

TED STUDEBAKER, A VNCS WORKER, DIES IN VIETNAM

A twenty-five year old Vietnam Christian Service Worker who had recently extended his term to a third year and had been married only one week was killed in Di Linh, South Vietnam, on April 26.

Ted A. Studebaker, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Studebaker of Union, Ohio, was a volunteer agricultural worker who served with Vietnam Christian Service' community development team in Di Linh. Vietnam Christian Service has had a program there since September, 1966. Although there have been attacks on government buildings and installations, this was the first attack to injure a VNCS worker.

About 1:00 a.m. on April 26 a number of B-40 rockets landed near the back of the VNCS house and all the occupants went toward the bunker. In addition to Ted these included Mrs. Ven Pak Lee Studebaker, Ted's wife of one week; Mrs. Phyllis Cribby,

VNCS public health nurse; and Miss Daisy Benares, a rice expert serving with International Voluntary Services. Before entering the bunker Ted returned to his bedroom. A plastic charge exploded at the rear of the house, after which Ted called to the girls that he was all right. A small number of men entered the house and several shots were heard along with the voices of the men. One of the men opened the door of the bunker and discovered the girls huddled there. He told them to remain. The girls stayed in the bunker until daylight, at which time they discovered Ted's body in a closet in his bedroom. He had been shot.

Ted Studebaker was a talented and respected member of the Vietnam Christian Service team. His proficiency in Koho, the tribal language of the people with whom he worked most closely, as well as proficiency in Vietnamese, made him a sensitive participant in both cultures.

According to Betty and Lynn Vogel, Vietnam Christian Service workers from Des Moines, Iowa, who were commissioned by the United Methodist Board of Missions as short-termers, the death of Studebaker was a tragic anti-climax to the joyous wedding celebration of the week before.

The wedding, they report, was an interesting blend of culture. It was held in the Koho (local Montagnard) Protestant church, and done in the Koho language so the people Ted worked with could understand. He said his vows in Koho, she sang hers in a traditional Chinese song. (She is a Chinese worker with VNCS, whom he had met during his term in Vietnam.) Among the guests were representatives of nine nations, plus at least three different Montagnard tribes.

In a letter received at the Board of Missions in New York, Phyllis Cribby, a special term nurse in Vietnam with the United Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, said that Ted's "genuine concern and liking for the people, and his gift for languages (plus plenty of effort and perseverance) helped him to establish an incredible rapport with both Vietnamese and Montagnards."

Miss Cribby reported that after his first year in Vietnam, "Ted felt even more disturbed about the war. He wrote a letter to his church in which he said, 'The longer I am here and as my language ability improves, I begin to see more of the complexities of the situation . . . The meaninglessness, the wastefulness, and the non-necessity of this war is outweighed only by its inhuman effects, both here and in the States . . . I believe there is a lot of truth in the statement that the killing and destruction will stop only when American

public opinion demands it.'"

According to the Vogels, no one knows the cause of Ted's tragic death, but it looked like an intentional attack on the VNCS unit—the only other place coming under attack was the police station a little way down the road. "We don't think in all of VNCS you could have found a warmer, more sensitive and more dedicated worker," says the Vogels. "It's almost as if he were too effective."

A member of the Church of the Brethren, Ted volunteered to come to Vietnam as a conscientious objector and was performing his Alternative Service. In a recent letter to the States he wrote: "I do not 'feel the enemy is right' any more than I feel the U. S. military is right being there. I believe strongly in trying to follow the example of Jesus Christ as best I know how. Above all, Christ taught me to love all people, including enemies, and to return good for evil, and that all men are brothers in Christ. I condemn all war and conscientiously refuse to take part in it in any active or violent way. I believe love is a stronger and more enduring power than hatred for my fellow man, regardless of who they are or what they believe."

W.C.C. PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES

The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of the World Council of Churches has cabled \$37,000 for immediate emergency assistance for East Pakistan refugees crossing into India. In addition the East Asia Christian Conference has sent \$500 as an expression of the concern of the churches in Asia. The money will be used by the Indian churches' relief