

Tiger Killed Near Viet Border

QUANG TRI—A man-eating tiger was killed by members of a small Marine patrol when the 400 pound cat attacked a 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. Marine in the northwestern corner of South Vietnam.

The Marine who was attacked is listed in satisfactory condition at a military hospital at Quang Tri. Identification is being withheld pending notification of the next of kin.

The six-man recon team was on an observation mission near Fire Support Base

Alpine, six miles east of the Laotian border in Quang Tri Province, when it encountered the tiger. The team had completed its mission and was waiting to be heli-lifted from the area, when the incident occurred. Bad weather conditions had prevented immediate pick up and the team had posted a two-man radio watch while the others settled down to sleep.

The tiger struck silently and swiftly.

"Suddenly I heard somebody scream," said Pfc. Thomas E. Shainline (Gilbertsville, Penn.) "and then somebody else was yelling, 'It's a tiger! It's a tiger!'"

Pfc. Roy Regan (Nacogdoches, Texas), who had been sleeping next to the attacked Marine recalled, "I jumped up and saw the tiger on my partner. All I could think about was to get the tiger away from him. I jumped at the tiger and the cat jerked his head and jumped into a bomb crater 10 yards away, still holding his prey."

The Marines quickly followed the tiger to the bomb crater and opened fire on the attacking beast. They could not be sure which one of them actually killed the tiger, since they all fired at

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it.

Once hit, the tiger released his prey and the attacked Marine staggered out of the bomb crater.

"He looked dazed and asked what had happened," recalled Pfc. Maurice M. Howell (Richmond, Ky.).

The injured Marine was given first aid treatment and a medical evacuation helicopter was called.

In minutes, a Marine CH-46 helicopter arrived to pick-up the injured Marine, the rest of the team and the now dead tiger.

The injured Marine was rushed to the 3rd Medical Bn. hospital at Quang Tri, suffering from lacerations and bites on the neck.

The tiger, measuring nine feet from head to tail, was transported to the 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. headquarters.

The incident took place about 10 miles south of the demilitarized zone near the spot where a young Marine was slain by a man-eating tiger Nov. 12.

Military authorities had sent out a Marine contingent and two professional South Vietnamese tiger hunters three weeks ago to find the killer tiger and three others believed in the area, but the hunt failed.