

BATTLE ACTIONS - EARLY 12/68

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REPORTS ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH

Long An Province

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Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1552 GMT 2 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 2--The regional forces of the South Vietnam People's liberation army and guerrillas on November 24 and 25 loaded artillery shells into an American battalion's artillery ground and a puppet command base in Queo Da and a U.S. cantonment in Tho No, in Duc Hue district, Long An Province.

On November 26, guerrillas in the province brought down an enemy reconnaissance helicopter.

Earlier, in the 20 days ending November 15 the PLA regional forces and guerrillas in northern Long An shelled several cantonments, infiltrated into several district capitals and strategic hamlets to punish cruel agents of the U.S. and intercepted the counter-attacks by enemy troops. They killed or wounded altogether (1,315) men including 350 GI's and Pak Chong-hui troops, shot down eight helicopters, destroyed 11 artillery pieces, and sank four warships.

Pleiku Area

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1506 GMT 2 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 2--The People's Liberation Armed Forces on the night of November 26 launched a surprise attack on a cantonment of puppet troops some 20 km southwest of Pleiku town, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY.

In a few minutes fighting, the PLAF killed or wounded 75 enemy troops, captured five others, and seized a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment. The enemy casualties included the whole command of the puppet 145th company.

On November 11, the PLAF had assaulted the [words indistinct] and artillery site of a U.S. unit in the same area, wiping out 80 GI's and destroying two 105 mm guns and 17 military vehicles including five tanks.

Binh Long Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1506 GMT 3 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 3--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in Binh Long Province on November 27 and 28 wiped out 450 enemy troops including two puppet companies, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY.

The P.L.A.F. also destroyed 32 tanks and armoured cars and shot down three helicopters.

Intercepting enemy raids some 6 km northeast of Loc Ninh town, the agency reported, the P.L.A.F. on November 27 knocked down 240 enemy troops, wrecked 17 M.41 tanks and brought down three helicopters. The enemy casualties included two companies completely put out of action.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

In the morning of December 2, the PLAF in Tay Ninh Province attacked the puppet troops in Ca Tum area, wiping out many of them and shot down a U.S. helicopter.

On the same day, the PLAF in Long An Province attacked puppet and U.S. troops supported by armed helicopters at a place near Can Duoc, and troops of the 25th U.S. Infantry Division stationed near Duc Hoa.

The PLAF in northern Quang Nam on the night of December 1st slammed big gun fire into the command post of the Dien Ban military sub-sector. Next morning, they intercepted troops of the 5th U.S. Marine Regiment west of Dien Ban town. Western reports said that U.S. Marines casualties were heavy in this battle.

Later in the day, the PLAF intercepted another detachment of the same U.S. regiment near the site of the morning engagement.

SAIGON ANNOUNCES CHRISTMAS DAY CEASE-FIRE

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 2 Dec 68 S

[Text] According to the Secretariat of the Presidency, on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, as a humanitarian measure, the President of the Republic has decided to institute a 24-hour cease-fire only on Christmas day. The cease-fire will be effective for 24 hours throughout the Republic of Vietnam territory from 1800 of 24 December to 1800 of 25 December 1968.