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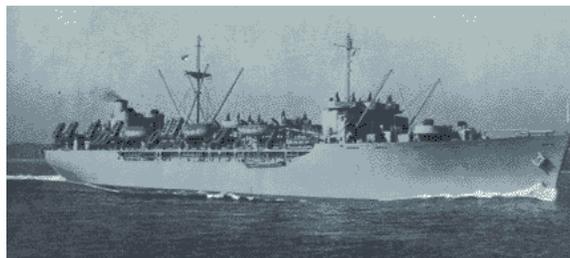


During this period herbicides such as Agent Orange were being widely used throughout Vietnam. Water was required for re-combining milk to make ice cream. So where do you think the water came from? Do you remember the ice cream aboard ship? Could your ice cream have come from mainland Vietnam? *Information compiled by Gale McIntire, US Navy Veteran*

“In October 1967, the Sea Land Corporation began providing refrigerator cargo service to South Vietnam. Four C4J vessels arrived in Cam Ranh Bay every 15 days. Each vessel hauled 120 refrigerated vans and 530 general dry cargo vans. The 120 refrigerated vans were divided with 60 going to Saigon, 30 to Qui Nhon and 30 remaining at Cam Ranh Bay. Distribution was made to Saigon and Qui Nhon by a smaller shuttle vessel from Cam Ranh Bay. This system was used because of the costs to construct other land cranes to offload C4J vessels which do not have organic cranes. A T3, capable of carrying 93 refrigerated vans and 360 general cargo vans, was introduced to service the port of Da Nang.”

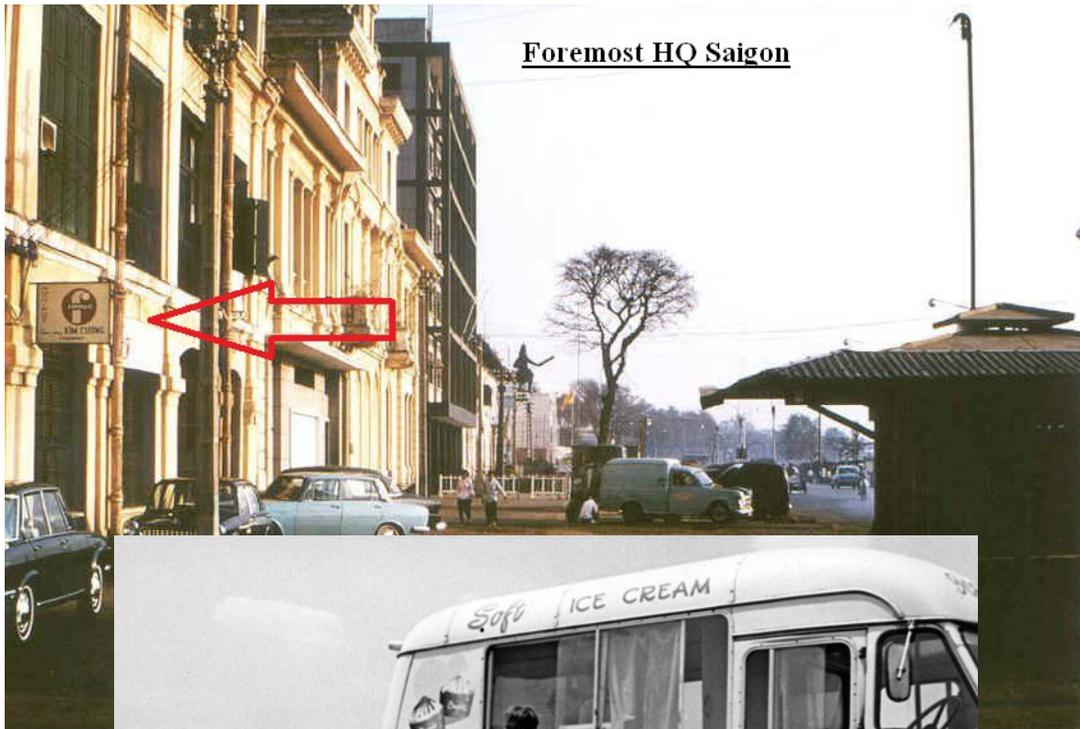
“To provide a wide range of dairy products, the A ration required three recombining milk plants to be built in Vietnam. A Foremost Dairy plant in Saigon began production in December 1965. Under a contractual agreement with the Army, Meadowgold Dairies constructed one plant in Cam Ranh Bay which began production on 15 November 1967 and another in Qui Nhon which began production on 4 February 1968. The cost was to be amortized and ownership transferred to the U.S. Government. By assuming the risk of the operations in Vietnam, the Army obtained the Meadowgold product at a lower cost. To augment the ice cream provided by the milk plants, additional small size ice cream plants were brought into country to provide ice cream as far forward as possible. The number of these plants reached a high of 40.”

“The recombination process begins with dispersion of skim milk powder in water at 40-50°C. Water quality is important and should be checked routinely, especially if it is ground water. Chemical, physical, biological and radiological minimum and maximum levels for water must be established. Powder is fed into the water via a hopper with care taken to avoid air incorporation, which causes foaming. Various techniques are used to add the powder to the water. The most common method is to empty the milk powder bags in a dry room with a dust removal system, because a great deal of dust is generated in this step. It is important to use milk powders that possess the specific properties that the recombined milk product requires. For example, fluid milk requires a medium to low-heat skim milk powder (WPN > 3.5) because high-heat products may yield an undesirable cooked flavor.”



C4 type ship

Post Exchange (PX) and ice cream (soft serve) truck



(NY8-Jan.11)BUSINESS CYCLE IN WAR--An enterprising South Vietnamese ice cream vendor with a bicycle does business with the crew and mounted infantry of a South Vietnamese army tank north of Saigon. It was part of a tank column moving against a North Vietnamese infantry unit, reported 25 miles north of Saigon. (AP Wirephoto)(pr50920stf-ut)1973



This is another example of how routes of Dioxin exposure were overlooked by the IOM (Institutes of Medicine) and The DVA (Department of Veterans Affairs). There are no manifests or documentation that mainland ice cream made it to the fleet. However there was so much traffic from shore to ship that this cannot be discounted as a likely source of contamination. If you know of any other ways water from Vietnam's shores got to the fleet, please contact the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association at navy@bluewaternavy.org .

The material in this article was found on various web sites, numerous times. The original authors are not known because most of this was found in Military journals, <http://www.history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/logistic/chapter8.htm>