

2020 328

yy mm

revisit 1 (normass/deepe)

*File
KIS. Revisited.
out 168.*

KHE SANH, SOUTH VIETNAM, OCTOBER 10—Before the American Marines re-visited this once-besieged combat base, the North Vietnam Army was using the greater Khe Sanh area for movement of men and supplies, official sources report.

In addition, young Marine snipers, who ra consistently roam the surrounding hills armed with binocular-styled sniper-scopes and power-scopes, have reported seeing Communist helicopters land on the old Khe Sanh airstrip. One young sniper related this to this correspondent that he had seen a Communist helicopter land there but "the colonel told me just to shut up about it."

Senior Marine officers, however, deny that any Communist helicopters have flown south of the demilitarized zone—including landing at the Khe Sanh airstrip. Some officers postulated that some unidentified helicopters might belong to the American and Vietnamese "pl" "pp" "spooking" operations, directed by the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency, and in the words of one senior officer, "These guys never tell us where they're going and what they're doing."

—more reuter

2020 sag

yy nm

revisit 2 (normass/deepe)

Some Marine helicopter pilots, however, accept the report of the young snipers that Communist helicopters have landed at Khe Sanh. And, one Army helicopter gave this correspondent a two twenty-minute play-by-play on the UFO (unidentified flying object) ^{ha} he had personally witnessed flying over the Marine base at Dong Ha. "At first my co-p⁸ pilot and I thought it was a falling star," he explained. "It was going just that fast. But, then it stopped and hovered over Dong Ha and then it started flying backwards and finally it started elevating ^{ED} like a rocket and ^s zoomed away. Is all we could see was a white misty object with two green lights on it. My gunners were scared to death and radioed 'let's get out of here'.

I radioed radioed all the control towers in the area, but none else ever spotted it. I never believed in ^{these} ~~this~~ UFO stories before, but I do now."

--more reuter

ZCZC SAG

yy nmm

revisit 3 (normass/deepe)

At Khe Sanh itself, unconfirmed intelligence reports indicate that ^{bands of} armed North Vietnamese troops actually stood on the airstrip, abandoned by the Marines 92 days before—and were ^{hiding} ~~had~~ in the area where metal revetments, shaped like three sides of a rectangle, once protected Marine aircraft from Communist shellings. Other Marine sources said the Communist troopers had pulled up ^{And Hauled Away} some of the strips of the pierced steel planking—the strips are the size of ~~ping~~ pingpong tables—from the Khe Sanh runway, probably to be used as bunkering material.

--more reuter

zozo sag

yy nnn

revisit 4 (normass/deepe)

In recent weeks, just before the Marines temporarily moved back into old the abandoned combat base, "numerous sightings" were made in the Khe Sanh hills of North Vietnamese soldiers wearing ~~Bat~~ Batman-styled capes made of American mottled green camouflaged parachutes. Most of these Communist soldiers appeared to be searching for food--Communist prisoners and defectors say the NVA are short of food, but not of ammunition and weapons. If observed by aircraft, the North Viet Vietnamese soldiers would pull the cape of camouflage parachute over himself to disguise himself as a bush or as one of the hundreds of other parachutes that dot the hills.

--more reuter

2020 sag

yy mm

revisit 5 (normass/deepe)

During their 92 day physical absence from Khe Sanh, the Marines had kept the ~~area~~ surrounding hillsides and lonesome airstrip under constant surveillance, with many kinds of air observation, including airborne side-looking radar, long-range reconnaissance patrols on the ground, color photographic missions, age intelligence agents among the dispersed tribal populations and sitings from Marine outposts hilltop outposts which survey the Khe Sanh valley. The current Marine re-visit of to Khe Sanh of an infantry company and artillery unit is nothing more than a re-visit--the Marines are not going to stay long enough to set up a permanent base camp.

--more reuter

2020 202

yy nm

revisit 6 (normass/deepe)

Through the northwest passage leading from Laos to the Khe Sanh area, the Communists have upgraded their trail networks into single-land roads. Heavy traffic has been observed on these roads—by trucks, motorbikes, by 10 foot ~~for~~ ^{BY} soldiers and ~~human~~ ^{human} Montagnard porters of the Bru tribe—~~and~~ even ~~in~~ ^{by} elephants and water buffaloes are considered by intelligence sources to be used as pack animals for carrying supplies. The Marines have yet to ~~actually~~ spot an actual elephant caravan^d hauling ins' supplies—but they have found elephant hoof-prints and droppings of waste. The Communists had also been moving traffic along the dusty branch of Route 9, running west of Khe Sanh into Laos. American Marine ground units are now sweeping this branch of Route 9 near the ~~La~~ ^{Laotian} border.

As the Marines began operating in force around Khe Sanh late last week, ~~Maer~~ ^{HND Rom310} American aircraft spotted a truckload of Communist troops moving ~~by~~ into South Vietnam from Laos by ~~road~~ road and ~~bomb~~ [⊙] it.

--more reuter

zczc ssg

yy nmm

revisit 7 (normass/deepe)

(Hank: Thanks for your cable and letters. Will attempt to answer your ~~late~~ letter this week end. I'll de-escalate my filing; I have a solid day of interviewing tomorrow and probably will not file. At this point, I'm also inclined to ignore the coup copy--the wires have run all the facts that are now available; frankly it looks more to me like a premeditated purge of ~~some~~ hawks rather than a true coup attempt. ~~I~~ There were not unusual troop movements, which is the key thing for a coup.

I suggest we try to do a major ~~x~~ series at the end of the month, ^{the} using one-year under President Thieu as the focus. October 31 is his ~~first-year~~ ^{ANNIVERSARY} of his inauguration, and include this ~~xxxx~~ coup stuff in a more comprehensible perspective--unless it becomes more dramatic and less obscure than it is now. ^{Could} I think I should remain in Saigon until after the election. ^{and we can} work on this. while doing so. What do you think of the series idea? Our best to Bev--will try to get her written too. ~~Raymond~~ Also, several correspondents here have gotten cables that to ~~gin up~~ copy to expect bombing over ~~the North~~ to cease in two weeks. What ^{==end reuter} do you hear? If ^{probably,} probable, what about working out a format division of labor format between Washington and Saigon coverage. I can't give a statistical wrapup or any of the politics of the bombing; but I could with advance notice do a fairly good color story on the drama of the bombing raids. What do you think? Regards Bev).

==end reuter