

# Vietnam Podcast transcript

**Adrian:** GOOD MORN – ING – VEEE – ET – NAAAAAM! And we'll start with a little bit of news-that-doesn't-matter because it all happened before we got here. SOOO... first we have those events-that-happened-to-others: the Treaty of Geneva, the first Vietcong attacks on South Vietnam, the self-immolation of Thich Quang Duc and the coup which killed Diem.

And now all those pesky dates to go with them — 1954, 1960, and October and November 1963 — and if you didn't get them then it's tooooo LATE! 'cause we move on and ES-CAL-ATE!

**Announcer 2:** I wish we'd hesitated before we escalated.

**Adrian:** Too right my friend 'cause then those mad-men on the Madd-ox thought they saw torpedos, and then next thing that happens some Johnson guy is using the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution to order military action ... and then all it takes is some itzy-bitzy attacks on airbases and like lightning — we're into operation Rolling Thunder and the disaster begins ....

**Announcer 2:** And do we have any dates for all that, ADRIAN?

**Adrian:** August 1964 and February 1965: dates with fate, my friend, dates I hate.

**Announcer 2:** Why did we do such a sti-ewe-pid thing, ADRIAN?

**Adrian:** Oh no real reason, just communism, Korea, containment, McCarthy, dominos and the military-industrial complex — do you want a weather forecast?

**Announcer 2:** I don't know if I can face it, ADRIAN — what can we expect today?

**Adrian:** Well coming from the north down through Laos and Cambodia we've got a Ho Chi Minh Trail — full of sabotage and ambush wrapped up in ordinary peasant pyjamas. Overhead there'll be SAM guided missiles and MiG planes, but underfoot you'll find tunnels, booby traps, tripwires and landmines.

**Announcer 2:** Will it be hot today, ADRIAN?

**Adrian:** Hhhhot, hhhhhot and coming in close, my friends, so close they'll be 'hanging on the belt', so close it'll be too close to get the big guns onto it.

**Announcer 2:** What'll we be doing about that, ADRIAN?

**Adrian:** We'll be rolling north, with a sky full of B52s, cluster bombs, hueys, napalm and Agent Orange.

**Announcer 2:** And what's on the agenda, ADRIAN? What's coming up?

**Adrian:** Well, we'll start with good news at Ia Drang at 1965, followed by endless Search-and-Destroy raids and coming to earth with a bump with the Tet Offensive at 1968 precisely. Things will never be the same again after that. There'll be some violence and horror at My Lai shortly after ... after which we'll just be looking for a chance to finish up.

**Announcer 2:** How come it came to that, ADRIAN?

**Adrian:** We've failed to win hearts and minds, my friend — for some reason they don't seem to like our policy of Strategic Hamlets and Zippo raids. We've ended up baby-killers, 8000 miles from home, without resolve, without the love of those back home, facing an enemy who's been fighting for freedom for 30 years.

**Announcer 2:** So what have we got to look forward to?

**Adrian:** Well, you can expect some fragging, lots of drugs, some 'working it out', ending up with a load of cherries in body bags. Then I guess it'll be 'Vietnamisation' from 1969, along with demonstrations and draft-dodging at Kent State at 1970, finishing with Paris 1973 and 'coptering outta here 1975.

**Announcer 2:** It all sounds pretty grim, ADRIAN.

**Adrian:** That's Vietnam, my friend, that's Vietnam.