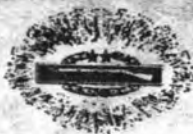


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Ready To Strike Anywhere, Anytime

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Shades of James Bond as VC Comes Over

DUO PHO—Because many Viet Cong captured attempting to return to the GVN side are tortured unmercifully before being killed, one dissatisfied VC in Quang Ngai province devised an escape plan worthy of James Bond.

His rather complicated plot was delivered by message and map to the Duc Pho District chief who turned it over to CPT Peter Bankson, the MACV ad-

visor to the district.

The potential Hoi Chanh said in his message he would be at a certain stream at a designated time wearing red pajamas. After washing them, he would place them on the roof of a nearby hut which allegedly housed two VC.

Then at one p.m. upon seeing

a signal flare, which was to be fired from the 3rd Bde. Task Force, 25th Inf. Div.'s forward base camp on the outskirts of Duc Pho village, he would cross the stream, wearing a white sweatband and carrying a 10-foot pole.

Helicopters were then to sweep down and pluck him from the field and the Viet Cong.

In true Bond fashion, the intricate scheme worked.

It was not a trap and the 3rd Bde. Task Force, to the chagrin of the VC, gained valuable information from the Hoi Chanh.