

PHOTOGRAPHER: SP/4 BRYAN K. GRIGSBY

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SUBJECT: ARVN AIRBORNE REPELL NVA/VC ATTACK ON THE CITY OF SAIGON.

DATE: 6 MAY 1968

FILM: FOUR (4) ROLLS 120 GPS (43 EXP)

DCS 200-77C-68 VN

CAMERA SN:2383638

NOTE: NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE UNLESS CLEARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

SUMMARY

ON 6 MAY 1968 ELEMENTS FROM THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) AIRBORNE HEADQUARTERS (TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE DEFENSE FORCE), AND THE 7th AIRBORNE BATTALION, 1st ARVN AIRBORNE DIV ENGAGED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ENEMY IN THE VICINITY OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL CEMETERY LOCATED ON THE WESTERN PERIMETER OF THE TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTED THE ENEMY FORCE WAS THE 104th BATTALION, 762nd REGIMENT (ALSO KNOWN AS THE 272nd), 9th NVA/VC DIVISION.

FIGHTING RAGED THROUGH AND AROUND THE FRENCH CEMETERY AS ARVN UNITS PUSHED THE ENEMY OUT OF THE CEMETERY AND THROUGH THE HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS ALONG THE PLANTATION ROAD. PLANTATION ROAD IS A MAJOR U.S. AND VIETNAMESE TRUCK ROUTE LEADING INTO THE CITY OF SAIGON.

APPROX THIRTY-SEVEN ENEMY WERE KILLED WITH LIGHT ARVN CASUALTIES, SIX SUSPECTS WERE DETAINED, ONE OF WHICH IDENTIFIED HIS UNIT AS THE 104th BATTALION.

SIX ARVN SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN ACTION, EIGHTEEN WOUNDED IN ACTION.

TWO CIVILIAN PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE KILLED IN ACTION (NOT FILMED), AND ONE ARMY PHOTOGRAPHER WOUNDED, SFC HOWARD C. BREEDLOVE (CHARLESTON, W.VA), MOTION PICTURE CAMERAMAN, USA SP PHOTO DET, PAC. (FILMED WHILE BEING GIVEN MEDICAL TREATMENT DURING THE ENGAGEMENT BY 1LT RICHARD M. GRIFFITH (COLUMBUS OHIO), OIC, DA SP PHOTO TEAM "C", AND MINUTES LATER BY AN ARVN MEDIC).

THE ENEMY FORCE WAS HEAVILY ARMED WITH RPG ROCKET-GERNADE LAUNCHERS, AND SMALL ARMS WEAPONS, TO INCLUDE THE AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLE. ELEMENTS OF THE ENEMY FORCE WERE FOUND HIDING IN THE SEWAGE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND IN THE HOUSES.

NOTE..... SP/4 JACOB E. HAWES SHOT STILLS ON THIS SAME SUBJECT, AFTER THE UNIT HAD PUSHED THRU THE CEMETERY AND HAD PUSHED THE ENEMY BACK INTO THE MORE POPULATED AREAS ALONG PLANTATION ROAD. SFC HOWARD C. BREEDLOVE SHOT STILLS DURING THE ENGAGEMENT INSIDE THE CEMETERY. THEIR FILM IS SHOT UNDER THE SAME DCS NUMBER, HOWEVER THEY WILL HAVE A COMPLETE SUMMARY THAT WILL GO MORE INTO DETAIL ON THE ACTION THEY RECORDED.

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NOTE ~~FOR~~ TO THE EDITOR..... CAPTIONS WERE VERY DIFFICULT TO TAKE WHILE WORKING UNDER COMBAT CONDITIONS.

MASTER CAPTION:

ON 6 MAY 1968, ELEMENTS FROM THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) AIRBORNE HEADQUARTERS (TAN SON NHUT DEFENSE FORCE) ENGAGED ELEMENTS OF THE 104th BN, 762nd REGIMENT (ALSO KNOWN AS THE 272nd), 9th NVA/VC DIV THROUGH THE HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS ALONG THE PLANTATION ROAD, LOCATED ALONG THE WESTERN PERIMETER OF TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE. THE PLANTATION ROAD IS A MAJOR U.S. AND VIETNAMESE TRUCK ROUTE LEADING INTO THE CITY OF SAIGON.

ROLL ONE

1. SLATE

2-12 ARVN TROOPS TAKE UP POSITIONS ALONG THE CEMETERY WALL AND FIRE INTO THE CEMETERY, DEAD ARVN SOLDIER LYING ON STRETCHER TO BE PICKED UP LATER, ARVN MEDICS ARRIVE IN AMBULANCE, MEDICS HAVE TO CRAWL UNDER BARBED WIRE STRUNG OUT ALONG THE ROAD NEXT TO THE CEMETERY, MEDICS CARRY ARVN CASUALTY THROUGH BARBED WIRE TO THE AMBULANCE.

MASTER CAPTION (SAME AS ROLL ONE)

ROLL TWO

1. SLATE

2-12 ARVN TROOPS QUESTION CAPTURED VC, GIVE THEM FOOD AND CIGARETTES. CAPTURED VC COMES OUT OF HIDING IN A SEWAGE DRAINAGE SYSTEM UNDER A HOUSE WITH HIS HANDS UP. ARVN SOLDIER HOLDS UP CAPTURED ENEMY AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLE. ARVN TROOPS MOVE UP PLANTATION ROAD.

MASTER CAPTION (SAME AS ROLL ONE)

ROLL THREE

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ROLL THREE CONT.

1. SLATE

2-11 ARVN TROOPS IN ACTION AGAINST ENEMY FORCE IN STREET FIGHTING, FLAMES REACH UP FROM BURNING SHELL GASOLINE STATION, MUCH OF THE AREA IN FLAMES DURING THE ENGAGEMENT. DEAD VC AND NVA LAY WHERE THEY FELL IN THE STREET.

12. SFC HOWARD C. BREEDLOVE(CHARLESTON, W.VA), MOTION PICTURE CAMERAMAN, USA SP PHOTO DET, PAC., IS GIVEN FIRST AID TREATMENT BY 1LT RICHARD M. GRIFFITH (COLUMBUS, OHIO), OIC, DA SP PHOTO TEAM "C", IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING HIT IN THE LEG BY A PIECE OF ENEMY SHARPNEL, AND IN THE FACE OF ENEMY FIRE.

MASTER CAPTION(SAME AS ROLL ONE)

ROLL FOUR

1. SLATE

2-11 SFC HOWARD C. BREEDLOVE(CHARLESTON, W.VA), MOTION PICTURE CAMERAMAN, USA SP PHOTO DET, PAC., RECEIVES MEDICAL TREATMENT FROM AN ARVN MEDIC AS 1LT RICHARD M. GRIFFITH(COLUMBUS, OHIO), OIC, DA SP PHOTO TEAM "C", STANDS BY. DEAD VC AND NVA SOLDIERS LAY IN THE STREET WHERE THEY WERE SHOT. ARVN TROOPS INSPECT ENEMY BODIES AND EQUIPMENT. ARVN SOLDIERS MAN A 50 CAL MACHINE GUN MOUNTED ON THE BACK OF A TRUCK.

12. NOT EXPOSED.