

Aussies Locked In Battle

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — A battle raged Wednesday between troops from the 4th Bn., Royal Australian Regt. and a heavily-armed enemy force holed up about 13 miles northwest of the Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat.

As of Wednesday night, the rebels had been holed up for more than a day. The enemy force was estimated at one or two platoons, dug into bunkers and armed with rockets, automatic weapons and claymore mines.

After a savage initial meeting as the Aussies moved into the enemy base camp, the Allied troops pulled back to allow U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers and 105mm guns of the U.S. 2nd Bn., 35th Arty, to pound the area.

In another action, UPI reported that units of the U.S. 9th Inf. Div. engaged enemy forces on the outskirts of Saigon in what was described as the heaviest fighting near the capital since July 16.

(UPI) said American soldiers killed 32 of the enemy while suffering losses of 10 killed and nine wounded. The site of the battle was 18 miles southwest of Saigon.

In other parts of the country, Republic of Korea troops sprung an ambush on two enemy platoons in Quang Ninh Province, 360 miles north of Saigon.

Reports said ROK Marines killed 27 of the Reds without losing a man in the two-hour battle.

In another one-sided battle, troops and helicopter gunships of the American Div's. Air Cav, Sq, killed 68 Communists in an engagement nine miles northwest of Tam Ky. No Americans were lost.

American ground troops were credited with 48 of the enemy killed.

52s Rip Red Camps

SAIGON (S&S) — More than 200 tons of bombs were rained on enemy troops and supply points in South Vietnam Tuesday and Wednesday as B-52 Stratofortresses struck 10 times in the Central Highlands and South coastal lowlands.

The B-52s, hauling payloads of up to 30 tons of bombs each, hit three times Wednesday at Communist troop concentrations, weapons sites and a supply complex in Kien Giang Province, about 100 miles south of Saigon.

There were two strikes Wednesday at enemy supply and troop positions in the Central Highland province of Dar Lac, 18 miles northwest of Ban Me Thot.

ARVN Grab Rockets Just Outside Saigon

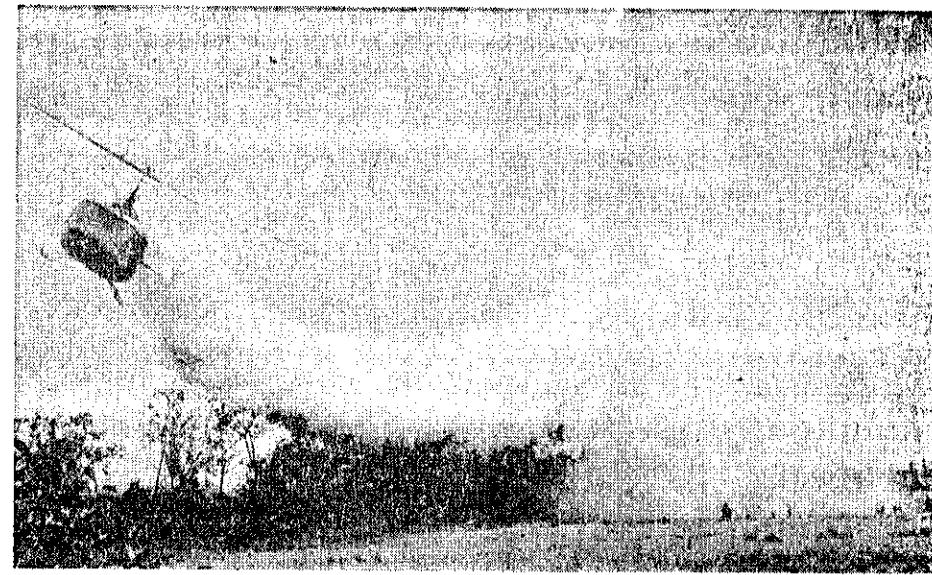
S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Vietnamese troops patrolling the suburbs of Saigon uncovered 34 enemy 107mm rockets Wednesday, all of which could have been moved into firing range of the city in a matter of hours.

Twenty-eight rockets, along with a .50 cal. machine gun on

5 Pacific Stars & Stripes

Friday, July 26, 1968



Helicopter 'Covers' for Wolfhound Action

A "Black Baron" helicopter of the 289th Combat Aviation Bn. lays down a heavy smoke screen for troops of the 25th Inf. Div's. 1st Bn., 27th Inf. "Wolfhounds," as they go into action against the enemy in a marsh near the Saigon River. (USA)

About That Offensive...

SAIGON (UPI) — Communist forces are planning any sort of "monsoon season" offensive, they have problems. The trouble—no monsoons.

Figures released by U.S. military authorities Wednesday showed rainfall throughout South Vietnam is from 3 to nearly 15 inches below normal.

Saigon, which is supposed to be in the midst of its annual monsoon season when rainfall averages 11.7 inches for July, has gotten slightly less than five inches this month.

Pleiku, in the central highlands, normally gets nearly a foot and a half of monsoon rain in July. Barely more than two inches has dampened the dust there this month.

ROK Marines Due New CO

SEOUL (S&S) — Brig. Gen. Tong Ho Lee has been named to replace Brig. Gen. Yun Sang Kim as commander of the Republic of Korea's Blue Dragon Marine Brigade in South Vietnam, ROK Marine Headquarters announced.

Lee, a veteran of the Korean War, is a graduate of the National War College. During the war, he commanded a rifle company and was commandant of the Marine Officers Candidate School.

The change of command will take effect Aug. 5, the Marines said. Kim will replace Lee as commander of the ROK Marine Amphibious Base Command at Pohang on the southeast coast of Korea.

VC Burn 200 Village Homes

SAIGON (UPI) — Communist gunners diverted U.S. Marine defenders with heavy mortar fire Wednesday while Viet Cong troops swept through a small village near Da Nang and burned 200 homes to the ground, U.S. military officials said.

An estimated 1,000 residents of the village of Phu Dau were left homeless by the Communist attack, only 15 miles southwest of the sprawling Da Nang AB, 380 miles northeast of Saigon.

There was no immediate report of civilian casualties in the raid, which recalled the June 29 Viet Cong attack on the village

of Son Tra in the same area. That raid left 71 persons dead, 34 wounded and 2,800 homeless.

At least one Marine was wounded as the combined action platoon on the outskirts of the village was hit by about 50 rounds of 60mm mortar fire.

Wednesday night, Communist units sent 10 122mm rockets into the U.S. Marine supply base at Red Beach, five miles north of Da Nang. U.S. military spokesman described casualties as "light" and said they had no immediate damage assessment.

The Communists early Tuesday fired 135 rounds of rockets

and mortars into U.S. installations around Da Nang, killing six Americans, wounding 30 others and destroying or damaging four planes.

The village burning and rock-rolling of Red Beach, primary supply base for U.S. Marines in the northern provinces, were the latest in a series of Communist attacks along the northern coast of South Vietnam.

At the same time other Communist forces struck for the second consecutive day at a series of cities and outposts along the northern coast between the U.S. Marine headquarters at Da Nang and Quang Ngai City 65 miles south.

Cambodia Refuses To Free U.S. Crew

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Cambodia has formally rejected a U.S. demand for the return of an American supply boat and its crew seized when it strayed into Cambodian waters July 17, the State Department said Wednesday.

Robert J. McCloskey, State Department press officer, said a note from Cambodia rejected the U.S. apology for the incident and explanation that the intrusion was unintentional and "due to a navigational error."

The Cambodian government, alleging the incident was "a provocation," told the United States the vessel and all 12 members of the crew would be

"subject to the treatment provided by Cambodian law."

Eleven crewmen were Americans and one was South Vietnamese.

The Cambodian note was delivered to the United States by the Australian government, which represents U.S. interests in Cambodia.

Pilot Dies in A4 Crash

SAIGON (UPI) — A Navy A4 Skyhawk en route to a raid over North Vietnam crashed and exploded Tuesday as it was catapulted from an aircraft carrier in the Tonkin Gulf. The pilot was killed instantly, spokesman said.

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Casualties

WASHINGTON (S&S) — The Defense Department has announced the following casualties in connection with the conflict in Vietnam.

KILLED IN ACTION Army
Pfc. Jacob Bremmer, Atlanta, Ga.
Sgt. Dennis A. Womack, Tucson, Ariz.
Pfc. David M. Arnold, Newport, Del.
Sgt. Christopher Cowan, Woodlyne, N.J.
1st Lt. Francis W. Cole Jr., Elkhart, Ind.
Sgt. Robert A. Dowell, Commerce, N.C.
Pfc. Richard A. Banks, Cleveland, Ohio.
Sgt. Victor L. Dally, Bethlehem, Pa.
Pfc. Larry F. Johnson, Waukesha, Wis.
Maj. Martin C. O'Neil, Newark, Del.

Pfc. Vaughn L. Brown, New Palestine, Ind.
Cpl. Alan J. Robinson, St. Ann, Mo.
L/Cpl. Jesus G. Grisales, Rutherford, N.J.
1st Lt. Dennis D. Andrews, Monroeville, Pa.
L/Cpl. John F. Womack, Waukesha, Wis.
Pfc. Curtis C. Brown, Dallas, Tex.

DIED OF WOUNDS Marine Corps
L/Cpl. Robert A. Cuccinelli, Ridgefield Park, N.J.
Cpl. James W. Von Tassell, Glen Falls, N.Y.
Pfc. Ronald J. Puskarick, Campbell, Ohio.
L/Cpl. John E. Sweeney, East Peoria, Ill.

MISSING IN ACTION Army
Pfc. Gary D. Templeton, Edina, Minn.

DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION Army
1st Lt. John W. Shinnick Jr., Columbus, Ga.
Sgt. Harold L. David Jr., Royston, Ga.
Pfc. Edward W. Felt Jr., Baltimore, Md.
Sgt. Gary W. Bell, Wilmette, Ill.
Sgt. Henry D. Johnson, Birmingham, N.C.
Pfc. Larry E. Curry, Front Royal, Va.

Marine Corps
Pfc. Thomas H. Mouser, Bradenton, Fla.
MISSING TO DATE—NON HOSTILE ACTION Army
Cpl. Morton N. Tapp, Port Deposit, Md.
WO Roy K. Corlett, Argyle, N.Y.
Sgt. Clayton G. Wright, Norfolk, Va.

Sgt. Jerry F. Lewis USA, Change
Status from died not as a result of
hostile action to killed in action.

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Squadron

PHAN BA el) — Flying members of mandu Sq recently set securitve day without a l abort on an missions,

an antiaircraft mount, were found partially buried in paddies three miles from Duc Hoa, just 15 miles northwest of downtown Saigon.

The second cache included six rockets, 18 cases of ammunition for Communist AK47 assault rifles, 16,000 rounds of M16 ammo and 28 cases of shells for .50 cal. machine guns.

This cache was unearthed two

miles from Hau Nghia, 20 miles from the center of the capital.

The range of the Communists' 107mm rocket is little less than six miles.

"This is where they ought to be stopped... before the Reds can bring them in close enough to use them," a U.S. officer said after learning of the ARVN troops discovery of the rockets.

In a delayed report, U.S. officials said they learned South

Vietnamese had earlier discovered a huge arms cache near the town of Phuoc Vinh, 28 miles northwest of Saigon.

The cache held 1,200 grenades, 30 antiaircraft mines, 105 rounds of 82mm mortar shells, 15 Bangalore torpedoes and a claymore mine.

The cache was described as one of the largest arms finds in the capital area this month.

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Div's, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. "Wolfhounds," as they go into action against the enemy in a marsh near the Saigon River. (USA)

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