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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, September 1967; forwarding of

Enclos: (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(2) River Patrol Force Summary
(3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(5) USN Statistical Summary
(6) VHN/VNMC Statistical Summary

1. In order to provide a more timely account of September's events, enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded herewith in lieu of the comprehensive summary usually prepared. A detailed account of the events will appear in September's Historical Supplement.

2. A summary of September's civic action activity is not available at this time because the individual unit reports are not received until about the 15th of the month. Action will be initiated to obtain this information at an earlier date in the future.

W. H. CRUZ \nFlag Secretary

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COKUSNAG (Hist. Branch, SJS)
Director of Naval History

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY

September 1967

In September MARKET TIME activity was especially high in the First Coastal Zone. In addition to detaining an unprecedented number of craft and people, the Zone's Swift boats and WPBs supported three operations conducted by the SEVENTH Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group and provided exfiltration patrols for three ground operations. The month was also marked by an increasing number of heavy-weapons attacks on patrolling units and shore facilities in this Zone. On 8 and 9 September, at a planning conference held in Cam Ranh Bay, a major overhaul program was established for PCFs. The hulls of many of the older Swifts have been reduced to as much as one-half of their original thickness by corrosion. The overhaul cycle will begin in December and, over a six-month period, 24 craft will be overhauled in increments of four each at Subic and Sasebo. On 30 September, in the Third Coastal Zone, the boundary lines between MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN operational areas at the major rivermouths were shifted inland an average of five miles; the adjustments were designed primarily to improve delineation and to take advantage of the greater seaworthiness of MARKET TIME craft.

On 2 September the facilities of Coastal Division 14's Gerry Viss detachment were hit a number of times during the course of four B-40 and 140-mm. rocket attacks; the facilities sustained minor damage. The detachment's Swift boats sortied at the time of the first attack and came under fire from North Vietnamese artillery batteries located...
just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The Swifts subsequently
spotted for USS BOSTON (CG 1) and USS DUPONT (DD 941) as both ships
harrassed the enemy sites. From 4 to 14 September two Swifts and one
Coast Guard Cutter provided exfiltration patrols for ROK Marines con-
ducting Operation SEA DRAGON, 60 miles south of Danang. During this
period the craft detained over 120 craft and approximately 2,000 per-
sons. On 29 September WPBs POINT DUME and POINT ELLIS rescued two
U.S. Marine Corps pilots from a downed aircraft, 58 miles northwest
of Danang. The pilots were then transferred to USS GOLDSBOROUGH
(DDG 20) for treatment. On the 30th, PCF 15 rescued a Marine pilot
whose aircraft had crashed 48 miles southeast of Danang.
RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
September 1967

During the first three days in September the Viet Cong continued their concerted attempts to deter Mekong Delta residents from voting, on the 3rd, in the national elections. Enemy attacks on Vietnamese outposts were particularly intense. Following the elections, there was a sharp decrease in other enemy activity. During the week of 10-16 September the number of Viet Cong-initiated incidents in the Delta declined to the lowest level recorded since mid-February. On 18 September USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), with 10 PBRs embarked, arrived off the mouth of Cai Hai Bay, southeast of Hue, to begin Operation GREEN WAVE. The presence of the task unit (TU 1167-8)—whose principal mission was to determine the feasibility of PBR operation in the I Corps Tactical Zone—marked the first time GAME WARDEN units have operated outside of the Delta and surrounding region. During the last week of the month enemy activity in the Delta began to increase. In a series of attacks in the upper Mekong and central and lower Bassac rivers, GAME WARDEN units came under heavy mortar, recoilless-rifle and B-40 rocket fire.

On the evening of 1 September, nine miles southeast of Can Tho, the town and outposts of Tra On were attacked by Viet Cong mortar fire. Binh Thuy-based PBRs sped to the assistance of the embattled town, engaging enemy emplacements on Hay Island while helicopters and an AC-117 struck enemy positions on the north side of the Bassac River. The quick-reaction response helped silence the Viet Cong sites, but not before a number of...
Vietnamese were wounded by the enemy fire. Twelve of the wounded were evacuated to Can Tho by the PBRs. In the Rung Sat Special Zone, a SEAL ambush conducted shortly after midnight on 22 September resulted in the death of at least three Viet Cong saboteurs and the capture of several weapons and documents, as well as a quantity of electrical equipment used to detonate controlled mines. The documents indicated that the Viet Cong had been members of D-2 Sapper Company, the unit reportedly responsible for several of the mining incidents that have occurred in the lower Long Tau River. On the 25th, a PBR patrol in the lower Bassac was attacked in mid-river by 81-mm. mortars and recoilless rifles emplaced in the Dung Island complex. Four PBRs, a helicopter fire team, and fixed-wing aircraft destroyed the enemy positions during the course of a three-hour fire fight in which three U.S. sailors were wounded. The following day a PBR patrol was ambushed four miles northeast of Sa Dec, in the Mekong River. The leading boat was hit by two rounds of B-40 rocket fire, which wounded the six personnel on board. Return fire from the PBRs and Navy helicopters killed two Viet Cong. On the 26th, PBR 100 was destroyed by enemy fire in a similar incident at the mouth of the Cai Col River, three and one-half miles north of Vinh Long, when a cluster of B-40 rockets struck the coxswain's flat. Four crew members were wounded; two others were reported missing. During the first 10 days of Operation GREEN WAVE there was little contact with the enemy. On 26 September HUNTERDON COUNTY shifted to the Cua Dai River, 15 miles southeast of Danang. The next day a PBR crewman was killed during a series of sharp exchanges in which several boats were hit by small-arms and automatic-weapons fire from Viet Cong fortifications on the banks of the river.
RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
September 1967

During the month the Mobile Riverine Force conducted a number of operations in various regions of the III and IV Corps areas. The operations resulted in the death of over 200 Viet Cong and the loss of tons of enemy munitions and supplies in base areas overrun by troops of the MRF or destroyed by gunfire from RAF craft and artillery positions. Six naval personnel were killed in September and 74 were wounded. Most of the casualties were caused by shrapnel from B-40 and RPQ-7 rockets; these large caliber weapons have become the most effective Viet Cong defense against the movements of the Riverine Assault Force.

From 1 to 4 September the Mobile Riverine Force, operating from the Mobile Riverine Base anchored at the junction of the Van Go and Soirap rivers, conducted Operation CORONADO IV in Go Cong and Long An provinces. Although contact with the enemy was light during this period, the commanding officer of the 46th ARVN Infantry Regiment cited the MRF's presence as a key factor in the large (92.2%) election-day turn-out of voters in the Can Gio area. On 6 September the MRF began operations aimed at a Viet Cong support battalion in Bien Hoa province. On the 8th, U.S. troops discovered a large enemy base camp and captured 97 individual weapons, eight machine guns, over 50,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, and several hundred large caliber shells as well as grenades and booby traps. On 11 September, the MRF shifted to Dong Tam to commence Operation CORONADO V against Viet Cong
main-force and local-force units in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa provinces.

On the 15th three U.S. sailors were killed and 61 were wounded when
the enemy ambushed RAF boats while they were taking up blocking stations
along Ba Hai Creek. In this engagement, and for the first time in the
IV Corps Tactical Zone, the presence of RPB-7 anti-tank rockets in the
Viet Cong arsenal was confirmed. During this phase of CORONADO V,
elements of the RAF killed 213 Viet Cong and probably killed 66 more.
In addition, nearly 600 enemy bunkers, one recoilless rifle, one B-40
rocket launcher, several individual weapons and a quantity of ammunition
were destroyed or captured. The operation ended on 16 September. The
next phase was conducted against local-force units in base areas south
and southwest of Ben Tre. On the 27th, following extensive artillery
barrages and air strikes, RAF units landed troops along the west bank
of Ben Tre creek. As the naval units were proceeding to blocking
stations two ATCs were attacked by Viet Cong forces armed with recoil-
less rifles, automatic weapons and B-40 rockets. The return fire
silenced the enemy positions, killing at least two Viet Cong. Three
U.S. sailors were killed during the engagement; six others were wounded.
On the 26th, the MIA moved to an anchorage near the northern end of
Loi Quan Island to conduct operations in the Ho Cay and Huong My dis-
tricts of Kien Hoa province. In a series of light skirmishes following
the landing of U.S. troops on the 30th, five Viet Cong were killed and
a quantity of weapons, medical supplies and rice was captured.
NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY

September 1967

On 30 September the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy was 16,093 officers and enlisted men. During the month the Fleet Command, with 41 ships, had a daily average of 23 ships available and a daily average of 18 ships employed. Fleet Command units on coastal and river patrols fired a total of 46 gunfire support missions. On the 25th the VNN's PCZ 09 relieved U.S. units of surveillance duties in patrol area 9L, off the west coast of Phu Quoc Island. The assignment was part of the continuing effort to phase VNN units into Operation MARKET TIME. The Coastal Force employed a daily average of 151 junks of the daily average of 166 available in September. The River Assault Groups conducted two operations in the First Naval Zone, seven in the Third Riverine Area and 11 in the Fourth Riverine Area. The RAGs had a daily average of 160 craft employed of the daily average of 167 craft available. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese Marine Corps' six Infantry Battalions and Artillery Battalion were committed to combat operations 83 percent of the time and made only light contact with the enemy. Brigade Force A conducted search and destroy operations east of Tan Uyen, 17 miles north of Saigon throughout the month; Brigade Force B continued operations in the Bong Son area of the II Corps Tactical Zone, and the 3rd Battalion operated in the Rung Sat Special Zone until the 15th.
On the night of 6 September, six miles north of Qui Nhon, a nine-man ambush team from Coastal Group 22, responding to an intelligence report that a Viet Cong unit was about to attack the village of Vinh Quang, intercepted 10 enemy sampans as the craft crossed a stream en route to the village. With a nearby ARVN artillery unit providing illumination fire, the ambush team disrupted the attack group completely, killing two Viet Cong and probably killing three more. On the 11th, two sailors of Coastal Group 23 were killed when their junk was caught in a Viet Cong ambush in Song Cau Bay, 18 miles south of Qui Nhon. On 15 September, in the Van Co Tay River, a U.S. Army LCM-8 and a rock-laden barge en route to Tan An, were mined 19 miles south of Saigon. The detonation demolished the bow of the barge and blew off the LCM's bow ramp. A quick-reaction force of VNN sailors, on board escorting RAG 27 craft, was landed immediately and detained six suspects. On 24 September RAG 31 craft supported an ambush by a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit in a Viet Cong hamlet on the south bank of the Co Chien River, 14 miles south of Vinh Long. The Phi Lu troops captured 12 Viet Cong and killed three more. The successful operation was planned and conducted on the basis of information provided by a Ho Chi Minh.
USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1967

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKET TIME</th>
<th>GAME WARDEN</th>
<th>Mobile Riverine Force</th>
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<tr>
<td>Detections</td>
<td>96,888</td>
<td>77,294</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspections</td>
<td>36,556</td>
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<td>Boardings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons detained</td>
<td>4,484</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viet Cong suspects</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hostile fire incidents</td>
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<td>83 *</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>a. Killed</td>
<td>12 35</td>
<td>237</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Wounded</td>
<td>22 4</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Captured</td>
<td>0 12</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
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<td>USN casualties:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Killed</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Wounded</td>
<td>11 18</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>c. Captured</td>
<td>0 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Missing</td>
<td>0 2</td>
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<td>Enemy material losses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Destroyed:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Junk or sampans</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>187 *</td>
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<td>(2) Structures</td>
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<td>b. Captured:</td>
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<td>(2) Weapons:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3) Ammunition (rounds)</td>
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<td>170 50,000</td>
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<td>(4) Rice (tons)</td>
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<td>c. Damaged:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Junk or sampans</td>
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<td>43 *</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Structures</td>
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<td>USN material losses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Destroyed:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Surface craft</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (PBR) 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Helicopters</td>
<td>0 1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Damaged:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Surface craft</td>
<td>1 (WPB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Helicopters</td>
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<td>* 0</td>
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<td>SAR missions:</td>
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Remarks:
*Information not applicable or not available this date.

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

Enclosure (5)
### VIETNAMESE NAVY:

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Junksa</td>
<td>Peoplea</td>
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<tr>
<td>I NZ</td>
<td>10,150</td>
<td>14,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>II NZ</td>
<td>6,152</td>
<td>21,633</td>
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<tr>
<td>III NZ</td>
<td>9,034</td>
<td>32,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV NZ</td>
<td>3,914</td>
<td>11,395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-totals</td>
<td>29,950</td>
<td>106,439</td>
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| FLEET COMMAND | PATROL SHIPS | 128  | 1,944 | 0     | 3   |

| RIVERINE AREA | CHAFT | 6,084 | 19,567 | 0 | 4 |

**TOTALS**

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<td>36,162</td>
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### VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

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<td>VPC:</td>
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**Remarks:** None.

---

GROUP 1
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 22 years

Enclosure (6)
U.S. NAVAL FORCES
VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT
SEPTEMBER 1967
From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Distribution
Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Supplement; forwarding of

Encl: (1) U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Supplement, September 1967

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded.

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Flag Secretary
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PRES., NAVWAPOLL
COMPHIBPAC
COMSEVPAC
COMCBPAC
COMCLANT
COMINPAC
COMNAVFACENGO
SUPT., USNA
CHINPO
CO, NAVPHIBSCOL, LCREEK
CO, NAVPHIBSCOL, CORONADO
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USA Special Warfare School (Attn: USN/MC Liaison Off.), Ft. Bragg, N. C.
DIA (DIAAP-1)
OICC, RVN (Code 10A)
CNO (Ops, Eval, Group)
NAVFORINST 5215.2
List I
List II B(5), C(5), K
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List IV A(1), B, C(6), D(1)
List V A(2), B(2), D(1), E(1), N(1), O(1),
Ga(1), U(1), W(1), X(2), BD(1)
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<td>GAME WARDEN Units</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>GAME WARDEN Statistical Summary</td>
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FOREWORD

During the month of September the U. S. Navy continued to make a vital contribution to the prosecution of the conflict in South Vietnam. The importance of this contribution was probably best expressed by General WESTMORELAND's comments made at a Mission Council Meeting on 19 September.

"The United States Navy has not received due credit for the sizeable contributions its forces have made to the war in South Vietnam. MARKET TIME activities have, for all practical purposes, sealed off the coast. GAME WARDEN operations are increasingly denying the enemy the use of inland waterways. Thirdly, the Riverine Operation has no parallel in the history of warfare. All of these operations are unique innovations effectively adapted to the situation in South Vietnam. The fine efforts of the Navy should not continue to go unnoticed."
# LIST OF CHARTS/GRAPHS/PHOTOGRAPHS

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<td>PCP H9 fires at enemy coastal positions</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Fourth Coastal Zone Operations</td>
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<td>MARKET TIME Detections, Inspections, Boardings</td>
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<td>Ham Luong River Operations</td>
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<td>44</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<td>The piers and base at Cam Ranh Bay</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td>81</td>
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CHRONOLOGY

1 Sep - The U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon, Detachment Cam Ranh Bay is redesignated the U.S. Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay. p. 67.

3 - VNN LSIL-329 is hit by two 75-mm recoilless-rifle rounds at the waterline in the Bassac River at Can Tho. p. 99.

6 - PCFs provide gunfire support for Coastal Group 23, breaking up an enemy mortar attack. p. 6.

"Seawolves" kill seven Viet Cong and destroy five sampans in an engagement in the Ham Luong River. p. 31.

7 - Ten RAG 23 craft, ISSL-230 and a U.S. Navy PBR patrol begin a coordinated bombardment mission against Viet Cong fortifications on the bank of the Co Chien River near Gial Island. Numerous enemy structures are destroyed or damaged. p. 109.

8 - A major overhaul program is established for PCFs at a planning conference held in Cam Ranh Bay. p. 1.

KRF units discover an enemy cache in southwest Bien Hoa Province containing 97 individual weapons, eight machine guns, 56,150 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 165 grenades, 50 rounds of 75-mm howitzer shells, several mortar rounds and numerous booby traps. p. h6.

12 - U.S. RDF fires a 5-inch gun with reverse fire destroys three structures and one dzer, damages twelve structures, initiates a secondary explosion and kills at least one Viet Cong while providing gunfire support in the Camau Peninsula. p. 10.

15 - KRF units encounter the heaviest fire they have experienced to date during a four-hour battle with entrenched Viet Cong forces along Ra Rai Creek in Dinh Tuong Province. During the engagement, 18 RAF boats were damaged, three U.S. sailors were killed and 77 were wounded; 213 Viet Cong were killed and 66 others were probably killed. p. 49.

- CAKE WARDEN and VNN RAG units conduct Operation CRIMSON TIDE I, 15 miles southeast of Can Tho. Five Viet Cong are killed and 168 houses, 120 sampans and 75 bunkers are destroyed; one U.S. sailor is slightly wounded. p. 37.
18 Sep - USS HUNTERDON COUNTY, with 10 PBRs embarked, arrives at Cau Hai Bay, 23 miles northwest of Danang, to begin Operation GREEN WAVE. P. 23.

22 - Operation BON HUU II (Friendship II), a large scale combined civic action program, begins on Thoi Son Island in the My Tho River adjacent to My Tho. P. 82.

24 - RAG 31 craft support a PRU force which enters a Viet Cong hamlet and captures 12 Viet Cong, including the hamlet chief and his entire family. P. 111.

25 - VNN PCE 09 assumes the patrol responsibility of MARKET TIME Area 9L off the west coast of Phu Quoc Island. P. 98.

26 - USCGC YAKUTAT destroys or damages 27 enemy fortifications, four sampans, an enemy canal blockade, and initiates a secondary explosion, kills four Viet Cong and wounds 12 during a gunfire support mission off the Ca Mau Peninsula. P. 10.

- PBRs on patrol in the Mekong River are ambushed and come under fire from a series of extremely accurate B-40 rockets; PBR 116 sustains three rocket hits, Six U. S. sailors are wounded and two Viet Cong are killed during the engagement. P. 27.

28 - PBR 100, on patrol in the Mekong River, is struck by a B-40 rocket which causes a fire that completely consumes the boat. Four U. S. sailors are wounded and two are missing in action. P. 29.

30 - In the Third Coastal Zone, the boundary lines between MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN operational areas at the major river mouths are shifted inland. P. 1.

- NAVFORV numerical strength stands at 25,506.

*****
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During September units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected over 154,000 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; more than 57,000 of these were boarded or inspected. The boardings resulted in the detention of 346 craft and 3,138 suspects.

On 8 and 9 September, at a planning conference held in Cam Nanh Bay, a major overhaul program was established for PCFs. The hulls of many of the older Swifts have been reduced to as much as one-half their original thickness by corrosion. The overhaul cycle will begin in December and, over a six-month period, 24 craft will be overhauled in increments of four each at Subic and Sasebo.

On 30 September, in the Third Coastal Zone, the boundary lines between MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN operational areas at the major river mouths were shifted inland an average of five miles; the adjustments were designed primarily to improve delineation and to take advantage of the greater seaworthiness of MARKET TIME craft.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

During September MARKET TIME units detected 95,602 junks and sampars; over 45 percent of these were inspected and almost 25 percent were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 260 craft and 2,713 suspects. In addition, 1,550 steel-hulled craft were detected transiting MARKET TIME areas; 89 of the
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steel-hulled craft were boarded.

The month's MARKET TIME activity also included support for five ground operations, 111 Naval Gunfire Support missions, 36 hostile fire incidents, and six search and rescue missions. As a result of the various operations, 22 structures, six bunkers, and 16 craft were destroyed. In addition, 14 Viet Cong were killed. No U.S. personnel casualties resulted from the operations, however, two PCFs and two WPBs were slightly damaged.

First Coastal Zone

In September MARKET TIME activity was especially high in the First Coastal Zone. In addition to detaining an unprecedented number of craft and people, the Zone's Swift boats and WPBs supported three operations conducted by the SEVENTH Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group and provided exfiltration patrols for two additional ground operations.

On 1 and 2 September one PCF and one WPB supported a SEVENTH Fleet amphibious operation, BEACON POINT, conducted in Thua Thien Province. Other amphibious operations which First Coastal Zone units supported during the month were BALLISTIC CHARGE, which took place 15-21 September in the Cua Dai River approximately 16 miles southeast of Danang, and FORTRESS SENTRY, which took place 16-18 September in Quang Tri Province.

Also on 1 and 2 September, the facilities of Coastal Division
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OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE

September 1967

LEGEND:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
* - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:
0 Nautical Miles

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11th Cua Viet detachment were hit a number of times during the course of four B-40 and 140-mm rocket attacks; the facilities sustained minor damage. The detachment's Swift boats sortied at the time of the first attack and came under fire from North Vietnamese artillery batteries located just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The Swifts subsequently spotted for USS BOSTON (CAG 1) and USS DUPONT (DD 941) as both ships hammered the enemy sites.

On 4 September PCF 65 conducted a roundup of sampans near Cape Batangan in response to a request by U. S. Army units conducting a sweep in the area. The roundup resulted in 14 sampans and 43 persons being turned over to the Army units. Three of the detainees were confirmed Viet Cong.

On 6 September, one WPB and two PCFs provided exfiltration barriers for a ROK Marine operation on Cape Batangan. During the patrols a total of 95 junk and 1,061 persons were detained by the MARKET TIME units.

MARKET TIME patrols were intensified from 13 to 15 September along the coast from the Cua Dai River south to Chu Lai. These patrols were in support of Operation SWIFT, a large combined ground operation in central Quang Tri Province.

On 29 September WPBs POINT DUME and POINT ELLIS rescued two U. S. Marine Corps pilots from a downed aircraft 58 miles northeast of Danang. The pilots were then transferred to USS GOLDSBOROUGH.
PCF 49, operating just south of the Demilitarized Zone, fires at enemy coastal positions in the DMZ on 16 September.
(DDG 20) for treatment. On the 30th, PCF 15 rescued a Marine pilot whose aircraft had crashed 48 miles southeast of Danang.

MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone detected over 34,000 junks and sampans during September, a decrease of approximately 15,000 from August's figure. The decreased total was attributed primarily to the adverse effect of the Northeast Monsoon weather on the Zone's coastal traffic.

Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units patrolling the Second Coastal Zone during September detected over 43,000 junks and sampans.

At 2000 on 6 September, PCFs 59 and 90 provided urgent gunfire support for Coastal Group 23 located approximately 20 miles south of Qui Nhon, which was under mortar attack. The PCFs quelled the mortar attack and continued firing on the enemy position until 2330 when harassment and interdiction and illumination fire was commenced in an attempt to keep the enemy from reactivating the mortar position. PCF 59 was relieved by PCF 87 at 2400 and the Swifts continued their fire until friendly units entered the target area at approximately 0700. No friendly casualties resulted aboard the PCFs. CG 23 personnel found eight Russian 82-mm rounds during a sweep of the area and reported that large amounts of blood indicated many enemy casualties.

At 0320 on 19 September approximately 15 miles east of Phan
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OPERATIONS IN THE SECOND COASTAL ZONE

September 1967

LEGEND:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# - SAR/MED/WAC Incident

SCALE:
0 - 1 MILE
Thiet, PCF 98 and POINT JEFFERSON (WPB 82306) detained a junk and 60 occupants when the junk ignored warning signals to stop. Two U. S. rifles were confiscated from Vietnamese Army personnel who had no ID cards. The weapons and occupants were turned over to the Navy Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) Phan Thiet for further interrogation.

Third Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone detected over 11,000 junks and sampans during the month of September.

On 3 and 4 September, Third Coastal Zone units touched off repeated secondary explosions in an area along the South Vietnamese coast, approximately 88 miles south-southwest of Saigon. On the 3rd, POINT WELCOME (WPB 82329) lobbed mortar rounds into camouflaged enemy fortifications in the area, and produced one large secondary explosion and two smaller ones. On the morning of the 4th, PCF 36 fired on the same area, causing one secondary blast after its 81-mm mortar shells hit on target.

About 1:20 on 13 September, gunfire from PCF 95 damaged two enemy bunkers and two other fortifications along the coast of Bac Lieu Province. The action took place after the NILO in the area reported enemy troops attacking his post.

While investigating suspicious activity along the coast of Vinh Binh Province on 17 September, POINT GRACE (WPB 82323) came
under heavy automatic-weapons, small-arms, and recoilless-rifle
fire from enemy beach positions. The WPB returned fire with mortar
and .50 caliber machine guns. During the firing runs, the craft
received two recoilless-rifle hits. There were no friendly
personnel casualties during the action and POINT GRACE returned
to her home base at Cat Lo for repairs under her own power.

Commander Robert F. CONNALLY III, USN, relieved Commander
William C. NATION, USN, as Third Coastal Zone Advisor (CTG 115.3)
on 30 September.

Fourth Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone detected over
7,000 junks and sampans in September.

On 12 September USCGC HALF MOON (WHEC 378), acting on last
minute intelligence information, responded to a hurried call for
gunfire support from U. S. Army Special Forces at Song Ong Doc in
An Kuyen Province, 155 miles southwest of Saigon. HALF MOON
shelled a Viet Cong concentration of two hundred troops eight
miles northeast of the Army camp, inflicting heavy damage. As a
result of the shelling, three structures were destroyed, twelve
damaged, and one sampan was destroyed. One large secondary
explosion was observed and one Viet Cong was known to have been
killed, however, total damage was unknown.

On 26 September USCGC YAKUTAT (WHEC 380) destroyed or damaged
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE

September 1967

LEGEND:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:
0 NAUTICAL MILES

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27 enemy fortifications, four enemy sampans, and an enemy canal blockade while patrolling in the Gulf of Thailand off the coast of An Xuyen Province. The MARKET TIME craft had been requested to provide naval gunfire support against known enemy positions in a five mile area. The YAKUTAT's 5-inch shells also caused a secondary explosion with a 500-foot streamer, killed four Viet Cong and wounded 12 others.

***

MARKET TIME UNITS

During the month of September the Vietnamese Navy had an average of seven PGMs and two PCEs assigned daily to MARKET TIME forces. In addition, the Royal Thai Navy had one PGM assigned to MARKET TIME forces in the Fourth Coastal Zone.

Also during the month, aircraft from four patrol squadrons provided air surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 42 (VP-42) flew SP-2H Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base until 29 September when they were relieved by a VP-2 detachment, and a detachment of VP-1 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of VP-5 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a VP-47 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand.

Throughout the month the following U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:
MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1967

1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DER 328</th>
<th>USS FINCH</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DER 391</td>
<td>USS HAVENFIELD</td>
<td>9-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DER 322</td>
<td>USS NEWELL</td>
<td>1-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DER 386</td>
<td>USS SAVAGE</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LST 509</td>
<td>USS BULLOCK COUNTY</td>
<td>19-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LST 901</td>
<td>USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY</td>
<td>1-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSC 289</td>
<td>USS ALBATROSS</td>
<td>12-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSC 208</td>
<td>USS WIDGEON</td>
<td>1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSO 468</td>
<td>USS CONQUEST</td>
<td>16-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSO 437</td>
<td>USS ENHANCE</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSO 438</td>
<td>USS ESTEEM</td>
<td>8-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSO 439</td>
<td>USS EXCEL</td>
<td>1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSO 489</td>
<td>USS GALLANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSO 447</td>
<td>USG GUIDE</td>
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<td>MSO 448</td>
<td>USS ILLUSIVE</td>
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<td>MSO 490</td>
<td>USS LEADER</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSO 458</td>
<td>USS LUCID</td>
<td>1-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSO 492</td>
<td>USS PLEDGE</td>
<td>8-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHEC 381</td>
<td>USCGC BARATARIA</td>
<td>2-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEC 382</td>
<td>USCGC BERING STRAIT</td>
<td>1-2, 24-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHEC 387</td>
<td>USCGC GRESHAM</td>
<td>5-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHEC 378</td>
<td>USCGC HALF MOON</td>
<td>1-17, 25-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHEC 380</td>
<td>USCGC YAKUTAT</td>
<td>1-5, 17-30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily average number of craft on patrol: 2

2. U. S. Activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL DETECTED</th>
<th>WOOD - DAY 51,496</th>
<th>NIGHT 144,106</th>
<th>STEEL - DAY 774</th>
<th>NIGHT 776</th>
<th>TOTAL INSPECTED</th>
<th>WOOD - DAY 20,231</th>
<th>NIGHT 15,326</th>
<th>STEEL - DAY 495</th>
<th>NIGHT 504</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>97,152</td>
<td>26,556</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:

Total Missions 141
Structures 22 destroyed
Bunkers 6 destroyed
Craft 16 destroyed
Personnel 14 Viet Cong killed

4. Hostile Fire:

Total Missions 36

***

OPERATION STABLE DOOR

In September Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected over 57,000 junks and sampans; over 10,000 of these were inspected. Of the 6,104 craft boarded, 86 were detained along with 425 suspects.

Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU-1) at Vung Tau detained 53 junks and 226 persons; IUWU-2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained six junks and 73 persons; IUWU-3 at Qui Nhon detained 11 junks and 107 persons.

All STABLE DOOR units were especially alert during the month for swimmer attacks. Recent intelligence reports indicated an increasing swimmer threat.

On 7 September an Army skimmer with three Army personnel on
board overturned in the Cam Ranh harbor. Two men were recovered immediately but a coordinated LCPL/skimmer search failed to find the third man who was presumed drowned.

A Vung Tau Harbor Patrol LCPL rescued a crewman who fell overboard from the BRAZIL VICTORY on 18 September. The man was returned to his ship in good condition.
GRAIL and shore during Operation CRIMSON TIDE I which was conducted in the northwest of Can Tho along the Bassac River on 15 September.
RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During the first three days in September, Viet Cong terrorists in the Mekong Delta continued their attempts to disrupt the national elections, held on 3 September. Enemy attacks on small hamlets, villages and regional outposts were particularly intense during this period. However, all over South Vietnam the emphasis was to "get out the vote". From the Rung Sat Special Zone to the Bassac River, the PBRs of the River Patrol Force were supporting the Vietnamese authorities in their efforts to get the local populace to vote in a relative haven of safety.

More than 52 firefights between GAME WARDEN forces and the communist enemy were noted in September. Known enemy losses from these engagements included 40 killed, 16 wounded, and 12 captured; an additional 30 were possibly killed. GAME WARDEN losses were three killed, 10 wounded and two missing in action. In addition to combat operations, PBR units conducted 74 missions of mercy by furnishing medical aid and transportation to ill and infirm Delta residents. During the month, there were 176 enemy sampans destroyed, 39 damaged, and 10 captured. U. S. material losses consisted of one UH-1B and one PBR destroyed and three UH-1Bs and 46 PBRs damaged.

On the 15th of the month, Operation CRIMSON TIDE began along a five-mile stretch of the Bassac River behind Tan Dinh Island.
about 15 miles from Can Tho. This operation, utilizing the combined sea, air, ground and gunfire support of the GAME WARDEN forces, and the RAG boats of the Vietnamese Navy inflicted a heavy toll of destruction on the enemy.

On 18 September, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), with 10 PBRs embarked, arrived off the mouth of the Cau Hai Bay, 23 miles northwest of Danang, to begin Operation GREEN WAVE. This marked the first time that GAME WARDEN units have operated outside of the Delta and the surrounding region. The principal mission of this operation was to determine the feasibility of PBR operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

During the last week of the month, PBRs, in the upper Mekong and central and lower Bassac Rivers, came under heavy mortar, recoilless rifle and B-40 rocket fire. Meanwhile, on 28 September, in the I Corps Tactical Zone, HUNTERDON COUNTY relocated its anchorage to the mouth of the Cua Dai River, 15 miles southeast of Danang, for the second phase of Operation GREEN WAVE.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

Activity in the RSSZ consisted primarily of SEAL team ambushes with PBRs and "Seawolf" helicopters providing firepower support. In the early morning of 4 September, a SEAL team, waiting in an overnight ambush about 14 miles east of Nha Be on the Ba Gioi River, spotted a sampan approaching with two Viet Cong. The
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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

September 1967

A - SEALs - 4 Sep
B - SEALs - 22 Sep
C - SEALs - 28 Sep

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ambush was sprung, and one of the enemy was probably killed, and
the other wounded. Due to total darkness the SEALs were unable to
get an accurate body count or recover the sampan. Later in the
day, while reconnoitering by helicopter, the sampan was sighted
and two rifles were captured from it. The sampan was subsequently
destroyed.

On 14 September, an LCM attached to MINRON ELEVEN, DET/A, out
of Nha Be, while recovering sweep gear upon the completion of a
routine afternoon chain drag sweep of the Long Tau River, dis­
covered entangled in the gear approximately 30 feet of two-conduc­
tor wire, presumably control detonating wire. This lends creda­
bility to the fact that the mine threat to shipping still exists
on the Long Tau River.

On the 22nd, shortly after midnight, a SEAL ambush, set up 15
miles southeast of Nha Be, observed two sampans approaching. The
lead sampan had five Viet Cong aboard, who were either all knocked
into the water or jumped out of the boat when they were ambushed.
An illumination of the area failed to reveal any bodies, however,
the two sampans were recovered along with the capture of two Chi­
nese carbines, one U. S. M-1 carbine, and 200 rounds of small arms
ammunition. There were also several documents as well as a quan­
tity of electrical mine detonating equipment. The documents indi­
cated that the Viet Cong had been members of the D-2 Sapper
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Company, the unit reportedly responsible for several of the mining incidents that have occurred in the lower Long Tau River.

SEAL operations in the RSSZ continued at an accelerated pace when on 28 September, LCMs from Nha Be, inserted a SEAL team along the Thi Vai River, 17 miles east of Nha Be. About 50 minutes later at 1935, a motorized sampan, approximately 18 feet long with five men aboard, approached the ambush site and was taken under fire. At the end of the first volley, three men were still swimming away, and five large boxes were observed floating downstream. A second burst of fire was followed by loud moaning from the far bank of the river and then--silence. The ambush resulted in four Viet Cong killed (probable) and one wounded. The sampan and several documents were recovered.

PBRs in the I Corps Tactical Zone

On 18 September, HUNTERDON COUNTY with her brood of 10 PBRs embarked, arrived off the mouth of Gau Hai Bay, and commenced Operation GREEN WAVE. Initial operations were characterized by several boat groundings due to unfamiliarity with the area, and excessive sea swells, which made the launching and recovery of PBRs extremely hazardous.

At 0055 on the 20th, HUNTERDON COUNTY, while at anchor at Chon May Bay 19 miles northwest of Danang, received four rounds of 60-mm mortar fire, which impacted 500 yards from the ship. The
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LST rapidly returned the fire, with her 40-mm guns saturating the entire area. The enemy guns were suppressed, however Viet Cong casualties were unknown.

During the period 18-27 September, enemy contact was very light in the Cau Hai Bay area. On the 28th, HUNTERDON COUNTY relocated its anchorage to the mouth of the Cua Dai River, about 18 miles southeast of Danang, in order to commence operating in the Cua Dai River. Heavy contact with the Viet Cong was established immediately and continued throughout the remainder of the month. Within three hours of arrival, four PBRs proceeded to Coastal Group 14 for their initial briefing prior to patrol.

Shortly afterwards, upon commencement of the patrol, while still less than 1,000 yards from the coastal group base, the Viet Cong attacked the boats with 400 rounds of concentrated automatic-weapons fire. PBR 118 received five hits on the starboard side, perforating the lube oil filters and causing all of the lube oil to be pumped out. The high speed withdrawal from the battle area coupled with the loss of lube oil caused both engines to seize with the resultant cracking of both engine blocks. PBR 118 was rendered out of commission pending the receipt of replacement parts. One Vietnamese junk sailor was shot through the buttocks and groin in the engagement, and was evacuated to Coastal Group 14.
On 29 September, a day described by the on-scene commander, CTU 116,1,3, as a "running gun battle", the river craft engaged the enemy in 15 reported incidents. PBRs 54 and 79, operating in an area near Hoi An in Quang Nam Province, about 42 miles northwest of Chu Lai were engaged in three separate firefights. Just before noon the two boats received 20 rounds of rifle-grenade and 200 rounds of automatic-weapons fire. Fire Control Technician Third Class D. M. AGAZZI was killed when a bullet impacted behind his left ear after passing through his flak jacket. Another sailor was also wounded in the action. The extent of enemy casualties was unknown.

About three hours later, two other units of River Patrol Section 521, PBR 53 and PBR 84, patrolling in the same general area, were taken under fire by automatic weapons. The PBRs and an Army helicopter light fire team counter-attacked the enemy position and destroyed 15 structures. Later, the same two patrol boats engaged a group of evading sampans, and again called in the helicopter light fire team to block off the escape route. The coordinated Army-Navy teamwork resulted in the death of seven Viet Cong, and the destruction of three sampans and one bunker. The PBRs also left two structures burning. There were no U. S. casualties.

At 1844 on the 29th, the Quang Dai Sector Advisor requested that HUNTERDON COUNTY provide harassment and interdiction fire
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into an area about 21 miles southeast of Danang. The advisor stated that there were 500 Viet Cong troops in the area. The LST laid down a barrage of 40-mm cannon fire to harass the enemy. Viet Cong casualties were unknown. The next day, another request from the advisor resulted in the same type of firing mission, however this time there was a large secondary explosion, which sent an "orange-colored ball rising above the tree tops". On 30 September, the patrols on the Cua Dai River ceased and preparations were made to move out of the area before heavier Viet Cong weapons could be brought to bear on the PBRs.

A lesson learned during Operation GREEN WAVE is that in transiting through breaking seas on approaching a narrow channel, a slow speed is necessary to control the PBR.

***

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On 3 September, the Binh Dai Subsector Advisor of Kien Hoa Province advised two PBRs, patrolling near the mouth of the Mekong River, of the presence of a Viet Cong company armed with automatic weapons, and further requested that the river boats take the area under fire. Directed by an Army spotter plane, the PBRs commenced a series of grenade and machine gun attacks into the enemy infested area which was 20 miles southeast of My Tho. The enemy did not
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return fire. A nearby friendly outpost sent a reconnaissance patrol into the area to assess the casualties, and they discovered six Viet Cong bodies with their rifles by their sides.

On the 18th, PBRs 86 and 116, on a routine patrol of the Mekong River, five miles northeast of Sa Dec, encountered three suspicious sampans; two of which were lashed together with the third one following close behind. The PBRs hailed the craft, but the sampans continued on their course. Three warning shots from the patrol boats triggered off a quick volley of automatic weapons fire from the lead sampan. The PBRs returned the fire as the occupants turned over the sampan and swam for the shore. Direct hits by M-79 grenades and .50 caliber machine guns were observed against the swimmers resulting in the death of six Viet Cong. One sampan was destroyed and two others were captured. There were no U. S. casualties. This is the first time in many weeks that the enemy had attempted to engage PBRs in a water confrontation or try a water crossing in this area.

On 26 September, PBRs 116 and 117 were transmitting east on the Mekong River about five miles east of Sa Dec, when they were suddenly ambushed by a series of extremely accurate B-40 rockets. The lead boat, PBR 116, sustained a rocket hit causing an eight inch hole in its port side, one foot forward of the coxswains flat and two feet above the waterline. Two crew members were