



AP BAC

MAJOR BATTLES
IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1963 — 1964

TRUNG LINH & VUONG THANH DINH
NGUYEN O'S *AP BAC*

AP BAC

MAJOR VICTORIES OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
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NGUYEN O. S.

AP BAC

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A SPAN OF TEN YEARS

Early in November 1964, when Johnson and Goldwater were endeavouring by all magical means to deceive the American people, abusing each other, and hotly contending for the U.S. presidency, a photo* of a sad tall man in his white short-sleeved shirt standing among the wrecks of the U.S. planes, was dispatched from South Vietnam, a territory which does not recognize itself as a U.S. new-type colony and military base. It was General Taylor, the former Chairman of Joint Chiefs-of-Staff of the U.S. armed forces, especially appointed "U.S. ambassador" — in substance Governor-General of colonies — to South Vietnam to lead the U.S. war of aggression. He looked depressed because he was losing the battle. At the Bienhoa airfield he saw by himself the proof of his bitter defeat in the night of October 31, 1964, : 59 up-to-date U.S. planes were destroyed and damaged, including 21 B. 57 supersonic strategic jet bombers, one U-2 reconnaissance plane, and 300 U.S. aggressors killed and wounded.

The attack on Bienhoa air-base was not the first and the last defeat suffered by the five-star general boasted

* Photo on the front cover and inside.

by the U.S. ruling circles and papers of being an outstanding militaryman, a talented diplomat... Only 34 days later, on December 4, 1964, another battle was given whose result was hailed by progressive mankind: Binhgia battle, taking place near Saigon and Vungtau, the safest rears of the U.S. in the South, in which 14 U.S. M. 113 armoured amphibious cars were annihilated, 13 military vehicles destroyed, 24 planes shot down, 11 others damaged, many enemy units of marines, commandos and rangers killed and captured, the Binhgia strategic hamlet and the Datdo military sub-sector razed to the ground and hundreds of tons of weapons taken.

And the Americans went from defeat to defeat, before Bienhoa were the defeats at Apbac, Pleim'rong, Chala, Thanhphu, Hiephoa, Vinhthuan, and the sinking of the 15,000-ton aircraft-carrier Card right in Saigon port... After the setback at Bienhoa were those at Binhgia, Pleiku (February 7, 1965), Vietan (February 7), Soctrang (February 8), Quinhon (February 10). When this book is published there will be many other defeats like Bienhoa, Binhgia, the deluges dragging the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys to a new Dienbienphu.

As a Vietnamese saying goes:

In the battle between a grasshopper and a chariot,

Who would believe the chariot — not the grasshopper — was crushed.

Considering the military potentials in the first days of war South Vietnam was only a grasshopper at the side of the giant aggressive chariot; U.S. imperialism. But the initial military strength did not decide the final outcome in a war. In the millenary history of Vietnam more than ten times the Vietnamese people,

with a small force from the outset, had crushed giant aggressive chariots. Recently, the French colonialists' chariot had been overturned at Dienbienphu. Today that of the U.S. imperialists is following in the wake of its former fellow-traveller, French colonialism.

* * *

In the U.S. scheme of aggression, South Vietnam is a strategic position of great importance. On January 15, 1954 J.F. Dulles, former U.S. Secretary of State, said: "From the strategic point of view, American interests in the Far East are closely linked with what is usually called the string of offshore islands. These islands have two bases on the mainland: Korea in the North and Indochina in the South." After the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina, the Americans plotted to replace the French and rule over South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, turning these countries into new-typed colonies and military bases for their attack on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. After their occupation of the whole of Indochina they will encircle, threaten, and attack the other socialist countries from the South-East.

South Vietnam, rich and densely populated, having good harbours for naval bases and favourable topographic conditions for ground and air bases, is the Americans' ideal spring-board. Therefore the U.S. do their utmost to cling to South Vietnam in defiance of the international legality of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina which recognized the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

On July 21, 1954, one day after the signing of the Geneva Agreements, U.S. President Eisenhower declared that the U.S.A. is not bound by the clauses of the Geneva Conference. On May 13, 1957, Ngo Dinh Diem, a lackey trained by the Americans and brought to South Vietnam to be "President" blatantly said: "The U.S. border extends to the 17th parallel."

To defend this "new border", up to now the Americans have introduced into South Vietnam over 35,000 American militarymen, more than 2,000 planes including B. 57, F. 101, F. 105 jet planes, 800 warships of all types, 450 armoured cars, built 169 airfields, including 7 of Bienhoa type for the landing of jet planes, 11 naval bases with up-to-date equipment, established a network of strategic communication lines linking together all the regions in South Vietnam, and a system of information and liaison linking the U.S. command in Saigon with those in Thailand, the Pacific and Washington. The mercenary troops set up by the U.S. in South Vietnam comprising some battalions of defeated puppet soldiers of the French expeditionary corps in 1954, have amounted to nine regular divisions together with 300,000 civil guards, militiamen, shock-policemen, etc., over half a million in all. Before the founding of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation the Americans and their lackeys have launched over 80,000 terroristic raids, tortured 700,000 persons to disability, and jailed 400,000 people.

To directly command the war against the South Vietnamese people, the U.S. openly replaced the disguised "M.A.A.G." set up in 1954 by the "U.S. command in Saigon" in February 1962, which is now led by a

four-star general together with over 20 generals and some hundreds of field-officers. In August 1964 they set up the joint U.S.-traitor command blanketing the whole military and civil administration in Saigon. Not only were the "Staley-Taylor plan" and the "McNamara plan" mapped out by the Americans, but the plan for each operation must be also approved by the U.S. command.

Today, after their bitter failure in South Vietnam the U.S. intend to find a way out by scheming to extend the war. They are bringing pressure to bear upon neutral Cambodia to threaten her and wantonly bombing the Laotian liberation zone. As regards the Democratic Republic of Vietnam the provocations by U.S. planes from the Seventh Fleet and South Vietnam have become routine operations since August 5, 1964. However, the more they adventurously extend the war the more the noose tightens around their neck.

* * *

Right in the first days in South Vietnam the U.S. and their lackeys have knocked against a steel fortress built with the popular masses' revolutionary consciousness. In 1954 to implement the Geneva Agreements the southern people had to let their armed forces regroup in the North and temporarily alienate from the revolutionary power set up immediately after the August 1945 Revolution and unceasingly strengthened during the nine-year resistance war against the French colonialists. Nevertheless, they are those who rose up, seized power, crushed the regime of repression and exploitation, waged

the resistance war and were victorious at Dienbienphu. It is as victors that they welcomed an opponent who came to take over South Vietnam. From the outset with bare hands they opposed the strength of their solidarity against foreign aggression to the might of the weapons and all forms of savage repression by the cruel devils. From 1954 to 1959 the political struggle repelled the enemy's biggest scheme of crushing the revolution in the South in order to attack the North. From the beginning of 1959 guerilla units came into being and the political struggle was combined with armed struggle for self-defence. On December 20, 1960, the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation was set up.

"To meet the aspirations of our compatriots the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation came into being, pledging itself to shoulder the historic task of liberating our people from the present yoke of slavery" (Manifesto of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation).

"Under the Front's banner of solidarity, the southern people have unceasingly developed to a high degree their self-reliance and determination to fight and to win, persistently overcome every difficulty, and successively recorded victory after victory. As the U.S. and their lackeys have suffered repeated defeats, the more they carry out their perfidious schemes the more deeply they sink in the quagmire" (Review by the Liberation Press Agency on December 20, 1964, on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the founding of the Front).

The tide of the struggle combining political struggle with armed struggle has risen up to become a maelstrom sweeping away the "strategic hamlets"—dubbed "new-life

hamlets" in 1964—, disguised concentration camps which the U.S. imperialists and their stooges regarded as the latest experiment, the most effective measure and the key project of their "special war" in South Vietnam. The Staley-Taylor plan to "pacify" South Vietnam within 18 months, the first stage of the "special war", has gone bankrupt, the McNamara plan to "pacify" South Vietnam in two years ending 1965 has proved no better than the Staley-Taylor plan. In the military field, the contradiction between concentration and dispersion of their forces cannot be solved; to gather the forces in one region would expose the others to attacks; to scatter the troops and extend the sphere of occupation would thin out the forces and let them be easily decimated and wiped out; to concentrate the main effectives for large-scale raiding operations would expose them to big counter-attacks, and make them incur bigger losses in men and weapons and wealth. In the meantime the so-called Saigon "government" faces a constant crisis, and is disintegrating beyond remedy. During 15 months from November 1, 1963 till now there were 10 coups d'état in Saigon. The present "government" is torn by internal strife and is violently taken to task by the people. As the continual political crisis of the puppet administration creates a desperate state, the White House, panic-stricken, has to say that it seriously harms the U.S. war efforts.

The more the U.S. imperialists and their stooges fight, the more they are beaten, and the more they are beaten, the more they are driven to the wall. The more the people and Liberation Army in South Vietnam fight, the stronger they become, and the greater their victories; the

armed forces have grown up rapidly, the ranks of the political army have swollen with every passing day and their ever greater mettle has overpowered the enemy. From 1962 till now the total count of people participating in demonstrations and meetings in Saigon, in towns and countryside, has reached 100 million. Guerilla warfare has woven a network of death around the enemy. The prestige of the South Vietnam revolution and the influence of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation have become greater and greater. The world's people are sympathizing with and supporting the just and certainly victorious struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

On December 20, 1964, Liberation Press Agency released a communiqué summing up the achievements of the Front:

“After more than 10 years of armed intervention and aggression in South Vietnam, including nearly 4 years of atrocious “special war” the U.S. imperialists have not only failed to quench the South Vietnamese people's revolutionary movement but also have been compelled to shrink the areas under their control. Now they are being driven into cities and towns, and facing the powerful struggle of the people there. On the contrary the areas liberated by the South Vietnamese people have constantly expanded, stretching from the immense areas of the Western Plateaux and from the Midlands of South Central Vietnam to the fertile lowlands and densely populated areas in the Mekong delta.

“Before the great prestige of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the broad masses of the people from all walks of life, religious believers,

intellectuals, industrialists, tradesmen, personalities and patriots living in the enemy's controlled areas turn little by little to the Front, and unite under the Front's banner to participate more and more keenly in the struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their stooges".

* * *

The Liberation army was set up and has grown up in the hard struggle. Early in 1959 it was the scattered guerilla units whose nuclei were the self-defence units of the peasants who had smashed the enemy's control and taken back their plundered land; the poorly armed units of the minority tribesmen in the Western Plateaux in revolt against the policy of racial discrimination; the armed propaganda units of former resistance members repressed and oppressed by the U.S. and their stooges; and the units belonging to the armed forces of the religious sects terrorized by the Ngo Dinh Diem clique since 1955...

Stemming from the people, fed and protected by them, those small armed units supported by the people have courageously and skilfully fought the enemy and killed him with weapons seized from him. These weapons shipped from the U.S.A. by the Pentagon have increased with every passing day and are more and more modern.

On February 15, 1961 these forces were gathered under the banner of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, and named "Liberation Army", including the people's militia and guerilla units, local troops, and regular forces which have been fighting in close co-ordination.

In 1961, 36,000 puppet soldiers and 30 U.S. aggressors were killed, 7,300 weapons of all kinds seized by the Liberation Army, and 15,000 soldiers and officers of the puppet army deserted or were disbanded.

1962 ended with 50,000 enemy troops put out of action including 443 U.S. aggressors, over 200 U.S. planes shot down and damaged, over 10,000 weapons of all description captured, and 36,000 puppet soldiers and officers deserted.

1963 began with the resounding Apbac victory on January 1, 1963. It marked the maturity of the South Vietnam Liberation Army in organization, tactics, political work, operation, and political and military coordination and propaganda work among the enemy troops. Apbac has heralded the bankruptcy of the Pentagon's "new tactics against guerilla warfare", "helicopter tactics" and "amphibious car tactics".

After the resounding Apbac victory the Front has launched the "Apbac emulation drive in killing enemy troops and performing feats of arms". The Liberation Army has come to maturity with seven-league boots. In the beginning they only launched night attacks, laid ambushes, harassed and wore out the enemy, countered small raids, destroyed small enemy units and posts, now they can attack the enemy in the day-time, wage mobile and siege warfare, raze his posts and smash his reinforcements, crush large-scale raids, put out of action battalion-size units, annihilate big strongholds or important sub-sectors; in the beginning they operated in mountain areas or in remote villages, now they can attack even important district towns and cities.