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From: Jim Henthorn < >

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Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 1:06 PM

Subject: [Vhfcn-l] This Day in Vietnam 09/15

September 15

1964: NLF calls for general military offensive

The National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, or as it was more popularly known, the National Liberation Front (NLF), calls for a general military offensive to take advantage of the 'disarray' among the South Vietnamese, particularly after the abortive coup attempt against General Khanh's government in Saigon on September 13 and 14.

The NLF was the formal political organization behind the Viet Cong and sought to unite all aspects of the South Vietnamese people who were disaffected with the Saigon government. From the beginning, the NLF was completely dominated by the communist Lao Dong Party Central Committee in Hanoi and served as North Vietnam's shadow government in the South.

1966: Operation Danbury launched

The 1st Battalion, of the 16th Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, of the 28th Infantry Regiment conducted a search and destroy operation 10 km west of Lai Khe, in III Corps.

1966: Operation Deckhouse IV launched

SLF 1st Battalion, of the 26th Marines and the 3rd Marine Reconnaissance Battalion conducts a search and destroy operation as an adjunct to Operation Prairie 12 km northeast of Dong Ha in I Corps. There were 200 Communists reported KIA.

1966: Operation Sioux City launched

The 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team conducted a search and destroy

operation in Xom Cat, Biên Hòa Province.

1966: Operation Kalihi launched

The 1st Brigade, of the 25th Infantry Division conducted a search and destroy operation in the Filhol Plantation in Hau Nghia Province. There were 4 Communists reported as KIA.

1967: Operation Arkansas City I launched

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted a reconnaissance in force operation to attempt to locate and destroy the VC 274th Regiment along Highway 2.

1972: South Vietnamese forces retake Quang Tri City

ARVN forces recapture Quang Tri City after four days of heavy fighting, with the claim that over 8,135 NVA had been killed in the battle.

The North Vietnamese forces had launched a massive offensive, called the Nguyen Hue or "Easter Offensive," on March 31, with three main attacks aimed at Quang Tri south of the Demilitarized Zone, Kontum in the Central Highlands, and An Loc just 60 miles north of Saigon. This invasion included 14 divisions and 26 separate regiments, a total force numbering over 120,000 troops, and was designed to knock South Vietnam out of the war and inflict a defeat on the remaining U.S. forces (which numbered less than 70,000 by this date due to President Nixon's Vietnamization policy and the American troop withdrawal schedule). The North Vietnamese attack was characterized by conventional combined arms attacks by tank and infantry forces supported by massive artillery barrages, resulting in some of the heaviest fighting of the war.

The South Vietnamese forces and their American advisors supported by U.S. tactical airpower and B-52 bombers were able to hold at An Loc and Kontum despite being vastly outnumbered, but the South Vietnamese forces at Quang Tri faltered under the communist assault and were quickly overwhelmed. It was only after President Thieu fired the I Corps commander and replaced him with Major General Ngo Quang Truong, arguably one of the best officers in the South Vietnamese army, that the ARVN were able to stop the North

Vietnamese. Truong took measures to stabilize the situation and the South Vietnamese began to fight back. After a tremendously bloody four-and-a-half-month battle in which 977 South Vietnamese soldiers perished, Truong and his troops retook Quang Tri from the North Vietnamese, winning a major victory. President Nixon used this as proof positive that his Vietnamization policy had worked and that the South Vietnamese were prepared to take over responsibility for the war.

1974: Air Vietnam Flight 706 hijacked

Air Vietnam Flight 706 was a Boeing 727 which crashed on September 15, 1974 near Phan Rang Air Base in South Vietnam. After taking off from Danang in South Vietnam on a regularly scheduled flight for Saigon, the flight was hijacked by a man holding two grenades. He demanded to be flown to Hanoi in North Vietnam. For unknown reasons the pilots approached the airfield at Phan Rang but aborted the landing. The aircraft overshot the base leg and initiated a left turn, during which the aircraft lost control. Shortly after that, the airplane plunged to the ground from an altitude of 1,000 feet (300 m), killing all 75 people aboard. Even though the exact cause remains unclear, it has been speculated that the hijacker caused the crash by setting off his grenades after the pilots refused to give in to his demands.

POW/MIA's Reported missing on this date during the Vietnam war.

1 09/15/66 TICE PAUL DOUGLAS USMC SVN BUFFALO NY

Fixed Wing Aircraft losses reported this day in Vietnam

1 1967	F-100D	55-2904	510 TFS	3 TFW
USAF		Bien Hoa		

Dusty, Jim Henthorn

Vhfcn-l mailing list

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