

**PEOPLE'S WAR AGAINST
U.S. air force**



A combat village



Ready for...

... the fighting





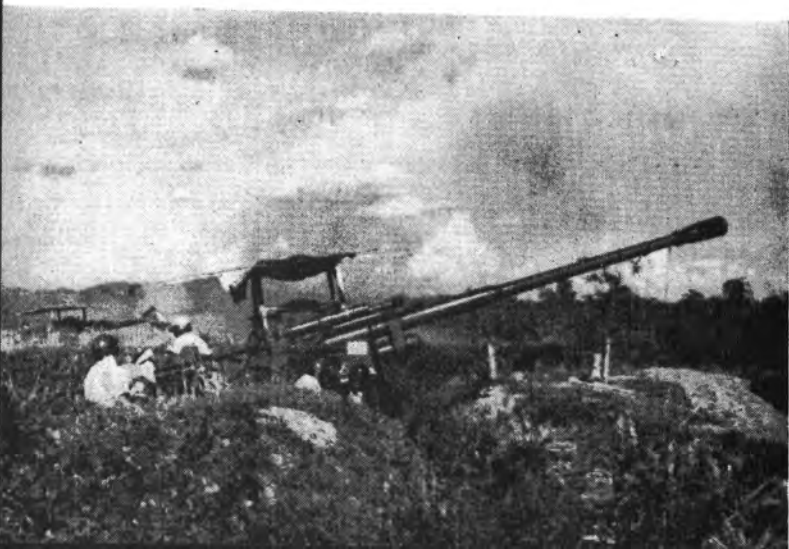
Simple weapons coupled
with sophisticated weapons





Hauling of A.A. batteries

The gun that took part in the downing of the
1000th U.S. aircraft



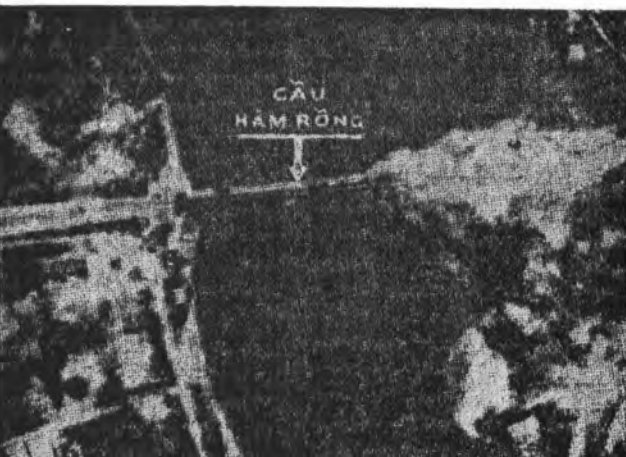


Young pilots

On each hamlet, not few people know how to unprime time-bombs



Collins Henry Haines, pilot
of the 2000th U.S. plane
downed in the D.R.V.N.



Ham Rong bridge
(Thanh Hoa prov-
ince) a chosen
target of the U.S.
air force, remains
after two years of
escalation; it is in
its neighbourhood
that the 2000th
American plane
was downed in
North Viet Nam



SOUTH VIET NAM IN 1967



A snapshot which tells much about the G.I.'s fate

V. JOHNSON IN THE QUAGMIRE

In May 1966, a spokesman of the U.S. command in Saigon declared: "Granted we cannot win the war in the South. But we will win the war in the South in the North by breaking the North."

U.S. war escalation through air raids against the North thus sprang from a defensive position and was aimed at retrieving a disastrous situation in the South.

It had been planned as early as 1963, following the engagement at Ap Bac which tolled the knell of "special warfare". American politicians were then talking about "extending the war to North Viet Nam". Among the various plans for escalation revealed by American news agencies, was Plan Rostow 6 which laid down three phases: blockade of the Haiphong port, naval attacks on North Vietnam's coast, air attacks on North Viet Nam. This plan, later revised, served as a basis for the offensive on the D.R.V.N.

On June 1 and 2, 1964, American top brass meeting in Honolulu licked the project into shape in the hope of shoring up "special warfare" in South Viet Nam, avoiding the massive involvement of American G.I.'s—

an adventure considered as little desirable, intimidating the Vietnamese people and forcing them to "bring the war from the battlefield to the conference table".

But the White House's calculations proved illusory.

In South Viet Nam the situation evolved from bad to worse for the Americans and their flunkys. The resistance hardened. Said the N.F.L.: "For one blow struck by the American imperialists at the North, we shall strike at them five, ten times harder."

In late 1964, a few months after some tentative raids on the D.R.V.N., the victory won by the Liberation forces at Binh Gia heralded a period of "quick deliquescence" of the Saigon army and administration. The Pentagon decided to resort to continuous and intensive escalation against the North.

But this could not save the U.S. "special warfare" from collapse towards the middle of 1965. Washington resigned itself to sending an American expeditionary force to South Viet Nam to shoulder "military affairs", thus entering the dangerous phase of "limited warfare".

The first U.S. "dry-season strategic counter-offensive" (November 1965-March 1966) resulted in the loss of 114,000 troops, among them 43,000 G.I.'s (31 infantry, armoured and artillery battalions, among them 21 American ones, 148 companies, among them 22 American ones, entirely wiped out); of 1,440 aircraft and 1,310 military vehicles, among them 330 tanks.

The second U.S. "dry-season strategic counter-offensive" started in October 1966 was aimed at two targets; to "seek and destroy the Vietcong" and to "pacify

rural areas". In spite of the mobilization of a million men, among them over 400,000 American G.I.'s, it ended with a disastrous balance-sheet. By April 1967, 175,000 troops, among them 85,000 American and satellite soldiers, had been put out of action (27 infantry battalions, among them 8 American ones, 225 infantry companies, among them 71 American ones, 16 armour squadrons, among them 15 American ones, 6 artillery battalions, among them 5 American ones, were entirely annihilated), 1,800 aircraft shot down or destroyed on the ground, and 3,985 military vehicles, among them 1,785 tanks and armoured cars, blown up.

The puppet troops, 90 per cent of whom have been turned to "rural pacification" tasks, are unable to hold out before the surging tide of guerilla warfare. During the seven months of the last dry season, 90,000 of them were put out of action. Hundreds of "pacification teams" were annihilated on the spot. According to still incomplete figures, from December 1966 to February 1967, 5,000 "pacification" agents were liquidated and thousands of others deserted. Even in key regions of "pacification" all operations were countered and the puppet administration machine disintegrated. Says *U. S. News and World Report* (March 23, 1967): "The adversary still controls 80 per cent of the territory of South Viet Nam."

Ambassador Cabot Lodge and his assistant, who was specially responsible for "pacification", were dismissed.

The best-defended American bases have been repeatedly struck, some at close intervals: 46 attacks have

been launched on 23 airfields, accounting for 1,100 planes destroyed, and 6,000 personnel, most of them American pilots and technicians, put out of action.

All attempts at stabilizing the puppet regime have proved fruitless. Says the French journalist Max Clos in *Le Figaro* (Feb. 15, 1967): "There remains only the appearance of a State. The administration is corrupt and inefficient. Members of the government are less preoccupied about the war than about sordid plots to eliminate one another. It is no secret that General Thieu, the head of State, and General Ky, the head of government, are mortal enemies."

Stressing the strategic importance on both the military and political planes of the victory won by the South Vietnamese people during the last dry season, the N.F.L. declared in a communique issued in May 1967:

"The enemy have achieved none of the targets they had set to themselves at the start of their counter-offensive. Not only have they failed to annihilate the Liberation army and the guerilla forces, but they have suffered heavy losses, the heaviest so far. Not only have they failed to pacify the countryside, but the regions occupied by them have shrunk. Not only have they failed to consolidate the morale of the puppet army and administration, but this morale has sunk lower than ever. The American G.I.'s are in no higher spirit, while Washington's flunkeys are seeking to cut one another's throat."

As for U.S. air escalation against the North, it had so utterly failed that at the beginning of 1967, it had to be "completed" (the word was used by

Westmoreland) by new steps: intensive bombing of Hanoi, Haiphong, economic centres, industrial enterprises, and populous areas, bombardment of coastal regions by U.S. vessels, shelling by long-range artillery positioned south of the demilitarized zone, laying of mines on rivers, etc.

But all frantic and devilish activities undertaken by the White House could not get it out of the Viet Nam quagmire, as stressed by the Viet Nam People's Army High Command in a communique issued on June 6, 1967 on the occasion of the downing of the 2,000th U.S. aircraft over the D.R.V.N.:

“The army and people of heroic North Viet Nam have foiled the U.S. war of destruction in its essential aims. They have scored brilliant successes, shot down 2,000 U.S. aircraft, put out of action and captured hundreds of American air pirates, damaged and sunk 76 American and puppet war vessels.

“By attacking North Viet Nam, the American aggressors had hoped to intimidate our people and shake their will to struggle for national salvation. But our people in both zones have won victory after victory. The longer they fight on, the higher their determination, the firmer their will, the greater their strength and the stronger their position.

“By attacking North Viet Nam, the American aggressors had hoped to wreck our people's socialist construction, and prevent them from supporting their Southern brothers and sisters. But, united in a monolithic bloc, our army and people are determined to defend and build the socialist North, support with all

their hearts and all their strength the liberation revolution in the South, fulfil their task as a great rear base for the great heroic front.

“Advancing in their victorious surge forward, the armed forces and people of both zones of our country are resolved to foil all U.S. aggressive designs. The sacred resistance of our army and people is entering a decisive phase. We shall have to face many more trials, but never have we obtained so many great successes and created such favourable conditions. We are heading for complete victory.”

Hanoi, June 1967