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PLAF MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1968 NOTED

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1530 GMT 2 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 2 GPA--1968, a year of general offensive and widespread uprising by the Vietnamese armed forces and people, was crowned with splendid (all round) victories.

Last year, the People's Liberation Armed Forces (and people) killed, wounded, or captured 630,000 enemy troops, including more than [number indistinct] American and satellite troops [words indistinct] or badly mauled one brigade, seven regiments and multi-battalion units, 187 armoured [word indistinct] and over 750 companies of U.S. puppet, and satellite troops, destroyed on the ground or damaged 6,000 aircraft, 13,500 military vehicles, including over 7,000 tanks and armoured cars, sank or set ablaze 1,000 ships, combat launches and freighters, including 14 vessels of 10,000-ton capacity upward, destroyed above 1,100 heavy artillery pieces, burnt down over 700 bomb, ammunition and oil depots, blew up more than 700 bridges, overran and forced the enemy to withdraw from or to surrender over 1,500 positions and military sub-sectors.

Compared with 1967, [word indistinct] 365,000 enemy were put out of action, [words indistinct] the toll in 1968 nearly doubled, the American and satellite toll alone increased by two-thirds (1967: 170,000), losses in aircraft nearly doubled (1967: 3,200), losses in military vehicles were up 1.5 times (1967: 8,500), losses in warships, freighters and combat launches were 5 times as many (1967: 200), losses in heavy artillery [words indistinct] 3 times (1967: 370).

On all the battlefields in South Vietnam, from the plains and the jungles to the towns, our armed forces and people won great and all-round achievements.

In the central provinces of central Vietnam, during more than 10 months from January 29 to late November 1968, the People's Liberation Armed Forces wiped out more than 150,000 enemy troops including 66,458 Americans and 6,115 Pak Chong-hui mercenaries, shot down or destroyed on the ground 2,546 aircraft, wrecked 6,243 military vehicles including 2,279 tanks and armoured cars, sank or set ablaze 15 shops and combat launches, destroyed 576 cannon, burnt down 214 military storages and captured nearly 7,000 weapons.

In the central part of Nam Bo (South Vietnam proper), our forces and people attacked and rose up continually and simultaneously. They hit the rear bases of the enemy in 8 provincial capitals (My Tho, Ben Tre, Go Cong, Chau Doc, Cao Lanh, Tan An, Moc Hoa and Long Xuyen) and 41 district towns and residential quarters.

In only the first eleven months of 1968 they put out of action 102,883 enemy troops including 69,683 killed, wounded or captured (among the 22,539 Americans), and disorganized 33,200 others, sank or set ablaze 552 ships and combat launches, shot down or damaged 380 planes, destroyed over 40 arms, ammunition and petrol dumps and 143 cannon, forced the enemy to withdraw from nearly 400 positions, liberated 30 more villages and hundreds of hamlets with 353,000 inhabitants.

In particular, along the defence line northwest of Saigon, the armed forces and people in Tay Ninh Province from August 17 to September 21 wiped out many U.S. encampments, killing, wounding or capturing 14,000 enemy troops, including 10,000 GI's. They wiped out 15 battalions and 43 companies of the enemy, including 14 battalions and 28 companies of U.S. troops, destroyed 1,355 military vehicles, including 835 armoured cars and 138 cannon and other heavy guns, shot down 85 planes and sank 10 combat launches.

In 1968, the enemy suffered severe losses in man-power and war means, their rear bases were constantly harassed, the enemy had to pull back into defensive positions around cities, province capitals, district towns and important communications axes in an attempt to maintain their last foothold and keep the puppet army and administration from collapsing.

REPORTS ON PLAF MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH

Bien Hoa Province

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0900 GMT 29 Dec 68 S

[Text] With the determination to frustrate the U.S.-puppet urgent pacification scheme, at 1600 on 22 December, the Bien Hoa regional troops raided a bivouacked enemy unit, comprising a team of pacification tyrants and two companies of the puppet 18th Division, in Phuoc Tho village, Nhon Trach district.

According to preliminary reports, our troops completely annihilated the team of pacification tyrants and these two puppet army companies, seizing a large quantity of weapons and ammunition, including two machineguns and three M-79 guns, and a large amount of military equipment.

Ships Hit

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1505 GMT 28 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 28--The regional armed forces in Tay Ninh Province on December 23 wiped out one U.S. commando company in Bau Co village, west northwest of the province's capital, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY.

On December 13 and 15 they sank one enemy vessel and set aflame two others on the Vam Co Dong River, killing or wounding 60 GI's on board.

On December 16, the regional forces intercepted a naval convoy on the same river, sinking three vessels and setting ablaze two others wiping out 100 American troops on board.

Quang Tri Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1611 GMT 26 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 26--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in Quang Tri Province on December 23 wiped out with artillery fire more than 100 GI's and destroyed 22 vehicles loaded with military material, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY. The enemy came under fire when they began the unloading at Sa Mu position in the northern part of the province.

In addition, the PLAF shells set ablaze five helicopters and two gasoline depots, and demolished a number of barracks.

Earlier, on December 20 and 21, the regional armed forces and guerrillas ambushed the enemy on the Cua Viet River, sinking two military cargo ships and damaging another. Sixteen of the American troops on board were killed.

Binh Long Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0559 GMT 29 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 29--The P.L.A.F. in Binh Long Province (northern Thu Dau Mot) on December 27 mounted a fierce attack on two motorized companies of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division about 9 kilometers northwest of Hon Quang town.

According to Western reports, in spite of the support by helicopter gunships and artillery nearly 30 G.I.'s were killed or wounded.

On the same day, the P.L.A.F. in northern Quang Nam attacked the puppet rangers at Duc Duc, 36 kilometers southwest of Da Nang, killing or wounding 67 of them.

That night, the P.L.A.F. in Can Tho Province slammed big gun fire into the enemy positions in the province capital and Phung Hiep district town, wiping out many agents of the U.S.

Meanwhile, the P.L.A.F. in Rach Gia Province blew up the Long My 87-metre bridge, cutting off the strategic highway.

Darlac Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0552 GMT 3 Jan 69 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 3--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in Darlac at 2:00 a.m. December 28 simultaneously attacked enemy positions in Buon Ho district town and its military sub-sector. Among the targets hit were cantonments of the 1st Battalion of the puppet 45th Regiment, the 291st and 292d Civil Guard companies, nine platoons of field police and militia, one pacification team and puppet troops garrisoning in strategic hamlets on the fringes of the district town.

After 45 minutes fighting, the liberation forces had the situation under their control, killing or wounding about 600 enemy soldiers including 10 U.S. advisers. Among the dead were a U.S. major and a puppet major commanding an accelerated pacification operation that began in the area in early December.

The liberation fighters destroyed a signal centre, three 105mm cannons, one 106.7mm mortar, eight 60mm and 81 mortars [as received], 15 heavy and light machineguns, five military vehicles, eight blockhouses and 50 bunkers, burnt up one petrol depot, two ammunition dumps and seized lots of weapons and other military equipment.

In co-ordination with the attack, people in strategic hamlets rose up, set fire to puppet administrative offices, rounded up cruel enemy agents and set free all the people arrested by the enemy during their operation.

Another G.P.A. report said that in Tay Ninh, the regional liberation forces and guerillas on December 24 shot down five of the enemy copters ferrying troops to Ta Pang in Chau Thanh district for a raid in violation of the N.F.L.'s Christmas cease-fire decision. All U.S. troops aboard the downed copters were killed or wounded. The raid was thus thwarted right on the outset.

The following morning, a puppet commando company came to raid Ta Pang only to be wiped out by the regional liberation forces and guerillas. On the morning of December 26 two other puppet commando companies sent for a raid against the Ta Pang-Ro Bon area suffered the same fate.

Binh Long Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English 1053 GMT 1 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 1st, GPA--The regional forces in Binh Long Province at 10.30 a.m. on December 27 ambushed an enemy convoy in An Loc area along Highway 13, 5km north northwest of Hon Quan provincial capital.

Initial reports said 20 trucks were destroyed, 140 G.I.'s were killed or wounded, and 5 helicopters shot down.

On the afternoon of the following day, an aircraft hunting team of the guerillas knocked down another helicopter 7 km northwest of Hon Quan.

December Action

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East 1618 GMT 2 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 2 CPA--The armed forces and people on the high plateau last December put out of action nearly 1,800 enemy troops, including 534 G.I.'s. They destroyed 119 military vehicles, including 53 tanks and armoured cars, shot down or shattered on the ground 43 aircraft, and set ablaze five ammunition storages and millions of litres of gasoline.

Most of the enemy key base, including those in or around the cities and towns such as airbases, artillery sites, military training camps and regional or divisional headquarters, were assaulted.

On December 13 and 22 a small P.L.A.F. unit stormed the area airfield, destroying four ammunition dumps, setting aflame one gasoline storage and 300 drums of petrol, and destroying a large quantity of other military equipment. The enemy traffic on highways 5, 14, 19, and 21 was often interdicted. Many sections of enemy pipeline from An Khe Fleiku were destroyed.

Last month the P.L.A.F. also broke off many enemy raids on the population around the provincial and district capitals. Besides, many strategic hamlets were wrecked by the minority people. Hundreds of puppet troops left their ranks, compelling the enemy to abandon the Duc Lap, Dar Vinh, Gia Lai, and Ngoc Binh Rua posts in Kontum Province.

MESSAGES FROM ABROAD MARK NFLSV ANNIVERSARY

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0556 GMT 28 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 28--Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, president of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, has received more congratulations from abroad on the 8th founding anniversary of the NFL on 20 December, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY.

The message from Khansouk Keola, representative of the Laotian Patriotic Neutralist Forces, said: In the past 8 years, under the talented and clear-sighted leadership of the South Vietnam NFL, the South Vietnamese people have resolutely carried out a protracted and fierce struggle against the U.S. aggressors and the traitors, their henchmen, to save the country and have repeatedly recorded brilliant victories.

The message continued: The fight of the South Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation, to liberate the south, defend the north and ultimately reunify the country, has stimulated the struggle of the world's people against U.S.-led imperialism and old and new colonialism, especially the patriotic struggle of the Laotian people including the Patriotic Neutralist Forces against the U.S. intervention and aggression.

The message stressed: We are confident that with the close solidarity between the Laotian people and the people in South Vietnam, and the solidarity within the Indochinese People's Front against the U.S. imperialists, and with the support and assistance from the peace and justice-loving people in the world, the struggle for national salvation of the South Vietnamese people and the struggle of the Laotian people against the U.S. intervention and aggression will be crowned with victory.

The message from M. Guabi, president of the National Council for the Liberation of the Congo, said: We are firmly confident that under the leadership of the South Vietnam NFL, the heroic South Vietnamese people will record greater victories in their fight against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen to liberate South Vietnam and reunify their provisionally divided fatherland.

The message from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Indonesia said: The brilliant victories of the South Vietnamese people in their people's war against the U.S. aggressors, the [words indistinct] puppets who are deploying an army of 1,200,000 men equipped with up to date weapons and aircraft constitute a great contribution and encouragement to the struggle of all peoples in the world against U.S. imperialism.

It continued: We fully support the determination of the Vietnamese people to put into practice the appeals of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam NFL and of President Ho Chi Minh and will certainly succeed in overthrowing the traitorous puppet regime to liberate the south defend the north and reunify the fatherland.