

Veteran Voices Project: 1960s Transcript

Richard Lee Chan: From the time I got there we were guaranteed we were gonna be shelled minimum three times a night. Guaranteed. They would usually drop them somewhere around ten o'clock, twelve o'clock and two o'clock just to wake us up, get us tired. Because they knew we're gonna go to the bunkers and wait until they get the all-clear. They knew and then we had to try to get back to sleep and then they wake us up again. We were known as Rocket Alley. That was the name of our base. After the first week in Dong Tam, I got so used to it. At March 26th, they dropped a mortar. 500 tons of TNT went up one - boom. That blast was immense. The sky is burning red. I go: "Wow. What the hell is that?" And my friend, he goes: "Rich, get in the bunker. We're under attack!" Boom.