

zozo sag

yy ljp

loot 1 (normass/deepe)

HUE, SOUTH VIETNAM, February 29--Looting, vandalism and souvenir-hunting by Vietnamese government ~~and~~ troops and American Marines during the ~~three-week~~ Hue campaign has increased the battle-damage of this ~~ravaged~~ ravaged, once-royal capital.

"What the fighting did not destroy in the city, ^{plundering} the ~~looters~~ did," one informed source explained.

Virtually ~~every~~ every house on both the southern and northern banks of the Perfume River has been looted, sometimes as many as three or four times, informed sources report.

"Looting has now stopped on the south side," one reliable source explained, "because there's nothing left to grab." But, as of ~~for~~ February 27, when the firing ~~had~~ battles had virtually stopped, looting continued on the ~~the~~ northern bank, of or the citadel area, these sources reported.

--more reuter

zozo sag

yy ljp

loot 2 (normass/deepe)

The south side of the river, around the ~~M~~ American military compound stronghold, includes the so-called European section with Frenchified city layouts of grandiose government offices, the university section and villas rented mostly to foreigners. The first phases of the battle erupted in this area as American Marines rushed to the rescue of the stronghold and then fanned out, fighting so hectically that sometimes only one city block of buildings was cleared in a day. The north side of the river includes the old imperial citadel area, resembling the Walled City complex ~~of Peking~~ of ancient China in Peking, plus individual homes and shops ~~spk~~ sprinkled throughout the area.

--more reuter

zczo sag

yy ljp

loot 3 (normass/deepe)

"The looting was bad," one reliable source explained. "Even the American ~~near~~ houses were stripped bare. I wouldn't point my finger at who did it, but I'd certainly like to know. There was guilt on alot of sides. The enemy was driven back from the American houses on the south side, and then all the clothes were taken--and things like shaving material, razors. It was just incredible.

"I can understand if the troops were ~~cooled~~ a cold and in the damp, drizzly weather, they'd take some booze from the cupboard, or a blanket--but tv sets, cameras, typewriters, no. Just amazing things disappeared. It was bad. There's nothing else to loot on the south side of the river and on the north side, there's still looting going on and no damage assessments have been made."

--more reuter

zczo sag

yy ljp

loot 4 (normass/deepe)

On the south side of the Perfume River, during the early days of fighting beginning January 31, an American Marine told this correspondent:

"The ARVN (Army, Republic of Vietnam) would follow the Marines as they cleared the area ~~south~~ and would ask if a house ~~had been~~ or building had been secured. If it was--they'd go in a take everything they could carry. If it wasn't--they'd sit down and wait for us to clear out the NVN NVA (North Vietnamese ~~Army~~ Army) and then they'd go in and loot it."

--more reuter

zozo sag

yy ljp

loot 5 (normass/deepe)

The Hue battlefield was filled with some of the most ~~po~~ poignant, if not bewildering, paradoxes of the war. ~~Since the~~ North Vietnamese units had set up command posts, foxholes and bunkers in government buildings, and in the substantially built middle and upper class homes of stucco and concrete, many of ~~gh~~ them owned by government civil servants and Vietnamese army officers and top brass.

During the first days, Vietnamese Army command was reluctant to use artillery against their own properties--but later, when Vietnamese troops were suffering high casualties, the Army officers called in the heavy firepower on their own homes and offices. Later, Vietnamese troopers, even in the ~~presence of~~ presence of officers, ~~were to~~ meander around looting and plundering the homes of their own top brass, and senior government employees.

==more reuter

zozo sag

yy ljp.

loot 6 (normass/deepe)

Even in front of television cameras and their own officers, ARVN troopers ~~dorve~~ drove up two ethalf ton trucks and began loading them full of their war booty, including refrigerators, tables and chairs, sofas, television sets and great bundles of clothes, kitchenware. Even before the ~~ol~~ former Imperial Palace had been swept clean of North Vietnamese troops, ARVN soldiers, ten blocks away, began ~~at~~ breaking down the huge steel grill doors of the shops along the mainstreet of the north side, ~~only ten blocks away~~. Goods from camera shops, the city's main movie ~~ce~~ house, small grocery stores, ~~toy~~ tailor shops and stationery ~~shops were~~ were heaped onto Vietnamese Army trucks, or the backs of ~~at~~ bicycles, and ~~Hondas~~ commandeered by the soldiers. One Western

zozo sag

yy ljp

loot 7 (normass/deepe)

Much of the ~~barbarism~~ of the Marines, which was seemed less blatant and widespread than that of Vietnamese government troopers, revolved around making ~~xxx~~ immediate use bedding, ~~matr~~ mattresses, water ~~and~~ food and liquore, kitchenware—and then leaving the home looking "like a pigpen," as one source explained. But, there were isolated cases of theft of valuables tucked into their packs—such as portable typewriters—or of inexpensive, but useful items, and of ~~sour~~ ~~sour~~ souvenir objects, such as ~~Buddh~~ bronze Buddhist statues from family altars, or girls ~~neckerse~~ ~~neckerch~~ c neckerchiefs.

--more reuter

zozo sag

yy ljp

loot 8 (normass/deepe)

"I won't tell you what the Marines were doing on the ~~x~~ south side," one informed source explained. "It was incredible. They were going through mattresses and ~~capp~~ cupboards looking for this gold leaf that is negotiable currency." Finally, the Marine officers stopped it—but it was too late. ~~Everything was ruined—and then the same thing started on the north~~ In the compound of the American military assistance command, the only strongpoint except the Vietnamese Army headquarters in the citadel, which held out against the Communist throughout the ~~8~~ campaign, one of the ~~small~~ small ~~but~~ wooden "huts" had been rented to the Australian ~~government~~ government for its dozen advisors in the area. The ranch-type building ~~was~~ was taken over by a dozen Marines during the battle, "and when they left the place was a mess; all of our Australian clothes were stolen as were our Communist weapons we had captured in previous battles," one of the Australians said.

--more reuter

2020 sag

yy ljp

loot 9 (normass/deepe)

"Don't get me wrong," he said. "I'm not anti-Marine. When those Marines first came into the city, I loved everyone of them. I'm just against those dozen Marines who left this hooch a mess and stole our stuff. It's not professional."

"Look, at this," he said, "They even ~~just~~ taped up one of their blodd bloody Playboy pin-ups." He ripped ~~it~~ down ~~angrily~~ a double-page, colored portrait of Miss November angrily.

--more reuter

2020 sag

yy ljp

loot 10 (normass/deepe)

Vietnamese soldiers also readily ~~pas~~ gave or sold to the Marines beer from the shops, ~~also~~ scotch and whisky taken from private homes and a special home-made brew of rice potent rice wine. Other Vietnamese troops attempted to sell captured Communist ~~weapons~~ ~~paraphernalia~~, such as flags and insignia, to the Marines, as well as American 45 calibre pistols, asking for payment in American currency. "You souvin sourv souvenir me," became a by-word during these transactions, as haggling over whether the item was a gift ~~to the marine as or up for sale took place~~ ensued.

~~And,~~ after the battle, and then after the plunder, came a chilling, continuous drizzle, which ~~coad~~ coated the debris with a mucous-like layer of mud and ~~pl~~ moisture.

--end reuter