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CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF WAR BOOTY

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[Unattributed article published in April issue of TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Let Us Collect All War Booty and Keep It in Good Condition"]

[Text] War booty constitutes an important source of material and technical supplies for our armed forces. It belongs to the revolution, the people and the armed forces and is the result of the blood and bones of our combatants and compatriots. It is the duty of our cadres, combatants and people in the newly liberated areas to collect all war booty and to keep it in good condition. The fulfillment of this task reflects the quality, ethics and sense of discipline of our revolutionary army.

First of all, we must quickly collect all war booty: weapons, equipment, food, medicine and military supplies and documents. We must not underestimate the importance of any of it and must collect all of it. We must pay special attention to preventing the enemy from destroying items of great scientific and technical value.

For this purpose, prior to combat we must draw up plans and prepare the forces to collect war booty and must determine the areas and routes for keeping, moving, receiving and handling it. After our combatants have exterminated the enemy troops, gained control of the battlefields, and continue to rush forward to fight the enemy, elements specializing in collecting war booty must start to work at once to devise plans for handling collected materials. Items that can be transported to pre-set areas must be moved at once. Items that cannot yet be moved or which need to be retained must be guarded. We must absolutely not allow any unit to stop fighting to collect war booty.

Close control and command must be exerted over elements charged with collecting war booty. We must see to it that they do not work in a disorderly and disorganized manner and we must take preventive measures to protect them from accidents which might lead to injury or death.

Units in charge of protecting occupied areas must clear the battlefields and properly organize collection work. We must carry out careful inspections to detect all weapons, munitions, food and medicine that the enemy has hidden in various storage places, underground tunnels and living quarters or thrown into rivers, lakes and ponds.

Along with using specialized teams to look for and collect war booty, we must also rely on and motivate the people to participate. The mobilization of the local people must be carried out under uniform guidance. Moreover, to promptly collect weapons and equipment, we must pay attention to having necessary technical personnel and facilities ready. We may use the technical personnel of the puppet army and administration and even puppet troops who have been captured or have surrendered to our forces.

War booty must be kept in good condition after it has been collected. Due attention must be paid both to quality and quantity. We must make inventories and carry out registration, with emphasis on the quantity, quality and categories of war booty so as to facilitate its management and use. We must take measures to prevent the enemy and dishonest people from destroying or stealing it. We must also see to it that the booty is not lost while being moved or after it has reached its destination. We must insure that no one is allowed to use war booty as his own property.

We must overcome difficulties and create conditions for orderly storage and must take measures to protect war booty, especially weapons, equipment and munitions, from being damaged by the sun and rain. With regard to modern weapons and equipment, we must insure that they are kept intact in the course of collection and transportation, as well as after they have reached their destination.

We must guard against the tendency to sort out war booty in an unauthorized and disorderly manner, because this may lead to damage or loss of various parts of collected weapons and equipment.

With regard to plants, storage places, and production centers, we must organize appropriate guard service and must promptly form managerial boards.

It is the common duty of all cadres and combatants to keep war booty in good condition. It is necessary for rear service and technical cadres and personnel to develop their key role.

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM