

BOMBING OF CAM PHA AREA TAKES HEAVY TOLL IN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

Article by Xuan Ang, Nhan Dan reporter in Quang Ninh: "Mining Area Calls for Retaliation"; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 13 July 1972, p 2/

In recent days American aircraft continually and savagely bombed and strafed the mining area. In the afternoon and evening of yesterday, they struck to destroy the provincial capital of Cam Pha, killing and injuring many elderly persons, women, and children while they were eating dinner or sleeping and destroying dozens of houses. From 0:30 to 3:30 a.m. on 24 June, while the people of Doc Lap Hamlet in Cam Pha and at kilometers 6 and 7 were sleeping soundly, many aircraft of different types flew in in waves to drop CBU and demolition bombs and to commit additional savage crimes. Although the hamlet is no larger than a square kilometer, they dropped on it thousands of CBU and piercing bombs and dozens of demolition bombs. At midnight, before Nguyen Van Tu and his family, who had been awakened by aircraft noises, were able to get to the shelter, dozens of CBU bombs hit their home. His mother, Tran Thi Chau, 65, and his sister-in-law, Doan Thi Hai, 25 and 3-months pregnant, were both killed by a CBU bomb. His wife and two children -- Lan, 6, and Hieu, 7 months old -- received CBU bomb fragments all over their bodies. Manh, Doan Thi Hai's 2-year-old first child, was seriously wounded. Unaware that his mother had been killed, he was calling: "Mommy, come home. Grandpa, Daddy, come home to Manh." Tu himself received bomb fragments in his chest, arm, and leg. His house was completely demolished. Blankets, mosquito nets, and clothes bore marks of CBU bombs and were full of blood stains. A book that belonged to Ut, his nephew from Haiphong who had come for a visit, was all soaked with blood. At that same time, bombs also hit the shelter of Mr. Pham Van Hoa. A CBU bomb severed the left arm of the 70-year-old man. His 22-year-old daughter, Pham Thi Loi, was killed by bomb fragments and left him a 9-month-old child. His daughter-in-law,