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By Henry Kamm Special to The New York Times, May 2, 1972

SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 1 — Quang Tri stood wrecked and empty today, an easy prey for the North Vietnamese troops who had besieged it and subjected it to heavy shelling and rocket attacks since Friday.

The northernmost of South Vietnam's province capitals, Quang Tri was deserted successively by its population and by the troops defending it.

Then, according to Ennio Iacobucci, an Italian photographer who was the only newsman in Quang Tri in its final days, about 80 American advisers were airlifted to safety late this afternoon by three rescue helicopters, whose crews braved fierce ground fire to make their way in and a sustained mortar barrage at the pick-up site.

Mr. Iacobucci was airlifted out in the second of three helicopters and arrived here tonight from Danang, where the rescue craft first landed after their take-off from the deserted city.

The Americans left Quang Tri city unharmed, the photographer said, but he described the town as littered with the bodies of soldiers and civilians, victims of the intense enemy barrages.

Bombing Felt at Citadel

Helicopters had not been able to touch down at Quang Tri during the siege because of withering ground fire. At night the ranking American officer, identified only as Colonel Metcalf, informed the other American officers and the enlisted men to prepare for a hazardous hike eastward to the sea, where an American ship might pick them up.

The morning began with a heavy bombardment by American B-52's that was felt at the Citadel—the province military and administrative headquarters where the Americans sought shelter after abandoning their more exposed compound.

"The ground shook so hard I couldn't stand," Mr. Iacobucci said.

Wave after wave of F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers came in low to loose their bomb loads on enemy positions. There was no letup in the attacks throughout the day, the photographer said, nor did the North Vietnamese ease up on their shelling and mortar attacks.

The purpose of the sustained American aerial bombardment was evidently to suppress enemy fire and allow the rescue planes to come in.

Road Shelled Steadily

In the early morning hours, Mr. Iacobucci reported, the South Vietnamese troops of the Third Division not on the immediate staff of Brig. Gen. Vu Van Giai, crowded into whatever armored personnel carriers and jeeps they could find around the Citadel and headed south to Route 1 toward Hue. The road was under steady enemy shelling and was cut by many ambushes. It was not known whether they reached Hue safely.

At around 10 A.M., General Giai and his staff, estimated by Mr. Iacobucci at about 50 men, entered three- armored personnel carriers and, after a farewell salute by Colonel Metcalf, headed southward, the last Vietnamese soldiers to leave Quang Tri.

They arrived back at the Citadel an hour later, having found the road impassible, and asked to be evacuated with the Americans:

In preparation for departure, American soldiers gathered at the center of their compound, which adjoined the Citadel, They blew up large quantities of weapons and equipment abandoned by the defenders.

Then began the perilous wait on the open ground ad joining the buildings, while American bombs exploded in a vast circle around them and North Vietnamese shells, rockets and mortars burst closer to those waiting for rescue.

They waited about two and a half hours in the open, shell-raked field for the first helicopter to touch down, escorted by the Phantoms. As the ranking officer, General Giai was the first to board.

The Americans followed and the remaining Vietnamese came last. The second and third helicopters came in at 10-minute intervals, as increasingly heavy mortar fire struck the landing zone, but Mr. Iacobucci said no one was wounded, nor was the fire returned.

evac'ed MACV Team 155 from the Quang Tri Citadel in May, '72