



South Vietnamese troops dash to a waiting helicopter at Kampong Samroeng, Cambodia, as they begin a new operation in the

"Parrot's Beak" area. The drive is aimed at securing Highway 1, which links Saigon and Phnom Penh. (AP Radiophoto)

GI Action at Standstill; S. Viets Kill 28 Reds

SAS Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Action involving American soldiers ground to a virtual standstill Wednesday, and South Vietnamese Command spokesmen reported only scattered skirmishes.

The U.S. Command reported no ground fighting, and for the first time since July 17 no B52 bombing missions were flown in Vietnam.

ARVN soldiers killed 23 Communists in several clashes, and Regional Force militiamen killed five Reds 15 miles west of Da Nang Wednesday, spokesmen said. There were no South Vietnamese casualties.

In eastern Cambodia, South Vietnamese Rangers killed nine North Vietnamese soldiers in marshlands south of Chipou, spokesmen said, and the Rangers took no casualties.

Meanwhile, Communist gunners shelled a Ranger position and town north of Saigon Wednesday, but there were no casualties, spokesmen said.

Enemy soldiers fired 30 16mm mortar rounds into the Ranger company position 35 miles northeast of Saigon and five 82mm mortar rounds into Ben Cat 35 miles north of the city, spokesmen said.

Reconnaissance and infantry

units of the 2nd Inf. Div. killed 12 Reds in four districts of Quang Ngai Province Wednesday and early Thursday, according to spokesmen.

In the delta, an element of the 7th ARVN Inf. Div. killed seven Communists while operating 25 miles southeast of Can Tho, spokesmen said.

Republic of Korea forces spokesmen said infantrymen of the ROK White Horse Div.'s 29th Regt. killed three Communists while taking no casualties in Khanh Hoa Province Wednesday. A booby trap explosion killed a South Korean soldier in the same province Wednesday.

Combat Toll 14 for Week

SAS Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — American combat deaths last week were below 15 for the third consecutive week, the U.S. Command said.

Fourteen GIs were killed in battle while 15 died from non-hostile causes.

In the same period, Communist forces wounded 71 Americans, 43 seriously enough to require hospital care, the Command said.

It was the lowest weekly wounded toll since the week of Oct. 23, 1965, when 70 GIs were put out of action.

The South Vietnamese Command said 328 government troops were killed and 721 wounded last week.

Allied spokesmen said they killed 1,634 Reds during the week.

Say Some Troops Mainlining

Delta 'H' Fight a Flop, GIs Claim

CAN THO, Vietnam (UPI) — Within six weeks, the U.S. Army expects to start checking the urine of all GIs in the 18,000-man Mekong Delta IV Corps command for heroin addiction, military sources said Thursday.

In the meantime, GIs say neither a recent two-week drive against drugs in the corps area nor the threat of being caught by urine tests on the way home has had much impact on the heroin problem.

They say that in fact at one base near here, soldiers have started mainlining (injecting) the drug rather than smoking it because of unhappiness with command policies.

A spot check in Can Tho shows that heroin is still freely available on the street within one block of the city's USO (United Service Organization) recreation center for GIs at a price of 1,000 piasters (about \$3.50) for a small vial.

The expanded urine testing program is due to begin about Sept. 15 when the sensitive new machinery that can detect heroin as long as five days after

SAIGON (SAS)—The U.S. command's program to test all servicemen rotating from Vietnam for heroin use has been expanded to include a check for amphetamine and barbiturate users, spokesmen said Thursday.

Since Aug. 1 the urine samples analyzed for evidence of opiates have also been tested for the presence of the other drugs.

Individuals identified as users of these drugs will receive treatment at the detoxification center at Cam Ranh Bay.

use arrives here. Up to now it has been used only to test GIs leaving Vietnam. It will be applied at random to whole companies of U.S. soldiers in an effort to ferret out users and get them into treatment.

U.S. commanders here believe that the urine testing program has cut substantially into the number of GIs experimenting with the drug for the first time, although they freely admit that men who were already hooked on it have shown few signs of trying to break the habit, and there are still plenty of new men coming in who take it up.

GIs say, on the other hand, that except for a few arrests and amnesty applications during the drive — when soldiers were forbidden to leave their bases, Vietnamese were barred from U.S. compounds and there were frequent searches and shake-

downs — the heroin problem has continued apparently unabated.

The GIs say that despite the fact that only 15 per cent of soldiers are issued passes at any one time under rules enforced by the command, narcotics are freely available both on and off the bases.

The GIs say the drugs are brought in by soldiers who go into Delta cities during the night as well as by Vietnamese employees who work at the bases.

GIs say heroin is still easily available in all cities near military bases, and this correspondent verified that in part by watching a soldier buy a vial of the drug at a street stall within one city block of the Can Tho USO on Tuesday night.

The GIs also say that the problem has grown more serious in some areas. They cite Vinh Long Airfield, a helicopter base

20 miles north of here, where some soldiers have stopped smoking the drug and started mainlining it.

They say GI addicts at Vinh Long are unhappy because commanders there have blocked plans to build a "coffee house" where they planned to try to unwind and break the addiction themselves.

GIs also say they have discovered that using the drug paregoric and Iomitol, both of which are anti-diarrhea agents based on opium, gives a positive result on the urine tests. Some soldiers facing the tests have been lodging false complaints of stomach trouble, obtaining one of the drugs legally and then presenting their prescriptions when positive results are returned on the urine tests.

One Doctor per Patient

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A state experiment in Kentucky that limits Medicaid clients to only one doctor and one pharmacy has nearly cut costs in half. The health department adds that the patients are receiving the same medical attention they had before the test program.

Unit OKs Laos War \$

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Armed Services Committee upheld the Nixon administration's use of Thai troops in Laos as it approved a \$21 billion military authorization bill Wednesday.

The action sets the stage for renewal on the Senate floor next month of efforts to curb U.S. funding of military activities in Laos.

Release of the transcript of a secret Senate session on Laos two days ago revealed that even the few senators familiar with the Central Intelligence Agency's secret budget can't agree on how much, if any, thing, the CIA is spending in Laos.

The issue was raised in the Armed Services Committee by Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo., who sought to make clear that a prohibition voted last year on U.S. funds for "other free world forces" supporting "local forces in Laos or Thailand" barred money for Thai troops fighting in behalf of the Laotian government.

Symington's amendment was rejected 11 to 3 with only Sens. Harold E. Hughes, D-Iowa, and Richard S. Schweiker, R-Pa., supporting him.

Symington plans to reoffer the amendment when the bill reaches the floor along with another to place a \$200 million monetary limit on U.S. funding of military activities in Laos.

The transcript spotlighted the difficulties being encountered by senators trying to restrict U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia.

The secret session was held June 7 and was concerned largely with a report itself declassified two days ago, by James G. Lowenstein and Richard M. Moore, Foreign Relations Committee staff consultants.

Their report indicated that the CIA spent \$70 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30 to support an army of Laotian irregulars, and close to \$65 million to pay for the Thai troops there.

Reds Open Fire on Planes

PHNOM PENH (UPI) — Communist troops hidden in marshes 15 miles northeast of Phnom Penh fired three times into a Cambodian outpost Wednesday night then turned their guns on attacking government planes, the high command said Thursday.

Mortars and rocket propelled grenades slammed into Preah Prasap in barrages two hours apart, spokesmen said, but caused no casualties.

When defenders of the battered village at the edge of strategic swamps called in air strikes to silence the Communist gun, the enemy fired at them with antiaircraft machine guns, they said.

The planes were not hit, and the Communists eventually stopped firing at Preah Prasap, the spokesmen said.

Elsewhere, a five-day-old hull in battlefield action continued for Cambodian troops, the high command said.

No heavy fighting has been reported since last Saturday, when Communist troops overran a government outpost south of Phnom Penh.