

The Vietnam War: The Heart of Chaos

The roar of the engines filled the night sky. The US was finally here with the reinforcements! Bombs whistled through the air as explosions shook the ground. Dirt flew through the air as more bombers arrived. The air raid was massive. Bombers flew over the jungle canopy as the forest exploded into flames. Xuan ducked under a barricade as a branch flew past his face.

“To your left! Watch your right! Duck!” Corporal Lan barked.

The North Vietnamese soldiers were invading while the chaos was ongoing. The bombers had finally finished the air raid and were retreating but that wasn't the last of the Americans. Jets roared overhead as more soldiers invaded the South Vietnamese camp.

Boom! Everything went black. Soldiers screamed and the sound of explosions rang into Xuan's ears. His head felt like it had just exploded and he tried to curl up into a ball but he had no control of his body. Xuan could feel his body being dragged across the coarse terrain of the jungle.

When Xuan woke up, he was in a dull grey cell with unforgiving metal bars blocking all sunlight. His olive-green uniform was replaced by a grey and white jumpsuit. If he was in prison, why was the cell door open? He peered his head outside and all the other cell doors were ajar. A distant commotion grew louder as he cautiously walked down the corridor.

A gang of prisoners were arguing in the middle of a courtyard. Xuan stepped out of the prison building and into the courtyard. Walls overwhelmed him and barbed wire lined the top. He could spot the silhouette of guards lurking above, observing them.

He approached the prisoners and he could finally hear what they were yelling about. Some were saying that they needed to escape now, others were yelling about how risky it would be.

“Hey! Who are you? Are you a spy?” one of the prisoners yelled.

The others spun around at light speed and observed him. Their muscles tensed as they clenched their fists and reached for metal rods leaning against the cold stone walls.

“W-what? No! Of course not! They captured me while I was fighting in the war,” Xuan stammered as he rubbed his temples.

The gang calmed themselves before turning back to each other and starting a discussion. Before long, they spun around and grabbed him by his collar. Xuan's fighting instincts kicked in and he started throwing punches at them.

"Okay, okay we trust you," the gang leader yelped. "Meet at my cell tonight and I'll brief you on what we're going to do."

That night, Xuan cautiously walked toward Ahn's cell. Inside were the rest of the gang and they glared at each other. They started whispering but Ahn shushed them.

"We're going to rush them tonight, alright? Hong, you watch our backs. Duy, Liem and Khanh, you're in charge of rushing the security room, and Dung, our newbie, and me will be in charge of stealing equipment from the armoury," Ahn whispered.

Xuan, Dung, Ahn and Hong cautiously walked down the corridor as Duy, Liem and Khanh crawled through a small vent in Ahn's room. They turned multiple corners with caution and halted here and there every time they heard footsteps that were not theirs.

They eventually reached the armoury and the door was left perfectly ajar. Everything was going well. Too well. They grabbed the weapons and sprinted to the wall. A spotlight shone on them and guards started shouting. Crackle! Crack! The security cameras malfunctioned and started dying one by one.

Boom! The wall blew open and the group started running. Where was the other group? There! They were sprinting full speed out of the building towards them. The buzz of helicopters filled the black abyss above them as they trudged through the jungle.

"Freeze!" Corporal Lan shrieked as they were swarmed by a group of soldiers.

The other prison inmates behind Xuan squealed as they were tackled to the ground. Mud and grime splattered across their grey and white outfits.

"General Xuan?" Corporal Lan questioned. "We thought you died!"

"They'll have to do a lot more to get me!" General Xuan yelled as a group of soldiers brought him a fresh uniform.