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cordon 1 (normass/deepe)

PHU BAI, SOUTH VIETNAM, JUNE 6--Using classical and improvised cordon tactics, Allied commanders here have succeeded in prompting the two ~~of the~~ biggest mass surrenders of uniformed North Vietnamese troops to date in the war.

The ~~more~~ most recent operation ~~fromxxxxxxxx~~ netted 83 Communists--mostly North Vietnamese--carrying 74 weapons, surrendering to elements of the U. S. Army 101st Airborne Division and the elite Vietnamese Army Black Panther Company. The prisoners belonged to a North Vietnamese ~~battalion~~ <sup>UNIT</sup> identified as C-4.

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cordon 2 (normass/deepe)

In early May, 105 ~~per~~ prisoners surrendered, including the battalion commander, the battalion ~~operation~~ operations officer who brought in valuable battle plans, and three company commanders. The ~~per~~ captives ~~per~~ reportedly belonged to a battalion of the 308 Regiment of the North Vietnamese 324B ~~Division~~, Division, which once operated closer to the demilitarized zone. Phu Bai is the sprawling Allied military installation and airfield near the former imperial capital of Hue, 400 miles north of Saigon. The two significant actions took place northwest and southeast of Hue.

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gordon 3 (normass/deepe)

Other Allied units <sup>E</sup> ~~is in~~ in the northern provinces have also reported seizing more and more North Vietnamese prisoners, but not in such massive groupings--~~a significant~~ which is interpreted as a significant, new trend indicating less training and discipline in the North Vietnamese ranks, informed sources report.

Intelligence sources believe Hanoi has deliberately sacrificed the quality of its fighting troops by decreasing time ~~spent~~ allotted for military training and political indoctrination in ~~return~~ return for increasing the ~~to~~ tempo of feeding a ~~higher~~ bigger quantity of replacements into South Vietnam.

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cordon 4 (normass/deepe)

The biggest mass surrender of the war--105 prisoners--resulted in a five-day operation ending May <sup>3</sup> when a joint American airborne-Vietnamese TOTALING SEVEN U.S. Infantry AND ~~ARMED~~ COMPANIES government task force/ threw a classical cordon around a known North Vietnamese position.

"We completely sealed the area with a classical cordon and tightened the circle each day as we we pounded the area with artillery and tanks," an American officer with the ~~101st~~ 101st Airborne explained. "We decimated a ~~battalion~~ North Vietnamese battalion, killing 318 and getting 105 ~~pr~~ prisoners.

"The prisoners came in droves of thirty to forty. We had established a classical military cordon--the circle was not broken until the final sweep was made in an area near the bend of a ~~the~~ river we call 'the Christmas stocking'."

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cordon 5 (normass/deepe)

The second action began on June 1, when three prisoners surrendered to the Vietnamese Black Panther company, operating in a UUU-shaped ~~at the upper section of a peninsula.~~ cordon with the American 101st ~~A~~ airborne. The prisoners reportedly told the Vietnamese company commander that many of the North ~~Viet~~ ~~Viet~~ Vietnamese troops locked inside the cordon would surrender if given ~~and psychological warfare leaflets~~ the opportunity. Louspeaker broadcasts/ from a low-flying American ~~aircraft; ~~aircraft~~~~ urged the North Vietnamese to surrender, ~~as the Allied troops~~

"We maintained a massive U-shaped cordon ~~a~~ about two miles long and one mile wide," the American airborne officer explained. "It wasn't <sup>Day</sup> a classical cordon ~~by~~ by military standards because we broke it each to to sweep down the ~~peninsula~~, peninsula, forcing the North Vietnamese closer and closer to a bay. ~~we~~ we closed the cordon at night, while keeping the North Vietnamese on the run during the day. Within ~~2~~ two days, 83 North Vietnamese surrendered. We killed more than 70, which means we have eliminated more than a reinforced compn company."

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cordon 6 (normass/deepe)

(Hank: Have returned safely, having traveled to Danang, Dong Ha, Khe Sanh and Seventh Fleet. We have some good news stuff as well as a ~~massive~~ massive amount of information on the Khe Sanh postmortem. I suggest my airmailing you a long piece, or pieces, on Khe Sanh ~~postmortem~~ <sup>per</sup> postmortem because is so complex. Also, I can explain some of the sources. Do you agree and what would be maximum number of words—do you want it or an how many articles?

<sup>MANY</sup> I plan to leave for two-week vacation to ~~Bank~~ Bangkok on June 14; everyone expects July to be a very bloody month. I hope John Hughes can plan on being near here in my absence or in July, if at all possible. Thanks for your letter of May 22. We'll be far below wordage in June, I'm sure. I'll file one or two short pieces restve this week and a long DMZ piece or pieces over the week-end. The whole DMZ area is ~~escal~~ escalating, including buildup around Khe Sanh. I'll attempt to get mailers to you next week also, in case you want something for ~~and~~ during my absence. Many thanks. Bev).

--end reuter