

We searched for guns, grenades, rice and other food, medicine, ammunition, and any other illegal contraband which might be hidden beneath the layers of nets laid out to dry, or in watertight containers in the holds, covered by tons of ice. We lifted decking, searched the holds, and inspected cargo lists, identification and registration papers. Any discrepancies, questionable papers, or suspected draft dodgers were turned over to South Vietnamese authorities for further handling. On one junk, we found a Viet Cong tax collector who was turned over to the South Vietnamese military for interrogation. We detained a total of five men for various reasons. On another junk, we found a man who had had his foot all but amputated in an ice crushing machine. He was treated, then evacuated for further treatment ashore. We never knew what to expect, but we were always prepared for the worst.



Below: LTJG MacDonald and a South Vietnamese interpreter search a suspect sampan and inspect its documents while its owner looks on.

