

Our Man Hoppe**Joe Sikspak's
Famous Victory****Arthur Hoppe**

DEAR PRESIDENT: I, Joe Sikspak, American, take pen in hand to lift my cap to you. I don't know how you done it.

I dropped by Paddy's Place the other night. He's got the tee-vee going and there you are, finishing up telling us how the war is over.

"Give me a Seven-high, Paddy," says I, "and toss in a beer chaser to celebrate us being out of that mess."

"Mess!" says Paddy. "You are referring to 'one of the most selfless enterprises in the history of nations.'"

"Who says so?" says I.

"The President says so," says Paddy. "And furthermore he said three times we all ought to be proud of the glorious role our great nation played in this noble war."

"Ill try, Paddy," says I.

"You should, Joe," says Paddy, "because at last we got peace with honor. The President said so four times!"

"For the past couple of years," says I, "I would of settled for any kind we could get."

"Shame on you, Joe," says Paddy. "If it were left up to the likes of you we never would have won this famous victory."

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"**M**AKE THAT a boilermaker, Paddy," says I. "You mean to say we won the war?"

"I'm not saying it, Joe," says Paddy.

"The President says it. Thanks to our selfless enterprise, the justness of our cause and our dropping 7 million tons of bombs on their heads, we have at last forced the heathen enemy to their knees."

"The President said that?" says I.

"Yes, sir," says Paddy. "How can you

win peace with honor without a victory? We forced them to knuckle under and yield abjectly, the President said, to 'all the demands' he'd laid down."

"And they caved in?" says I.

"What else could they do?" says Paddy. "We'd killed a million of them. So in the surrender agreement they signed, they promised to let our troops retreat to Thailand or Hawaii or wherever, leaving only 145,000 of theirs hanging around."

"And I thought they'd never give up," says I.

"What's more," says Paddy, "they even agreed to holding the free elections they'd been asking for since 1954. Thanks to our spending \$140 billion and 45,000 American lives, those people out there are going to get what the President called 'the precious right to determine' their own future."

"What's that mean, Paddy?" says I.

"It means they'll get a free choice," says Paddy, "between General Thieu's dictatorship and a Communist dictatorship. If the elections are ever held."

"I can't help being sorry for the enemy," says I, "getting licked like this."

"Don't be, Joe," says Paddy. "They're claiming they won a famous victory in a glorious war, too."

"How can they say a thing like that, Paddy?" says I.

"You know these Asiatics, Joe," says Paddy. "all they care about is saving face."

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SO MY CAP'S OFF to you, President, for pulling a famous victory out of the fire. Seeing how much this victory cost us and what it got us, I sure would of hated seeing us get whipped.

Truly Yours,
Joe Sikspak