

TWO AMERICAN PILOTS CAPTURED ON MOUNTAIN TOP IN THANH HOA PROVINCE

Article from VNA: "Two American Aggressor Pilots Methodically Seized in 15 Minutes"; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 30 August 1972, p 47

Having just freed himself from his parachute, the aggressor pilot was crawling along trailing his legs a couple of steps, planning to look for a way to escape on the top of H. mountain, when suddenly gunfire rang out beside his ears, and the loud command: "Put your hands up!" One, two, three, then a whole flock of people holding guns, knives, and rope closed in directly to surround the aggressor. He bowed his head and raised his arms in the air, dazed and stunned to find that when he set foot on the top of this thorny and dangerous mountain, everybody had been waiting for him for a long time.

A wilful participant in the trade of killing people and also a mischievous spirit in all aspects of escape, as soon as his F-4H plane was hit by bullets over Ninh Binh in the late afternoon of 27 August 1972, he made an effort to take advantage of the wind's direction to try to steer his parachute into H. mountain, hoping by luck to be carried to the shelter of the forest. But from the time he jumped in his parachute away from the burning plane, all of B. Township in Ha Trung District in Thanh Hoa Province was following township unit commander Tong Van Ke's orders to be on the alert and to separate into many groups one by one to surround the aggressor. Militiaman Nguyen Van Dung, who had had much experience in capturing aggressor pilots in the previous 4 years of resistance against the American aggressors' war of destruction, led an advance party made up of Mr Thanh Tam, Mr Nguyen Van Trinh and a number of peasant relatives, prepared to go to work to lay siege to the top of H. mountain. Overcoming the thorns and rocks, Nguyen Van Dung was like a squirrel running along and clinging closely to each cunning move of the aggressor pilot trying to steer his parachute to escape, and just in time methodically seizing him as soon as he reached the ground.

At the same time, directly below at the foot of the mountain, in the middle of a rice field where girls were working, another advance party under the command of township unit commander Truong Van Ke [Sic] with militiamen Nguyen Van Thoai, Tong Van Hai, and Nguyen Van Nhan, were surrounding a second aggressor pilot when his parachute was still a pole's height from the ground, keeping their guns pointed at him. Like the first aggressor, as soon as this one set foot on