

CAPTURED DOCUMENT
(USIS)

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	DATE	SUB-CAT.
	10/68	

October 12, 1968

SUCCESSIVE LOSSES CREATE FEAR AND MALINGERING

An enemy document recently captured in Thua Thien Province by an element of the 82d Airborne Division, contained a personal letter from a unit commander to his superior.

The author reported that upon his return to his unit he found that one-half of his troops were sick and as a result their assigned work was not progressing on schedule.

Gathering his cadre, they analyzed the problem and found that some negative and pro-rightist thoughts had developed since the last battle. In that fight many unit members had been killed or wounded and they also had witnessed casualties in other units as a result of shelling and ambushes. With so many of the comrades getting killed or wounded the unit members were voicing their opinion that sooner or later their turn would come.

To find a solution to these "ideological problems" the author called meetings of the unit's party members and the military-civilian people. These meetings resulted in the relative stabilization of the situation and a return to normalcy. He offered as evidence of the improved condition a "Letter of Determination" which confirmed his unit's high determination to meet the norms set by the emulation drive.

The author closed his report with the hope that some plan to help his unit could be worked out by his superior.

To brother Bach,

Report on my unit's situation.

Returning from the meeting, I found that the situation in my unit was as follows: one half of the unit personnel were sick and work was delayed. I gathered the cadres, made a deep analysis to find out the reasons [for such a situation] and clearly realized that some negative and pro-rightist thoughts had made their appearance following the last battle in which many unit members were killed and wounded. While evacuating the wounded to the dispensary, a number of comrades witnessed the casualties inflicted on K.10 by enemy shellings, and, returning home, they found that unit 25 had 3 comrades killed in an ambush. As a whole, because the dead and wounded [within our ranks] have constantly increased, some comrades voiced the opinion that, sooner or later, their turn would come. In the face of such a situation, I have, since my return from the meeting, strived to find out ways and means to solve these ideological problems. Specifically, I convened meetings of Party [members], Group [members] and military-civilian people with a view to re-confirming their mission and, owing to these meetings, the [ideological] situation has been relatively stabilized and has returned to normal as materialized by a "Letter of determination" addressed to the Party committee and [unit] commander confirming the [unit] personnel's high determination to meet the norms set by the emulation drive, letter which had been forwarded to you.

This is the report of our situation submitted to you with the hope that you will work out some plan to help us.

August 29, 1968

/s/ Duong Van Bau

To Brother Mot.

We reached this side of the creek of "Vit" [Duck] after nightfall on 16 July; therefore, we could not arrive at the pre-determined meeting place. We then hid our weapons and equipment there. On the morning of 17 July, we will have to return to evacuate all the wounded. If our evacuating element can complete its task before 18 July, our unit will be present at the new location on 19 July.

You are requested to solve some problems for us:

1. My men, including seven in comrade Phu's element, who were assigned to take the remaining 35 bushels of rice at Hai Thuy have not returned yet. We wait for your instructions as to whether they will stay there or should we assign someone to call them back.

2. As for our new location, should we temporarily bivouac at the medical station before looking around for other areas as you told us the other day, or should we wait for the decision of the staff section regarding the building of the base in this area: we wait for your instructions.

3. How can we establish daily contact with Doan [Group 5] and especially with the Rear Service Section? Our reserve of rice will be exhausted by 20 July.

14 July 1968

- /S/A
VO THONG.

[Page 2 of item 1 of OT]
[Letter cover]

To Brother Mot.

[Item 2 of OT]

Sau of the Corridor Unit.

To Brother Bach.

I would like to report to you on the situation of my unit. After attending the meeting, I returned to my unit and found half of my men sick and all tasks performed haphazardly. I organized

CDEC Doc Log No. 09-1319-68

a meeting to look for the causes and I discovered that following the last battle some of my men had rightist and escapist tendencies. The battle caused some losses to my unit, as many were wounded or dead. What's more, some comrades who evacuated the wounded to the medical station actually witnessed casualties inflicted on K10 [poss 310th Inf Bn] by airstrikes. Back at their unit, they saw another 25 dead among the wounded. In addition, three other men of their unit were killed in a recent ambush. Because of such successive losses, some soldiers feared that their turn would soon come. In the face of such a situation, I tried to take some measures to solve the ideological matters and I have comparatively stabilized the morale of my men. Besides, the meetings held by Group and Party members as well as the soldier's congresses have corrected all errors. As a result, the morale of my men has been stabilized and all soldiers have sent their resolution for fighting to the Party Committee and the Commander. My men have also set criteria for emulation and I think I have previously informed you of this matter. This is my report on the situation of my unit and we expect to receive your assistance soon.

19 August 1968

/S/

DUONG VAN BAI.