

GIs Halt Red Suicide Wave

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Saigon, July 4—U.S. infantrymen manning a base camp northwest of Saigon got more than their share of Fourth of July fireworks today as Communists unleashed 500 mortar and rocket rounds, then opened a ground attack.

The two-and-a-half-hour assault took place at a U.S. 25th Infantry Division base camp at Dau Tieng, 40 miles northwest of Saigon. United States armed helicopters, artillery and Air Force gunships helped drive back the charging Communists.

Only five of the enemy reached the American bunker line, but failed to pierce the perimeter. An initial count showed nine Reds dead, with three Americans killed and 50 wounded.

Later, U.S. soldiers probing an infiltration corridor 10 miles south of Dau Tieng, uncovered a booby-trapped bunker with 35 Russian-made rockets and more than 1,000 rounds of smaller bazooka shells.

66 Reds Killed

In another clash in the upper province of Thua Thien, 18 miles west of Hue, government troops supported by U.S. helicopters repulsed an attacking North Vietnamese battalion, killing 66 of them. Government casualties were described as moderate.

In a clash near Saigon, Communist gunners downed a U.S. helicopter. Seven of the 10 Americans aboard were listed as missing. The copter crashed into a river. Three of the Americans swam ashore. Nearby, U.S. troops killed 24 Reds. Two GIs were wounded.

Rocket Cache Found

Elsewhere near Saigon, U.S. infantrymen uncovered five Communist rockets within firing range of the capital. They were found in the same rice paddy, eight miles east of Saigon, where Americans turned up 56 rockets yesterday.

In Saigon, a military spokesman said 187 Americans were killed in action last week, the lowest total since the first week of January. The number of wounded also declined, down from 2,220 two weeks ago to 1,928. Communist casualties also dropped to



NEWS Map by Staff Artist
Fireworks at Dau Tieng.

1,193, the lowest for any week in 1968.

Over North Vietnam, U.S. jets bombed two military storage areas northwest of Dong Hoi,

triggering 27 sustained fires. They also knocked out four surface-to-air missiles and their transporters and damaged or destroyed 21 trucks, 13 anti-aircraft sites, seven supply boats and two radar installations.

More Soviet Aid For North Viet

Moscow, July 4 (UPI) — The Soviet Union announced today it had promised to send more arms and economic aid to North Vietnam. The agreement was reached in 10 days of talks here with a Hanoi delegation led by Deputy Premier Le Thanh Nghi, the announcement said.

Current Soviet military aid to North Vietnam has been estimated as high as \$1 billion a year. The Soviet news agency, Tass, said this will be expanded, but gave no details.

July 31 1968