

The long walk

NEAR PHUOC VINH, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



A Vietnamese mother carries her baby along the edge of a bombed-out rice field. The storage shed at rear was empty and the farm was in ruins. Although the Vietnamese government insisted that the Viet Cong terrorized villagers, all the bombed or burned villages I saw had been destroyed by the “friendly” side in the war.

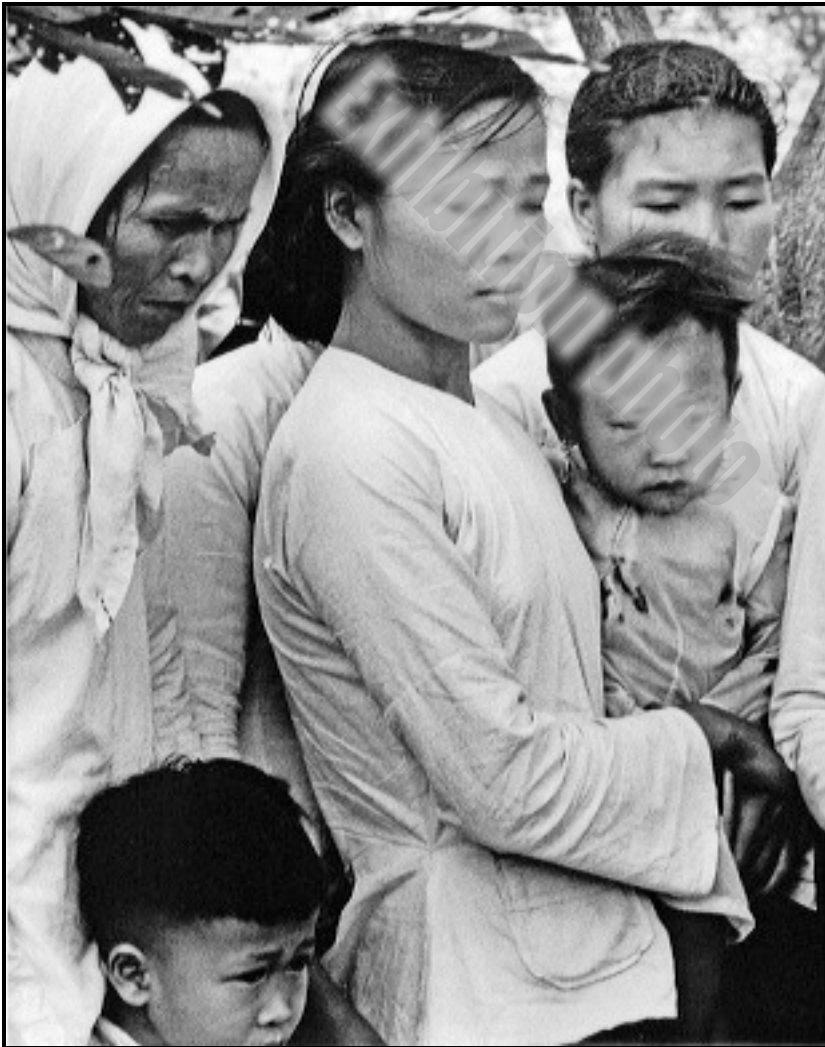
Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$990; small print \$650



Even the children knew

NORTHERN BORDER, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



Three generations of a Vietnamese family wait for a decision on whether they will be relocated from their village to a government-controlled area far to the south of their home along the northern border, scene of intense infiltration by North Vietnamese troops. Even the children seemed to know bad news was coming. An hour later, the family was put on a brown bus and taken away.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$645; small print \$420



Don't say a word

COASTAL REGION, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



“Be quiet,” whispered the GI in front of me. Just moments before, we’d been talking about Corvettes and big-block Chevy engines, but now he crouched and turned his head to listen to the sounds of branches rustling a few yards ahead. He heard nothing more after a few minutes, so we continued on, without saying a word to each other. I was frightened the rest of the morning.

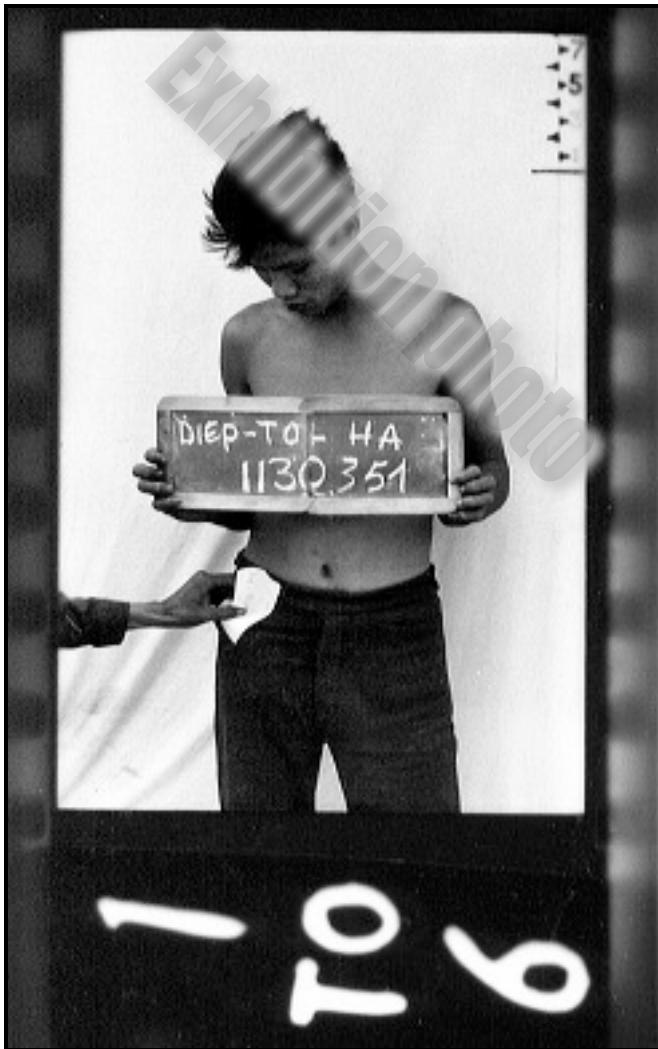
Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$545; small print \$350



First day in the army

BIEN HOA, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



Distracted by directions to face the camera, a young Vietnamese man holds a chalkboard showing his service number at a recruiting station a few miles from the big allied military base at Bien Hoa. Vietnamese boys sometimes lied about their age to get into the army, which offered them pay, decent food and a life of status.

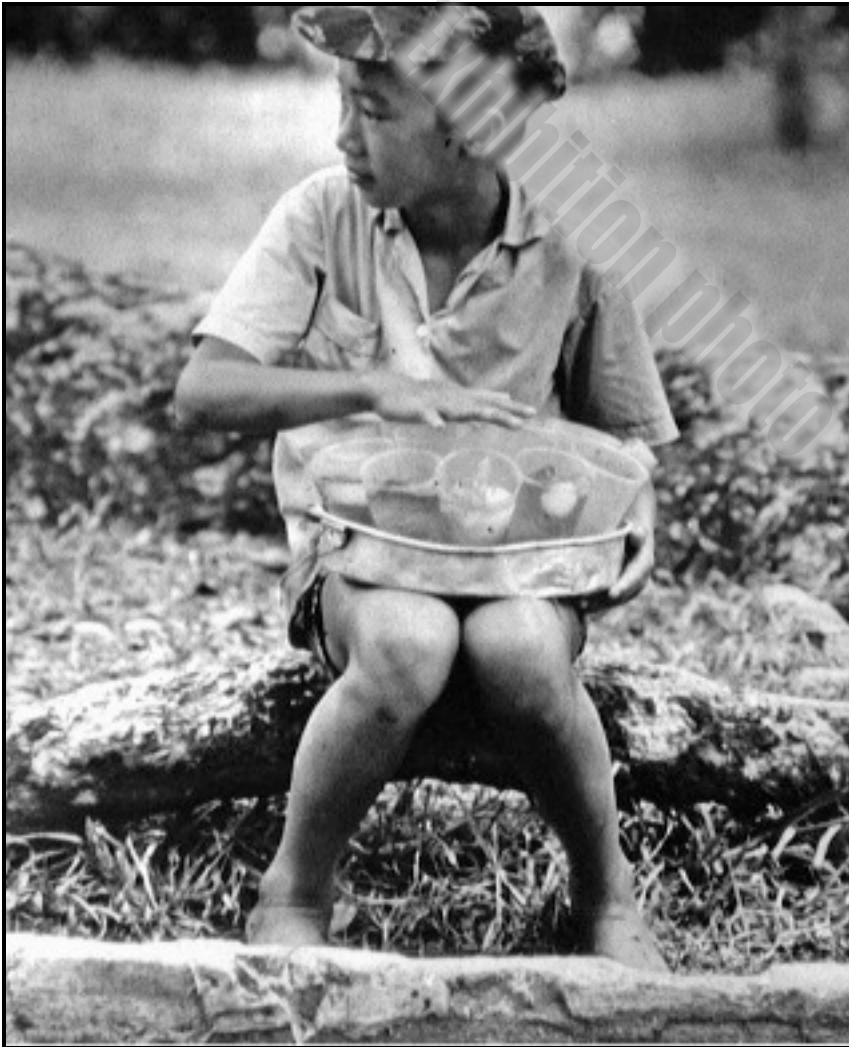
Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$510; small print \$300



Iced tea at the zoo

SAIGON, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



Looking for likely customers, a boy waits to sell iced tea at Saigon's zoo. Even during the toughest periods of the war, when Viet Cong artillery shells exploded daily in the capital city, the zoo remained open. On the day I visited, most of the patrons were grandparents and little children. The zoo was a cool oasis during the dry season.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in poor condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$425; small print \$295



Getting their range

MEKONG DELTA, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



Uncertain of their next move, soldiers in a U.S. patrol check the range of their weapons after a Viet Cong guerrilla company slipped away in the night. “The VC own the night,” an American major told me, “but we take over during the day.” Many hamlets and villages never were secure, despite repeated sweeps of suspected Viet Cong positions by American and South Vietnamese forces.

Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$485; small print \$380



A balancing act

ALONG THE MEKONG, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



Stepping gingerly out onto a walkway made from two poles lashed together, a Vietnamese boat dweller heads for shore as his daughter watches from inside their home. The boat people I became acquainted with had no dinghies or rowboats to get them to shore and back, although some had small dugout canoes.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in good condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$480; small print \$345



Village defense force

VILLAGE NEAR SAIGON, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



Four members of a local defense force showed me their lookout tower at the perimeter of the hamlet. The only guardsman not striking a tough-guy pose was the commander, at right. His clear-eyed, somber gaze was a haunting reminder of the dangers such outposts faced every day. Viet Cong guerrillas attacked often.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$720; small print \$450



The village on the river

MEKONG DELTA, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



In this river community, neither the group in the background nor the people in the foreground show concern about a fire on one of the boats. I suppose they knew by the aroma of nuoc mam, an extraordinarily pungent Vietnamese fish sauce, that the smoke heralded a good meal and not an act of aggression.

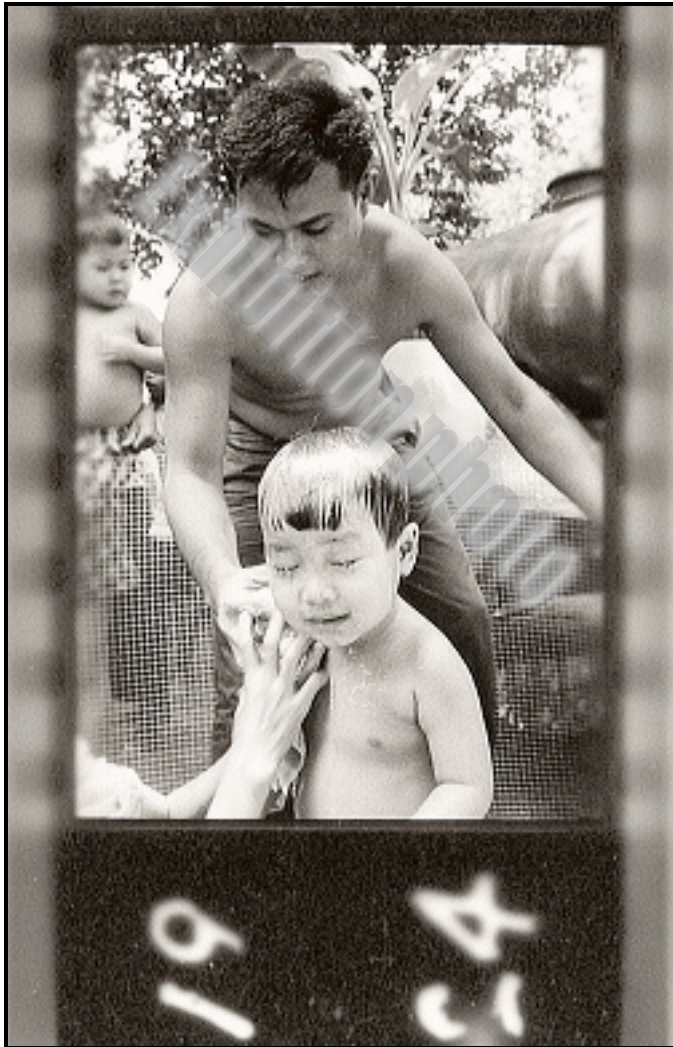
Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$525; small print \$400



Wash day

NORTHERN REGION, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



The South Vietnamese government sent caravans of food and water trucks into “safe” villages — places under the direct control of government troops — and made sure the press was alerted to these gestures. I was more interested in the children than the government’s PR. Here, a village boy patiently endures a scrub-down during a village cleanup day.

Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$490; small print \$300



Wounded boy 1

MEKONG DELTA, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



A U.S. Army medic carries a child wounded by American soldiers toward a helicopter landing zone for evacuation to a hospital. The boy's younger brother, unable to keep up, walks with his grandmother. The boy was wounded when U.S. troops attacked the village in a campaign against the Viet Cong. His arm was shattered by bullets from an automatic rifle.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$730; small print \$465



Wounded boy 2

MEKONG DELTA, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



After realizing the boy he was carrying was losing consciousness, a U.S. soldier cradles him as they hurry to an awaiting U.S. helicopter. Behind them, an Associated Press photographer who had been on the sidelines carries the boy's brother so they would not be separated.

Source: Poor quality scan. Contact print and negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$950; small print \$470



Taken Away

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



As a South Vietnamese patrol searches rice paddies for ammunition caches, two Buddhist villagers try to coax a third to stop resisting the two soldiers who waited behind them. Eventually, the reluctant villager gave in, and all three were arrested on suspicion of helping the Viet Cong.

Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$515; small print \$400



The fog of a raid at dawn

MEKONG DELTA, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



During an airborne raid on a Viet Cong-controlled village, one soldier keeps his helmet from flying off as others collect their gear. The first helicopters dropped smoke bombs to obscure the view from snipers, but the smoke and noise added a lot of confusion; many soldiers simply held onto each other and ran into the smoke.

Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$850; small print \$465



An unplanned recess

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



Ahead of a patrol of South Vietnamese troops closing in on a village, I was passing a bombed-out meeting hall when nine children ran out to greet me. I realized I had come across a school. I tried to get the kids to pose, but instead they were more interested in my other camera. The “teacher” turned out to be a passing grandma.

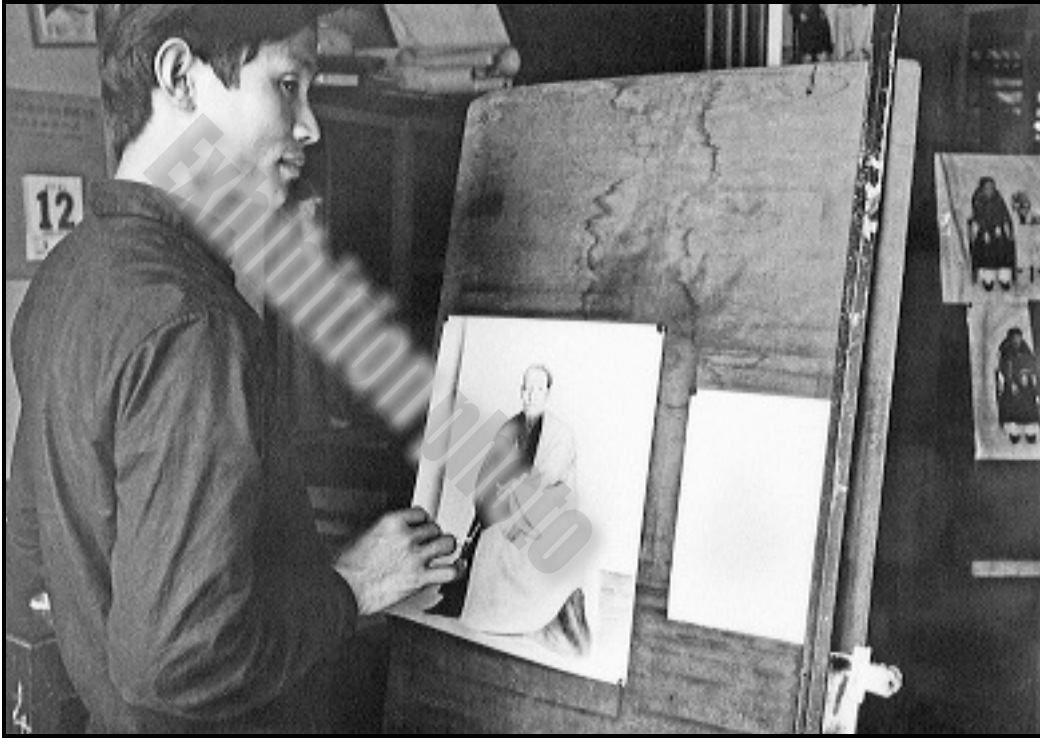
Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$950; small print \$520



Suspicion

HUE, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



The mystery of this artist in Hue (pronounced “Hway”) wasn’t his detailed portraits, but in the way he kept looking at me out of the corner of his eye. It was as if he wondered if the American with two cameras had a duplicitous purpose; after all, many citizens of Hue sympathized with the Viet Cong, and the government was not above hiring American drifters as spies.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in good condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$650; small print \$395



Pep talk from the boss

NEAR PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



I was standing around with a company of tired soldiers when a Jeep roared up. The driver got out and the officer beside him jumped onto the hood. “Gather around,” he called out. By then, the soldiers realized they were facing Gen. William Westmoreland, commander of allied forces. He gave a short pep talk and was gone.

Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$1,500; small print \$1,170



Questions about the war

NEAR QUI NHON, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



An officer assigned to help arriving journalists waits for dinner. Press officers usually asked me how people back home felt about the war. But by the time I'd been "in country" as long as they had, I had also lost touch with public impatience with the war. I was as surprised as they were when I learned about the Peace Movement.

Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$485; small print \$250



Shampoo, on the house

SAIGON WATERFRONT, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



Red Cross worker Larry Ray pours shampoo onto the head of a newsboy along Saigon's riverfront. The Red Cross tried handing out soap and shampoo, but found that most of it ended up on the black market. When aid workers did the pouring themselves, the shampoo stayed legal and the boys stayed clean.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$595; small print \$470



Life in the mud

THE HIGHLANDS, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



Negative contact strips were all I had for most of my photos after all my negatives were destroyed. This strip, enlarged more than 1,800 percent by PhotoZoom Pro 2, demonstrates how modern software technology can recreate photos that had seemed lost. I camped with troops in the highlands during the wet season, and we spent two full days getting Jeeps, trucks and trailers out of the mud.

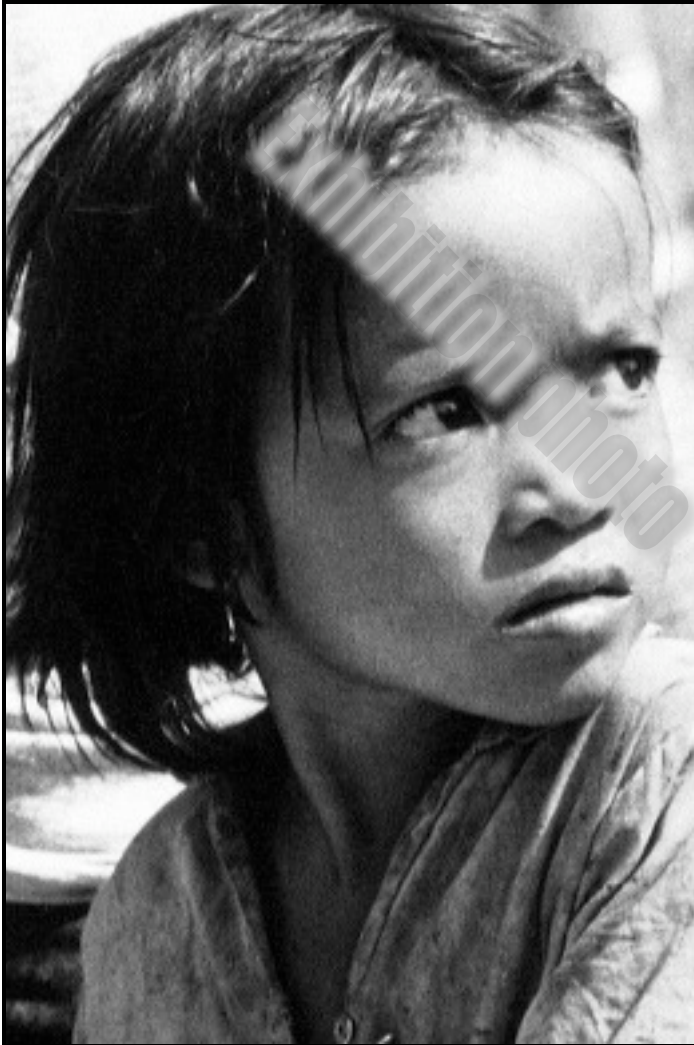
Source: Strip of contact prints, 10 inches long. Negatives destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$640; small print \$490



A little girl waits

IN THE MOUNTAINS, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



This girl from a mountain village awaits evacuation to what the government said would be a safer location. Such new settlements, which would become part of U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's "Vietnamization" of the war, were very unpopular. Ones I visited were sterile and cheerless.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$485; small print \$330



Meditation for a motor

NEAR HUE, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



In a meditative mood, a Buddhist monk waits to hitch a ride with a South Vietnamese soldier. Monks in and around Hue (pronounced “Hway”), the ancient capital, tried to maintain neutrality during the long war, because they lived so close to the North Vietnamese border and had friends in the north.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$550; small print \$400



Mother and child

NEAR PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



Near Pleiku, the “high country” of South Vietnam, I photographed this mother and child as they waited for a government food shipment. They were from one of the Montagnard villages near South Vietnam’s western border. Both sides harassed the Montagnards, a fiercely independent people, during the war.

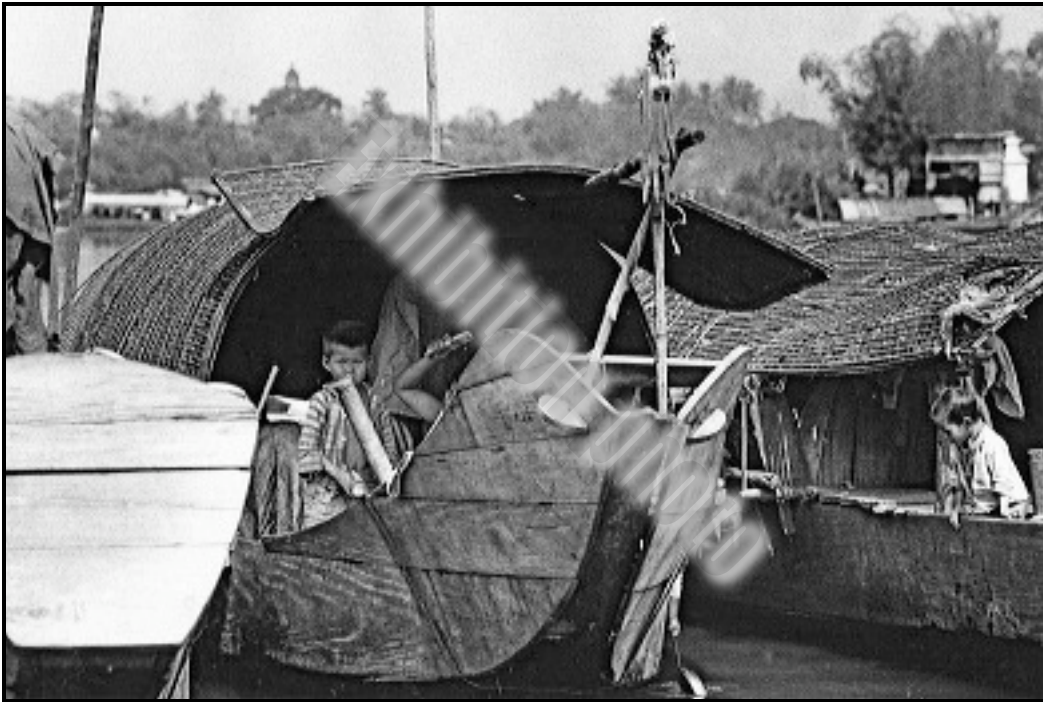
Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$1,160; small print \$820



Doing the dishes

ALONG THE MEKONG, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



As I rode a government patrol boat down the serpentine Mekong River, I came across a group of Vietnamese houseboats tied up along the shore. Look carefully and you will see a myriad of morning activities, from a woman rinsing off a frying pan in the muddy river to a girl (all but hidden) brushing her hair.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in fair condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$685; small print \$450



Helicopter assault

NHA BE RIVER, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1966



The 199th Light Infantry Brigade dropped me out of a helicopter and then brought in scores of troops in other choppers during a sweep of suspected enemy positions along the river. We landed in rice paddies, ankle-deep in water. My boots, the old kind made completely of leather, stayed wet all day.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in poor condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$830; small print \$600



Hurry!

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



Trapped by crossfire from Viet Cong and American forces, an unarmed journalist runs for cover. Journalists sometimes carried pistols or carbines for protection, but most tried to act neutral and refused to carry arms. I had a prized 45-caliber automatic pistol, given to me by a colonel I met my first week in Vietnam.

Source: 1 3/8-inch by 1-inch contact print. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$425; small print \$320



Landing zone

MEKONG DELTA, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



Catching their balance after an airlift, soldiers carry a grenade launcher and automatic rifles into battle at a landing zone in the Mekong Delta. The delta, one of the most fertile areas of southeast Asia, was the hottest place I'd ever been, with the temperature reaching an unofficial high of 139 degrees Fahrenheit later that day.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in poor condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$1,225; small print \$720



Title photo: The long gray line

MEKONG DELTA, SOUTH VIETNAM — 1967



Soldiers walk along the ridge of a rice paddy in late afternoon, heading back to a makeshift headquarters in a dry area. This photo is not in the main exhibition because I manipulated it to achieve a warm gray look for the soldiers and a soft gray for the background. To me, the shot represents a state of mind more than an actual day in the delta.

Source: 8-inch by 10-inch print in poor condition. Negative destroyed.

Photo Copyright © 2006 by Al Fasoldt Large print \$390; small print \$220



The Lost Photos Of Vietnam: Photographs By Al Fasoldt, 1966-1967

E X H I B I T I O N G U I D E

Purchasing prints

You can order any print in this exhibition. Many are available in both small and large sizes, and some can be ordered in jumbo (poster) sizes, also. Small prints are based on a nominal size of 8 inches by 10 inches. Large prints are based on a nominal size of 13 inches by 19 inches. Actual sizes will vary to accommodate true image dimensions. Jumbo prints (poster size) are special-order only and are available for some of the photographs. Please inquire as to the availability and price of jumbo sizes.

All prints are sold unmounted and do not have a watermark.

For print orders, write to the photographer by e-mail at **afasoldt@twcny.rr.com**. Or send regular mail to this address:

Al Fasoldt
The Lost Photos of Vietnam
7408 Van Ness Road
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Be sure to include your name and address, your e-mail address if you have one, and the names of the photos you are interested in. Personal checks must clear before prints are mailed out.

