

MARCH FOR PEACE SIMULATES WAR

Veterans Stage 'Incidents'
in Trek to Valley Forge

By RONALD SULLIVAN

Special to The New York Times

BERNARDSVILLE, N. J., Sept. 4—More than 100 veterans and reservists in battle dress began a march today through western New Jersey toward a Labor Day peace rally in Valley Forge, Pa., where they will demand an immediate United States withdrawal from South Vietnam.

While passing through this rural Somerset County community, the marchers attempted to dramatize what they said it was actually like when American soldiers passed through a South Vietnamese village.

In a series of staged incidents, the marchers seized a private home just north of here and in a mock enactment of a combat operation, terrorized its occupants, all of whom had agreed earlier to participate in the demonstration.

Less than an hour later, a "search-and-destroy patrol" moved ahead of the main column into the downtown section here. While a state police helicopter whirred overhead and dozens of townspeople looked on, the patrol seized a young woman who had been planted there earlier by the marchers and dragged her away, shouting obscenities and abuse at her.

First 'Incidents'

March leaders said that although there had been other veteran-led protests against United States military policy in Vietnam, today's was probably the first in the country to seek to dramatize its impact in more than a dozen planned "incidents" between here and Valley Forge over the weekend.

"This has been staged as realistically as possible without actually shooting anyone," said Al Hubbard, the executive secretary of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, a Manhattan-based antiwar group that organized the march.

To heighten today's realism, the marchers wore combat uniforms and carried toy submachine guns, some of which had small violet flowers protruding from their muzzles. Many men wore decorations such as Silver and Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts, and many men had combat infantryman badges.

Mr. Hubbard, a 32-year-old former Air Force pilot who wore three rows of military decorations on his sweat-darkened fatigues said he anticipated that several thousand veterans and other antiwar sympathizers would take part in the Labor Day rally.

Along the line of march today that took the column through the lush horse and estate country of Morris and Somerset Counties, the reaction was sharply divided.

'Disgrace to Uniforms'

At one point along U. S. Route 202 across the road from the Erie-Lackawanna's Bedminster-Far Hills railroad station, Ernest Cummings, a 48-year-old former paratrooper and veteran of the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, strode into the path of the marchers.

Holding a large American flag across his chest, Mr. Cummings shouted: "You men are a disgrace to your uniforms. You're a disgrace to everything we stand for. You ought to go back to Hanoi."

Later, in front of Palumbo's Pharmacy here, William Crandall, a Vietnam veteran who organized several of the staged incidents, dashed with about a dozen other men onto the sidewalk under the amused gaze of police Sgt. John Lucas.

Mr. Crandall's group seized Toni Kuash, a 27-year-old nurse who was part of a Nurses for Peace contingent accompanying the march. She was pulled away for what the patrol said would be "interrogation" to find out where the community's men and arms were hidden.

Tonight, the marchers encamped at a farm farther south in Lamington.