

Viets Open Drive

at O'BIGON (AP) — More than 100 marines, paratroopers and armored cavalrymen rushed into Quang Tri Province Wednesday in their first counteroffensive against North Vietnamese occupation forces. Elements of four North Vietnamese divisions have had two months to consolidate their hold on the province since it fell May 1968. Field commanders are leading along a broad front campaign confident of retaking Quang Tri.

Asked if he expected to seize the province capital, marine commandant Brigadier Gen. The Lan replied: "Maybe only Quang Tri, maybe further than that. Today is a good day, tomorrow may be better."

Enemy Strong

He added, "I hope we run into heavy contact. We have to destroy the enemy first. They are strong."

A jumpoff point for the coordinated thrust was the My Chang defense line, 25 miles north of Hue. Field reports said paratroopers and accompanying armor got off to a good start along National Highway 1 early after dawn Wednesday.

(Cont. on Page 28, Col. 3)

Weather

Partly cloudy Thursday with occasional showers. Little change Friday. Murt-Heidelberg high 70, low 55. Temperatures recorded Wednesday:

	4 am	4 pm	
Adana, p	64	66	Frankfurt, r
Athens, p	45	64	London, p
Aviano, cl	63	84	Madrid, cl
Berlin, p	52	73	Munich, p
Brussels, cl	52	64	Paris, p
Cop'n'gn, c	66	81	Rome, cl
Frankfurt, r	64	81	Rome, cl

partly cloudy; r - rain; cl - cloudy; 2nd Weather Wing



RACE FOR RESCUE — Lightly wounded civilians and South Viet troops fight

their way into a Viet helicopter which refused to land because of enemy fire.

The mad crush forced the evac chopper to leave seriously wounded behind. —AP

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am	am	pm
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