



Thich Quang Duc, a Buddhist monk, burns himself to death on a crowded Saigon street in 1963 to protest the alleged persecution of Buddhists by the South Vietnamese government of Ngo Dinh Diem. New York Times reporter David Halberstam, who witnessed the event, wrote: “As he burned he never moved a muscle, never uttered a sound, his outward composure in sharp contrast to the wailing people around him.”



Crying children flee after a South Vietnamese aerial napalm attack on suspected Viet Cong hiding places near Trang Bang accidentally hit South Vietnamese troops and civilians. Nine-year-old Kim Phuc was naked from having her clothes burned off. Her brother, Phan Thanh Tamon, left, lost an eye in the 1972 incident. On the right are their cousins. South Vietnamese forces from the 25th Division walk behind them.



The sun breaks through the dense jungle foliage around the embattled town of Binh Gia, 40 miles east of Saigon, in early 1965, as South Vietnamese troops and U.S. advisers rest after waiting overnight for a Viet Cong attack that didn't come. The battle represented the Viet Cong's first major operation in the war and undermined U.S. confidence in the South Vietnamese military.

Lasting images of a war long ago

The United States' military involvement in the Vietnam War ended in 1973. Photojournalists, having unprecedented access to combat zones during the war, captured some of the most shocking and touching moments of the conflict. Some have argued that the nonstop photos and video found in daily newspapers and on the nightly TV news shaped Americans' attitudes toward the war and led to the U.S. withdrawal. These are some of the iconic Associated Press images from the war.



U.S. Navy personnel aboard the USS Blue Ridge push a helicopter into the sea off the coast of Vietnam in 1975. They were making room for more evacuation flights from Saigon as communist troops advanced on the city.



South Vietnamese Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, chief of the national police, fires his pistol into the head of suspected Viet Cong officer Nguyen Van Lem on a Saigon street, early in the Tet Offensive of 1968.



Released prisoner of war Lt. Col. Robert L. Stirm is greeted by his family at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., as he returns home March 17, 1973. In the lead is Stirm's 15-year-old daughter, Lori. Following are son Robert, 14; daughter Cynthia, 11; wife Loretta and son Roger, 12.

ON OMAHA.COM/MEMORIALDAY

View a slideshow of the Vietnam War from the escalation of U.S. involvement in the early 1960s to the fall of Saigon in 1975.