

More on Enemy Atrocities during the Battle of Hue, 1968:

Stephen H. Miller, a twenty-eight-year-old foreign Service officer assigned to Hue as a United States Information Agency representative [was urged to flee by his Vietnamese fiancée's father who] . . . had heard rumors that the night would be very dangerous, but [Miller] . . . had heard such talk before and . . . [was] unconcerned. . . .

All hell broke loose during the night and in the morning a neighbor boy reported to Miller that many, many Viet Cong were about, including more than thirty at the very next corner. Miller was invited by Vietnamese friends to flee with them to the big Catholic cathedral nearby, but he decided to remain in his house. When his friends returned, the house was occupied by a platoon of Viet Cong who said they had discovered the Foreign Service officer and another American hiding in a closet. Miller's body was found a few days later in a field behind a Catholic seminary which had been used as a prisoner collection point. His arms had been tied and he had been shot.

. . . Some of the other Americans . . . surrendered; they were bound and marched off to the Ashau Valley and have never been heard from since.

[Catholic priest Father Buu Dong] worked hard to stay on good terms with both sides in the war. . . . He kept a picture of Ho Chi Minh in his room and told his parishioners that he prayed for Ho because "he is our friend too." At the same time, he accepted sewing machines for the people from the American AID program.

On the first day Viet Cong troops led Father Dong to a nearby pagoda for questioning but released him Five days later the troops returned. They . . . led Father Dong and two seminarians away.

The remains of his body were found twenty-two months later in a shallow grave in the coastal sand flats with the remnants of three hundred other victims. . . . From the position of his body and the lack of visible wounds, it is believed that Buu Dong was buried alive and left to die.

. . . Hue authorities later released a list of 428 victims [of the Viet Cong from Phu Cam]. About 100 were South Vietnamese servicemen, including two officers; about 100 were students; the rest were civil servants, village and hamlet officials, government workers and ordinary citizens.

. . . A leader in civilian clothes with a Hue dialect led a group of North Vietnamese soldiers to a house just off Vo Thanh Street. They asked the old man and the old woman if any young men were there. The couple said no, but the leader began to call a list of names in a loud voice and the team began to search. A South Vietnamese Army captain, two lieutenants, two sergeants and a civil servant from the local treasury office surrendered without a fight, coming from their hiding places Their arms were bound and they were marched away, but the man in charge said, "They're only going to a meeting—don't worry."

The old woman found them later under the spreading arms of a fruit tree in the playground of the high school. Two of them had wires twisted around their necks, and all their hands were tied. Each had been shot in the head. The two sergeants, ages twenty-two and twenty-three, were her sons; the civil servant was her son-in-law; the officers were close relatives.

. . . The Viet Cong had used the battle of Hue to destroy as much as they could find of the government administrative machinery and personnel, in keeping with the general missions of the attack. No one has yet compiled a complete list of the roughly 2800 bodies found in mass grave sites or made a thorough analysis of the occupations, governmental connections or political leanings of those killed. Nonetheless, it is clear from the overwhelming weight of evidence that this was for the most part a deliberate slaughter, ordered from on high for plain and specific purposes. Among those executed were a senator; political party leaders; Army and militia officers and enlisted men; policemen; priests and other religious people; and teachers -- all Vietnamese -- in addition to Americans, Germans, Filipinos, Koreans and other foreigners.

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