

APR 17 1972

SF Examiner APR 17 1972

'Reds Tied in Tanks'

An Loc. ing and was wounded during one of the tank battles before being brought to safety by a helicopter yesterday. Following is his account of the siege of An Loc.

By Gerard Hebert

AN LOC (South Vietnam) — (UPI) — There was a body outside the North Vietnamese tank, apparently that of the tank commander. Down inside were two more bodies, dead from a direct hit by an M72 anti-tank rocket.

I saw something glint in the darkness. I felt the man's ankle. It was chained to the inside of the tank with quarter - inch - thick chain links.

I had heard of this happening with North Vietnamese tank crews in Laos last year. Still, I was surprised. South Vietnamese soldiers told me all the tank crewmen were chained although the tank commanders were not.

One captured Communist tank crew chief told interro-

gators he had been assured before he entered An Loc that the town was already in North Vietnamese hands.

That explains why the tanks moved into town at an easygoing pace, with their turrets open and their commanders looking idly around as if they owned the place.

The South Vietnamese infantrymen couldn't believe their eyes. The unsuspecting tanks got to within 50 yards of the South Vietnamese positions before the infantrymen started firing with their brand new M72's. I saw 11 tanks and seven of them were knocked out.

Maj. Raymond Haney of Fort Worth, Tex., a U.S. Army adviser to troops of the South Vietnamese 18th Division in An Loc, was one of the wounded who came out of An Loc with me. He said it was the luckiest break in the world that the North Vietnamese came into An Loc as if it belonged to them.

"If the tanks had come in shooting we might have been out of luck."