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U. S. SEVENTH FLEET MONTHLY SUMMARY

AUGUST 1969
Naval Gunfire Republic of Vietnam

The guns of 18 Seventh Fleet warships pounded enemy targets throughout the Republic of Vietnam during August. Navy gunners left 1,078 military structures and 838 bunkers damaged or destroyed.

Shells from the warships also were responsible for 140 secondary fires and 66 secondary explosions, cuts across 39 supply routes, and 51 enemy killed, according to reports from air and ground spotters. Additional damage reported included 87 tunnels and caves, 38 sampans, 18 weapons positions, three base camps, two ammunition caches, one assembly area, one storage area and 182 meters of trenchline damaged or destroyed.

The most productive day of the month for Navy gunners was August 11 when gunfire accounted for 57 military structures and 58 bunkers damaged or destroyed. Other damage reported that day included 11 secondary fires and two secondary explosions, one supply route interdicted, one base camp neutralized, 13 caves or tunnels destroyed, one enemy killed and 40 meters of trenchline destroyed.

Navy warships also scored heavily the previous day, destroying or damaging 56 military structures, 52 bunkers and 13 caves and tunnels. They also caused 10 secondary fires, two secondary explosions, a cut across a supply route and an enemy death. In addition, one base camp was neutralized, and 30 meters of trenchline were destroyed.

United States destroyers on the gunline in August were the USS Cochrane, John R. Craig, Leary, Leonard F. Mason, Pritchett, O'Bannon, Benjamin Stoddert, John W. Thomason, Henry W. Tucker, Waddell, and Walke. They were joined by the Australian destroyer HMAS Brisbane.
Also shelling enemy positions during the month were the cruisers USS Boston, Oklahoma City and St. Paul, and the inshore fire support ships USS Clarion River, St. Francis River and White River.

**Naval Air Strikes Republic of Vietnam**

Navy pilots from the Seventh Fleet carriers USS Bon Homme Richard, Kitty Hawk, Oriskany and Ticonderoga flew 973 sorties, mostly in I Corps, against enemy targets in August.

Enemy military structures, bunkers and supply routes were the main targets of the jets, which included A-4 Skyhawks, A-7 Corsairs, and F-4 Phantoms. The main ordnance used in the attacks was 500-pound bombs and 20 millimeter cannon fire.

The warplanes were credited with 417 enemy military structures, 261 bunkers, 24 tunnels and caves and 16 weapons positions damaged or destroyed. Spotters also reported the strikes left 64 secondary fires, 51 secondary explosions. Additional damage included 26 supply routes interdicted and one sampan, six foxholes and 425 meters of trenchline destroyed.

The highest number of sorties flown in August was 64. That came on August 14 when jets from carriers destroyed or damaged 19 enemy bunkers, nine military structures, 55 meters of trenchline and left four secondary fires and two secondary explosions.

High-altitude bombing and radar-controlled ordnance drops precluded some of the damage from being assessed during the month.

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