

W
file subj.
date sub-cat.
1/69
F

REPORTS ON PLAF MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH

Quang Nam Province

W/69

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1552 GMT 30 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 30 GPA--The guerrillas in the northern part of Quang Nam Province in the 5 days ending January 13 and on January 15 put out of action nearly 250 enemy troops including a company command and a whole puppet platoon. They shot down six planes, destroyed four military vehicles and captured a quantity of weapons and other military equipment.

At noon on January 15, guerrillas in Dai Loc district shot down a command helicopter, some 16 km northwest of Ha Tan township killing eight GI's, including a colonel and a lieutenant colonel of the U.S. 3rd Marine Division.

Later, one American platoon sent to the scene to evacuate the GI corpses fell into an ambush by guerrillas and suffered many casualties. The liberation fighters brought down one CH-47 helicopter.

A mine laid by guerrillas exploded on January 13 at a meeting of puppet and Pak Chong-hui officers in a hotel in Hoang Dieu street, Hoi An town, killing (?three) of them.

On January 10 and 11, the regional forces and guerrillas in Dai Loc district repeatedly intercepted "accelerated pacification" teams, wiping out nearly 80 enemy agents.

On the night of January 10, guerrillas in Hoi An town attacked several enemy positions, putting out of action 94 enemy cruel agents and one company command. The same night, guerrillas wrecked one FMC lorry north of Hoi An, killing 14 enemy troops on board. That day, guerrillas in Duy Xuyen district completely wiped out one militia platoon in Xuyen Quang village.

Also in Dai Loc district, two enemy helicopters were shot down on January 9 and 12 by the liberation fighters in the Mount Ban Co area. All the crewmen on board were killed in the crash.

Quang Nam, Ben Tre

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0308 GMT 31 Jan 69 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 31--In a well-laid ambush on the morning of January 14, guerrillas in northern Quang Nam destroyed a whole convoy of 16 enemy military vehicles at the Hai Van pass, some 10 miles northwest of Da Nang city, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY. Five of the vehicles were loaded with troops, and the rest with military supplies.

In Ben Tre Province, the regional forces and guerrillas on January 4, 7, 10, and 11 repeatedly attacked enemy positions in the provinces capital and Mo Cay district town, while intercepting enemy raids along highways, putting out of action 310 US and puppet troops, shooting down six helicopters, and seizing a large quantity of firearms and other military equipment.

Most remarkable was the interception of American troops helilifted to Hoa Loi hamlet along Highway 26 on January 4, during which guerrillas wiped out 130 GI's, and knocked down six helicopters.

Ships Hit

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East 1641 GMT 2 Feb 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam February 2 GPA--Three big US military ships were set afire on the Long Tau River near Saigon when they came under heavy fire from the regional forces in Bien Hoa Province.

On January 20, the "ship-hunting group" of the regional forces of Bien Hoa Province ambushed and hit with deadly accuracy a 10,000-ton US military cargo ship, setting it ablaze.

Earlier, on January 11 and 12, on the same river, the regional forces hit two US military ships, respectively 10,000 and 12,000 tons.

Kontum Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East 1629 GMT 31 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 31 GPA--In an ambush on January 22 on hill Ngoc Cong Reo, 22 km north of the Kontum provincial capital, four guerrillas shattered with anti-tank guns two helicopters that had just landed. The guerrillas carried on the fight till dusk, killing 46 enemy.

The same day, another guerrilla group mounted a surprise attack on an enemy post at Ngoc Vin area, 24 km north of Kontum town. The post and five underground bunkers were destroyed and 20 enemy troops wiped out.

On January 17, a surprise attack was launched by guerrillas in the province on an artillery site and a US company C.P. The attack resulted in nine American casualties. Ambushing the enemy on Highway 14 on January 18, 19 and 23, the guerrillas in the area knocked out 33 enemy including 20 Americans, and destroyed five military vehicles including two tanks.

Da Nang Area

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1632 GMT 31 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 31 GPA--In a lightning attack on the US logistic base at Bau Mac, north of Da Nang town on January 17, the PLAF destroyed eight ammunition storages and 31 military vehicles, and wiped out some 50 GI's, a preliminary report said. The PLAF fighters smashed their way through enemy's defences, and played havoc in the base. On the morning of January 3, the PLAF also attacked a logistic base of the US 3 km west of Quy Nhon town, which together with other bases, caters for enemy forces in the high plateaux and in Phu Yen and Binh Dinh provinces.

At the start, the PLAF blasted three posts and neatly wiped out two guard squads without meeting significant resistance. The PLAF fighters then rushed into the storage area, setting fire to oil dumps and munition depots. The flames lit up Quy Nhon town till dawn while explosions occurred in a chain to the helplessness of 30 fire-engines.

Initial report said four oil dumps of eight million litres were burnt down! And 40 ammunition storages and 40 piles of war means destroyed.

Long An Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1639 GMT 2 Feb 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam February 2 (GPA)--A puppet main force battalion was heavily decimated by the regional forces and guerrillas of Duc Hoa district, Long An Province, just northwest of Saigon, on January 25.

In an attempt to carry out their "accelerated pacification" plan in the area northwest of Saigon, the US puppets had sent this battalion, with the support of aircraft and artillery, to make a sweep in Tan Phu village. Within 20 minutes' fighting, the enemy battalion was heavily trounced, and had 150 men wiped out on the spot and 40 others captured.

Tay Ninh, Gia Lai

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1528 GMT 30 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 29 GPA--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in Tay Ninh Province in the early hours of January 25 launched an attacks on the puppet "civil guards" at the Tra Cao strategic hamlet, 10 km south of Go Dau township, killing or wounding 65 enemy troops and smashing the defences of the hamlet. On January 25, one U.S. battalion and many military vehicles were sent to Tra Cao to rescue the surrounded "civil guards".

At midnight on the same day, the PLAF mounted another surprise attack on the enemy's encampment. After 2 hours of fighting, the PLAF wiped out one American battalion and one U.S. artillery company, destroyed 38 military vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars, and four artillery pieces, shot down five helicopters and seized a large quantity of weapons and other war supplies. At the same time, the PLAF shelled the puppet battalion's cantonment, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

In Gia Lai Province on the central Vietnam high plateaux, within the fortnight ending January 24, the PLAF wiped out nearly 1,200 enemy troops including 350 GI's.

In the period under review, the PLAF also destroyed nine 105-mm and 106-7-mm guns and shot down or destroyed 15 helicopters.

The PLAF victories were won during counterattacks against two major operations launched by six battalions of the Saigon army and one American battalion in the Chu Pong mountain area, some 38 km southwest of Pleiku town.

More on Tay Ninh

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1513 GMT 3 Feb 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam February 3 GPA--In two consecutive attacks on January 27 on two puppet battalions in the Tapang Robon area, Tay Ninh Province, the People's Liberation Armed Forces completely wiped out four enemy companies, totalling more than 400 men.

The P.L.A.F. captured a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment.

The two puppet battalions had been moved into the area to take pressure off the Tapang Robon post. Right at the first minutes of the fight, the enemy lost one company completely put out of action. The rest of them retreated to a place some 4 kilometres away, but were violently assaulted by the P.L.A.F. at night and lost three more companies.

The Tapang Robon position had been encircled solidly by the P.L.A.F. from January 15 despite the constant flow of reinforcements.

My Tho Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1612 GMT 1 Feb 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam February 1st GPA--The regional forces in My Tho Province on January 27 attacked an American platoon in Hai Cu village, along Highway 4. In a few minutes' fighting, they completely wiped out this platoon and seized a quantity of firearms and other military equipment. At the same time, the liberation forces shelled a U.S. cantonment along the same highway, killing or wounding seven GI's.

In northern Quang Nam, the regional forces on January 14 intercepted an "accelerated pacification" raid conducted by one puppet battalion supported by 13 armoured vehicles in Loc Phuoc village, Dai Loc district.

The patriotic forces waited till the enemy came within close range before opening up, nearly knocking down the leading company, then charged the rear company, heavily trouncing two other companies.

All told, in the noon-to-dusk fight, more than 200 enemy were put out of action and two armoured cars destroyed. The enemy had to give up the raid.

Fringes of Cities

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0535 GMT 4 Feb 69 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 4--The PLAF on February 2 assaulted a position defended by puppet marines southeast of Tay Ninh town and at the same time intercepted armoured units of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division in Go Dau Ha area in the same province, Western sources reported.

On the night of February 1-2 they put in artillery barrages, then followed up with a ground assault on a cantonment of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division at a rubber plantation about 60 km northwest of Saigon, in Thu Dau Mot Province. U.S. sources rated casualties of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division at 52. One helicopter was shot down.

In area closer to Saigon, the PLAF on February 1 several times took the enemy under fire. Some of the battles took place in rice-fields more than 20km from the city.

The U.S. Infantry Division had to throw four of its companies, in three waves, into an engagement just southwest of Saigon that lasted till near midnight, the same sources said.

The following day, more actions by the PLAF occurred some 35km southwest of Saigon. Fighting raged throughout the day, and by dusk a great number of GI's had been wiped out, Western news agencies reported.

The first days of February also were marked by many fierce attacks by the PLAF on the fringes of several towns and provincial capitals in the plain of central Vietnam, especially Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An and Quang Ngai.

In Thua Thien Province, the PLAF on the night of February 2-3 shelled two positions of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division south of Hue. Targets hit included a command post and a military radio relay station, sources added.