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(From Nhan Dan)

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# LANDMARKS OF VICTORY

**A**FTER 50 months, the war of destruction conducted by the U.S. imperialists against North Viet Nam has come to grief. In 6 rounds, the U.S. super-arm — aviation — has been brought to utter failure.

August 5, 1964 :

## AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE FOR HIM WHO EXPECTED TO TAKE OTHERS BY SURPRISE

**I**N mid-1964, the U.S. "special war" in South Viet Nam had undoubtedly fallen far short of its purposes. To remedy this situation, the Pentagon contemplated a reproduction of the famous "incident" of the destroyer *Maine* which, in 1898, helped the U.S. gain its foothold in Cuba at the expense of the Spanish colonialists. On August 2 and August 4, it concocted the 1st and the 2nd "Tonkin Gulf incidents", claiming that one of its destroyers had been attacked on the high seas by P.T. boats of the D.R.V.N. Next day, without any warning, Johnson hurled his aircraft on several points in North Viet Nam. A great surprise for the aggressors: 8 of their warplanes were cut down, and several pilots killed or captured. Johnson succeeded in winning a Senate vote for a decision allowing him to openly intervene in the war.

On November 18 of the same year, another raid on the Western area of Quang Binh province cost the aggressors 3 more aircraft.

February 7 -- May 12, 1965 :

## ESCALATION SOUTH OF THE 20th PARALLEL FOILED

**T**HE military situation in South Viet Nam went from bad to worse for the aggressors and their lackeys to the point that a massive armed intervention had to be decided by Washington. The Taylor plan was put into practice: systematic bombing of North Viet Nam. Pretext invoked P.L.A.F. attacks on U.S. base camps including the Pleiku one on the night of February 7. From the following day on, U.S. aircraft flew bombing missions on Quang Binh province and the Vinh Linh area just North of the demarcation line. Day after day, they climbed the different parallels up to the 20th North of Thanh Hoa. One of the targets which they tried to get tooth and nail, but in vain, was the famous Hai Rong bridge (125km South of Hanoi) at the cost of very serious losses (47 planes brought down on April 3 and April 4). In 3 months, 27

more enemy planes bit the dust South of the 20th parallel.

May 18 -- December 24, 1965 :

## AGGRESSION PUNISHED ALL OVER NORTH VIET NAM

**E**STIMATING the "dose" inadequate, Washington sent its aircraft beyond the 20th parallel up to the borders of the Northwest and the delta provinces around Hanoi. In this 7-month period, U.S. plane losses reached the 554 mark, well nigh the total number of combat planes put into action in the Pacific by the U.S. during World War II.

For their part, shore batteries sank or damaged enemy ships and boats 6 times.

January 31, 1966 -- February 1967 :

## ENEMY LOSSES ESCALATED ALONG WITH INCREASED RAIDS

**T**HE beginning of 1966 saw the great fiasco of the first dry-season counter-offensive in South Viet Nam. Washington raised its stakes. U.S. strikes were now directed against industrial centres such as Hongai, Cam Pha and Viet Tri, and B.52's carried out carpet bombings in the Western part of Quang Binh province. On June 29, 1966, Hanoi and Haiphong were bombed.

Enemy losses skyrocketed: 848 planes were brought down and many pilots captured. Twelve fighter-bombers were knocked down in a single day, on August 7 and on December 2, and in a month, between July 17 and August 17, our AA defence brought down 138 U.S. planes.

In our territorial waters, 28 enemy ships received direct hits from our gunners.

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End February 1967—March  
30, 1968:

## WAR OF DESTRUCTION THOUGH BROUGHT TO ITS CLIMAX, FAILED IN THE MAIN

**D**ECIDEDLY, Washington wanted to stake its all. Three new war measures were added to the air and naval strikes which were being intensified and enlarged: poundings by U.S. artillery based South of the demilitarized zone and the 17th parallel, naval bombardments by the 7th Fleet on coastal areas and laying of mines at the estuaries of North Viet Nam's rivers. Hanoi and Haiphong became the centre of the efforts of the aggressors who thought they had found the right way to bring the D.R.V.N. to its knees.

Results: in 13 months, 1,121 U.S. planes and helicopters were shot down by our anti-aircraft defence, hundreds of pilots taken prisoner and 77 ships and boats sunk or damaged by our guns, while U.S. batteries based at Con Tien and Doc Mieu sustained very serious damage and losses.

Some records: 19 enemy planes downed in a single day (Nov. 19, 1967) and 160 in a month (May 1967); our coastal defence hit 7th Fleet ships 16 times in a month (May 1967).

March 31—November 1, 1968:

## U.S. "LIMITED" BOMBING FAILURE SEALED THE FATE OF THE WAR OF DESTRUCTION

**E**ND Jan.—early Feb., the generalized attacks and popular uprisings in South Viet Nam came as a bombshell, irremediably tipping the balance of forces in favour of the patriots. The ineffectiveness of the war of destruction in North

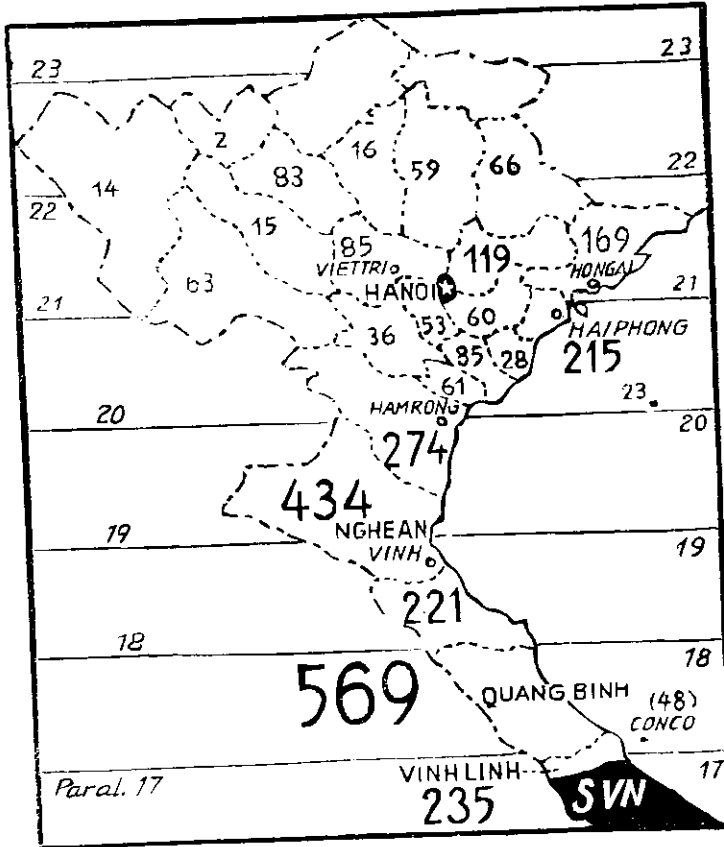
Viet Nam became apparent, all strategic objectives being unattained, Washington made a last-ditch attempt by concentrating all its aerial forces on the panhandle constituted by the provinces South of the 19th parallel, destroying and killing with the furor of despair.

Futile efforts: 425 more U.S. planes were shot down and 31 naval craft sunk or set ablaze including the 56,000-ton battleship *New Jersey* and its nine 406-mm guns.

The above was the essential reason which was behind L.B. Johnson's decision to stop all air, naval and artillery bombardments of the D.R.V.N. as from November 1, 1968.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

# HOW U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION 3/68 WAS DEFEATED



**T**HE U.S. planes grounded in North Viet Nam belong to 47 different types produced by 17 American firms. Nearly all types of tactical aircraft and even strategic planes which had never been used so far in actual military operations have been shot down by our anti-aircraft defence forces: "conventional" A-A guns and ground-to-air missiles, fighter planes, automatic guns and even simple infantry rifles. Let us mention as instances and only the most "ultra-modern" of them:

- fighters-bombers *Phantom* (F.4C and F.4D), *Thunderchief* (F.105D, F.105F), *Intruder* (A.6A), *Corsair* (A.7), TFX (swing-wing), F.111A, etc...

- jet and electronic-manned or unmanned reconnaissance planes EB.66, RF 4C, 147J, QH 50A...

**A**MONG the thousands of pilots killed, wounded or captured were many "aces" of the U.S. air force with a record of several thousand flight hours, some of them had even been picked out for space flights. Their grades ranked between second-lieutenant and colonel in the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy and the Marines. Let us note in passing that, according to American sources, the training of a complete pilot costs 773,000 U.S. dollars.

**I**N 1,549 days, from August 5, 1964 to November 1st, 1968, the North Viet Nam people's armed forces shot down 3,243 U.S. aircraft almost entirely composed of super-sonic jet fighters, and on 143 occasions sank or damaged enemy ships and boats in the territorial waters of the D.R.V.N. Riposting to U.S. artillery fire across the

17th parallel, our gunners destroyed 27 long-range guns, 72 military vehicles, 7 helicopters, 3 oil depots and 2 military storages, and killed or wounded 1,370 G.I.s in the Con Tien-Doc Mieu area. Beside, scores of spy-commandos smuggled into our territory were wiped out.

**Y**EARLY break-down:

Year	Number of enemy planes shot down	Number of ships and boats sunk or damaged
1964	12	1 (the USS <i>Maddox</i> )
1965	834	15
1966	773	22
1967	1067	69
1968 (up to Nov. 1)	557	36
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3243</b>	<b>143</b>

**T**HE number of enemy planes downed represents five and half times that of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. Ac-

cording to U.S. sources, the U.S. Air Force has lost in Viet Nam more than 50% of its F.105 bi-sonic fighters-bombers.

**A**MONG the naval craft hit were the U.S.S. *New Jersey* (56,000 tons, veteran of the Korean war), the cruisers *Canberra* (Australian) and *Saint Paul*, and many destroyers.

Since February 26, 1967, official date of the involvement of the U.S. Navy in the war against North Viet Nam, our coastal defence score 92 hits at enemy warships. A unit of young peasant-women gunners in Quang Binh province damaged two of them...