

~~second~~  
saigon ~~xxxx~~ add war x x x napalm.

The earth barricades and fox holes prepared by the viet cong were enough to protect them fairly well.

Most of the damage done to government forces was caused by machineguns -- one or two of which were in trees overlooking the field near the hamlet.

"Some people forget just how deadly a machinegun can be," an american soldier said. "that fight at tan hiep ~~was~~ should be a lesson to them."

It was clear that the basic pattern of helicopter-borne assaults would continue.

"yes, we've taken some casualties and we've lost some aircraft," a helicopter company pilot said, "but that's war. To do any good in a fight you have to be willing to risk some casualties. A helicopter gets down close to the enemy and makes a good target. But the helicopter also is close enough it can fire much more effectively at the enemy than a plane. A helicopter pilot sees more."

There ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> the possibility air strikes against objectives might become routine, to make sure enemy gunners ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> silenced before helicopters arrive. But some commanders object to the idea, on grounds that an air strike is a sure tip-off to the viet cong that an operation is about to open.

~~xxxxxx~~ Helicopter formations, landing patterns and attack plans may undergo some changes. There are prospects of dropping the use of "eagle flights" -- groups of troop-laden helicopters that fly around without any planned objective looking for trouble.

lots rays 6

more more

lots ajoutes 3

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saigon—third add war x x x trouble.

Eagle flights have ~~resulted~~ resulted in frequent helicopter casualties, although many of them have been effective in surprising enemy units.

Some <sup>(vietnamese)</sup> commanders have argued against landing troops from helicopters as close to objectives as has been the ~~usual~~ practice. Most american advisers feel, however, that the helicopters must be ~~landed~~ landed right on top of the enemy before he can run away.

Whatever changes are in the offing, there is no doubt helicopters will continue to bear the brunt of south viet nam's running fight against the viet cong. browne

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nots rayes 3

nots ajoutes 1

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ASSOCIATED TOKYO

browne 11930 saigon 10/1 general paul ddd harkins comma commander  
of american forces in southvietnam comma took press to task thursday  
for publishing quote allegations critical of the valor and courage  
of the vietnamese soldier unquote para harkins prepared statement  
followed series of reports from here on <sup>(bloody)</sup> battle at hamlet of ap  
bac january second ~~second~~ comma in which sixtyeight government  
troops ~~second~~ <sup>at</sup> three americans were killed comma <sup>at</sup> moren one hundred  
wounded para many reports have quoted unness field officers as  
saying lack of aggressiveness on part of vietnamese troops probably  
contributed to high casualties paraquote eye am deeply concerned  
over recent allegations critical of the valor and courage of the  
vietnamese soldier commaunquote he said pararequote eye believe  
that anyone who criticizes the fighting qualities of the armed forces  
of the republic of vietnam is doing eye disservice to the thousands  
of gallant and courageous men who are fighting so well in defense of ~~it~~  
their country pararequote approximately ten thousand vietnamese  
soldiers have been killed in action in the past year stop almost  
thirty thousand dead vietcong attest to their courage para commenting  
~~on~~ indirectly ~~on~~ mistakes made at ap bac fight comma he  
said colon paraquote there are always lessons to be learned from any  
action and we are working hard to incorporate these lessons into our  
training programs paramere browne

6,  
80



malcolm w. browne