

COMBAT ACTION

Enemy Trawler Sunk

On the night of Nov. 22 the first of two attempts by the North Vietnamese to resupply their allies with guns, ammunition, and medical supplies occurred and the following action resulted.

The **RUSH** had been alerted to this attempt and was following the trawler in darkness as she approached the coast. Other ships, the Coast Guard CUTTER **SHERMAN**, The U. S. Navy Minesweeper **ENDURANCE** and the U.S. Navy Gunboat **TACOMA** had been assigned to assist **RUSH** in capturing the trawler if possible, but in any event preventing her from getting the cargo ashore.

As the trawler approached the coast, and after she had entered the territorial waters of South Vietnam, **ENDURANCE** was directed to challenge her while **RUSH** illuminated the midnight scene with flares. The trawler did not heed the challenge, first attempting to flee the scene and then to ram the **ENDURANCE** while firing with machine guns and recoilless cannons.

Things moved quickly after this with the trawler fleeing, being fired on first by the **ENDURANCE** and **TACOMA**, then by the **RUSH** and **SHERMAN**. Each ship was directed to fire as her range was best. The trawler was soon sunk in relatively shallow water about three miles from the beach. Fortunately, as a result of this engagement there were no injuries to friendly forces.

RUSH remained in the area for two days until salvage operations were well underway. We were honored the morning after the action by a visit from Vice Admiral King, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam and Rear Admiral Chon, Chief of Naval Operations of the South Vietnamese Navy. They had come by helicopter to survey the scene and extend congratulations to the units involved. A press conference was subsequently held at the resort village of Vung Tau, where the trawler's cargo was displayed and the facts related for the newsmen.



RADM. Chon presenting medal to Capt. Durfey



VADM. King and Capt. Durfey