



Cpl. Kirk



Pfc. Wright



Cpl. Eaton



Spec. 4 Regan

Maine Men Suffer Viet Hurts Silently

By WALDO E. FRAY
Staff Reporter

CHELSEA, Mass. — Lance Cpl. David T. Kirk isn't thinking too much about the 200 pieces of Viet Cong shrapnel imbedded in his body. Or about being home for Christmas.

What concerns the 20-year-old Libon marine is "what's happening to my buddies still over there."

Incredible though it may seem, Kirk, who was considered a "goner" for days after a land mine exploded at his feet, is remorseful. Not for what he's been through but because "I let my buddies down by getting wounded."

Kirk is typical of five Maine servicemen recovering from Viet Nam war wounds at the Naval Hospital here. They, in turn, are typical of dozens of other wounded here, most of them from Northern New England.

THE OTHER MAINE MEN hospitalized here last week included Lance Cpl. Wirt C. Eaton, 21, of Brownfield; Pfc. Richard J. Wright, 19, of Scarborough; Spec. 4 Robert M. Regan, 24, of Old Orchard Beach; and Pfc. Paul A. Fournier, 21, of Sanford. Regan and Fournier are Army veterans. The others are Marines.

Here in the dim wards of the nation's oldest active military hospital there's no voluntary talk of the war in Viet Nam. Those who feel well enough talk, about girls, girls and girls.

For those still struggling toward recovery, there's little or no talk at all. They lay gazing at the ceiling or into a void as if cut of contact with the world about them.

The Maine men here last week were all over the hump. All except Eaton will have holiday leave. Because his right leg is in traction and a pin is through the broken portion of his right thigh, Eaton will have to spend the holidays in bed.

THERE'S NO COMPLAINING here about the nation's Viet Nam policy. And one gets the impression it would be an unhealthy place to stage a peace demonstration, despite the broken arms, legs and myriad other wounds.

Despite their suffering these men are charitable toward those who would have U.S. pull out of Viet Nam.

"I just feel sorry for people like that," said Cpl. [Name obscured].

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Great Stride Forward Achieved Space Champs Tip-Top

MANNED SPACE CENTER, Houston, Tex. (AP) — America's champion Gemini 7 astronauts plumed happily back to earth Saturday after man's longest and most significant voyage in the strange world of space.

"Better than expected," summed up doctors' first findings on the bearded pilots, Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell Jr., home from an historic 14-day flight.

Aside from a few wobbly steps, their first since slipping into their tiny spaceship Dec. 4, neither showed any initial ill effects from the two-week ordeal.

"I'm dirty," Borman declared cheerfully. "But it's good, honest dirt."

The sweaty spacemen appeared so well, one space agency doctor said, they seemed to be in "better shape" than the two-man crew of Gemini 3 was after only eight days in space.

The flight of Gemini 7, highlighted by a historic rendezvous with Gemini 6, brought the United States all major manned spaceflight records, putting the nation a great stride forward in its race to the moon.

With pinpoint accuracy, Borman and Lovell made their fiery dive home just the way they

wanted — so good in fact, they may have won a bet from Gemini 6 pilot Walter M. Schirra Jr. and Thomas P. Stafford who preceded them from space two days earlier.

The wager of an undisclosed amount was on which spacecraft landed closest to the aim point.

Borman fired his braking rockets without a hitch at 8:28 a.m. EST over the Pacific Ocean. Slowed by a large, orange and white parachute after earth's gravity took grip, Gemini

7 pitched into the Atlantic about 365 miles southwest of Bermuda, right on schedule at 11:05 a.m.

The pilots came down 12.6 miles from the carrier, out of sight of the ship. Borman claimed the bet. Schirra and Stafford splashed into the water about 14.6 miles from the Wasps.

Regardless of who says Gemini 7 and 6 were closer to their landing spot than any previous Gemini spacecraft.

Borman, as command pilot, chose to be hoisted with his

traveling companion from the craft to a helicopter hovering overhead for the short ride to the carrier — a preference he announced before the flight.

After opening the hatch, as the craft bobbed in the water, Borman stood up. Then Lovell was the first to be lifted into the helicopter.

One of the rescuers commented to newsmen that both astronauts were pale and "looked like ghosts." But he added, "their spirits were real good and they were really happy to be back."

It was the end of a long journey — 330 hours and 23 minutes of time around the globe and 5,129,600 miles.

At the electric moment the "copter" touched down on the ship's deck 22 minutes after splashdown. The ship's band struck up a rousing "Anchors Aweigh."

Shortly later, America got its first glimpse of its newest space heroes, via live television beamed to Europe as well.

Communications lines were strung on the ship for a while.

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Astronauts Lovell, left, and Borman After 14 Days in Space

State Employees Multiply; More Offices Needed

By DONALD C. HANSEN
State House Reporter

AUGUSTA—Maine state government, faced with overcrowding in existing buildings, will ask for a special session of the Legislature for authority to undertake a major expansion program.

The program will alleviate, but not solve, the problem of how to house rapidly growing state government agencies.

The Highway Department will ask authority for a \$2.5 million bond issue to construct a new three-story office building to house its staff.

Special museum and archives study committees will jointly ask for a bond issue of several million dollars — the exact amount still isn't known — for a combined museum-archives-library building.

And special legislation will be needed to approve a \$600,000 addition to the former Internal Revenue Building which has been purchased by the state. Funds for the project

have already been approved.

EVEN IF THE January special legislative session approves all requests there will still be a Continued on Page 1B; Col. 3

Hanoi Says Ho Didn't, Italian Says He Did

TOKYO (AP) — Hanoi accused the United States of a peace hoax Saturday but an Italian involved in the diplomatic counterfire insisted again he personally heard North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh say he would "go anywhere and

meet anyone to negotiate for peace."

Prof. Giorgio La Pira also told newsmen in Florence, Italy, that Ho did not insist on a withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam before negotiations could begin.

Taking sharp issue with a

charge by Hanoi radio that his story of Ho's peace fever was "sheer groundless fabrication," the professor said: "I confirm that I and Prof. Mario Pirelli, when we were received Nov. 11 at the presidential palace in Hanoi, heard from President Ho Chi Minh's own voice that he was prepared for the good of his people to go anywhere and meet anyone to negotiate for peace."

"He (Ho) added that negotiations presupposed a cease-fire which would have to be on a basis of the 1954 Geneva accords specified in the four points of North Vietnamese (Premier) Phan Van Dong and could begin immediately and without the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops as a precondition."

The professor added: "Secretary of State Dean Rusk is to be blamed because he obviously wanted this mission to fail by disclosing in advance what had been done."

U.S. government sources in Washington have deplored disclosure of the peace hint for just that reason.

A broadcast by the North Vietnamese news agency — VVA — from Hanoi referred to Friday's State Department report that the Communist regime had put the feeler out to Washington through two Italian visitors to Hanoi last month. The Italians relayed the contents of talks they had with President Ho Chi Minh and Premier Phan Van Dong to Italian Foreign Minister Amintore Fanfani, who is president of the U.N. General Assembly.

Fanfani followed up with a letter to President Johnson and an exchange with Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

The State Department on Friday

Saigon Hit By Viet Cong Sneak Attack

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — The Viet Cong attacked Saigon with mortar and heavy automatic arms fire a few minutes before midnight Saturday.

It was the first time in the Vietnamese war that the Viet Cong have used mortar fire against the capital.

Three mortar rounds were fired into one of the districts of Cho Lon, an area inhabited mainly by Chinese.

Informed sources said there were no casualties.

The shells struck an area less than four miles from the heart of the sprawling city's downtown business district.

Police said the Viet Cong attack came at twenty minutes before midnight. The heavy automatic fire was described as intense while it lasted.

The attack came from the rice paddy fields that stretch southward from this government seat on the winding Saigon River.

Neither Saigon police nor other reliable sources could estimate the number of Viet Cong involved in the attack.

Wright Wins Top Award For Editorial

The Laymen's National Committee, Inc. an all-faiths religious educational organization, announced Saturday that Franklin Wright, editor of the Portland Evening Express editorial page, is first place winner in its 1965 National Award Contest.

Wright's prize-winning editorial captured "The Light" appeared in the Oct. 23, Portland Evening Express.

The contest, sponsored in observance of the 25th anniversary of National Bible Week

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5 SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS



Santa's Many Helpers

Tatters the Clown, Portland Jaycees and high school musicians all lend a hand to help fill a Salvation Army kettle on Congress Street. Robyn Wade is the young lady responding to Tatters' written appeal for a donation. (By Bluff Photographer Olson)

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The Weather

Generally fair and cold. Full report on Pg. 19A.

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MAINE HIGHLIGHTS: Lewiston launches counter-attack in calendar war with Auburn... Education Department seeks extra \$1 million... Man arrested in Southbay Harbor murder probe... \$500,000 tourist facility proposed for Whiting, 2A... National Council of Churches official asks inquiry into Quddy Indian's death, 2A.

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