

# Viet Cong Guerrillas Trained From Cradle

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE  
SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP)—Life for the Communist Viet Cong guerrilla begins at birth in the Mekong River delta, which the Communists have been organizing since 1940.

Many of the best troops in the Viet Cong's 514th Battalion were born of guerrilla parents. For many, being a Viet Cong guerrilla is not merely fighting for a cause, it is a way of life. When there has been a military victory and times are good, one can organize openly and even hold victory parades in towns, as the Viet Cong has been doing.

When there has been a big defeat, one must go underground for a while. There have been many defeats for the Viet Cong in 20 years, but the guerrilla knows patience and perseverance.

**NO TIME LIMIT**  
There is no time limit for victory. The dedicated Viet Cong seems willing to fight a lifetime, if necessary. Or his sons will carry on the fight.

That is the Communist enemy the Saigon government and its American allies are trying to liquidate, a population of 500,000 and 4,000 lives a year.

**FORMED GUERRILLA ARMY**  
The Communists had done much more. They had an administrative system of provincial, district and village commissars. They had staffed schools with trained political cadres. They levied taxes and raised a guerrilla army—the people's self-defence forces of the National Liberation Front.

The War is ugly, but there usually is plenty of respite from fighting. The average Viet Cong territorial guerrilla spends most of his time working on his crops with his family. War comes when a party leader orders an attack on an outpost or when government troops are raiding.

The kind of socialist economic system proclaimed by the Communists came naturally to the Vietnamese peasants, provided they could keep some land of their own. The peasants are rural outsiders, including "foreigners" from Saigon, and prefer being themselves.

For 2,000 years, the Vietnamese have been fighting to keep foreigners off their soil. The area was colonized by Chinese and French. Occasional invasions came from the Cambodians and others. Viet Nam always has thrown its enemies out sooner or later—even great adversaries like Kublai Khan and the French army.

In the eyes of many peasants, the modern South Vietnamese army still is a foreign army. Its uniforms are foreign and its officers were trained in France or in the U.S., its uniforms are foreign and it is commanded by Saigon—a city remote in outlook and standards from the peasant.

**STAY FROM PEASANTS**  
Saigon commanders have been trying for years to improve army discipline to prevent the stealing of food from peasants, but such stealing continues.

**LITTLE SANDS**  
Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Herring, Charlottetown, were at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Angus Stewart, High Bank for their Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy White, Pictou, visited here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Munro. They planned to return to Pictou before Jan. 6 as Mrs. White teaches school here.

School opened here Jan. 6 with Mrs. Harry Clements, teacher from White Sands.

A steamer went east up the Strait through the ice on Dec. 27. Then again residents here saw another ship, believed to be the Tupper, heading her way eastward through the ice on Sunday evening.

Miss Pauline Richards, Little Sands spent a week with her sister Mrs. Charles Murchison and Mr. Murchison and family, Glen Hillway, during the Christmas holidays.

A marriage of local interest took place on Saturday Dec. 20 at the manse at Belfast with Miss Glenda Stewart daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Stewart, Charlottetown was married to Mr. Garry Johnston, Halifax, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Johnston formerly of Murray River. A reception was held at the home of the brides' sister, Mrs. Kenny Emery, Wood Island North, where immediate relatives of the bride and groom were present. Miss Kathryn E. MacNeill, Little Sands, guest of the reception. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson left by car after the reception for a honeymoon in Halifax, Toronto and other cities.

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