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SINGERS JOIN SOLDIERS IN REPULSING AIR ATTACK

[Article by Hoang Chau Khanh; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan,
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The moon was not very bright when we entered the combat position of AAA Unit X. The camouflage leaves were rustled by the wind. The position still bore the excited atmosphere of this afternoon's battle in which the unit had shot down a F-101 and captured the pilot invader. Now it was tumultuously preparing to receive Drama Team X which had come to celebrate the victory with a performance.

Guests as well as gunners, spotters, radiomen and couriers heard the clear voice of the company commander remind them of their responsibility from the top of the command post bunker: "The enemy might attack us again -- combat-duty batteries take turns attending the musical performance."

Standing around the bunker, the fighters were appreciating various groups play. After a while a strong wind blew and rain poured down. A slender girl was singing "The Mandolin Sound of Ta Lu." Her voice echoed through the rain. Under the cover of a poncho held by a comrade she kept on singing and the soldiers put on their raincoats to stay and listen to her in silence. How moving to witness these men, who recently had administered lightning blows to the sky pirates and forced them to pay for their crimes, now enthusiastically listening to the songs and verses presented by the singers. Some comrades even repeated in low voice the sweet melody and words.

Abruptly from the command post sounded the company commander's order:

"The enemy comes! To your combat positions!"

In no time the gunners were at their post, aiming the guns into the enemy's direction and ready to open fire. At the gunners' sides were "the audience" and the girl singers who had just celebrated the fighters' victory. From the sky resounded the humming of the enemy aircraft. Flares lighted up at various spots.

"Direction 8. Two enemy aircraft are coming."

The command post station spotted them from far away. Political officer Tran Minh Vui mobilized the fighters' morale:

"Comrades! The malicious enemies intend to commit more crimes but we're determined to make them pay for them. To honor our singer comrades let's shoot down the aircraft."

Both fighters and singers unanimously shouted their agreement.

A loud command sounded: "Fire!"

Explosions and flashes of light shook the combat position. Not only were the gunners quick in firing but the singers were also quick in continuously carrying ammunition for the gunners.

From one of the bunkers a singer cried loudly:

"Please fire more -- if you need gunners, here we are!"

The sky was clear of clouds again. The night's musical performance continued with enthusiastic verses and songs. Girl singers sang in the moonlight and complimented the fighters with victorious and martial songs.

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