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Betty Donovan

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Description
An article describing the circumstances of the wedding in Vietnam of Second Lieutenant Bernadette Todesca to Army Specialist Leo Harrod Jr.

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Newspaper clipping is backed with purple construction paper and collaged with the printed caption: "Grandparents of Kirsten Harrod"

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Your Serviceman

Viet Wedding Involves Miles Of Red Tape

BY BETTY DONOVAN

The bride wore a borrowed dress, the groom wore a borrowed suit and the service was held a week late when Leo Harrod Jr. and Bernadette Todesca were married at Phi Bai, Vietnam.

The fact that Leo is an enlisted man and Bernadette an officer didn't dimish the joy of all concerned. But there were moments when the couple and their families back home, wondered if the red tape would ever be cut so the wedding could take place.

A wedding in the States is complicated enough. But when an Army specialist fourth class falls in love with a second lieutenant in Vietnam, it becomes an international affair, from dozens of officials military, consular, church and in the U.S.

Not only must the couple fill out dozens of forms, they must get permission from dozens of officials-military and in Vietnam and in the U.S.

LEO, who attended St. Mary Seminary and is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, was working for his master's degree when he was drafted. Last March, he was promoted to Specialist four and was assigned to Vietnam as assistant to the chaplain of the 22d Surgical Hospital at Phu Bai.

Bernadette, a second lieutenant, is an Army nurse and a graduate of Boston College. She went to Vietnam in February, and also was assigned to the 22d Surgical Hospital.

"I liked Leo the first time I met him, but he was so shy," said Bernadette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Todesca of Cincinnati, Ohio.

She made a point of going to chapel much more often than usual. She also sat near Leo when he ran the movie projector for patients in the ward to which she was assigned.

BERNADETTE soon wrote to her parents. She told them that she was in love. Leo wrote to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo B. Harrod Sr., of 805 Madison Court, Deer Park. He said he thought he was in love.

He proposed, she accepted and they set the wedding date for Aug. 15.

They sent tape recordings to their parents, telling about the wedding date. Mr. and Mrs. Todesca flew in Cincinnati for the wedding, and Mr. and Mrs. Harrod Jr. flew from Hong Kong when they thought he was in love.

"I don't know what their plans are," said Leo's mother. "Leo wants to get his master's degree, and Bernadette wants to be with him in Cincinnati. If they could cut all the red tape, they could get married. I'm sure they'll find some way to be together when they get home."