## An Heroic Battle in the Bay of Thanh Hoa [Thanh Hoa is a province in Central

Vietnam north of the $17^{\text {th }}$ Parallel.] by: Luu Quang Pho
Begin Text:
After the overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963 the situation in Vietnam encouraged the Americans to hit the North, the large rear area of support for the war. To prepare for that idea, a number of military activities were emphasized and carried out, among which, was the scheme of using the US Navy to do reconnaissance missions and antagonize the rear under the rubric of expanding the war to North Vietnam. The resulting "Tonkin Gulf Incident" with the Maddox being driven from the territorial waters of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam [North Viet Nam as it was then known] on August 2, 1964 was a result of a pre-planned attack prepared by the Americans...

On the night of July 31, 1964, the Maddox, a heavy destroyer with 350 officers and men and carrying number DD 371 which was a part of the US Seventh Fleet, crossed the $17^{\text {th }}$ Parallel and headed into the Bay of Quang Binh. Afterward, it headed into the Bay of Nghe An to investigate the radar installations of the Vietnamese Navy which were located on the beaches of Central Vietnam. There were places where the Maddox came close in so that her number, 371 , could be clearly seen through binoculars. On the morning of August $8^{\text {th }}$ the Maddox fired upon Hon Me and Deo Ngang.

Receiving orders from our naval command, our unit, which was the third element of the torpedo battalion, consisting of three ships, T333, T336 and T339, left the harbor of Van Hoa in Hon Gai and prepared to drive out the American ship. Our three ships were of the 123 K variety which were built by the Soviet Union and they had a top speed of 52 nautical miles per hour. However, they could only sustain that high speed for 20 minutes. They each carried two torpedoes and only had a 14.5 millimeter machine gun plus the small guns of the crew. According to Mr. Nguyen Xuan Bot, the Commander of the ship 133, to hit a US Destroyer with its high speed and armament which included torpedoes and depth charges as well as massive firepower, would require at least 12123 K type boats with 24 torpedoes! Meanwhile, the Maddox had a speed of 38 nautical miles per hour and was heavily armed with air support from the US Air Force.

From Hon Me, Thanh Hoa at 1:50 PM, our unit attacked at 2:52 when it discovered the Maddox to the east of Hon Me, Thanh Hoa. Seeing us attack, the Maddox fired back at us continually until 3:26 when our ship 339, at a distance of approximately one kilometer, fired a torpedo and left the scene of battle right away. After that, we were attacked by enemy planes and stopped firing. A minute later, our ship 336 fired a torpedo. The enemy ship continued to bombard us and their planes fired rockets which caused Mr. Nguyen Van Tu his life and Mr. Nguyen Van Huong piloted our ship 339 as it continued firing its 14.5 millimeter machine gun. At $3: 28$, our ship 333 continued to launch torpedoes while the Americans continued their firing of bombs and guns.

The battle ended at five o'clock as the Americans withdrew. We shot down one plane and caused one to catch fire. As for us, four comrades perished and six were wounded while both vessels 336 and 339 were dead in the water.

The driving from North Vietnamese waters became the "Tonkin Gulf Incident" when it was
touted by the Americans that a number of North Vietnamese patrol boats had fired on them in an unexplained manner as they were in international waters off the coast of Viet Nam.
(to be continued)
Author's Initials

Caption beneath picture:
Mr. Nguyen Van Luyen an officer on our ship 336, years ago, describes the battle.
Caption beneath map:
Voyage of the Maddox in the Bay of North Viet Nam
Item of information in box at bottom of page:
The Maddox is a heavy destroyer which was built in 1942 and commissioned in 1944. It is 114.75 meters long and 12.44 meters wide and has a displacement of 2,200 tons. It has a $60,000 \mathrm{HP}$ engine and has a top speed of 38 nautical miles per hour. It is equipped with double barreled 127 millimeter cannon and twelve 40 millimeter cannons. It also has a number of torpedoes, depth charges and when fully manned has a compliment of 350 men. It took part in WWII and served with the US Seventh Fleet off the waters of Vietnam. After 1964, it did not appear in the waters off Viet Nam and it was noted that later it was scrapped.

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## Cuçc ctaulh duợi tan khu tuyc Maddox ra khoi hai phatu Viét Nam ngay sau do dreye  Nam 南 tán cong làu chién Mo＇trên hải pfian  －


Hành trinh tàu Maddox frong sưv kdọn y yinh

 Nguyēn Vǎin Hường tiép．tuc lái tàu Req Spu pll ureos ofe nel sumo pa

 Khöng còn vä khí niạnh，các tâu plóng loi cala ta tifep catn chà dich khién pháo lón cậa tàu dich mali lace dung và dung sfíng máy 14，5mmi ruer moxi loong khicir clio Ifinh M9 chay roón tann loan，cic loai lióa lue mat boong câm buxt．Cuope chién ka tuác lúc 17 gio，ket quat la da dánh duobj cupe càu

 ngurot tị̂ thuong，hail lau 336 vá 339 hurhotg tao，tơ đô cao nuăt ctia tàu dat 52 hải ly thumg chî cơ thể khai thasc trong 20 phứt． 123K duroc trang bi 2 quả ugu loi．Ngoai ma， hàu chî̉ co sting may $14,5 \mathrm{~mm}$ và sálug bo binll．Theo dai（ 6 Ngiryen Xuann Bepl，nguyen

 licu co danh Iren bién，nexu dánh sthu khu tuyc co 160 đọ cano，plải dùng dén 12 clieec I23K， xcp tico himh nan quat vh．．．delig lant phorg 24 quà ngur 10 ！＇Trong khi đo，Maddox có loćc do 38 hải ly，raung bị rat manh vơi 6 dai bác $127 \mathrm{mmin}, 12$ phta $40 \mathrm{mmn}, 5$ gian ngiry 10 i ， boon chìm，bons phóng và syy yeln troy cia khơng quân
 ngày 2.8 ，phân ậí 3 xuát kích， 14 già 52

 Khu unic da ư̌ng vói 350 si quan và binth linh wà marig só histu DD731 thupc hann dọi VII cua hẩi quân Mg viry qua vf luyćul7 và ngurge lên phía Báe，fién vào ving biến Quång Blunh，sau đ 10 tiep \｛uc đi san vào vòng biên Nghę Au dẻ diéu cra hộ thöng bơ phòng cua Haxi quan Vier Nam ợ ves bién midn Tuıg．Co noi，Maddox vào gàn tợ 5：6 lỉi Ly khién cho cato dariquan sat co dlea nhiuro só hiẹu： 731 qua ơng nhòmi．Sáng 1．8， Maddox băn vito Hòn Me，Dèo Ngang．
 dan Việ Naus，phấ dọi 3 cuan tiêu do òn phong loi： 135 gobm 3 tàu T333，T336 và T339 dury lefth iờ quan cang Vian Hoa á Hòn Gai chuẳn bil danth đubit tà chién Nig． Pivelà 3 con tau loni 123 K do Lien Xo che

