

Vietnam Nerves

Tokyo

According to a popular Japanese Weekly's editor's note: "There is no end to the crimes of U.S. soldiers."

Local newspapers back up this statement reporting on American soldiers who threw a teargas bomb into a bar.

Previously this column reported on Japan's involvement in the conflict, however, in the case of servicemen, the subject is much more emotional.

Without a doubt, Japan is linked with the Vietnam war through its U.S. bases and soldiers who are coming from and going to South Vietnam.

Cases such as those cited, says the weekly, are not necessarily motivated by the soldier's evasion of transfer to Vietnam. But, on the other hand, authorities are reportedly searching for increasing deserters.

The bars and cabarets in the cities of Yokohama and Yokosuka are doing brisk business these days with men on leave from Vietnam and ships passing through.

Street girls complain that American soldiers have become difficult customers. When they get drunk, they become one of three types: The "crying type" begins to mumble how unlucky he is.

The expression "beto-chiri" is now popular among Iwakuni people. "Beto" stands for "Betonamu" or Vietnam. "Chiri" comes from the Japanese expression "toba-chiri" meaning blow-by-blow.

Even the "onlies" (prostitutes who live like mistresses) have to have at least three masters these days, to support themselves. Some even have begun to fish for Japanese men, moving from the base area into the city.

In trying to find victims among those who are nonprostitutes, the weekly questioned Iwakuni police about crimes among U.S. soldiers. Their reply: "Crimes? No. Nothing has particularly changed because of the Vietnam war.

The police did say they are amazingly quiet. There are three reasons for this. First, they can't wander around the city as often as before since the authorities are restricting their leave.

Citizens have a different story. One anonymous individual claims he has seen the changes in American soldiers whether the police have or not.

He says the soldiers around the base are now very young. Some being only teenagers. Second, those who have returned from the Vietnam front are showing off. Some have become known as "kaminari zoku" (thunder tribe) because they race around the city on motor cycles while making noise like American Indians.

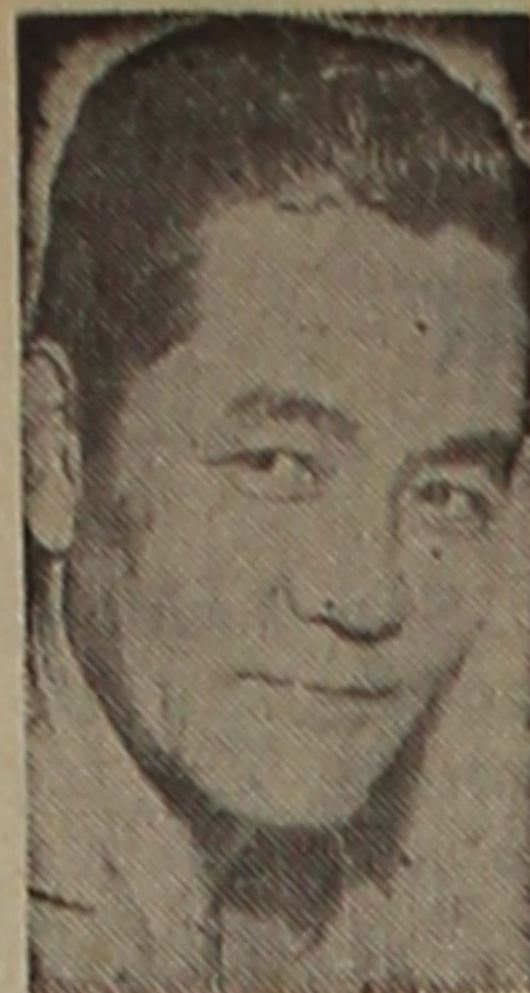
A school teacher complained that American soldiers tease passers-by and try to touch women on the street. "Children can't help seeing such a scene," he said. "As a result children have also become nervous."

U.S. Forces authorities are also cautious about the situation, ordering soldiers to "visit an orphanage, promote a walk-with-a-smile movement or clean up a local school ground, says the weekly.

It goes on to say that despite all this, the hell-like experiences of Vietnam are sometimes too much for a man to take. As an answer it cites the case of a 47-year-old Japanese base employee who was stabbed to death at night by a 21-year-old American soldier with the jungle knife he had used in Vietnam.

In Yokohama three young sailors held up a tobacco shop with a toy pistol and led police on an all day chase thus diverting them from their duties of preparing against an autumn hurricane.

While there is no change in the number of crimes by American soldiers, there is certainly a change in the nature of such. Where this abnormal misconduct will end is anybody's guess. Providing, of course, that the findings are true, and military authorities are hard-pressed to prove they aren't.



Aloha from Hawaii

by Richard Gima

monies in that country next June honoring the memory of the man she made famous in her book "Voyager to Destiny."

Construction of a new 35,000-seat stadium in Halawa at a cost of \$20 million is expected to get under way within a year and a half.

Pearl Kadota, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kadota of Hilo, has been named a national award winner at the 46th annual National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

Fifteen members of Congress, all of them supporters of the Johnson administration, have joined Rep. Spark M. Matsunaga in a resolution for United Nations' consideration of the Vietnam War.

Airman 3 Class Dennis M. Hamamura, son of Dr. and Mrs. Masami Hamamura, was graduated with honors at Sheppard AFB, Tex., from the training course for Air Force medical service specialists.

A bird believed to have been extinct for more than 70 years has been spotted on Maui. It is the Maui Nukupuu last seen 70 years ago and believed extinct.

Some 54,000 households and offices got new telephone numbers on Dec. 1. All telephone numbers beginning with "2" and "9" — and many beginning with "62" — were converted the same day to seven digits.

Sen. Hiram L. Fong said in Washington No. 29 a meat bill approved by the Senate will strengthen laws in Hawaii and eventually compel the upgrading of meat inspection programs.

The Hawaii Islanders of the Pacific Coast League has obtained the services of John Matias, who last year hit .279

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nine days before he successfully defended his title against Willy Quatuor of West Germany.

Killed in Action

Army Sgt. Minoru Tanaka, husband of Ritsuko Tanaka of 2014-A Nu Place, was killed Nov. 28 in Vietnam action. He was the 113th Islander to die in the Vietnam War.

The Army announced here Dec. 1 that Sgt. Leonard M. Tadios, 36, of Lanai City died Mar. 20 in South Vietnam, 27 months after he was captured by the Viet Cong.

A three-way race is on in Hawaii to corner the foreign car sales market. It's between Datsun and Toyota and the German-made Volkswagen.

Clayton E. Agena, son of the Clarence Agenas of 872-B Panewa, Lahaina, Maui, was commissioned an army 2nd Lt.

Col. Robin Olds, the new commandant of cadets at the Air Force Academy, was born on July 14, 1922, in Honolulu.

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