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WOUNDED VOLUNTEER PERSONALLY KILLS 10 AMERICANS

[Article; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 30 October 1968, p 3]

Being deeply resentful of the Americans, Vu Dinh Van has volunteered to join the Liberation troops in Darlac. At his request, he was assigned to the firing squad and to take charge of a light machinegun.

Receiving the gun, Van consecrated to train himself technically and strategically, and to take very good care of the gun. During the attack of the provincial capital Ban Me Thuot, Van, the first time in action, fought very bravely. Crossing the thick enemy gunfire, Van advanced to put out of action the enemy fire points creating favorable conditions. With his light machinegun, Van put out the enemy fire at three blockhouses and one heavy machinegun position. Van also used grenades to give the survivors in the blockhouses a "coup de grace." The puppet company commander, stubborn, tried to resist, but like lightning, Van rushed to him, slammed him down, seized his gun and killed him simultaneously with another stubborn enemy.

In the second battle, Van and 27 comrades defeated an American battalion. That day, the Americans in Ban Me Thuot city engaged in action trying to lift the siege. They advanced into Van's unit lying in ambush. Van, very calm, waited until they approached and did not open fire until they were only one meter from him. He also threw hand grenades at them. The Americans died like hay being cut down; the survivors, panic-stricken, fled in confusion and even stepped over one another.

Wounded in the leg, Van continued to operate his light machinegun and did not spare a single escapee.

Bleeding too much from his second wound, Van was advised to take refuge in the rear but he refused to leave his combat position.

In this battle, Van personally killed ten Americans, contributing in great part to the victory over an American battalion which suffered 120 men killed. After these two combats, Van was elected "outstanding emulation model" of the unit and was rewarded with two medals of "Liberation Achievement", one 3rd and one 2nd class.

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