head of the three-man research committee which made the discovery, said that drinking tea could dramatically reduce coronary heart disease.

Independent research by teams in Canada and England have supported these latest findings.

Dr. Yung said that in future research at California's Livermore Laboratories he hoped to isolate the substance in the tea which deters the effects of hardening of the arteries which is attributed to the fat-rich diet of Americans and people of other nations.



CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

BY CHAPLAIN CAREY

What should a man know about death? Here are some thoughts on this very serious, but not morbid, topic. A man's life can show what he is. His death shows what he is. Some men are greater in failure than others are in success because they are true to themselves no matter what the cost. All too often the world judges according to standards that make success equal virtue, as if only those who "get ahead" were good. But death reveals greatness. What one man is may be more valuable to society than what another does.

"We do not die until God wants us to die, and we do not live until we die." If we believe in God's loving care of us and in His unlimited power, we know that death cannot be an ending but a beginning.

We can desire food for another; it may or may not happen. But what God wills, happens. Our death is a part of God's plan. Because we trust in God we do not sorrow at the death of a loved one as some do who have no trust in God.

Men who die in the routine, even hum-drum performance of duty to their country, do not need publicity or fanfare; their sacrifice speaks for them. They do not need the hysteria of war to be heroes; their dedication makes them heroes. They do not need our praise; for they who have God, have no needs.

This thought is well expressed in this short prayer:

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing scare you.
All things here are passing;
God only is changeless.

Patient endurance
Obtains all things.
He who has God
Wants for nothing
For evermore.

TOMORROW WILL BE THE LAST EDITION OF THE TRIDENT

DAILY RELIGIOUS SERVICES ON BOARD
Large Troop Recreation Lounge

CATHOLIC
0800 Confession
0830 Mass

INTERFAITH MOVIE
0900 Moody Service Film

PROTESTANT
0945 Daily Devotions

JEWISH SABBATH
1900 Fridays

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
Large Troop Recreation Lounge

CATHOLIC
0900 Mass

PROTESTANT
1000 Worship Communion

LATTERDAY SAINTS
1000 Worship Service

(EDITOR'S NOTE:)

It has been brought to the attention of the TRIDENT that our drawings of Vietnamese women are not depicting the real picture of the women of South Vietnam.

We urge our readers to bear with us and overlook the lack of similarity between our artwork and the females we will be encountering in Vietnam.

TODAY'S MOVIE

Cabin Class - 2000 hours
ACROSS THE BRIDGE

Troop Compartments
1300 thru 2000 hours
HUSH HUSH SWEET CHARLOTTE

1300 hours:
Compts 4-1, 4-6, 4-7, 2-2

1500 hours:
Compts 2-3, 3-2, 3-3

1800 hours:
Compts 2-7, 4-2, 4-3

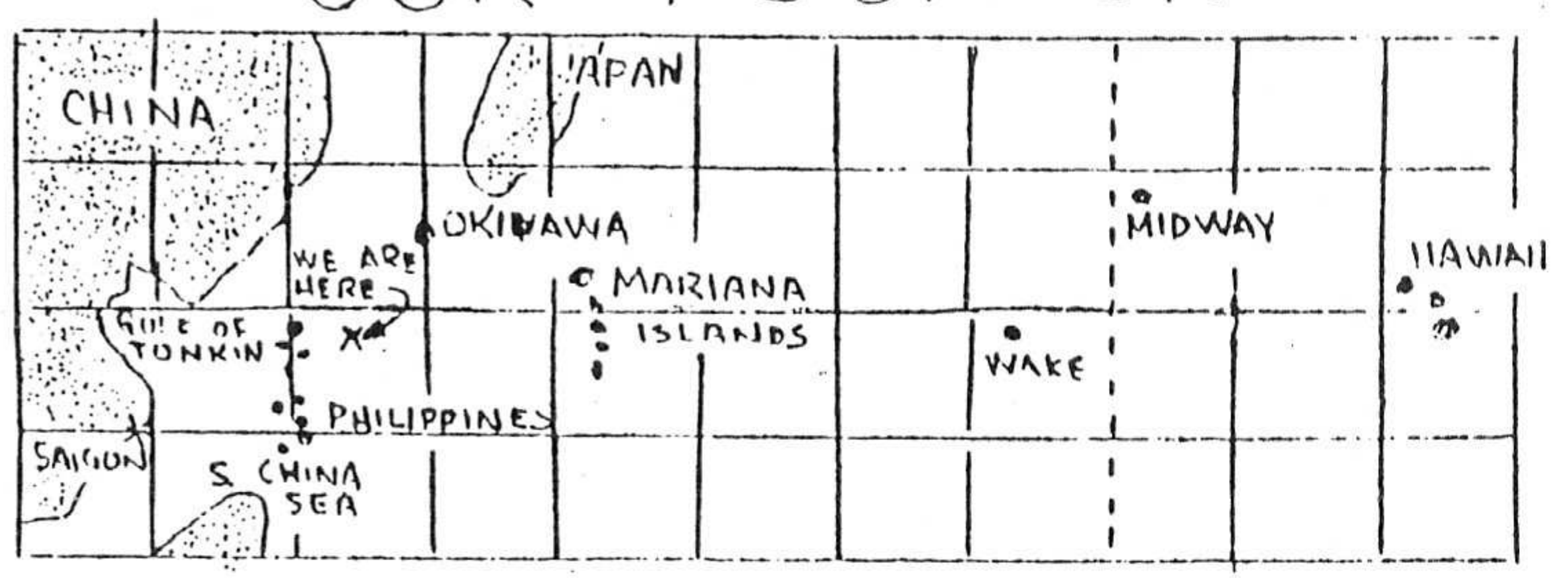
2000 hours:
Compts 3-7, 4-4

TOMORROW'S MOVIE

Cabin Class:
MAN IN THE WHITE SUIT

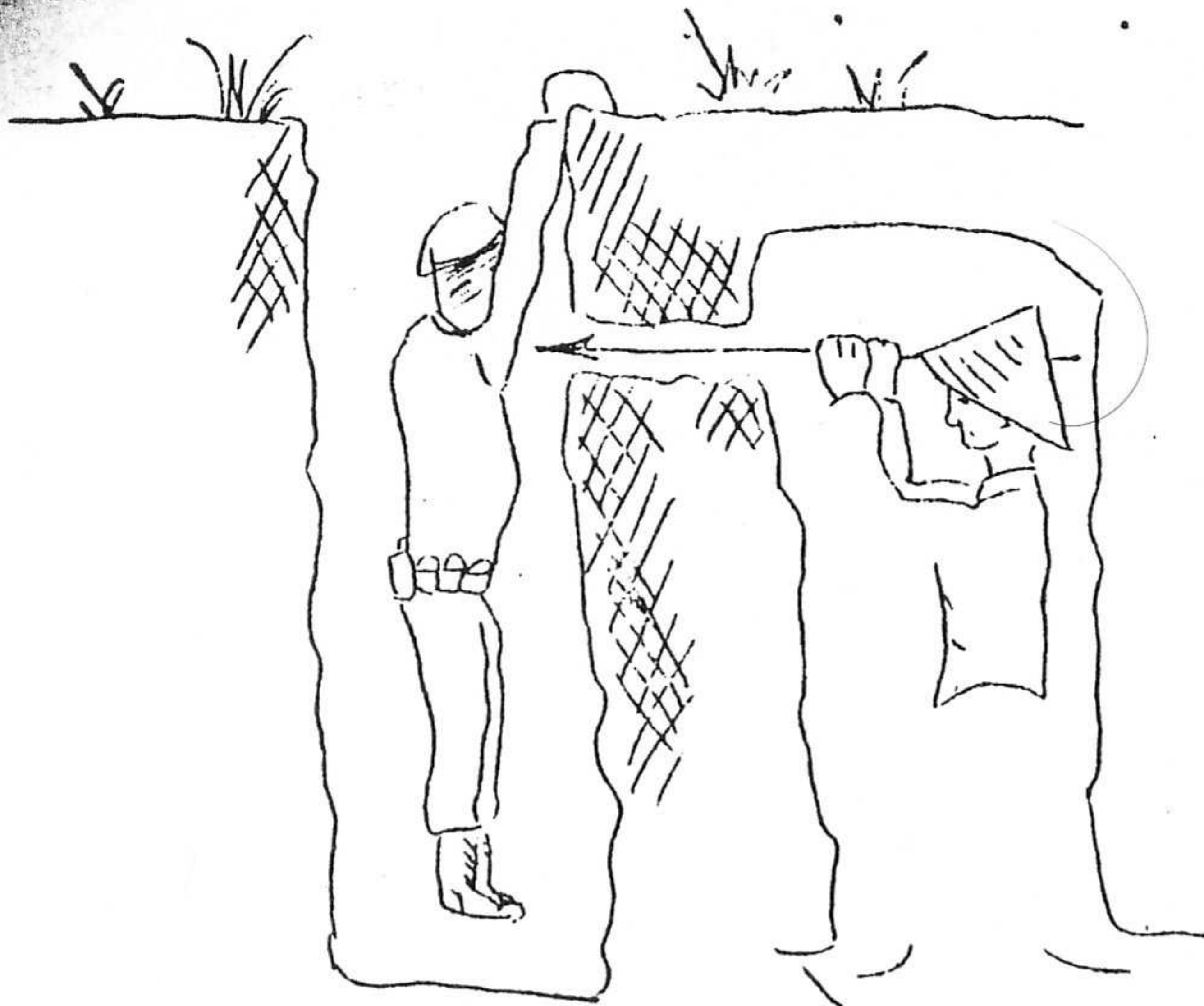
Troop Compartments:
NONE BUT THE BRAVE

OUR POSITION



The TRIDENT is an authorized publication of the Military Department on board the USNS General William Weigel. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the Departments of the Army or Navy. This newspaper is published daily by members of the 31st Public Information Detachment.

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EDITOR.....CPT F.A. PATSY
SR ADVISOR.....CHAPLAIN DOWERS



TRICKS OF THE VC TRADE
WATCH WHERE YOU JUMP

WAR CRITIC TO VISIT VIETNAM

Senator Joseph Clark (D-Pa.) a leading war critic on the Foreign Relations Committee, will visit New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia, on his way to Vietnam next month, it was announced.

Accompanied by his new wife, Sen. Clark will arrive in Auckland on New Year day and move on to Sidney on January 9th, before leaving for Djakarta the next day.

After a visit to South Vietnam beginning on January 16th, he will stop briefly in Hong Kong before returning to Washington.

PEERING THE PLOT

COURSE	270°
LATITUDE	18°-52' N
LONGITUDE	125°-05' E
DISTANCE	458 mi
SPEED	19.08kts
FROM HAWAII	4358 mi
TO VIETNAM	979 mi

17 Dec 67

CAPTURED DOCUMENTS VS DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENTS

Captured documents prove the Viet Cong would try to seize power if included in a coalition government in South Vietnam, the State Department charged today.

The warning was issued as the U.S. acted to blunt the effects of a programme document issued by the National Liberation Front and distributed to members of the UN.

THE CROW'S NEST

One of the third mates aboard the USNS Weigel, Mr. L. J. Bie, adjusted his sextant slightly. From the wheel house came the time checks TWO MINUTES...ONE MINUTE.. MARK!

Mr. Bie went back into the wheel house to figure the ship's exact position. Using tables to adjust for the time of year and other variables, he plotted the exact position on a chart marked, "Eastern Approach to the Babuyan Channel".

"From our present position and speed, we should see the Cape Engano Light shortly before 8pm," Mr. Bie said.

Later, we should pass approximately five miles to the left of Camiguin Island, which has a peak 2,300 feet high.

Luzon, the island off to portside, is the northern most of the large islands of the Phillipine chain.

By morning, the Weigel should be past the Phillipines and turn South through the South China Sea.

TOURNAMENT TIME ON THE WEIGEL

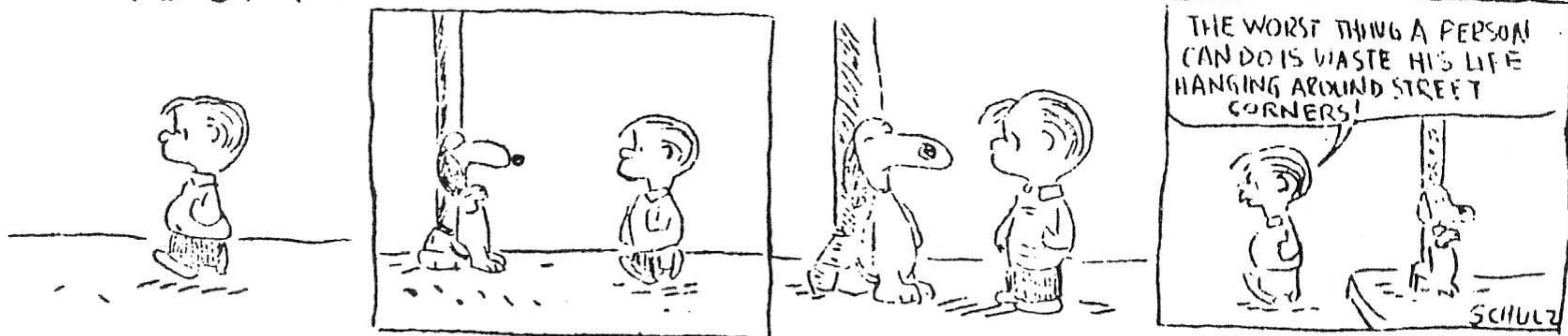
Tournaments were in full swing yesterday and today as cabin class passengers vied for top honors in various contests. Emerging as the Champion of Checkers was CW 2 Carl Rhodes and shortly afterwards SFC John Stonich walked away with the Cribbage crown. Pinochle lasted until the late hours last night and Lt. Jim Webster scored high and often to win. He was followed closely by SFC Virgil Phetteplace, the runner-up and CPT Watt who finished third.

Maj Henrionnet walked away with the Bridge Championship as Lt. Carol Rehm placed second and CW 2 Daniel McElligott wound up with the 'low man' prize.

The Chess Tournament turned out to be a marathon event which was finally decided early this morning when 1SG Daniel Ruiz eased out a victory over SFC Kenner Ravencourt.

Prizes for all winners, and in some events the top three finalists, were donated by the MSTs.

SNOOPY



RETARD YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR TONIGHT