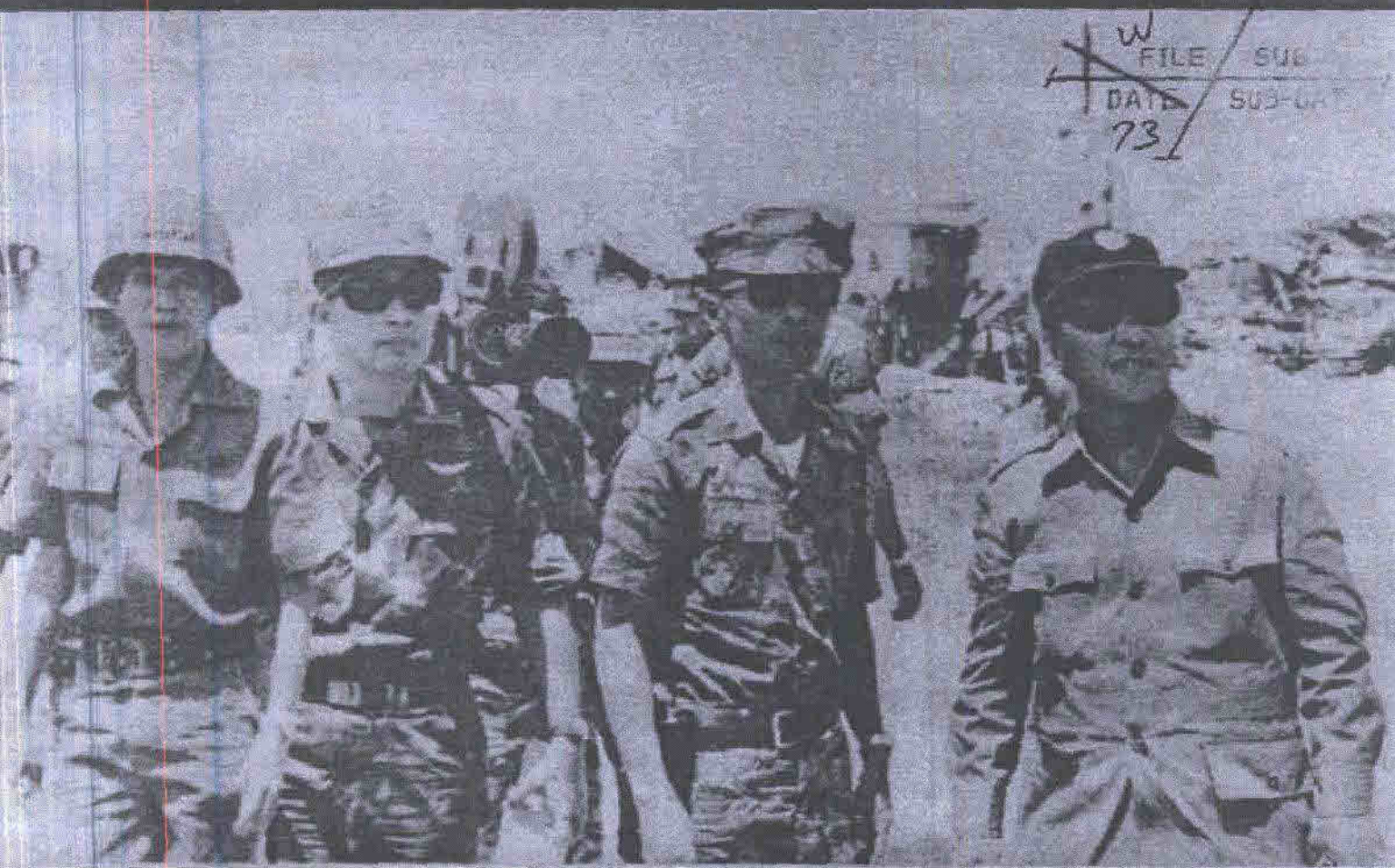


DAY TREN TREN



A FLAG OVER THE CITADEL
1973

CO-THANH

With total disregard for the Geneva Accords of 1954, the North Vietnamese Communists launched a large scale attack against the Republic of Vietnam on 29 March 1972.

The heaviest enemy pressure was on Tri-Thien, where 6 well equipped infantry divisions, supported by artillery and anti-aircraft units, crossed the Ben Hai River and invaded the southern part of the DMZ.

During the first few days of the fighting 13 tactical outposts near the DMZ came under heavy attack and were evacuated. As the attack continued, RVNAF troops were forced to fall back and on 1 May 1972 Quang Tri City fell to the North Vietnamese. With Quang Tri in Communist hands, Hue City was also endangered.

In an attempt to stop the Communist drive to the South, the South Vietnamese Marine Division was ordered to establish a defensive line at My Chanh. This crack General Reserve unit was successful in halting the enemy advance, and began launching counterattack against Hai Lang and North East of Quang Tri. The 5/72 Song Than operation was launched by the marines on 13 May 1972. They concentrated their forces to block any attack on Hue and liberated thousands of inhabitants in the areas North of Hue. The 6/72 landing operation begun on 24 May 1972 in coordination with the US 7th Fleet contributed to eliminate the enemy and foil their plans.

On 19 June 1972, the President of the Republic of Vietnam, President Nguyen Van Thieu launched a three month campaign to reconquer territory temporarily lost to the North Vietnamese

Communists. RVNAF units were divided into 2 columns at My Chanh and counterattacked along Route 1 towards Quang Tri, while the Marines moved into the eastern and northern sectors of this city. During their advance many fierce fights broke out. With the determination to win, our forces successfully drove the communists out of every hamlet thus liberating the local inhabitants.

During July of 1972 our airborne units continued their advance to Quang Tri. In the meantime the Marines controlled the eastern and Northeastern parts of the city. As a result of this the enemy was unable to supply their units in the city. During this period the Marines were given the task to support the paratroopers in the re-occupation of Quang Tri and the Citadel.

Phase I of the re-occupation of Quang Tri ended when some communist units tried to pierce the My Chanh line in order to relieve the pressure on some of their elements that were surrounded by our crack troops. On 27 July 1972, our airborne forces were ordered to move back to the My Chanh line, as the Marines were assigned the mission of re-occupying the city and the old citadel.

This may be the decisive battle of the Vietnam War as the Battle of Dien Bien Phu was in 1954. This time we are the very ones to win the victory.

Brigadier General Bui The Lan, the Marine Commander personally conducted the results of this historic operation which makes his name famous.

Filled with heroic fighting spirit and despite hardships and dangers, in August 1972, the Marines launched a fierce attack against enemy resistance and

ON 15 SEPTEMBER,

the Marines had made one more mark in the heroic military history of the Nation

(Quoted from President NGUYEN VAN THIEU)

defense positions scattered around the city.

Finally the city was liberated from the communists, but the Marines did not stop there since their utmost objective was the Citadel where 1500 communists of the 48th Regiment were ordered to fight to the death.

The Dinh Cong Trang Citadel is a square area and looks like a cake from the top. It is surrounded with long walls and has a perimeter of 2,889 meters. The walls were built 4 meters thick and 8 meters high. Based on history, the Citadel was built in the 8th year of the Minh Mang Dynasty; its architecture is similar to that of Hue. The old Citadel plays an important role in defense. In addition, the interior of the Citadel had an elaborate defense system built by RVNAF units.

Taking advantage of those factors North Vietnamese Communists intended to use the Citadel as their last defense position. But the Communists' illusion quickly vanished when they faced our valiant Marines who all know by heart this slogan :

" Any obstacle is surmountable,

Any enemy is vanquishable,

Any battlefield is appropriate."

These words are considered as a daily prayer by the Marine's Commander and all the Vietnamese Marines.

On the afternoon of the 14th of September our Marines overwhelmed the old Citadel.

Although sporadic resistance continued into the night, by 1700 hours on 15 September 1972, the last Communist rebel had paid for his crimes and the 3rd and 6th Marine Battalions were in com-

plete control.

At 1000 on 16 September, the colors were hoisted during a ceremony held at the western main gate. This announced to the people of the nation and of all the world the Marines had re-captured Quang Tri City and the old Citadel. This great feat was accomplished 4 days sooner than the time table laid out in the "Three month Campaign to reconquer territory temporarily lost to the North Vietnamese Communists".

Over 1000 enemy troops were killed within the walls of the old Citadel. Those survivors who manage to flee westward tried to cross the Thach Han River, but were annihilated by the Marines 2nd and 8th Battalions who were stationed outside the city.

After 51 days of fighting that began on the 27th of July, the Marines had exterminated 14000 communists captured 4350 weapons, 73 howitzers and seized or destroyed 79 assorted tanks. Most of this fighting was inch by inch, house by house, and block by block.

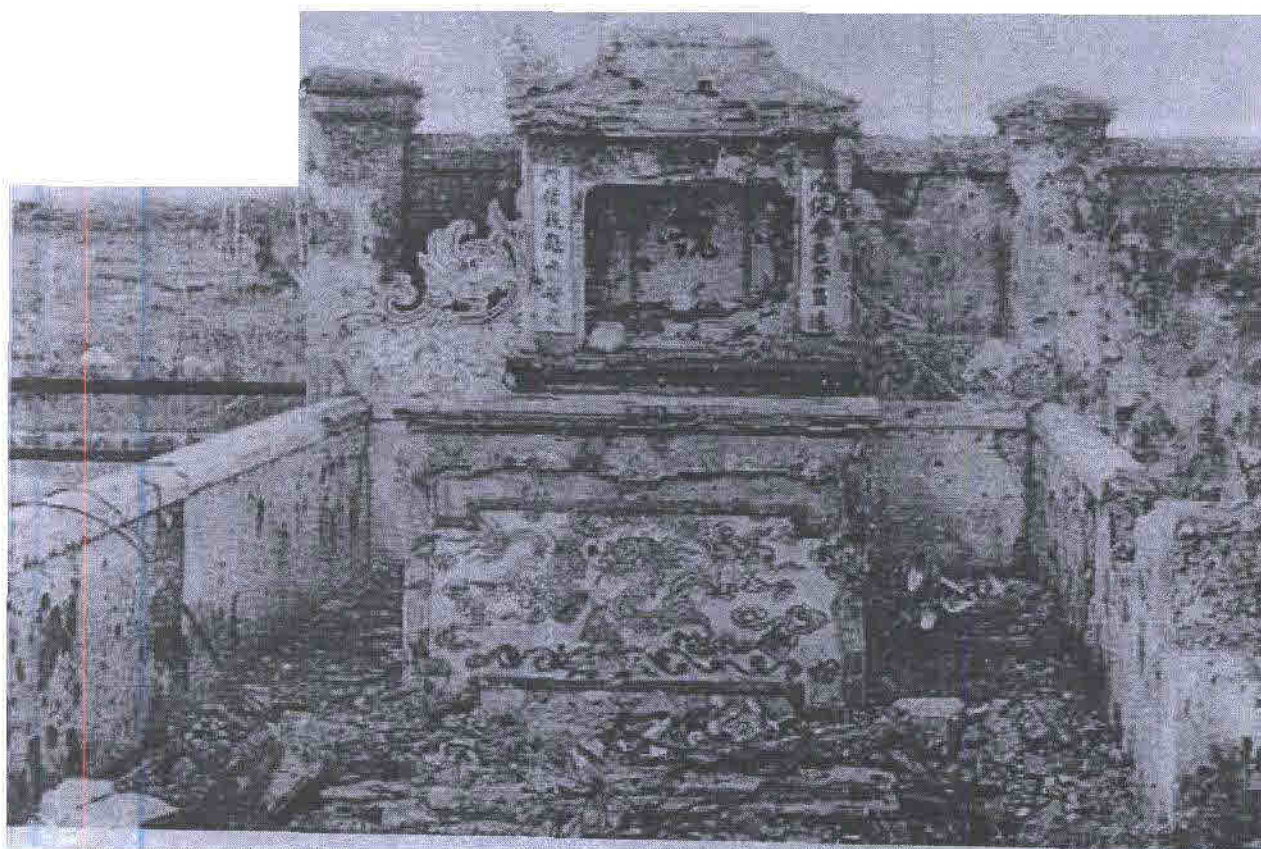
The National Flag was waving high over the ruined Citadel amid the cheerful shouts of our victorious troops.

This scene of joy was witnessed by the Marine Brigadier General who had commanded the troops and had directly conducted the battle. He was the one man who had been praised by the press.

With the victory of the Quang Tri Citadel, the Marines have shown their determination to defend our country as pointed out in the cable of congratulations from our President on 15 September 1972. The history of military heroism will record the recapture of Quang Tri as one of its most brilliant exploits.

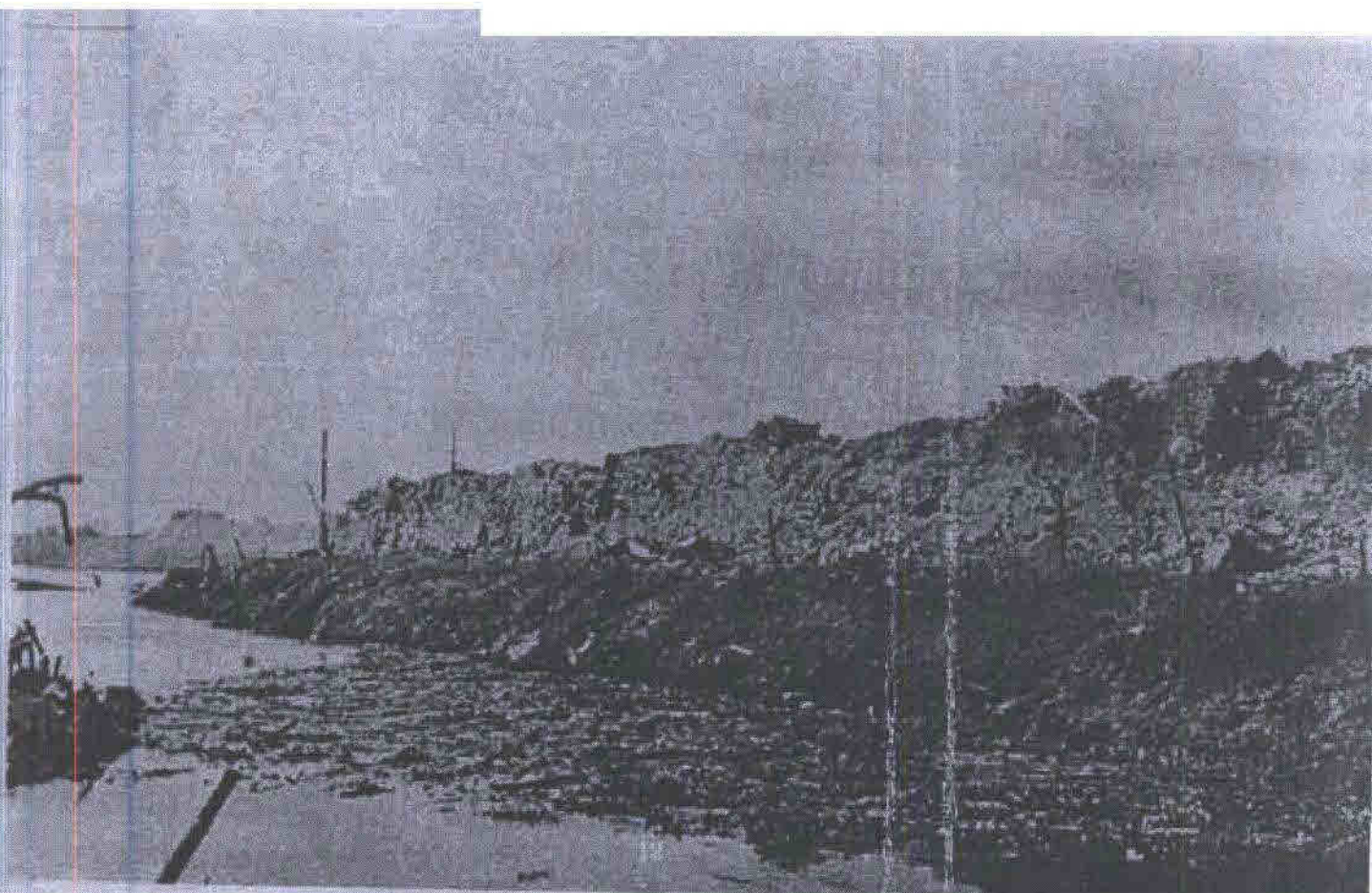
VÀI NÉT VỀ CỔ THÀNH QUẢNG TRỊ

A few lines on the Quang Tri Citadel

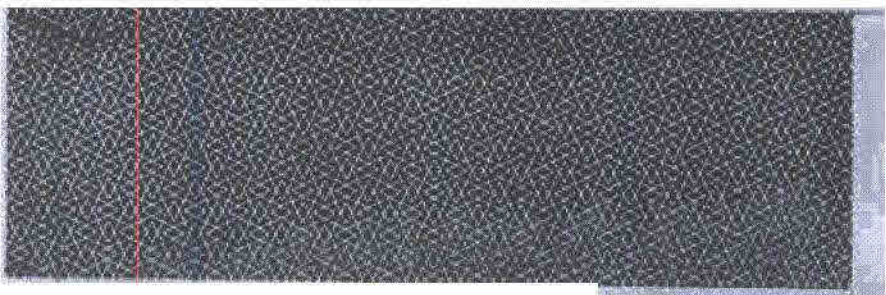


Không-ảnh toàn bộ Cổ-Thành
Aerial photo of the Citadel.

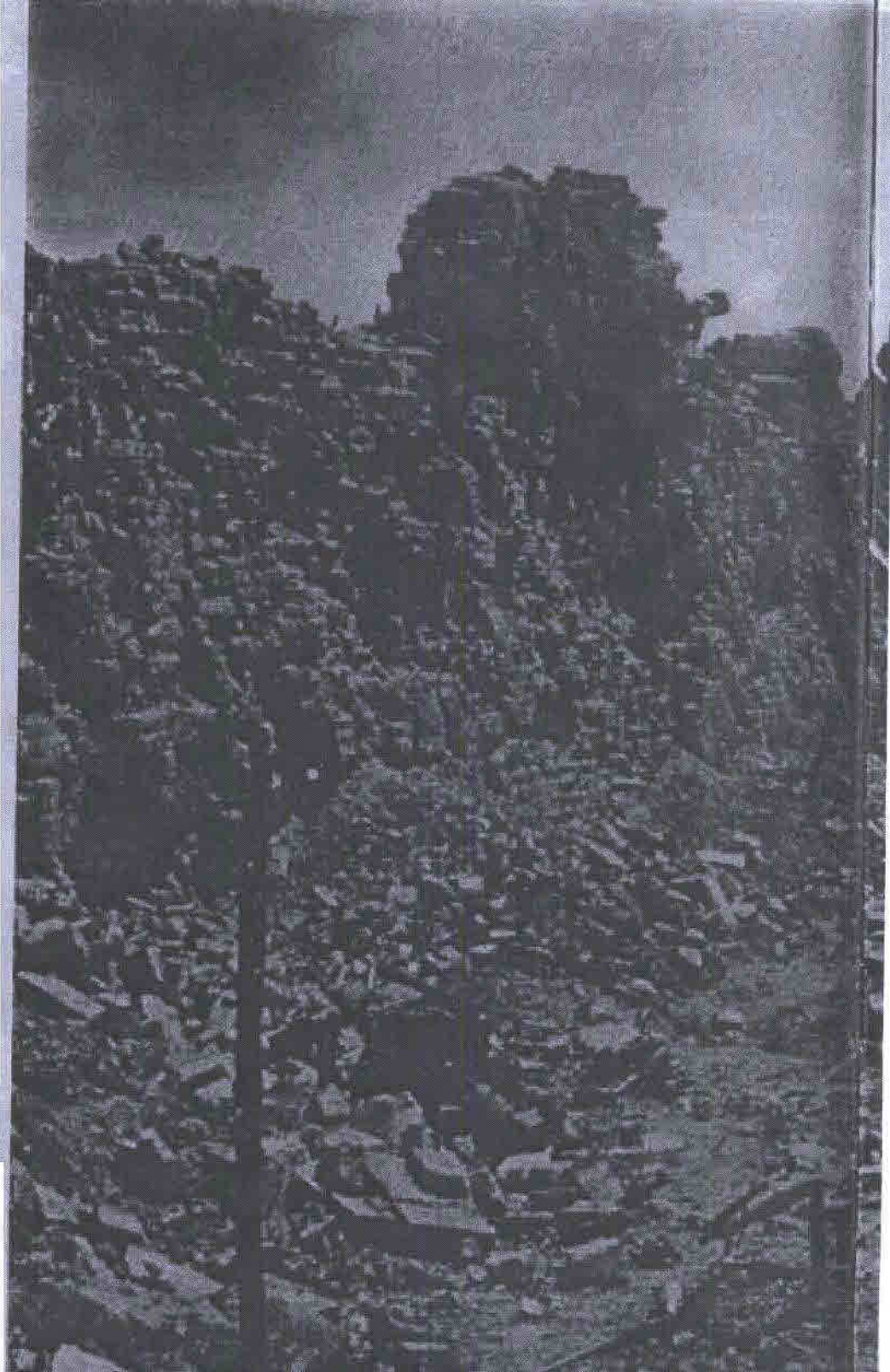
Trường Thành Dinh Công Tráng.
Long wall of Dinh Cong Trung citadel.







Bắc Trường Thành Đình-công-Trang
Đình Công Trang long wall.



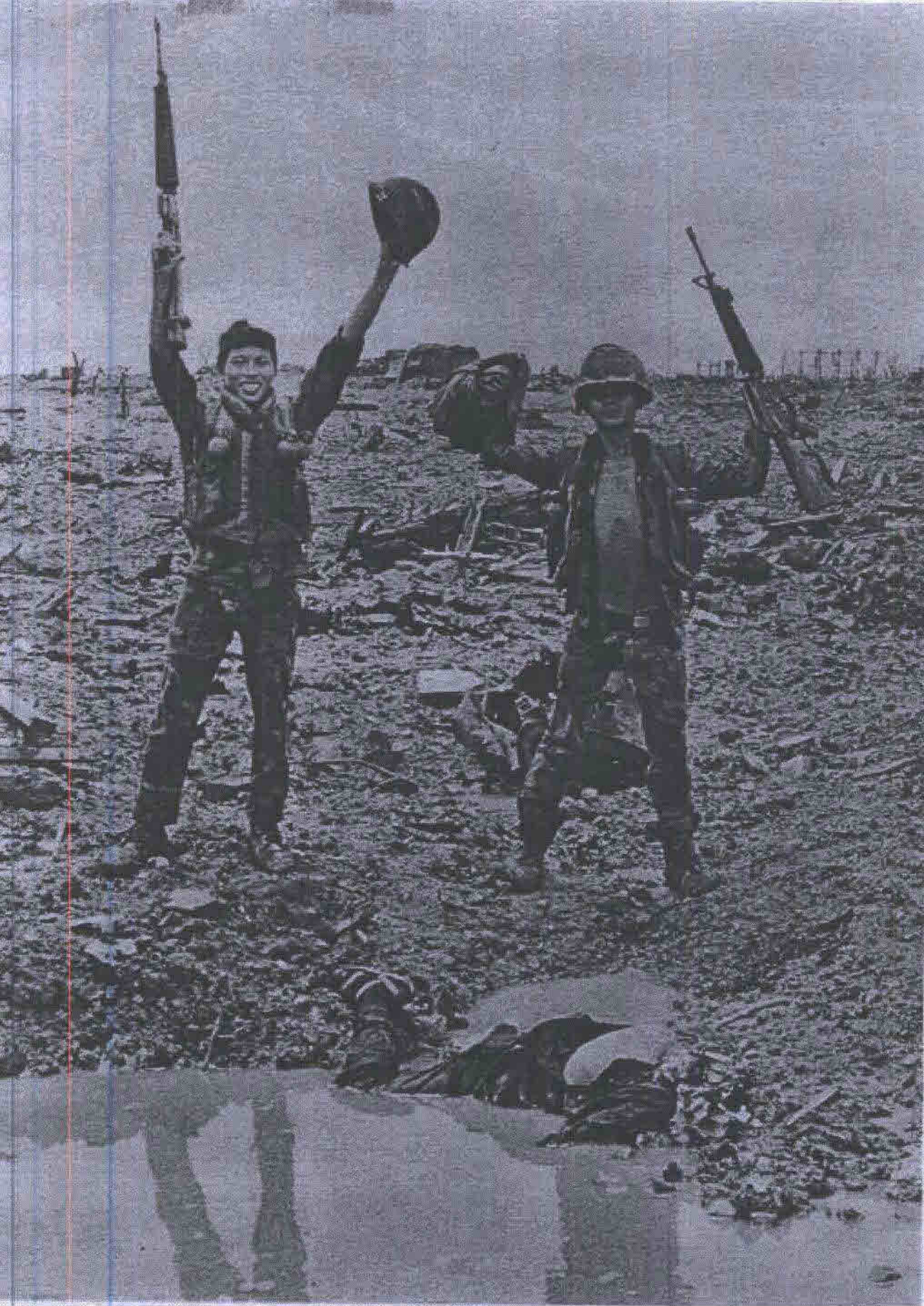


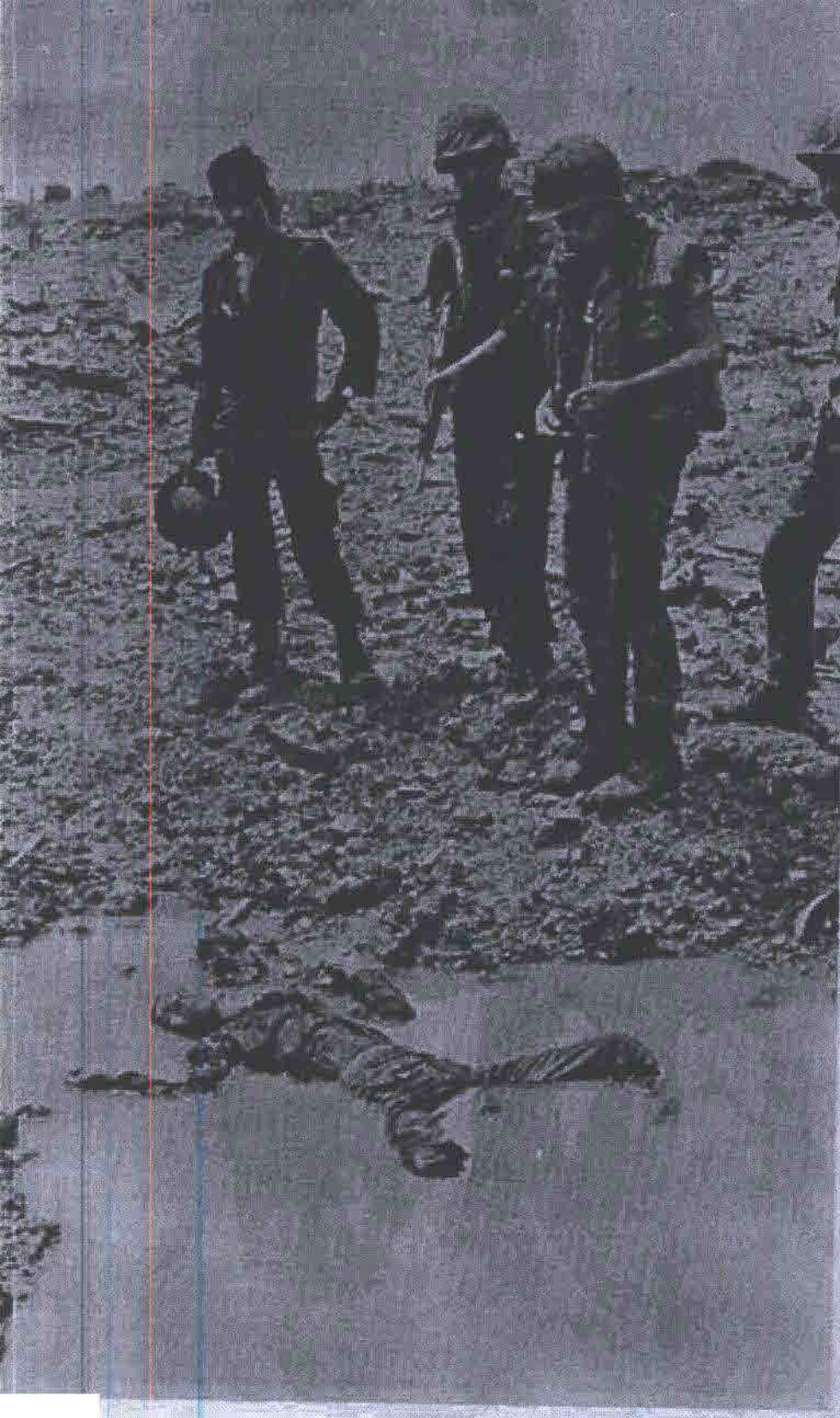


A - 17 giờ ngày 15-9 quân Công-Sản Bắc-Việt xâm-lăng đã bị quét sạch khỏi Thị-Xã và Cổ-Thành, Chiến-Sĩ TQLC anh-hùng đã thưởng Quốc-Kỳ tại cửa chính tây Cổ-Thành Đinh-công-Tráng, sau 106 ngày bị địch tạm chiếm.

A - By 1700 hours on 15 September 1972, the Communist aggressors have been completely wiped out from the city and the citadel, the heroic marines hoisted the national flag at the western main gate of the citadel after 106 days of temporary enemy control.







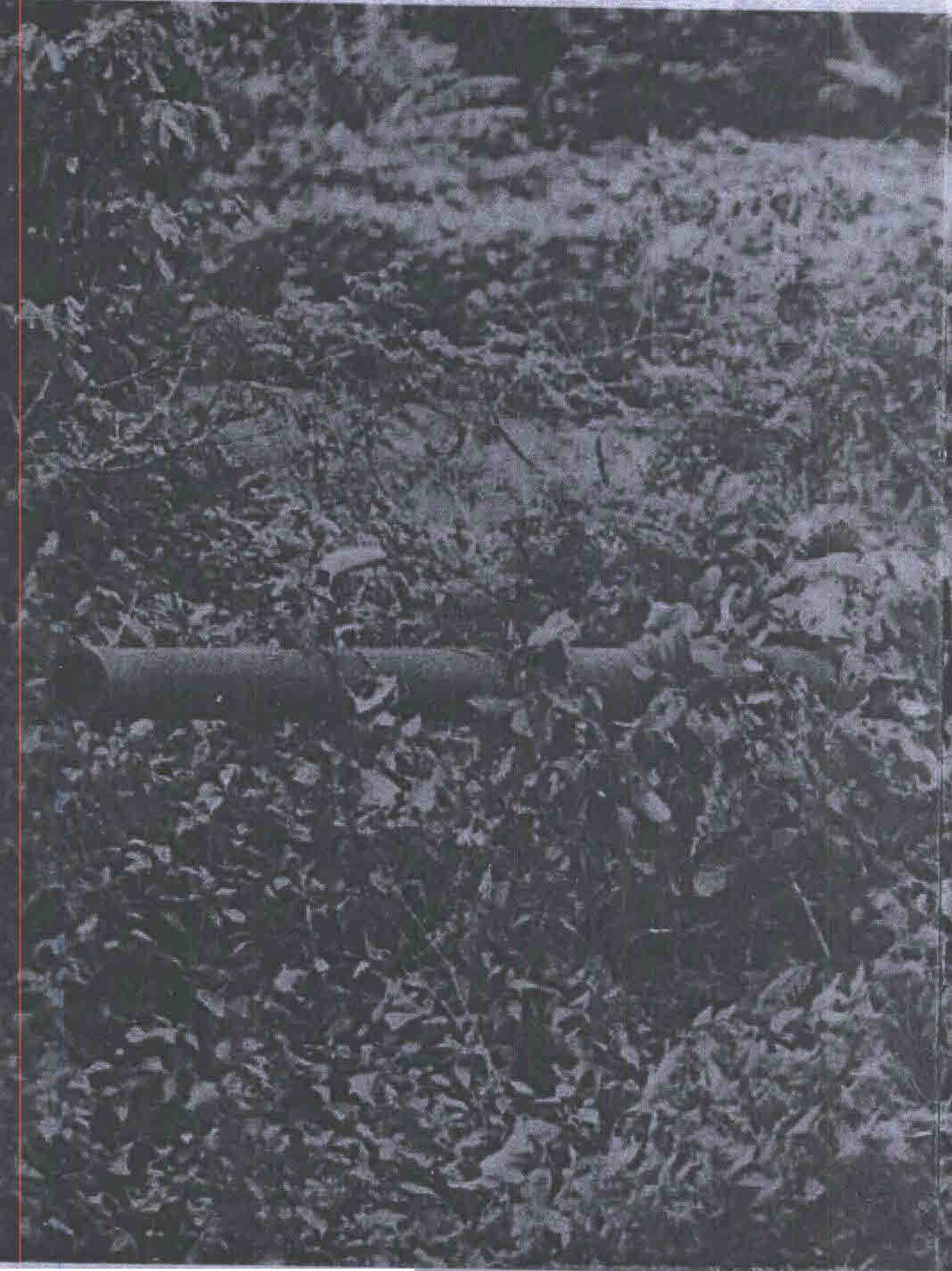
A - Tuổi trẻ bị Đảng và Nhà Nước miền Bắc xô đẩy vào miền Nam để thực-hiện cuồng vọng xâm lăng.

A - *Youths being forced South by the Communist Party and the Communist state to attempt their aggressive ambitions.*



Bao nhiêu vũ khí bấy nhiêu Cộng quân phải đền tội
để trả nợ xương máu cho Đồng bào Quảng-Trị.
COMMUNIST SOLDIERS HAVE PAID FOR THEIR CRIMES AND MANY
WEAPONS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED OR DESTROYED.









QUANG-TRI VINH QUANG

QUÂN-LỰC VNCH

TỔNG-CỤC CTCT

CỤC TÂM-LÝ-CHIẾN

Glorious Quang Tri

RVNAF

General Political Warfare Department

PSYWAR Department.