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## QUANG BINH TOWNSHIP DESTROYS U.S. PLANE

[Article; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 25 October 1968, pp 1, 4]

It was just beginning to get dark when Combat Intervention Militia Platoon of Township B (Quang Ninh District, Quang Binh) received the order to mobilize on a new battlefield. They left right away. Getting to go to find the enemy and fight made everyone feel enthusiastic. The dragging rain which had lasted nearly a week made the road across the field very muddy. Deputy Platoon leader Nguyen Huu Chien reminded everyone:

"It's dark, raining, and the road is slippery. Try to protect your guns from the rain and dirt so that when we get to the new battleground, we can begin to fight right away."

Recently, the news that the troops of Con Co Island had shot down 5 enemy planes on the 2 days of 16 and 20 October made everyone anxious to emulate them. The gun crews met to find new methods of fighting. Guncrew No. 1 contributed many good ideas in forming the plan to intercept various types of enemy long-range penetration airplanes. Platoon leader Nguyen Luong went to a friendly Unit to exchange experience. Everyone wanted to see with his own eyes the enemy plane burst into flames in front of his own gun.

When they arrived at the new battleground, it was almost midnight. Everybody busied himself with preparations for fortifications, getting weapons ready quickly and calmly to intercept and fight the enemy. Even though they had travelled almost 10 kilometers and all felt tired, no one wanted to rest. They finished the battleground preparations before dawn.

At the crack of dawn, the whole platoon had practiced twice the new combat plan. Platoon leader Nguyen Luong reminded everyone:

"Our battleground is near the ocean. The sound of airplanes easily mixes with the sound of the ocean. You must pay good attention to discover our objective quickly, accurately, and coordinate well."

Nguyen Van Giap, Guncrew Leader of Guncrew No. 1, adjusted his gun once more. Sometime ago he was buried in dirt in one battle but still he rose up and together with his friends opened fire at the enemy plane. At Guncrew No. 2's position, Guncrew Leader Le Thi Tu reminded her crew to coordinate well with other units. To fire is to finish (the enemy). After a whole night without sleep involving difficult operations, her eyes were still lively, observing the foggy sky. Last night she had carried a heavy gun, travelled far, and fallen but still she protected her gun well.

"Enemy plane at direction X!"

Observer Nguyen Mien's voice resounded and drowned the ocean sounds. From far away, a very small dark spot was flying up from the ocean waves. The gun barrels already clung to the airplane which came closer every minute. Gunner No. 1, Nguyen Thanh Danh, also had quickly gotten the sky bandit well in his lens.

"Fire!"

Platoon leader Nguyen Luong had just finished giving the order. Fire from various guncrews rushed up and grabbed the RF.4C. Coordinated well with Guncrew No. 1, Le Thi Tri's group had also opened their angry fire. The airplane burst into flames and crashed headfirst into the East Ocean.

Thus, with only 34 infantry rifle bullets, the militia platoon of Township B destroyed one U.S. airplane. That was the 100th airplane shot down by the militia and self-defense troops of Quang Binh. That happy news travelled very fast over Quang Binh and excited thousands of hearts of those who were fighting and defeating the Americans.

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