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A NIGHT OF COMBAT WITH THE AMERICAN DIVISION

[Article from information of the Liberation Press Agency; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 16 January 1969, p 3]

It was late at night on 17 November; the base of the command post of Brigade 198 of the American Division in Hoa Van was silent. The bright beams of their electric light bulbs outlined the patrolling American soldiers. They did not know anything, although the Liberation Army was tightening its encirclement around them with every passing minute. The fighters responsible for penetration had come close to the enemy's command post.

At 0012, the order to fire was given. The explosion of grenades and hand grenades and the noise of sub-machine guns of our fighters roared loudly. The resistance of the Americans was overwhelmed at the very beginning. Several enemy blockhouses at the bridgehead and their defenses were torn down instantly.

The spearhead cell of Ky, Mao and Tai which deployed close to the enemy command post, rushed quickly to attack the area where US commanders were located, taking house after house and killing one group of enemy after another. The three storied house of the American Brigade Commander was also torn down.

The cell in charge of taking the bridgehead had secretly blown up one blockhouse with hand grenades, wiped out the enemy, then seized control of the bridgehead and gave support to the assault cells to advance and attack the enemy from the very beginning to the end of the battle.

One mess cadre who recently supplemented an assault team fought very skillfully as a "sharp spearhead." No sooner had he heard the order, quick as lightning, he rushed straight to the enemy's rear service zone and blew up a number of depots with grenades.

The battle developed favorably. The surviving enemy slipped into bunkers and lay quietly, but our fighters destroyed bunker after bunker and buried their bodies with explosive charges.

Within a little more than ten minutes of fighting, the enemy base in Hoa Van was covered with smoke and fire. Two hundred and fifty American bandits (including 80 officers from Captain to Major) were wiped out; the U. S. Brigade 198 Command Post was heavily damaged; 32 barracks (including some trenches), seven blockhouses and eight bunkers were torn down or destroyed; two power generators, one radio site and many other enemy war facilities were damaged or destroyed.

The guns in Hoa Van were roaring noisily while a battalion of the U.S. Brigade 198 stationed on Mieu Mountain was also firing deafeningly. Fighter Ngo led a three man cell to carry out his "spearhead" responsibility in the battle. As the guns fired, the whole cell uniformly dashed forward. The noise of sub-machine guns and the explosion of grenades and hand grenades roared in the area of the U.S. battalion Command Post, at the artillery gun emplacement, in the area where the power plant is located.... The enemy's 175 mm. Howitzer emplacement became ineffective. Four artillery pieces fell to the ground.

Fighter Chan alone tore down three enemy barracks, destroyed one cannon and damaged a number of others.

Despite the enemy's rain of gunfire, fighters Son and Loi cooperated closely to carry out the pledge they had made before the battle: To erect a flag of the Liberation Front on the summit of Mieu Mountain.

In the light of the burning blaze of the enemy post, the Liberation flag waved brilliantly, strongly encouraging the fighters of the Liberation Army to annihilate the enemy. After ten minutes of fighting, the fighters completely seized three significant points of the enemy base on Mieu Mountain, killed 252 Americans, wiped out one artillery company and one U.S. battalion command post, destroyed seven cannons, six heavy machine guns, three armored cars, one helicopter HU-1A, two power generator shelters, 43 barracks, two military warehouses, one 175mm howitzer ammunition dump, 16 blockhouses and bunkers. One ten-meter high fortress was also destroyed.

Upon hearing the firing from Ly Tin Township the Americans stationed on Ho Giang Hill rang the alarm in fright. Their guns fired competitively, attempting to intercept the attacks by the Liberation Army.

"All for the victory of the battle," the Liberation Army troops encouraged each other in launching attacks through the enemy's rain of fire, continually attacking the enemy in his den..... Quick as lightning, Fighter X rushed into the enemy commanders' quarters, took over house after house and felled 40 Americans on the spot with sub-machine gun and grenades.

Seeing that the enemy defense blockhouse was not yet destroyed, fighter Huan quickly went to his left and attacked the enemy with hand

grenades so that his assault cell could dash forward to knock down the enemy there.

Within a short time, the fighters of the Liberation Army ended the Ho Giang battle, wiped out 123 Americans, blew up one ammunition dump, destroyed one cannon, torn down 19 barracks, six blockhouses, one power plant and a large quantity of other enemy war facilities.

CSO: 3520-P