

'This Is Like a Dream'

Elated Green Berets Celebrate at Long Binh

Compiled From AP and UPI

LONG BINH, Vietnam — The six U.S. Special Forces officers freed on murder charges early Tuesday celebrated in their quarters at this U.S. Army Headquarters base.

"They broke out some bottles," said Capt. Thomas Young of Honolulu, a military defense counsel for one of the Green Berets. "This is like a New Year's dream. We're all happy, man."

Young said that Col. Robert B. Rheault, 43, of Vineyard Haven, Mass., "is in the midst of all the frivolity out here, but he does not plan to comment on anything until the official word comes down."

Later, however, Rheault said he and the other Berets never doubted the outcome.

"The outcome we never doubted at any time. The only question was how long and how difficult it would be to prove the point," the lean, grey-haired Special Forces officer said.

"The agony our families had to suffer has been brought to a close. We consider ourselves tough cookies but it was difficult for our families," Rheault said in an interview outside the quarters where he and the five other officers had been in custody for weeks.

Rheault, a West Pointer, was commander of the 5th U.S. Special Forces Group in Vietnam

when he and seven other Green Berets were placed under investigation in the alleged murder of a Vietnamese double agent earlier this summer.

Murder charges subsequently were brought against Rheault and five other officers while charges against a Green Beret warrant officer and a sergeant were held in abeyance.

Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor Monday ordered all charges dropped immediately and that the men be transferred out of Vietnam.

In Saigon, attorney Edward Bennett Williams described Rheault as "very happy" over the decision.

"I'm delighted by the news,"

said Williams, a noted criminal attorney and owner of the Washington Redskins professional football team. "I had expected this. The charges were a terrible miscarriage of justice."

Williams, whose clients have included former Teamsters Union President James R. Hoffa and onetime Senate aide Bobby Baker, arrived in Saigon on Sunday to defend Rheault.

Young, who has been military defense counsel for Capt. Robert F. Marasco of Rutherford, N.J., said the Green Berets were "having a ball" in their quarters at Building 4813 at Long Binh.

"It was a bombshell," he said of the Resor decision.

Maj. Martin J. Linsky, 30, of

New York City, a military attorney for Rheault, declared, "I can't tell you how pleased I am."

"Of course we were hopeful that this would happen. I'm just so pleased that it happened right now. I can't even express words."

Will the real story of the celebrated case ever emerge?

"Well, I don't know," he said. "I think that's a decision the Army and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) will make. I think the decision that has been reached right now is great."

Were the Berets innocent? "No question whatsoever," he replied.

In the United States, the men's families and supporters were jubilant.

"This is what we wanted in the first place," said attorney Henry B. Rothblatt in San Francisco. "The Army knew these men did nothing wrong."

Rothblatt, a defense counsel in the case, added: "The Central Intelligence Agency has always been very much in this. If these men are restored honorably to duty with all credit coming to them, there will be no reverberations. But if there is the slightest black mark against them, there certainly could be."

"I think the decision was a correct one," said Attorney F. Lee Bailey in Boston. He had been retained as defense lawyer for Marasco.

"I think it was made for reasons that were perfectly sound," Bailey continued. "They had the realization that in the public mind this was a waste of time, that they were doing damage to the reputation of the Army and Green Berets. Good judgment has prevailed in the nick of time."

"I know, I know; I've got to listen," said Marasco's mother, Mrs. Frank Marasco, as she sat by a radio at her home in Bloomfield, N.J.

Last week Mrs. Marasco had declared: "I don't care if my son or any other mother's son killed this double agent, the boys were acting under orders. This is war."

In Baltimore, Md., CWO Edward Boyle's wife said: "I'm very, very happy that it's over with."

Capt. Leland Brumley's mother, Mrs. Vera Brumley, was teaching her elementary school class in Duncan, Okla., when she heard that the charges against her son had been dropped.

"I'm very happy and very relieved," Mrs. Brumley said. "I felt all along that the charges should have been dropped and that those boys should not be punished for carrying out orders of the Army."

Charles Williams, father of Capt. Budge Williams, said in Athens, Ga.: "I feel no bitterness against the Army, only against Gen. Creighton Abrams."

"It certainly was a blunder on the part of Gen. Abrams," said Williams, referring to the U.S. commander in South Vietnam. "We feel one blunder led to another blunder. I talked to my son by telephone last week. He blames two men. I blame only one."

Williams, who declined to name the other man referred to by his son, continued: "We're surprised and so very, very happy. I'd just finished taking shots—I'd planned to go to South Vietnam next week for the trial..."

Williams' wife, the captain's mother, said: "If the Army had just spent one of the agonizing nights that I have, they'd never want another one."

8 Berets Freed as Army Drops Charges

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of his decision before announcing it and Laird concurred with it. Henry Rothblatt, one of the

defense attorneys who had been especially critical of the Army in the case, said the charges were dropped because of "the

outcry of the American people with the help of the news media."

Resor said the CIA had decided "in the interest of national security" it would not permit its personnel to appear at the courts-martial, although the intelligence agency was "not directly involved in the alleged incident."

"It is my judgment that under these circumstances, the defendants cannot receive a fair trial," Resor said in a written statement issued by the Pentagon.

He made clear that the withholding of CIA testimony was the reason for the dismissal, stating that the charges against the Berets represented "a fundamental violation" of policy and regulations that the Army "will not and cannot condone."

Resor's decision came as a surprise. Preparations were well underway in Saigon and Long Binh, where the men have been held, for the trials.

Only last weekend, the Army disclosed that the charges would contend that Capt. Robert F. Marasco, Bloomfield, N.J., was the actual triggerman in the shooting of Chuyen, who was reported to have been working as a spy for both the United States and North Vietnam. Chuyen's body never has been found.

The defendants had retained two of the best known criminal lawyers in the United States, F. Lee Bailey and Edward Bennett Williams, for their trials.

Williams was in Vietnam at the time the dismissal was announced here.

In addition to Rheault, 43, of Vineyard Haven, Mass., and Marasco, the defendants were Maj. David E. Crew, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Maj. Thomas C. Middleton, Jr., Jefferson, S.C.; Capt. Leland J. Brumley, Duncan, Okla.; and, Capt. Budge W. Williams, Athens, Ga.

Chuyen, 31, was a civilian, but his background was never explained by official sources. Defense attorneys said he was a double agent. He was reported to have been slain on June 20 at Nha Trang, Green Beret Headquarters.

The arrest of eight Berets was announced by the Army on Aug. 6. They had apparently been in custody since July 21.

Those against whom charges were held in abeyance were CWO Edward M. Boyle, 26, New York City, and SFC Alvin L. Smith, 41, Naples, Fla.

Bonn Parties—

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million into West Germany in the week ended last Tuesday.

They were acting on the hunch the Social Democrats, who have previously pushed for a mark revaluation, would win enough votes to head the next government and would order a quick hike in the value of the mark.

Brandt formally announced he was seeking a partnership with the Free Democrats that would make him chancellor. The two parties together would have a 12-seat majority in the 496-seat Bundestag, (parliament). The Social Democrats won 224 seats, the Free Democrats 30.

Kiesinger's party also offered talks to the Free Democrats, its traditional coalition partner until a 1966 government crisis that resulted in the present "grand coalition" of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats. Kiesinger's party won 242 seats, a loss of three since the last election in 1965.

Fats Domino Hits Low Note

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Fats Domino, pioneer rock and roll singer, has been sued for \$19,040 for debts he is accused of accumulating at a Las Vegas casino.

Interstate Credit Service, Inc., said a \$30,000 bill was run up at the California Club in 1963. The suit filed Friday said Domino, now appearing in Las Vegas, has paid only \$10,960.

but now outmoded conventional cruisers. And the 50 new escort ships, larger than most destroyers, will go some way to compensate for the 200 over-age, smaller and elementary escorts."

Blackman said that the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean contains the cream of the U.S.S.R.'s fighting ships.

"It is manifestly not the sort of fleet which could be sunk within minutes of the outbreak of hostilities," he observed.

"The nine great postwar (American) carriers, including the nuclear powered Enterprise, are the largest and finest instruments of sea power ever devised. No fewer than 90 nuclear-powered submarines have been built in an almost incredibly short term, including 41 armed with ballistic missiles."

"Most of the 35 frigates built in recent years can do the jobs formerly done by much larger

A Lot of Baloney

PLAINFIELD, IOWA (AP) — Someone around Plainfield, Iowa is going to get awfully tired of baloney and cheese sandwiches. Thieves moved in on a locker plant over the weekend. They took 5,200 pounds of baloney — and 75 pounds of cheese.



Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor reads a statement in Washington announcing that charges have been dropped against the Green Berets accused of murder in South Vietnam. (AP)

Weather

Sept. 29

	H	L		H	L
Bangkok	93	79	Naha	84	75
Chitose	57	43	Saigon	97	81
Guam	89	79	Seoul	75	59
Hazuke	81	64	Taipei	84	73
Manila	89	76	Tokyo	70	54
	H	L		H	L
Albany	70	43	Melbourne	58	50
Albuquerque	85	54	Memphis	80	60
Anchorage	50	46	Miami	83	77
Atlanta	52	46	Milwaukee	61	43
Birmingham	83	60	Moscow	50	41
Bismarck	79	55	N. Orleans	89	60
Boise	77	46	NYC	70	56
Chicago	67	56	N. Platte	85	49
Cincinnati	60	53	Okla. City	88	62
Cleveland	71	42	Omaha	74	52
Denver	61	45	Paris	66	55
Detroit	85	47	Phila.	71	56
Duluth	66	43	Phoenix	104	74
Fairbanks	58	36	Pittsburgh	61	49
Fort Worth	64	38	Port., O.	75	60
Hong Kong	90	59	Rapid City	90	53
Honolulu	83	78	Reno	86	41
Houston	76	48	Richmond	76	60
Ind. polis	92	70	Singapore	87	73
Jackville	70	42	St. Louis	75	50
Jakarta	83	70	St. Paul	69	38
Juneau	92	85	Salt Lake	89	78
Kansas City	53	44	S. Antonio	93	60
K. Lumpur	74	57	San Diego	84	60
Las Vegas	89	72	San Fran.	75	56
Little Rock	97	61	Seattle	63	54
London	85	62	Shreveport	91	64
L.A.	59	52	Sydney	65	51
Louisville	83	60	Tucson	97	71
	73	47	Wash.	74	59

24 Pacific Stars & Stripes
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 1969

U.S.'s 'Aching' Fleet

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having 1,575 newer vessels in its total of 3,240 ships, against the United States' 894 newer ships in its total of 3,360 vessels.

The Soviet fleet was estimated to include 65 nuclear submarines, 320 diesel submarines, two helicopter ships, 25 cruisers, 100 destroyers, 100 escorts, 275 patrol vessels, 350 minesweepers, 125 missile boats, 350 torpedo ships and 230 landing ships.

On the other hand, Blackman continued:

"The nine great postwar (American) carriers, including the nuclear powered Enterprise, are the largest and finest instruments of sea power ever devised. No fewer than 90 nuclear-powered submarines have been built in an almost incredibly short term, including 41 armed with ballistic missiles."

"Most of the 35 frigates built in recent years can do the jobs formerly done by much larger