

UPI (11 Aug et seq) gives Rheault's address as Vineyard Haven, Mass.

Green Beret Colonel

Robert Bradley Rheault

The yearbook of the United States Military Academy for 1946 records that the favorite word of Robert Bradley Rheault, who was graduated that year 224th in a class of 875, was "navree."

The word appears without further explanation, leaving the impression

Man that it may have been the French word meaning wounded, distressed or rended

of heart, as in "Je suis navré" —"I am brokenhearted." For his friends, for family, and for Robert Rheault (pronounced ROE), yesterday was a time for distress.

In the stockade at Longbinh, not far from Saigon, Colonel Rheault was being held pending investigation of allegations of murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

The news—involving the death of a Vietnamese in June—came as a shock to many. The colonel, a tall, lean blue-eyed man with graying hair, assumed command of the Fifth Special Forces in Vietnam at the end of May, and he quickly took the opportunity to emphasize to the men under his command the importance of cooperation.

In an introductory message written for Green Beret Magazine, he said: "I ask you to remember that you are part of a team, and that you must work in close cooperation with all the many other elements that are also part of that team—be they U. S. or Vietnamese, Navy or Air Force, military or civilian."

Relieved of His Command
When Colonel Rheault, who was serving his second tour of duty in Vietnam, was relieved of his command on July 21, some officers believed that he had been transferred to a higher post, where he could earn a swift promotion to the rank of general.

The allegations, which are under investigation, could cloud a military career that he envisioned as early as 1941, when he entered Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, N. H., after studying at the Brooks School in North Andover, Mass.

"At the time of his admission," said Robert W. Kessler, vice principal of the academy, "he indicated he



Associated Press

The accusation came as a shock to many.

wanted to go to West Point. He was quiet and well-mannered and liked by the faculty who dealt with him and by the other boys. In all semesters of the 12th grade, he had honors and high honors."

Colonel Rheault was born Oct. 31, 1925, in Boston, the second of three sons of the former Rosamund Bradley, who died this year, and Charles A. Rheault, a prosperous financial counselor.

Popular at West Point

His appointment to the Military Academy came from Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts. At West Point, the yearbook noted, Robert "made a friend in all classes and became a valuable member of the corps."

He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry, and on April 11, 1947, married Caroline Anna Young, a blond, blue-eyed graduate of the Chapin School who was studying art history at Vassar.

Subsequently, the young officer, rising steadily in grade, served tours of duty in West Germany, at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga.; Korea, where he won the Bronze Star in action, at West Point, where he taught French, with the 10th Special Forces and at the Armed Forces Staff College in Virginia. In a previous tour with the Fifth Special Forces in Vietnam, he won two Legions of Merit, five Air Medals and a Combat Infantry Badge.

He then studied at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.; served on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and commanded the First Special Forces on Okinawa.

Fond of Skiing

A skilled skier on snow or water, the Colonel has maintained a home with his family at Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard for about six years.

The weathered, gray shingle house, spacious but unpretentious, stands at the end of a wooded road, overlooking the Lagoon, a large salt water pond. It is the most stable home the three Rheault children—Susanne, aged 20, a college student who was born in Germany; Michere, 17, a New England prep school student who was born in Kansas; and Robert Jr., 11, an elementary school student who was born at West Point—have ever known.

"If you have to say anything about his family," Mrs. Rheault said yesterday, "you can say they are very proud of him."

"My husband," she declared, "has had a long and honorable career in the Army. Whatever he does has always been in defense of his country and for the protection of his men."