

THE CULPRIT IS NIXON

Reel I

The coal-mining towns dotting the eerie Ma Long Bay have been selected targets to US extermination raids whose dual purpose is to nip Viet Nam coal industry in the bud and cow their miner population.

Most symbolically, amidst this desolation, a sign inscribed with the slogan: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" is standing unscathed.

All Quang Ninh province's surface industrial structures and particularly the workers' living quarters, have been hard hit, chiefly during the first ten days of June 1972.

This is the worker town of Hong Sai, which reportedly came under attack on June 7, 9 and has been levelled flat with all its cultural and social establishments, schools and hospitals.

Its population has been forced to seek shelter in the crevices of rugged rocks.

Its children's cinema, swimming pool and club have been reduced to heaps of rubble. Their "Tender Bamboo Shoot" emblem like their slide is lying in a devastated garden of the town library and hospital T.B. department only a few portions of wall are left standing.

This rocky island called "The Poem", which used to attract tourists, is now the refuge of bombing victims. US aircraft are after them up in there.

On June 9, Vu Van Khang, a miner whose grand father and father were also pitmen, went about his work as usual. He came home only to mourn his wife and six children, all killed by US bombs. As relics, only some pictures, a school report, a copy-book, how many mothers and children in Hong Sai have been snatched away in this tragic way.

Nguyen van Duong too was ^{not} at home that day. He will never see his wife, an aunt of his and his four children again except in the family album.

"I found", said he, "only a hand, one of children's and a tuft of my wife's hair".

Reel II

July 6, 1972, Hung Yen, an unassuming administrative unit, not even a whistle stop was peacefully asleep. At 3 a.m. a rain of hardware poured down on it. Johnson has spared it but Nixon did not.

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The toll ran to more than one hundred people, mostly elderly, women and children. The survivors may remain crippled for life.

Most furious strikes were mounted against Nam Dinh, Viet Nam's third largest city.

American film star Jane Fonda was able to establish on the scene how the city had been written off the map. Spinning, weaving shops, silk manufactory, workers' dwellings, schools and hospitals became USAF strategic objectives.

This winter, there will be a shortage of children's clothing and one of Mr Nixon's strategic objectives will have been attained.

A strategic objective too, this Phuc Loc village, in the suburbs of Hai Phong assaulted by B.52's during the tragic night of April 16, 1972. A surprise raid on a sleeping peaceful peasant village, what a performance of the flying supermen from great America!

It is on Hai Phong, Viet Nam second biggest city, port of call of ships from all lands, that US aviation has focussed its blows. Since April 16, 1972, it has suffered more than 100 attacks, and district after district there has been blotted out. Here like in other towns, a whole panoply of bombs which inflict as many casualties as possible has been used. High explosive blast bombs against dwellings, steel pellet bombs against civilians and perforating bombs exploding only inside shelters.

Soviet, German, Chinese ships have been damaged, members of their crews killed or wounded. Sea resort Do Son, 7 next door to Hai Phong has also been devastated.

Guests from many countries, American like Ramsey Clark, former US Attorney General, French like Yves Lacoste, professor of geography at Paris University, Swedish, Japanese, Cuban ... have seen for themselves the ravage of the port city and of other Vietnamese towns like Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Hung Yen, Hai Duong, Vinh, Hong Gai, Cam Pha, raided over and again and razed to the ground.

Fresh horrors have been committed over again in places already marked by "hatred" slabs stigmatizing previous US air genocide.

Foreign visitors could meet, interview survivors, orphans, children now under the charge of welfare institutions. Maimed children like this one have to stand it again at the cost of super-human exertions. Our friends were given the opportunity to ascertain our people's resolve to avenge their dead.

These women workers in white turbans are mourning their fathers cut down on the same day in the same underground in Hai Phong. They are now target practicing without let - up in the hope of ~~downing~~ ^{downing} themselves a Yankee plane one day.

Reel III

Neither the heart of Hanoi nor its suburban area has been immune to US bombing. Over the capital daily fighting against US plane rages. Death and destruction is accumulating while the list of captured US pilots is lengthening.

The new blocks of flats in Truong Dinh street were being given finishing touches when US jets roared in with their engines of death and took a great toll of young building workers.

Here is US correspondent Joseph Kraft amidst ruins.

All those atrocities do not prevent the Vietnamese people and medical workers from attending to wounded US flyers. These are given attention in the very hospital they have been instructed to wipe out. Like this Bach Mai establishment, one of Viet Nam's greatest medical centres.

It is easy to understand the pain the anger which wrung the heart of a US progressive like Jane Fonda when she met besides US bombs the very casualties of US weaponry, who, she saw with her own eyes the most formidable deployment of war means, machinery, techniques and craftiness by the most powerful industrial capitalist nation against a tiny nation who has never done the least harm to the US.

Nixon has fielded nearly 250 B-52's, more than a thousand fighters, nine aircraft carriers, about sixty warships in a daily average of 200 sorties and artillery strikes using thousands of shells.

The USAF has been getting at North Viet Nam bridges, railway stations road. It has erased one after another her power stations, factories, paper mills, sugar refineries, cement plants, brick kilns, textiles complexes... in an attempt to destroy the hard-won fruits of her labour.

It has been systematically hitting at dykes, hydraulic works, sluices, dams, with a view to triggering floods, putting coastal paddies under salt water, preventing the irrigation of ricefields in the coming dry season.

Mr Nixon's deeds have been cynically and tragically clashing with his pious promises of an immediate end to the war, of a generation of peace, of a prompt repatriation of US prisoners of war.

But what will finally count is the judgement of History.

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