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By REX HOLLISS

A NORTH VIETNAMESE PEASANT BURNT  
TO AN AGONISING DEATH BY U.S. NAPALM

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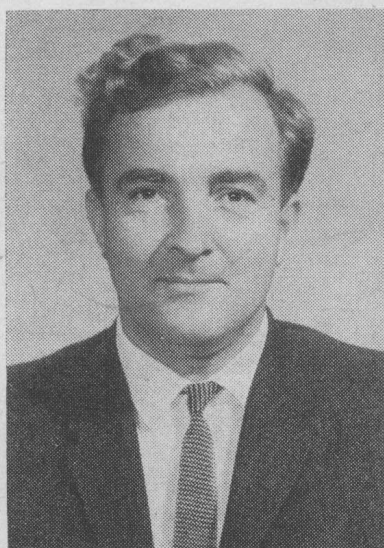
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*an eye-witness account of  
U.S. atrocities in Vietnam*

# VIETNAM EYE-WITNESS



THE AUTHOR: A New Zealand  
journalist, who visited North  
Vietnam in June, 1965.

By **R. C. HOLLISS**

**PUBLISHERS' NOTE:** For the reader's  
information an appendix has been added to  
this pamphlet containing extracts from the  
Geneva Agreements and related documents.

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A SACRED PAGODA destroyed in North Vietnam by the U.S. upholders of the freedom to worship. Catholic churches were also counted as "fair game."

## FOREWORD

**T**HIS pamphlet bears the stamp of authenticity. The author is an eye-witness of American bombings in North Vietnam. He has talked to villagers and townspeople who have suffered under napalm and high explosive. He has seen at first hand the charred huts, the blasted schools and the mutilated victims he writes about.

Mr. Holliss is the only New Zealand correspondent to have visited North Vietnam since 1959. He spent ten days travelling through the zones of U.S. bombing, observing and interviewing. His account of his interview with captured U.S. pilot, Robert H. Schumaker, is an indication that the mindless automatons of Nazi Germany's armies have their counterpart on an even larger scale in the United States to-day.

Before Mr. Holliss went overseas there was already a strong and growing movement in New Zealand against support for the U.S. in Vietnam and against sending New Zealand troops.

To-day that movement is stronger than ever, despite the fact that the Government, the dominant big business groups, the militarists and the press czars have waged a massive campaign to deceive the people as to the real nature of the U.S. war. No lie is too despicable, no slander too vile to be used in their attempt to divide and destroy the mass opposition movement. But the truth has, nevertheless, been forcing its way through the "big lies" and is daily winning new people into active opposition to Government policy.

This pamphlet is, therefore, very timely. It is an important contribution to enlightening the New Zealand people on what the Government is supporting when it commits New Zealand troops to Vietnam. Every class-conscious worker, every progressive, every democrat has a duty to circulate it as widely as possible among the ordinary people.

It can help to swell still further the tide of opinion demanding that no New Zealand troops be sent to Vietnam.

When the people of any country are aroused they can work wonders. Our people are no exception. That is why the Communist Party is confident that the great mass movement that has developed in New Zealand can compel the Government to reverse its decision. That is why it is publishing this pamphlet. That is why it urges all to read it, sell it and get others to do the same.

—NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND.

# A More Bestial War Than Hitler's

**WHAT I** have seen in Vietnam has convinced me that the U.S. administration is waging a more bestial war than even Hitler tried to wage. And the New Zealand Government, by actively aiding and abetting the U.S., is equally guilty.

Why should the Vietnamese people, who reminded me very much in appearance and bubbling humour of Maori fourth-formers, be treated in this way?

Why are little Vietnamese kiddies being strafed by supersonic U.S. jets as they play in the streets? Why are young boys and girls sprayed with bullets as they swim in the ponds? Why are peasants in the rice-fields brutally gunned down from the air by powerful war machines from the Seventh Fleet?

Why are hospitals, schools, churches, pagodas, factories, cottages and market-places being systematically destroyed by dive-bombers screaming down from the skies?

All this was happening in the sovereign state of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) during my stay there. It was increasing in ferocity.

And why is South Vietnam even more tortured under U.S. control, under actual U.S. dictatorship? My inquiries and interviews showed that, during the past 11 years, the U.S. masters of South Vietnam and their puppets have authorised, planned and directed more than 160,000 "mopping-up" operations against villages and towns in a maniacal bid to squash all opposition, no matter how liberal. In these operations they have killed about 170,000 men, women and children. They have wounded or crippled, with tortures that defy description, nearly 800,000 men, women and children. They have thrown over 400,000 people into about 1,000 dank jails.

They have raped thousands of women—old women, pregnant women, nuns and young girls nowhere near puberty. One infamous battalion made a feature of cutting out livers from captives while still alive. Others have been disembowelled. Others buried alive. Others burned alive.

Over 5 million peasants have been uprooted and

herded into concentration camps described as "prosperity zones" and "strategic hamlets."

They have sprayed toxic chemicals from the air to destroy crops, livestock and humans. They have used poison gas blithely described as "tear-gas." They have used napalm, jellied petrol that clings burning while the victim runs screaming frantically trying to brush it off, only to spread it over other parts of the body.

They have broken every moral law. They have broken every convention of war. They have broken treaties. They have broken international law.



**THE U.S. IS USING SOUTH VIETNAM** as a testing-ground for new monstrous weapons, as these dying people prove. They are the victims of aerial toxic chemical sprays.

By supporting the U.S.A. in this bestial war, the New Zealand Government is supporting the principle that the U.S.A. can bomb, destroy, ravage or occupy any independent nation that it chooses, any nation that threatens its monopoly profits, any nation that stands in the way of its global strategy, its pattern of world conquest.

And this pattern of conquest makes Hitler's plan look like a kindergarten game.

By supporting the U.S. imperialists in this manner, the New Zealand Government is acting as Quislings in advance. Because if it supports such bestiality in one

country, it is paving the way for similar bestiality in another.

So it is the duty of every New Zealander to oppose such a betrayal of humanity and national sovereignty. And it is the bounden duty of every worker to come to the aid of his fellow-workers in Vietnam—to work might and main to stop this bestial war against a people who want nothing more than independence and the right to develop their country by themselves.

## ***If The Same Thing Happened Here***

**I**F you want a quick, simple description of what is going on in Vietnam, then just imagine for a moment that the same thing is happening here in New Zealand.

Imagine that the French had occupied New Zealand in 1860, methodically setting out to extract vast profits from the mineral and agricultural resources of the country, making New Zealanders work under intolerable conditions, causing untold poverty, starvation, persecution and misery.

Then, in 1940, the Japanese occupy New Zealand and double the burden on the people by arrangement with those French who have been brave enough to stay during the war.

Imagine the rejoicing, the relief and feeling of freedom, when, after many years of hard, painful struggle under the leadership of the Communist Party, both the French and Japanese are kicked out in August, 1945, simultaneously with the world defeat of the fascist forces. An independent Democratic Republic of New Zealand is founded in September, 1945.

But, during the same month, dishonouring a treaty they had been forced to sign, the French launched an invasion of New Zealand with the active assistance of British forces. The South Island is the beach-head for this invasion. Very quickly the war spreads throughout New Zealand. The U.S.A. establishes a military mission to help the French, offering every type of weapon, including nuclear weapons.

But the New Zealand people knock the stuffing out of the French, unaided by foreign troops.

The French defeat forces a hurried conclusion to the

peace negotiations that had been dragging on in Geneva. In 1954, the French agree to the Geneva Agreements, which specify that two temporary zones (North Island and South Island) will be set up for two years in order for the French to first withdraw troops to the South Island and then withdraw them altogether. Furthermore, the Agreements provide for a general election to be held in 1956 so the two islands can decide upon a common government. Meanwhile, the North Island, using the representatives who were elected just before the French invasion, sets out to build a socialist economy. And it thrives rapidly, releasing all inhabitants from servitude and unemployment and poverty and exploitation.

But the U.S.A., which has sulkily refused to sign the Geneva Agreements, forces the French to appoint a carefully-trained (in the U.S.A.) wealthy New Zealander as "Prime Minister" of the South Island. Immediately



**THIS WESTERN PRESS PHOTO** shows members of the crack U.S.-trained Seventh Battalion cutting the liver out of a captive (still alive). This battalion used to cook the liver and eat it or soak it in wine before drinking. It also specialised in disembowelling living captives, burning alive, water torture and other refinements for keeping the South Vietnamese people in the "free world."



this U.S. protege launches a vicious campaign to exterminate all opposition, whether Communist, progressive, religious or just mild liberalism. To enforce this he recruits all the local thugs, perverts, bullies and scum from the jails. They are formed into an army that is trained by the U.S. military mission, which increases its staff beyond the number specified by the Geneva Agreements, which introduces more troops and military material in violation of the military agreements.

Land shared out among the farmers during the brief month of independence is brutally wrested back and put once again in the hands of the wealthy landlords. Opponents are thrown into concentration camps. In one, 6,000 were deliberately poisoned—a U.S. refinement on Hitler's gas chambers. The puppet "Prime Minister" declares that the "boundary of the U.S.A. now extends to Cook Strait." The entire South Island is militarised and impoverished as the U.S.A. prepares for war against the North Island. Whole communities are forced to leave their homes and farms and are shifted into huge barbed-wire camps to stop them mobilising opposition. The 1956 elections are not held because the U.S. can see the outcome would mean independence.

After four years of trying peaceful methods of stopping these breaches of the Agreements, and finding that such methods are producing even more terror, the South Islanders can stand no more. They take up arms in 1960.

Immediately the Americans scream "Communist plot." They call in their SEATO allies and puppets to supply troops (U.S. troops get killed too easily). But this fails to stop the South Islanders. After four years of brave armed struggle, they liberate three-quarters of the South Island, leaving the Yanks only the cities, big towns and main communication lines.

In a frenzy, the U.S. administration decides to pursue its long-range plan in a hurry—it starts bombing the North Island on the feeble excuse that a torpedo-boat attacked a U.S. warship in North Island territorial waters. It claims that the North Islanders are committing aggression and insurrection in the South Island, although it produces no proof.

Australian authorities pledge 1,000 troops. Troops from other U.S. "colonies," such as Korea and Taiwan, are poured into the South Island. The U.S. in desperation calls in more of its own troops. It increases the ferocity and viciousness of the bombing in North and South Islands, spraying chemicals over the crops in the liberated areas

of the South Island, pouring napalm over the civilians in both North and South. Bombing schools, hospitals, churches and houses in both islands. It labels all the sea around New Zealand as the "combat zone of the Seventh Fleet." It blockades and bombs merchant vessels and ports.

It tries to intimidate, to terrorise, to destroy, to pulverise whole cities and economies. But it fails. It only makes New Zealanders more determined to kick the Yankee aggressors out. It becomes a real "people's war." The Yanks are daily suffering more defeats, not only in their aggression against New Zealand, but in their prestige and support round the world.

All this is imaginary as far as New Zealand is concerned. But this is actually happening in Vietnam. If we tolerate little kiddies being strafed by foreign aircraft in Vietnam, then we are paving the way for the same foreign 'planes to strafe New Zealand kiddies.



**PUPPET TROOPS** take away the rice of those who do not want to go to the "strategic hamlets."

## Gutless (but vicious) Wonders

**T**WO swept-wing jet bombers from the Seventh Fleet are overhead. The air raid siren is rising and falling with banshee tones. The radio announces that they are expected to bomb the city—Thanh Hoa, capital of a province by the same name, in North Vietnam.

High above—so high that my camera can't even shoot them, let alone the A.A. guns—these supersonic war machines re-group behind a cloud ready to make a screaming surprise dive.

The city is "fortunate." The 'planes dive on bridges a few miles away. We can hear the rapid multiple "plob-plob" of the anti-aircraft batteries. We hear the dull "krump" of the bombs. Then the jets rush skywards. Higher and higher until they are barely visible. This is the second raid to-day.

"What gutless wonders" is the thought uppermost in my mind, as I nearly dislocate my neck staring at these candidates for Project Mercury or some other U.S. space programme. They flee rapidly off to the aircraft-carrier in the Tonkin Gulf. We wait for the next sortie.

"What vicious but gutless wonders!" Where is the bravado they showed when they first started their raids on this peaceful province a few hundred miles from Hanoi?

Those were the days when these apostles of the American Way of Life, the Defenders of International Law, these Missionaries of God's Great Society, these modern Storm-troopers of the Skies, used to show some bravery.

Those were the days when they would swoop in low with the sun's glare and strafe happy little kiddies playing in the streets, boys swimming in the pools, peasants working in the fields. They still do if they occasionally find a village where there are no anti-aircraft guns or no rifles.

No rifles! It's the rifles that terrify these Supersonic Knights into the stratosphere—ordinary rifles dating back to World War II and earlier. These are the rifles that brought down one U.S. wonder jet—the Thunderchief—at night! And quite a few during the day.

These U.S. pilots are scared of these rifles. I've seen wreckage of their jets pitted with rifle holes. They probably think the rifles are in the hands of veteran sharpshooters. But let me tell them a secret. In fact, it's the biggest military secret of Vietnam, the reason why the

U.S.A. cannot win its monstrous war.

Those rifles are mainly fired by young girls and boys! It's those rifles in the hands of the youth of Vietnam that are stopping accurate bombing. It's those rifles that are forcing the U.S. jets higher when they dive-bomb, forcing them into range of the A.A. guns. And the A.A. guns are mainly fired by 'teen-age boys!

Where are the men? Where are the real tough ones? They're in the army waiting for the U.S. Marines. And let me tell the Pentagon something else. If the rifles and A.A. guns in the hands of boys and girls can knock the stuffing out of the most powerful and most modern war machines, just think what the Vietnamese men can do to the Marines. If they are rash enough to invade North Vietnam, they will meet with a bigger and quicker defeat than they suffered in North Korea.

Yes, the ordinary rifles in the hands of the youth of Vietnam are destroying the U.S. war machine. Those rifles and A.A. guns in this province alone have shot down 61 U.S. jets of all types since between August 5, 1964, and May 22, 1965 (when I'm watching).

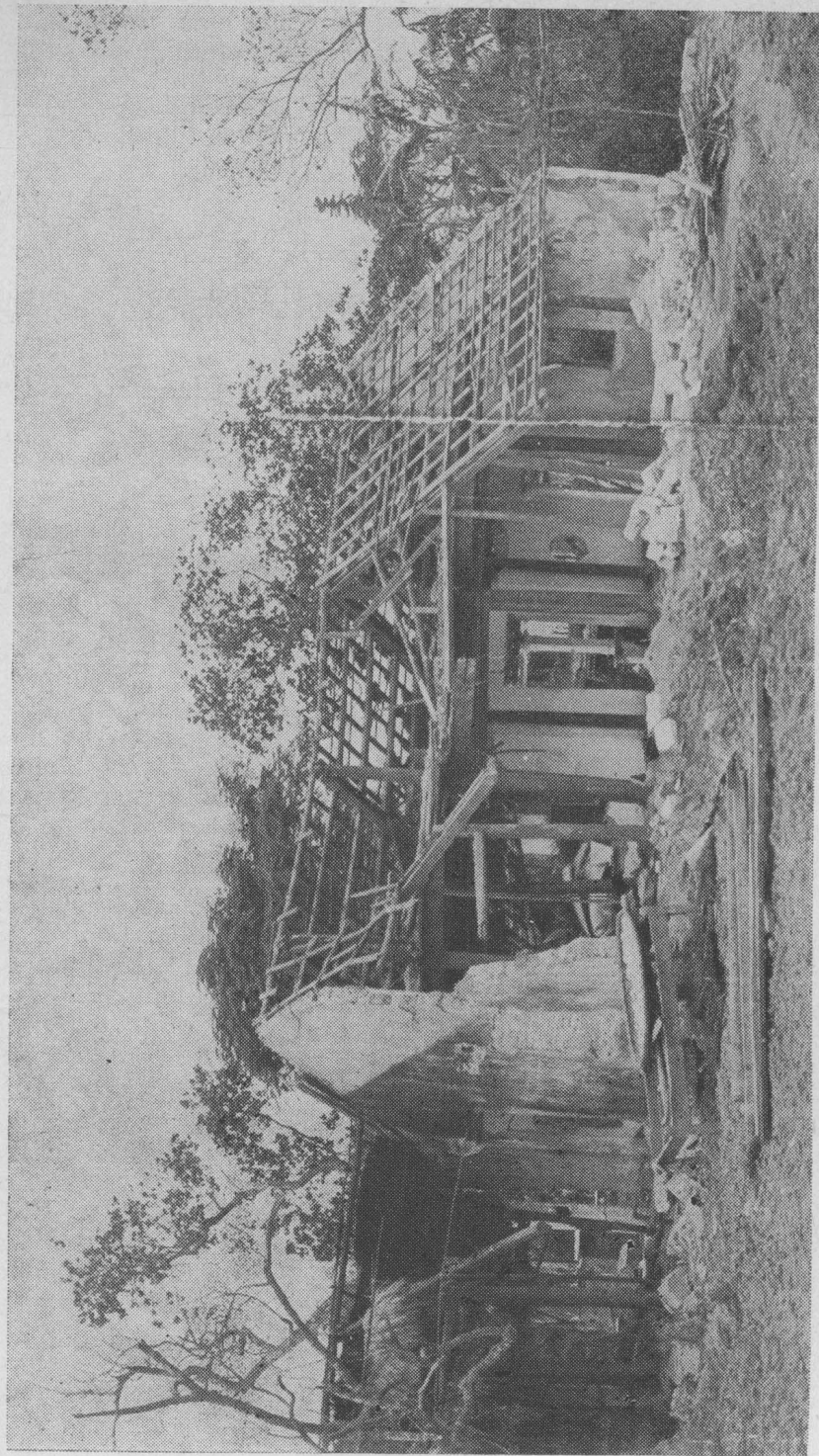
Sixty-one modern jets worth an average of at least one million dollars each in this province alone. And that only includes the certainties. Those seen fleeing for their aircraft-carriers with smoke streaming from them are not counted. The wreckage of 61 U.S. aircraft has been recovered in this province. That means it has cost the U.S.A. at least 61 million dollars (excluding the cost of fuel and pilots and bombs) to attack this province.

The damage done to the province has in no way reached anything remotely resembling 61 million dollars. The deaths of Thanh Hoa citizens had not equalled the deaths of U.S. pilots—plus two captured alive—up to the time I was there. (The following Sunday the U.S. balanced the death score by strafing a market-place, killing a large number of men, women and kiddies.)

Where is the sense of the U.S. attacks? What are they achieving? Are they prepared to sacrifice their own young men and their costly equipment so they can systematically pulverise and slaughter the men, women and children of North Vietnam? (The grand total of U.S. losses in all North Vietnam was 296 certainties when I left.)

My trip to Thanh Hoa taught me many things. The most important was that hatred can drive out fear and build an active force against imperialism.

The journey from Hanoi took almost seven hours. Normally it would only take a few hours, but we were



A PEACEFUL VILLAGE suddenly blown into a shambles by U.S. dive-bombers in North Vietnam.

travelling in a heavily-camouflaged jeep that had to crawl for most of the time along pitch-black roads without headlights—there were U.S. 'planes about.

At twilight we came to a village where the U.S. bombers had been. It was at this stage that my fears about the U.S. war machine started to vanish, to be replaced by a deep abiding hatred that demands action against U.S. imperialism and all it stands for.

They had bombed the bridge in the middle of the village. The bridge itself was not badly damaged. It was still being used.

But not the school. That was wrecked. So was the big village store and many cottages. A 14-year-old boy told me that four people had been killed and quite a few injured, horribly injured. But he also proudly announced he had fought the imperialists.

We crossed the bridge and drove on in silence. Inside me I felt a gross indignation swelling.

Soon it was completely dark. We couldn't use the headlights but this didn't seem to worry the driver—he had been driving at the famous battle of Dien Bien Phu, when the Vietnamese won the decisive battle against the full might of the French and their U.S. weapons.

After a while we came to another river where the bombed bridge was closed during repairs. We had to get out of the car and, in darkness, pick our way through shell-holes, twisted girders, charred timber, rubble and wreckage of houses and shops and factories. It was almost pitch-black and the wreckage stood out in eerie silhouette as we worked our way towards the ferry. The indignation turned to hatred. This was a suburb of Thanh Hoa, once a beautiful, peaceful, riverside suburb. Now it was a mass of charred desolation.

# N.Z. Govt. Supports Crimes Against Kiddies and Girls Like This

**D**AYBREAK in the city of Thanh Hoa, North Vietnam. Four-thirty, and out of bed and into the camouflaged jeep to visit a bombed area before the U.S. jets were abroad. But we were wrong. No sooner had we arrived at the bombed suburb than two U.S. 'planes streaked across the sky. Automatically we rushed for the nearest fox-holes. By the time we found them the 'planes were well away.

However, we continued our inspection on foot under the comfort of our camouflaged nets.

How often have we heard those very clean and hygienic news broadcasts saying: "U.S. aircraft attacked military targets in North Vietnam yesterday. A military bridge and an army barracks were destroyed."

Let's look at the reality. By military barracks, Yankee pilots obviously mean anything shaped like a military barracks—schools, hospitals, anything.

Here I was looking at a primary school. The tiles were blasted off the roof, the windows were shattered, the doors were swinging at weird angles. The building damaged most by direct hit was the infants' block.

Nearby was a wrecked factory, a grain-husking factory, so vital for this rich grain-producing province. Girders hung twisted and warped like a kiddy's plasticine. The storehouses were burst open like card houses. Grain was still scattered over the ground, mixed with fragments of wood, mud and o'her bomb debris.

This factory had obviously not been built long. It was clearly once the pride and joy of the local co-operative, marking the vast development that socialist construction had brought; proving the enormous difference between the old poverty they knew under French imperialism and the prosperity they enjoyed under socialist public ownership.

And now it had been demolished by U.S. imperialist bombs. But let the U.S. administration take note—this destruction does not make the local peasants want to return to the old days of imperialist rule. It makes them want to re-double their socialist construction and re-double their destruction of imperialism.

Fortunately, no one was killed in this raid. But 17 people were injured. One young girl of 23 was buried up to the chin by earth from a bomb crater, helpless, with napalm burning her face and head. She's still alive, but in agony—her chances of romance and a happy life are nil.



**A PRISONER** being given the water torture by U.S.-trained and directed troops in South Vietnam.

—(A Western press photo.)



Mr. Holyoake and Cabinet members: You are guilty of aiding and abetting such crimes.

Near where she was found is a kumara patch with a big chunk of U.S. bomb lying across a plant. Messrs. Holyoake and Company, you are supporting policies that could lead to U.S. bombs falling on New Zealand kumara patches, napalm on New Zealand girls. If it is all right to bomb the young people of one country just because the U.S. does not like its government—because it threatens U.S. profits—then it is all right for the U.S. to bomb the young people of New Zealand to protect U.S. investments and their exorbitant profits.

The working people of New Zealand will not allow this. Already they are voicing their protests. All fair-minded New Zealanders are opposed to such policies. The protests are mounting. But they must be stronger yet.

## **U.S. Manufactures Own Grave-diggers**

**WE** all know that the Americans boast they can produce anything bigger and quicker than anywhere else in the world. This is certainly true in one respect.

The bestial war launched against Vietnam has created stronger, bigger and quicker grave-diggers for U.S. imperialism.

Look at the massive protests round the world! Look at the new quality of the protests within the United States itself! Look how this has led to quicker protests and action against new U.S. aggression, such as in the Dominican Republic. This weakened the U.S. grip on the entire Latin American continent.

The result of U.S. bully tactics in Vietnam has to be seen to be believed. Far from intimidating the people, it has, as Walter Lippmann accurately predicted, increased their combativeness.

I could describe the wonderful spirit of the youth as expressed in the Three Ready Movement (where hundreds of thousands have pledged themselves as ready to fight, ready to join the army, ready to go where needed). I could describe the wonderful spirit of the women in the Three Responsibilities Movement (replacing men in production, removing family responsibility from the men so they can