



SCRAPBOOK

THROUGH 15 JANUARY 66

for fighting men too busy to keep their own!

ARMY'S 1ST AIR CAV PACKS FOR VIETNAM



In Command

Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, Commanding General of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) is ready to take off in his IRO-QUOIS helicopter for a first hand look at Sky Trooper activities at Fort Benning, Ga. General Kinnard is a 1939 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

During World War II, he was assigned to the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment which became a permanent attachment to the 101st Airborne Division for the duration of the war. He parachuted into Normandy in the D-Day invasion, took part in the airborne invasion of Holland and was at Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge. He became a full colonel at the age of 29.

When the Army established the experimental 11th Air Assault Division (Test) in February, 1963, General Kinnard was named Commanding General—a position the Army aviator held until the experimental 11th was disbanded and the 1st Air Cav was activated as the Army's newest combat division. (ANP)

Vietnam Orders Come Just 27 Days After Activation

WASHINGTON (ANP)— From the East Room of the White House, President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed a nationwide radio and television audience.

In firm tones he said, "I have today ordered to Vietnam the Air Mobile Division..."

Six hundred miles to the south, at Fort Benning, Ga., the officers and men of the Army's new 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) turned from television screens and radio sets and began in earnest the massive job of moving to Vietnam.

They had received their orders.

Just 27 days earlier the Division officially joined the Army's troop list. It is a direct descendant of the now disbanded 11th Air Assault Division (Test), the unit created in 1963 to develop and evaluate the principles of Army airmobility.

UNITED STATES ARMY

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION



THE SKY TROOPERS

Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, Division Commanding General, speaking for the more than 25,000 men of his unit, said "I think any unit that has been given the word to move to combat has rather mixed emotions. The 1st Cavalry Division is

no exception. "We're a proud unit. We think we're good." The airmobile concept, he declared, gives a commander "a degree of surprise, flexibility of maneuver, and speed never before possible in ground combat."



SIoux ON LINE—OH-13 SIoux helicopters of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) await further preparation for movement to Vietnam. The Army helicopters are secured in wooden cradles as part of the extensive preparation and preservation process necessary before the aircraft are ready for the long journey to the Southeast Asia country. The OH-13 is manufactured by the Bell Helicopter Company. (U.S. Army photo by S/Sgt John Hughes)

Washington Post Viet-Bound Division Rides in Copters

By Fred S. Hoffman

The "air mobile" division, ordered to Viet-Nam by President Johnson yesterday is the Army's newest and has been in existence less than a month. It is expected to be deployed roughly near Pleiku in the central highlands of South Viet-Nam where U.S. authorities have been expecting a major Communist push.

The division's nearly 16,000 infantry men and paratroopers will be carried to battle aboard some 428 helicopters. It is this helicopter capability which planners believe makes such an organization ideal for fighting in the jungles and mountain country of South Viet Nam.

Its key features are speed of movement and maneuverability. Culminating three years of study, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced June 16 that the Army has been authorized to organize its new air mobile division.

The division, designated the 1st Cavalry Division (air mobile), went on the rolls July 1. Many of its elements already were present at Ft. Benning, Ga., where they had conducted

tests of the air mobility concept under the name of the 11th Air Assault Division. At the time, McNamara said he believed the new division would be combat ready "should that become necessary" within about eight weeks.

An Atlanta Journal reporter at Ft. Benning wrote yesterday that the division plans to send an advance logistics party to Viet-Nam within a week or 10 days and soon afterward to airlift a tactical unit, probably as large as a battalion, to an advanced staging area.

The use of the 1st Cavalry will be an acid test of the Army's theories on air mobility, which have been contested by the Air Force. In describing the mission of the new type of division, McNamara has said: "The air mobile division is standard infantry and paratroopers in all types of terrain.

"It can react quickly and maneuver rapidly over large areas. "It can reconnoiter, screen wide fronts, delay hostile forces, and conduct raids behind enemy lines." The air mobile division,

McNamara said, "will make its greatest contribution to improved combat effectiveness in operations where terrain obstacles and undeveloped communications networks could give enemy guerrilla or light infantry forces an advantage over our standard formations."

The Defense Secretary said use of helicopters to carry units directly to and from the battlefield "provides a capability that did not previously exist to redeploy our combat forces immediately to other areas."

The air mobile division is essentially a light infantry outfit. It substitutes the rocket firing power of armed helicopters for heavy artillery used by conventional infantry divisions. About two-thirds of the division is standard infantry and about one-third paratroopers.

Where the standard Army infantry division has about 3200 trucks and other ground vehicles, the air mobile division has only 1600.

Its 428 helicopters are more than four times the aircraft in standard infantry divisions. It also has six Mohawk reconnaissance planes.

13 BATTALIONS OF ARMY GET VIET ORDERS

Alert Follows Decision by President

BY WILLIAM ANDERSON

Washington, July 28 — Thirteen army battalions today received orders to move to South Viet Nam, United States officials said.

It also was disclosed that the army will be increased in size by one division and receive additional brigades as well.

Department of defense officials were preparing to go to Capitol hill and ask for 1 or 2 billion dollars more to finance new procurement and construction projects.

The actions are a follow-up to President Johnson's announcement today that the draft call will be more than doubled, from 17,000 to 35,000, and that an additional 50,000 troops are to be dispatched to Viet Nam to try to stem the tide there.

Only One Unit Identified

The 1st cavalry [air mobile] division at Fort Benning, Ga., is the only unit thus far identified as being ticketed for Viet Nam. It is sending eight battalions.

In a related development, the navy announced that it will have to take 4,500 draftees in the October call. The navy traditionally does not draft, but had to in both World War II and the Korean conflict, to meet manpower requirements.

Officials would not disclose how far the buildup announced by the President would go, although they are expected to do so after reporting to Congress later this week.

Reserve Callup Discussed

The army has been meeting its deficiencies thru a current draft call of about 17,000 a month, which has been raised to that level only recently. In march of this year the call went from a 3,000-6,000 level to 7,900.

The officials said that serious considerations had been given by the President and his advisers to calling up reserve units in this crisis, but this was not done because the units would be in service only one year.

The conferences that started when Robert S. McNamara, secretary of defense, returned from South Viet Nam last week were likened to those during the serious crisis days concerning the Cuban blockade in 1962.

Discuss 5 Alternatives

The advisers and the President discussed five alternatives:

1. Greatly intensify the net pressure on communist bloc nations, using massive air and naval power with its blockade potential and all available weapons.
2. Withdrawal.
3. Remain with essentially

the same number of troops which would limit risk of escalation.

4. Use reserve troops to augment new troops introduced.

5. Call additional draftees and activate new military units.

Inadequate, Some Say

President Johnson indicated at his press conference that he was giving the military commanders everything they had asked for and he was backed up privately by the United States officials today. However, privately, some top military officials think that larger increments — possibly as many as 500,000 troops — are needed to resolve the chaos in South Viet Nam on a purely military basis.

These officials concede that the President is faced with domestic and international political problems and consequently are not expected to force any major issues concerning the decision.

The 1 billion to 2 billion dollars, which will come in the form of an amendment to the fiscal year 1966 budget, does not cover all of the costs required to the buildup. For example, it will not include military pay or the cost of operations and maintenance.

Estimates Too Difficult

Officials said it was too difficult at this time to make these estimates immediately.

The officials said they do not anticipate that the costs will be comparable with those of the Korean war, when the United States at its peak had in excess of 280,000 troops in the war field at one time. The officials

said it was not anticipated that civilian controls—such as wage price freezes—would be necessary.

In addition, it was stated that there will be no American troops relieved from their assignments in Europe. While hard decisions have not yet been made, it is considered most likely that the new army division will be a mechanized infantry division.

Has 16 Divisions

The army now has 16 divisions, including equivalent strength of four divisions now in Viet Nam, including the augmentation ordered today. The precise ratio of combat versus noncombatant troops in Viet Nam is classified.

Additionally, the army is expected to receive far more helicopters than it now has. The officials said this was not because helicopters are being lost at an alarming rate, but because they have been so effective.

The army has had to rob some of its divisions in the United States of helicopters to meet its requirements in Viet Nam. There also will be a stepup in the production of bombs, which have been expended by aircraft in their more than 4,000 sorties since Feb. 7.

The army's total strength today is 968,000 out of a total military force of 2,653,861.

BALTIMORE SUN 13 SEPTEMBER 1965 P-1

Arrival Of 1st Cavalry Puts Muscle In Task Force Alfa

By PETER J. KUMPA
(Sun Staff Correspondent)

Nha Trang, Vietnam, Sept. 12—The arrival of the Army's 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam today gives real muscle for the first time to Task Force Alfa.

The task force, with its headquarters here, is directed by Maj. Gen. Stanley R. Larsen, 48, a veteran of Pacific fighting in World War II, the Korean War and most recently the deputy chief of staff of American forces in Germany.

Commands Central Region

The task force commands all American fighting units in the central portions of Vietnam. This includes three brigades, the 1st from the 1st Infantry Division, the 173d Airborne, the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and a battalion of Marines at Qui Nhon along with the new arrivals.

Despite its command position, the task force, which operates under Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, is not yet well known in the country.

It's not even well known in this busy seaside city that was mainly a beach rest and recreation center for American troops only short months ago.

Have To Be Escorted

Visitors to Nha Trang's bustling airfield complex have to be escorted through a Vietnamese Air Force noncommissioned officers school to find the headquarters building tucked away between the 5th Special Forces headquarters and an air command squadron.

The task force's public information officer, Lt. Col. Tom Hamrick, had to conduct a campaign to get Saigon to spell the command's name correctly. It's Alfa not Alpha.

There is a strong Texas flavor to the task force. About two thirds of the 200 men at the task force came together as a team from the 3d Army Corps at Fort Hood, Texas.

They began arriving on August 5. They began working while carpenters were still hammering away putting up the main building that has a corrugated tin roof. Many of the task force sections continue to operate from tents.

A large building in the center of the city is being renovated for the permanent headquarters of Task Force Alfa.

It's very doubtful that the 1st Cavalry Division will be thrown into any quick operations against the Viet Cong. Experience has shown that it takes from one to

two months for troops to be acclimated to field conditions here.

The exact future role of all the American units here is not clear now. After the smashing defeat of the 1st Viet Cong Regiment by United States Marines at Van Tuong, the Communists may have decided to break up and operate in smaller units.

Task force commanders here are confident that if the Viet Cong continue to try to fight with battalion-size units or larger they will be defeated by the superior air, artillery and ground fire of the American units.

To handle smaller units, plans have been made. The stress is on fundamentals such as the quick transmission of intelligence to take advantage of the mobility that the 1st Cavalry will have with its hundreds of helicopters.

The 1st Cavalry will be able to operate from any given base—either on the sea or inland.

One continuing objective of the Americans will be to keep open key highways such as Highway 19 that runs from Qui Nhon across the mountains and highlands to Pleiku and then to the Cambodian border.

The Viet Cong have chosen this rugged area to place most of their forces. Therefore, the fighting in the highlands in coming months probably will determine the outcome of the conflict.

Major General Larsen is rated as a careful, sound tactician. He is the Omar Bradley-type of general with a deep concern for his men.

Larsen, naturally nicknamed "Swede," is a native of Honolulu. He has been an infantry man since his graduation from West Point in 1936, rising from a company commander to division commander. The American strategy in the highlands will be up to him and his staff of Texans.

1965: The 'Conflict' Becomes a 'War'

IN THE 12 months of 1965, that "dirty, little war" in Southeast Asia got dirtier — and bigger — as U.S. troop strength climbed in giant steps from a barely noticeable 23,000 to more than 181,000 men.

Keeping pace, South Vietnam's shipping imports rose 800 percent, intercoastal shipping doubled and petroleum consumption jumped from 250,000 barrels in January to more than a million per month by December.

These and other facts were released last week in the Pentagon's year-end compilation of the war in Vietnam.

On the grimmer side, the U.S. lost more than 1300 men and South Vietnam 11,000. The enemy fared much worse. The Pentagon says more than 34,000 were killed and almost 6000 captured during the year.

Massed, and massive, firepower was the campaign keynote. On the ground and in the air the U.S. and Vietnam upped the ante for playing "war of national liberation." Air forces of both countries flew more than 60,000 sorties over South Vietnam and Navy and Marine Corps planes, carrier and land-based, flew 39,000.

North Vietnam also felt the crunching allied air power. The Navy and marines flew more than 6600 sorties over North Vietnam while the U.S. and Vietnamese Air Forces banded in with almost 12,000.

In carrying out this air escalation, the allies lost more than 160 planes over North Vietnam, including 10 knocked from the sky by Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles (SAMs). The U.S., in return, struck 18 SAM sites.

Terminology for the raids on North Vietnam went from "punishment" (after the VC attack at Pleiku in February) to "supply interdiction" (more than 500 highway bridges hit in the third quarter of the year alone).

The U.S., however, dropped more than bombs on the North. Between poundings, U.S. and South Vietnamese personnel poured more than 77 million leaflets, 340,000 newspapers and 20,000 gifts into North Vietnam.

Escalation also hit the other war in Vietnam—that war for the allegiance of the people. More than 2400 military civic action programs, ranging from bridge and school building to road repair and drainage control, blossomed forth in 1965. Armed forces medical personnel treated more than 4.5 million Vietnamese under the Medical Civic Action Program. The U.S. distributed some 106,000 tons of foodstuffs and more than \$100,000 worth of other commodities donated by various relief services.

Finally, 1965 was the Year of the War, though not officially called such. For the world, Vietnam moved from the wings to center stage. For some U.S. students, facing a doubled draft call, Vietnam suddenly was a

Year-End Military Strength

Republic of Vietnam	
Regular	265,000
Civilian Irregular Defense Group	27,500
National Police	52,500
Combat Youth	34,000
	679,000
United States	
Army	111,000
Navy	8,500
Marine Corps	98,500
Air Force	22,800
Coast Guard	250
	181,250
Third Nation Forces	
Australia (One Reinforced Battalion)	1,500
New Zealand (One Artillery Battery)	300
South Korea	
Capital Division (Reinforced)	17,000
Engineer Task Force	2,600
MASH Hospital	150
Other Military Support	1,000
	22,550
Viet Cong	
Hard Core (Regular Forces)	75,000-85,000
Paramilitary (Irregular Forces)	100,000-120,000
Felicitical Cadre	40,000
	TOTAL 215,000-245,000
MAJOR FORCES	
Army: 1st Air Cav. Div.; 1st Inf. Div.; 173d Abn. Brig.; 1st Brig., 101st Abn. Div.; 3d Brig.; 25th Inf. Div.; 1st Log. Comd.	
Navy: Advisory Group; units from the 7th Fleet.	
Marine Corps: 1st Marine Amphibious Force, including 3d Marine Div. (Reinforced) and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.	
Air Force: 2d Air Div. (eight Wings).	



BTRY. B, 2d HOWITZER BN. 320th ARTY., 101st ABN. DIV.

Massed, and massive, firepower, upped the ante for playing "war of national liberation."

target of protest. And for more than 150,000 servicemen, Vietnam was not a name but a destination.

Chronology

How the war grew to its present proportions is detailed in the Defense Department's compilation of the action.

JANUARY

- 1—U.S. military strength in Vietnam: 23,000.
- 1-31—Officials report highest Viet Cong monthly losses since 1961.

FEBRUARY

- 7—Viet Cong attack U.S. compound at Pleiku and nearby Camp Holloway . . . Following the attack the U.S. launches its first air strike against North Vietnam.
- 8—President Johnson orders withdrawal of U.S. dependents.
- 9—First elements of the Marine Corps' 1st L.A.A.M. Bn. are reported operational at Danang.
- 10—Viet Cong terrorists blow up U.S. BEQ at Qui Nhon.
- 16—Largest Viet Cong weapons cache of war is seized at Vung Ro Bay.

MARCH

- 4—First U.S. Air Force planes are shot down by MIGs over North Vietnam.
- 8—First Marine Infantry (3d Bn., 9th MAR) lands at Danang.
- 30—U.S. Embassy in Saigon is damaged by Viet Cong explosives.

MAY

- 5—First elements of the 173d Abn. Brig. arrive in Vietnam.
- 7—U.S. Marines and Seabees land and begin construction at Chu Lai.
- 11—Viet Cong attack the provincial capital of Song Be.
- 16—Series of accidental explosions rocks Bien Hoa airbase.
- 28—Major battle around Quang Ngai city rages until June 3.

JUNE

- 1—U.S. military strength in Vietnam: 52,000.
- 8—First Bn., Royal Australian Regt., arrives in Vietnam.
- 9—Construction begins on base at Cam Ranh Bay.
- 9-12—Heavy casualties on both sides in Dong Xoai battle.
- 16—Explosives charge damages Tan Son Nhut terminal.
- 17—First MIGs shot down by Navy fighters over North Vietnam.
- 18—First B-52 bomber raid in South Vietnam.
- 25—Two Viet Cong mines blast My Canh restaurant in Saigon . . . Several Viet Cong battalions attack Vietnamese battalion at Duc Hoa.

JULY

- 7—Marines land 8000 more at Danang and Qui Nhon.
- 12-16—Second Brig., 1st Inf. Div., and the 1st Log. Comd. land at Cam Ranh Bay, Vung Tau and Qui Nhon.
- 15—U.S. confirms SFC Isaac Camacho's escape from Viet Cong prison . . . MACV confirms presence of

- North Vietnam's 101st Regt. in South Vietnam.
- 17—B-52 bombers support ground operation.
- 24—First U.S. aircraft downed by SAM over North Vietnam.
- 27—U.S. hits two SAM sites northwest of Hanoi.
- 29—First Brig., 101st Abn. Div., lands at Cam Ranh Bay.
- 30—U.S. military strength in Vietnam: 80,000.

AUGUST

- 9—U.S. presents four B-57s to the Vietnamese air force.
- 14-15—Another 6400 marines arrive at Danang and Chu Lai.
- 18-24—Marines conduct Operation Starlight south of Chu Lai.
- 24—Viet Cong stage mortar attack on Bien Hoa airfield, damaging 49 aircraft.

SEPTEMBER

- 7-10—U.S. and Vietnamese marines in Operation Platanha south of Chu Lai.
- 18—First elements of the 1st Air Cav. Div. land at Qui Nhon.
- 18-21—First Brig., 101st Abn. Div., conducts Operation Gibraltar near An Khe.
- 23-30—Viet Cong suffer heavy losses at Phu Co outpost along Highway One.

OCTOBER

- 8—First elements of South Korea's Capital Division arrive.
- 10—First elements of 1st Inf. Div. arrive.
- 17—Navy jets destroy first mobile SAM site in North Vietnam.
- 19-31—Battle rages at Pleime Special Forces camp.
- 27—Viet Cong attack marine air installations at Danang and Chu Lai.

NOVEMBER

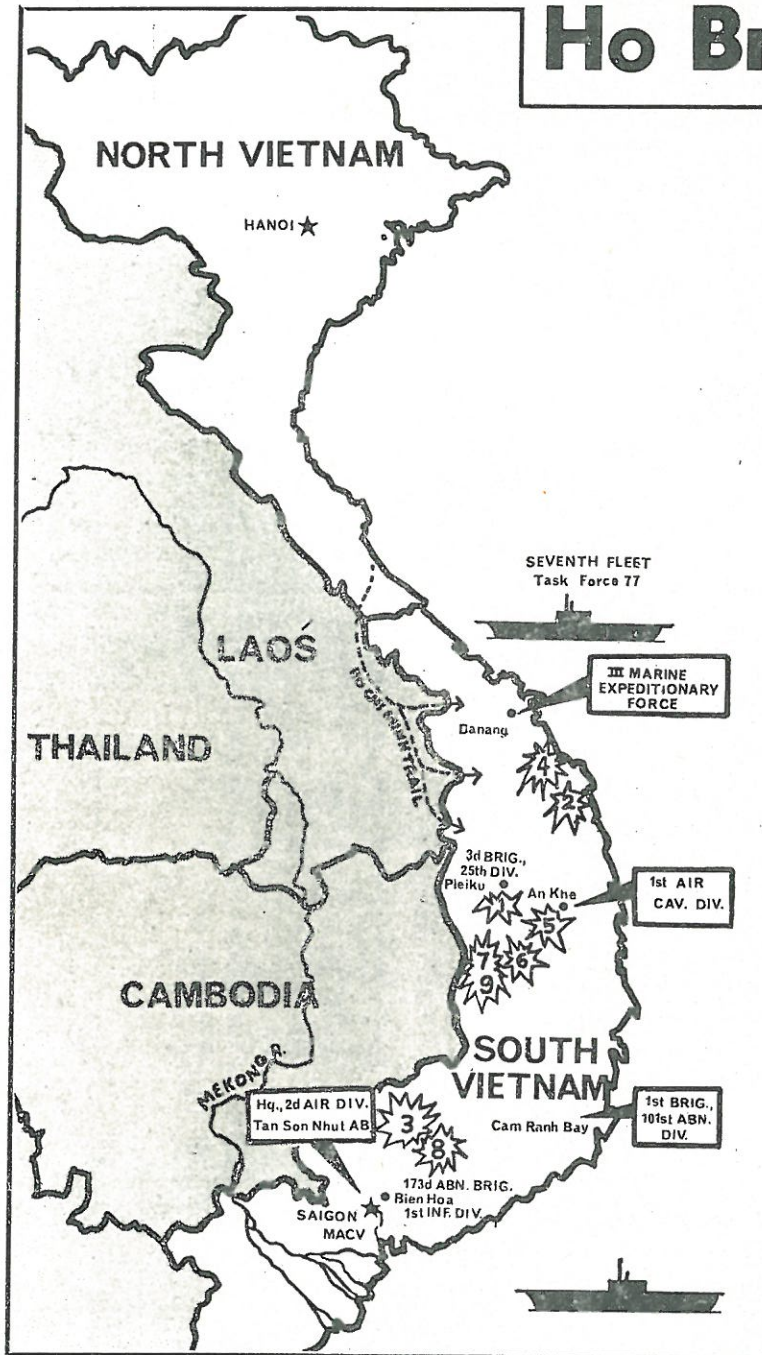
- 1-12—First Air Cav. Div. battles west of Pleime.
- 7—MACV confirms presence of five North Vietnamese battalions in South Vietnam.
- 8—Men of the 173d Abn. Brig. fight major engagement in Zone D.
- 10-12—U.S. and Vietnamese marines join in Operation Blue Marlin.
- 14-19—U.S. troops fight the Battle of Ia Drang Valley, the biggest engagement thus far in the war.
- 27—Viet Cong overrun Vietnamese 7th Regt. in battle at Michelin Rubber Plantation.

DECEMBER

- 1—Viet Cong incidents total 1038 in week ending December 1. (More than 28,000 of these "incidents" were reported for the year.)
- 2—USS Enterprise begins her first combat.
- 4—Terrorists bomb Metropole BEQ in Saigon.
- 15—Air Force hits Long Bi thermal power plant near Halphong, North Vietnam.
- 25—Viet Cong break their own and U.S.-South Vietnamese Christmas cease-fire.
- 28—Third Brig., 25th Inf. Div., arrives at Pleiku.
- 31—U.S. military strength in Vietnam: approximately 181,000.

Ho Brewed Turmoil For 20 Years

The present struggle in Vietnam did not begin overnight. Although 1965 was the year in which the crisis became everybody's concern, the roots of the struggle go back some 20 years in violent history. Through revolt, counter-revolt and coup, Ho Chi Minh has managed to keep Southeast Asia in turmoil since 1945. Some of the major stepping stones to the Vietnam war follow.



Where the Action Was

Among biggest engagements of 1965 (see map) were these:

1. February 7. VC attack U.S. compound at Pleiku. "I've had enough of this," storms LBJ, orders air strikes on North.
2. May 29-June 3. In what appears to be start of "Monsoon Offensive," VC attack in major battle near Quang Ngai city.
3. June 9-12. VC lay siege to Dong Xoai. Four days of fierce fighting produces heavy casualties on both sides.
4. August 18-24. U.S. on the offensive. Marines open Operation Starlight south of Chu Lai, trapping VC regiment.
5. September 18-21. First Brig., 101st Abn. Div., conducts Operation Gibraltar. Close-in fighting with VC.
6. October 19-31. North Vietnamese troops, mounting massive assault against Special Forces camp at Pleime.
7. November 1-12. In hot pursuit of retreating North Vietnamese, 1st Air Cav. Div. ambushes enemy west of Pleime.
8. November 8. The 173d Abn. Brig. in major sweep operation in Zone D, long considered an impregnable VC stronghold.
9. November 14-19. In biggest engagement of the war, 1st Air Cav. Div. battles North Viet regulars in Ia Drang Valley.

- 1945
 - March 8—Japanese occupation authorities proclaim independent Vietnam with Emperor Bao Dai as nominal ruler.
 - September 2—Communist dominated Vietminh Independence League seizes power under Ho Chi Minh; establishes "Democratic Republic of Vietnam."
 - September 22—French troops return to Vietnam, clash with communists and anti-French nationalists in Tonkin.
- 1946
 - March 6—France recognizes Democratic Rep. of Vietnam as "free state" within Indo-Chinese Federation and French Union. Disagreement over status of new state.
 - December 19—Vietminh attack on French troops in North begins eight-year Indo-China War.
- 1947
 - September—French, in control of principal towns and communications, seek nationalist support through Bao Dai.
- 1949
 - March 8—Independent state of Vietnam established with ties to France.
 - June 14—Bao Dai assumes role as chief of state of Vietnam; nationalists withhold support.
 - July 19—Laos established as independent state with ties to France.
 - November 8—Cambodia established as independent state with ties to France.
- 1950
 - May 8—U.S. announces military and economic aid to Vietnam and other Indo-Chinese states.
- 1953
 - April 9—Vietminh extend war to Laos.
- 1954
 - May 7—French stronghold at Dien Bien Phu falls to Vietminh assault.
 - July 21—Cease fire signed at Geneva. Partition of Vietnam at 17th parallel into communist North and anti-communist South with proviso of free elections in 1956.
 - September 8—Southeast Asia Defense Treaty (SEATO) signed to prevent further communist expansion in Asia.
- 1955
 - October 26—Republic of Vietnam established in South Vietnam; with Ngo Dinh Diem as president. U.S. promises aid.
- 1956
 - May 8—Free elections to reunify the two Vietnams postponed.
 - April—Last French troops in Vietnam leave. U.S. military advisors help train South Vietnamese army.
- 1957
 - May 29—Crisis in Laos as pro-communist Pathet Lao forces make bid for power.
- 1959
 - April—Increase of communist underground (Viet Cong) activity in South Vietnam, supplied and directed from North Vietnam.
 - July 8—First casualties to U.S.
- Military Assistance Group in South Vietnam.
 - 1960
 - November 11—Unsuccessful military revolt against Diem regime in South Vietnam.
 - December—Fighting in Laos increases.
 - 1961
 - January—North Vietnam and U.S.S.R. aid pro-communist rebels in Laos.
 - March—U.S. reacts to threat of communist takeover in Laos with increased aid and dispatch of troops to Thailand.
 - May-December—Conference at Geneva on ending Laotian crisis.
 - July—U.S. steps up aid to South Vietnam; increases role of military advisors.
 - 1962
 - June 11—Agreement on coalition government in Laos announced.
 - October—American helicopter units now moving South Vietnamese troops on raids against Viet Cong.
 - 1963
 - May-August—Buddhist demonstrations against Diem government in South Vietnam.
 - November 1—Military coup overthrows Diem regime.
 - November 19—Cambodia renounces U.S. economic and military aid moves closer to communist China.
 - 1964
 - January 30—Second military coup begins long series of governmental changes in South Vietnam.
 - August 2—North Vietnamese PT boats attack U.S. destroyer in Gulf of Tonkin.
 - August 4—U.S. carries out retaliatory strikes against PT boats and facilities in North Vietnam after second attack on U.S. ships.

Ho's Latest Ploy Is Hanoi Hanna

PHAN RANG, Vietnam—"This is Radio Hanoi. I have a flash for the boys of the 'Screaming Eagles, Attention: 1st Brig., 101st Abn. Div. I am coming to dinner at the brigade mess hall. And guess who I'm having for dinner?"

With statements similar to that the beloved "Hanoi Hanna" speaks over 77-79 megacycles SW, Radio Hanoi, and begins her act. Dispensing advice on how to win the war by losing it, she speaks to her most "adhering fans—the American soldiers."

Hanna stands in the infamous tradition of Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose. Proclaiming to the listening world of the many American "invaders" the Viet Cong have killed (six infantry divisions since October by Hanna's count—plus some odds and ends—that's about 90,000 men, not including the odds or the ends!) her news is so outlandish and preposterous as to be of great support to American troops.

Big Iadrang Victory Held Turning Point

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 20 NOVEMBER 1965 P-6
U.S. Victory Seen in Viet Fight

Air Cavalry Idea Termed Proved by Battle

BY WILLIAM ANDERSON
 (Chicago Tribune Press Service)
 Washington, Nov. 19 —

The United States has entered another new phase of the war in Viet Nam by directly engaging massed forces of the regular North Vietnamese army in the battle of Ia Drang valley.

Senior American military commanders today were calling the bloody valley—where at least 1,411 Communist have been killed since Sunday with moderate to heavy casualties of American forces—a victory for the United States.

Officials also think the battle is proving—the hard way—the concept of American troops being utilized in a highly mobile and new organization called the 1st air cavalry division.

The battle has been taking place in a valley near the border of Cambodia, and most of the communist bodies counted by American forces have been first-line, regular North Vietnamese soldiers rather than the usual, guerrilla Viet Cong fighters from the south.

It marks a shift in communist strategy by meeting South Vietnamese and American forces head-on instead of the old guerrilla tactic of hitting and then running into safe hiding places.

An Associated Press compilation of deaths for a four week period thru last Saturday showed that a total of 3,542 communist bodies have been counted, with 289 American deaths and 741 south Vietnamese killed in the same period.

Pentagon spokesmen, however, will not yet release the number of Americans killed in the Ia Drang battle on the grounds such information might enable the enemy to employ more effective tactics against United States forces.

A company of the 1st cavalry division which took the brunt of a North Vietnamese attack in the early stages of the fighting suffered heavy casualties, spokesmen said, a battalion, including the company, sustained moderate to heavy losses.

Gen. Harold K. Johnson, army chief of staff, said in a writ to the division that its actions were those of "courage, determination and fighting skill."

Adm. U. S. Grant Sharpe,

Pacific forces commander-in-chief, said, "I join Americans everywhere in hailing the valiant action of the officers and men of the 1st cavalry division. The victory you have achieved in the battle of Ia Drang is a victory for free men everywhere."

Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., commandant of the marine corps, joined in the salute by hailing the army for demonstrating spirit and "ready skill."

Other senior officers said reports earlier in the week from the scene that airborne forces had withdrawn were incorrect.

"We are simply picking our own time and place to fight with mobile force," one commander said. "That is the whole idea of the concept of using helicopters."



The Washington Post Nov. 21, 1965
INFILTRATION ROUTES—North Vietnamese troops fighting around Pleiku are believed to be defending the area of entry of their infiltration route down through Laos. This partly accounts for action throughout South Vietnam's central provinces. In the South, infiltration is believed to continue in the crosshatched coast provinces, with the Vietcong often moving up to battle in the zones north of the capital.



Associated Press
POW OF ACTION—An American soldier guard over three blindfolded North Vietnamese prisoners who were captured this week in the Iadrang Valley.

Red Tactic Shift From Hit-Run Puzzles U.S.

By John G. Norris
 Washington Post Staff Writer

The bloody clash of an American air cavalry brigade and two North Vietnamese regular regiments in the Iadrang Valley is regarded in the Pentagon as the most significant battle of the Vietnamese War.

For the first time, Hanoi committed sizable regular units—perhaps 3000 to 4000 men—in conventional combat, instead of following the usual Vietcong hit-and-run tactic of avoiding a fight when conditions didn't favor their side.

American military leaders agree that this biggest battle of the war has been a resounding military success so far, but wonder just why the enemy elected to stand and fight and take such heavy losses at this particular spot.

Enemy Dead Total 1207

Official U.S. figures put the enemy losses in the Battle of Iadrang Valley since Sunday at 1207 dead by actual body count. A great many more undoubtedly were killed by B-52 and fighter-bomber strikes behind the lines and unquestionably the number of wounded ran high. Probably two of the five North Vietnamese regiments in the area were badly crippled.

American casualty figures have not been released, under a security policy of giving out only weekly totals. U.S. losses in one or two companies were described as "heavy" but the overall casualty total for the brigade was put at "moderate." Unquestionably, however, American losses will run much higher, as a result of this week's fighting, than ever before.

Pentagon officials said the ratio of Communist dead, by body count, will run 6 to 9 times American losses this week.



—UPI Radiophoto
 Villagers help a Vietnamese Ranger, wounded in the fighting along National Highway No. 1.



—UPI Telephoto
 Buddies try to aid a wounded 1st Cavalry Division soldier during fighting in the Chu Pong Mountains area last week.

GIs and Hanoi Troops Resume Iadrang Battle



CASUALTY OF WAR — A Vietnamese child waits for medical attention in a trench near Hiepduc, South Vietnam. Her mother, also wounded, sits in background.

Associated Press

B-52s Hammer Red Positions In 12th Attack

SAIGON, Nov. 21 (AP) — North Vietnamese army regulars brought the battle of Iadrang Valley into its second week today, clashing with 500 U.S. 1st Cavalry troops in what officials described as light to moderate fighting.

U.S. B-52s from Guam hammered Communist positions near the battle area in the 12th such attack in a week.

Briefing officers in Saigon said there was no immediate report on casualties in the renewed fighting in the central highlands between Pleime and the Cambodian border 220 miles north of the capital.

Closer to Saigon, troops of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division hurled back a Vietcong attack on the edge of the Communist-infested Zone D. A Division spokesman said 40 Vietcong guerrillas were killed and U.S. casualties were light. Ten American vehicles were damaged.

The infantry division troops came under attack while on a road convoy 40 miles north of Saigon. Briefing officers did not describe the attack as an ambush, saying the guerrillas opened fire from considerable distances with mortars and automatic weapons.

During the clash, U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers destroyed a village where the Vietcong held positions.

The renewed fighting in the Iadrang Valley took place only a few miles from where a Vietnamese paratroop task force battled with the Communists Saturday night. The government forces said they killed 180 North Vietnamese and suffered light casualties themselves.

This would raise to 1952 the number of Communists killed by Americans and South Vietnamese in the central highlands since the Communists attacked the Special Forces camp at Pleime last month.

Troops of the 1st Cavalry's 2d Battalion of the 7th Regiment returned to their base camp at Anke, where they received a cheering welcome from other troops in the division.

See VIETNAM, A11, Col. 4.

VIETNAM—From Page A1

GIs, Hanoi Troops Resume Struggle

The 2d Battalion was the first to meet the North Vietnamese regulars in the Iadrang Valley a week ago and it suffered perhaps the heaviest casualties of any single unit in the fighting over North Vietnam last Wednesday and Thursday. U.S. planes have not been reported by U.S. officials to have attacked Haiphong or Hanoi in the strikes that began against the north in February.

"Your country is proud of you. The 1st Cavalry is proud of you," Brig. Gen. John M. Wright told the weary troopers. "You met tough, professional, capable enemy troops and you gave them a mauling they will never forget."

The official North Vietnamese newspaper Nhan Dan accused Thailand of sending troops into Laos and permitting U.S. planes based in Thailand to bomb North Vietnam as well as Communist sections of Laos, it was reported. The paper also charged that Thai troops had entered Cambodia, killing two Cambodian soldiers and a child.

A Hanoi broadcast scotched a Saigon report that Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap had been replaced as North Vietnam's Defense Minister.

South Vietnam's Chief of State, Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, told a cadet graduating class at Dalat that the stepped-up fighting in the central highlands might presage a Communist drive to split South Vietnam, United Press International reported. He said he did not think there were enough American troops in Vietnam compared to Communist forces. U.S. troops now number 165,700.

In other developments:
 • A small force of Vietcong guerrillas lobbed about 20 mortar shells onto the Socrang airfield 95 miles southeast of Saigon, according to a U.S. military spokesman. Light damage to helicopters was reported.

• Vietcong guerrillas Saturday attacked and overran a small government outpost defended by a company of government troops 20 miles west-southwest of Quangnai City, a U.S. spokesman said at Danang.

• Radio Hanoi claimed North Vietnamese gunners downed a U.S. plane over the important port city of Haiphong. Hanoi said it was one of nine U.S. planes shot down

Total U. S. Dead Reaches 1335

240 Yanks Die in Week of Bloody Viet Battles

SAIGON, Nov. 24 (UPI) — Communist troops killed 240 American servicemen and wounded 470 others last week, a U.S. military spokesman reported today. The record losses reflected the bitter fighting in the Ia Drang Valley where more than 2260 North Vietnamese regulars were killed.

Six Americans were reported missing in action.

The U.S. combat deaths for the week ending last Saturday were just four short of the total for the four-year period beginning in 1961 when the U.S. began its major commitment to the war effort.

TOPS KOREA AVERAGE

They raised the total American dead since January, 1961, to 1335 and the wounded to 6131, according to the Pentagon. The death toll for 1965 thru last Saturday is 1091. Since 1962 the Reds suffered 88,800 dead.

The death toll surpassed the weekly average of 209 Americans killed during the Korean War. Most of the losses were suffered by the 1st Air Cavalry Division in the Ia Drang fighting.

Despite the casualties, the Ia Drang campaign was a major victory. Briefing officers said 2282 communists were killed by actual body count and estimates indicated as many as 4000 probably died.

Observers believe the number of casualties would rise as more Americans are thrown into direct combat. The Army today moved into Japan the first elements of four full field hospitals to handle any increase.

SIEGE ENDS

In another combat zone, communist forces today withdrew their siege from the district capital of Tuy An on the coast of the South China Sea and moved into the hills to the north.

North Vietnamese regulars were reported fighting alongside communist guerrillas in the Tuy An battle. U.S. intelligence sources said some of the Reds killed in the three-day battle

were wearing khaki uniforms and brown leather belts with a star on the buckle — an insignia which generally identifies the North Vietnamese regular.

The regimental force of communists attacked the town Monday and overran five outposts. At least one regional force company guarding a bridge was badly mauled.

The communists moved south and tried to set up ambush positions to catch relief forces. But the enemy failed to capitalize on the ambush.

A relief column headed by 11 armored personnel carriers set out from Toy Hoa 17 miles to the south and moved swiftly up National Highway One. It smashed directly into the Viet Cong walking down the road on both sides.

Four of the personnel carriers reportedly were destroyed and two damaged. The column managed to withdraw about two miles down the road and set up a defense perimeter. The column reportedly was relieved today.



—UPI Telephoto
Lt. Marm tells how he stormed an enemy machine gun bunker in Viet Nam and wiped out 18 Reds.

'LITTLE LIEUTENANT' DID BIG JOB

Machine Gun Was in Marm's Way

VALLEY FORGE, Pa., Nov. 24 (UPI) — Second Lt. Joe Marm, 24, nominated for the Medal of Honor for storming a machine gun bunker in Viet Nam, says he did it because "they seemed to be holding everyone up."

Lt. Marm, a Washington, Pa., resident only eight months out of OCS, calmly related how he charged the bunker in Ia Drang valley and killed 18 Viet Cong because "I wouldn't ask my men to do anything I wouldn't do."

The Lieutenant, shot in the jaw and neck during the battle last week, was transferred to the Valley Forge General Hospital here and held a joyful reunion with his parents yesterday.

Speaking with some difficulty because his jaw is wired, he said his platoon was on its way to rescue another group when they were held up by firing from the enemy bunker.

Lt. Marm said attempts to dislodge the Reds were unsuccessful and he said to himself: "I may as well go up and do it myself."

He told the story like a man simply explaining the job he is supposed to do. First, he fired a grenade launcher at the bunker.

Then he took two grenades and an M-16 rifle "I told everybody to hold their fire and I went ahead up to the bunker."

"I pulled the pin of the grenade and just lobbed it over. After it went off I went around the left, saw some movement and fired. I fired six times but didn't know then how many there were. They told me there were 18 but I didn't know."

Lt. Marm said he turned around and told the rest of the

two companies behind him to "come on. It was getting late."

It was then that he was hit by a communist bullet that struck his jaw, shattered it and passed out thru his neck.

Lt. Marm, praised in dispatches from Viet Nam as the "Little Lieutenant," made his way back to medical treatment.

If he receives the Medal of Honor, he would be the second so honored in Viet Nam. Capt. Roger Donlon won the medal in the defense of Nam Dong on July 6, 1964.

Lt. Marm's father, Walter, a state police sergeant, said he was "overwhelmed" and thankful "to the grace of God that he's living."

Out of the Valley of Death

PLEIKU, South Viet Nam, Nov. 24 — A U.S. soldier, who played dead, was rescued today by a helicopter after hiding from North Vietnamese troops for seven days in the Ia Drang Valley jungle.

Pfc. Tobey Braveboy, a 1st Cavalry Division trooper from South Carolina, was wounded in the bitter fighting. He signaled the helicopter by waving his T-shirt. After an operation, doctors said he was in amazingly good condition.

While playing dead on the battlefield, the soldier was splattered by blood when Reds decapitated a trooper lying next to him. Later, his own life was spared by a young communist soldier who raised his rifle and then lowered it and walked away when Pfc. Braveboy motioned to him.

SAIGON, Viet Nam, Jan. 10 (AP)—Viet Cong troops, abandoning their installations and melting into the jungles, today evaded two major American offensives aimed at trapping and destroying Communist forces in their strongholds.

On one sector in the central highlands, 150 miles northwest of Saigon, United States 1st air cavalry troops sweeping along the Cambodian border seemingly dared North Vietnamese troops to fire across the frontier at them. But the Communists did not meet the challenge.

Farther south, about 25 miles from Saigon, 8,000 American paratroopers and infantrymen continued their trap-and-destroy operation against the Viet Cong in their Iron Triangle in Ho Bo woods.

However, all save a relative handful of Viet Cong apparently escaped. A spokesman said 22 Viet Cong were killed in the action since Saturday, with the Communists keeping one jump ahead of the allied force that also included Australian troops. But on a third sector, near

the coast in the central highlands, the Viet Cong failed to escape a crack South Korean division, and suffered severe losses.

South Korean military spokesmen said the 1st Brigade of the South Korean Tiger division trapped an estimated regiment of Viet Cong troops, killing 185 of them by body count and capturing 609 others. Many other Communists were believed killed and their bodies carried away by their comrades.

In Supply Dump Area
The fighting, bitterest of the war for the Koreans, was in a supply dump area about 10 miles north of Quinhon, 350 miles north of Saigon and three miles inland from the South China sea.

The South Korean troops, airlifted to the battle area by American helicopters, charged thru waist-deep flooded rice fields, and smashed four communist companies.

A spokesman said there was bitter, hand-to-hand fighting as the Viet Cong fought back desperately from trenches and bunkers. Most of the Communists were killed by small arms, rifles, and grenades.

Occasional Contact
The Operation Malador by United States air cavalry troops in the central highlands along the Cambodian frontier started six days ago, but for security reasons was disclosed only today. The cavalry men said they had encountered only sporadic contact with the Communists.

At one point, it was disclosed, the American troops sighted many communist troops across the Sa San river border with Cambodia about 25 miles west of Pleiku.

An American helicopter flew up and down the river in full view of the Communists without drawing their fire. The river is only about 55 yards wide at that point.

Wait in Brush
American air cavalrymen waited in the underbrush on the South Viet Nam side of the border, ready to cut loose with mortars and automatic rifles if the Communists fired. But the Communists just stared up at the American copter, then turned and walked back into the forest.

Officers of the American operation understand that they were authorized to fire back if the Communists fire on them first from the other side of the border.

Operation Malador is being carried out about 20 to 35 miles north of Chu Pong mountain and Ia Drang valley where the 1st cavalry killed an estimated

Force of 8,000 GIs Rips Up Cong Forts

Saigon, Jan. 10 (AP)—The largest U. S. fighting force of the Vietnamese war demolished a honeycomb of Viet Cong fortifications on the edge of the Iron Triangle 25 miles northwest of Saigon today, but the Communists ducked the knockout punch.

Most of the guerrillas kept away from the U. S. and Australian troops as they scorched the Communist stronghold on the third day of Operation Crimp.

Australians operating with the 1st Infantry Division and the 13d Airborne Brigade uncovered a big weapons cache left by the fleeing Communists. The haul included 47 weapons, five of them crew-size, 114 grenades, 15,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 58 heavy-mortar rounds, 100 pounds of dynamite, 20 tons of rice and a large store of medical supplies.

Force Halts at River
Although the 8,000-man allied force pushed to the Saigon River boundary of the Iron Triangle, it did not cross the river and try to sweep the triangle itself.

U. S. military spokesmen reported only light contact with the enemy, a regiment-size force thought to be holed up in the 12 square miles of jungle and marshland.

The spokesman reported 22 Viet Cong killed, 38 captured and 269 suspects, mostly women and children, detained. Allied casualties were light, they said.

Best Area Bailed
About 240 miles north of Saigon, U. S. 1st Cavalry Division troops swooped down on a Communist rest area 40 miles west of Pleiku and destroyed four abandoned camps, U. S. military authorities disclosed. The operation began six days ago, and the troopers moved to within 100 feet of the Cambodian border without running into opposition.

The air war in the South continued unabated with 281 strike missions against Viet Cong targets. Four U. S. planes were lost in the past 24 hours.

Marine Jet Crashes
A Marine F-4B Phantom jet crashed 15 miles southwest of Da Nang because of undetermined causes. The two crewmen, one wounded, were picked up by helicopter.

A C-123 transport carrying fuel burned last night after landing at Tay Ninh, 55 miles northwest of Saigon. The crew escaped.

Another cargo plane, a C-130 Hercules, crashed while landing on a mail run yesterday to An Khe, 260 miles northeast of Saigon. The crewmen were uninjured and the mail was saved. A single-seat Air Force plane crashed five miles north of Saigon. As a helicopter lifted out the pilot by his gun belt, the belt broke and he plunged into a river.

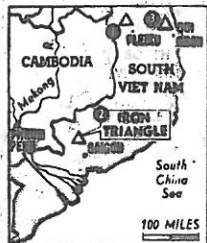
2,000 North Vietnamese in a costly victory about two months ago.

An announcement disclosing the 1st cavalry sweep said the Americans had captured eight Viet Cong suspects and 2,500 pounds of rice. They also found two Viet Cong rest camps, one of regimental size and the other of battalion size.

"Also uncovered was a camp consisting of six huts, 40 foxholes, and small amounts of ammunition, medicines, and a mine field," the announcement said.

It said that during the operation about 50 families living under Viet Cong control, and who wanted to leave the area, were relocated in another area under Vietnamese government control.

Intelligence officers with the 1st cavalry said the many well-used trails, supply areas and bivouac areas in the dense jungle provided large scale infiltration routes across the Cambodian border.



(AP Wirephoto) Figures denote sites of major war activity in South Viet Nam yesterday.

U.S. Tells Contact With Hanoi

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House said Monday there has been direct contact with Hanoi on the Vietnamese situation. There was no elaboration.

SAIGON (AP)—The largest U.S. fighting force of the Vietnamese war demolished a honeycomb of Viet Cong fortifications on the edge of the Iron Triangle 25 miles northwest of Saigon Monday, but the Communists ducked the knockout punch.

Most of the guerrillas kept away from the U.S. and Australian troops as they scorched the Communist stronghold on the third day of Operation Crimp.

Australians operating with the 1st Infantry Division and the 13d Airborne Brigade uncovered a big weapons cache left by the fleeing Communists. The haul included 47 weapons, 5 of them crewsize, 114 grenades, 15,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 58 heavy mortar rounds, 100 pounds of dynamite, 20 tons of rice and a large store of medical supplies.

There were more than 8,000 men in the allied force, but U.S. military spokesmen reported only light contact with the enemy, a regiment-sized force thought to be holed up in the 12 square miles of jungle and marshland.

The spokesman reported 22 Viet Cong killed, 38 captured and 269 suspects, mostly women and children, detained. Allied casualties were light, they said.

About 240 miles north of Saigon, U.S. 1st Cavalry (Air Mobile) Division troops swooped down on a Communist rest area 40 miles west of Pleiku and destroyed four abandoned camps, U.S. military authorities disclosed.

ELSEWHERE on the ground, U.S. spokesmen reported few contacts with the enemy. But the air war in the South continued unabated with

281 strike missions against Viet Cong targets by Air Force and carrier planes. Four U.S. planes were lost in the last 24 hours.

A Marine F4B Phantom jet crashed 15 miles southwest of Da Nang. The reason was unknown. The two crewmen bailed out and were picked up by helicopter. One man was wounded.

A C-123 transport carrying fuel caught fire Sunday night after landing at Tay Ninh, 55 miles northwest of Saigon. The blaze started while the plane was taxiing to the parking ramp. The crew escaped unhurt but the plane was destroyed.

Development plan Viet town buoyed

By Takashi Oka
Special correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor
Ankhe, Vietnam

A blueprint of hope superimposed on a raw and ugly present — that is the picture of Ankhe, which unexpectedly welcomed 20,000 American soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division three months ago.

Once a sleepy village 50 miles west of Quinhon on the road to the central highlands, Ankhe today is an Asian version of the Western frontier town. Bars, restaurants, and laundries flung together from palm leaves and flattened cans march from one end to the other of the single main street. Names such as San Francisco, Hawaii, and Melody coax the homesick GI on liberty to enrich the local economy.

This tawdry, yet somehow pathetic, row of hovels and shacks is by no means all there is to the Ankhe story. Vietnamese and American military and civilian officials have put their heads together and have come up with a development plan that could turn the town and surrounding countryside into one of the tidiest, most prosperous corners of South Vietnam.

Basic to the plan is the security provided by the stationing of the 1st Cavalry Division. The division, equipped with heavy-duty Chinook helicopters, can fight all over the highlands at a moment's notice. But Ankhe is home base, and daily patrols scour the fertile valley surrounding it in search of Viet Cong infiltrators.

Suicide squads still could probably penetrate the tent city housing the division in fields where Communists boldly trained their guerrilla youth not long ago.

But as a sense of safety returns to the villages, peasants who once sought refuge in Ankhe town are going back to their homes in the valley. American and Vietnamese agricultural experts say that the whole region could become the "Iowa of Vietnam" rich with pigs and cattle.

They have mapped out a plan to resettle 9,000 refugee families from the coastal plains in Ankhe Valley. The valley, they estimate, has 100,000 acres of arable land, only about 2,500 of which now are being farmed. Excluding urban and military land, there

will be about 63,000 acres available for agriculture.

The refugees, most of whom are lowlanders who know only how to plant rice, will have to be taught how to grow upland crops for cash and fodder. One hundred hamlet agriculture leaders are to be trained in new techniques, which will give villagers far higher income than they could expect from rice.

Farmers will be supplied with fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, and small tools sufficient to work 30,000 acres during the next three years. By the end of the period it is expected they will be self-sufficient.

As for Ankhe itself, the tin shacks clustering around the potholed entrance to the 1st Cavalry Division will be swept away, and a new city, divided into four neighborhoods, each with its own market and school, will come into being south of the present town. There will be an amusement center catering to American troops, but city planners hope to locate it at the northern end of the new town.

The 1st Cavalry provides jobs directly for about 2,500 Vietnamese. There is already a severe shortage of carpenters, plumbers, and other skilled workers. Small-scale industry also gets a boost from the American presence.

As Korean and Japanese postwar experiences have proved, the tiny bicycle shops and outdoor repair stands of today eventually graduate into more sophisticated establishments using lathes, drills, and presses.

Civic-action officers of the 1st Cavalry are eagerly exploring possibilities for future development. They are already participating actively in the usual good works — helping orphanages, rebuilding and expanding dispensaries, and spreading better concepts of health among villagers.

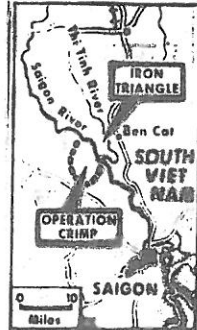
These are full-time fighting men who have been battle tested in severe jungle encounters with a fanatic Communist foe. But they talk of pigeons and rabbit hutches almost as enthusiastically as they do about Communist weaponry.

Ankhe is a natural market town, for it stands at the eastern edge of the highlands, overlooking the pass that leads down into coastal plains of Binh Dinh. The pass is strategically vital, and that is what brought the 1st Cavalry here in the first place.

ANOTHER cargo plane, a Crimp dated back to the French Indochina fighting.

C-130 Hercules, crashed while landing on a mail run Sunday to An Khe, 260 miles northeast of Saigon. The crewmen were uninjured and the soldiers' mail was saved. A single-seat Air Force plane crashed five miles north of Saigon. As a helicopter lifted out the pilot by his gun belt, it broke and he plunged into a river. Apparently he was killed.

The suspension of bombing raids on the Communist North continued into the 18th day. Some of the tunnels and caves blasted by the U.S. and Australian troops in Operation



Viet Reds Flee GI Mopup Drive

SAIGON (AP) — Large forces of disappointed U.S. troops mopped up Tuesday in two big Viet Cong hideouts northwest of Saigon and in the central highlands near the Cambodian frontier after the bulk of guerrillas once more had escaped into the jungles.

For U.S. officers the operation by more than 8,000 Americans and Australians 35 miles from the capital was particularly annoying. Although they raised the Viet Cong death toll to 84 and captured 38 in the four days of Operation Crimp, they had hoped for far better results from the biggest American offensive of the war.

Their goal was to snare a Communist regiment on the edge of the Iron Triangle, an old guerrilla redoubt that has been Communist territory since the days of the French war in Indo-China. But only rear-guard elements put up a fight while the main enemy force vanished.

PARATROOPERS of the 173d Airborne Brigade took on one guerrilla band in a brisk fight Monday and killed 29 Communists, U.S. spokesmen reported. Sixteen more bodies were found after an air attack.

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division killed six more guerrillas in a 20-minute gun battle when the Reds tried to protect a large tunnel containing 15 bales of cotton and six tons of rice.

While U.S. troops explored a maze of tunnels underneath more than 100 houses in the area, soldiers of the Royal Australian Regiment reported killing three Viet Cong in small actions in the afternoon and finding five more bodies.

A U.S. spokesman reported "only light, sporadic contact in the whole battle area" by Tuesday night.

EQUALLY frustrating was an eight-day search for guerrillas by the U.S. 1st Cavalry (Air Mobile) Division in the central highlands on the Cambodian frontier, not far from the Ia Drang Valley where the Flying Horsemen battled it out with North Vietnamese regulars last November.

This time the Communists hurriedly pulled out, abandoning four rest camps capable of accommodating 3,000 guerrillas. The cavalrymen destroyed the camps.

AS THE Americans crashed into one campsite, they saw a squad of armed men in a patch

quilt of khaki and black uniforms flee across the Tongle San River, the border with Cambodia 40 miles west of Pleiku. A big cooking kettle still simmered. A Viet Cong brigadier general left behind a small satchel with a single star pinned to it and his toothbrush and paste inside.

Operation Ripping Mustang brought the 1st Cavalrymen within 100 feet of the Cambodian border, and some helicopters swooped down on the river to sink a Communist sampan. Heretofore, the American troops were under orders to keep at least three miles from the border to avoid charges from Cambodia of territorial violation. In most areas, the border is poorly defined in the thick forests.

Only light contact with the enemy was reported Tuesday.

THE MORATORIUM on bombing North Viet Nam went

into the 19th day, but U.S. south Air Force and Navy jets planes gave no breather to Communist targets in the Cong targets Monday.

Find N. Viet Anti-Aircraft Unit in South

Yanks Capture 3 Soldiers of Battalion

SAIGON, Viet Nam, Jan. 11 (UPI)—American troops sweeping the Cambodian border area have discovered evidence that a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft battalion with an arsenal of 18 heavy guns has infiltrated into South Viet Nam along the Ho Chi Minh trail, it was disclosed today.

A military spokesman said that information of the battalion, known as the H-13 anti-aircraft unit, was obtained from three North Vietnamese regular soldiers captured by United States air cavalrymen in an action along the frontier.

It was the first such northern anti-aircraft unit positively identified as having moved into South Viet Nam.

Slak Into Hole

The technique used by the North Vietnamese with their weapons is to dig a 20-foot hole, about 6 feet wide and 6 or 7 feet long, then rig up a pulley apparatus. During an air strike by allied planes, the guns are dropped to the bottom of the hole. The guns can only be knocked out by a direct hit.

Once the attacking jets have finished their strafing or bombing runs, the guns are hauled back to the surface and set up to wait for copters bringing in troops after softening up strikes. Several such deep anti-aircraft emplacement holes have been found in the area.

The prisoners said their unit had 12.7 mm machine guns—the communist Chinese version of the American .50 caliber weapons. Communist forces previously had shot down several American planes with captured American .50 caliber machine guns during the battle for the Plei Me special forces camp at Plei Me late last year.

Forced to Climb Rope

Three Vietnamese prisoners were captured by 1st air cavalrymen who were dropped by copter in a border area early today. Three others were killed in a brief clash.

Within 20 minutes after the cavalrymen landed, they forced their three captives to climb up a 40-foot rope ladder to the copter hovering above the trees in the darkness.

In another operation to the south, American and Australian troops were disclosed to have killed 62 Viet Cong with the help of artillery and air strikes in an area 25 miles from Saigon.

It was the most Communists killed in the area since 8,000 American troops, accompanied by Australians, began their sweep thru a heavily wooded zone on the fringes of the Viet Cong's Iron Triangle stronghold.

Clash at Dusk

A battalion-sized force of the United States 173d Airborne Brigade killed 29 Viet Cong in one clash shortly before dark yesterday about 25 miles north-east of the capital. Earlier in the day another paratroop element reported killing 16 communist guerrillas in a series of skirmishes.

Fourteen other Viet Cong were killed in the area today in separate actions, six of them by United States 1st infantry division troops who are participating in the massive Operation Crimp along with the paratroopers.

A 1st infantry unit seized

MRS. KENNEDY, CHILDREN PLAN SWISS RESPITE

GSTAAD, Switzerland, Jan. 11 (UPI)—Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Caroline and John will arrive here Friday for a skiing vacation mixed with French lessons for the children, it was announced today.

The United States mission in Geneva said Mrs. Kennedy will fly to Geneva from New York on Friday, and either will make the two-hour drive to Gstaad or take a helicopter, depending on weather conditions.

The Kennedys will stay in a chalet placed at her disposal by a retired English business man, Charles K. Williams, an admirer of the late President. The chalet, the Falconer, is just below the one owned by actress Elizabeth Taylor, who is away.

Viet Cong supplies, destroyed tunnels and trenches and detained 30 Viet Cong suspects. Another 1st infantry element detained 60 Viet Cong suspects. The Australians detained 50 Viet Cong suspects, and captured three .50 caliber machine guns from a tunnel.

Other Marines Ready In Saigon, Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., United States marine corps commandant, said the remainder of his 223,000-man force was capable of joining the 40,000 marines now in Viet Nam if the communist side decided to keep on fighting rather than negotiate.

Greene spoke with reporters after a four-day inspection tour in Viet Nam. He noted President Johnson's current peace offensive and said: "However, the President has also made it clear that he intends to abide by his pledge to the Vietnamese people, and that we're here to stay to help them."

Send Out Patrols In the Chu Lai and Da Nang

areas, marines sent out 100 patrols and killed two Viet Cong. The leathernecks captured 368 pounds of TNT, 45 pounds of C-4 explosives and destroyed numerous Viet Cong trenches, tunnels, and foxholes.

Koreans operating in the area west of Qui Nhon along the northeastern coastal area reported they killed 25 Viet Cong in separate small unit actions before winding up a two-day operation. The Viet Cong death toll from the Korean operation

was revised up to 328 South Korean military men.

In the air over South Viet Nam, United States pilots flew 325 combat missions against Viet Cong targets. They reported 212 enemy structures destroyed, 177 others damaged, and 11 sampans sunk.

The hull in the American air strikes against North Viet Nam went into its 19th day. The last air raid on the communist north was made just before Christmas eve.

THE WASHINGTON POST Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1966

Many Red Troops Seen in Cambodia By the Americans

From News-Dispatches

SAIGON, Jan. 10 — U.S. 1st Cavalry troops sweeping along the Cambodian border in the central highlands of Viet Nam appeared to dare enemy troops on the other side of the border to shoot at them today, but drew no fire.

At one point in the sweep named Operation Matador, U.S. troops spotted many Communist troops across the Sesan River border about 25 miles west of Pleiku, United Press International reported.

Matador was one of three major hunts for Vietcong forces under way in South Viet Nam. The Vietcong reportedly suffered heavy losses when a crack South Korean division trapped a Vietcong regiment about 6 miles north of Qui Nhon.

In the third operation, Operation Crimp, about 8,000 U.S. soldiers with Australian units continued their push toward the Vietcong Iron Triangle stronghold 25 miles northwest of Saigon, but all save a handful of the Vietcong appeared to have escaped the noose the allies attempted to draw around them.

Martin Stuart-Fox of UPI said he watched a U.S. helicopter fly up and down the Cambodian border with Cambodia in full view of the enemy. Air Cavalrymen waited in the unbroken brush on the South Vietnamese side of the border ready to open up with mortars and automatic rifles if the enemy fired first, but the enemy troops just stared up at the helicopter and then turned and walked back into the forest.

Officers of the Air Cavalry force understood that they were authorized to fire back if the Communists fired across the border at them, Stuart-Fox reported. One officer said he understood that the permission included calling for air strikes, Stuart-Fox added.

In Saigon, a spokesman for Gen. William Westmoreland, commander of Allied forces in South Viet Nam, denied that the troops had such authorization, UPI said.

Operation Matador started six days ago, but was not dis-

closed until today for security reasons. The troops reported no Vietcong had been killed so far on the sweep and only sporadic contact had been made with enemy troops.

Intelligence officers with the Cavalrymen said that many well-used trails, supply areas and bivouac areas had been found that provided "large-scale" infiltration routes across the Cambodian border, UPI reported.

U.S. officers expressed disappointment over the results of the huge Operation Crimp probe, which reached the Saigon River boundary of the Iron Triangle stronghold, but did not cross into the triangle. They had hoped to trap a regiment of Vietcong, but believe that they only brushed with a rear guard. They reported that 22 Vietcong had been killed and 38 captured in the operation.

Although they did not meet significant enemy forces the Allied troops uncovered and destroyed a Vietcong tunnel network and seized a huge cache of food and weapons.

In their first major engagement since arriving in Vietnam last October, two battalions of Korea's celebrated Tiger Division met and defeated an estimated two companies of Vietcong in a bitter day-long fire fight Sunday about six miles north of the U.S. base at Qui Nhon.

The Koreans claim 184 Vietcong dead and 97 taken prisoner. Their own losses, by Korean estimate, were light.

Today (Monday) on the bare earth in front of their astonishingly neat and clean garrison, the ROK troop displayed the booty of war: 42 rifles (several of Soviet manufacture), a half dozen machine-guns, 52 hand grenades and a variety of clothing, knives and what appeared to be tools for weapons repair.

Major Vietnam Offensives Fail To Catch Up With Foe

SAIGON, Vietnam, Jan. 11 (UPI)—Two major United States drives and separate operations by Vietnamese troops failed today to flush the Viet Cong from the jungles. Only light contact was reported.

Saigon awaited the arrival from Australia tomorrow of W. Averell Harriman, presidential envoy. There was speculation he may be carrying new instructions to United States Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.

Reds Fire Mortar Barrage Harriman has been touring world capitals sounding out opinion on negotiations that would bring peace to South Vietnam. But there has been no word from North Vietnam or Red China of any willingness to talk.

Nor is there any similar sign of a Communist let-up on the battlefields, despite the elusiveness of the Viet Cong and the North Viet-

namese regulars who have infiltrated into the South.

A furious barrage of heavy 120 mm. mortars brought down by North Vietnamese regulars hit a company of the United States 1st Division on the edge of the Viet Cong Iron Triangle 25 miles northwest of Saigon, but caused only light casualties.

Occasional brushes with rear guards in this drive, known as Operation Crimp, brought the total Viet Cong losses to 84 dead and 38 captured in 4 days. But this was far from what the allies had hoped for in this biggest United States push of the war.

8,000-Man Force Involved Paratroopers of the 173d Airborne, which with the 1st Division and the Royal Australians make up an 8,000-man force in the operation, killed 29 Viet Cong yesterday and found 16 more bodies after an air attack.

The soldiers found more than

100 houses, all with connecting tunnels, a trench system, 33 bicycles and 7 sampans on the Saigon River. The tunnels were being blown up.

Equally frustrating was a seven-day search by the United States 1st Cavalry Division on the Cambodian border west of Pleiku and 240 miles north of Saigon.

While destroying Viet Cong rest camps, the Cavalrymen captured only eight men, some of them members of the 32d and 66th North Vietnamese regular regiment, press dispatches said.

Saigon Troops Contact Foe A Vietnamese battalion reported the only sizable contact with the Viet Cong, claiming 30 were killed in a skirmish near Thanh Tan, 65 miles south of Saigon.

Another Vietnamese battalion emptied a hangar northeast of Hong Nga, 115 miles northwest of Sai-

gon. The Vietnamese expected to catch a large number of Viet Cong but encountered only a small squad. They reported killing three.

The air lull against North Vietnam completed its nineteenth day, but United States planes pounded targets in the South.

Harris: an To See Ky A United States spokesman declined to speculate on Harriman's mission to Saigon except to say it was unlikely he was coming for mere handshaking purposes. Harriman will meet with Premier Nguyen Cao Ky.

Harriman said in Canberra he thought North Vietnam was thinking over its position following an encouraging world-wide response to President Johnson's peace offensive. He said only "a very noisy minority," including Red China, opposed Mr. Johnson's drive for peace.

Offensives Up With Foe

(Continued, Page A-2, Column 4)

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11 JAN 1966

11 JAN 1966

New York Times

Rebel AA Unit Slips Into S. Viet

SAIGON, Jan. 11 (UPI).— American troops operating along the Cambodian border have uncovered evidence that a Communist North Vietnamese anti-aircraft battalion has infiltrated the South, a military spokesman disclosed today.

It was the first such evidence of the war. The spokesman said the Communist force, known as the H-13 Anti-Aircraft Unit, was equipped with 18 heavy guns capable of shooting down fighter planes and jet bombers. The guns also are effective against troop-carrying helicopters.

Information on the battalion came from three North Vietnamese regulars captured during "Operation Matador" in the central highlands west of Pleiku near the Cambodian border, the spokesman said.

A multi-battalion force from the U. S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division is involved in the sweep.

The prisoners were quoted as having said their battalion was equipped with Chinese Communist 50-caliber machine guns. It was the first battalion to be positively identified as having moved down from North Viet Nam through the Ho Chi Minh Trail into South Viet Nam.

As the disclosure was being made, the U. S. moratorium on bombing raids against the Communist North went into its 18th day.

62 CONG SLAIN

The U. S. cavalrymen have been sweeping the area west of Pleiku for the past six days without significant contact with the enemy.

Several times, American soldiers have spotted North Vietnamese troops across the Sa San River which forms the border between Cambodia and South Viet Nam.



The New York Times Jan. 11, 1966

U. S. and Australian troops began destroying Vietcong tunnels near Cuchi (1). A large American sweep was under way near Cambodia border (2). South Koreans made gains near Quinhon (3).

At Cambodia's Edge



SP 4 John Cantu of Dallas, Tex., trudges along the Nam Sathay River on the Cambodian border. The operation marked the first time a large American unit swept to that border.

UPI Staff Photo

New York Times

11 JAN 1966

VIETCONG BLUDDING 2 ALLIED SWEEPS

Big Forces Find Few of Foe — Koreans Kill Nearly 200

By CHARLES MOHR special to The New York Times. SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 10—Thousands of American and Australian troops have combed the South Vietnamese countryside in two large-scale sweeps, but have made little contact with the enemy. South Korean troops, however, reported killing almost 200 guerrillas.

A military spokesman authorized publication of reports of an operation by troops of the United States First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) near the Cambodian border 180 miles northeast of Saigon.

The operation, code-named Matador, involves several battalions and has been under way for six days. It was not announced earlier because of a rule that forbids news on operations before "significant contact" with the enemy is reported.

There was little contact, even today, although the men of the First Cavalry captured eight Vietcong and eight suspected of being Vietcong and came across two deserted guerrilla rest camps, one of regimental size, and one of battalion size.

In an even larger operation, named Crimp, taking place 20 to 25 miles northwest of Saigon, Australian and American troops discovered yesterday and today a vast guerrilla tunnel system and pumped tear gas into it before using explosives to destroy parts of it.

Only one guerrilla was reported killed yesterday, bringing the total for the vast operation, employing many thousands of men, to 22 killed.

The First Regiment of the South Korean Capital Division, however, reported a count of 185 bodies of Vietcong in a search-and-destroy operation 12 miles northwest of Quinhon in central Vietnam.

An unusually large number of suspects were taken into custody yesterday and today. The Koreans reported they had detained 609 such persons and 289 were detained in Operation Crimp near Saigon.

When picked up by non-Vietnamese troops, the suspects are eventually turned over to the Vietnamese authorities for interrogation and sorting out. Those found not to be affiliated with the Vietcong may be allowed to return to their homes. Usually such groups include some women and children.

Two American aircraft were destroyed in South Vietnam. A Marine Corps F-4B Phantom jet fighter crashed 15 miles southwest of Danang. Both crew members were rescued by an Army helicopter.

Last night a two-engine C-123 Air Force transport plane burst into flames after landing at Tay Ninh. The crew escaped safely but the plane, with a cargo of fuel, was destroyed.

South Vietnamese frogmen continued to search the hulks of two large junks, carrying smuggled Vietcong weapons and ammunition of Soviet manufacture, that were sunk yesterday off the coast 80 miles southeast of Saigon.

Ten persons, including an American adviser and a staff officer of the Vietnamese Seventh Division, were wounded by a mine.

First Such Evidence of War Uncovered 11 JAN 1966

North Viet Anti-Aircraft Unit Infiltrates South

Washington News

SAIGON, Jan. 11 (UPI) — American troops operating along the Cambodian border have uncovered evidence that a Communist North Vietnamese anti-aircraft battalion has infiltrated the South, a military spokesman disclosed today. It was the first such evidence of the war.

The spokesman said the Communist force, known as the H-13 Anti-Aircraft Unit, was equipped with 18 heavy guns capable of shooting down fighter planes, jet bombers and troop-carrying helicopters.

The spokesman said the information on the anti-aircraft battalion came from three North Vietnamese regulars captured during "Operation Matador" in the central highlands west of Pleiku near the Cambodian border.

A multi-battalion force from the U. S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division is involved in the sweep.

The spokesman quoted the prisoners as saying their battalion was equipped with Chinese Communist 50-caliber machine guns. During the major November battle around the Special Forces camp at Plei Me, Communist forces shot down several American planes with captured machine guns and other weapons.

But the spokesman said the anti-aircraft battalion was the first to be positively identified as having moved down from North Viet Nam thru the Ho Chi Minh Trail into South Viet Nam.

The Communist technique is to dig a 20 foot hole, about six feet wide and six or seven feet long,

and then rig a pulley apparatus for the anti-aircraft weapon.

During an air strike, the Communists drop the guns to the bottom of the hole where they are virtually impervious to everything but a direct hit. Once allied planes have finished their strikes, the Communists haul the guns back up to the surface and wait for the lumbering helicopters to move in. The slow-moving choppers make a fairly easy target.

AIR MORATORIUM

The disclosure came as the U. S. moratorium on bombing raids against the North went into its 18th day.

The U. S. Cavalrymen have been sweeping the area west of Pleiku for six days with little significant contact with the enemy. Several times,

American soldiers have spotted North Vietnamese troops across the Sa San River which forms the border between Cambodia and South Viet Nam.

At times the Americans have dared the Communists to open fire across the river, but no fighting has resulted.

In another major action, U. S. and Australian troops involved in "Operation Crimp" northwest of Saigon, killed 62 Viet Cong guerrillas.

The number killed was the highest since the 173rd Airborne Brigade, elements of the 1st Infantry Division and the Royal Australian Battalion moved into the area. The operation to date has resulted in a total of 48 Communists killed, 33 captured and 45 suspects detained.

Big Offensive's Results Small

Elusive Viet Cong Frustrate Troops

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — Large forces of disappointed U. S. troops mopped up today in two big Viet Cong hideouts northwest of Saigon and in the central highlands near the Cambodian frontier after the bulk of guerrillas once more had escaped into the jungles.

For U. S. officers the operation by more than 8,000 Americans and Australians 35 miles from the capital was particularly annoying. Although they raised the Viet Cong death toll to 84 and captured 38 in the four days of Operation Crimp, they had hoped for far better results from the biggest American offensive of the war.

Their goal was to snare a Communist regiment on the edge of the Iron Triangle, an old guerrilla redoubt that has been Communist territory since the days of the French Indochina war. But only rear-guard elements put up a fight while the main enemy force vanished.

Brisk Fight at One Place Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade took on one guerrilla band in a brisk fight yesterday and killed 29 Communists, U. S. spokesmen reported. Another 16 bodies were found in the after an air attack.

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division killed six more guerrillas in a 20-minute gun battle when the Reds tried to protect a large tunnel containing 15 bales of cotton and six tons of rice.

While U. S. troops explored a maze of tunnels underneath more than 100 houses in the area, soldiers of the Royal See VIET NAM, Page A-6

VIET NAM / Hot Pursuit Snares Red General's Satchel

Continued From Page A-1

Australian Regiment reported killing three Viet Cong in small actions in the afternoon and finding five more bodies.

A U. S. spokesman reported "only light, sporadic contact in the whole 'battle area'" by tonight night.

3-Day Hunt Frustrates

Equally frustrating was an eight-day search for guerrillas by the U. S. 1st Cavalry, Airmobile, Division in the central highlands on the Cambodian frontier, not far from the 1st Drang Valley where the flying horsemen battled it out with North Vietnamese regulars last November.

This time the Communists hurriedly pulled out, abandoning four rest camps capable of accommodating 3,000 guerrillas. The cavalry men destroyed the camps.

The operation netted eight Communists captured. Some of the captives were identified as members of the 32nd and 65th North Vietnamese regular regiments. There also were reports that an anti-aircraft battalion with 18 Chinese machine guns had been in the area.

Hot Pursuit at Camp

As the Americans crashed into one campsite, they saw a squad of armed men in a patch of khaki and black uniforms flee across the Tongle San River, the border with Cambodia 40 miles west of Pleiku. A big cooking kettle still simmered. A Viet Cong brigadier general left behind a small satchel with a single star pinned to it and his toothbrush and paste inside.

Operation Ripping Mustang brought the 1st Cavalrymen within 100 feet of the Cambodian border, and some of the 1st Cavalry helicopters swooped down on the river to sink a Communist sampan. Heretofore, the American troops were under orders to keep at least three miles from the border to avoid charges from Cambodia of territory violation. In most areas, the border is poorly defined in the thick forests.

As a sergeant stood on the river bank in a clearing, he pointed to caves on the Cambodian side and said: "I'll bet Charlie (the Viet Cong) is watching us from over there."

At some spots the river is 50 feet wide. The helicopters fired rockets and machine guns at a sampan camouflaged with vegetation in the river, and Lt. Col. Kenneth Mertei of Eugene, Ore., the

battalion commander, said secondary explosions erupted as the boat sank.

Only light contact with the enemy was reported today.

South Vietnamese troops fared little better in hunting the Viet Cong. A battalion dropped by helicopter on an area 10 miles northeast of Hong Ngu, which is four miles from Cambodia, but failed to locate any sizable enemy force. The 3rd battalion of the Vietnamese 15th Infantry expected to flush out guerrilla bands in the operation. Instead, it came upon only a squad.

A Vietnamese spokesman said three guerrillas were killed and a mortar and three Russian-made rifles were captured.

30 Reds Killed

Another Vietnamese battalion killed 30 Viet Cong and seized 300 Viet Cong weapons in a push 65 boat last Saturday, killing more miles south of Saigon near Than than 200 persons, Vietnamese Tan, the spokesman said.

Other Vietnamese troops were continuing the hunt for 400 guerrillas who inflicted mortar-helicopter on a civilian motor launch early Monday east of Pleiku, 40 miles east of Saigon. The troops were protecting farmers preparing for the rice harvest.

A dozen guerrillas opened fire last night on a guard tower 20 miles southeast of the huge Nha Trang broadcast station on the Viet Cong's youth wing to outskirts of Saigon. The government sent out the Viet Cong's youth wing to ment forces beat off the attack. Americans in connection with names military spokesman Nam students' day and the 5th anniversary of the South Vietnamese liberation Students' Union. It urged the students to deepen the hatred for the U. S. aggressors and their henchmen and increase their determination to annihilate the enemy."

U.S. Planes Busy

The moratorium on bombing North Viet Nam went into its 18th day, but U. S. planes gave no breather to Communist targets in the south. Air Force and Navy jets flew 281 sorties against Viet Cong targets yesterday.

The Saigon Post said Vietnamese intelligence sources reported two Viet Cong ammunition boats sunk by government coastal patrols off Goai Cong Province Saturday night. They may have taken their arms cargo from a foreign ship at sea.

The boats were sunk as they attempted to land at a beach on the Cua Tieu River, 30 miles south of Saigon. Government teams recovered 167 Russian rifles, a large store of small arms and antitank ammunition and other military materiel, the Post said.

Sampans Sunk

The helicopters fired rockets and machine guns at a sampan camouflaged with vegetation in the river, and Lt. Col. Kenneth Mertei of Eugene, Ore., the

Appeal to Red Youth

Another North Vietnamese broadcast carried an appeal by the Viet Cong's youth wing to ment forces beat off the attack. Americans in connection with names military spokesman Nam students' day and the 5th anniversary of the South Vietnamese liberation Students' Union. It urged the students to deepen the hatred for the U. S. aggressors and their henchmen and increase their determination to annihilate the enemy."

He also discussed with South Vietnamese economics minister Truong Thai Ton the possibility of more technical assistance from South Korea.

U.S. Adviser Injured

An American adviser and the deputy chief of operations of the Vietnamese 7th Division were among 10 members of a field inspection team wounded by a Viet Cong mine as it went to the scene later.



(Associated Press Radiotelephoto) Pfc. Marvin Hudson of Eastport, N. Y., gets to kiss Jo Collins, 20, after he presented her with cap and insignia of 173d Airborne Brigade in Saigon. Jo is Playboy magazine's Playmate of the Year.

Congs Flee, Allied Drive Wanes

By JOSEPH FRIED - Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS.

Saigon, Jan. 10.—Red guerrillas evaded contact with American troops again today as two major sweeps appeared to be ending in frustration.

An 8,000-man force of Americans and Australians pushed to the edge of the Communists' Iron Triangle, 20 miles northwest of Saigon, but could claim only 22 slain Viet Congs. The Australians, however, captured machine guns, small arms ammunition, grenades and 20 tons of rice.

A network of tunnels and fortified positions was discovered and blown up.

Campaign in North

To the north, in Pleiku province, U. S. cavalrymen were rounding out the sixth day of another big operation, it was disclosed today.

They advanced to the Cambodian border after finding a number of abandoned camps, some ammunition and medicine.

But their quarry apparently had withdrawn across the Se San river to the safety of Cambodia.

The South Korean Tiger Division claimed, however, to have trapped a regiment of Viet Cong and killed 185 of them by body count. More than 600 were captured.

Planes Hit S. Viet Targets

The fighting bitterest yet for the Koreans, took place about 10 miles north of Qui Nhon, about 350 miles north of Saigon.

As the pause in the bombing of North Viet Nam passed the 17 day mark, U. S. planes continued to hammer Viet Cong targets in South Viet Nam. U. S. 7th Fleet destroyers bombarded Red targets.



(NEWS Map by Staff Artist) Another big U. S. operation was reported near Pleiku (A) as Allies pushed to edge of Iron Triangle (B). South Koreans trapped Reds (C).

GIs Chase Cong to Cambodia Border

NY Herald Tribune 11 JAN 1966

From Cable Dispatches SAIGON.

Troops of the U. S. 1st Air Cavalry Division sweeping the central highlands west of Pleiku drove to within 100 feet of the Cambodian border yesterday, destroying four Viet Cong camps, but failing to kill any of the Communists who hastily retreated into Cambodia.

A squad of armed men in a motley collection of khaki and black uniforms led across the Tangle San River—at some points only 55 feet wide—into Cambodia when the Americans suddenly crashed into their campsite. But there was no pursuit into Cambodia. It was the first time Amer-

ican troops had ventured so close to Cambodia, which in the past has accused the U. S. of violating Cambodian sovereignty. On Jan. 5, Air Cavalry Division troops burned a camp a mile from the border. The operation, named Rippling Mustang was launched Saturday, but word of it was first disclosed yesterday. Besides destruction of the camps only eight Viet Cong have been captured and 2,500 pounds of rice seized.

Similar disappointing results were again reported in the biggest operation by American forces in the war—a drive on the Communist Iron Triangle stronghold 25 miles northwest of Saigon.

American and Australian troops pushed to the edge of the Iron Triangle, blew up an

abandoned tunnel network and seized a huge food and weapons cache. But so far only 22 Viet Cong have been killed and 38 captured. American officers had hoped to trap a Communist regiment.

However, the commander of a South Korean division operating west of Qui Nhon, 265 miles northeast of Saigon, said his troops last week scored their biggest victory of the war, killing 185 Viet Cong and capturing 800 suspects. The operation west of Pleiku was being carried out about 20 to 35 miles north of Chu Pong Mountain and the Ia Drang Valley, where the 1st Cavalry Division estimated 2,000 North Vietnamese in a costly victory in November. The area is about 190 miles northwest of Saigon.

In driving toward the border, the U. S. troops chose a

spot on the frontier well defined by the river. So suddenly did they appear in the Viet Cong camps that, in one instance, a big clay cookhouse stove was still warm.

Some of the huts in the camps were up to 60 feet long. The four camps are capable of holding more than 3,000 troops.

Intelligence officers with the 1st Cavalry said the many well-used trails, supply areas and bivouac areas in the dense jungle provided "large scale" infiltration routes across the Cambodian border.

Allied Troops Raze Viet Red Fortifications

NY World Tel-Sin

10 JAN 1966

Fortifications

Combined Wire Services

SAIGON, Jan. 10.—The largest United States fighting force of the Vietnamese war demolished a honeycomb of Viet Cong fortifications 25 miles northwest of Saigon today, but the Communists ducked the knockout punch.

Most of the guerrillas kept away from the U.S. and Australian troops as they scoured the Communist stronghold on the third day of Operation Crimp.

Australians operating with the 1st Infantry Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade uncovered a big weapons cache left by the fleeing Communists.

22 Reds Killed

The haul included 47 weapons, five of them crew-size, 114 grenades, 15,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 58 heavy mortar rounds, 100 pounds of dynamite, 20 tons of rice and a large store of medical supplies.

There were more than 8,000 men in the Allied force, but U.S. military spokesmen reported only light contact with the enemy, a regiment-sized force thought to be holed up in the 12 square miles of jungle and marshland.

The spokesman reported 22

Viet Cong killed, 38 captured and 269 suspects, mostly women and children, detained. Allied casualties were light, they said.

Trapped Viet Cong

Meanwhile, a South Korean military spokesman claimed today troops of the Tiger Division trapped a Viet Cong regiment, killed 180 guerrillas by body count and captured 609 others in bitter fighting 350 miles north of Saigon.

In another operation, U.S. force of several battalions has been sweeping the jungles near the Cambodian frontier for the past six days, it was disclosed today.

Many Viet Cong were sighted across the Se San river, which forms the boundary between Cambodia and South Viet Nam about 25 miles west of Pleiku in the central highlands.

Some American troops deliberately exposed themselves to draw Communist fire, but the Communists did not shoot.

The mission was officially called "Operation Matador" and involved a number of battalions of the U.S. 1st Cavalry division.

Vietcong Fade Into Jungles, Evade GI Drives

SAIGON, Jan. 10 (UPI).—Vietcong troops, melting into the jungles and abandoning their installations, evaded two major American offensives Monday aimed at trapping and destroying Communist forces in their stronghold areas.

On one sector in the central highlands, U. S. 1st Air Cavalry troops sweeping along the Cambodian border seemingly dared North Vietnamese troops to fire across the frontier at them. But the Communists did not meet the challenge.

TRAP-DESTROY ACTION

Farther south, about 25 miles from Saigon, some 8000 American paratroopers and infantrymen continued their trap-and-destroy operation against the Vietcong in their iron triangle stronghold in the Ho Bo woods. However, all but a relative handful of Vietcong apparently escaped the noose.

A spokesman said 22 Vietcong were killed in the action since Saturday, with the Communists keeping one jump ahead of the advancing Allied force that also included Australian troops.

But on a third sector near the coast in the central highlands, the Vietcong failed to escape a South Korean division, and suffered severe losses.

TIGER DIVISION

South Korean military spokesmen said the 1st Brigade of the South Korean "Tiger Division" trapped a regiment of Vietcong troops, killing 185 and capturing 609. Many other Communists were believed killed and their bodies dragged away by their comrades.

The Vietcong casualty toll represented more than half of the strength of the Vietcong regiment. Such a regiment usually ranges from 1000 to 1500.

The fighting, bitterest of the war for the Koreans, was in a supply dump area about 10 miles north of Qui Nhon, some 350 miles north of Saigon and three miles inland from the South China Sea.

TROOPS AIRLIFTED

The South Korean troops, airlifted to the battle area by American helicopters, charged through waist-deep flooded rice paddies, and smashed four Communist companies, to hand the Vietcong their stiffest setback in years in Binh Dinh Province.

A spokesman said there was bitter hand-to-hand fighting with bayonets as the Vietcong fought back desperately from trenches and bunkers. Most of the Communists were killed by small arms, rifles and grenades.

The operation by U. S. Air Cavalry troops in the central highlands along the Cambodian frontier started six days ago, but for security reasons was disclosed only Monday. The spokesman reported no Vietcong killed so far and said they had encountered only sporadic contact with the Communists.

SIGHT FOE AT BORDER

At one point, it was disclosed, the American troops sighted many Communist troops across the Se San River border with Cambodia about 25 miles west of Pleiku.

A correspondent in the border area with American troops said he watched a U. S. helicopter fly up and down the river in full view of the Communists without drawing their fire. The river is only about 55 yards wide at that point.

U. S. cavalrymen waited in the underbrush on the South Vietnam side of the border, ready to cut loose with mortar and automatic rifles if the Communists fired. But the Communists just stared up at the American helicopter and then turned and walked back into the forest.

The correspondent said officers of the U. S. operation understood that they were authorized to fire back if the Communists fired on them from the other side of the border.

NO AIR STRIKES

"At least one officer told me that he understood that the permission included calling air strikes," he said.

But in Saigon a spokesman for Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of Allied forces in Vietnam, denied that the troops had such authorization.

The operation, named "Matador," was being carried out about 20 to 35 miles north of Chu Pong Mountain and Ia Drang Valley where the 1st Cavalry killed 2000 North Vietnamese in a costly victory about two months ago. The area is about 190 miles northwest of Saigon.

5 COPTERS TO THE RESCUE

Troops Put Nuns Back on Wheels

QUI NHON, South Viet Nam (AP).—The Sisters of the Cross of Love have their car back in running order but it took five U.S. helicopters to do it.

The story goes back a year to the village of Xuan Thuan, 10 miles north of Qui Nhon and 260 miles northeast of Saigon, on the South China Sea coast.

The Viet Cong seized the place and Sister Julienne, acting as mother superior, herded her handful of nuns out to safety.

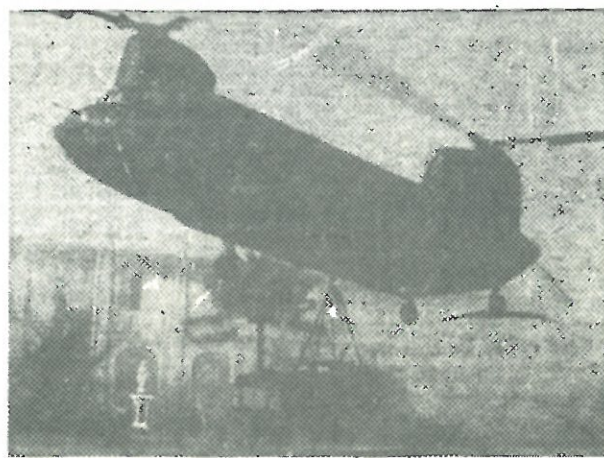
They left behind their little diesel-powered vehicle, but first stripped it of battery, distributor cap and other vitals so it could not be operated.

Bridges in and out of the village were down and the car couldn't get far anyhow.

Two months ago Korean troops came back to Xuan Thuan but the bridges still were out and the village was an oasis surrounded by the Viet Cong.

The nuns went back to their convent base and found the vehicle useless.

Sister Julienne is stubborn about things that are useless. Through Father Sanh in Qui Nhon she appealed for help. The U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division responded. Five choppers were



—Associated Press

A. U.S. helicopter completes its mission for the nuns.

running errands for the parish and is a generally pretty zippy addition to the work of the beat-up old vehicle, picked up and now is transporting children to school, church.

Yanks Storm Tunnel Zone, But Enemy Is Still Elusive

By JOSEPH FRIED
Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Saigon, Jan. 11—U. S. forces stormed Communist positions along the tunnel-laced banks of the Saigon river today, wiping out pockets of resistance, but the bulk of a major Communist force continued to elude the Americans, engaged in their biggest operation of the war.

(American troops sweeping the Cambodian border area have discovered evidence that a North Viet Namese anti-aircraft battalion has moved into South Viet Nam along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, according to United Press International. The unit was reported by prisoners to have 18 heavy guns.)

Comb Tunnel Maze

U. S. infantrymen and paratroops, with an Australian battalion, continued to comb the maze of Viet Cong tunnels in the Iron Triangle 20 miles northwest of Saigon. At least 62 Communists were killed, 88 captured and 495 suspects detained in 24 hours. Allied casualties were light.

Americans tangled with the Communists in a series of brief but sharp clashes. Groups of Viet Cong stood their ground until they were routed out at several points.

In one encounter, Americans dashed across an open field to attack a machine gun post in a tree-covered position. Midway across the field, they triggered an enemy mine which sprayed the Americans with shrapnel. Four Americans were reported killed and eleven wounded.

Regroup, Attack Again

The U.S. forces pulled back, regrouped and attacked again, driving the Communists from the position.

Despite the bitter clashes, ranging from squad to company size, the U.S. operation, involving 8,000 Americans, had yet to collide with the main Viet Cong forces believed to be in the area.

In Pleiku province to the north, Communist forces also continued to avoid a big U.S. 1st Air Cavalry unit near the Cambodian border which has killed three Communists and captured eight.

FOE FRUSTRATES BIG VIETNAM PUSH

11 JAN 1966
Enemy Retreats As Troops Reach Iron Triangle

Saigon, Vietnam, Jan. 10 (AP)—United States and Australian troops pushed to the edge of the Viet Cong Iron Triangle today, blew up an abandoned tunnel network and seized a huge food and weapons cache.

But United States officers expressed disappointment over results of this biggest operation by American forces in the war. Only 22 Viet Cong had been killed and 38 captured on the front 23 miles northwest of Saigon. The officers had hoped to trap a regiment of Viet Cong. They believe they only brushed with a rear guard.

As the troops pursued the Viet Cong at the edges of the Iron Triangle, another big operation far to the north was experiencing similar frustrations.

Rest Camps Destroyed

United States 1st Air Cavalry Division troops destroyed 4 Viet Cong rest camps capable of accommodating 3,000 guerrillas west of Pleiku, about 240 miles north of Saigon. They drove to within 100 feet of the Cambodian border without encountering any Viet Cong, but there were signs the guerrillas had left hurriedly.

About a dozen guerrillas opened fire tonight on a guard tower near Nha Be, an important oil storage center 5 miles southeast of Saigon, but artillery drove the attackers off, a Vietnamese military spokesman said. He said the Government forces at the tower 2 miles southeast of Nha Be suffered no casualties.

The spokesman also said Vietnamese troops were seeking about 400 Viet Cong who inflicted moderate losses on Government troops in an attack early today east of Xuan Loc, 40 miles east of Saigon. The sweep was continuing, he said, to provide protection for farmers getting ready to harvest their rice.

The commander of the South Korean division operating west of Pleiku, 285 miles northwest of Saigon, claimed his troops this weekend scored their biggest victory of the war killing 185 Viet Cong and capturing 800 suspects.

In the air war, the lull in bombing Communist North Vietnam went into its sixteenth day, but Viet Cong targets in the South were not spared.

Air Force and Navy carrier pilots flew 281 missions against Viet

(Continued, Page A 2, Column 2)

(Continued from Page A 1)

long targets and in support of troops. Four United States planes were lost yesterday and today.

About 2,000 men, most of them from the United States 1st Infantry Division and the 173d Airborne Brigade, were in the third day of Operation Crimp against the Iron Triangle. The triangle of Viet Cong Iron Triangle today is 15 square miles of jungle has been a stronghold of the Viet Cong for years.

The allied force reached the Saigon River boundary of the triangle but did not cross into the triangle itself.

Like the operation west of Pleiku, the allies battered against the Iron Triangle were trying to seek out and destroy the Viet Cong.

Australians operating with the Americans' camps upon the west side and food cache, which included 20 tons of rice and a large quantity of medical supplies. In a nearby warehouse, the Austrians captured 400 pounds of rice.

Four 50-caliber machine guns, light machine guns, 5 submachine guns, a 57 mm. recoilless rifle, 114 grenades, 18,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 58 heavy mortar rounds, 5 mines and 100 pounds of dynamite.

Caves, Tunnels Blown Up
The United States troops continued their methodical work of scorching the area and demolishing caves and tunnels.

The operation kicked off Saturday behind an artillery barrage from United States and New Zealand batteries. A fleet of about 80 helicopters began ferrying elements of the 1st Infantry, the 173d Airborne and the Royal Australian Regiment into positions from where they could block off the triangle.

As the assault helicopters set down, the soldiers saw buildings afire from air strikes. Up in flames went a field of unharvested rice. The troops pushed across an abandoned rubber plantation.

The advancing soldiers found themselves atop a den of guerrilla underground tunnels.

Several tunnels dug 35 feet into the hard clay soil were intact even after direct hits by bombs from B-52's flying from Guam.

The Americans and Australians were harassed by snipers as they set fire to the few houses and rice storage buildings that had escaped the air blows. In some

houses they found food cooking in fireplaces. Bicycles were abandoned. Pigs and chickens scurried among the troops.

When a woman was spotted coming out of a tunnel, riot-control gas grenades were hurled in. Out rushed 300 women, children and old men.

West of Pleiku, the Air-Cavalry Division has been conducting a search-and-destroy operation for six days, United States military authorities disclosed. Only eight Viet Cong were captured, they reported.

One battalion, the "Jumping Mustangs," hit the jackpot Saturday and yesterday without making any contact with the Viet Cong. The first day they swooped down on a rest camp near the Cambodian border and put it to the torch.

The Americans found a Viet Cong general's bag with his toothbrush and toothpaste. A squad of Viet Cong retreated across the river into Cambodia as the Americans entered the camp.

Later, the Americans reported destroying three other camps and seizing 2,500 pounds of rice.

Hitherto, United States forces have been ordered to stay 3 miles away from the Cambodian border to avoid charges by Cambodia that its soil had been invaded. Why the Americans now were permitted so close to the border was not clear.

Red Haven Indicated

But they chose a point where a river separates Cambodia from South Vietnam. Soldiers looking across the river said they saw caves similar to those found at the rest camp, an indication that the Viet Cong had a refuge in Cambodia.

At Quin Nhon, Maj. Gen. Chae Myung Shin, commander of South Korea's Tiger Division, said the Korean successes were scored in operations in three villages 15 miles northwest of Quin Nhon. The Koreans hit the Viet Cong before daybreak yesterday in an area where no Government forces had operated for years.

Shin said his troops captured 99 weapons, including a machine gun.

Among the United States planes downed was a Marine F4B Phantom, a highly secret craft. It crashed today 15 miles southwest of Da Nang, 380 miles northeast of Saigon. Both crewmen bailed out and were picked up.

U.S. PLEASED BY OFFENSIVE NEAR SAIGON

Big Rice Cache Seized During Push Against Iron Triangle

Saigon, Vietnam, Thursday, Jan. 13 (Reuters)—The South Vietnamese armed forces will observe a three-day truce during the Lunar New Year holiday starting next week, the official Vietnam press agency reported today.

The Viet Cong had already proposed a cease-fire for four days beginning at midnight January 20.

Saigon, Vietnam, Jan. 12 (AP)—A massive United States-Australian drive northwest of Saigon brought guerrillas dead to 107 today. Americans also overran what appeared to be an underground war room and seized a big rice cache.

United States officers' disappointment over the results of Operation Crimp was replaced with a feeling of satisfaction as the push against the Viet Cong Iron Triangle, 25 miles from Saigon, entered its fifth day.

A United States military spokesman reported that 23 additional Viet Cong were killed yesterday in fighting on the rim of the triangle. Earlier fighting had killed 84 guerrillas. New tunnel complexes were uncovered and destroyed, the spokesman added.

Little Other Action

There was little action elsewhere. But B-52 bombers from Guam hit two areas in South Vietnam, one 800 miles northeast of Saigon and the other west of Pleiku, 240 miles north of the capital.

The United States 1st Cavalry Division is hunting the Viet Cong. The lull in the bombing of North Vietnam continued into its twelfth day.

The United States spokesman said 43 Americans were killed, 202 wounded and 2 missing or captured in the week. This was an increase over the 34 dead, 116 wounded and 5 missing reported last week.

The Vietnamese reported 118 of their soldiers killed and 73 missing. Viet Cong casualties were reported at 714 killed or captured.

Harriman Awaited

Saigon awaited the arrival of W. Averell Harriman tomorrow for talks with Vietnamese leaders, where the Vietnam envoy had been expected today but went from Australia to Bangkok, Thailand instead.

In Bangkok, Harriman said he was heartened by the reaction received in the countries he visited on his global tour to explain President Johnson's peace offensive. He said "everyone was impressed" by the fairness of Mr. Johnson's proposals.

While Radio Hanoi continues to

(Continued, Page A 2, Column 2)

VIETNAM DRIVE PLEASES ARMY

Big Rice Cache Is Seized In Iron Triangle Attack

(Continued from Page A 1)
assail Mr. Johnson's peace bid, the absence of any formal public rejection stirred some hope in Washington that peace talks still might be held.

There was no indication of how much further the 8,000 United States and Australian troops would continue in their drive against the Iron Triangle.

"When you're on to a good thing you stay with it," an Army spokesman said.

Charl Room Found
Troops of the 1st Division found an underground room with maps, blackboards and charts of a tunnel system, and believed it was used as a war room.

In another sector, the 173d Airborne Brigade seized 10 tons of rice and in a tunnel found rooms with walls of concrete.

The airborne brigade bumped into a Viet Cong platoon that decided to fight it out from well-prepared and heavily booby-trapped positions.

Artillery and air strikes were followed by a paratrooper assault, and the Viet Cong position was overrun after three hours of fighting at close quarters. United States casualties were listed as light and it was here that the 23 Viet Cong were killed.

The 1st Division got into a two-hour fight with an unknown number of guerrillas at an ambush site, but there was no estimate of enemy casualties. There were no American casualties.

The B-52 bombers dropped more than 100 tons of bombs on targets west of the United States Marine base at Da Nang.

A battalion of marines was lifted into the target area by helicopter and reported a Viet Cong killed by the bombings. They killed two more Viet Cong and rounded up nineteen suspects.

A marine jet fighter plane exploded trying to take off from Da Nang and its two-man crew was killed. A military spokesman said mechanical failure was suspected.

Results of the B-52 raids west of Pleiku near the Cambodian border were not reported. The 1st Cavalry operating there reported encountering only an occasional sniper.

United States officers thought it was possibly significant that North Vietnamese regulars operating west of Pleiku have disappeared. These regulars engaged the 1st Cavalry in heavy fighting recently in the Ia Drang Valley. Senator Javits and Representative Reid, New York Republicans, arrived in Saigon on a congressional fact-finding mission. Javits told a news conference that President Johnson's peace offensive was necessary because the American people demand the President "walk an extra mile" in search of peace in Vietnam.

If it is made clear "that peace is impossible to attain through negotiations carried out in the utmost sincerity," the American people will back any measures "to succeed in the objective of getting freedom for South Vietnam," Javits said.



(UPI Telephoto)

American paratrooper, hiking along trail in operation northwest of Saigon, carried a pup in his shirt after finding the little animal in the jungle area.



(AP Wirephoto)

Wading out of the Se Sam river in South Viet Nam, an American air cavalryman holds his own rifle and a Russian-made one he discovered in water during river crossing near Cambodian border.

Three-Story Tunnel Of Cong Uncovered

By **13 JAN 1966**

SAIGON. A huge three-level underground labyrinth, believed to be the main Communist political headquarters in the Saigon area and a guerrilla regimental command post, was captured yesterday by Australian troops.

Seized in the major intelligence coup, which was the main success thus far in a five-day American-Australian probing operation in the area, were large quantities of documents, including records on Communist agents and counterfeit government papers, apparently used in espionage.

Later in the day, a combined force of 4,500 to 6,000 United States Marines with Vietnamese troops dropped by helicopter into an area

just pounded in a massive bombing by Guam-based B-52 jets south of the big Da Nang air base, about 365 miles north of Saigon.

The Australians have been burrowing under the Ho Bo Woods 25 miles northwest of Saigon in the Iron Triangle area for two days. They moved into the area five days ago with 8,000 U. S. paratroopers and infantrymen.

The Allies have reported 107 Viet Cong killed in the operation to date, and 693 suspects captured.

The sources said the Australians crawled past underground booby-traps and discovered four truckloads of Viet Cong records, documents and diaries, indicating that the elaborate tunnel complex

More on TUNNEL—P 6

Thursday, January 13, 1966

Washington News
17 JAN 1966



Sgt. Maj. Herbert P. McCullah of Adairsville, Ky., enjoys a splash of Viet Cong water. He found this bamboo pipe during "Operation Murrelets," a First Cavalry Division sweep along the Cambodian border in Viet Nam's central highlands.

3-Story Cong Tunnel Uncovered

(Continued from page one)

was the Communist political headquarters for the Saigon region and the command post for a Viet Cong regiment.

The Australian haul included the personnel records of Viet Cong agents, illegal government identification cards and even a "post office" filled with letters the guerrilla fighters addressed to friends and relatives. A commissary and a fresh-water well also was found in the complex.

The sources said the Australians were mapping the entire tunnel complex, reporting their slow progress underground by radio. Teams of

twists and turns of the tunnels on the ground above.

The Australians probed the maze with rifles, machine guns and hand grenades at the ready, the sources reported, but found on Viet Cong.

In the same sweep, American and Australian troops found huge Communist stores, including motorcycles, sampans, and 4,500 pounds of rice.

(The Associated Press reported that there was no indication of how farther the 8,000 U. S. and Australians would continue in their drive against the Iron Triangle. "When you're on to a good thing you stay with it," an Army spokesman said.)

Nang, Marines attacked in regimental strength (4,500 to 6,000 men) in a search-and-clear operation last week in the Guam-based B-52s dropped more than 100 tons of bombs onto the area 15 miles southwest of Da Nang—the same valley where the Marines struck last week in Operation Long Lance. They were down in by helicopter.

The Marines encountered only light resistance. They killed four Viet Cong and found one killed by the bombing, which pockmarked an area of rice paddies and small rocky hills believed to be a Viet Cong concentration area. Three other Viet Cong were wounded and three suspects

One Viet Cong, shaken by the bombing, walked out of his hideout toward the Marines with his hands in the air and surrendered.

"No more... No more," he shouted.

U. S. 1st Cavalry Air Mobile Division troops continued another sweep along the Cambodian border in the central highlands. But they still had made little contact yesterday with the North Vietnamese regulars who were supposed to be in the area.

A spokesman said the bomber swerved off the runway in a trail of flame and sparks. No gunshots were heard and the runway is believed in an area secure from