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BATTLEFIELD EXPLOITS IN CENTRAL TRUNG BO PRAISED

Article by Phuong Hong; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 13 December 1968, p 2

In response to Chairman Ho's 3 November appeal, the army and people of the Central Trung Bo Delta have forcefully expressed the spirit of a victorious autumn with a series of continuous attacks, which have resulted in many new, brilliant victories. During the past month, the Central Trung Bo Delta has become one of the most outstanding battlefields of the heroic South. According to as yet incomplete figures, during the month of November, the people's liberation armed forces of the Central Trung Bo Delta have left more than 8,320 enemy dead on the battlefield (including nearly 4,000 U. S. and Pak Chung Hi troops); shot down and destroyed 93 aircraft, 153 military vehicles, and 21 artillery pieces; and burned or blew up 16 U. S. -puppet rear services storage areas.

SUCCESSIVE ATTACKS INTO THE IMPORTANT U. S. - PUPPET LAIRS IN CITIES AND ON BASES

After they were beaten during August and September, the U. S. -puppets quickly withdrew to rebuild fortifications and set additional obstacles. They strengthened the defense around Da Nang, other cities, and their bases in the Central Trung Bo Delta. Together with medium and small scale sweep operations in many places, at the end of October and beginning of November, the U. S. Command mobilized more than 20 thousand U. S., puppet, and Pak Chung Hi satellite troops, warships of the seventh fleet, and a large force of supporting air to mount two concurrent operations, called "Henderson Hill" and "Gara Harbor" aimed at ending the threat to and providing relief for the Da Nang area. But, all of the U. S.-puppet efforts to protect the points still held by them in this important strategic area were to no avail. Only one day after the "Gara Harbor" operation was ended, on the night of 16 November, the army and people of the Central Trung Bo Delta penetrated their tightest defense system and all military obstacles to conduct a series of forceful attacks on the important U. S.-puppet lairs in the heart of Da Nang, the streets of Qui Nhon, and other district capitals of Hoi An, Tam Ky, and Quang Ngai, as well as in many other enemy positions in strategic areas. At the same time as these penetrating attacks on the military police headquarters,

the radio station, and 22 other positions within the city of Da Nang were being carried out, the people's liberation armed forces successively attacked the Da Nang airstrip, the military harbor, and artillery positions along the road.

The U. S. Command was forced to call a one-hundred percent alert and issue a 24 hour curfew order for Da Nang and the other provincial capitals in order to cope with the situation. But, from 17 to 25 November, the enemy lairs around Da Nang and 15 county seats and district capitals, as well as many U. S. and puppet bases from the Hai Van Pass to Phu Yen, were under continuous attack. The nine airstrips of Da Nang, Xuan Thieu, Nuec Man, An Hoa, Dai An, Chu Lai, Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Tuy Hoa were shelled. In particular, the Da Nang airstrip was attacked five times.

Most outstanding were the battles in which the liberation army skillfully penetrated five U. S. Command offices from battalion echelon up. The Command Post of Marine Amphibious Force III, headquarters for all U. S. Marine units in South Vietnam, was also attacked. During the three battles at Hoa Van, Nui Mieu, and Ho Giang the liberation soldiers killed nearly all of the enemy gangs in the Command Post of the 198th Brigade, destroyed two U. S. battalion Command Posts, and killed more than five hundred of the enemy, among which 80 were U. S. officers.

These are the skillfully executed attacks right into the U. S. and puppet danger points which have caused their heavily fortified defense system to be continuously overturned and confused. The command network which the United States has just assembled in this area has been severed in many places. The U. S. - puppet defense system, a complex of connected bases in Da Nang, could not withstand the external and internal attacks by the people's liberation armed forces of the Central Trung Bo Delta.

The great victories mentioned above have clearly proven that the standards of co-ordinated combat on a large scale by the people's liberation armed forces in the Central Trung Bo Delta have greatly improved. Using only a specific force, the army and people of the Central Trung Bo Delta have increased the tempo of attacks into U. S. -puppet lairs in the cities and on bases, and thrown the enemy into a state of confusion. The U.S. 1st Marine Division, the Americal Division, the "Green Dragon Brigade" and the "White Horse Division" of the Pak Chung Hi army, and the puppet divisions in this area have all been strongly attacked everywhere; and their relief efforts encounter many difficulties.

CONTINUOUS DISRUPTION OF THE U.S.-PUPPET 'URGENT PACIFICATION' OPERATIONS

Faced with the power and strength of the army and people of the Central Trung Bo Delta, which quickly developed throughout the countryside and around the cities and U. S. bases, in November the U. S. Command hastily mobilized many U. S., puppet, and Pak Chung Hi satellite troops into a "urgent pacification" campaign in this area. But the army and people of the Central Trung Bo Delta firmly stood their ground. Since the beginning of November, they

have continuously beaten back these "urgent pacification" operations.

The liberation armed forces of Binh Dinh Province destroyed two "pacification" groups and one security company and heavily damaged many puppet units on sweep operations in Tuy Phuoc and Huong Cat. In Quang Ngai, they defeated a U. S. helicopter operation in Nghia Hanh District. In Phu Yen, they killed 325 enemy troops in the areas of Tuy Hoa, Son Hoa, and Song Cau. In Thanh Hoa, they also blocked a Pak Chung Hi "White Horse" division operation to the west of Nha Trang, killing more than 400 of the enemy.

Most outstanding was the action of the army and people of Quang Nam (from 16 November to 9 December); they continuously and forcefully attacked the enemy and disrupted the biggest "urgent pacification" operation in the Dien Ban area. The U.S.-puppets poured more than seven thousand troops into this operation. These troops included: one U. S. Marine regiment; one Pak Chung Hi battalion; one main-force regiment with many tanks; and supporting air and artillery, all of which was to be used to sweep back and forth over a small area, gather up the people, and create an empty zone. However, the army and people of Dien Ban fully employed many and varied operational tactics. They conducted concentrated attacks against the enemy; ambushed mobile units; attacked both day and night; attacked infantry troops, destroyed armored vehicles, and fired upon helicopters; and continuously performed outstanding battlefield exploits. During only the first ten days (from 16 to 25 November), nearly one thousand U. S. and puppet troops were killed in the Dien Ban area; and 18 aircraft were shot down in battle. The result of the "urgent pacification" in the Dien Ban area, which the United States had boasted was "the largest of the war," was total failure. On 10 December, UPI lamented, "This was a most expensive operation for the U. S. Marines."

During this long, drawn out, and continuous combat which disrupted enemy operations, in many places local and guerrilla forces of the Central Trung Bo Delta played a central role, fought skillfully, and were highly combat effective. Guerrilla and local units took advantage of the opportunities when the enemy left his field fortification for sweep operations. They were determined to destroy and block the enemy and create advantageous conditions for liberation army units to expand their deep penetrations and successive shellings of U. S.-puppet lairs in Da Nang, the provincial capitals, and the bases. The U. S.-puppets are involved in a death struggle in this area by means of "urgent pacification" operations. But, the "ring of fire" of the people's war in the Central Trung Bo Delta has tightly surrounded them for a long time. While it is dangerous for them to remain in their bases, it is even more dangerous for them to come out.

UPRISINGS IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS TO DESTROY LOCAL OFFICIALS AND ATTACK AND OVERPOWER THE ENEMY

At precisely the time that the U. S. - puppet gang was most confused because Johnson was forced to unconditionally halt the bombing and shelling of North Vietnam, millions of Central Trung Bo Delta compatriots in the cities and countryside closely cooperated with the people's liberation armed forces

in the attack phase and continuously rose up to overpower the enemy. Together with the guerillas, the compatriots destroyed many "urgent pacification" teams and groups and killed many obstinate local officials in Tuy Loan, Cam Le, Tam Ky, Tien Phuoc, Que Son, Ly Tin (Quang Nam), Truong Sanh, Binh Son, Mo Duc, Duc Pho (Quang Ngai), Cat Tri, Truo Dao, Vinh Phu, Cat Thang, Cat Minh (Binh Dinh), and Tho Loo (Phu Yen), etc. They also demolished 123 forced resettlement areas and "strategic hamlets."

Along with assemblies, the people anxiously established revolutionary governments. The people in the hamlets and townships throughout the countryside and tens of thousands of compatriots in Da Nang and other district and provincial capitals in the Central Trung Bo Delta continuously organized demonstrations demanding the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong government and the establishment of a peace cabinet. In Vinh Dien, in conjunction with the liberation army soldiers, the compatriots took over the district capital for the entire day on 17 November. They destroy two "pacification groups" and killed many obstinate puppet government officials.

In Da Nang, the compatriots, together with community self-defense units, organized hundreds of assault propaganda teams to distribute leaflets among puppet government employees and puppet officers and soldiers. Many puppet officers and soldiers stayed away from their jobs in the I Corps Command Post and other puppet military organizations in Da Nang. The U. S. gang had to send military police after them; but they did not catch many.

Right in the heart of the provincial capital of Tam Ky, the compatriots transformed an assembly, which had been gathered together by the province chief so that the people could listen to the statement of Nguyen Van Thieu, into a demonstration demanding the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong government and the interrogation of the province chief. Thousands of the compatriots formed into orderly, thick ranks and yelled such slogans as: "The United States must withdraw its troops from Vietnam."; "Restore peace in Vietnam." Gradually, the parade attracted more than six thousand people who demonstrated against the United States and its lackeys for three continuous hours. The U. S.-puppet gang was forced to order many military police units to that demonstration. But they could not block the ranks of the people marching in the parade.

November and the early part of this past December saw days of zealous political struggle in the Central Trung Bo Delta. The U. S.-puppet gang in this area was contained militarily and now under forceful political attack. They are resisting violently, committing many more crimes, and perpetrating many new insidious acts in the hope of "alleviating the situation." But, with a spirit of glorious attack, a heroic force, skillful fighting, and the abundant experience gained during the phase of attack and uprising since August, the army and people of the Central Trung Bo Delta will surely continue on to greater than ever victories during this winter-spring season.

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