A War Widow's **Search for Peace**

From Page B3

those men was Eddie. He refused to let me drive him to the airport the morning he left Kingsport for the Oakland Army Terminal. He hated airport good-bys.

In July, Eddie was assigned as a company commander at the age

When Eddie learned I was pregnant with our second child, he passed out cigars to all 153 men in the company. He wrote his best friend that the baby would be a girl. "After all, anybody can make a boy, but it takes a gentleman to make a girl."

The Aftershocks

and three of his lieutenants were killed and another critically wounded during a mortar attack after receiving an intelligence report that his company was about to be overrun by 1,500 North Vietnamese troops. A single round 20 years ago today destroyed the lives of five men and their families.

Since Eddie's death, I have been haunted by recurring nightmares and questions. I never stopped wondering about the villagers in Rach Kien whom Eddie had described in his letters. What had happened to the old woman who washed his clothes? And what of the young girl who sold Cokes at the French Fort? What would Vietnam be like today? Had Eddie paid too high a price for his beliefs?

To find the answers, my son, James Reed, who is now 23, and I traveled to Vietnam in November. Our primary goal was to visit the site Eddie had nicknamed Fort Courage, situated 30 kilometers south of Saigon in the Mekong Delta. The concrete island fortress was home to Company A, the 3rd of the 39th Infantry of the 9th Infantry Division.

Eddie described the area as a romantic, beautiful place - a peaceful haven after marching for days in waist-deep mud in the rice paddies where the men were easy targets. As we flew into Vietnam on a Philippine Airlines flight from Manila, I would see what he meant. Below us stretched a magnificent panorama of lush green rice fields, jungle and winding riv-

At Ton Son Nhut Airport. James and I did not know what to expect. We agreed to travel with an open mind and a forgiving heart. Tears welled up at the memory of bodies being loaded onto aircraft in black body bags on the same runway where Eddie had arrived and departed.

Along the runway and outside the base we saw bomb craters, bunkers and rusty helicopters from days gone by. Inside the terminal building, three young Amerasians singled me out. A beautiful girl of 17 pressed a letter into my hand. Her large brown eyes filled with tears of desperation and sadness as she spoke of being abandoned in 1975. She wanted to go to America.

The sites in Saigon - now Ho Chi Minh City — were similar to those Eddie described. The streets are packed with bicvcles, noisy trucks and pedestrians. Buildings are in disrepair, and beggars line the sidewalks Buddhist monks dressed in orange robes seek alms.

James and I were surrounded by young children shouting, "Lien Ko?" meaning, "Are you Russian?" Once they learned we were Americans, the children and adults alike were delighted to see us. "We miss you many years. Glad you come back." They directed us away from "the very bad men" to respected English-speaking cycle drivers who gave us a whirlwind tour of the chaotic city.

Upon our arrival we began negotiations to travel to French Fort. We spent hours in a small dark room of a storefront tourist office, poring over Eddie's aging maps and photographs. During the 14day visit, I repeatedly submitted letters to the authorities to see Eddie's old outpost.

The negotiations were further complicated by the fact that I had agreed to bring with me a donation of medical supplies for Cho Ray Hospital. The supplies enabled me to offer something of humanitarian value and perhaps in some small way help heal old

wounds.

Delivering the medical supplies became a test in patience and perseverance. Our guide insisted the three large boxes be left with a Mr Thien - he never would tell me his first name — who said he was the associate director of tourism for Vietnam Both refused to telephone the hospital and would not reveal its location to me. When James and I observed the sale of



Eddie and Brenda Reed in 1967: Later that year, the war escalated and Eddie, at 24, assumed command of a company in Vietnam.

medical supplies on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City, we feared that would be the destiny of the donations unless we acted quickly.

I bribed a hotel desk clerk to contact Dr. Trin Kim Anh, who I knew to be working at the hospital. The gracious doctor was overjoyed by the unexpected windfall scarce surgical supplies. On a later date we toured the hospital and witnessed the tireless dedication of the doctors and nurses who work with antiquated equipment in buildings in need of repairs.

Our trip throughout Vietnam took us to Hanoi, where the scene differed. While we were treated politely, we felt an incredible tension in the air. Our tour was highly regimented and we were followed by a brown-uniformed policeman. We saw no beggars. The city was clean. Our guide eagerly pointed out evidence of the American "war crimes" along the roads and in the War Crimes Museum. I was horrified by photographs of American pilots that were displayed on crosses amid their helmets. Other photographs hanging above them depicted American anti-war demonstrators.

From Hanoi we flew to Da Nang, where we visited the Mar-ble Mountain, a site of tremendous beauty. The grottoes inside once housed a hospital for the Viet Kong and the North Vietnamese Army. We then drove to other cities that were heavily besieged in the Tet offensive. In Hue, I said a quiet prayer for those who gave their lives in the battle for the Citadel. We drove south through Nha Trang, Qui Nhoh, Da Lat, back into Ho Chi Minh City.

In the Delta, James and I saw firsthand the Vietnam Eddie had described. In Tan An, we climbed up on tanks and helicopters that belonged to Eddie's company. Once more the vast beauty of the country belied the horrors of the

In Ho Chi Minh City, Mr. Thien took the maps and photographs of Eddie and his men from me. I feared they would end up as displays in the War Crimes Museum. Thien then agreed to personally drive us to French Fort at considerable expense.

Hours before our scheduled departure for the fort, Thien announced, "It is not possible for you to go to the fort. It is a military zone." He patted James on the arm. "I understand what you came here to do. My own father died in the fighting. You must understand that it is just not possible. It hurts me to tell you this."

I gathered up Eddie's maps and photographs, which Thien had placed on the table. I wanted to get home to California where I belonged.

Our last evening in Ho Chi Minh City, I sat on the roof garden of the famous Caravelle Hotel, the site where Walter Cronkite related the news of the war so long ago. In the darkness I looked south to-ward the Mekong Delta and French Fort. I felt bitter and betrayed. I prayed that if Eddie were still out there that perhaps he would find James and me.

Home at Long Last

have asked myself if the trip was a success and if I fulfilled my mission. The answer is yes.

Shortly after returning home, I received an unexpected present on Eddie's birthday: an MIA bracelet bearing his name from a veteran who had been wearing it for 19

I like to think it is Eddie's way of telling me he is finally home with the people he loved.

Memorial services for J. Philo Nelson, a founder and former chief

executive officer of Blue Cross of Northern California, will be held tomorrow at the Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland.

J. Philo Nelson

He died of a heart attack at his home in Piedmont on Thursday at

A native of Minnesota, Mr. Nelson moved to San Francisco in 1936 to establish Blue Cross in California. He served as the company's chief executive officer until 1970.

His company was merged with an affiliate in Los Angeles in 1982 to become Blue Cross of California, now one of the state's largest health insurance organizations with 3 million members and revenue that

Man Hurt

In Fire at

Apartment

■ SAN FRANCISCO — A man was

alarm fire in San Francisco early

ment spokesman George Alboff

a.m. at an unoccupied wooden

ma Street. It was contained 30

apartment complex at 1073 Nato-

A man near the building who

The cause of the fire is under

EAST BAY

Arrested in Break-In

■ BERKELEY - In what was de-

scribed as "an agitators' picnic,"

tive were arrested during the

unoccupied house, police said.

They were cited for trespassing

six members of a homeless collec-

weekend after they broke into an

The group, which had invited

Homeless Group

inhaled smoke was treated at San

Francisco General Hospital and

said the blaze began at about 1:38

San Francisco Fire Depart-

injured and about \$125,000 in

damage was caused by a two-

yesterday morning.

minutes later.

released.

investigation.

and released.

BAY AREA REPORT

averages more than \$2 billion a

OBITUARIES

Mr. Nelson is widely credited for introducing health insurance, which began in the Midwest during the late 1920s, to the West Coast 'He was a pioneer in this field," said Larry Rodriggs, Blue Cross manager for public affairs.

Colleagues remembered Nelson as an "astute and kind" manager, said Rodriggs, who worked for Mr. Nelson for 12 years. "He laid down the foundation of his company's success.'

Commerce and served at various time on the boards of several community and health organizations, including Oakland Children's Hospital and the California Hospital Organization. He was a member of Clair-

homeless people to a "house-

held a barbecue and then at-

cords, police said.

bor, police said.

released.

the state.

warming" at 2621 10th Street,

tempted to take over the unoccu-

pied home owned by Fantasy Re-

Until last Sunday, many members of the collective had

been living in shanties in the back

vard of an unoccupied house on

the same street. The dwellings

were destroyed by firebombs al-

legedly thrown by an irate neigh-

the house because Fantasy Re-

ter for women and children,

San Diegan Wins

Junior Miss Contest

of North San Diego was named

California's Junior Miss Saturday

at the pageant at the Luther Bur-

bank Center for the Arts. Murray

won a \$10,000 scholarship in the

contest, which featured 55 high

school seniors from throughout

County was first runner-up and

top scholar award of \$1,000.

received a \$5,000 scholarship. Judges also awarded Wakelee the

Heather Wakelee of Sonoma

■ SANTA ROSA -- Megan Murray

cords has refused to discuss its re-

quest to turn the place into a shel-

according to Susan Marsh, one of

NORTH BAY

the six cited for trespassing and

The group attempted to take

Mr. Nelson was a former president of the Oakland Chamber of

Eva Krevit Kolker

mont Country Club, Oakland

rendra Gerdes Nelson; a daughter, Kirsten Bedford of Lafayette, and

He is survived by his wife, Na-

Rotary Club and the 100 Club.

three grandchildren.

Funeral services have been held for Eva Krevit Kolker, 75, the wife of veteran college administrator Berndt Kolker.

Mrs. Kolker died last Thursday at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco.

The Kolkers resided in the Parkside District.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. Kolker was a graduate of Washington University of St. Louis. She was later the public trustee for the city and county of Denver. More recently, she served as a volunteer at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank.

Her husband, Berndt Kolker, is now a businessman. He previously served as the last president of Lone Mountain College in San Francisco, as provost at the University of the Pacific in Stockton and as vice president of the University of Kansas City.

Mrs. Kolker's other survivors include a daughter, Gale Kolker Gottlieb; a brother, Samuel Krevit of Boca Raton, Fla; a sister, Minnie Roth of San Diego; two grandchild-ren, Tamar, Jordanna Kolker Gottlieb and Michael David Kolker Gottlieb, and 10 nephews and nieces including Colleen Haas of Sausalito.

Services were held yesterday at the Sinai Memorial Chapel. The family has suggested contributions to the Hamlin School in San Francis-

Helena Frances Renick

Helena Frances Renick, 85, the widow of a San Francisco stockbroker, has died at Mount Zion Hospital of complications from pneumonia.

She was a past president of the San Francisco Bonsai Society, an early volunteer for Planned Parenthood, a Red Cross volunteer and a member of the California Historical

Mrs. Renick was born in Chicago and reared in San Francisco. She was a 1924 graduate of the University of California. Her husband, W. Leonard Renick, died in 1980.

Survivors include a son, Lud

Renick of Pasadena; a brother, Don Zuckerman of Stockton and San Carlos, Mexico; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at noon Friday in St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The family suggests donations to the Bonsai Society.

Margaret K. Jackson 😁

Margaret K. Jackson, 64, a noted San Francisco teacher of bridge, died Saturday in Detroit of cancer.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Jackson came to the Bay Area 29 years ago. A card game aficionado, she took lessons from and then married her bridge instructor, Frank Jackson. Together, they opened the Jackson Bridge Studio at 3016 Taraval Street.

Mrs. Jackson, who taught bridge on more than 40 cruises, was a life master in the American Contract Bridge League.

She was a member of San Francisco's St. Gabriel Church.

She is survived by her husband.

A memorial service at St. Gabriel is being planned. The family pre-fers donations to a favorite charity.

Malcolm F. Walt

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Walnut Creek Unitarian Church for Malcolm F. Walt, 71, who died at his home in Danville on January 22.

Before his retirement, Mr. Walt and his wife, Jeanne, owned and operated the Clothes Horse women's apparel stores in the Walnut

Mr. Walt had a lifelong interest in music and in recent years played violin in the Mount Diablo Symphony Orchestra. He was a member of the orchestra's board of directors. Memorial contributions may be

made to the Joan and Katie Walt Memorial Heart Research Fund, P.O. Box 6181, Concord 94524, or to favorite charities.

Prayers for Lepers Asked

Vatican City

Pope John Paul II yesterday called on the faithful to offer prayers and support for victims of Associated Press

Funeral Notices

AGOSTINI, John G. DONOVAN, Lois Evelyn HANSON, Carl E. HEMME, Robert Walter HOWE, James W HUTCHERSON, Leah Ray KLAERS, Erma Jean LAIB, William Joseph LAYDEN, James F LEVIN, Manuel MEYER, Julius MINNER, Walter MORSE, Marie E. ORR, Robert William SCHNOOR, Dorothy (Saunders) SEELIGER, Dr Robert J. SELIG, Dorothy Jonas SEPULVEDA, Mary Louise VENTURI, Fred O.

AGOSTINI, John G. — In S.F., Jan 29, 1988, lowing husband of Frieda Agostini, father of Ernst and Katy Vogler Agostini, Friends are invited to attend the funeral Tuesday 2 pm at HALSTED N GRAY-CA-REW & ENGLISH, 1123 Sutter St HALSTEDN GRAY-CAREW & ENGLISH

Lesday 2 p.m at HALSTED N GRAY-CREW & ENGLISH. LESSAULEY SENGLISH LESSAULEY SENGLISH COMPLINENTARY PARKING DONOVAN, Lois Evelyn — Aged 65 years, died at her Walnut Creek home on Satt, Jan 30, 1988; she was born in Hillsboro, Wisconsin and moved to California following service in the U.S Army Nurse Corps during Will; 1988; she was born in Hillsboro, Wisconsin and moved to Callidronia following service in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during WWlishe remained active as a registered nurse until retirement form Contra Costa Co.'s Morrithew Memoral Hospital in 1983; she was the wisconsin and Hospital in 1983; she was the wisconsin and John to Calli, Borkeley, Class of 1950; her survivors include her eternally loving husband, Robert William Donovan, three adoring children: Mary Patricia Gustafson of Dallas, Maureen Anne and Robert Sean Donovan of Walmut Creek; grandsons, Michael Stephen and Alyce Quiros of San Rafael and several necessand enghews
Friends may call at HULL'S WALNUT CREEK CHAPEL, 1139 Saranap Ave., Walnut Creek, on Monday, Fob. 1 from 11 a.m. with the Rectation of the Rosary at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, Feb 3 at 11 a.m. at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1650 Ignacio Valley Rd. Walnut Creek, followed by interment at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Lafoyette Amer. Heart Assoc., will be appreciated. HULL'S WALNUT CREEK CHAPEL, 1170 Cancer Society or the Amer. Heart Assoc., will be appreciated. HULL'S WALNUT CREEK CHAPEL. 1180 Ignacio Valley Rd. Walnut Creek, 23, 94598. American Cancer Society or the Amer. Heart Assoc., will be appreciated. HULL'S WALNUT CREEK CHAPEL. 1180 Grands and Spyeris. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated or Rey Kirby Hanson of San Rafael and Faye H. Schlichte of Walnut Creek, grandfather of Carl F Schlichte of Walnut Creek, grandfather of Carl F Schlichte of Walnut Creek, grandfather of Garl F Schlichte of Walnut Creek, grandfather of Roor Former Schlichter of Walnut Creek, grandfather of Roor Former Schlichter of Roor Kirch Person Charles Carlonic Church, 1600 Roor Morrither Schlichte Of Walnut Creek, grandfather of Garl F Schlichter of Heaven Cha

Chairman of the Board of First National Bank of Hawaii, a native of California; aged 85 years

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St Anne's Catholic Church, 1600 Rossmoor Parkway, Waint Greek, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1401 Cross Cemetery, Colma, In lieu at Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, In lieu at Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, In lieu at Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, In lieu at Bild, Oakland, Ca.

HULL'S WALDJA-5400

HULL'S WALDJA-5400

HAM 29, 1988; beloved husband of the late Helen A. Hemme, Ioving father of Diana Hemme of Sacramento, loved son of the late John M and Ursula DHenime; loved brother of John M. Hemme, Jr. and wife Eleanor of Sacramento, nephew of Social Color, and Thomas Pera, both of S.F., uncle of Mark and John Tennis of Sacramento, as elf-emiployed artist for over 35 years, he specialized in water and oil painting, discontinual control of Afficial California Arts League and WASH, a native of San Francisco, aged 61 years.

Friends are welcome for visitation Tuesday at ANDREWS & GREILICH, an Essitiavin Mortuary, 39,98 Fruitringe Rd., Sacrament, Southeast Lawn Memoural Park.

Baumbas...
Emilia Barrera; a grauuuEmilia Barrera; a grauuuEmilia Barrera; a grauuuHigh Schook, 1960; a native San Franciscus,
aged 45 years.
today at 10:30 a.m. from DUGGAN'S SERRA
MROTUARY, 500 Westlake Ave., D.C.;
thence to Our Lady of Mercy Church, for a
Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Interment, Holy Cross, Donations to Parkside
Recovery Unit at MI Diablo Hospital, 2450
Recovery Unit at MI Diablo Hospital, 2450
Concord, 94520, preferred.

KLAERS, Erma Jean — In S.F., Jan 28, 1988; loving niece of Margaret and Ed Doss; loved

nia; agod 63 years; a retired employee of yells Fargo Bank, a member of University of could be seen and past President of St. Friends may visit after 2 p.m. Monday at the Evergreen Mortuary of McAVOY O'HARA CO., Geary Blvd, at Tenth Ave, and are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burled to attend a Mass of Christian Burled to attend st. St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemarky, Woles & Co.

Cartolic Centicety, Modesta, Ca.

McAVOY O'HARA CO.

LAIB, William Josoph — In Grass Valley, Jan. 29, 1988, husband of Lee H Laib of Grass Valley; father of Richard F. Laib of Penn Valley; brother of Vara Foster; long time resident of the S.F. area; worked as an extraction of the S.F. area; worked as a section of the S.F. area; worked as area; worked as a section of the S.F. area; worked as a section of

2850 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 451-6434
LEVIN, Manuel—In S., Jan 30, 1988, Manuel
Levin; dearly beloved husband of Midred
W Levin; loving father of Irene Dietz,
Judge Ina Gyemant and Jeffrey T Levin,
S.F.P.D.; devoted grandfather of Douglas
and Danielle Dietz, Robert and Anne Gyemant; dear brother of Jess Levin and the
late Ben and Edward Levin; father-in-law of
Robert and the late Mervyn
Graveside services Tuesday 10 a.m at
Eternal Home Cemetery, Colma, under the
direction of SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.
Contributions to Variety Club Blind Bables
Foundation, 50 Oak St., S.F., Ca., 94102.

MEYER, Julius — In San Francisco, Jan 29, 1988; beloved husband of Rita, member of Congregation B'nai Emunah, Services 11 a m Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1988 at SIAM MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Divisadero St. at Geary, S.F. Interment, Salem Memorial Park, Colma

In Memoriam

STROHLIN, Sr., Lew — Missing you. Lew, Jr

Cemeteries-Lots MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY 200 acres OVERLOOKING San Francisco Bay Non-profit Oakland-Piedmont 658-2589 House in Sonoma; past Pres. of Holy Names Mens Club, S.F.
Friends will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1988 in the Chapel of BATES, EVANS & FEHRENSEN, 966 Broadway, Sonoma; thence to St. Francis Solano Church, Sonoma, where a Mass of Christopher Chapter Chapt

Marilyn mining Brandmother or ing Brandmother or in

ORR, Robert William — In Millbrae, Jan 30, 1988; late of Millbrae; beloved husband of the late Sydna Orr; loving father of Jack Orr of San Jose and Robert Orr of Millbrae; also survived by 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; a native of Missouri; aged 84 years; a member of Shriners.

on Sandage and Robert Alchildring and six areat-grandchildring; a native of Missouri; aged 84 years; a member of Shriners. Funeral services will be Monday at 1 p.m. at the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS, Et Camino Real at Milwood Dr., Millbrae. Inurrement will be at Olivet Memorial Park. Sandage and James Saunders; idolized grandmother of Lesley. Kenneth, Kimberly, Kelly, Michelle, Dorothy and Elizabeth Saunders and James Saunders; idolized grandmother of Lesley. Kenneth, Kimberly, Kelly, Michelle, Dorothy and Elizabeth Saunders and grantgraph and services of the services of

Cremations CREMATION

AMERICAN SERVICE

NEPTUNE SOCIETY



iFPULVEDA, Mary Louise—At nume, aer.
31, 1988. Seloyed wife of Richard, devoted niter of Richard Louis Sepulveda, Ir., irene K. Jose and Nanci L. Sepulveda, Ir., irene K. Jose and Lawrence; mother-in-law of Larry Jose, Ioving daughter of Maria Pineda; also survived by eight brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews; aged 59 years.
Friends may call Monday evening 5 p.m. and are invited to attend the funeral Wednesday 8:30 a.m. from the Chapels of VALENTE-MARINI-PERATA & CO., 4840 Mission St.; thence to St. Kevin's Church, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be offered commencing at 9 a.m. Interment, Holy Cross Cemetery. Rosary Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.ms. 333-0161

VENTURI, Fred O.— In Millbrae, Jan. 30, 1986; beloved husband of the late Ethyl Venturi; devoted father of Ken Venturi; loving brother of Rico and Jack Venturi and the late Yolanda Strand; dear uncle of Barbara Lombardi; loving grandfather of Matthew

brother of Rico and Jack Venturi and the late Yolanda Strand, dear uncle of Barbara Lombardi; loving grandfather of Matthew and Timothy Venturi and great-grandfast and the late Yolanda Strand; loving grandfather of Matthew and Timothy Venturi and great-grandfast and the late of the Professional golf association for over 30 years, he was a native San Franciscan; aged 78 years.
Friends may call Monday after 3 p.m. and are invited to attend a Blessins Service Wednesdy at 10 a.m. at DUGGAN'S SERR (Reference) and a professional golf association of the Professional Service Wednesdy at 10 a.m. at DUGGAN'S SERR (Reference).
THE BUD DUGGAN FAMIL 22, 1988; beloved husband of Jeanne Walt; devoted britter of Jeanne Walt; devoted britter

Funeral Directors

HALSTED N. GRAY - CAREW & ENGLISH 1123 Sutter 4000 19th Ave SF 673-3000 24 Hrs

All Services Itemized

VALENTE, MARINI, PERATA AND CO
4840 Mission St San Francisco 333-4

Cemeteries-Lots

