

# **Heroes and Heroines**

**of the Liberation  
Armed Forces  
of South Vietnam**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The reader will find in this pamphlet the living stories of ten among the most typical heroes and heroines of the South Vietnam Liberation Army. To help him grasp the whole meaning and importance of their exploits which are often unconceivable, we deem it advisable to open this pamphlet with large excerpts from Mr. Truong Son's speech delivered at the First Congress of Heroes and Model Fighters of the South Vietnam Liberation Army held in May 1965.

"...This war of resistance against the American aggressors waged by the 14 million of our compatriots (in South Vietnam — Ed) is in fact part of a larger struggle carried out by more than 30 million people of Vietnam as a whole. The most glorious traditions of the Vietnamese people of resolutely opposing imperialism and aggression have been brought into full play. For more than 10 years now, each of our villages and hamlets in the delta as well as in the mountain region, each of our streets have had their own heroes and their own exploits. This fact has struck fear and consternation among our enemy; for us, it is a source of legitimate pride.

"At the start of their intervention, with their power, weapons and dollars, the Yankee imperialists thought they could easily win victory and complete the conquest of South Vietnam by 1954 or 1955.

"After the expiration of this time limit, Washington put it off until 1957 and later gave itself a new 3-year delay. In 1960, when it began its 'special war' with a massive introduction of tanks, cannons, M-113 trucks and aircraft and an increase of budget allowances, Washington thought it could make everything all right within 18 months, that is in late 1961. Yet since then, after sustaining one defeat after another, Washington has not been able to raise its head.



"We have inflicted on the aggressors so hard blows that neither U.S. President Johnson nor his Defence Secretary McNamara and U.S. ambassador in Saigon M. Taylor ever dared to speak of a U.S. victory but only contented themselves with saying that they had warded off defeat. In fact, we have shattered nearly all their designs.

"They are bumping against a people animated by a high revolutionary heroism and an unshakable determination to fight, a people who prefer to die than to be enslaved, who dare measure its strength with the U.S. imperialists with a firm determination to win.

"All along its history, our nation has gone through hard trials. Our people have always stood up against the ferocious aggressors and have never accepted defeat, successively triumphing over the Chinese invaders of the Yuan, Ming and Ching feudal dynasties, the Japanese fascists and French colonialists. Today, in taking up arms against the U.S. imperialists, we accept the trial of force. And when we have to fight, we will carry the fight through to the end, fearing neither the Yankees nor anything else.

"We are poorer than them in weapons, food and money. The Yankees swim in their wealth. But if they are millionnaires in dollars, we are so in revolutionary heroism. In this connection, they are far behind us. They will be defeated by our courage. For 10 years now, our troops, combatants, cadres and our civilian population have joined the fight without the least fear of death. In their confrontation with the Vietnamese people, the Americans cannot avoid more and more crushing defeats. The best way for them is to halt the hostilities, the prolongation of the war only brings them more disasters. The N.F.L. has declared that though our struggle may last 5, 10 or even 20 more years, we will be always resolved to strike back with the same energy, will deal more mortal blows at the enemy and prevent them from massacring with impunity our children and old folk, and usurping our land and fields.."

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