

WAR HIST
FILE SUBJ.
DATE SUB-CAT.
3
1975

1ST LD A020

BY ALAN DAWSON

SAIGON (UPI) -- A TANK-LED COMMUNIST REGIMENT, BACKED BY ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR BARRAGES, STORMED THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF BAN ME THUOT TODAY, OPENING A MAJOR NEW BATTLEFRONT IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

THE 2,500-MAN COMMUNIST FORCE SEIZED AT LEAST HALF OF BAN ME THUOT THIS MORNING AND BATTLED AGAINST OUTNUMBERED DEFENDERS HOLED UP IN THE REST OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS CITY.

GOVERNMENT PLANES DROPPED BOMBS AND INFANTRY TROOPS FIRED ANTI-TANK ROCKETS IN AN ATTEMPT TO SLOW DOWN THE ADVANCING ARMOR. THE SAIGON COMMAND REPORTED EIGHT COMMUNIST TANKS DESTROYED.

THE DEFENDERS FOUGHT FROM ROOFTOPS IN BATTLES THAT CAUGHT MORE THAN A DOZEN AMERICANS AND A GROUP OF TRUCE TEAM OFFICIALS IN THE EMBATTLED CITY.

PICKUP 3RD PGH: MILITARY SOURCES

UPI 03-10 03:43 AED

6