

TET

Vignettes of Military History – COL Donald C. Odegard – USA (1978)

General Nguyen Hue made his plans carefully. The foreigners were holding the cities of his beloved Vietnam, but he was not in despair. Although vastly outnumbered, the Vietnamese General felt that a surprise attack against the foreigners occupying his land could be successful. When could maximum surprise be attained? As he thought this over in his mind, he considered Tet.

Tet is the great holiday of the Vietnamese year. Officially the start of the Chinese lunar New Year, it is a grand religious, patriotic, vernal and family holiday rolled into one. It is also everyone's birthday. This week-long celebration was a national holiday and customarily a time for family reunions. In previous years, even the war had abated during that week for a holiday cease fire.

Such a diverting relaxation of tension could also mean a relaxation of vigil. To General Hue, it looked like the ideal time to launch his surprise attack. His soldiers, disguised as peasants returning home for family reunions and celebrations, had no trouble infiltrating enemy lines. Weapons were concealed in carts filled with flowers for the forthcoming festivities as the Vietnamese troops slowly worked their way into positions for the surprise attack.

At a preplanned signal, during the height of the Tet celebration, General Hue launched his surprise attack. He achieved a great success – one of the most signal victories ever won by Vietnamese forces.

And that is the way it was January 29, **1789**, as the Vietnamese Liberated Hanoi from the Chinese.

Too bad we don't read and understand military and government history a lot more; for then, the **1967 Tet** may never had to occur.

Submitted by John Harms, COL, USMC (Ret)

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Established

The Senate recently passed a resolution (S. Res 55) that declares March 30 as "*Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.*"

Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.), ranking member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, sponsored the measure that seeks to honor and recognize veterans who served in Vietnam for their service and sacrifice.

March 30 is the date in 1973 when U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam under the terms of the Treaty of Paris.



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