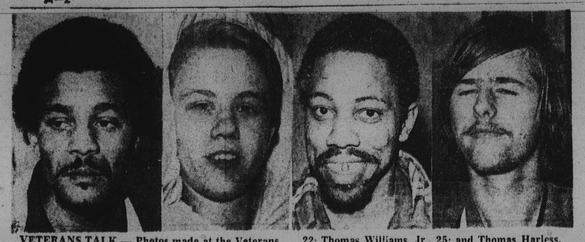

VETERANS TALK — Photos made at the Veterans Hospital, 39th St. and Loch Raven Blvd., of veterans by AFRO staff photographer I. Henry Phillips, Sr. L-R, Bernard Tyler, 34; Miss Linda Aman, 22; Thomas Williams, Jr., 25; and Thomas Harless, 21. See accompanying story for their reactions to the impending end of the Vietnam War.

—Vets have mixed reactions

(FROM PAGE ONE)

When he does get released, Mr. Joyner plans to return to Baltimore City Hospital as a biological laboratory aide.

A City College graduate of 1969, he will then start schooling at Bethesda Naval Hospital, under the Veteran's Readjustment Program.

"The war is over and none of the younger guys will have to go to fight.

"For the mothers, wives and sons of Vietnam veterans, it's a relief—if the ceasefire holds, and I don't think it will.

"The bombing shouldn't stop because there'll be more casualties between the time of signing and withdrawal because there's always a rat in the bunch.

"We should have an agreement whereby 'If you don't fire, we won't.'

"The news won't travel fast in Vietnam."

So said Thomas Courtney, 22, an Army tank sergeant who served both in Vietnam and in the May, 1970 Cambodian incursion.

He was and is pro-war, and served there from December, 1969 to December, 1970, and was wounded from Communist rocket fragments.

* * *

He is in the hospital for what he terms "An 18th Century disease called Brucelsis, a disease of the bones and spine," picked up overseas and not yet cured.

"I think the ceasefire was great, but I also think it could've been done in 1968 or 1967 when three presidents were released by the Communists.

"If they could've done that then, they could've come to a ceasefire agreement."

* * *

He, too, doesn't know how long he'll be in the hospital, or what he'll do when he gets out.

He resides with his mother, Mrs. Eleanor Courtney, a housewife, on Palmer St.

His father, Thomas Courtney, Sr., died April 23, 1971, from a disease caught in World War II.

* * *

"To me it means that a lot of unnecessary killing will be stopped," said William Goldman, 26, at the VA hospital for drug abuse treatments.

He picked up the drug habit in Vietnam, when attached to the 684th Artillery which saw extensive fighting during the 1968 Tet offensive in the central highlands of South Vietnam.

A resident of the 1700 block Eutaw Pl., he is son of Cornelius Hairston, a longshoreman, and Mrs. Alice Hairston, a registered nurse at a convalescent home.

At first a supporter of the war, now he is not so certain.

When he leaves the hospital sometime next week, as a free man cured of his drug addiction, he will seek education at the Rex Electronics School.

* * *

Bernard Tyler, 34, an assemblyman at the General Motors plant on Broening Highway, said "Since the war's over jobs will be scarce.

"All the GI veterans are going to come back to America and want first privileges on jobs.

"There'll be confusion."

A veteran of European service during 1957-59, Mr. Tyler, 1700 block Montenier St., is against the war.

He is in the hospital for a nervous condition and expects to be there for two more months.

When he gets out, he told the AFRO, he will return home to his wife Mrs. Gladys Tyler and his five children: Rhonda, 14; Bethro, 12; Bernard, Jr., 9; Perry, 6; and Natasha, 2.

"I think it's a great idea—the best that ever happened," said Thomas Williams, Jr., 23, a former Army infantryman at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

He was hospitalized for infected kidneys, and was never sent to Vietnam.

He lives on Milton Ave. in East Baltimore with his mother, Mrs. Cecilia Williams, housewife, and father, Frank Williams, a construction worker.

Of his future he says "I want to get a trade," and hopes to leave his bed sometime this week.

* * *

"I think it's great because I had a lot of friends over there, and a couple of them were killed," said Miss Linda Aman, 23, Cumberland.

She is the only female veteran in the hospital, and is there for leg surgery, due to standing too long in Navy WAVE inspections, she told the AFRO.

When released from the hospital she plans to return to her job there as a telephone operator and to her apartment on Bowley's Lane.

* * *

"I think it's a great idea because now my friends aren't going to die over there.

"I've lost friends there although I've never been there myself," said Thomas Harless, 21, from Sykesville in Carroll County.

Suffering from nerve damage in his left arm, received during his service in Europe, he's been in the hospital a week and was discharged from the Army last Friday.

He looks forward to returning home and getting a civilian job."

* * *

In addition, the AFRO got the feelings of the man in the street.

Mrs. Colleen Thomas, 2200 block Grantley Ave., saleswoman: "I'm glad, provided it's really over

"I won't believe until the guys start coming home, though.

"The only thing I can't see is why they couldn't have decided to end the war earlier.

"Whatever they decided yesterday could been decided a long time ago."

* * *

M. Nicholson, 1700 block Washington St., cook: "If it's really over, I'm happy, all though I'm not getting my hopes up just yet.

"However, the coming home of all those boys will cause some problems:

"First of all, there won't be enough jobs for the GI's as there aren't enough jobs for the people who are already there.

"Somehow, someway, somebody is going to have to create some jobs."

B. F. Bennett, Sr., 1600 block E. 33rd St., Salesman: "I was very happy to hear about the end of the war, as it means my son, who is serving in Vietnam, will be safe.

"Still, I'll believe it when I see it.

"The only problem is that if all the guys are pulled out, there'll be no jobs—and for that there is no real remedy."

A. Armstrong, 2900 block Allendale Rd.: "Naturally I think that it's a wonderful thing the war is over, however, it's going to cause a lot of problems:

"The main problem will be jobs—or lack of them.

"In addition to this, the cost of living is going to rise, but in spire of this, I'm glad it's over."

C. R. Stewart, 1400 block Jackson St., policeman: "Personally, I think it's the greatest thing that ever happened.

"I don't know how everyone is going to get a job, but I'm glad the boys are coming home."

Mrs. Catherine Torrence, 2200 block Madison Ave., retired: "Of course I'm happy about it, and I hope that it is a permanent peace.

"The two major problems this whole thing will bring about, however, are unemployment and drugs."

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Col. Hurtt to return from 2nd Viet tour

COLONEL CLARENCE P. HURTT

"I was very happy to hear about the end of the war. I only hope that it's a strong and lasting peace." These sentiments were expressed by Mrs. Virginia Hurtt upon hearing the President's peace announcement.

Since July, 1972, Mrs. Hurtt's husband, Col. Clarence P. Hurtt, has been on his second tour of duty in Vietnam. Hurtt's initial stint in Vietnam was in June, 1957, until June, 1958.

Prior to his most recent activity in Vietnam, he served as Professor of Military Science at Morgan State College from 1968 until 1972.

* * *

"He's very determined man who does what he believes in", stated Mrs. Hurtt in reference to her husband's second tour of duty in Vietnam.

"No, he didn't sign up for duty," stated Mrs. Hurtt, "but he returned to Vietnam in full support of President Nixon's policy in assisting the people in their quest for self determination. A quest which he believed to be sincere."

The Hurtts two daughters; Susan and Patricia, both of whom are married, told the AFRO they were "very, very, happy" about the termination of the war and the expected return of their father.

* * *

Mrs. Hurtt agrees fully with her husband's stand on the war as well as with that of the administration.

"Everyone should serve his country," said Mrs. Hurtt. "Of course my husband and I don't like wars, but we do feel that every one should be loyal to his country."

Like most Americans Mrs. Hurtt is more than happy that the war is drawing to a close. But also like most Americans, she is concerned about the welfare of returning veterans.

"I just hope that the veterans get a better deal than they've been getting. So far, they've been treated rather shabbily."

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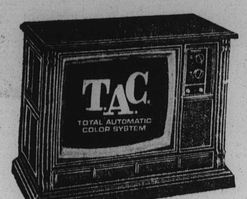

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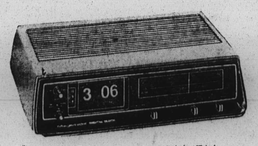

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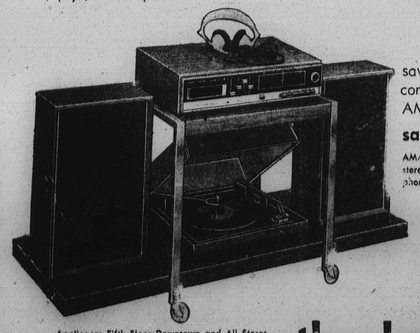

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—Father links

(FROM PAGE ONE)

have been made yet.

Dr. Hawkins' daughter, Pauletta, was the mother of the slain children. Known in Muslim circles as Bibi Khaalis, the 26-year-old woman was one of two people injured during the shoot-out. The other survivor claims Pauletta was forced to watch her children drown before being shot herself, five times in the head and once in the neck. She remains in critical condition at Freedmen's Hospital in the District.

Her father reported she is improving and that she attempted to speak to her mother Wednesday night. Mrs. Hawkins is remaining in Washington to be near her daughter.

Compounding the tragic slaying, when Dr. Hawkins returned home he found his house ransacked.

The local dentist as well as Presbyterian minister did not know whether the burglary was related to the Washington incident.

"Whoever did it, seemed to know something. Only my room was ransacked," he said. The two-time unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate in North Carolina and ardent civil rights activist listed the following items as missing: several boxes of high powered rifle ammunition, a TV set, jewelry and more than $50 in cash.

Preying on the father's mind is the possibility further attempts may be made on his daughter's life or possibly his son's 24-year-old Reginald Hawkins Jr. who is also a member of the Hanafi Muslim sect in Washington.

He is also worried about what kind of scars the tragic slaying will leave on his two younger children and whether he and his wife will also be endangered.

"I do not agree with my daughter ideologically," he said. "But every person has the right to worship their own God without fear of persecution."

The father said he felt the slayings were part of a feud between the Hanafi sect and the larger Black Muslim faction.

* * *

The house where the slayings occurred wasa gift to the Islamic group by Milwaukee Bucks basketball star Kareem Abdul Jabbar. Jabbar is a member of the sect and frequently visits the house. He commented after the incident that he too felt the slayings were part of the feud between Muslim factions. The two time NBA most valuable player was not present when the mass murder occured.

The Hanafi sect follows the preachings of the late Malcolm X in their belief that all men — black and white — are children of Allah. The Black Muslims believe in separation from the "white devils".

* * *

Malcolm X was assssinated in 1965 in Harlem shortly after he broke with the teachings of Elijah Muhammad's Black Muslims. Since then, followers of Muhammad and those of differing sects such as the Hanafi have gone their separate ways, seldom speaking publicly about their deep doctrinal division.

Law enforcement authorities now fear the growing Islamic movement among black Americans may be entering a phase of religious warfare which would threaten the peace of several U.S. cities.

Police in Chicago — the headquarters of Elijah Muhammad's Black Muslims — ascribe 11 slayings in recent years to the Muslim power struggle.

Joining the mass slaying in Washington last week was the abortive raid on a Brooklyn sporting goods store by four muslims who sought weapons "to unify the fragmented Muslim nation".

* * *

Dr. Hawkins' daughter is married to the leader of Hanafi sect, Hamaas Abdul Khaalis. They were married in New York in 1970 after Pauletta had converted to the Islamic faith and took a new name Bibi Khaalis.

Her husband, who was not at the house at the time of the massacre, claimed after the incident he has been writing letters to other secrets of the Muslim faith denouncing Muhammad.

A survivor of the killings reported to police she heard one of the six to eight persons involved say to one of Bibi's children, "You know your father wrote those letters, don't you? Don't you know he can't do anything like that."

Mr. Hanaas says he feels Muhammad's followers were responsible for the slayings.

* * *

However, spokemen for Elijah Muhammad have consistently denied any involvement in the incident and discount reports of a rift in the Muslim community whose membership rolls are unofficially estimated at nearly 100,000 persons.

Mindful that splintered muslim groups might declare open warfare, Dr. Hawkins made this comment:

"When people resort to fanaticism, they must be prepared for dangerous consequences. Religious warfare is nothing new; think about the crusades, and what happened to Jesus and Moses. Look at what is happening right now in Ireland"

"I have worked to show that blacks can stay within the system and succeed. But I fear that a failing of the civil rights movement of the 1960s was we only prepared our people to accept the physical, not the mental, consequeces of racism.

"I feel this played a major part in two of my children seeking the Islamic faith as an answer. But I do not feel this is the right choice, because we live in a Christian nation," he stated.

* * *

The father and son-in-law have one thing in common right now and this is a hope that the nation's law enforcement agencies find and prosecute the persons involved in the tragic slaying.

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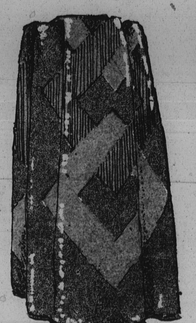

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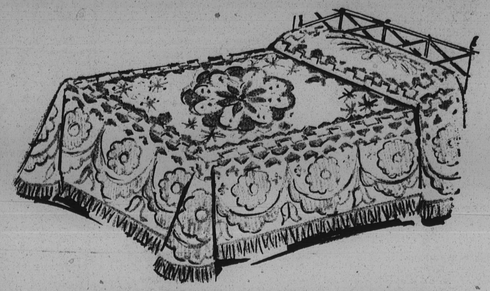

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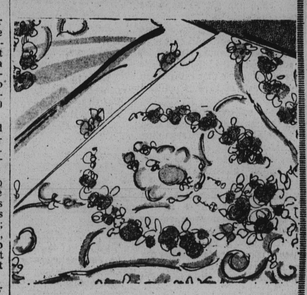

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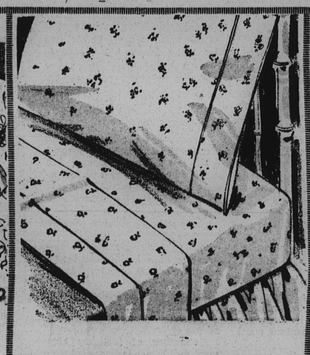

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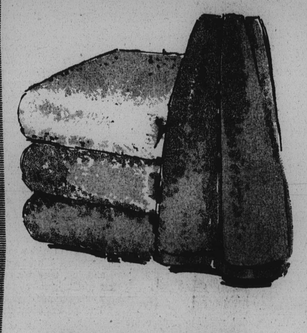

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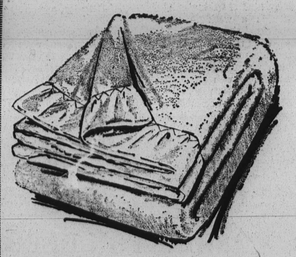

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