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EXPERIENCES IN GIA LAM DISTRICT DURING YEARS OF ALLIED BOMBING TOLD

Article by Nguyen Nham, Secretary of the Gia Lam District Party Committee: "Party Organization and People of Gia Lam District Increase Alertness and Stand Ready to Fight and Defend Well in Order to Defeat the Enemy Under Any Circumstances"; Hanoi, Hanoi Moi, Vietnamese, 22 August 1970, p 2/

The resolution on local military efforts recently issued by the standing committee of the Municipal Party Committee evaluated the growth of Hanoi from a standpoint of local military efforts during the four years of fighting to defeat the U.S. aggressor's war of destruction against Hanoi.

We are in total agreement with this resolution and will make plans to disseminate and study it in all party organizations and among all cadres, self-defense militia soldiers, and the people in order to fully understand it. We will use it as a basis to successfully implement the ten local military tasks of Hanoi.

Having experienced two resistances, Gia Lam district has developed the capital's traditions of revolutionary struggle and armed struggle. With regard to military matters, Gia Lam district is special in that it lies on major lines of communications and has both industrial areas and heavily populated urban areas. During the resistance against France, in spite of the fact that the enemy enveloped the city, the army and people of Gia Lam fought heroically under party leadership. The guerrillas on Route 5 and Route 1 derailed many trains and destroyed hundreds of enemy armored vehicles. The guerrillas from Nha hamlet in Long Bien, the Quang Trung guerrillas of Trau Quy, and the Quyet Thang guerrillas of Kim Son often killed the enemy with crude but effective weapons.

During the recent four years of fighting against the U.S. war of destruction, the army and people of Gia Lam also fought heroically and performed glorious battlefield exploits. The militia from the township of Trau Quy used rifles to shoot down a U.S. Thunderjet on 21 August 1967 and was decorated. The many brilliant examples of sacrifice by such war dead as Do Thi Minh of Yen Vien, Do Van Dan of Duong Ha, Nguyen Thi Dieu of Ninh Hiep, and Hoang Thi Van of Giang Bien illustrate the determined fighting spirit of our capital.

The examples set in forceful, continuous, and clever fighting against the enemy by the machine gun team of Luong Thi Think of Viet Hung, the Giang Bien reconnaissance team, Co (member of the Yen Bien militia), Tich (an old party member from M goc Ghuy), and the people of the townships of Duong Quang, Phu Dong, Yen Vien, and Gia Thuy which captured American pilots alive, often astounded everyone. In order to implement the policy of determined fighting against the enemy set by the Municipal Party Committee, the Gia Lam party organization set up the network of anti-aircraft fire against low flying planes in all townships, enterprises, and agencies. In addition to organizing units for direct participation in combat, the Gia Lam self-defense militia also acquired forces which "held both the plow and the rifle in hand," both produced and fought, and stood ready to fight the enemy at any time and any place. Following the concept of "firing upon the enemy with any available weapon, the Gia Lam self-defense militia used all types of infantry weapons supplied so that they could fight the enemy under any circumstances and actively fight against the attitude of considering infantry weapons lightly. In addition, the Gia Lam self-defense militia also closely cooperated with national air defense forces, substituted for the artillery when necessary, carried ammunition, dug placements, and so forth.

It was necessary to take necessary defensive measures as well as offensive action. The Gia Lam party organization totally enforced that policy by digging thousands of various types of trenches and guaranteeing that every individual had three or four places where he could shelter, as directed by the Municipal Party Committee. It was primarily because of those good defensive measures that little damage was done by the thousands of bombs dropped on the township of Yen Bien; and they were able to safely maintain lives and property in spite of many enemy attacks in the township of Thuong Thanh, Giang Bien, Viet Hung, Long Bien, and so forth. They were able to overcome the effects of enemy attacks and quickly stabilize activities with no ill effects upon production and work because of the proper organization of engineer units to disarm bombs, casualty units, fire fighting units, damage control units, people's rear services teams, and so forth. As a result of those good defenses the people of Gia Lam were able to stay close to the fields, accelerate production, and meet the quota of five tons of paddy per hectare while fighting the enemy during the most violent years of the war.

In strictly enforcing the resolution of the standing committee of the Municipal Party Committee on local military efforts, the party organization and the people of Gia Lam district are developing the accomplishments which have been attained and are determined to overcome the remaining weaknesses. The party organization will strive to do well in the tasks assigned by the resolution: to constantly maintain vigilance and be prepared with offensive and defensive plans; to do well in maintaining order and flood control; to strive to build up, strengthen, and improve the quality of the self-defense militia, to perfectly organize the corps of cadres, and to improve training efforts; to do well in war time motivation; to properly enforce all policies on the wounded, families of war dead, military families, and so forth.