

Brooklyn Man, 26, Tells Of Harsh Life in Saigon

NYTimes

AUG 2 1975

Special to The New York Times

BANGKOK, Thailand, Aug. 1—"I thought I was the last American in Saigon," Gerald Posner said tonight. "I decided, well, if they kill me, okay. But meanwhile I would look for my wife."

Mr. Posner, a 26-year-old postal worker from Brooklyn, arrived in Bangkok today from Saigon, where he had been trapped more than 15 months. He told a tension-packed tale of what life there was like.

His arm around his wife, Tu Thi Nhan, and grinning broadly, he described how, two days before the fall of Saigon to the Communists, he had arrived back in the South Vietnamese capital determined to find her.

He told, too, of a year of

scratching for a living on a small pension from international relief organizations, of an economy that began gradually to run out of some of the essentials of life—medicines, for instance, and of his existence in a Spartan apartment in downtown Saigon waiting for the day when the evacuation would come.

He first met his wife, he said, during his tour of duty in the Army near Saigon from 1970 to April 1972, when he returned to Brooklyn. His wife followed in July, but the next month a family crisis forced her to return to her hometown in the Mekong Delta south of Saigon.

They kept in close touch,

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Associated Press

Gerald Posner, a Brooklyn postal worker, leaving Bangkok airport after arriving with his wife from Saigon.