

Big Base Area Discovered

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LANDING ZONE NORTH ONE, Cambodia, May 4—Soldiers from this northernmost American outpost in the drive against enemy sanctuaries in Cambodia today reached the site of what is believed to be the largest North Vietnamese base area discovered in the operation, which began last Friday.

The base area, referred to on tactical maps as "The City," is situated in rolling hills and jungles near the northwestern tip of Binhlong Province of South Vietnam. The area is about two miles south of this outpost, which was hastily set up yesterday as a blocking position 20 miles north of where American tanks first plunged into Cambodia along the southern edge of the Fishhook area.

[As the American soldiers advanced, North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops increased their pressure against Pnompenh by cutting the Pnompenh-Saigon highway 29 miles from the Cambodian capital. Page 16.]

A company of soldiers from this base camp was waiting tonight for reinforcements and

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U.S. Soldiers in Fishhook Drive to Big Base Area

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7 of enemy soldiers who occasionally shot at helicopters and ground troops.

Enemy Shooting Reported

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Contact with enemy soldiers was reported to have been extremely light in the fishhook area, 70 miles northwest of Saigon, where about 8,000 United States soldiers and more than 2,000 South Vietnamese soldiers were reinforced today by 1,500 Americans.

Similarly in the Parrots Beak area of Cambodia 35 miles west of Saigon, about 6,000 South Vietnamese soldiers were reported to have had little contact with the elusive enemy forces. Many of them were reported by Cambodian residents of the two areas to have moved out shortly before the invasion began. The Parrot's Beak action started Wednesday.

Allied troops in both areas continued to search for enemy weapons and supplies while re-acting with artillery and aerial bombardments to small groups of

of enemy soldiers who occasionally shot at helicopters and ground troops.

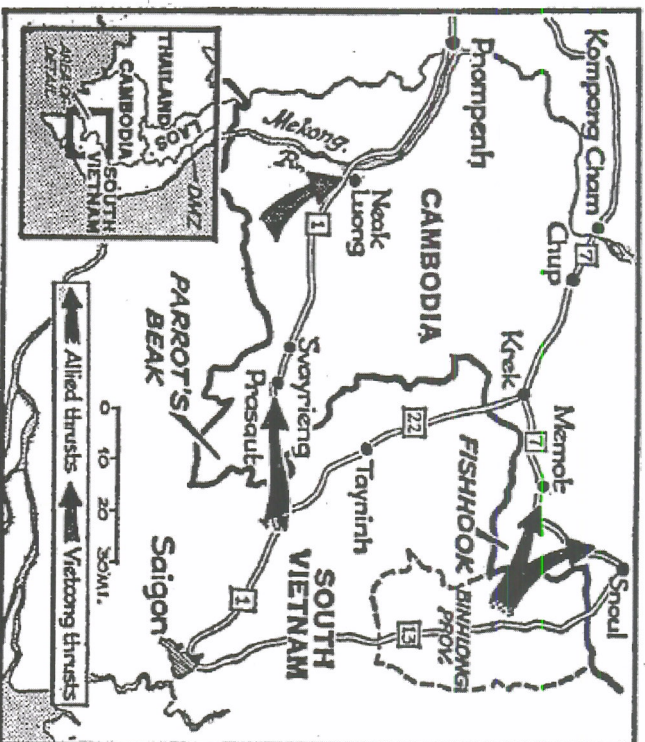
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Military spokesmen in Saigon reported this afternoon that their tally sheets "indicate" that 641 enemy soldiers have been killed in the Fishhook operation and 118 persons have been detained. The number of the enemy killed, the spokesmen said, was based in part on estimates given by pilots and aerial observers of artillery strikes. The detainees, they added, included many women, children and old men who after questioning.

American casualties were reported as 10 killed and 38 wounded. The number of South Vietnamese casualties in both operations was put today at 95 killed and 400 wounded.

American troops in the Fishhook area were reported to have cut Route 7 in four places and a tank squadron from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment had taken over the road northwest of the tip of the Fishhook — Helicopter



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Heavy black arrows indicate thrust of American and South Vietnamese offensives in Cambodia. Gray arrow to the west shows where enemy cut highway 29 miles from Phnompenh.

gunships have extended their platoon of soldiers of the First Reconnaissance area north to Cavalry Division (Airmobile) the town of Snoul to watch for was reported to have removed enemy trucks and men evacuated about 700 new rifles wrapped in plastic material. They estimated that more than 1,000 rifles remained at the site in food caches throughout both boxes of 20.

Allied troops have been finding many small weapons and rifles throughout both boxes of 20. Estimates of the totals of weapons, trucks, ammunition and haven't had the time or the manpower available to go in the most significant weapons and clean all these caches out," cache was discovered along one high-ranking officer said, Route 7 about four miles south of Landing Zone North One, that we know we've passed a lot of stuff up."

After intensive bombing, a lot of stuff up."