

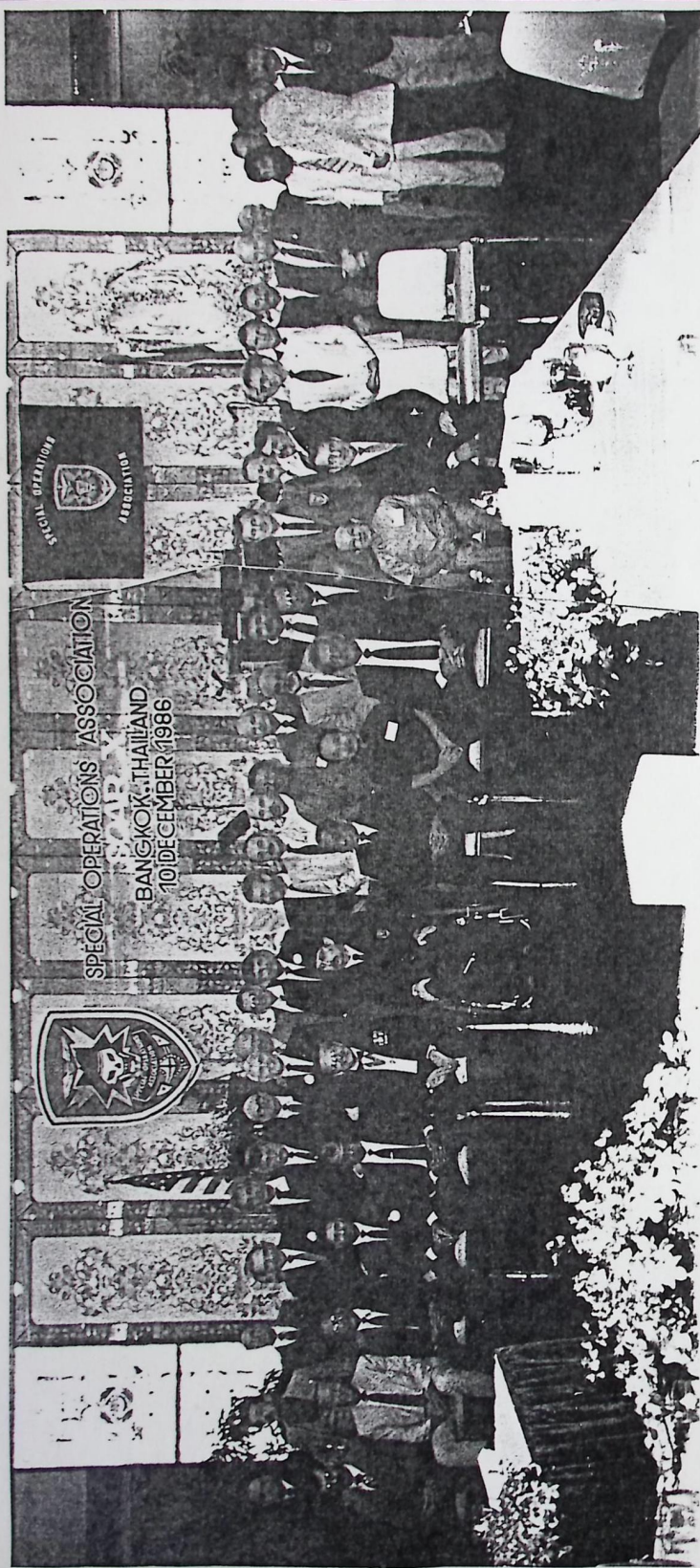


# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENT

## S O A R X



## AFTER-ACTION REPORT



BANQUET SOAR X

REAR: GEORGE GOETZKE, JOHN GALLAGHER(Hidden) SPIDER PARKS, GREG RODRIGUEZ, PETE LAURENCE, WALT BOYLING, JIM STEELE, GEORGE MORTON, JIM CRAIG, BOB JOHNSTON, RON COLLINGSWOOD, JIM MARTIN, DAVE RYDER, DS JOHNSON, DON PALMER, MIKE DUGGAN, RAY DAWSON, JOHN GARRISON, DES AYLETT, DON LORD, JOHN FRYER, DUANE VIERK

CENT: JIM CIPOLLA, GENE MCCARTHY, MOE BLAKEY, JACK ABRAHAM, JOHN LAPAILLE, LTC JIMMY, COL PISNUNART, PAUL TRACY, CARL WINKLER, JOHN MCCLASKEY, BOB MASTERJOSEPH, EARL THIEME, BOB LEDELLAYTNER, TED SHPAK, DICK SOMMERS, JAN REIFENBERG

FRONT: STEVE BYRNES, CHUCK DARNELL, LTC ANOND, JACK PHILLIPS, GEN PICHITR, GEORGE MARECEK, STEVE WILSON, HE GEN TIENCHAI, GEN JUTHAI, SCOTT LYON, LTC ANEK, CLAYTON SCOTT



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. CHARLESTON BLVD., SUITE 5-583F  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122

10 NOVEMBER, 1986

TO: SCOTT LYON, President  
FROM: CLIFF NEWMAN, Treasurer, Election Committee  
SUBJECT: Results - election of officers

Saturday, 8 November 1986 the following members met to count ballots for the election of the 1987 officers:

Cliff Newman  
Keith Messenger

Following are the results:

PRESIDENT: CLAYTON SCOTT

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: JACK ABRAHAM

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: JESSE SIGLOW

SECRETARY: ROY RIDDLE

TREASURER: CLIFF NEWMAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: CLYDE SINCERE  
WALT SCHUMATE  
JOHN FRYER

There were 169 ballots received which constituted a quorum.

I certify that the above figures are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. The ballots were destroyed by myself on this date.

*Cliff Newman*

CLIFF NEWMAN



You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.

# NOTIFICATION

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AND TO THE SENATORS

DEAR SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

in relation to the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

I am sorry that I am unable to give you a more definite answer at this time.

I am, however, sure that the Committee will be able to give you a satisfactory answer in the near future.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. FOSTER

Secretary of the House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1890

RECEIVED

1890

1890

1890

1890

1890

1890

1890



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

17 November 1986

Scotty, enclosed is a financial statement which covers from the start of the new fiscal year (1 July 86) up to now. It is important that the members realize that this statement only covers 3 months. I have enclosed a copy of the last statement that was printed in the news letter.

Our actual cash is: Operations Fund - 9,358.34.

Scholarship Fund - 24,844.05

These figures are as of this date. I have a few bills to pay and of course the expenses will be coming in for yourself and the others working on SOAR X. But in my un-educated opinion we are in pretty good shape.

I wish you would pass on the membership in Bangkok my regrets for not being able to attend this reunion. It will be the first one I have missed (I had to cut one short when my Father passed away).

I consider it a honor to even be eligible to belong to this organization and an extreme privilege to be elected as one of the officers. I hope I have justified the confidence the members placed in me.

I'll be staying close to home while the rest of you lucky            are partying it up in Bangkok. So, if anyone needs to contact someone, I'll be available to pass on messages.

Have a good time, we'll be in touch, I'm sure before you leave.



You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.

# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION



11 November 1968

Enclosed is a financial statement which covers the  
the year of the last fiscal year (1 July 68) to the now.  
It is important that you members review this statement  
and advise me. I have enclosed a copy of the last  
statement that was printed in the newsletter.  
Our account with the Government is 7,115.00.  
Enclosed is a statement from the Government.  
These figures are as of this date. I have a few bills to  
pay and of course the company will be coming in for  
yourself and the company working as well. I have to go  
un-affected again as we are in pretty good shape.

I wish you could have on the newsletter in December as  
regards for our past year as stated in the report. It  
will be the first one I have received. I had to get the report  
when up before you came down.

I consider it a honor to have the newsletter as stated in this  
organization and in various activities to be stated in the  
of the officer. I hope I have received the newsletter and  
members please to me.

I'll be staying close to home while the rest of you men  
and getting to go to London. So, it seems  
good to contact someone. I'll be available to help as  
needed.

Have a good time. We'll be in touch. I'm sure you'll have a good time.

*Handwritten signature or initials, possibly "L.B.L.", written in dark ink.*



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT From 1 Jul 86 to 17 Nov 86

	<u>FY 1986</u>	<u>THIS PERIOD</u>
INCOME		
Revenue (1)	18,169	3,950
Interest	1,239	347
SOA Scholarship (2)	5,903	6,700
Total Income	25,311	10,997
EXPENSES		
SOAR	6,516	850
Office Supplies	63	Ø
Postal	1,454	369
Phone	1,369	417
Travel	1,038	Ø
Printing/Copying	198	147
SOA Scholarship	2,329	27
Secretarial/Clerical	2,268	Ø
Refunds	415	110
Miscellaneous	913	210
Total Expenses	16,563	2,130
MERCHANDISE PURCHASES	1,515	425
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD	2,000	4,000
NET GAIN (LOSS)	5,233	4,442
PLUS PREVIOUS PERIOD INCREASE (DECREASE)	23,156	28,389
RETAINED EARNINGS	28,389	32,831

## BALANCE SHEET

	<u>Assets</u>	
Cash	28,389	32,831
Inventory	926	1,371
Total Assets	29,315	34,202
	<u>Liabilities</u>	
Accounts Payable	Ø	Ø
	<u>SOA Equity</u>	
Retained Earnings	29,315	34,202
Liabilities and Retained Earnings	29,315	34,202

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- (1) Revenues consist of dues, contributions, income from SOAR and merchandise sales.
- (2) Scholarship income includes contributions and income from raffle ticket sales.



You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



# TOP SECRET

ZZZZ062027ZDEC87

FM PRES SOA

TO MBRS SOA

INFO SFA, FAYETTEVILLE, NC

AATV, SIDNEY, AUS

THAI SFCD, BKK, THAI

BT

TOP SECRET LIMDIS EYES ONLY SOAR X //NO3000//

STATUS REPORT STRIKE FORCE BANGKOK (C)

A. (U) HQ SOA LTR DTD 01 MAY 86, SUBJ: SOA TENTH REUNION

1. (TS) IAW ABOVE REF, A MULTI-BASED STRIKE FORCE WITH A MISSION OF AREA RECON WAS INSERTED BY FIXED WING AIRCRAFT INTO BASE AREA BANGKOK ON 6 DECEMBER 1986. MOVING FROM THE LZ, A HASTY DEFENSIVE PERIMETER WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE TAWANA SHERATON LOBBY BAR WHILE A HOSPITALITY SUITE WAS HARDENED IN REMOTE CORNER OF THE HOTEL. RECON TEAMS WERE DISPATCHED TO TARGET AREA PATPONG TO VERIFY SIGHTINGS OF FRIENDLY INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL: REPORTS WERE RAPIDLY CONFIRMED AND A PRISONER MISSION WAS IMMEDIATELY INITIATED.

2. (U) FIRST REPORT THIS OP.

GDS-93

BT

#4883

# TOP SECRET

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## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. CHARLESTON BLVD., SUITE 5-583F  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122

Convention '86 will go down in Special Operations Association history as SOAR X - Bangkok. More than eighty members and guests attended the reunion. They came from the US, Korea, Australia, Hong Kong, Germany and the Caribbean. The following attended:

Clayton & Ine Scott  
Chuck Darnell  
John LaPaille  
George & Viparat Marecek  
Ray & Pat Dawson  
John Gallagher  
Greg & Cindy Rodriguez  
Tommie & Lisa Ponder  
David (DS) Johnson  
Anond Srivardhana  
Earl Thieme  
John Garrison & Theresa Struwe  
Pete & Sherie Laurence  
Steve Wilson  
Des Aylett (AATTV)  
John & Carol Mead  
Hugh Taylor  
Jan Reifenberg & Glinda Massey  
Bob & Barbie Johnston  
John Fryer & Anna Gardner  
Jim & Randi Craig  
Don Lord (AATTV)  
George & Lillian Morton  
Jack Phillips  
Walt Boyling  
Priscilla Valenta  
Floretta Hipp  
Tom Welsh  
Carl Fronabarger  
Jimmy Vogeleer

Scott & Arlene Lyon  
Jack Abraham  
Gene & Alice McCarthy  
Jim Steele  
Paul Tracy  
Duane & Francis Vierk  
Dick Sommers  
Jim Martin  
Dave & Denise Ryder  
Moe & Tommie Blakey  
Richard Weber & Tina Houser  
Jim Cipolla  
Steve Byrnes  
Bob Masterjoseph  
Mike & Lucy Duggan  
Jeff & Maurine Miller  
Roy & Bernadette Bahr  
John McClaskey  
Robert 'Spider' Parks  
Ron Collingwood  
Tony McIntosh (AATTV)  
Don Palmer (AATTV)  
Joe McCann  
Carl Winkler  
Dasha Helmick  
Betty Conover  
Jean Caramatti  
Bob Ledellaytner  
Ted Shpak  
Walt Boyling

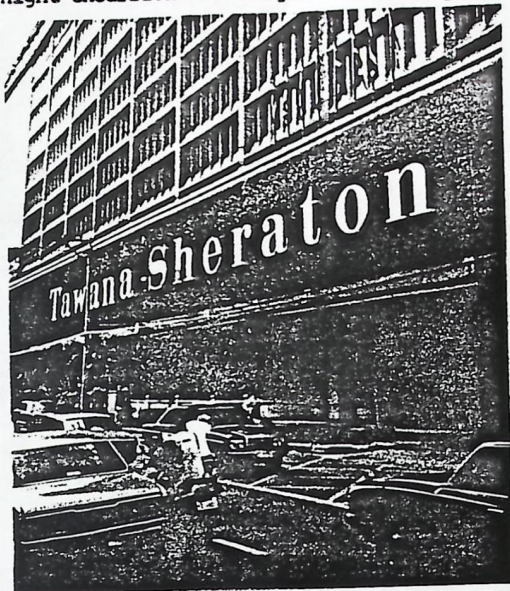
With the Saturday 7 December opening of the hospitality suite, we officially commenced the festivities. The first day was spent registering, renewing friendships, and deciding on which of the many activities to pursue. The registration committee by default came to Chuck Darnell, Jack Abraham and yours truly, Clayton Scott. Jack actually attempted to organize a shopping arcade in the hospitality suite. He found a tailor who would make any wearing apparel to include custom made three piece suits for well under \$100.00; a cobbler who sold custom made boots, shoes and belts entirely of hide or skin of every conceivable reptile and mammal (ostrich, alligator, crocodile, anteater, lizard, shark, sea snake, sting ray, eel, turkey, cobra, python,



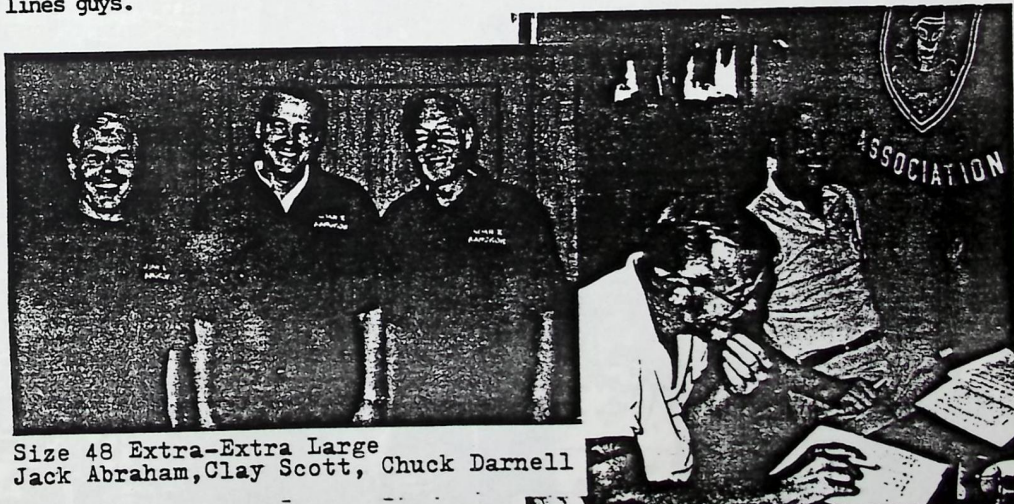
You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



buffalo and sea turtle) ranging in price for boots from \$75.00 to \$150.00 US and shoes from \$25.00 to \$75.00 US; to a travel agent with a myriad of day and night excursions of Bangkok and the spectacular sights of Thailand.



While Jack coordinated his bazaar in the annex to the hospitality room, Chuck and I staffed the registration desk and just to be sociable, had a drink with each of the incoming registrants. By 1700 hours we found that we had consumed all the bloody marys in Bangkok; we were at well over 20 when we decided to get serious about our drinking. Before we left, we did have the presence of mind to question Scotty's selection of extra-large shirt sizes. Ironically, the vast majority were rapidly issued - better pay more attention to the waist lines guys.



Size 48 Extra-Extra Large  
Jack Abraham, Clay Scott, Chuck Darnell

Darnell & Scott-Breather between  
Bloody Marys



Lisa Ponder surrounded



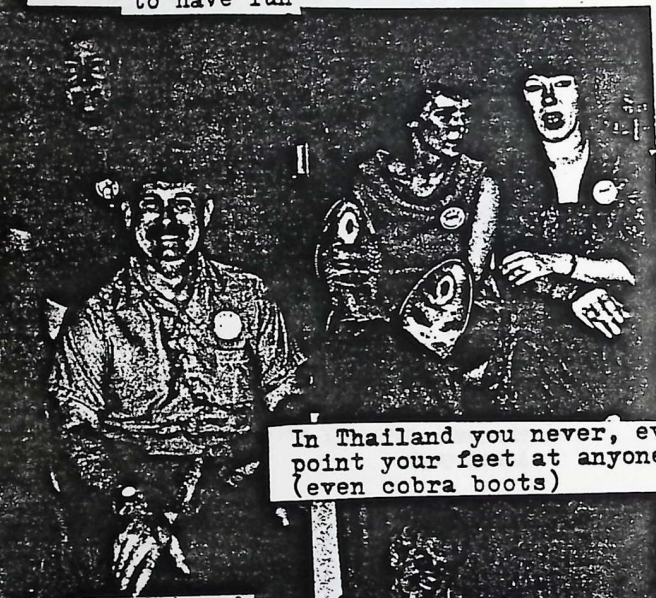
Australian Des Aylett  
already havin fun



Dick Sommers gettin ready  
to have fun



Jack Abraham havin fun; Tina???



Moe Blakey &  
Steve Wilson

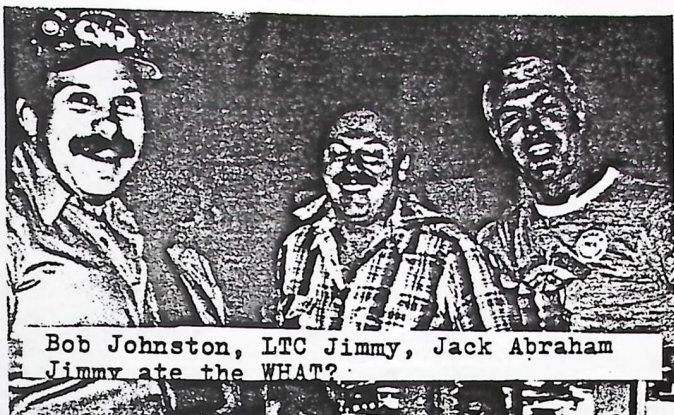
In Thailand you never, ever  
point your feet at anyone  
(even cobra boots)



Bernadette & Roy Bahr



I miss my hair!! Now what do I get for 20



Bob Johnston, LTC Jimmy, Jack Abraham  
Jimmy ate the WHAT?



This is a truly tacky photo



Tommie & Moe Blakey (rev) Bob Master-joseph, Steve Wilson & Joe McCann

You bet it's a smirk!

How many times did I get married?

Gallagher died and gone to Heaven in Florida



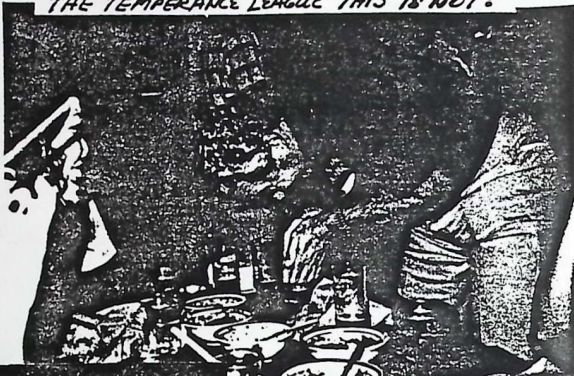
Ron Collingswood, Jim Martin & Pete Laurence | Cindy this won't hurt a bit.

fleeting sober moment, the majority of the assembled members voted on a curry dinner in a locally well reputed restaurant. After a brief and uneventful journey, we reassembled at the Cafe India for dinner. The flower arrangements were superb, hors d'oeuvres and the food was okay; after we convinced our pet Seal (Scott Lyons) not to swim at the table, a gracious toast was proposed to SOAR X (with fingerbowls).

The return trip was a little more exciting: we managed to get eight people in a three person cyclo (tuc tuc). The first stop was at the famous Lucy's Tiger Den. With a few of our members, such as honorary chaplan (note the lower case c) Masterjoseph and Couth Control Officer John Gallagher, already well entrenched, we inspected the facilities, hoisted a few and left the singles and soon-to-be-singles to exploit Patpong and make the massive leaflet drops for which we are all so famous.



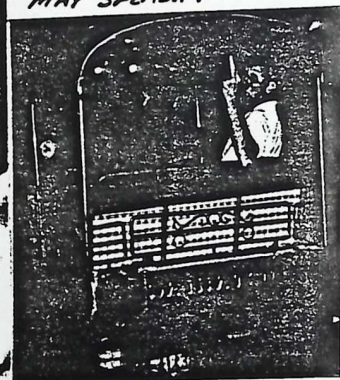
THE TEMPERANCE LEAGUE THIS IS NOT!



WATCH OUT EVERYBODY, I MAY SPLASH.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'THE FARE IS PER PERSON'?

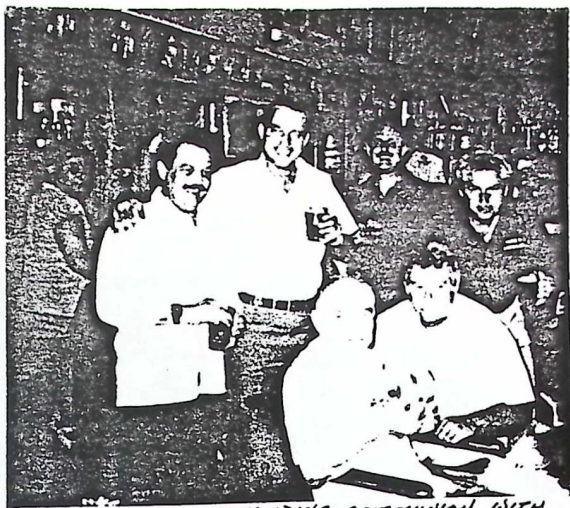


AND FURTHERMORE



LOOK AT THOSE FORDS IS THE TUC TUC

# THE CROSS ROADERS MEET  
AT  
**LUCY'S TIGER DEN**  
AND  
THE HOBO'S ROOST  
ON THE SECOND FLOOR  
HOME OF THE BRANDY FLIP  
(FAMOUS DRUNKS BREAK FAST)  
38-40 SURAWONG ROAD  
OPP. SURAWONG HOTEL  
BANGKOK.  
TEL. 234-7021  
38-40 ถนนสุรวงศ์  
ตรงข้ามโรงแรมสุรวงศ์ กทม.  
โทร. 234-7021



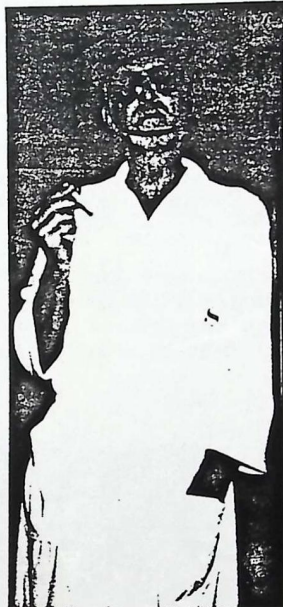
REV MASTER JOSEPH HOLDING COMPAUNION WITH  
CLAY, RICHARD, TIGER, MOE AND SCOTT

# LUCY'S TIGER DEN

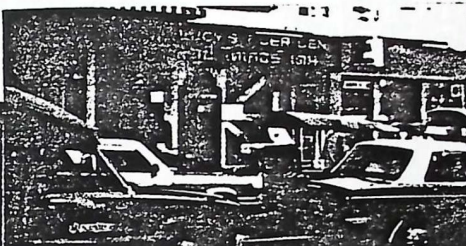


38-40 SURAWONG ROAD  
☎ 2347021

## BANGKOK



G'DAY MATE.  
WHAT'LL YA HAVE?



We spent Sunday the 7th of December attempting to buy Bangkok; any day now I expect a letter of appreciation from the Bangkok Chamber of Commerce. My only consolation is that John Fryer, now the proud owner of a 21 pound gold ID bracelet spent more money than I did. Pete Laurence purchased a tailor shop, Toni and Lisa Ponder and Greg and Cindy Rodriguez (tell ya more about that later) bought a couple of jewelry stores and John Gallagher a house of \*@XXX - never mind.

Sunday afternoon Chuck Darnell awakened long enough to in-process the Australians again. This bunch thought they had to re-register each time they wanted another drink - and did they drink!

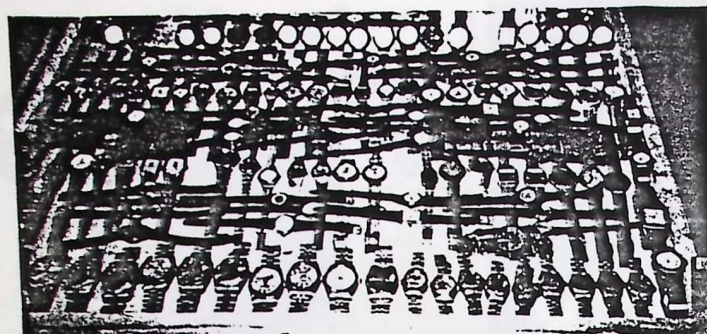
Other than increasing the US national debt and improving Thailand's balance of trade, the only other significant incident of the day was reverend (little r), Master Joseph selecting his second wife. The significance of that event was that he couldn't remember who he married the night before and he wasn't entirely sure that he was properly divorced. None-the-less, he went through a 15 minute period of mourning and with a pocket full of baht, was happy to be on the street again.



DES AYLET, TONY MACINTOSH  
RE-REGISTERING



DES THOROUGHLY RE-  
REGISTERED & HAVIN' FUN



HEY GI, NUMBER ONE WATCH; FOR YOU SPECIAL.



BUNDLE DROP TEN SECONDS OUT



GALLAGHER & POWDER BUYING THE STORE

On to yet another fair-to-midlin Chinese dinner with soup course last? But great company. Next, to George Pipas' Texxan Bar on Patpong. As George was a gracious donor to the hospitality suite, the Texxan became our forward CP, a frequent watering hole and a fuel stop; it also had the best breakfasts in town.

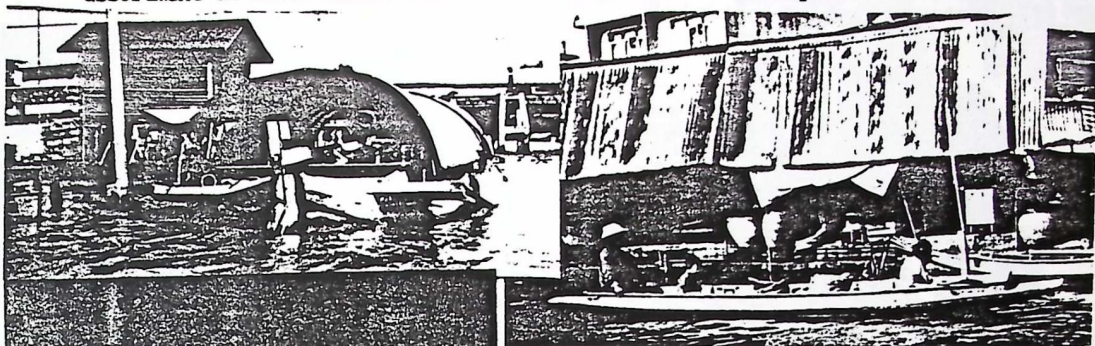


THAI GRITS

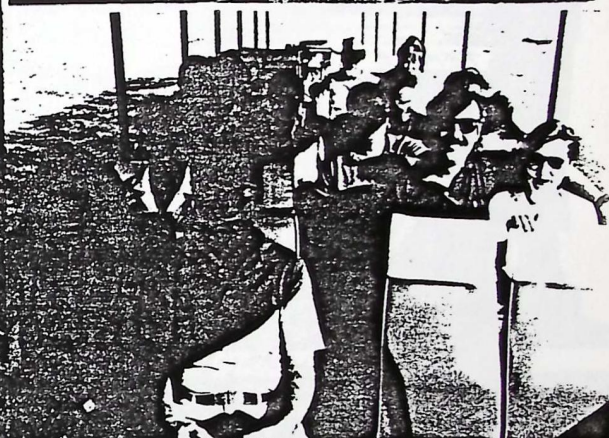


JOHN FEYER, SHERIE LAURENCE, ANNA GARDNER, CLAY, INE SCOTT, JEAN CARAPATI, MOE & TOMMIE BLAKEY - LOOK AT THAT FOOL WITH THE CAMERA, HE'S STANDING IN THE RICE.

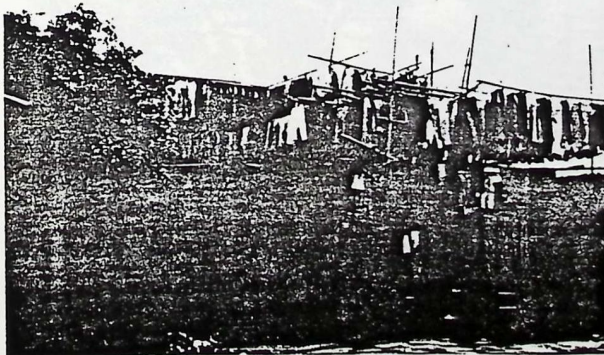
Monday we cleaned up our act, got a group assembled and struck out for the floating market cruise. After we boarded our private boat we were able to direct much of our tour as we saw fit. Once underway we immediately broke down (a dangerous premonition). However, just before running aground our driver, mechanic and chief cook managed to get us restarted, avoiding disaster. Along the way we were able to sample the famous durian and an assortment of fresh fruits sold from the Thai version of sampans.



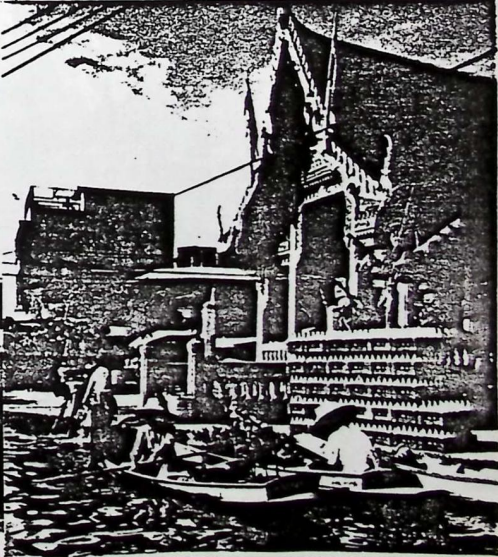
DURIAN GRITS



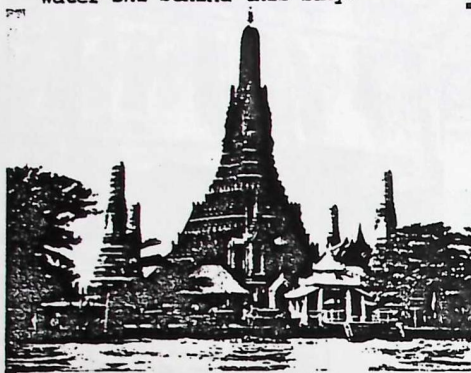
MARCEKES, GURDA MASSEY, SHEEL LAURENCE, JOHN MCCLASKE, SEAN CARAMATI, ARLINE LYNN, JOHN FEYER, ANNA CAEBNIG, CLAY SCOT, MEG BLANEY, RICHARD WEBBER & TINA HOUSSER



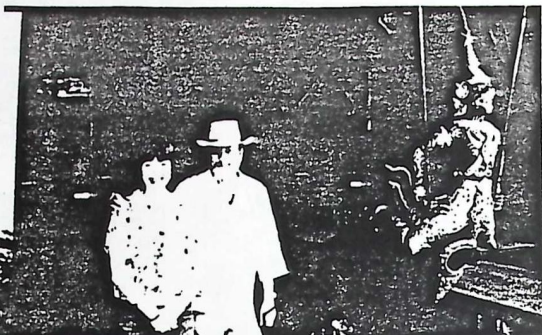
THAI MARTINIZING



Additionally, the significance of this tour was to see to riverside life styles of the families whose homes and businesses line the waterways. Probably the most interesting part of the journey was the countless temples and shines along the riverbanks. We did have the opportunity to visit a commercial, albeit touristy, snake farm and ride the elephants and wrestle the pythons. As well, we visited the Royal Barge Museum; amazingly, a 44 meter long, 3 meters wide canoe employing 50 oarsmen; with a little effort you could water ski behind this baby!



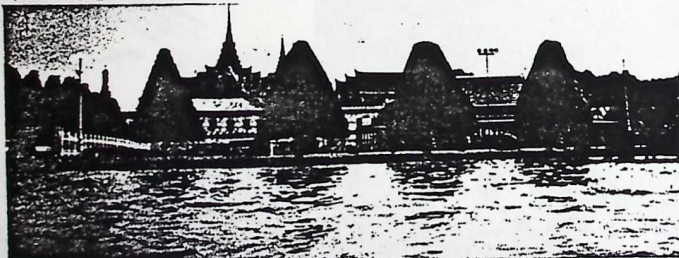
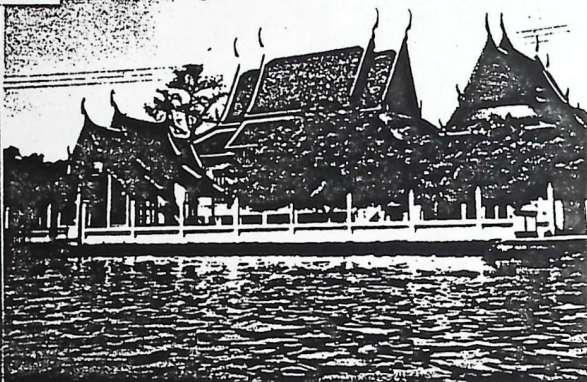
TEMPLE OF DAWN



JOHN & ANNA CONTEMPLATING WATER SCENES

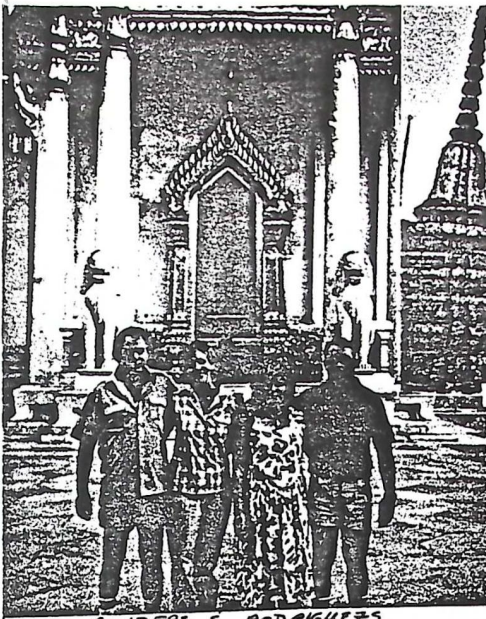


ROYAL BARGE



GRAND PALACE

That afternoon we took a temple tour. Included were the Golden Buddha, Reclining Buddha and Marble Temple; also, Moe Blakey, Tommie Ponder and Gary Rodriguez in drag. This was a highlight of the tour (the temples, not the guys). All three temples were magnificent and literally defy adequate description: a five and one half ton gold Buddha is hard to do justice to. I think I speak for the entire group when I say we were all impressed. By the way, in their defense, the guys had on shorts which turned out to be verboten, therefore they wore sarongs in order to gain admission to the temple.



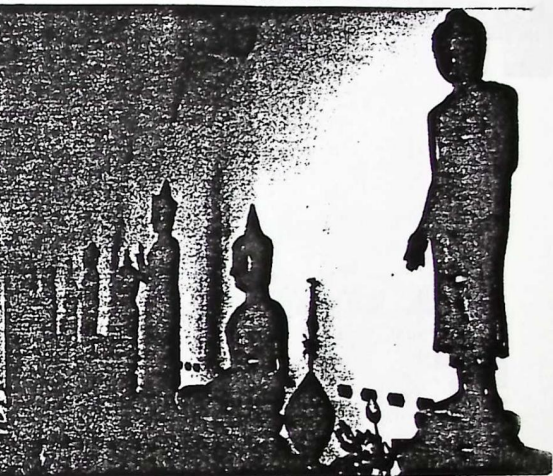
PONDERS & RODRIGUEZ



TEMPLE OF THE RECLINING BUDDHA



LATE WAY TO SPEND THE DAY



MARBLE TEMPLE



AIRIGHT,  
EVERYONE  
INTO A  
BIG GROUP  
SMILE



MISS, FOR 20¢ YOU CAN HOLD MY SNAKE  
14 AND I'LL TAKE YOUR PICTURE.

THERE'S SOMETHING SACRELIGIOUS ABOUT  
MCCARTHY WITH THESE TWO LADIES.



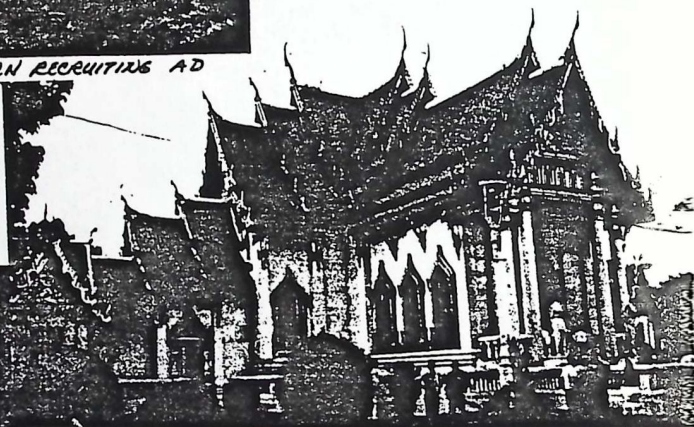
CINDY & GREG RODRIGUEZ



CCN RECRUITING AD

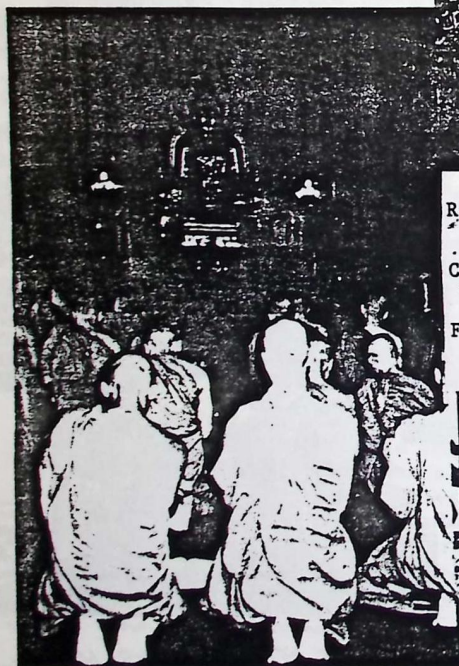


TEMPLE OF THE  
RECLINING BUDDHA



MARBLE TEMPLE

- R. JOHN FRYER, GLINDA MASSEY, CLAY SCOTT, MOE BLAKEY, JOHN  
MCCLASKEY, LISA PONDER, JOE MCCANN
- C. GREG & CINDY RODRIGUEZ, ANNA GARDNER, INE SCOTT, BETTY  
CONOVER
- F. JIM CIPOLLA, JEAN CARAMATTI, SHERI LAURENCE, TOMMIE  
BLAKEY, RAY & PAT DAWSON, TOMMIE PONDER, STEVE WILSON,  
DASHA HELMICK

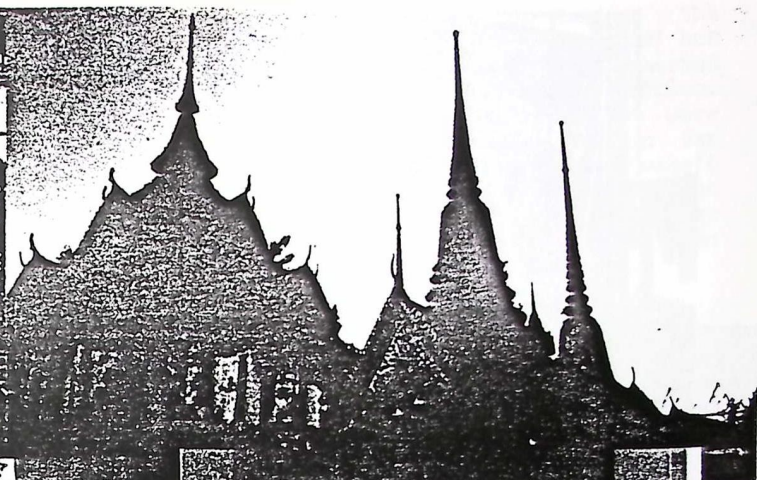


BUDDHIST CEREMONY MARBLE TEMPLE

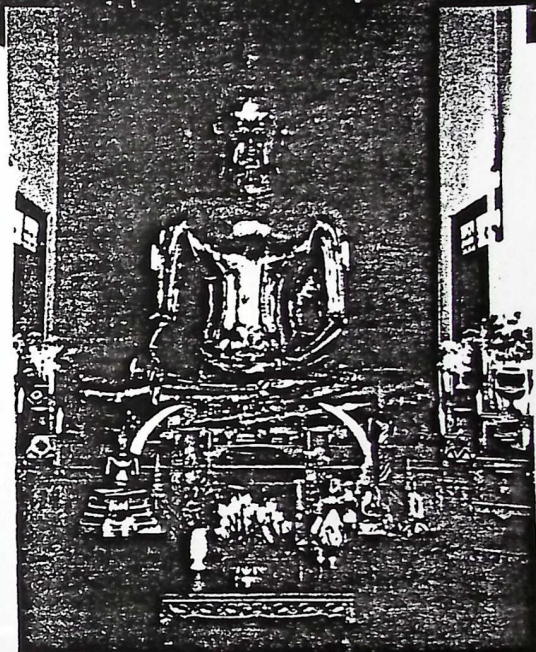




HI SAILOR, BUY US A DRINK?



BUDDHA IN THE MARBLE TEMPLE



GOLDEN BUDDHA



16 THIS IS A REAL  
PSYCHOLOGICAL IDENTITY  
CRISIS.



IF I CAN PICK HIM UP STEVE,  
YOU HIDE HIM IN THE CHAIR.



I THINK HE JUST  
PINCHED ME



G'DAY MATE, I NEED TO REGISTER

Returning to the hospitality suite, we found the Australians re-registering for more drinks. We re-grouped, checked our powder (baht) and moved out with a mob of 30 to dinner in the midst of Patpong at the Tip Top restaurant. It was really a pretty uneventful meal for all but Scott Lyon who didn't get served and kept breaking his plates on the floor to gain the waiters attention. As I recall, when he finally did get his dinner they brought it in a plastic bowl to keep him from making a mess.



THIS IS JUST A WHOLE BUNCH 'A FOLKS HAVING A GOOD TIME AT DINNER



ARLENE & SCOTT LYON, MOG BLAKY, RICHARD WEBBER,  
JOHN LA PASTIE, CLAY SCOTT, JACK ABRAHAM

ALWAYS HAVING A GOOD TIME -  
TINA HAUSER & RICHARD WEBBER 17



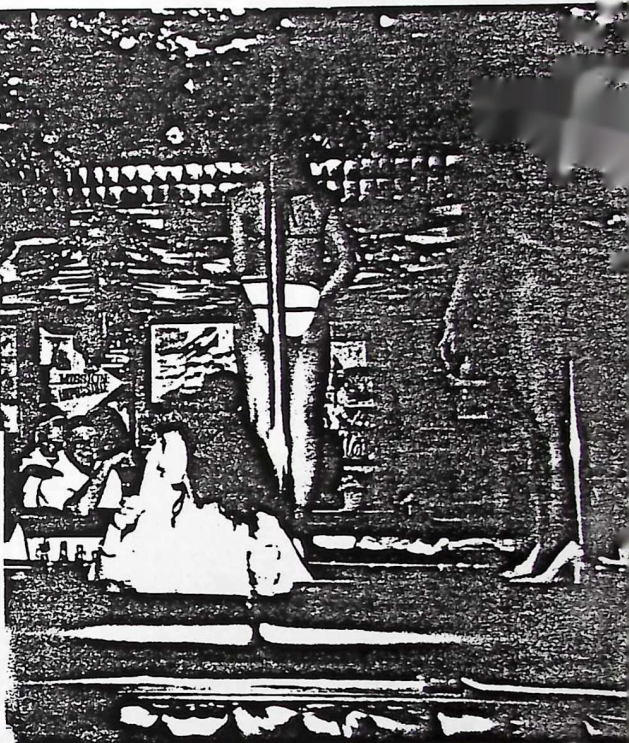
A MAJOR AWAKENING ABOUT TO OCCUR

Now's when the trouble begins. The wives of those soon-to-be-divorced but still hanging-on-by-a-thread married types, all wanted to see a nightclub. Some stupid \*@\*! agreed and we were soon situated in the Super Star Bar trying to explain that this wasn't what it actually appeared to be but was really a religious experience that young eunuchs underwent. I Didn't even get off the ground with that one.

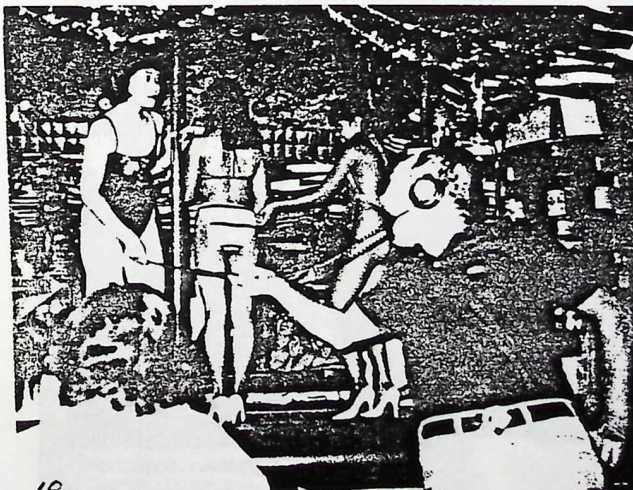


HEH HEH HEH

The owner, ex 10th SFG(A) member Bob Colflesh soon joined us and from that moment on the drinks were on the house. Bob proved not only that evening but throughout the trip, to be a gracious host and a great friend to the SOA; it was a pleasure to have met him, his brother Sam (also 10th SF) and ex SF friend, Long John-Terry Nolan. Finally to wrap up the evening, we went back to the Texxan CP and on to the hotel.



#112 BARTENDER #23 #66



18

DARWELL WIRED FOR SOUND

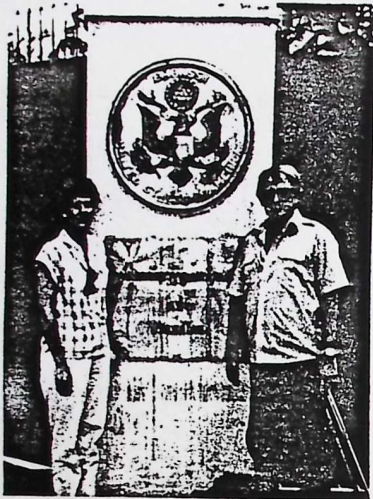


210

McClaskey  
(in Lust)

26

On Tuesday we continued to boost the Thai economy, but one of the numerous controversial events of the trip occurred. Tommie Ponder and Gary Rodriguez had brought their fiancées Lisa Elsea and Cindy Norrell with the intention of tying the knot in Bangkok at a traditional Thai wedding ceremony. In honor of the soon-to-be-married, a bachelor party was planned for Tuesday evening while the ladies were to attend a disco light show. We soon found that much to their surprise, while applying for their marriage license they were in-fact married. Evidently the traditional Thai ceremony is just that, tradition,



LISA & TOMMIE PONDER



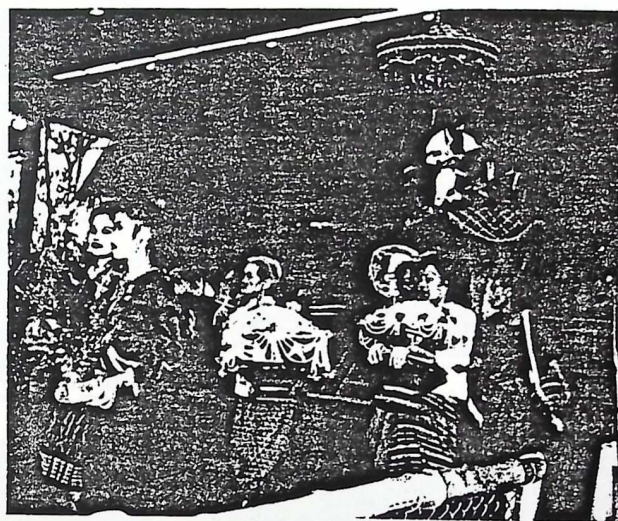
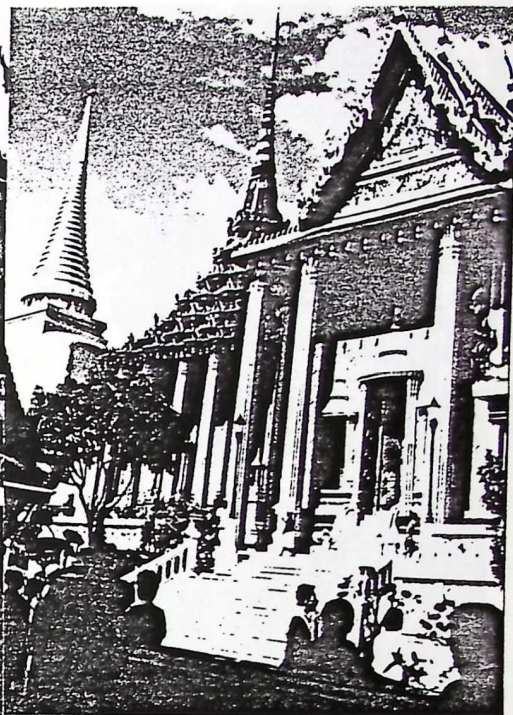
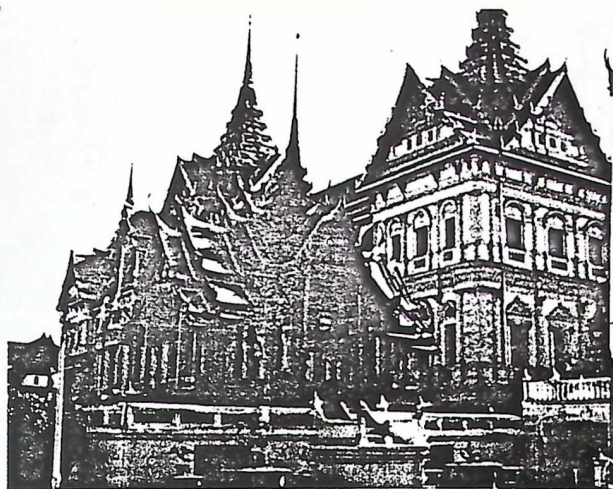
GARY & CINDY RODRIGUEZ

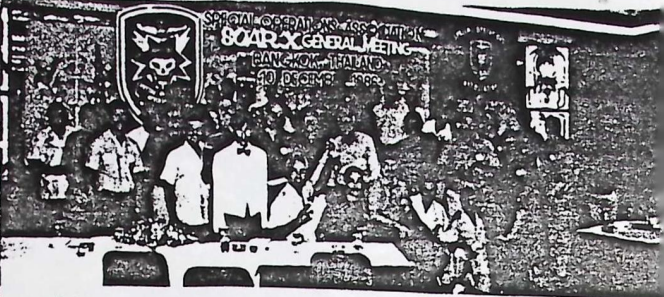
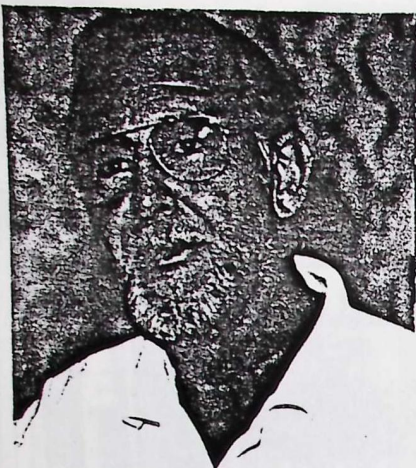
and legally when the paperwork's completed, your married. Well, not wanting to ruin a good night on the town, since it was already planned, it was decided to hold an almost-bachelor party. While the guys attempted to be bachelors, unbeknownst to us, the ladies were on Chuck Darnell's interpretation of a 'light' show which turned out to be a 'live' show. I'm told they saw amazing and wondrous things. Nuff said about the events of Tuesday; the less the better.

Wednesday was our one official day. While the guys were meeting, the ladies were taken by Major Sunanta, H.E. Gen Tienchai's daughter, a major in the Thai Army, under police escort on a rarely-glimpsed-by-anyone tour of the Royal Palace grounds, the Grand Mansion and the Emerald Buddha. This was an unusual event because much of the palace area is restricted and cannot be seen by the general public. The ladies spent the afternoon at the Rose Garden observing a broad cross section of Thai culture and tradition.



GLINDA MASSEY





THE ASSEMBLED GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
POST MEETING, PRE NO HANDS LUNCH

IN SPITE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS...



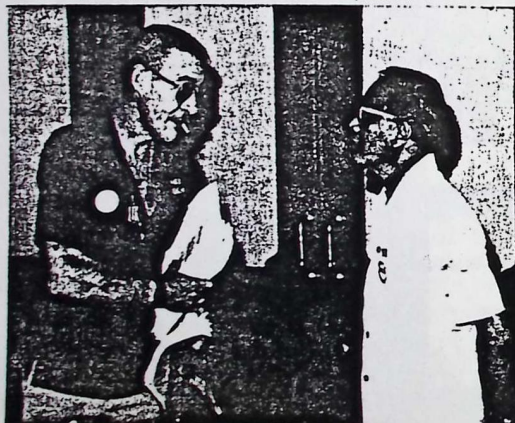
NOT PAYING ATTENTION ↑

ASLEEP ↑

OBLIVIOUS ↑



HE EVEN HAD ME PERFORM  
THE WEDDING CEREMONY



DS JOHNSON ? LTC ANOND



MAN, HE CAN'T, NOT SEVEN TIMES ? REALLY?

Col, MY HAIR USED TO BE LONGER THAN JESUS'

The general membership meeting, minutes attached, commenced at 1000 hours and ended with a "No-Hands" lunch. To say the least, lunch was unique: a chauvinists paradise. A no-hands lunch is one in which you are fed everything, you never lift a finger. The restaurant divided into a number of rooms each capable of accommodating 8-10 persons. We filled them all to capacity and sat back to enjoy ourselves. The establishment's waitresses/hostesses are responsible for feeding their clients every sip and morsel; what a wonderful way to dine. The afternoon was dedicated to recovering from lunch and preparing for the evening banquet.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - BOARD AT WORK



MASTER JOSEPH - UNCONTROLLABLE LUST



I'M SERIOUS, I'M SERIOUS



STEVE BYRNES

SIGHTSEEING  
DUANE VARG

SPIDER PARKS



# No Hand Restaurant



THE PLACE



THE ORIGINAL LEER



22 HEN, HEN, HEN, HEN



WHATS FOR DESERT? DEAR!

*The Special Operations Association*  
*cordially invites you and Lady to attend*  
*their tenth reunion banquet*  
*at the Tawana Sheraton Hotel's*  
*Crystal Ballroom*  
*on Wednesday, December 10, 1986*  
*at 18.30 hours*

*Dress:*  
*Lounge Suit or*  
*National Dress*

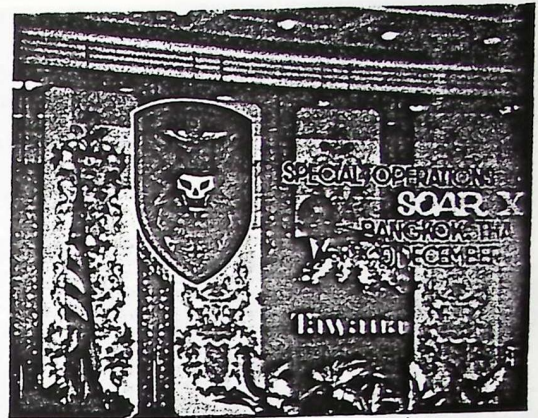
*R. S. V. P.*  
*LTC (Ret) Jack Phillips*  
*Tel: 253-2655-57*  
*252-2489, 252-1427*

Over one hundred members and guests attended the banquet to renew old friendships with counterparts. Some went a little further and attempted to stake claim to the dining tables on behalf of Australia. The Thai's retained their sovereignty and rappelled the assault. On the other hand, Tiger Rydberg came bearing gifts and donated sufficient copies of the Tony Miles' recording "Lucy's Tiger Den" for all our members. The dinner was a great success with the highlight of the evening being our guest speaker Deputy Prime Minister Tienchai. His address was of special relevance to us all and could easily be applied to any nation or fighting force. As H.E. General Tienchai so aptly put it.

"...We all recognize that our governments need alternatives to overt military actions so what is left are a myriad of actions short of war. Many of these actions are now possible because of the sophistication and experience you have brought to Special Operations. Techniques are becoming more refined in this era. Look at the requirement for counter terrorist units in almost every country. One doesn't go to a line unit, pick up a rifle platoon, and say, "now go stop that terrorist group over there!" No, it takes special training, special equipment, and special techniques -- but most of all it takes a special kind of people. Fortunately, we still have people to call upon who not only have a desire for adventure, but a willingness to sacrifice if necessary. Many of these people served under you when you were captains or majors. It is to your credit that they and their sons continue to provide and develop the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who can qualify for Special Operations units.

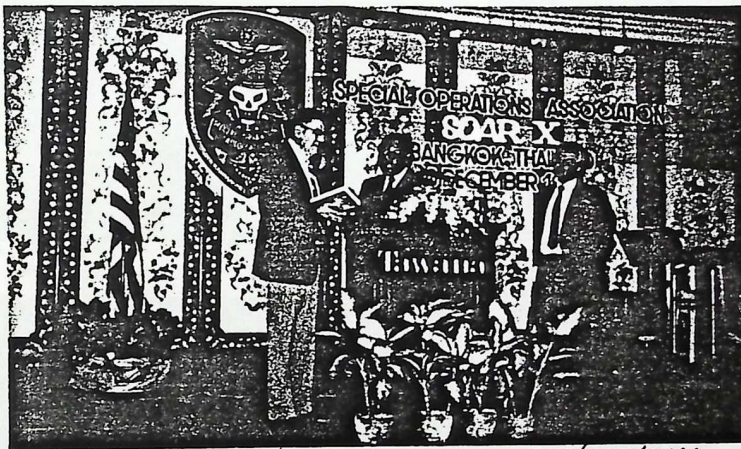
General MacArthur stated that 'in war, there is no substitute for victory'. We all agree with that great warrior. I suggest that in Special Operations there is no substitute for quality. When I speak of quality, I refer not only to people, but to equipment, support, and foresight at the highest levels to properly use Special Operations assets -- not to waste such priceless assets on requirements which can easily be fulfilled by less qualified units and personnel."

H.E. General Tienchai's address was applauded with a standing ovation.



HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL TIENCHAI

On behalf of Shelby Stanton, George Morton presented H.E. General Tienchai with a copy of Shelby's most recent book, The Green Berets at War. Scott Lyon presented the General with a custom made knife donated by Al Mar which had been mounted on an engraved wooden plaque fabricated by Jim Craig. This was an exceptionally handsome presentation gift and a great deal of thanks are owed to Al and Jim for their generosity.



GEORGE MORTON PRESENTS SHELBY'S BOOK TO H.E. GEN TIENCHAI



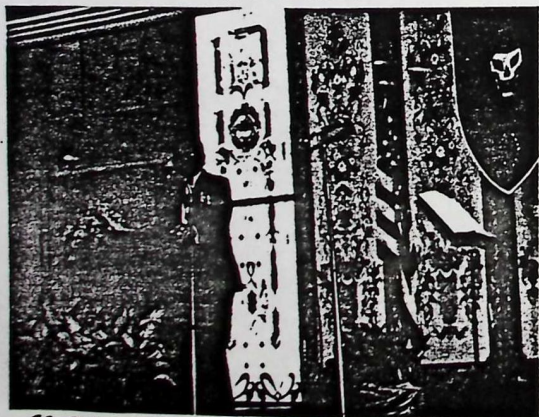
JOHN GALLAGHER, SCOT LYON, PETER LAURENCE, CLAY SCOT, GEORGE MORTON, H.E. GEN TIENCHAI, GEN ANEK, GEN PICHIT, STEVE WILSON, COL PISANWART

H.E. GEN TIENCHAI & SCOT LYON

Following impromptu comments by George Marecek, relating to his tour as the last Commander of 46th Company, as a final event of the evening, Scott Lyon relinquished the presidency to the undersigned. He was presented an engraved Special Forces statue on behalf of the membership in thanks and appreciation of his tireless dedication as President of the Association.



OUTGOING ASSN PRESIDENT SCOTT LYON, INCOMING ASSN PRESIDENT CLAYTON SCOTT



GEORGE MARECEK REMINISCING



GENERAL, WHEN THE BOLT CAME FORWARD, IT HIT ME RIGHT ON THE END OF THIS THUMB.



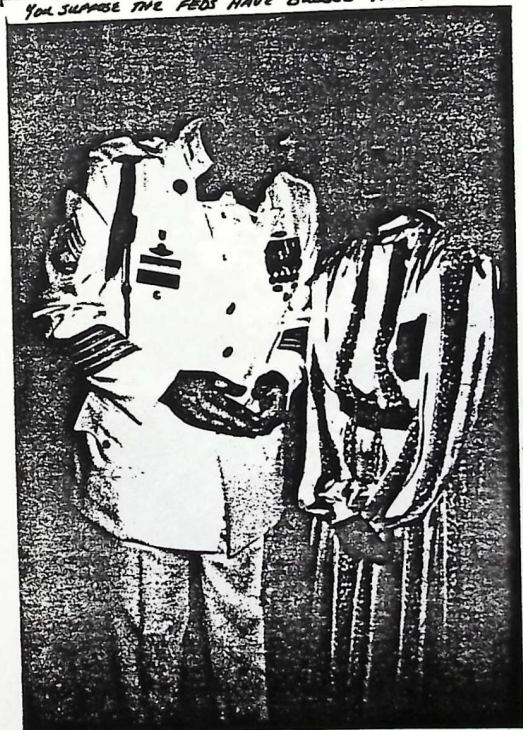
RICHARD WEBBER & STEVE WILSON  
ATTEMPTING TO BE SABAR-SOMBER.



WE CLAIM THIS TABLE ON BEHALF OF THE SOVEREIGN STATES OF AUSTRALIA



YOU SUPPOSE THE FEDS HAVE BUGGED THIS TABLE?



26 GEORGE & VIRGINIA PARRIS - WATCH OUT FOR THAT GUY MARYSEJOSEPH NES ALL HANDS.

... AND WHEN HE LOOKS AWAY, YOU GO



GENERAL, I PUT MY MODOY ON IN THE FIFTH BUT THEY FOUND THE NEEDLE UNDER THE SADDLE.



BENJAMIN & ROY DANE

GALLAGHER SUPERVISING LISA & TOMMYE POWDER ON THEIR WEDDING WENT



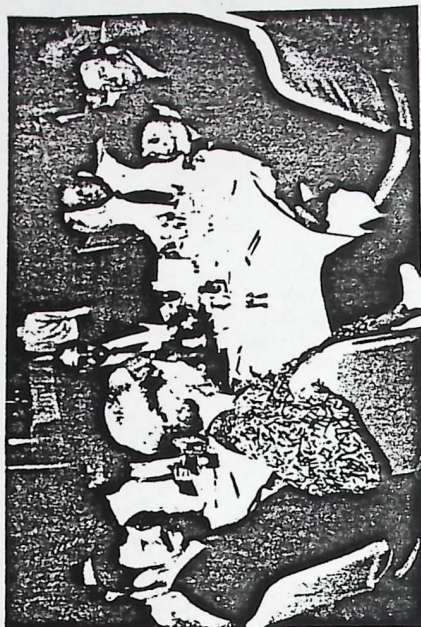
John; Carol Mead, John LaPointe, Gus Picotte  
Jim Marino



Sam Colfiesh, Virginia Farris, Bob Colfiesh, George Farris,  
Lark, George Gortner, Terry Dolan, George Pines



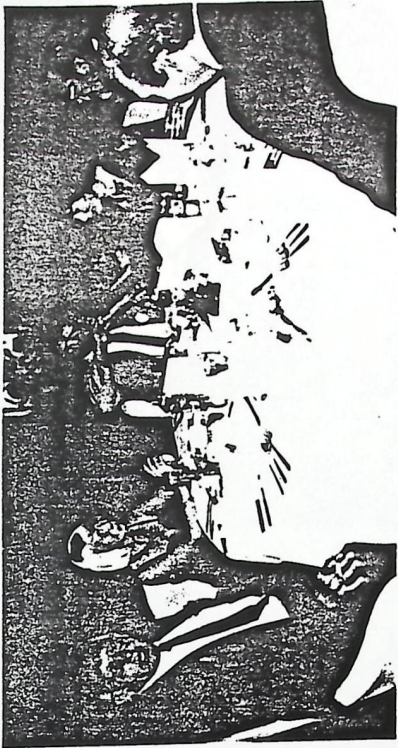
Time Rydberg, Chuck Dawell, Lisa; Tommy Fowler, Cindy;  
Gree Rodiguez, Dick Sommers, Gust, Mrs Rydberg



Glinda Masser, Jan Ripberger, Jim Cipolla, Ted Smith,  
Bob LeBlayner, Earl Tisme, John Cardiss,  
Theresa Strube



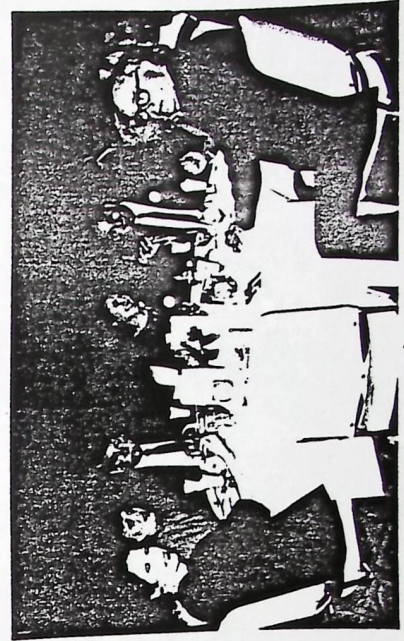
RAULI; JIM CRAIG, BOB COLLINGSWOOD, STAVE BHELES,  
LUCY; MIKE DUGGAN, BOB MARTIN JOSEPH



KAP; PAT DAWSON, PAUL TRACY, ANNA CAROLINE, JOHN  
FEYER, BOB JOHNSON



GLENN TIECHER'S AIDE, JACK ABERNATHY, NUGEN TAYLOR, BOB JOHNSON,  
JULIANE GUST, CAROL MULLER



JIM CARA MATT, TOMMIE; MOB BLAKEY, TINA HOLMES,  
RICHARD WEDDER, NUGEN TAYLOR

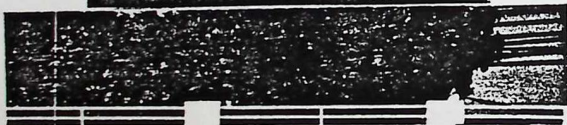
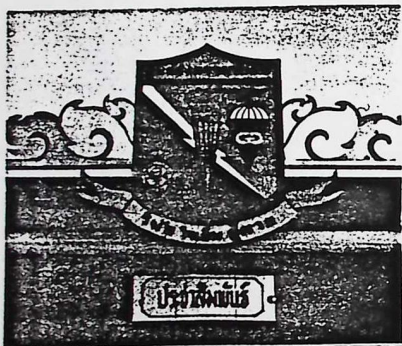
Thursday the 11th was a free day devoted by most to individual sightseeing, shopping and dining in Bangkok's countless restaurants. A few members were afforded the opportunity to attend a ceremony in which H.E. General Tienchai was presented his second award of the US Legion of Merit for his continued contributions to Thai/American relations. We then attended a private luncheon with H.E. General Tienchai and his lovely wife and a select group of the General's friends.

Pete Laurence, Dave (DS) Johnson and Bob Masterjoseph (recently divorced again) culminated a week of counter-red tape efforts. Thanks to Bangkok resident SOA member Col. Anond; Lacey Wright, Embassy Refugee Affairs Coordinator and some well placed Thai assistance, they were able to make an 800 K. round trip visit to Camp Site II, home of 145 thousand non-communist refugees situated along the Thai/Cambodian border. They were able to interview and photograph eight Vietnamese who served with Special Forces; details of the visit and photographs are attached.

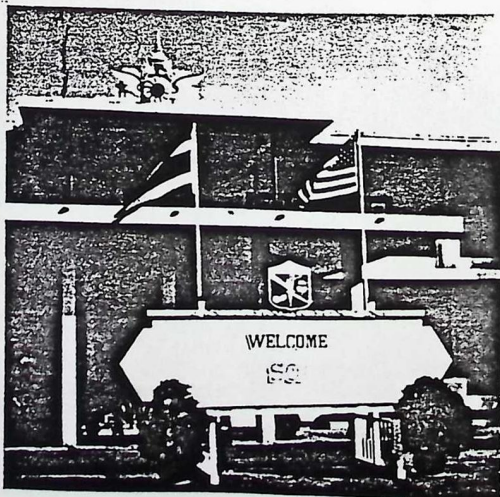
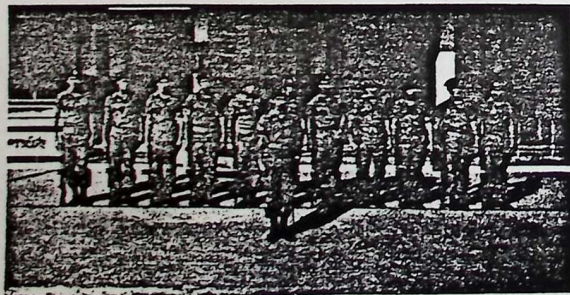
Friday at 0500 hours in the morning, our entire group boarded two airconditioned buses for a day as the guests of LTG Wimol, CG of the Special Warfare Command, MG Tanapol, DCG and MG Woravit, CG of the Special Warfare Center at Lopburi.



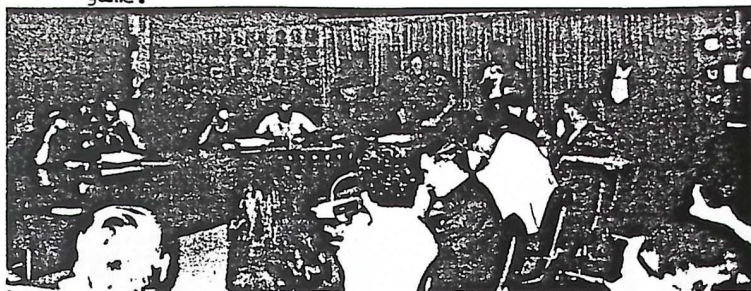
GOSH, 0500 HOURS IS FUN.



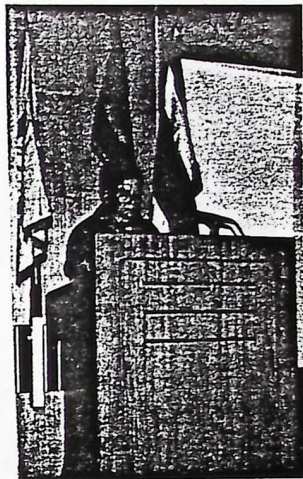
กองรักษาการ



Passing a 12 man honor guard at the entrance to the Headquarters, we were ushered into the command briefing room for a welcome and introduction by MG Tanapol. Immediately afterwards we bused to the nearby Srakaew Zoo for a survival and reptile handling demonstration. We were given an explanation of the numerous edible and poisonous plants of the Thai countryside, and then shown a very impressive array of slithering critters handled by members of the Special Warfare Command. Wow, they've got all the snakes in the world in Lopburi. It's one thing in the Ranger Department to see someone playing with a rattlesnake but a King Cobra more than 12 feet long - whole different ball game.



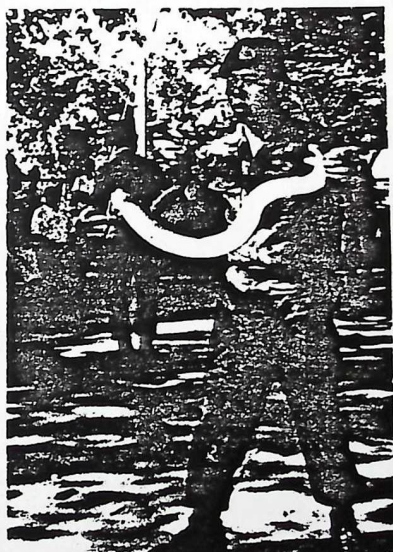
*SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND BRIEFING*



*MG TANAPOL'S WELCOME ADDRESS*



*GREAT APPODISIAC - HA!*



*THIS IS HOW TO MAKE THE BOOTS*



*NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?*

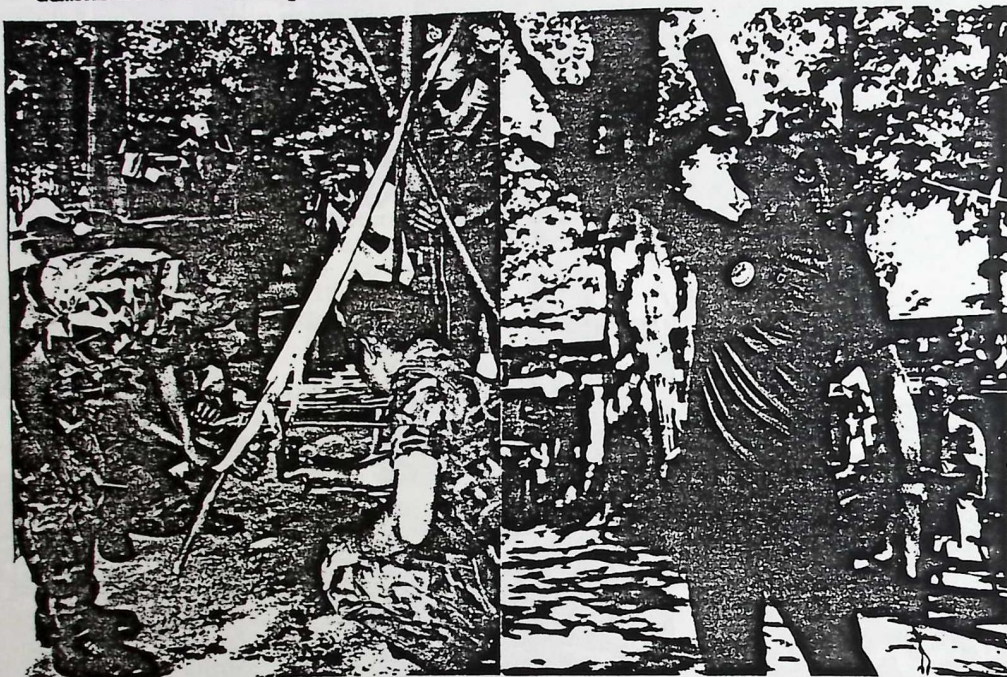


*32 WHEN YOU FIND THEM IN THE GARDEN, GRAB THE TAIL & JUST PULL*



*THE AUDIENCE RESPONDS*

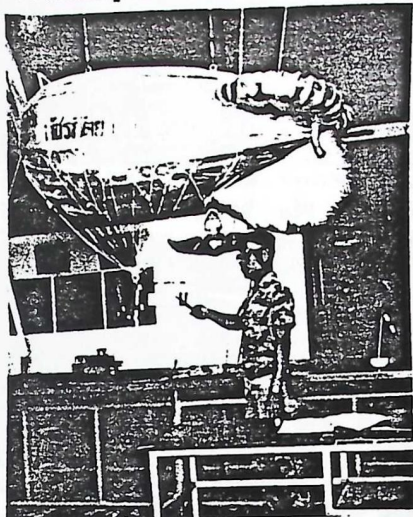
In addition to some very impressive snake handling, our demonstrators saw fit to display the versatility of the snake to jungle survival. They explained that cobra blood mixed with rice wine was an excellent stimulant (and of course an aphrodisiac) and could be used to warm the body. Although they never explained how someone surviving in the jungle would catch a cobra whose blood he was to obtain, nor where he was to get the rice wine for mix, they did create this concoction and needless-to-say, fed it to us. Being with General Tanapol, Scott Lyon and I were forced to graciously display our machismo and each drink a glass of this goop (the General thought we were great). Then, Pete Laurence spied the bottle they were pouring from and having gone without a drink all morning, in a fit of delirium tremens, thinking it was booze, drank all the rest; really a class act. Even the demonstrators were impressed.



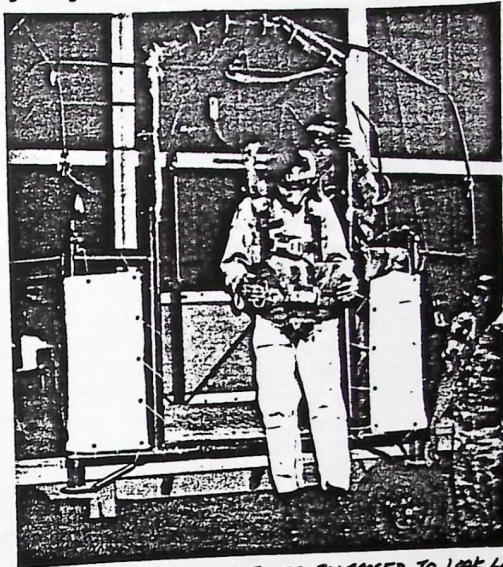
*FIRST YOU CATCH THE SNAKE, BLEED IT, MIX WITH RICE WINE, THEN FIND A SUCKER -  
PETE, FRONT & CENTER*



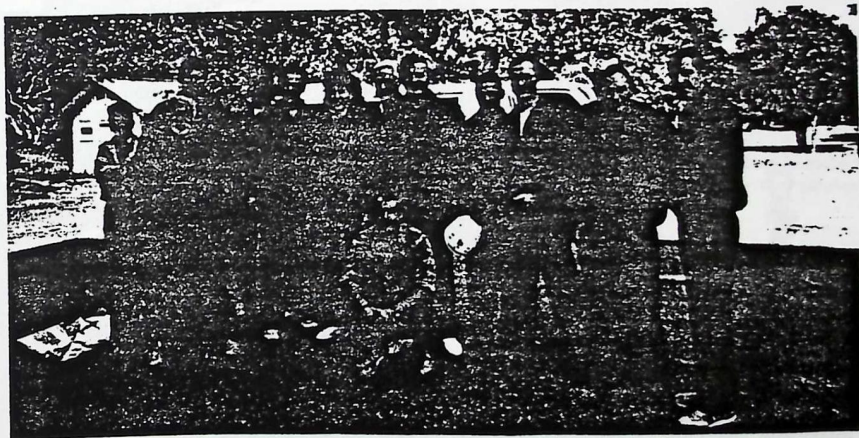
At about 1000 hours we headed for the hangar and our long awaited balloon jump. Unfortunately, by the time we arrived the wind had come up to the point that they couldn't control the balloon and our jump had to be cancelled. Amidst a great deal of disappointment, wiser heads prevailed and our Belgian Thai SF advisor, LTC Jimmy, discovered an apparently serviceable, but idle, CH34 helicopter. Didn't take real long to grab onto that one.



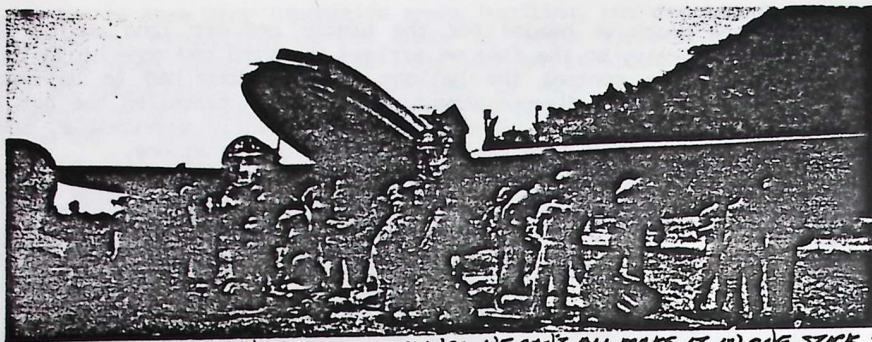
*WE'RE GOING TO JUMP A WHAT?*



*THIS DUMMIES, IS WHAT ITS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE.*



Carl Winkler, Tony McIntosh, Bob Ledellaytner, Jim Martin, Steve Byres, Bob Johnston, Clay Scott  
Paul Tracy, Jim & Randi Craig, Scott Lyon, Jack Phillips, John Gallagher, Gene McCarthy  
Greg Rodriguez



"I'm telling ya, I know about airplanes, we can't all make it in one stick."

With jump suits donated by Bob Colflesh (Super Star Bar), 19 of us chuted up, divided into two sticks and headed for the H34. Of course by now the wind had died down to the point that the balloon was again feasible, but a bird in the hand etc - we stuck with the H34. By now conditions were ideal and the jump was quite enjoyable. But, as an interesting aside, Scott Lyon was to jump first on a single pass as wind dummy. The second pass was to be me, Paul Tracy and an Australian, Tony McIntosh. After Scott exited and just before I got in the door, I reached over to Tony, who was sitting beside me, slapped him on the arm and hollered "isn't this great!" (its 90 outside, we're jumping at only 70 knots and it really was magnificent). His eyes were the size of saucers and he gave me so sickly a stare that it was akin to stark terror. As it was only a rope jump, if he was really that scared I didn't want to rub it in too badly so I went about my business getting in the door etc. The jump went fine.



SANDER PARIS BEING COOL



GOD BLESS THE KING BEE!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE HAD TO TAKE A SOBRIETY TEST FIRST?



AIR MATTRESS

At the Ft. Narai Officers Club luncheon following the jump, we were entertained by music and singers from the Psy Ops Battalion band and classical dancing by members of the Lapburi Dramatic Dancing College. During the ceremony awarding Thai parachute wings, General Tanapol said, and not too happily, that it had been discovered (honestly unbeknownst to any of us) that one of our parachutists, who was believed to be with the Australian SAS, was in fact in the Army, but a leg - Tony McIntosh. All of a sudden that terrified expression made sense. Evidently he indicated on the application that he was airborne and believing him to be SAS, because we knew that the other Australian's were, his credentials weren't questioned. Well, after lots of apologies we were exonerated and 19 of us, including Tony, received Thai parachute wings. Following the awards ceremony Scott Lyon presented both General Tanapol and General Woravit with SOA plaques expressing our appreciation for their gracious hospitality. Thus ended one of the real highlights of the trip. To our magnificent hosts we are greatly indebted.



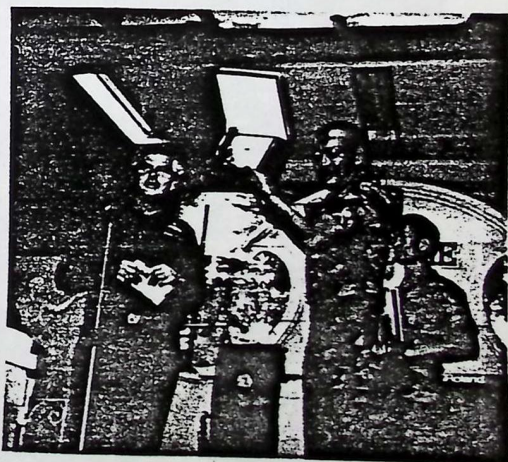
GIMMIE THAT FORK, ITS MY TURN



QUICK, SOMEBODY HOLD MASTER JOSEPH



TO MG TANAPOL



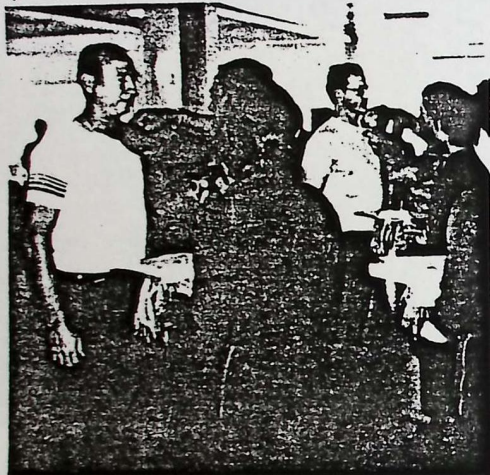
TO MG WORAVIT

SCOTT PRESENTING SOA PLAQUES

OUR GRACIOUS HOSTS



HE REALLY DID LAND ON HIS HEAD.



SPIDER PARKS; JOHN GALLAGHER GET THAI WINGS



BOB LEDELLAYDER IN HALF CAMMIES;  
STEVE BYRNES RECEIVE THEIR  
THAI WINGS



THIS IS WHAT AIRBORNE TROOPS ARE SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE



JIM MARTIN RECEIVES HIS WINGS



SOMEBODY JUST PUNCHED ME

After returning to Bangkok we had just enough time to grab a quick beer before the final official event of the reunion, the River Cruise. We again boarded our buses and were taken to a private, teak barge for a dinner cruise along the Chao Phraya River and to view the evening sights of Bangkok; a fitting way to end a great trip. A good dinner, the remainder of our booze and our usual raucous, boisterous behavior, we had a super time. With the end of the cruise and our return to the Tawana Sheraton, thus ended SOAR X - Bangkok, Thailand.



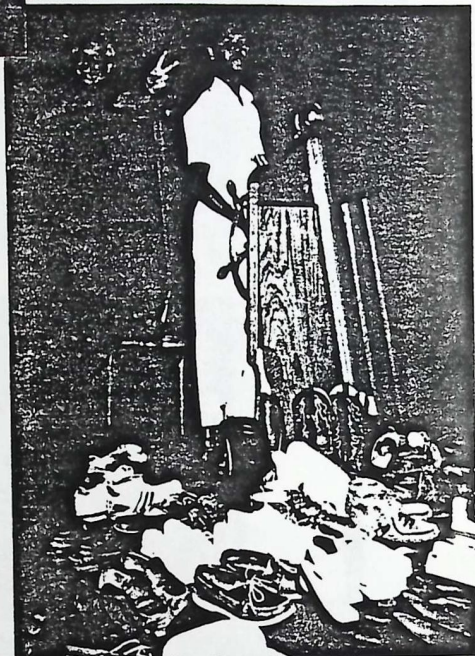


RODRIGUEZ, DARNELL & GALLAGHER ENJOYING

DON'T PULL HIM IN, WE JUST THREW HIM OUT.



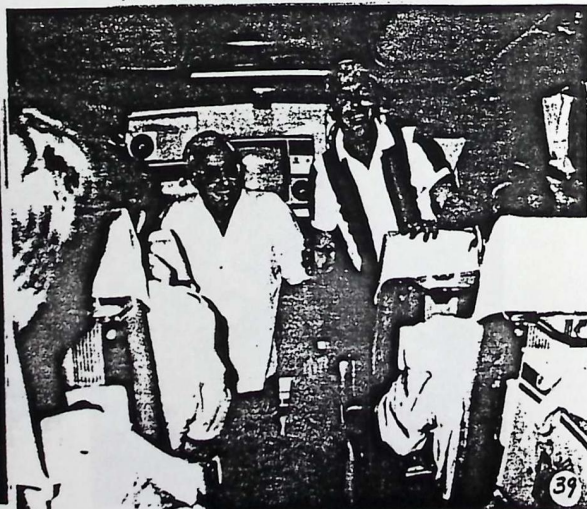
AND THE FIRST PRIZE IS ...



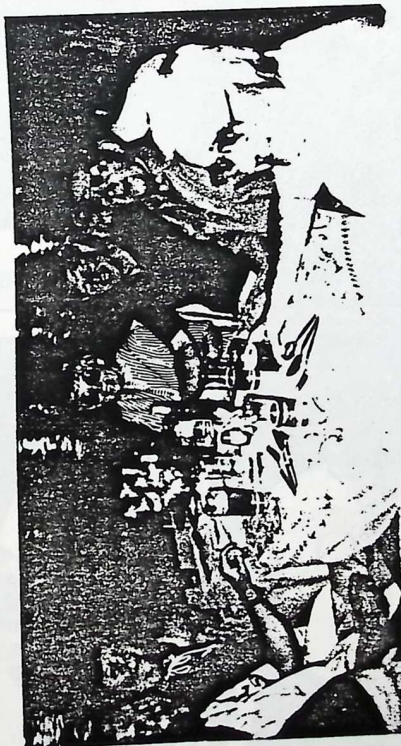
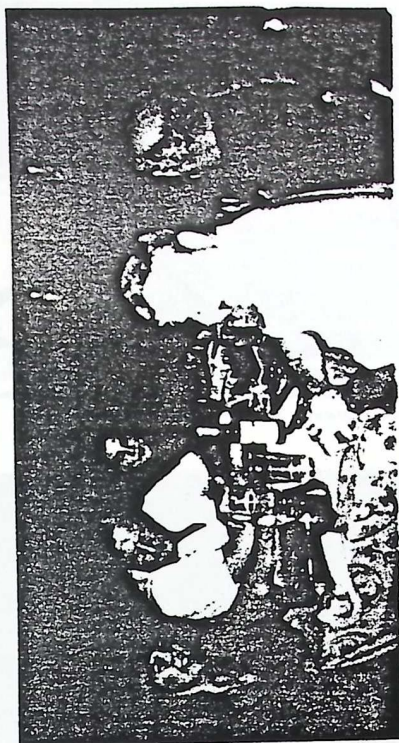
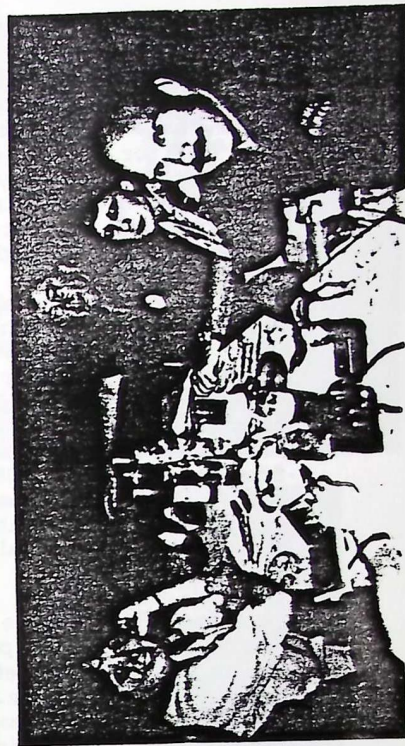
TWO DOZEN OODOR EATERS PLEASE



...AND THE LAST PRIZE IS ...



WE'LL NEVER GET THIS THING TO FLY WITH THIS LOAD



A couple or post scripts are in order.

To protect his anonymity, without naming anyone in particular a once medic now doctor, bachelor, reportedly stopped by the hotel bar for a night cap and was overcome with lust for a lovely child (22) who had stopped by to ask directions on her way home from the convent. Well, our doctor was so overcome with the sincerity of this child that he offered her a place to stay for the evening so she wouldn't have to expose herself to the unsavory elements that might possibly confront her. The following morning our unfortunate friend (the Dr. not the child) found that he had been had. When the child split for the convent at 0330 hours, she took along our friends wallet \$750.00 (U.S.) and credit cards. Sadly, the wallet and the honey disappeared and neither were located. There must be a moral to his tale; just travelers checks???

Item two and far more seriously intended. A number of people provided an enormous amount of time and effort in making the Bangkok trip possible. Jack Abraham was responsible for almost all the hotel arrangements which included coordinating for special events such as the general membership meeting and the banquet; those projects alone were major undertakings. Jack also coordinated for and set up the tailors, jewelers, cobblers and tour guides. Scott Lyon helped coordinate much of the hotel activities to include the establishment of the hospitality suite. Chuck Darnell staffed the registration desk of the hospitality suite all day for three consecutive days. He helped coordinate many of the tours we were on and was instrumental in the success of the Lopburi trip. Bob Colflesh, George Goetzke, LTC Jimmy, John LaPaille, Al Mar, George Pipas, Jack Phillips, Tiger Rydberg and Sheraton Group Manager, MS Kwan supported this major effort; without them it would not have been possible. Lastly, and most importantly, to General Tienchai, LTC Wimol, MG Tanapol, MG Woravit, the officers and men of the Thai Special Forces and the magnificent people of that most beautiful country, our heartfelt thanks for your support, your time, your loyalty and finally, for your friendship.



WHOSE BEDS SLEEPING IN MY BED ?



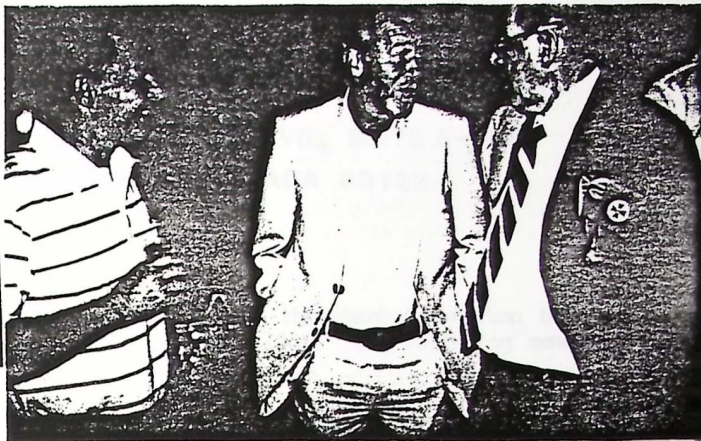
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT WE DID ...



... ON THEY'LL BELIEVE IT ALL RIGHT.



CAN I FIND THAT ON AGAIN THIA?



HE SAID HE'S FROM THE IRS AND HE'S HERE TO HELP U.S.



GEORGE MARBCK, EARL THIEME, GEN ANEK, GEORGE MORTON, SCOT LYON



in REALLY too old for this stuff



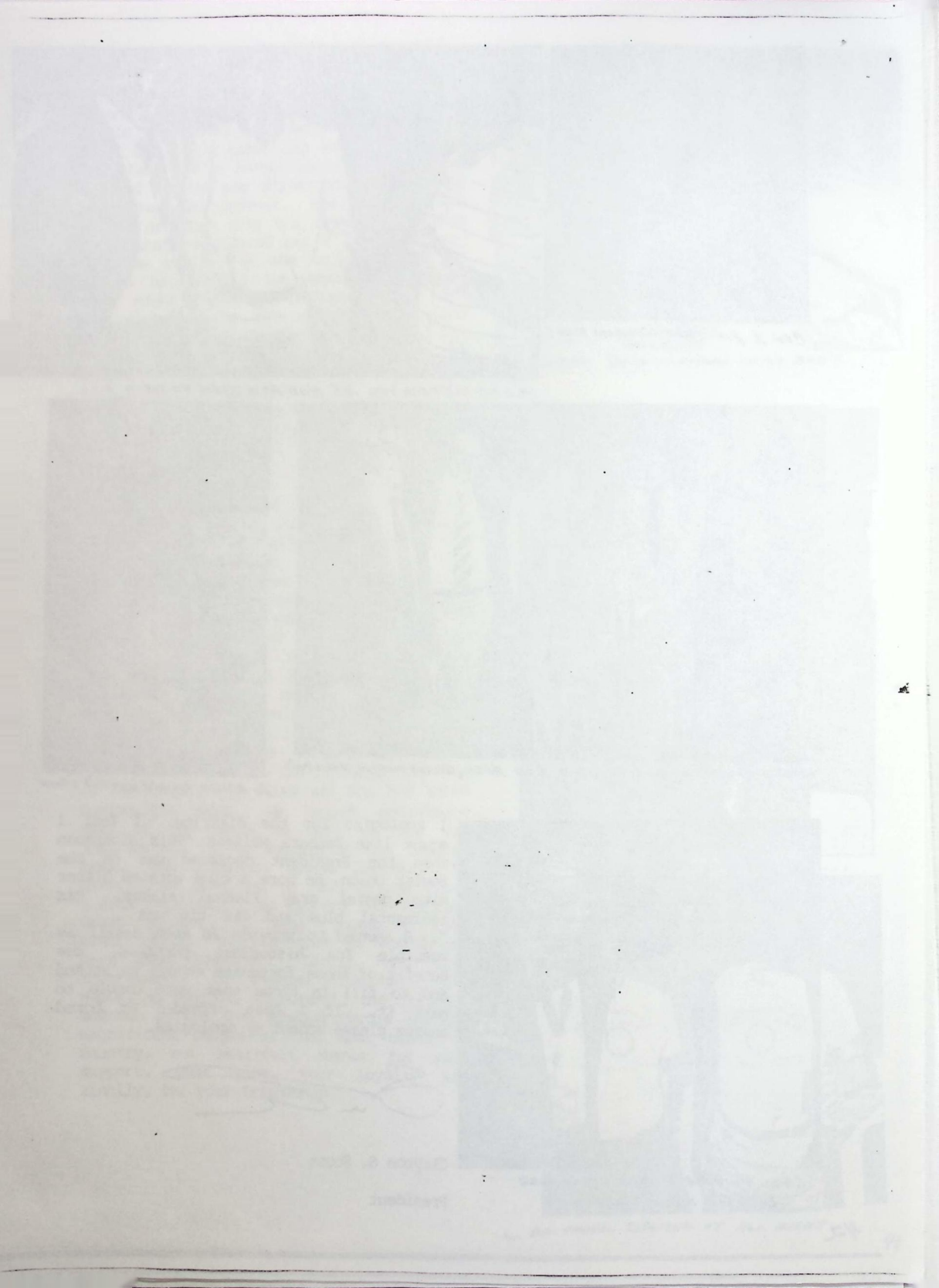
EARL THIEME & GEORGE MARBCK  
LOOKING SUAVE & DEBONAIR

I apologize for the diatribe. I feel I sound like Barbara Walters "This afternoon when the President declared war on the Soviet Union, he wore a blue worsted blazer with pastel gray flannel slacks. His regimental blue and red tie was". I wanted to provide as much detail as possible for historical purposes, the benefit of those fortunate enough to attend and to fill in those that were unable to make it. If I have offended or bored anyone please accept my apologies.

*Clayton S. Scott*

Clayton S. Scott

President





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. CHARLESTON BLVD., SUITE 5-583F  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122

The General Membership Meeting was convened in the Tawana Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand at 1000 hours on 10 December 1986. The following members and guests attended the meeting:

Clayton S. Scott  
Chuck Darnell  
John LaPaille  
George Marecek  
Ray Dawson  
John C. Gallagher  
Gregory Rodriguez  
Tommie Ponder  
David (DS) Johnson  
Anond Srivardhana  
Earl L. Thieme  
John A. Garrison  
Peter A. Laurence  
Steve Wilson  
Des Aylett (AATTIV)  
John Mead  
Hugh Taylor  
Jan P. Reifenberg  
Bob Johnston  
John R. Fryer  
Jim Craig  
Don Lord (AATTIV)  
George Morton

Scott Lyon  
Jack Abraham  
Gene McCarthy  
Jim Steele  
Paul V. Tracy  
Duane C. Vierk  
Dick Sommers  
Jim Martin  
Dave Ryder  
GA "Moe" Blakey  
Richard Weber  
James P. Cipolla  
Steve Byrnes  
Bob Masterjoseph  
Mike Duggan  
C. Jeff Miller  
Roy W. Bahr  
John McClaskey  
Robert J. Parks  
Ronald L. Collingwood  
Tony McIntosh (AATTIV)  
Don Palmer (AATTIV)

### Financial Report:

A financial report (attached) was provided by the Association President, Scott Lyon, on behalf of the Treasurer (absent). A motion was made and the financial report was accepted.

It was noted that the SOAR X convention was in large part funded by the individuals present and to the extent possible was financially independent of the General Fund.



You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.

#### Old Business:

1. The Governor of Nevada was scheduled to draw the Scholarship Fund raffle ticket in December 1986; results of the drawing will be published in the SOAR X after-action report. Ed Clough deserves special recognition for having collected over \$11,000.00 for the Scholarship Fund. A large part of this money resulted from Ed's personal efforts and single handedly staffing a booth during the entire period of the Armed Forces Week celebration in San Francisco.
2. The Association has heard from two of the scholarship award recipients, Benjamin Redman, and Jennifer Bott; both are doing well and expressed their appreciation to the members of the Association.

#### New Business:

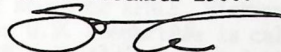
1. It was re-affirmed that the 1987 reunion, SOAR XI, will be held in Las Vegas, NV from 03 to 06 December.
2. The location for the 1988 reunion will be left to a decision of the membership; emphasis is to be placed on an East US Coast or Caribbean location.
3. A motion was made to discontinue the current five color SOA logo (skull with beret, anchor & aviation wings). Following discussion the motion was overturned and it was voted to retain the existing logo.

#### Good of the Order:

1. Pete Laurence briefed the membership on a forthcoming trip to refugee Camp Site II on the Thai/Combodian border to be conducted by Dave Johnson, Bob Masterjoseph and Pete Laurence. Details to be provided in the SOAR X after-action report.
2. Dave Johnson briefed on the Montagnard Resettlement Program in North Carolina and the fund raising efforts of Bob Lyons, Gene Bland, Ron DeCarlo, John Plaster, J.D. Bath, Ned Kinsley, John Thomas, Bernie Bright, Butch Craig, D.S. Johnson and et al. Donations should be addressed to: General Cooperative Montagnard Association (GOMA), c/o Astroid, Rte 3, Box 115, Asheboro, NC 27203; checks should be payable to: Montagnard Resettlement Fund.
3. Montagnards having served with SOA approved organization were determined to be eligible for general membership.
4. (Closed session): The membership voted overwhelmingly to commit approximately \$5,000.00 to a special donation project which will be announced following its presentation. Significant individual contributions to this project were also provided by John Gallagher, John Fryer, Dave Ryder and Richard Sommers.
5. Chuck Healey of Phoenix Project has reportedly been hospitalized in Fairfax, VA.

6. Harold Dreblow has been seriously injured and is reported to be in stable condition in the hospital in Florida.
6. It was unanimously agreed by the membership that an association membership roster should be promulgated and distributed to the membership. The roster should contain names, addresses and phone numbers of the membership. The after-action report will provide a return-mail questionnaire for those persons not wanting any or all of their personal data distributed.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 1200 hours on 10 December 1986.



Clayton S. Scott  
President, 1987

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following schedule provides information concerning forthcoming reunions involving special operations type activities which may be of interest to the general membership.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>POC</u>
General Cooperative Montagnard Association Party	25-26 April '87	Asheboro, NC	Gene Bland Rte 3 Box 115 Asheboro, NC 27203 (919) 241-2270
1st Special Forces Group (ABN) 30th Year Reunion	22-28 June '87	Tacoma, WA	Harold Jacobson 38725 Lexington St., #117 Fremont, CA 94536 (415) 791-7363
Special Forces Association Convention 1987	1-5 July '87	Honolulu, HI	Travel Resources Unlimited 1311 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 400 Honolulu, HI 96814 (800) 367-8047 X121
Australian Army Training Team Vietnam 25th Anniversary Reunion	31 July - 2 Aug. '87	Sidney, Australia	Clayton Scott 1040 Sycamore Drive Millbrae, CA 94030 (H) (415) 872-2616 (W) (415) 876-2155
Special Operations Association Reunion XI	3-6 December '87	Las Vegas, NV	Operations Order to be Published @ Sept. 1987.

To: Clayton Scott  
President  
Special Operations Association  
1040 Sycamore Dr.  
Millbrae, CA 94030

Re: SOAR X  
Gift to "Frenchy" Amundson

1/30/87

Dear Clayton,

As you recall at the SOAR X General Membership Meeting, one of the motions made and passed, was to remember "Frenchy" who could not attend this year, with a gift.

The hat was passed, far exceeding the stated amount which attests to the generosity of SOAR Members, or more likely to their degree of respect for our dear Frenchy.

Resisting the fleeting temptation to invest the proceeds into real estate in the Patpong, the SOAR X Gift Committee after much looking and skillful bargaining with the indigenous, acquired two gifts on SOAR's behalf.

- 1) An ivory carved mother elephant about 4" tall with 6 baby elephants carved at her base. Not only would this in our opinion be a unique addition to her many interesting curio's and awards, but it expresses her oft stated feelings of us being the "boys" of her Special Forces "Family" .. On the bottom of the base is stated:

TO FRENCHY, OUR THOUGHTS ARE ALWAYS WITH YOU  
1986 SOAR X BANGKOK, THAILAND

- 2) A gold dinner ring with a diamond in the middle surrounded by four green emeralds, similarly signifying Frenchy's brightness of spirit, may it also be surrounded by and protected by SOAR & It's members.

Attached is the accounting of the monies, and the gifts themselves for you to forward appropriately.

Sincerely,

*Pete Laurence*  
Peter A. Laurence  
SOAR X Gift Committee

## AFTER ACTION REPORT

To: SOAR X and SF Association

From: Pete Laurence

Re: Visit To Camp Site II  
Refugee Camp at Thai/Cambodian border

1/10/87

In addition to the many refugee camps throughout Southeast Asia, there are 6 major camps along the Thai/Cambodian border holding hundreds of thousands of refugees from the communist conquests of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The camps contain different factions be they Khmer Rouge or KPNLF, Vietnamese etc, but the one most closely identified with former U.S. supporters is called Camp Site II. This camp currently holds 145,000 refugees of which 3,442 are Vietnamese Land Refugees having reached Thailand overland across Cambodia. This is also the camp from which 209 Montagnards recently (11/24/86) arrived in the United States and where more are expected to arrive.

For numerous reasons, access to the camps is severely restricted and definitely keeps out the curious and tourists as well as discourages any picture taking. With a letter preceding us by Pete, and visits to the American Embassy in Thailand by Pete Laurence, Bob Master Joseph and David S. Johnson, permission was granted by the American Embassy and Thai government.

Representing ourselves, SOAR X and The Special Forces Association, we chartered an approved driver and car through the embassy (\$70 day+gas&Tip) and left Bangkok before sunrise 12/11/86 230 Kilometers to Aranypathet, 6 Klics from Cambodia. North of Aranypathet we stopped at Task Force 80 to get final papers from the Thai authorities that oversee all the U.N. sponsored camps. (Here we should have specifically requested permission to take photos). Accomplishing this we then paralleled the Cambodian border 170 klics north to Camp Site II. On the way we passed Camp Khao I Dang which is due to be closed in January because of the Free Worlds slowness in taking refugees off the Thai government's hands. After passing through villages, fields, jungle, and about 15 military outpost checkpoints we arrived at Camp Site II uneventfully. (A few days before the North Vietnamese had done some shelling, and there was a firefight this day which killed 1 Thai soldier, but we weren't part of it.)

The camp is located on fairly level, fertile ground with forested mountains to the west, and Cambodia 1 Klic to the east. The camp itself (145,000 people) is broken into many sub-camps, each with it's own bamboo fenced perimeter, administration, dispensary, garden areas, shade trees, etc. Each sub-camp has Thai guarded entrances requiring passes, and are interconnected by graded red dirt roads with deep drainage ditches on each side. While driving through more, we basically saw 2 of the sub-camps, 1 Khmer and 1 Vietnamese Land Refugee, therefore we realize it is possible that our observations were limited and may or may not be typical of the entire facility.

The Khmer camp seemed to have more facilities with meeting rooms, craft working, weaving and sowing buildings etc., as well as a small fire station. The Vietnamese however said they had a meeting hall, coffee house and "hospital", but that was about it. All the people appeared to be housed in uniform family-sized thatch huts with individual small garden areas and common banks of stainless steel water tanks from which to get cooking water by bucket. There clothing appeared to be adequate with a blend of traditional and western, and we saw numerous boxes of canned food, bags of rice, and no obvious signs of malnutrition. Overall I personally was convinced that the western aid does get to the refugees themselves, and impressed with the cleanliness, attention to sanitation, food, shelter, and organization of the camps which (after 7+ years) appears adequate, but can do little to cure what is still an imprisoned existence with boredom, uncertainty, and no future until and if sponsored to a receiving nation. These people have

Cont.

lost their country, their homes, many members of their families, have suffered terribly in their escaping across Cambodia, live under the threat that any day the Vietnamese communists might attack or that the Thai government may close their camp and push them back across the border, and yet they seemed to have an indomitable spirit, ability to survive, and desire to get out, preferably to the United States.

Within the Vietnamese Land Refugee Camp, we were able to observe conditions, ask about particular Vietnamese friends we were looking for (with no luck), and meet with some veterans who had worked with Special Forces or SOG in combat. The Vietnamese Camp Leader spoke fairly good English and learning what we wanted produced a new arrival who had been an interpreter, and produced the leader of the "Former Military Association". Of the 3,442 in camp, 591 veterans and dependants belonged to this association. Of this they show 18 were officers, 55 were NCO's, 99 privates, 82 VNG employees, 8 U.S. employees and the rest dependants. Most of the veterans had been ARVN (including some LLDB), some CIDG type Home Defense forces, and 18 that had been in Mike Force.

The people in this Vietnamese camp were pretty organized with rosters by name. The roster of the Former Military Association had each man's name, his TC# which is how the camps identify him, his date and place of birth, his previous rank, unit served with, How long they'd been held in communist prison after the fall, and when they arrived in Thailand. This one line listing printed in English was very helpful but understandably abbreviated and couldn't put down all of one's unit assignments. Going over this roster we spent several hours meeting and talking with 5 men who'd served in combat with Special Forces or SOG and with 3 others who were exceptional. We also asked about Montagnards, but as the authorities had told us, they also said they didn't know of any being in the camp. (The 209 in North Carolina told us there'd be many more coming, but apparently they're still in Cambodia).

Attached are photos and information on the 8 men in case they are sought after by any of our members, or in case anyone is interested in they or a group they know possibly sponsoring any of these SF related refugees. We cautioned these people against getting their hopes up over our visit, and we herein also caution the readers that we can't verify the information herein, we have only put down what their records and themselves have told us. (Their memory of American names is approx)

Anyone interested in pursuing this further should write:

Mr. Lacy A. Wright Jr.  
Refugee and Migration Affairs  
American Embassy Bangkok  
APO San Francisco 96346

Additional communication by mail is now possible from them to the National Special Forces association, to be used by only those former Vietnamese/Montagnard soldiers who worked with Special Forces/SOG in combat.

I have also included our pictures taken of the camp and trip for member's use, complete with explanatory captions.

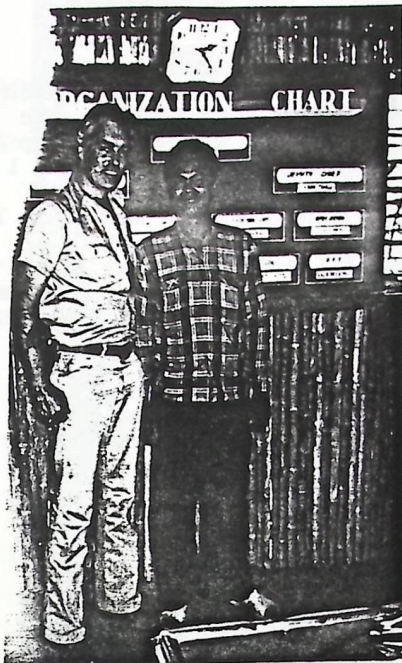
I must add that this After-Action Report is my observations to the best of my ability. It is possible that Bob or Dave saw some of this in a different light.

Sincerely,

Appendix Attached:

A= Photos & Info on the 8 men  
B= Photos of the Trip & Camp

Peter A. Laurence  
SFA#M-2293, SOA#456  
61 Mt. Rushmore Pl.  
Clayton, Calif. 94517



THACH-NHUONG, (Called NHUONG)

Refugee #: TC163830-SN#6615

Born: 10/12/39 at Xinh-Binh

Arrived in Refugee Camp: 13/3/86

Communist Prison Time: 6 Years

Former Rank: 1st Lt.

Former Duty Assignments Include:

Commanded 1st Co. 211th BN Mike Force

B-56 Tu Duc-1966 Ho-Ngoc-Tao

B-36 C-3 Bien Hoa 1967

B-40 Air Boats Cao Lanh 1968

Numerous A-Camps 1966-1970

1970 to 1975 Cambodia

Americans recalls working with (Phonetic):

Capt "Seven"

Sgt. "Enniss"

Lt. "Becker"

Sgt. "Backer"

Family: Wife & 2 babies, in Camp



DANH-MANY, (called ?)

Refugee#: TC162667-SN#6496

Born: 15-3-18 at Soc Trang

Arrived in Refugee Camp: 25-4-86

Communist Prison Time: 5Years

Former Rank: Captain

Former Duty Assignments Include:

LLDB Camp Commander at Bu Dop & Loc Ninh among others.

1970 -1975 Asst. Commander 47th BN Mike Force in Cambodia.

Americans recalls working with (phonetic):

Maj. "Bonner"

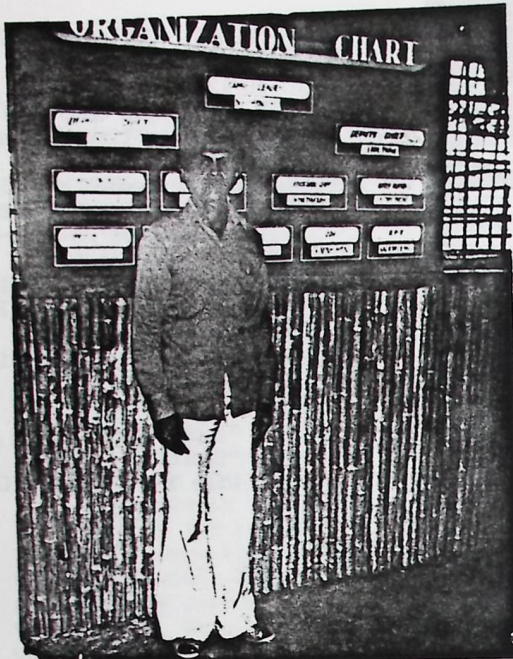
Many others but not sure of names

Family: Apparently none with him. An old man now but appears to be in good physical shape, and definately wants to get out of the camp and to the U.S.

IF YOU CAN HELP WRITE: Mr. Lacy Wright, Refugee and Migration Affairs  
American Embassy Bangkok  
APO San Francisco 96346

Appendix A Pg 1.

REFUGEES AT CAMP SITE II NEEDING SPONSORS



CHAU-CHHOUN, (called ?)  
 Refugee #: TC163707-SN6261  
 Born: 5-9-44 at Chau-Doc  
 Arrived in Refugee Camp: 22-1-86  
 Communist Prison Time: 1 Month  
 Former Rank: Pvt.  
 Former Duty Assignments Include:  
 Mike Force B-40  
 C-4 Can Tho  
 1967 through 1970, Then wounded  
 Americans recalls working with (phonetic):  
 Maj. "Marchett"  
 Sgt Maj. "Mac"  
 "Coplun"  
 "Khem"  
 Medic "Lott" who "lost 1 foot from a mine"



CHAU-SOC-KHEN, (Called KHEN)  
 Refugee#: TC163443-SN5567  
 Born: 5-10-52 at Chau Doc  
 Arrived in Refugee Camp: 10-4-85  
 Communist Prison Time: 14 Days  
 Former Rank: Pvt. Vice Squad Leader  
 Former Duty Assignments include:  
 1968-1970, LLDB  
 Ba-Xoai Task Force U.S.A.  
 1970 Became VN Ranger  
 Americans recalls working with (phonetic):  
 Capt. "McDonald"  
 Others  
 Family: Wife & 2 Children

IF YOU CAN HELP WRITE: Mr. Lacy Wright, Refugee & Migration Affairs  
 American Embassy, Bangkok  
 APO San Francisco 96346



LY-A-DUONG, (called "C") (A Nung Guard)  
 Refugee#: TC (Just Arrived No Number Yet)  
 Born: 1-10-44 in Saigon's 11th Dist.(Cholon)  
 Arrived in Refugee Camp: Oct 1986  
 Communist Prison Time: None  
 Former Rank: Pvt.  
 Former Duty Assignments Include:  
     Danang Mike Force (Phu Bai) 1966-68  
     MACV 42, 1968-71  
     Served With S.F and Australians  
 Americans Recalls Working With:  
     Mr. "Bond", a police Advisor  
     An Australian with 1 thumb tip cut off.  
 Family: Apparently none in camp

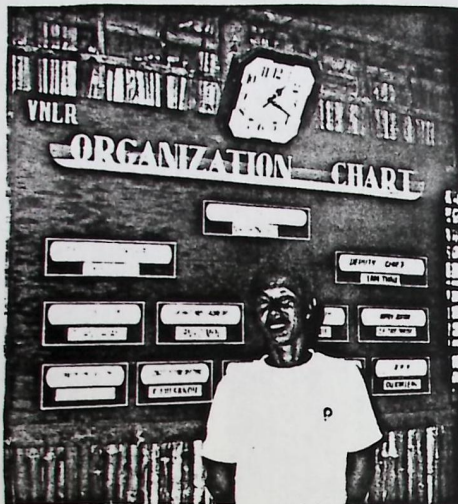
(The Australian members of SOAR will possibly get their group to sponsor this man)



NGUYAN-VAN-NHUC, (Called )  
 Refugee#: TC161862-SN#756  
 Born: 20-3-38 in Saigon  
 Arrived in Refugee Camp: 26-3-83  
 Communist Prison Time: 3 Days at 10th Dist  
 Former Rank: Captain  
 Former Duty Assignments Include:  
     Not LLDB But almost 17 Years ARVN  
     S-3 Officer of their Ranger Group  
     High Ranger Command APO 4205  
 Family: None (1 woman friend escaped w/him)  
 Now: Is a Camp Section Chief and Head of  
     the Camps Former Veteran Association  
     Understands English quite well.  
 Americans Recalls Working With:  
     Doesn't recall S.F.

IF YOU CAN HELP WRITE: Mr. Lacy Wright, Refugee & Migration Affairs  
     American Embassy, Bangkok  
     APO San Francisco 96346

Appendix A Pg 3.



NGU-THUONG-CHIEU, (Called Chieu)

Refugee#: TC161281-SN#655

Born: 25-8-46 in Cambodia (But He's Vietnam)

Arrived in Refugee Camp: 7-7-82

Communist Prison Time: 1 Month

Former Rank: PFC

Former Duty Assignments:

Not LLDB. He was an Intelligence Agent

S-2 Govap District, Gia Dinh Prov.

1971-75

Family: Wife & Children still in VN

Now: Refugee Camp Vietnamese Commander

Speaks Good English, Very Helpful



LAM-MAI, (Called "Tan")

Refugee#: TC (Just Arrived No Number Yet)

Born: 1948 at Bac-Lieu

Arrived in Refugee Camp: 11-9-86

Communist Prison Time: 1 Year

Former Rank: Interpreter

Former Duty Assignments:

Not LLDB.

Early 1970 w/1st Cav, 191st Co Mil Intel

Phouc Vinh in III Corps.

1970 to 1975 Worked in U.S. Embassy in

Saigon. Boss a Mr. Conrad.

Americans recalls working with:

Many, including Mr. Conrad, but not S.F

Capt. Loomis, Maj. Donald "Murder"

Family: By Himself

Now: Speaks very good English

Very Helpful. Probably will be able to be sponsored 'easily' but will be very helpful as an interpreter/letter writer while he is in the camp.

IF YOU CAN HELP WRITE: Mr. Lacy Wright, Refugee & Migration Affairs  
American Embassy, Bangkok  
APO San Francisco 96346



SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER

ROYAL THAI ARMY

ORDER NUMBER 404 / 2529

SUBJECT : AWARD OF THE ROYAL THAI ARMY AIRBORNE WINGS

In accordance with the 1964 Royal Thai Army Regulation on the subject of Special Awards, the Royal Thai Army Airborne Wings and Certificate are presented to the selected members of Special Operation Association who have successfully participated in airborne exercises and military parachuting while on combined training with the Royal Thai Army Special Forces, in commemoration of our close cooperation and friendship are hereby presented the Airborne Wings of the Royal Thai Army to the selected individuals as follows :

ANNEXES A. SELECTED MEMBERS FOR AIRBORNE WING

With all the right to decorate, as our members, here unto given on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1986

Major General

*Colonel Phibulsil*

ANNEXES A.

RESTRICTED

AIRBORNE WING PRESENTATIONS

( WORAVIT PIBULSIL )

Commanding General

Royal Thai Army

Special Warfare Center.

1. CHUCK DARNELL
2. JAMES L. CRAIG
3. RANDI CRAIG
4. ROBERT W. JOHNSTON
5. JOHN C. GALLAGHER
6. ROBERT J. PARKS
7. HUGH TAILOR
8. GREGORY S. RODRIGUEZ
9. JACKS PHILLIPS
10. SCOTT LYON

11. CARL G. WINKLER
12. JUSTIN EUGENE MCCARTHY
13. PAUL TRACY
14. ANTHONY MCINTOSH
15. CLAYTON SCOTT
16. JAMES R. MARTIN
17. STEVE BYERS
18. ROBERT T. LEDELLAYTNER
19. GEORGE GOETZKE
20. BOB COLFRESH
21. TERRY NOLAN

# TOP SECRET

ZZZZ122308ZDEC87

FM PRES SOA

TO MERS SOA

INFO SFA, FAYETTEVILLE, NC

AATIV, SIDNEY, AUS

THAI SFCMD, BKK, THAI

BT

TOP SECRET LIMDIS EYES ONLY SOAR X //N03000//

STATUS REPORT STRIKE FORCE BANGKOK (C)

1. (TS) ON 12 DEC. 1986M THE BASE AREA BANGKOK STRIKE FORCE COMMENCED FIXED WING EXTRACTION FROM THE TARGET AREA. STAY BEHIND ELEMENTS COORDINATING WITH LOCAL FRIENDLY FORCES INCLUDED: BOB COLFLESH, GEORGE FARRIS, GEORGE GOETZKE, GEORGE PIPAS, JACK PHILLIPS AND LTC JIMMY.
2. (TS) NEGATIVE FRIENDLY CASUALTIES; THE TASK FORCES MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED.
3. (U) FINAL REPORT THIS OP.

GDS-93

BT

#2796

# TOP SECRET

# AL MAR'S ONE ZERO SOG KNIFE

Al Mar (439) has graciously offered to sell the Model 10 (SOG) knife to SOA members at his dealer cost. As usual, we're going to tack on a profit for the Association but we'll still sell the knife which is currently retailing at \$190.00, for only \$139.00; that's a pretty good savings. This price will include, if desired, engraving the blade with the SOA logo and individual SOA membership number.

I saw the SOG knife Al donated to the Association for a presentation gift in Bangkok and it was superb; the quality is flawless and I cannot endorse it highly enough. This is a great knife. The \$139.00 price is for SOA members only; orders should be placed thru the Association P.O. Box and using the Memorabilia Items Order Form in the AAR. Total price including postage is only \$139.00

## AL MAR KNIVES



### SPECIAL FORCES ONE-ZERO SF/SOG

"Variations of the knives are better because they are different from what other collectors have... Almost every military unit needed a knife for a different reason."

#### BLADE Magazine

"The Special Forces One-Zero will be a fine addition to the military collector's trove of historical combat blades... Al Mar has brought what was a lost piece of combat cutlery history into the present for everyone's enjoyment and benefit."

### KNIFE WORLD

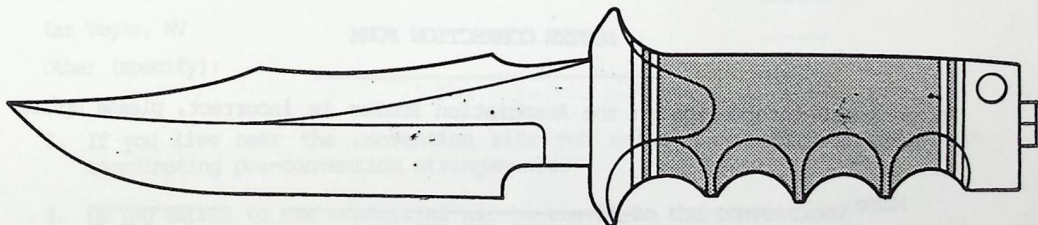
During the early 1960s the Green Berets began issuing a combat knife of their own design to members of their elite reconnaissance teams. These teams operated throughout Indo-China and were involved in some of the most secretive operations of the Viet Nam war. The knife became a mark of distinction, and later a remembrance for those that fought under the motto "De Oppresso Liber".

Al Mar, former Green Beret, has brought the knife that made history back. Named in honor of the

numerical designation assigned recon team leaders the One-Zero is dedicated to the memory of those men who carried this blade into combat. AMK's commitment to form and function have brought about improvements in both the knife's cosmetic as well as practical aspects without compromising the heritage that makes the One-Zero so unique.

The Special Forces One-Zero - Display it with pride.

Your knife is first and foremost a tool. Treated with respect, given the proper care before, during, and after use, it will serve you well. As with all quality tools, examine your intended task with care and use the tool that will insure you the greatest degree of success. Al Mar Knives - The Warrior's Edge



4008

### SF/SOG (ONE ZERO)

Blade Length:	4008 6 1/2" / 166 mm
Blade Thickness:	1/4" / 6 mm
Blade Steel:	AM-6, RC 57-59
O.A.L.:	11 1/4" / 286 mm
Guard:	Brass
Butt Cap:	Brass
Handle:	Leather
Scabbard:	Full Top Grain Leather, Blk

# ASSOCIATION ROSTER

By unanimous vote of the general membership attending SOAR X, it was decided to publish and distribute to the membership an Association roster. That roster will contain names, addresses and phone numbers of association members. The roster will also contain statements concerning the applicability of the Privacy Act

If you received this After Action Report, your data will be included on this roster unless you complete and submit the following form BY 01 August 1987.

---

## ROSTER DELETION FORM

Mail To: SOA  
5130 E. Charleston Blvd., Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, NV 89122

As indicated below, (check appropriate blocks) do not include my personal information in the roster to be distributed to the general membership:

Name ☐  
Address ☐  
Telephone Number ☐

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

---

## ROSTER CORRECTION FORM

My personal information on the Association Roster is incorrect, please update my data as following.

Name	_____	_____
Address	_____	Membership #
Phone	_____	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

# 1988 S O A R XII LOCATION

For a number of years, various members have asked that a reunion be held on the east coast. Therefore, the results of this questionnaire will be used to determine our 1988 convention site.

If you plan to attend SOAR XII (1988) please answer the following questions and return this form by 1 June 1987 to: SOA, 5130 E. Charleston Blvd., Suite 5-583F, Las Vegas, NV 89122.

1. SOAR XII (1988) should be held in:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Vote</u>
San Juan, Puerto Rico	Mil space A may be available. Best Commercial Air Est is: \$300.00 Round Trip East Coast \$500.00 Round Trip West Coast.  Nov./Dec. are rainy season, may have to use October 1988???	_____
Caribbean Cruise	Miami departure; est \$500.00	_____
Atlantic City, NJ		_____
Florida (Specify):	_____	_____
	Orlando/Coco Beach/Miami/Key West	
New Orleans, LA		_____
St. Louis, MO		_____
Las Vegas, NV		_____
Other (specify):	_____	_____

- If you live near the convention site you selected, would you assist in coordinating pre-convention arrangements? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you expect to use commercial air to travel to the convention? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Will you attend with a guest/spouse? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. CHARLESTON BLVD., SUITE 5-583F  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122

### MEMOROBELIA ORDER FORM

<u>Notes</u>	<u>Name of Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Total</u>
	SOA T-Shirt: White or light Tan Men or Womens; S,M,L,XL	\$ 10.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SOA Lighter: With crest and room for engraving	6.00	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	_____
	Cap: Baseball style with SOA logo	9.00	_____	<u>N/A</u>	_____	_____
New 1	SOG Knife: Al Mar's One Zero	139.00	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	_____
New	Belt Buckle: Triangular, brass SOA lapel pin design	9.00	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	_____
	SOA Blazer patch, embroidered, clutch back	20.00	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	_____
1	SOA Lapel Pin	2.50	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	_____
1	Membership Card (extra)	1.00	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	_____
1	Membership Certificate (extra)	5.00	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	_____
1 & 2	SOA Coin	9.50	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	_____
1.	<u>SOLD TO MEMBERS ONLY</u>	Subtotal:				_____
2.	Engraving @20¢ a character	Postage, etc., one item.				1.50
		Postage per additional item				_____
		TOTAL:				\$ _____

All orders from outside the United States must be payable in U.S. currency.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check or money order with this order form to: Special Operations Association, 5130 E. Charleston Blvd., Suite 5-583F, Las Vegas, Nevada 89122.

Spring 1987



You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.

# SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

Through the generosity and tireless efforts of a few SOA members and friends, the 1986 Scholarship Raffle brought the Association almost \$11,000.00. The raffle prize was 9MM Model 92F Pietro Beretta pistol donated by Beretta with the assistance of Doug Kendeson; Mike Farrell donated the engraving by Richard Gross, nickel plating by Tim Anderson and gunsmithing by Earl Johnson; Mark Cockfield donated a SOG knife to complete the raffle package.

On 16 January, Nevada Governor Richard Bryne drew the winning lottery ticket number 11550 - the ticket belonged to Ben Lyons. Congratulations to Ben and to all those who donated the generous prizes and worked so diligently to sell the raffle tickets, our sincerest thanks.



## PHOTO CREDITS

Thanks to the many members and friends who provided photos of SOAR X for the AAR:

Jim Cipolla  
Chuck Darnell  
John Fryer  
John Gallagher  
Richard Webber

Pete Laurence  
John McClaskey  
Tommie Ponder  
Anond Srivardhana  
Bob Johnston

## SOAR XI LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

SOAR XI will be held at Maxims Hotel in Las Vegas from 02 to 06 December 1987 - PLAN NOW TO ATTEND. Details including the itinerary, will be provided in the September Reunion Operations Order.

# MONTAGNARD RESETTLEMENT

In order to raise funds for the more than 200 Montagnards relocating from Asia to new homes in North Carolina, a number of SOA members and friends held a fund raiser/party from 30 October to 2 November 1986 at Gene Bland's Astroid Aviation in Asheboro, NC. More than \$3,000.00 was raised to assist the Montagnard's resettlement. The party was organized to provide DIRECT support from the Special Operations community to the Yards. Funds were raised through a number of means which included the reverse raffle of an AK-47 and \$1,000.00 of bids to convince Dave (DS) Johnson to shear ten years of hair. The organizers and supporters of this effort deserve a great deal of praise, they are:

Gene Bland - 27203 Rte 3, Box 115 Asheboro, NC (919) 241-2270  
Ben Lyons - 727 Cypress Chase Dr., #175, Arlington, TX 76011 (817) 460-1434  
Ron De Carlo - 4848 W. 45 Ave, Gary, IL 46408 (219) 923- 7362  
J.D. Bath - 1925 Duff Rd., Lakeland, FL 33805 (813) 858-5201  
John Thomas - 5410 Ano Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130 (702) 645-2983  
Butch Craig - 590 Stonington Dr., Fayetteville, NC (919) 488-1753  
D.S. Johnson - Box 1160, Tryon, NC 28782 (707) 859-6940  
Tommy Daniels - 324 Kensington Ave., Savannah, GA 31405 (902) 355-7658

Now most important, the desperate need for money to support the Yards, certainly our most loyal allies, still exists. To eliminate any uncertainty that money donated will go directly to the Yards, a cooperative has been formed and entitled General Cooperative Montagnard Association (GCMA). It is being administered by the Yards with two Special Operations advisors.

Monies will be used for self-help loans with little or no interest and outright donations. The GCMA has already sent five adults on scholarship to the University of NC at Charlotte to study english and auto mechanics. Two others will soon begin aviation mechanics and pilot training.

To further this cause and raise additional funds, another party/rally will be held on 25 and 26 April 1987 in Asheboro, NC. In addition to the massive consumption of a variety of beverages to include the much beloved rice wine (ugh), its designed to get everyone together and maybe, if they are enough sober folks, to hold a mini-triathlon. Gene's talking about a jump, 10K cross country run (probably ought to be a drive) and turkey shoot. For more information, call any one of the folks listed above.

Gene also reports that many of the Yards are trying to locate SF types they served with but to retain their anonymity for fear of possible reprisals against still-in Asia families, their names cannot be published. Again, contact Gene Bland or those listed above. Meanwhile, don't wait for April to send donatoin, they can use them now. Send checks to Gene, made out to Montagnard Resettlement Fund; couldn't find a better cause.

# FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

I thought the Membership would enjoy seeing a photo of the license plates I recently purchased. They've paid an unexpected dividend, I've been flagged down by three S.O.A. types who were unaware of our organization, but were definately interested in joining after I told them our purpose and direction. I see this as an excellent way of promoting interest and membership in the Special Operations Association. I was casting about and came up with other ideas besides MACVSOG; MIKE 4CE, WHT STAR, PHOENIX, or any of the R.T.'s with a post office abbreviation for the state or whatever. And for those desiring a stronger political statement, perhaps FCK FNDA.

My best to all with every wish for success in the New Year..

Ratcliffe, S.O.A. 351



## PLATOON

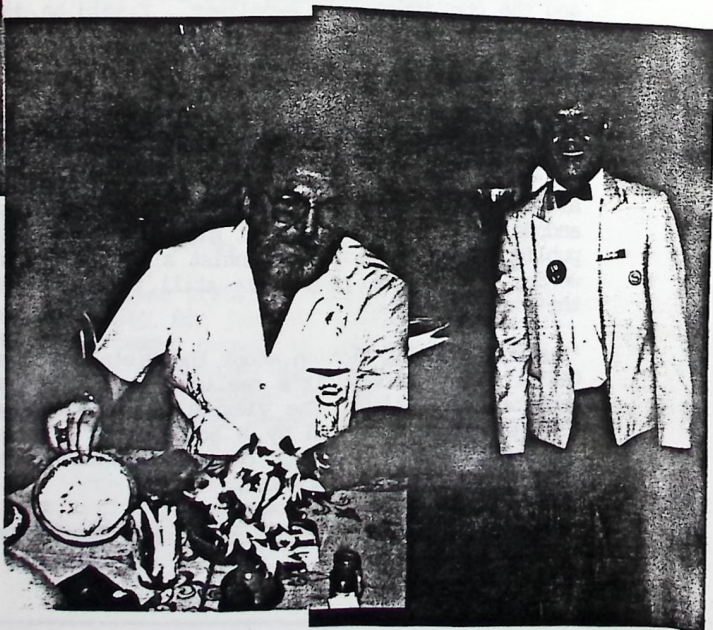
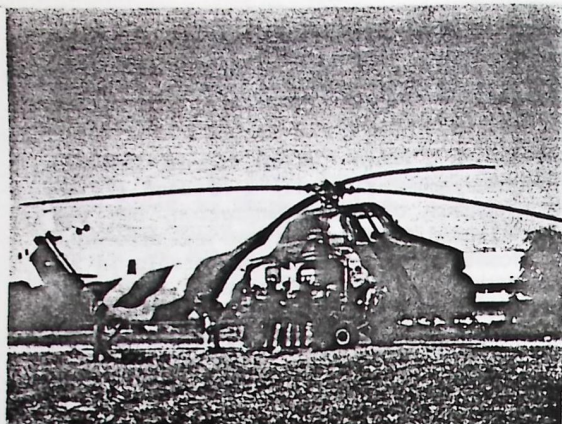
## MOVIE REVIEW

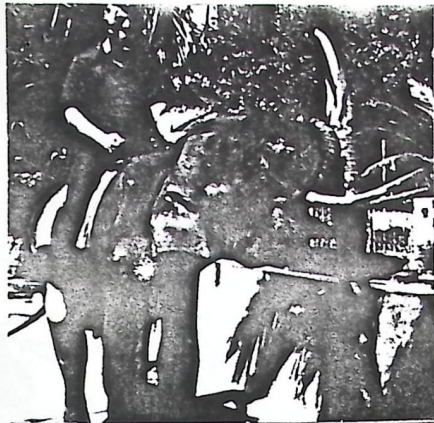
I saw "Platoon" and it's a good movie. Oliver Stone did a great job in assembling the worst stereotypes of cowardice, brutality, alcohol and drug addiction that his imagination permitted; then he cast them together into combat in the Vietnam War for its entertainment value. The acting was superb and the photography was excellent. I said he did a great job because it's a box-office smash and that's too bad. Too bad because he did a great disservice to the vast majority of Vietnam veterans in his portrayal of them to the American people.

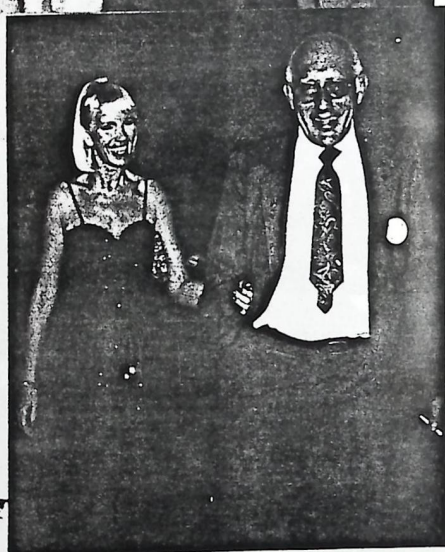
Those of us who served in Vietnam knew some of those stereotypes and they were in the minority - they were the exception, not the rule. The American people can be very proud of the typical Vietnam veteran. He wasn't a coward, brute, alcoholic or drug addict. He was a concerned human being thrust into a job and he did it well. Then, if he was lucky, he came home to face an American public misled by the pro-communist slant of the press (for the most part). No wonder the American people are still trying to understand the Vietnam War and the Vietnam veteran.

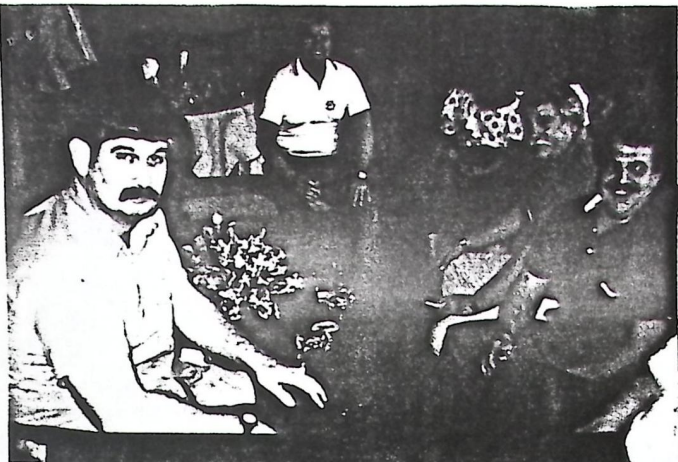
"Platoon" is pure fiction about the Vietnam War and the Vietnam veteran. If Oliver Stone pretends it's realism then he does so for the accolades and the profits that follow. The viewing public should understand his true motives. Good fiction is created by a good writer's imagination. Oliver Stone is a good writer. So were most of the reporters covering the Vietnam War. They know the value of good fiction.

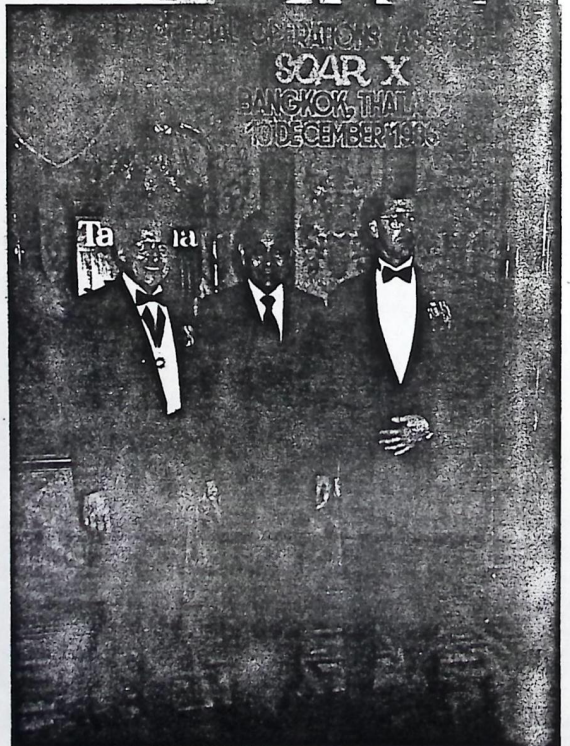
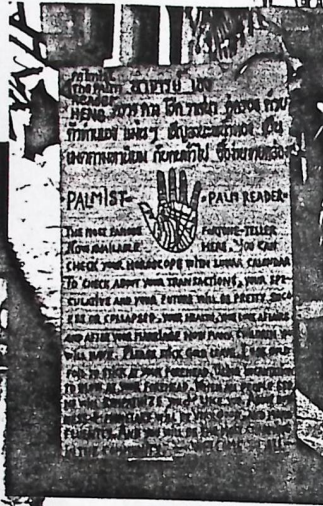
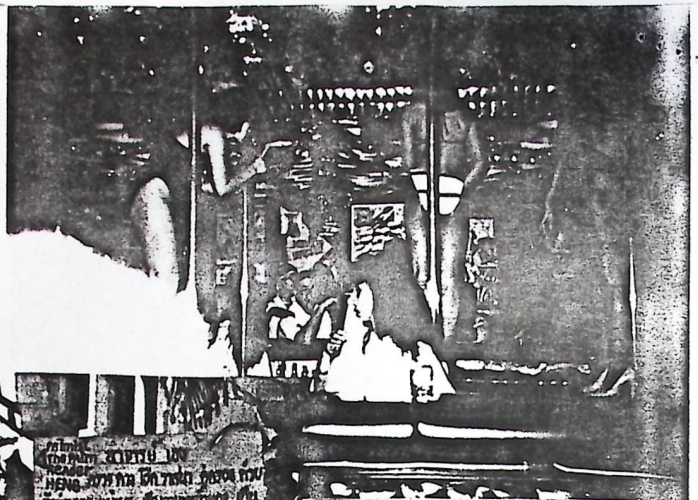
Jim Vincent  
Friend of Chapter XXIII



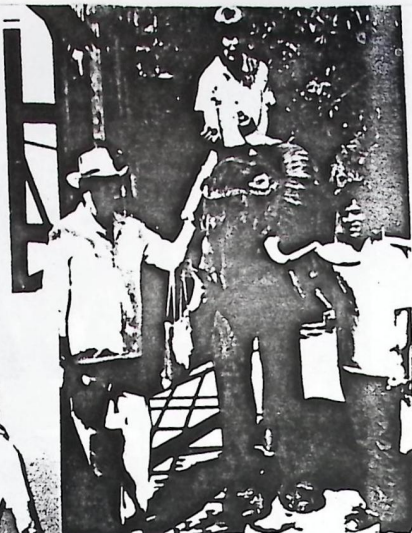


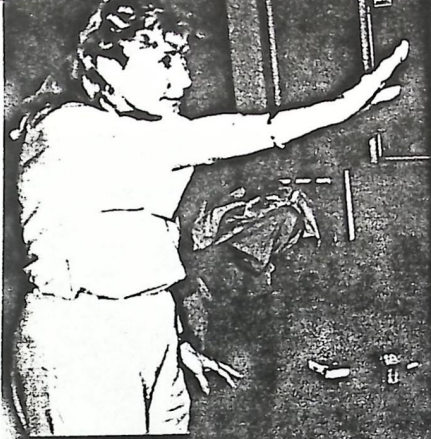
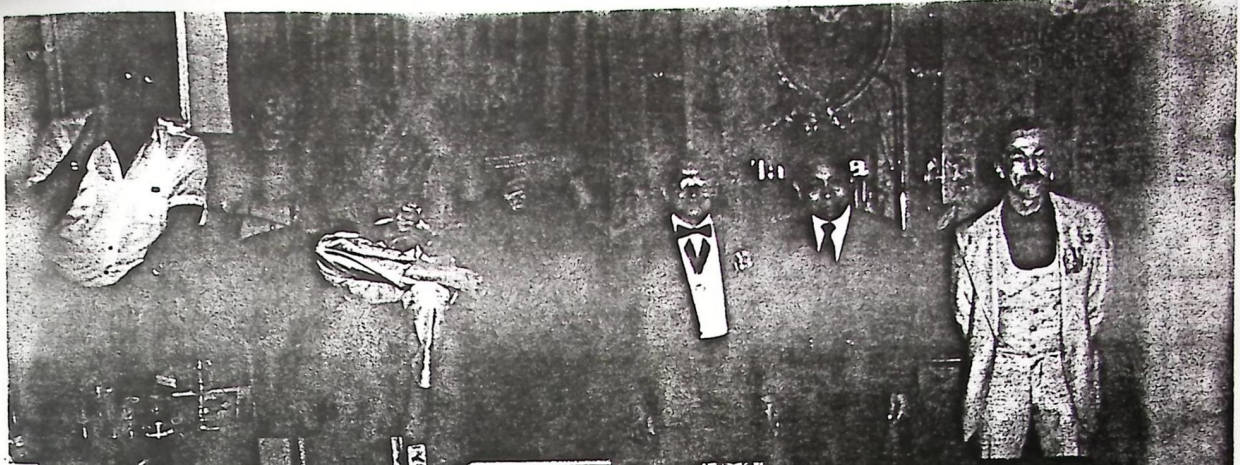


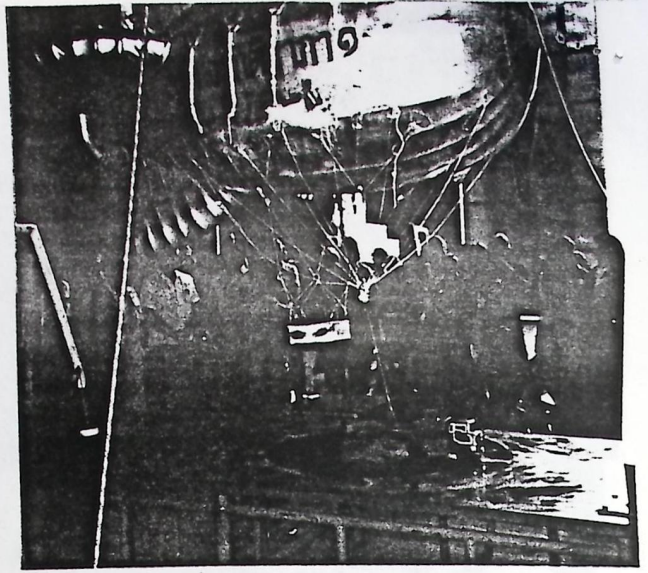


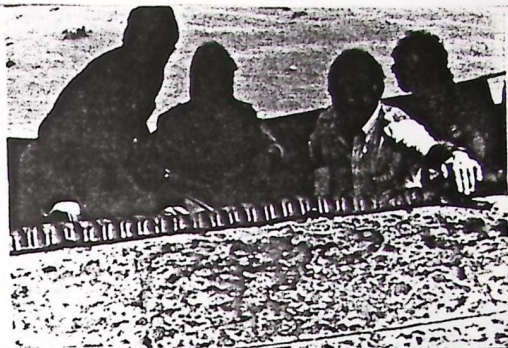


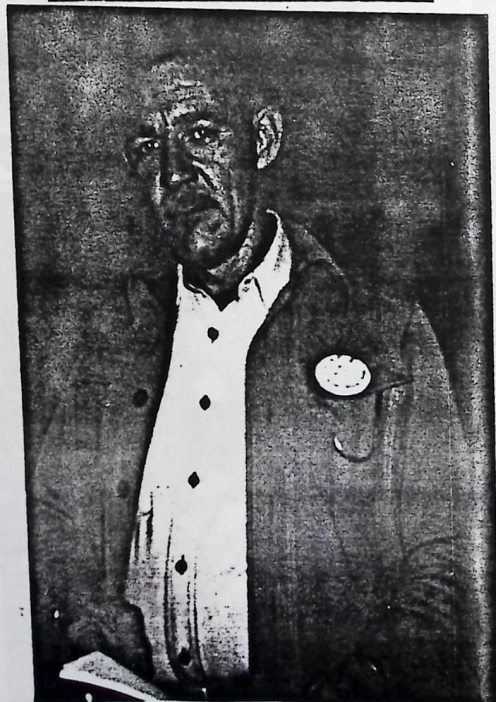












# WORLD NEWS

BANGKOK, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15, 1986 -

**A REUNION PARTY FOR SOA:** Flew in from various parts of the United States of America, Australia and Europe recently were 70 members of Special Operations Association including soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in the suppression of communism. This group, led by its president Mr Scott Lyon, has been here to have the 10th reunion and it's the first time to be held in Thailand. The party took place at the Crystal Ballroom of the Tawana Sheraton Hotel recently and was honoured by Deputy Prime Minister Gen Thienchai Sirisamphan and Gen Pichit Kullavanich.

Seen here Col George Morton presenting a book to Gen Thienchai Sirisamphan while Mr Scott Lyon looks on.



THE VERY END



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# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## SOAR X

By unanimous vote of the Board of Governors and directive by the Association President, SOAR X will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 8 to 13 Dec 1986.

SOAR X will be headquartered in a first class hotel in the central part of Bangkok. Attendees will have their choice of several hotels in the vicinity of the convention headquarters. Through special arrangements, depending on the hotel, prices will range from approximately \$12 per day for a single room to \$50 per day for a double room.

The convention agenda will include: a membership dinner with a Thai military VIP guest speaker, a cocktail party with some of our former Thai friends and counterparts, a general membership meeting, and maximum time for touring and shopping.

For planning purposes, the airline schedule at inclosure 1 reflects current round trip air fares. However, United Airline's 1986 assumption of Pan American's Pacific flight routes is expected to create an Asia-wide price war which will reduce these fares even more.

While U.S. departure locations shown are "gateway" cities, SOA fares include departure from most major CONUS airports to these gateways; generally speaking, fares are based on locations being either east or west of the Mississippi River.

It is important to note that because of the extremely low fares the SOA is receiving, significant variations from the attached schedule will probably not be possible.

In March or April 1986 a final schedule and price list will be mailed to the membership with instructions on route selection. This schedule with FULL PAYMENT by either money order or major credit card number must be submitted BY 1 September 1986; tickets will be returned by 1 Oct by certified mail.

To enable SOA to make group reservations, a hotel selection list with prices will be included in the March/April mailing. Advance hotel payments will not be required but will be an individual responsibility in Bangkok.

Information on tours, shopping, passports/visas, etc. is contained in inclusion 2; additional information will be provided in the next mailing.

inclosures (2)  
a/s





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

TOURS. Tours offered will be to local sites of interest (i.e., the Floating Market, Thai classical dancing, Thai boxing, Buddhist Temples and river cruises); up-country (to Chaing Mai, Lopburi or Kanchanaburi); and ocean resorts (Pattaya, Hua Hin or Phuket). The prices for the tours will range from \$8 per person (local tours) to \$200 per person (Phuket, round trip air fare only).

SHOPPING. A list, recommending merchants who are honest, can provide quality merchandise and agree to special SOA discounts will be provided to attendees upon arrival in Bangkok. This list will include tailors, jewelers, shoe makers, bronze and furniture dealers and other groups as may be requested by the attendees. Also provided will be a list of restaurants offering various cuisine and prices.

PASSPORTS/VISAS. Passports will be an individual responsibility. 15 day visas for Thailand can be obtained upon entry into Thailand, while visas for longer stays must be obtained from the Thai Embassy in Washington D.C. prior to travel. Visa requirements of other countries visited enroute vary and will also be the responsibility of the individual. Check with your local travel agent and PLAN AHEAD!

CLOTHES. You should travel light and remember that dry cleaning facilities in Thailand are limited. Wash and wear clothing is recommended.

US FACILITIES. APO/commissary facilities are not available to us. Mailed packages will have to go through Thai postal channels (air or surface) and can require up to ten weeks for delivery. You may wish to take an empty suitcase with you.





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let us call this the tune up year before Bangkok. All SOAR X information will be given out at this years REUNION SOAR IX. So muster around group and make this the best yet.

This years program will have Parachuting, Golfing, Entertainment and a great guest speaker, plus a four day/night Hospitality Suite on the 17th floor. This invitation is extended to all members and their guests to once again meet all the group. You owe it to yourself to protect your image, because if you're not here, nobody else will. We have heard from members from all over the world on the success of last years reunion with the no politics policy. This year will not change.

Two items that were to be looked into from last years meeting were: the Bangkok trip and whether expenses are deductible when attending the reunions. Thanks to Clayton S. Scott, we have the following information. IRS Pub. 526 under charitable contributions states: "If you are a chosen representative attending a convention of a qualified organization, you may deduct actual unreimbursed expenses for travel or transportation and you may also deduct a reasonable amount of meals and lodging while away from home overnight in connection with the convention." If that is the case, we are all chosen to represent our TEAMS, GROUPS, etc., so not only can we write off this years travel and meals, but we can do the same with next years reunion in Bangkok. One note of caution, however. This is a qualified organization but check with your own tax consultant to make sure. Don't put this letter up as Gospel. Look into it more inasmuch as your case may be different. Secondly, we have found out that those of you who are planning to attend the reunion in Bangkok and are thinking of going by government air--forget it. The only places you can get to are Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Australia and Hawaii. When you reach these areas you would then have to take commercial air. We found out after checking fares that this would cost you more. The recommended travel itinerary for SOAR X to Bangkok and back is:

Depart U.S.	Sat. 6 Dec. 1986	Arr. Bangkok Mon. 8 Dec. 1986
Depart Bangkok	Sat. 13 Dec. 1986	Arr. U.S. Sat. 13 Dec. 1986

Travel brokerage C. L. Thompson Express International has offered the SOA membership travel industry wholesale airfare prices. These rates are approximately 40% less than those available from retail travel agents. Tickets may be purchased in two ways:

1. In person at SOAR IX on 7 Dec. 1985. A non-refundable \$250.00 deposit is required; the balance due 1 July 1986.
2. By mail by 6 Dec. 1985. Only East/West Coast roundtrip tickets; no side trips or stops.



You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



3. Checks should be remitted to: Special Operations Assoc., 5130 E. Charleston Blvd., Suite 5-583F, Las Vegas, Nevada 89122.

<u>From West Coast</u>	<u>Via</u>	<u>Fare</u>
Los Angeles/San Francisco	KAL	\$745
<u>From East Coast</u>	<u>Via</u>	<u>Fare</u>
Atlanta/Baltimore/Boston	KAL	\$943

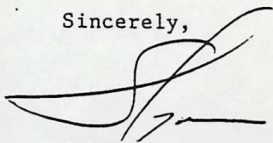
Approximate additional charges for inter-Asia return stops:

Bangkok to.....	Singapore	\$148
	Manila	112
	Taipei	210
	Tokyo	386
	Hong Kong	125

Airfares listed are for planning purposes and are subject to change between December and July. Fare guarantees only apply when the ticket is paid in full. Prices do not include hotel/meals etc. Each person is responsible for visas and passports.

That's about it for now. I, along with all your friends and buddies are looking forward to seeing you at SOAR IX in Las Vegas on 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, December 1985.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Lyon  
President