

VC Shell Bases, Attack BOQs in Night of Terror

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—The Viet Cong launched seven attacks late Monday and early Tuesday against allied camps and compounds and a Vietnamese city.

Grenades were tossed at two U.S. military billets in Saigon in a night of terrorism apparently aimed at influencing the Paris peace negotiations.

All of the incidents occurred in the southern half of the country, from Dalat in the Central Highlands to Ca Mau near the southern tip.

Allied military and civilian casualties were light, and none of the terrorists were reported killed or captured. Six American servicemen were wounded at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday when an explosive charge, rigged as a grenade, was thrown in front of the Annapolis Annex, a Navy transient billet two miles west of the center of Saigon. The servicemen—one sailor, one airman and four soldiers — apparently were waiting for a bus in front of the building.

Annapolis Annex



Ten hours earlier, a terrorist hiding in a cemetery two miles northwest of the center of the city lobbed a grenade at GIs standing in front of the Missouri B O Q. Spokesmen said there were no casualties, and damage to the building was minor.

Missouri BOQ



Two U.S. servicemen were killed and 12 wounded at 8 a.m. Tuesday when VC hurled eight 122mm rockets into the Vung Tau army airfield and dock area 34 miles southeast of Saigon.

One rocket hit a Navy landing ship, killing one sailor and wounding 12 others. The shell hit the main deck of the ship, the Tom Green County, causing major damage.

One soldier died at the airfield. He was the only casualty, and there was no damage reported.

Navy Swift boats scrambled from their base at Cat Lo to surround Long Son Island, the suspected enemy firing point. An Army spotter plane then directed fire from the destroyer Funan onto the target, but results were not known.

Shortly after midnight Tuesday, a VC squad attacked another U.S. BOQ in Dalat and killed one American civilian in a 20-minute gunfight. The VC pumped rocket-grenades at the building to cover their advance on the ground, but the defenders beat them back.

No U.S. military casualties were listed, and enemy losses were unknown.

About two hours earlier, 15 enemy 82mm mortar shells slammed into the An Tuc District Headquarters and MACV Compound a half-mile south of An Khe in Binh Dinh Province. There were no U.S. casualties and only light ARVN casualties. Damage was also termed light.